

# boatman's quarterly review

## PETE GIBBS

Prez Blurb • Farewell • Dear Eddy • Tusayan Development • GC Watershed  
Black Bear • Karma, Fate, Redemption • Lost & Found • Robert Service • GCY  
Back of the Boat • Campsite Mitigation • Diamond Creek • Fall Rendezvous

## boatman's quarterly review

...is published more or less quarterly  
by and for GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES.

GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES  
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

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

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

### STAFF

Executive Director	LYNN HAMILTON
Board of Directors	
President	LAURA FALLON
Vice President	BEN REEDER
Treasurer	FRED THEVENIN
Directors	MIKENNA CLOKEY AMITY COLLINS CHELSEA DEWEESE CLIFF GHIGLIERI STEPHEN KENNEY KIKI WYKSTRA
GCRG's AMWG Representative	SAM JANSEN
GCRG's TWG Representative	JERRY COX
BQR Editors	KATHERINE SPILLMAN MARY WILLIAMS

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

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

Deadlines for submissions are the 1ST of February, May, August and November. Thanks!

Our office location: 515 West Birch, Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Office Hours: 10:30-5:00, Monday through Friday

PHONE	928/773-1075
FAX	928/773-8523
E-MAIL	gcrg@infomagic.net
WEBSITE	www.gcrg.org

## Prez Blurb

HELLO FELLOW BOATERS and lovers of Grand Canyon. I hope your season, whether on the river or not, has been adventurous and fun. It is hard to imagine that I am already writing my last Prez Blurb. I am grateful and honored to have served in this position and I thank each of you for your support.

It has been a good summer. After the rainy "Maysoons" and high water of July, I am looking forward to seeing Grand Canyon in the dwindling light of fall. I was fortunate enough to do a trip with the Southern Paiute Consortium this season. Being in the Canyon with them renewed my spirit both personally and professionally. I felt especially invigorated in my role as steward and advocate—having seen what this place means to their culture made me even more empowered to protect it for all of us who have a deep connection in that place.

We are in a time when renewed vigor is called for. There are so many causes, threats really, looming in Grand Canyon's horizon. I try not to use negative language but the urgency of the matter lends us to use verbiage that awakens people to the immediacy of the situation and inspires action. Grand Canyon's colorado River is the most endangered river in North America as designated by American Rivers. On their website, they list the reason as the Grand Canyon Escalade Project, the project that would bring 10,000 people down to the Confluence each day. Hope that this project would dissolve was on the horizon this spring when Russell Begaye, who opposed the development, was elected as Navajo Nation President this spring. However, Confluence Partners, the developers associated with the Escalade Project, now claim to have investors committed to covering the Navajo Nation's projected \$64 million share for building the road and bringing utilities to the gondola tramway project.

Developers are actively lobbying current Navajo Nation council delegates and members of the new administration with their own sense of renewed vigor. In a recent *National Public Radio* interview with Diane Rehm, Albert Hale, former Navajo Nation President addressed the issue of the sacred value of the Confluence saying: "The Navajo people have exclusive right to use up to the high water mark. So that means down to the river, the high water mark, and the Escalade doesn't touch the confluence, as a lot of people seem to be mistaken that it will. It doesn't touch the confluence. The walkway that is

planned ends about 100 feet from the confluence. So in that way it respects the sacredness of that site.” One hundred feet or 100 miles, you do not have to be anywhere close to the Canyon or the Confluence to know its sacredness or at least, its importance. There are many Native people who do not share Hale’s opinion. The Paiute, Zuni, Acoma, and Laguna Pueblos and the Hopi Tribe have all expressed their opposition to the proposal and are actively working to combat it. Clearly, the matter of the Escalade Project has not been put to rest. As river runners, guides and members of GCRG I believe it is imperative that we stay on top of this issue and offer our support to the Tribes as they work on this issue.

American Rivers could add two more serious threats to Grand Canyon on their list. Envision an explosion of development eight miles from the South Rim. The Tusayan development proposed by the Italian Stilo Group would transition the small community of 500 homes to a bustling metro area of more than 2,000 homes including a European Spa, Dude Ranch, hotels and big box stores. The biggest hang up? Water. The Stilo Group in conjunction with “reputable hydrologists” did their own study that Silo representative Tom de Paulo said, “clearly showed that when you use groundwater from the Redwall-Muav Aquifer, it clearly will affect some spring, seep or weep discharge in the park. The study showed that there was an impact, and that caused us to move away from groundwater, and we committed to not use groundwater under that EIS.” What is unclear, however, is where the Stilo Group proposes to get their water. Grand Canyon National Park calculates a 400% increase in water consumption from Tusayan if the development is built. The Park is highly concerned that the development will compromise their own water supply which is fully allocated to services and the community within the Park itself. At a recent meeting, GCRG learned that the Stilo Group is considering Valle, a tiny community South of the Grand Canyon National Park South entrance, as a potential water source but it was pointed out that the water beneath Valle is a part of the Redwall Muav aquifer. The acting supervisor of the Kaibab National Forest is currently deciding whether or not to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). There are a number of organizations taking the lead in opposing this development including the Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity and Earth Justice.

Lastly, but certainly as threatening, is the push to allow uranium mining on the rims of Grand Canyon. This would further threaten vital aquifers supplying

the seeps and springs of Grand Canyon and present a host of environmental issues from degradation of natural resources and poisoning of water supplies that directly effect animal and human life.

All of these developments have a direct impact on the visitor’s experience and a direct impact on the park resources, specifically water, viewsheds, soundscape, night sky, and congestion. As Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent stated, “Impact on all these critical elements will jeopardize the visitor experience. And when I think of the development, I think of a handful of people who will benefit from this, five million for 100 years or five million for the next twenty million years, there’s a lot of people who will have a different experience, a degraded experience, because of these developments.” As river runners and guides, we understand the thoughtful preparation that goes into facilitating a wilderness experience whether for ourselves, or for our guests. What is it that we want people to connect with? What message does Grand Canyon and the Colorado convey that we want ourselves and our guests to awaken to and take home? How can we better protect this place we love so that it can flourish if not thrive into the future?

The Paiute Consortium consisted primarily of Paiute youth guided by their Elders. As we were motoring along, the morning light cast its glow on the smiling youth in front of me, skin the color of the Colorado River. We belong here the Elders said, just look at our skin. I imagined these children, their relatives, their ancestors thousands of years ago telling stories of this place. They shared their intimate knowledge and their depth of spirit with me and the guides as we went downstream. We watched with reverence as they gathered salt at the Confluence. We waited in a long silence as the young men made their way up to the hematite mine and returned transformed, skin coated with hematite, eyes imbued with the quality of someone who has been in the presence of the sacred. The Elders and the youth led us in prayer everyday. We prayed to the river. To the sky. To the rock. All of it alive and listening they said. Ask these things to help you understand the best way to live not only for yourself, but for the Earth. They will listen.

Thank you for going out into the Canyon, sharing your experiences and protecting this place. Thank you for your continued support of GCRG and thank you again for supporting me as President. I look forward to seeing you out there on the water or in town advocating on its behalf. All the best!

*Katie Proctor*

# Guide Profiles

## Liam Brecker Thomas O'Neill, Age 37



**WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?** Wilson, Wyoming. Grew up mostly in Jackson.

**WHO DO YOU WORK FOR CURRENTLY (AND IN THE PAST)?** I work for AZRA.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN GUIDING?** 21 years

**WHAT KIND OF BOAT(S) DO YOU RUN?** Oar

boats, paddle boats, kayaks and dories.

**WHAT OTHER RIVERS HAVE YOU WORKED ON?** Snake, Salmon, Selway, Lochsa, St. Joe, Clark Fork, Middle Fork of the Salmon, Moyie and others.

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES/PASSIONS/DREAMS?** My hobbies are skateboarding, climbing and more boating. I'm very passionate about my friends, family and of course the river. I dream to be able to do the things I love till my last day.

**MARRIED/FAMILY/PETS?** My mom, Susan, in Harrison, Idaho, with her husband. My dad Breck out in Thailand. Also my Wolf Pack.

**SCHOOL/AREA OF STUDY/DEGREES?** Studied Therapeutic Use of the Wilderness at Prescott College.

**WHAT MADE YOU START GUIDING?** My dad was a guide in Grand Canyon in the late-sixties and early-seventies. Then he started Mad River Boat Trips in Jackson. So I grew up in the industry and have never had much interest in anything else.

**WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?** My dad brought me on a Grand Canyon Dories trip when I was fourteen and I knew immediately that I had found my calling.

**WHO HAVE BEEN YOUR MENTORS AND/OR ROLE MODELS?** My parents have been amazing role models in many different ways. All the guides who raised me and all the guides I work with and interact with down here.

**WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER?** Whatever comes up.

**IS THIS YOUR PRIMARY WAY OF EARNING A LIVING OR DO YOU COMBINE IT WITH SOMETHING ELSE?** This is my livelihood.

**WHAT'S THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR GUIDING CAREER?** Running 6-foot on the Selway my first commercial trip there. Dropping into Double Drop will be something I will always remember.

**WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST QUESTION YOU'VE EVER BEEN ASKED ABOUT THE CANYON/RIVER?** Have you ever considered doing something else?

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR FUTURE HOLDS?** More rivers and more fun. The road goes on forever and the party never ends.

**WHAT KEEPS YOU HERE?** All the amazing guides and guests I've had the chance to interact with.

---

## Margeaux Bestard, Age 31

**WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?** I was born in Pomona, California. Goddess of Fruits. Spent my youth around Claremont in the foothills of Mt. Baldy and I am still recovering from thirteen years of Catholic school.

**WHO DO YOU WORK FOR CURRENTLY (AND IN THE PAST)?** I work for AZRA, GCMRC, and when I am lucky I get to squeeze in a GCY trip. I hike and drive for OARS and I have worked with Hatch and GCE. I also worked at PRO.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN GUIDING?** Since 2010.

**WHAT KIND OF BOAT(S) DO YOU RUN?** 18-foot paddle rafts, oar boats and on occasion have the opportunity to run full cobb.



**WHAT OTHER RIVERS HAVE YOU WORKED ON?** Private trips on Cataract, Westwater, San Juan, Upper Animas, Salt, and the Rogue.

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES/PASSIONS/DREAMS?** Fresh flowers, yoga, parkour, ikebana, moon-light bike rides, training for the zombie apocalypse and sipping on fine scotch.

**MARRIED/FAMILY/PETS?** I have a thirteen year-old pup, Pennylane, a fierce dreamer who loves cool weather and long grasses. My two year-old niece, Lucy Marie, who is the light of my life lives in San Diego with my brother and sister-in-law. My brighter, beautiful sister is in New York City. Mom is a second grade teacher in Southern California, and Dad works as a Criminal Defense Lawyer in LA County.

**SCHOOL/AREA OF STUDY/DEGREES?** Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara.

**WHAT MADE YOU START GUIDING?** The opportunity to live/work/play in the Grand Canyon.

**WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?** A 21-day artist private trip in February...it ruined me. I had never been so cold and happy.

**WHO HAVE BEEN YOUR MENTORS AND/OR ROLE MODELS?** John Running introduced me to the river community, Adam Bringham and Jalynda McKay kicked my ass and the revolving door of rad people that I get to work with and around who continue to inspire me and school me....Randy Tucker, Kirk Burnett, BJ Boyle, Mike Yard, CJA...

**WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER?** Science! Family game nights and Olympic winter sports.

**IS THIS YOUR PRIMARY WAY OF EARNING A LIVING OR DO YOU COMBINE IT WITH SOMETHING ELSE?** Photography, Film and Commercial Production; it's a Hollywood thing (call me).

**WHAT'S THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR GUIDING CAREER?** River boarding trip with Sierra Rescue—lapping Hermit Rapid and surfing the wave at Bloody Ledges.

**WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST QUESTION YOU'VE EVER BEEN ASKED ABOUT THE CANYON/RIVER?** "Why Water White?"... JMO passenger.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR FUTURE HOLDS?** Good times and greater oldies, with more rivers, motors, adventures. Also managing more frequent paid travel expeditions.

**WHAT KEEPS YOU HERE?** The drive to support myself and my six roommates, two dogs and twenty plants.



## Farewell

JERRY DALE SANDERSON, DECEMBER 23, 1930—MARCH 26, 2015



Reprinted from the *Lake Powell Chronicle*, March 30, 2015.

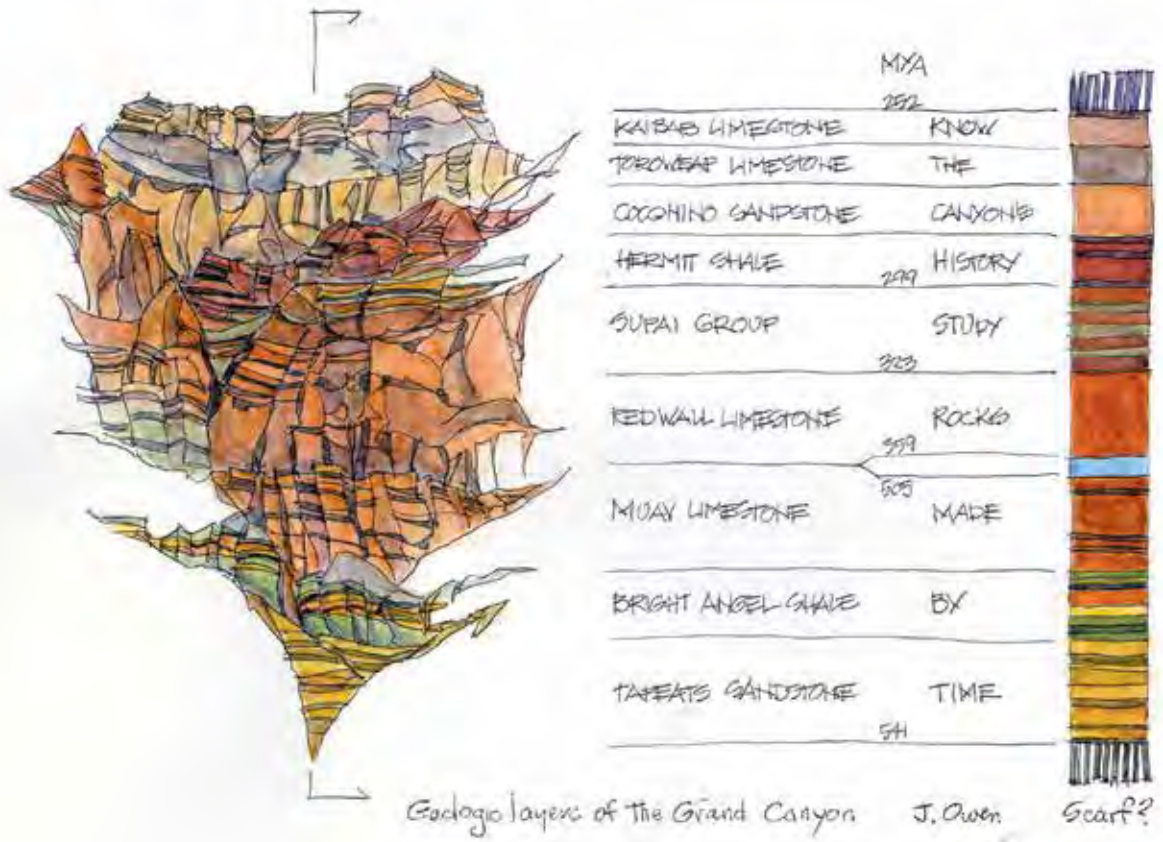
JERRY DALE SANDERSON was born on December 23, 1930, in Sacaton, Arizona to Raleigh (Rod) [#125 through the Grand Canyon and the first outboard motors] and Lois Sanderson. He was one of eight children. Jerry served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Helena during the Korean Conflict. He moved to Page with his wife, June, and their son, Kevin (Hoss), in 1959 where he served as a Ranger with the Bureau of Reclamation, which was then Page's police force.

In approximately 1961, Jerry, June, Larry, and Sue Sanderson started Sanderson Brothers River Expeditions. In 1969, Jerry became the sole owner of Sanderson River Expeditions. He later sold his company to Del Webb in 1982, which is currently being operated by Aramark as Wilderness River Adventures. After the sale of his company, Jerry enjoyed spending time on his houseboat, the *Canyon Magic*, with family and friends.

He passed away March 26, 2015 at the Page Hospital surrounded by loved ones, after a long battle with cancer. He will be remembered for his loving and generous spirit. He is survived by his sons, Hoss and Jody Sanderson; his grandchildren, Chelsea, Summer, Cody, and Brayden Sanderson; his sisters, Helen Neisses and Karen Barwick; and his brother, Larry Sanderson.

A Well Lived Life by a Well Loved Man!

**NOTE:** For more on Jerry Sanderson, see the oral history in the Summer 1994 BQR article: <http://www.gcr.org/bqr/7-3/sandersonsparks.htm>



John Owen



Hot Na Na

Stuart Walthall / Beth Chape

## Dear Eddy

IN REFERENCE TO THE ARTICLE *HISTORY IN THE MAKING—RIVER OUTFITTERS RUN HYBRID-ELECTRIC MOTOR THROUGH ENTIRE GRAND CANYON*, IN BQR VOLUME 28, NUMBER 2, SPRING 2015

IT SEEMS TO ME that the hybrid motor, if used as a marketing tool, could be seen as an example of greenwash. Greenwash is an attempt to mislead the public by stressing the environmental credentials of a person, company or product when they are unfounded or irrelevant.

Roughly five million visitors come to the Grand Canyon National Park each year. Let us assume that on average, each of these visitors travels one-thousand miles round-trip to see the park. That adds up to five billion miles—almost twice the current distance from Earth to Pluto—traveled each year to see the Grand Canyon. It costs roughly half a kWh of energy to move a person one mile in an automobile or an airplane. About two billion kWh of energy from fossil fuels are used to move people to and from the canyon each year. This corresponds, on average, to a continuous power consumption of two hundred megawatts which generates close to one million tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

What difference would the hybrid motor make to this pollution? The fuel consumption figures for a motor trip, according to the Outfitters Association are roughly sixty gallons per trip. Let us assume that this hybrid technology will eliminate emissions from motor trips, four gallons per person per trip saved. This will diminish total greenhouse gas emissions from the travel part of the trip for a river runner by maybe ten percent. River runners constitute less than half of one percent of the tourists in Grand Canyon. So the best case scenario is that total Grand Canyon emissions might be reduced by four hundredths of one percent at some unspecified future date. Visitation to the canyon varies by a few percent a year totally negating any energy savings of the hybrid motor. Ironically, a change of only one hundredth of one percent can sometimes be very significant. The fraction of carbon dioxide molecules in the atmosphere has risen from three to four hundredths of a percent in the last hundred years with devastating effects.

How much energy did it take to manufacture the batteries used in these experiments? How much energy was spent to ship the motors and batteries? What is the expected lifetime of the batteries? All these figures

are part of the equation. If the hybrid motor generates more business from people who otherwise would not have taken a river trip there is an instant net increase in greenhouse gas pollution.

There are many ways to start saving amounts of energy that are comparable to the supposed future savings of the hybrid motor. A semi-truck uses maybe one hundred gallons for the seven hundred mile round trip to pick up the boats. All outfitters and privates could use switch to hybrid trucks and vehicles and halve their gasoline consumption. That would save at least thirty thousand gallons of gasoline/diesel per year. If only one percent of all river runners switched to solar thermal to generate hot water in their homes, this would save more energy than the change to electric motors.

From the article, I infer that an electric motor probably requires about 25 kWh per day or about 150 kWh per trip. Mr. Hatch claims that this is several times the average U.S. home electricity consumption. Average American home electricity consumption for 2013, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, was in fact thirty kWh per day. Could 25 kWh per day for the motor be provided by solar energy? Mr. Hatch claims it takes the area of a basketball court for solar to supply the energy used by the hybrid motor on a single river trip. In fact, a basketball court paved with solar panels located in Marble Canyon would generate about 150,000 kWh of energy in one year, more than enough energy to power all the motor trips in the Grand Canyon with electric motors for that year. The solar energy might be put into the grid and then withdrawn when needed to charge batteries for a trip. The batteries could be recharged at Phantom Ranch. Alternatively, a photovoltaic canopy over a 36-foot boat could generate the daily energy required to run an electric motor. The truth is hundreds of megawatts of solar energy are online in Nevada bringing in millions of dollars in revenue to the state.

One could, as an alternative, use hydroelectric power to charge batteries. It is available at eight cents per kWh in Nevada. Mr. Smith argues (BQR page 28, Spring 2015) that we should tear down hydro dams, particularly those in places he thinks are scenic. Is there anywhere that is not scenic? Worldwide, hydro dams produce five hundred gigawatts of power. This is more than the entire electricity consumption of the United States. How then will we replace that much hydro power? To replace world hydro-power with solar

power plants would require an area equal to one sixth of the state of Arizona. To generate that much power from wind energy would require a land area equal to half of Arizona. Should we instead build 500 nuclear plants to replace the hydro power? Should we build another 1500 coal plants? But where will the water come from to run these power plants?

Mr. Smith has advocated removing Glen Canyon Dam, and thus, perhaps unwittingly, that the upper basin donate their share of the Colorado river water to the lower basin. Do the residents and legislatures of Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah agree? If not they will construct upstream dams to recapture the storage lost from Lake Powell. The Colorado river system storage capacity is sixty million acre-feet. In 2015 we have 27 million acre-feet of water stored. We have used up 33 million acre-feet of the water stored in the system in 1983. Removing Glen Canyon Dam and its reservoir would have removed forty percent of storage capacity. If it were not for Lake Powell the system would now have almost no stored water at all, Lake Mead would be at dead pool.

Mr. Smith opposes so-called deadbeat dams on the false and irrelevant grounds that they don't pay for themselves. This absurd criterion to value government programs would end Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, close all public schools and universities and repeal environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Act and the Endangered Species Act, since they also come at a net cost to the taxpayer.

Grand Canyon National Park had to borrow tens of millions of dollars from other parks last year because it generated insufficient funds to pay its expenses. By Mr. Smith's ridiculous standard, Grand Canyon National Park is a deadbeat park and should be immediately and permanently closed down.

The EPA's current climate change impacts and risk analyses predict that increased greenhouse gas concentrations will lengthen and deepen droughts in the southwest. Glen Canyon Dam could indeed be dismantled if emissions continue unabated. In that event, a few misguided environmentalists might find cause for celebration, but it would surely be a pyrrhic victory.

To significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from National Parks one must reduce greenhouse gas emissions from travel to the parks. If you travel 10,000 miles from Beijing or London to Flagstaff and back, it really doesn't matter how the last few miles are traveled within the park. Utilities in California increase their revenue by reducing demand and selling less energy. The Department of the Interior should adopt this model for the Park Service.

This reduction in demand should be achieved by charging a carbon tax to visitors. The leaders of the G7 countries support cutting emissions by sixty percent by 2050. The way to do this is to end fossil fuel subsidies. Fossil fuels are subsidized at more than one hundred dollars per ton of carbon dioxide if one includes the costs of the future damage to the environment. Even major oil companies like BP and Shell agree on the need for a carbon tax.

It is conceivable that the tourism industry, entirely dependent as it is on government subsidized fossil fuels, might want to greenwash its image for marketing purposes. This would be entirely at odds with the ideals that led to the creation of the National Parks in the first place. It is time to view the whole planet as a national park. It is up to us to start living responsibly and caring for our environment, not just for us here today, but for future generations.

*George Rhee*

---

## Where Oh Where is the LTEMP EIS?

**T**HE COOPERATING AGENCIES are currently reviewing and providing input on the Long Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) Draft EIS while work on developing a consensus preferred alternative proceeds. Look for the LTEMP EIS to be completed by the end of this calendar year 2015. Once the EIS is released, get ready to jump in feet first! This plan will determine dam flows and the health of the downstream resources we care about for the next twenty years.

---

## Mark Your Calendar

**GCRG Fall Rendezvous:** October 3 - 4, 2015

**WFR Re-certification (sponsored by GCRG):**

February 19 - 21, 2016

**GTS Land session:** April 2 - 3, 2016

**GTS River trip:** April 4 - 19, 2016



# The Second Front: Tusayan Development Threatens Grand Canyon

*Understandably, laser-like attention has been focused on the potential development at the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers—an issue that remains a very real threat driven by a Scottsdale developer who is clearly not the least dissuaded by the outcome of the recent Navajo elections. However, the “battle for Grand Canyon’s future” is also being fought on a second front as a potential mega-development on the very doorstep of Grand Canyon threatens park resources and values. This threat is so incendiary that over 200,000 people sent in comments this past spring to the u.s. Forest Service, the second largest number of comments ever received by that agency (if you’re curious what scoping process received the most comments—it was the 300,000 people who commented on the mineral withdrawal for the Grand Canyon region). We now await with baited breath the decision by the Kaibab National Forest determining whether the request by the town of Tusayan for “road improvements” to the two parcels near the South Rim will require an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a full scale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Grand Canyon River Guides’ official comments are included here as food for thought. Stay tuned! This issue is far from being resolved. Following are GCRG’s comments sent to Mr. Mike Williams, Supervisor, Kaibab National Forest on May 25, 2015 regarding Tusayan Roadway Easements:*

**G**RAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES (GCRG) respectfully submits the following comments regarding the special use permit request from the town of Tusayan for roadway and utility easements within the Kaibab National Forest. *Our organization requests that the Forest Service **reject** Tusayan’s application because it is not in the public interest and it may irreparably harm Grand Canyon National Park.*

Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc., founded in 1988, is unique in that it provides a unified voice for river guides and river runners in defense of the Colorado River corridor through Grand Canyon. Our non-profit educational and environmental 501(c)(3) organization is comprised of over 1,700 individuals who are passionately dedicated to protecting Grand Canyon and the Colorado River experience.

Stemming from our longstanding, firsthand knowledge of this powerful and iconic landscape, our organization understands that threats outside of Grand Canyon National Park boundaries can

have profound and lasting effects on the park and the Colorado River. This mirrors the 2006 NPS Management Policies, which state that:

*“Ecological processes cross park boundaries, and park boundaries may not incorporate all of the natural processes, cultural sites, and scenic vistas that relate to park resources or the quality of the visitor experience.*



Protest at the Doubletree Hotel in Flagstaff during the Forest Service public meeting on May 20, 2015  
photo: Adam Shimoni

*Therefore, activities proposed for adjacent lands may significantly affect park programs, resources, and values.” (NPS Management Policies 2006, Section 1.6, Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries)*

Grand Canyon National Park is one of the seven natural wonders of the world, one of the crown jewels of the National Park System and a World Heritage Site with a geologic history that spans all of the earth’s evolutionary history. The park was established to protect the area’s astounding natural and cultural resources, ecological processes, aesthetic, and scientific values. Grand Canyon River Guides firmly believes that the mega-development proposed by the Italian developer, Gruppo Stilo, (and the road easements that would facilitate that development) could irreparably harm Grand Canyon National Park and the values for which it was established.

Towards this end, we urge the Forest Service to *deny* the special use permit application for the Tusayan roadway easements to the Kotzin and TenX Ranch in-holdings that would literally “pave the way” for the Stilo mega-development near the South Rim of Grand

Canyon. As passionate canyon and river stewards, we do so for the following reasons:

### WATER

A development of this magnitude requires vast quantities of water, yet the American West is in the middle of the worst drought in 1,000 years. Furthermore, the Colorado River has been named America's most endangered river due to over-allocation, drought, climate change and other factors that challenge it. Lake Mead, the reservoir that provides sustenance to nearly 20 million people and crops, hit a historic low in April 2015, and Lake Powell is shrinking fast as well. The building of the mega-development at Tusayan will only exacerbate the problem by placing undue stress on an already over-allocated system.

And last but not least, we understand the profound effect that a development of this size could have on the existing groundwater systems of the Colorado Plateau, which is the recharge area for the regional Redwall Muav aquifer and South Rim springs including Indian Gardens, and Havasu Creek—the “lifeblood” of the Havasupai people. It matters not where or how the Stilo Group plans to get the water it needs—all of the options (drilling wells, or transporting water by truck, rail, or pipeline from the Colorado River) are unworkable, unsustainable, and even irresponsible given these conditions.

### LIGHT POLLUTION

With increasing development, one of the world's most precious but vanishing resource is a dark starry night sky. The International Dark Sky Association is currently working with Grand Canyon and other U.S. National Parks to achieve their goal of becoming International Dark Sky Parks. These efforts by Grand Canyon National Park to protect and celebrate its naturally dark environment are driven by the NPS Management Policies which state:

*The Service will preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the natural lightscapes of parks, which are natural resources and values that exist in the absence of human-caused light. . . . To prevent the loss of dark conditions and of natural night skies, the Service will minimize light that emanates from park facilities, and also seek the cooperation of park visitors, neighbors, and local government agencies to prevent or minimize the intrusion of artificial light into the night scene of the ecosystems of parks.* (Section 4.1, NPS Management Policies)

We believe that the substantial light pollution from the proposed Stilo development would irreparably

harm the visitor experience in Grand Canyon, as well as negatively affect plant and animal communities. It would also make the park's goals for lightscape management unattainable.

### OTHER ASSOCIATED IMPACTS

With over three million square feet of anticipated retail space which exceeds even that of the Mall of America, plus over 2,100 dwelling units and other amenities (spa, dude ranch, hotels, convention center, etc...), the sheer magnitude of the proposed Stilo development would also mean additional long term impacts such as more noise, traffic, crowding and congestion, pollution, sewage, possible impacts to cultural sites, impacts to wildlife and vegetation, the spread of invasive plant species, and a severe strain on the aging infrastructure of the park.

We concur with GCRA Superintendent David Uberuaga who has expressed that this proposed development is one of the biggest threats to Grand Canyon in its' 96-year history. The road easements requested by the town of Tusayan are the lynchpin that makes this mega-development possible. Reasonable access to the *Kotzin and TenX parcels already exists*. “Improving” the existing forest service roads into 80-foot-wide corridors serves only to facilitate Stilo's unreasonable development of the area which would in turn harm the Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park, as well as their associated resources and values.

The issue at hand far exceeds a mere road improvement request—the ramifications are severe and extensive enough to require a costly and lengthy Environmental Impact Statement that should logically include the NPS as a cooperating agency. The EIS should analyze and incorporate:

- Any direct impacts and cumulative effects from the easements themselves, and an examination of whether the existing access and the requested improvements leading to each parcel are in fact “reasonable” in terms of the public interest.
- All possible build-out options for Stilo's development plans (the true scope is undetermined as yet—what is the maximum build-out and what will it include?)
- All possible environmental effects including impacts to seeps and springs, the natural lightscape and soundscape, wildlife, vegetation, etc...
- Identifying nearby historic or cultural resources that could be affected and a thorough examination of possible impacts to those resources.
- Any threatened or endangered species that could be

affected.

- All potential impacts to Grand Canyon National Park and to park values, including impacts to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in keeping with the Park's global status as a World Heritage Site.
- Assess the need for road improvements to Kotzin and TenX Ranch separately—these parcels are not in close proximity to one another, and are very different configurations.
- A “no action” alternative.
- Mitigation measures that should be considered if the easements are granted.

That being said, as a diverse organization made up of commercial river guides, private boaters, commercial passengers, NPS personnel, and many other canyon/river aficionados, Grand Canyon River Guides believes that the Forest Service should deny Tusayan's road easement request because it is antithetical to the public interest, which in this case, is clearly to protect and preserve Grand Canyon National Park in perpetuity. Defending Grand Canyon is our bottom line.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment and participate in this initial scoping process. We certainly hope that this issue can come to a successful resolution.

Sincerely,

GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES, INC.  
Lynn Hamilton, Executive Director  
Katie Proctor, President  
Laura Fallon, Vice President  
Fred Thevenin, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mikenna Clokey, Director  
Chelsea DeWeese, Director  
Stephen Kenney, Director  
Jalynda McKay, Director  
Ben Reeder, Director  
Justin Salamon, Director

### Walking Away

(A guide's reason why)

We have all had those thoughts about just walking away  
Some folks think about it more than just on those bad days

Today's way would think less of such smaller men  
They compare themselves on how much money they can spend

Be it may that you should stray from such a life so fine  
One night beneath the desert's stars, will blow you mind

Now I did walk away and its been many a day  
My old friends thought I was crazed and should be put away

I did tell them to not worry about me so much  
There are more important things to fret over and such

You can decide to make a living or make a life  
I decided to leave that large world of stress and strife

It's not that I don't have my own worrying to do  
It's just on a smaller scale than what I was used to

Now my mountains are to be climbed and not to be moved  
I do run these rivers, so that my soul can be soothed

True riches are in a smile on a stranger's face  
Watching a sun rise alone on some mountainous place

To walk away is not a place you have to go to  
It's a state of mind that you can find and be moved

For some of us it becomes a choice of do or die  
Frightful for most, to us it's not a question of why

It may be easier in this life I choose to live  
It's not about the taking, but what you choose to give

There may come a day when I can't be that rolling stone  
And I will have to listen to my old body's groans

Some folks might sadly say "Look how life has passed him by"  
But never can be taken, is the twinkle in my eye

But you don't have to sell the car or the house on the hill  
Just choose to make the following day ever better still

None of us get to choose how long our lives will be  
We can choose how much to give to this world we see

So get yourself off that couch and lace up some old shoes  
Walk out into where ever, and see where it takes you

Clutch tightly a friend's hand or better yet a child's  
Poke and prod, look and see the wonders of the wild

Take some time to see just how small that we really are  
You will find the journey, doesn't have to be all that far

Stephen Kenney

# Support Broadens for the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument

**I**N AN ENCOURAGING NEW development, five former Arizona Game and Fish Commissioners recently sent the following letter to President Obama supporting the creation of a Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument in order to better protect these lands in perpetuity:

## BACKGROUND

The proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument is a magnificent landscape made up of public lands surrounding Grand Canyon. The area's rugged cliffs, pine forests, deep canyons and grasslands protect and provide clean drinking water for this parched region and for millions of people downstream who depend on the Colorado River, in Arizona, Nevada and California.

At the heart of the Grand Canyon Watershed, the Kaibab Plateau is home to a wealth of wildlife, including an internationally renowned mule deer herd and the Kaibab squirrel, which is found nowhere else in the world.

This area contains more than 3,000 documented ancient Native American archaeological sites, some dating back more than 12,000 years, and more than 125 creeks, springs, and seeps.

This area hosts a broad range of outdoor activities, including hunting and wildlife viewing. These and other outdoor activities in Arizona generate \$787 million in state and local revenues and create more than 100,000 jobs.

(Excerpted from the July 28, 2015 press release from the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Protection Campaign).

July 28, 2015

Dear President Obama:

As former Arizona Game and Fish Commissioners, we fully understand how important protection of habitat and our public lands is to ensuring that there are healthy populations of wildlife throughout Arizona and that there is an opportunity for many of us and our fellow Arizonans to enjoy the array of recreational opportunities they provide, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. That is why we support the creation of the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.

Protecting the national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands around Grand Canyon National Park will help limit fragmentation of this important wildlife habitat. Part of the monument proposal includes protection of the Kaibab-Paunsagunt Wildlife Corridor which allows for migration of mule deer from the higher elevations in Utah to the lower elevations in Arizona. The North Kaibab is known as a premiere wildlife area for hunters and non-hunters alike.

A Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument will also ensure that these lands continue to be protected from harmful uranium mining and old growth logging, helping to secure the future of species such as the northern goshawk and the Kaibab squirrel. We understand that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will continue to manage the lands, but will prioritize restoring and conserving wildlife habitat and corridors, and that the Arizona Game and Fish Department will continue the primary role relative to wildlife management.

We ask that you further President Theodore Roosevelt's legacy of permanently conserving lands around Grand Canyon, by protecting old growth forests, keeping uranium mining from contaminating the waters of the region, and protecting those critical wildlife corridors both north and south of Grand Canyon.

Together, we can ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the amazing outdoor experience in Grand Canyon's watershed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Hernbrode, Jennifer Martin, Linn Montgomery, Tom Woods, Beth Woodin

## Another Black Bear (*Ursus (Euarctos) americanus*) at River Level in Grand Canyon

ON THE 2ND of May 2015, members of a “Diamond Down” river trip had the unusual opportunity to observe fresh black bear tracks and a very recent and very large pile of bear feces. For the past several years, hiking up Spencer Creek (RM 246) has been relatively unpleasant for all the undergrowth of tamarisk and acacia choking the stream channel. However, in late September 2014 a major flash flood scoured the creek channel and opened a nice passage. That flood occurred on September 27 when the USGS stream gage located approximately three miles up the creek from the river recorded a flow of almost 400 CFS, spiking from a base flow of less than five CFS. That’s a substantial pulse of water, but the flow that scoured Spencer Creek mostly originated out of a south-side tributary located approximately 0.6 mile below the gage. The total flow had to have been in the thousands of CFS for all the massive changes in the stream channel we witnessed.

Our group was hiking up Spencer early on that Saturday morning and came upon a series of large, approximately six- by six-inch, square-shaped prints in the mats of green algae (*Chlorophyta*) that border the creek (Photo 1). Upon seeing the prints, the first thought that flashed through my mind was, “moose tracks.” They looked for the world like moose tracks.

When one of the hikers asked me “what are those tracks?” my answer, still thinking how much they looked like—but couldn’t possibly be—moose tracks, was “we don’t have any animals in the Grand Canyon that make a track like that.” My next thought was that Brad Dimock or Brian Dierker or some other boatman with a wicked sense of humor had passed before us and was enjoying a practical joke. While I was still scratching



Photo 1—Hikers inspecting tracks in an algae mat along Spencer Creek, Grand Canyon, Arizona. The stream flow was 1.2 cfs at the time the photo was taken.  
photo: Jason Thomas

my head and feeling like an idiot for my moose identification, one of our crew, Jason Thomas, came up and innocently asked, “Did you see the bear tracks?”

Jason took me back a few hundred feet and there in an algae mat was a series of about seven clear prints beautifully showing the pad, toes, and claws of what could only be a black bear (Photos 2 and 3). We could also distinguish prints that were obviously front and back feet. In all species of bears, the back feet are longer than the front feet, and the back foot often leaves a track that resembles a human footprint (see illustration below). In a well-defined track, the





Photo 2—This beautiful right front track shows all the details. Two claws have left an imprint, but the others are not seen. There is also an additional pad called the carpal pad, seen as a circular imprint below the metacarpal pad of this track. The carpal pad is not often seen in bear prints, unless you have good moist substrate (as in this case).  
photo: Jason Thomas



Photo 3—Left front foot.  
photo: Jason Thomas

right foot of a bear can be distinguished from the left foot because the smallest toe and smaller end of the metacarpal (palm) pad is on the inside of the foot, the opposite of a human foot.

The prints started about one mile up Spencer Creek from the river, just above where the creek cascades through the deepest pool. We were able to follow the prints for a couple of hundred yards until the bear got out of the creek and we lost the track. Coming back from the hike, a couple hundred feet away from the stream in the same area we saw the prints, we found a large pile of bear scat (Photo 4). The droppings were a good example of the tubular form commonly seen in bear scat. When berries and other fruit are available (unlikely in this desert riparian environment), bear scat is moist and resembles a cowpie.

**PREVIOUS RECORDS OF BLACK BEARS AT RIVER LEVEL**  
Black Bears are not regularly found in the Grand Canyon, and they are not listed by the National Park Service as one of the 34 mammals found along the river corridor. This new record in Spencer Creek joins only one other documented river corridor sighting of



Photo 4—Black bear scat found in Spencer Canyon. Water bottle shown for scale.  
photo: Jason Kuba

which I am aware; that was reported in Ed Pollock’s account published in the Fall 2005 issue of BQR. That record includes a photo of a bear at river level from the south side at RM 194 (<http://www.gcr.org/bqr/pdf/18-3.pdf>). In May 2004, biologist Tom Koronkiewicz observed fresh black bear tracks and scat at Columbine Falls (RM 274.3) but did not take photographs. All three of these observations took place in lower Grand Canyon on the south side of the river on or very near Hualapai land (RM 165–273.3). Three occurrences within the last twelve years in this reach of river suggest that bears may be becoming more prevalent in the wooded rim and upper side canyons of the Hualapai Reservation, and increasing competition may be driving some of them into the depths of Grand Canyon to forage. Certainly, Hualapais do not hunt and otherwise utilize their canyon backcountry to the degree they once did. Perhaps this has allowed bear populations to increase. Alternatively, bears may be moving down into watered side canyons in response to increasingly dry conditions in the uplands.

Black bears occurring within the Grand Canyon is indeed a surprise. It is of interest that Edwin McKee (1933), the Grand Canyon National Park naturalist in the 1930s, pretty much gave the answer “no” to the question “are there any bears in Grand Canyon.” He did report a record from the early 1880s of a “grizzly bear” seen in the “Algonkian” (Precambrian) rocks north of the river in eastern Grand Canyon. This bear was observed by none other than the eminent geologist Charles D. Walcott. And there is an anecdotal account of a Paiute Indian killing a grizzly bear in South Canyon (also north of the river in eastern Grand Canyon) even earlier in the nineteenth century (Bailey 1935).

Bears are not even common in the rim forests of Grand Canyon National Park where one might expect to find them. Historical accounts of bears in the Park indicate only transient animals (almost exclusively restricted to the South Rim), with the nearest resident populations said to be living on the San Francisco Peaks area outside of Flagstaff (Bailey 1935). Currently, black bears are thought to exist only in “very low densities” on the North and South Rims (National Park Service 2011).

*Steven W. Carothers*

#### REFERENCES:

- BAILEY, V. 1935. Mammals of the Grand Canyon region. *Natural History Bulletin* 1. Grand Canyon Natural History Association, Grand Canyon, Arizona.
- McKEE, E.D. 1933. Are there any bears here? *Grand Canyon Nature Notes* 8(8).
- U.S. National Park Service. 2011. Special flight rules area in the vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park, Actions to substantially restore natural quiet: Draft Environmental Impact Statement. [http://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/management/upload/GCNP\\_DEIS\\_Cover\\_through\\_Chapter\\_3.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/management/upload/GCNP_DEIS_Cover_through_Chapter_3.pdf).

# Tales From The Truck

## Karma, Fate and Rediscovery—Grand Canyon Style

MAY 5, 2015

IT WAS STARTING TO GET a little later in the day than most trips stay on the water, but I have always like to “stretch” the days and get as much in as possible on the trips I run, thus seeing and doing as much as possible. As Martha and Toner say, you can “sleep when you are dead.” This late afternoon stop at Shinumo Creek was more destiny than choice, though. We had already exchanged guests at Phantom Ranch and ran all the rapids from Zoroaster through Bass. I had thought I would camp somewhere among the six or seven camps in the Bass area. Unfortunately, there was a private trip at Emerald, AZRA at Hotuata, a private trip at Ross Wheeler, a private trip at the Inscription, a private trip at the sandbar just above Bass, and, of course, a private trip laid over at Bass camp. In addition up ahead were an AZRA motor trip and two Canyoneers trips. I thought my odds of getting 110 Mile camp were slim, but a few years earlier I had been hiking on the ridge above 110 and noticed a sandbar at mile 110.5. This was my “ace in the hole” camp; something in my mind that was as good or better than the host of small sandbars and rocky camps from Walthenburg to Elves, and a place I had never seen anyone camped. We pulled our upbeat trip of thirty in to enjoy the waterfall at Shinumo, knowing no trips would be coming behind us. Our fate had already been decided as far as where we would lay our heads down to rest when night fell.

We had a wonderful time at Shinumo Creek. The canyon was shaded, but the rocky debris fan from where our 37-foot motorized rafts were parked, to the mouth of the creek, was still in the sunny glow of the beginning of sunset. Our guests played in the cool water of Shinumo Creek, then returned to the warm red and orange rocks of the debris fan and to our grey and blue rafts. No one was “antsy” or in a “hurry” to leave, but you could tell a few of the group wondered where, or if, we would be camping that night. We untied the rafts and headed around the bend through Shinumo Rapid and into view of the AZRA motorized raft and all their tents set up at 110 Mile camp. As we passed by the rafts, my friend Wayne gave us a heartfelt wave.

We pulled our rafts into 110.5 Mile camp and did a quick scout. Checking the usual things like if there was enough room for our group and wondering where we would set up the bathrooms. Cots have made camping much easier these days. Before cots, gravelly camps were pretty much out of the question, but now

gravelly camps are semi-acceptable. With the loss of sand every year due to the flow fluctuations as well as the removal of sand flowing through Grand Canyon because of Glen Canyon Dam, the beaches are getting smaller. In addition to the problem of finding suitable camps, this has also made the camps with sand very popular. Many are camped at nightly. With this high use I speculate the beaches are becoming dirtier on the microorganism level, even when everyone in the Grand Canyon does their best to keep them clean.

This beach was totally pristine, though, and adequately covered in clean Grand Canyon sand. We set up camp. On one end of the beach I found a food stash in a rice bag, full of salad dressing and canned foods. I have stumbled upon many beer stashes and a few firewood stashes, but only a couple of food stashes. The stash of food looked at least five years old. The rice bag was torn and the Annie’s salad dressing’s label was quite faded.

For Cinco de Mayo, we ate a large Mexican dinner. Afterwards, everyone was tired from the epic day and went to bed early. The guides pushed the boats out before bed, anticipating the normal nightly drop in flow from the dam, 128 miles upriver.

The next morning, Alex [one of my young passengers] brought a partially rusted ammo can down to our kitchen. He liked to explore and had found this ammo can wedged into the rocks above the sandy part of our camp. The other guides and I were immediately drawn to the newfound treasure. What would it hold? I opened the can up and realized this was somebody’s personal ammo can. There was a Kindle on top, underneath was a toothbrush, swiss army knife, and wallet. We looked at the wallet and its contents. Inside the wallet were expired credit cards, some cash, and a Colorado driver license. We speculated that the ammo can had been here quite a while because of how rusted it was and because everything inside was expired. I packed the can onto my boat and looked forward to the challenge of locating it’s owner, “Bruce.”

---

BRUCE’S JOURNAL: AUGUST 2011

Finally talked James into moving to my boat, so that each boat would have two riders. I didn’t see the hole in Serpentine rapid, didn’t read the book that said “stay left” and went right into it. A second of thinking “oh!” and upside down. I felt bad for James, because he had flipped in Tony’s



boat on Day 3. Travis did a great job getting on the raft, pulling James up and getting a spare oar out and getting the upside down raft into an eddy. It took me a couple days to get my confidence back after flipping.

I could see my ammo can of personal stuff was floating just out of reach, so I thought “swim for it”... But, then I saw the young men at the upside-down raft and decided I needed to swim to the raft. I tried to watch the ammo can from the raft, but it was hard to get it into the obvious eddy, so I couldn't keep watching. Got the raft over and re-rigged, and headed to camp. I tried to look in every eddy and debris pile for days. Some of the things in my personal can were sad to lose, but on the rest of trip the things I missed the most were my toothbrush and hairbrush.

—Bruce



May 11, 2015

After we cleaned up our trip we called our main office and Vicki was able to locate Bruce from his driver's license. We sent the ammo can back and he was thrilled to have it returned as it had a lot of things that had value to him. It was fun to be part of a Grand Canyon story and get some good karma from the river community. That is one of the great things about the Grand Canyon. In my experience I have almost always had good relationships with all of the people in the Grand Canyon whether they be fellow commercial boaters, private boaters, NPS staff, backpackers, or that random person that doesn't fit into any of these categories. The Grand Canyon brings out the best in people.

*Walker Mackay*  
COLORADO RIVER AND TRAIL  
EXPEDITIONS

## A State of Grace

(For Bronco)

All my life I have searched for a Sense of Place  
To find the tempo to set my Sense of Pace  
River life creates such an amazing space  
Running water finds me in a State of Grace

Those long flat stretches floating on liquid glass  
Living in the present and not in the past

The water's silence as you feather your oars  
No matter the stretch, it leaves you wanting more

The undulating curves at a rapid's edge  
The serenity fades as you drop the ledge

Once you have committed to the Mother's tongue  
Your fate to the river cannot be undone

The mixture of Power and Fragility  
Rapids in their glory are a sight to see

Enjoying low water runs and spring time floods  
Running crystal clear, sometimes like liquid mud

Each time she has a nature all of her own  
You never forget the wildness she has shown

The bright Dories running high, wide, and handsome  
Taking your everlasting Soul for ransom

Landing a fly alone, down in The Church  
It's another place where your soul may be searched

Hearing a canyon wren at the break of day  
The smell of cowboy coffee floating your way

Catching reflections of the cliff sides above  
Side canyon hikes that can't but fill you with love

Late afternoon light that envelopes us all  
Fiery sunsets which ignite the canyon walls

The casting shadows at the end of each day  
The Quiet that surrounds you in such a way

Our hardships and friendships blend with laughter  
We hope to touch their lives, making them better

The look in the eyes of a fellow brother  
Raised apart but wedded to the same lover

Some memories are momentarily lost  
But I know the feeling each time I push off

I am blessed to have been shown such majesty  
I shall ever dream of her great mystery

In this World, I have found that Sense of Place  
Heavenly waters set my Sense of Pace  
My River Life defines my personal space  
Running water finds me in a State of Grace

Stephen Kenney

## Lost and Found 2015 (as of July 30, 2015)

### LOST

Roxie shorty wetsuit (black with pink Roxie lettering) at Redwall Cavern a few days before July 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2015, on a CANX trip. Contact: Pam at pcronald@ucdavis.edu.

Ipod in a turquoise waterproof case (black Ipod Touch 5) at the patio at Deer Creek on July 7, 2015. Contact: Joel at Joelkalich1111@gmail.com.

Prescription glasses in a black Oakley case at the last campsite at Backeddy (his spot was near the rock wall face), during a June 20–26 motorized trip. Contact: Paule Mermier, pmermier@hotmail.com.

Black Astral “Rassler” shoes at a camp about three days into our trip and above Phantom Ranch, somewhere between June 6<sup>TH</sup> and 8<sup>TH</sup>. Contact: Steve Obert, (208) 860-9248, surfid@gmail.com

Belt contained a blue geologist’s pouch with a yellow field notebook from the trip, pencils, brown reading glasses, and another black pouch contained a Brunton Compass in a brown hard case. There was also a hand lens on a lanyard in a pocket in the pouch. This was for my NMU school project and I would really like to get it back. Lost near the Travertine stream and Colorado River confluence below the Travertine Grotto on May 25<sup>TH</sup> on a raft trip with the University of New Mexico Geologist advance field studies. Contact: Barbara Allen (970) 433-8690, or Barbara.Allen@wpenergy.com .

Clothes in a green river bag, including one brand new Chaco sandal at the Dune Camp at Fence Fault on May 14<sup>TH</sup>. Contact: Charly at thecanyonguy@gmail.com.

Nikon Coolpix 100 camera, black, waterproof, in a cloth maroon sack at (or near) the camp right above Dubendorf around May 5, 2015 (on an OARS trip) Contact: John Archer, jarchermd@gmail.com.

Olympus TG-3 camera lost somewhere around the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado, either on the ledge or in/on the mud flat on the point on or about May 9<sup>TH</sup> through 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2015. Contact: John Hearn, beastwrk@bellsouth.net, or (678)-445-1512.

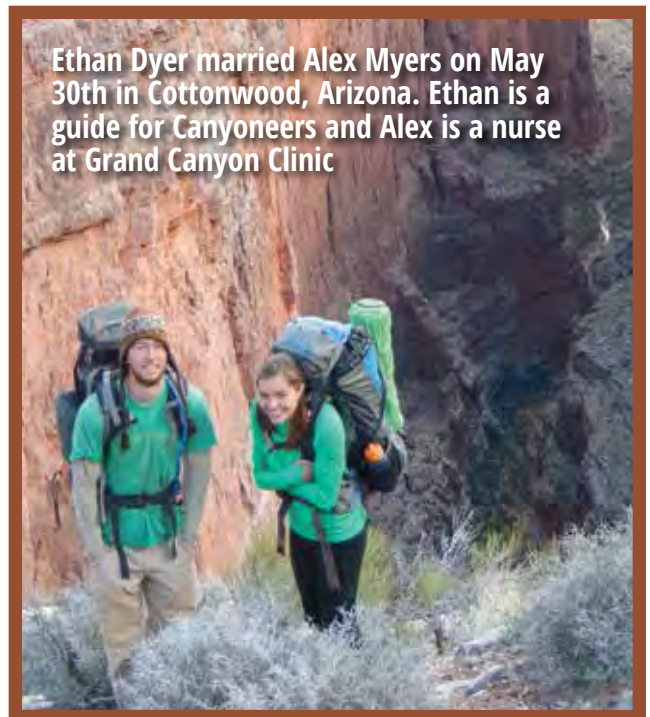
### FOUND

LL Bean prescription/reader sunglasses, found at Mile 186 (Chalk in the Rock) on July 23<sup>RD</sup>. If these are yours, please contact: Okie Jones, 928-645-6057, Jones-Paul@aramark.com.

Iphone 5 with charger (password protected with cracked screen) found on one of the jetboats, probably from a commercial trip, in July 2015. If this is yours, please contact: Sam Stallings: samstallings@gmail.com.

Pair of pants found at Stone Creek at the end of the beach on June 27, 2015. Contact: Joe Pollock at (928) 640-6410.

Ammo can—skinny 50 cal, red with white handprint stickers and house shaped stickers on the other side found across from Talking Heads camp, floating in the water on May 12, 2015. If this is yours, contact: Ann-Marie Bringhurst, annmariedale@hotmail.com.



**Ethan Dyer married Alex Myers on May 30th in Cottonwood, Arizona. Ethan is a guide for Canyoneers and Alex is a nurse at Grand Canyon Clinic**

## The Importance of Robert Service (To Me...)

JUST THOUGHT I'D share why my boat is named after a Robert Service poem, and why I recite his epics (like so many other guides, but different): When I was pretty young but didn't think so, I did what I considered at the time to be a chore. I went to see my dying step-grandfather Manny in the hospital. Grandma Mae was there with him, sitting on a sad, old metal chair, holding his hand. They were both in their eighties, wrinkled and bent.

He'd been unconscious for a week.

I kissed Grandma on the cheek, leant over and did the same to grandpa, said something forgettable, and found a chair in the corner. I figured I'd put in my time and then go. I tried some small talk with Grandma, but, well, I was young and cocky and American, and she had escaped the pogroms.

I looked around, fidgeted. Unused to being at a loss for words, I started to recite a poem I'd just learned by heart the winter before when I was on the longest damn train ride on earth from Calexico through Mexico to the Guatamalan border. Well maybe it's not physically the longest train ride in the world. Maybe that's in Siberia. But I had Montezuma's Revenge, the toilets were filthy, and I was puking and blasting burning diarrhea every few minutes for days.

As it happened, I had a copy of a book of poems by Robert Service, a Brit who lived in the Yukon during the 1898 gold rush, working for a bank and then for the postal service in a log cabin way out there in the frozen wastes. He met some characters, heard some tales. Wrote epic poems about their adventures and their inner wildness that matched that one outside. They reminded me of me and my newfound tribe of river guides, so to keep my mind occupied while running to and fro in my personal rolling toilet hell, I concentrated on memorizing a couple of them. My favorite was called the *Ballad of Dangerous Dan McGrew*"...

A bunch of the boys were whooping it up  
in the Malamute Saloon...

The kid that handles the music-box was  
playing a jag-time tune...

And there I sat in that hospital room, verbally twiddling my thumbs, reciting *Dan McGrew* to myself. After a polite while I'd get up and go. They wouldn't notice.

But I heard a gasp. Expecting his death rattle, I looked up. Grandpa's lips were moving, and they were following mine, word for word...

back of the bar in a solo game sat  
Dangerous Dan McGrew, while watchin'  
his luck was his light o' love; the lady  
that's known as Lou...

Soft but clear he whispered along. Grandma's hands rose to her mouth, eyes real round. I choked up, stopped reciting. He did not, so I joined back in, this time me following him.

...For a fireside far from the cares that  
are, four walls and a roof above,

but oh, so cramful of cozy joy, and  
crowned with a woman's love...

Then I remembered. He'd been a vaudevillian during the Great Depression. Rode the rods under the train cars from coast to coast, entertaining along the long road so he could eat.

He came back into this world, voice raising to his trademark rasp, bent and stiff hands gesturing and pointing from beneath the covers, emphasizing each line. His eyes opened for the first time in a week when nobody thought they ever would again. My voice trailed off as grandma wept.

He finished the whole damn thing on his own, every word of it, right to the end.

I tiptoed out, the two old lovers hugging and talking, lost to each other for one last eternal night. He passed away the next morning.

Grandma later tried to tell me what I'd done. I told her it wasn't me.

It was the telling of the tale.

*Jeffe Aronson*

# Grand Canyon Youth Update

## SAVE THE DATE

**G**RAND CANYON YOUTH'S 16TH annual River Runner Film Festival & Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 5:30–10:00 P.M. at the Coconino Center for the Arts in Flagstaff, Arizona. This fun event features food and river-themed films, and helps us raise funds to keep our programs as affordable as possible. Please consider a donation for the silent auction. Contact Chantal [chantal@gcyouth.org](mailto:chantal@gcyouth.org) for more information or to donate.

## 2015 PROGRAM SEASON A SUCCESS

Sharing the magic of the river with young people from diverse backgrounds on the river is what Grand Canyon Youth (GCY) is all about! We are passionate about connecting youth to the power of place, the investment of doing science, and the reflection of creating art. In 2015, we will have 42 programs on seven different sections of river. Program focus ranged from youth with special needs, to conservation crews, and integrated curriculum programs with

Flagstaff schools. GCY is also in our second year of our apprentice program where alumni can work with a mentor to work towards being a guide. One alumni guide, Kate Aitchison sums it up: "As a guide, I have watched lives change on the river in positive, monumental ways. I have seen youth transform from quiet, reserved kids into mature, outspoken individuals who love the Grand Canyon and will spend their lives fighting to protect wild places. I have no doubt in the power the river holds."

## PLEASE HELP GCY

There are many ways to assist in creating transformative experiences for young people...Donate, volunteer, guide, and help us spread the word! Every little bit helps! On the web: [www.gcyouth.org](http://www.gcyouth.org), on Face Book: [www.facebook.com/GrandCanyonYouth](http://www.facebook.com/GrandCanyonYouth) or on Twitter: [@grandcanyon\\_youth](https://twitter.com/grandcanyon_youth).

*Emma Wharton*



Youth from Tuba City High School enjoy time on the Colorado River.  
photo: Walt Carr

# Back of the Boat— The Whale Foundation News Bulletin

## 2015 KENTON GRUA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**T**HE WHALE FOUNDATION is proud to announce that this year's scholarship recipients are Alexis Kimball, Kent Wagner, and Lynn Roeder. Alexis has been accepted into the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at Creighton University in Denver, Colorado. Kent was accepted into the graduate program in the Film and Media Arts division of American University's School of Communication in Washington D.C. where he will study with a concentration on environmental and wildlife filmmaking. Lynn has enrolled in the Vertical Soul Yoga Teacher Training program. Congratulations to the winners! This year there were many extremely qualified applications and the committee had very difficult decisions to make. Thanks to all of our applicants.

We encourage all guides with at least five years experience in the Grand Canyon to apply. Applicants do not need to be currently working as a guide. Grants are awarded to guides with traditional and non-traditional educational paths. All applications are blinded before a rigorous review to insure impartiality. Support from the community has allowed the Foundation to award up to three \$2000 scholarships annually. See our website for more info: [Whalefoundation.org](http://Whalefoundation.org). The next application deadline is June 1, 2016.

## 14TH ANNUAL WING DING

Mark your calendars! We will hold our 14th Annual Wing Ding on Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 6–11 P.M. at the Coconino Center for the Arts in Flagstaff.

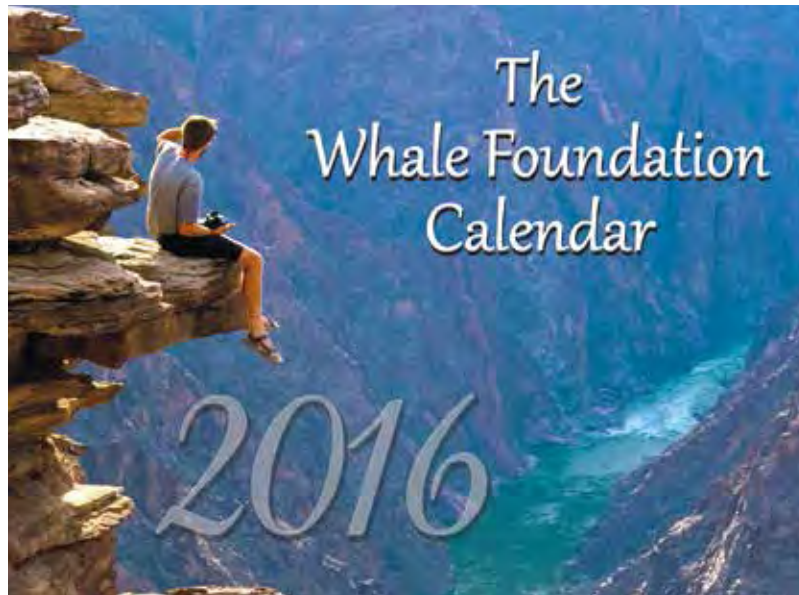
## 2016 WHALE FOUNDATION CALENDAR

The 2016 Whale Foundation Calendar is all about People in Grand Canyon and *is on it's way!* We expect it from the printers at the end of September. Last year

we featured wildlife. The 2016 calendar will highlight people in Grand Canyon. Thank you to all who submitted photos for the calendar this year, many of them were hilarious. Check out our Facebook page to see a couple of the amazing images you will find inside the calendar: [www.facebook.com/WhaleFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/WhaleFoundation).

Calendars are \$12/each and \$3/each shipping. Order by calling, send a check, or call the office at 928-774-9440. You can also pick one up at our office at 515 W. Birch, Flagstaff, AZ 86002 or retail stores in Flagstaff that carry it (a list of these will be provided on our

Facebook page as well.) If you are thinking about giving them as gifts, we applaud your audacity! There are discounts for orders of ten or more.



## WHALE FOUNDATION'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Napier will be taking over the helm at the

Whale Foundation this fall as the new Executive Director following a unanimous decision by the transition committee and board. John started guiding rivers in 1998 and for the last seven years he has been the Operations Director at Grand Canyon Youth here in Flagstaff. He brings a broad array of experiences with non-profit organizations to the position and has served on the Whale Foundation board of directors for the last couple of years. Dan Hall, the outgoing director who is fond of quoting himself says, "John is one of the nicest guys I know, he is incredibly accomplished and he knows this community inside and out. He also appreciates what the Whale Foundation has done in the past and can do in the future to serve river guides. It would have been difficult to find someone more perfect for the executive director position."

## Book Review

*Reconstructing the View: The Grand Canyon Photographs of Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe*, EDITED BY REBECCA A. SENF, with essays by Rebecca A. Senf (“Reconstructing the View: An Illustrated Guide to Process and Method”) and Stephen J. Pyne (“The Shock of the Old”), University of California Press, 2012, 172 pages, ISBN 978-0-520-27390-0, \$49.95.

FROM WHAT I REMEMBER, in late 2008 I heard from Brad Dimock about a conference that he was to present at, “The Fate and Future of the Colorado River.” Held at The Huntington Library (THL) and in conjunction with it and the USC Institute on California and the West, just from the title it sounded like an event I needed to attend. Somehow, I finagled my way onto the program, covering several topics that I had researched at THL, particularly using Dock Marston’s collection of Colorado River history. Besides Brad, there were other noted Colorado River sages presenting, such as Rod Nash and Phillip Fradkin. And then there was someone whose name I probably recognized from his work and publications on rephotography in the West—Mark Klett.

I had followed the intriguing topic of rephotography through books by Hal Stephens and Gene Shoemaker, *In the Footsteps of John Wesley Powell: An Album of Comparative Photographs of the Green and Colorado Rivers, 1871–72 and 1968* (1987); Don Baars, *The Canyon Revisited: A Rephotography of the Grand Canyon, 1923/1991* (1994); and Bob Webb, *Grand Canyon, A Century of Change: Rephotography of 1889–1890 Stanton Expedition* (1996) and *Cataract Canyon: A Human and Environmental History of the Rivers in Canyonlands* (2004). Mark Klett’s name had come up through those readings, and I had perused his *Second View: The Rephotographic Survey Project* (1984) and *Third View, Second Sights: A Rephotographic Survey of the American West* (2004) where he rephotographed the rephotographs from the earlier publication.

Since I am very Grand Canyon- and Colorado River-centric, I did not focus much on those earlier works of Klett’s. But his presentation at that 2008 conference really left me gobsmacked—utterly astonished and astounded. His work, and Wolfe’s, were no mere rediscover-the-location-and-match-the-photograph efforts, though those are worthy in themselves. They would incorporate more than one image over multiple time periods, black-and-white and color, and various sizes and shapes, into what I would term an incomplete mosaic. Occasionally they would fill in the mosaic, but most often would display the matching images in a patch-work quilt-type effort. It totally changed the way I view landscapes and how I interpret what I see when

looking at the Grand Canyon. To say their compositions changed the way I think of the Grand Canyon and Colorado River is a gross understatement, in the same way that the December 1966 Crystal Creek flood changed Crystal Rapid.

And because my new way of perception has altered, as has my way of thinking about it, my words are still attempting to catch up.

Therefore, here are some

excerpts from Diandra Markgraf’s interview with the authors in the July 5<sup>TH</sup> *Arizona Daily Sun* [emphasis added]. “Together they embarked on a *journey of experiences* as they worked to re-create historic images.” “Their projects enveloped place and history through *varying forms of storytelling*, but over the years, Wolfe said, the team’s interests expanded to include *ideas of perception and meaning*, how *imagery influences expectations* of a place.” “But the biggest lesson of all was *the mystery of perspective*.” “For every site I’ve ever visited, what it’s really like is always unlike what the photograph is like,” Wolfe said. “...photography is such a reductive act that the thing you end up with... is such an abstracted notion of what it’s actually like to be there in person.” “The pair’s unique re-photography also examines time... not strict re-photography, so becoming part of the scene is another playful addition to the aesthetic.”



*Reconstructing the View: The Grand Canyon Photographs of Mark Klett & Byron Wolfe* is at the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) in Flagstaff until November 1, 2015. Here is what MNA has to say about the exhibit: “Through the process of re-photography (identifying historic sites and making new photographs of those precise locations) Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe explore the ideas of time, place, and viewpoint. The artists’ contemporary images fuse with historic photographs and illustrations by William Holmes, Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, and others to capture

the beauty and grandeur of one of the natural wonders of the world. The resulting body of work records change within the landscape and acquires depth and complexity of meaning through the juxtaposition of old and new.” For more information about this project, see their website at <http://www.klettandwolfe.com/>, and if you’re in Flagstaff before November 1<sup>ST</sup>, be sure to visit and enjoy the exhibit with amazing oversize and interactive images on display.

*C. V. Abyssus*



Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe, 2007. View from the south rim of the Grand Canyon with Thomas Moran and California Condor number 302.

Right: Photographer unknown, ca 1907. Thomas Moran, America’s greatest scenic artist sketching at Bright Angel Cove, Arizona. (Half of stereo view) Keystone-Mast Collection, California Museum of Photography, Riverside.



Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe, 2008. Rock formations on the road to Lee’s Ferry, AZ.

Left Inset: William Bell, 1872. Plateau North of the Colorado River near the Paria. (Courtesy National Archives)

Right Inset: William Bell, 1872. Headlands North of the Colorado River. (Courtesy National Archives)

# Partnerships at Work— Lower Gorge Campsite Mitigation Project

*Following are excerpts from Trip Reports compiled by Trent Keller, Lori Makarick and Linda Jalbert.*

FROM MARCH 20 TO 22, 2015 representatives from the Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association (GCROA), Grand Canyon River Guides (GCRG), National Park Service (NPS) (Grand Canyon and Lake Mead), Canyon Jet Services and the Grand Canyon Private Boater's Association participated in a Lower Gorge trip to address campsite issues. Commercial and private river trips have difficulty finding adequate campsites below Diamond Creek and more so below Separation Canyon, due to changing conditions resulting from vegetation encroachment, flash flood events, and the effects of reservoir levels and high flow experiments.



The campsite mitigation crew for the March 20–22, 2015 Lower Gorge river trip. photo: NPS photo.

Previous Lower Gorge campsite work conducted by the NPS included the 2009 GTS and cooperative trips with the Hualapai resources staff, and private boaters in 2010 and 2011. More recently, GCROA identified specific areas needing campsite improvements and the NPS project leaders collected information on other campsite conditions identified by the private boater groups.

All trip participants met at Pearce Ferry at 9:00 A.M. on Friday March 20 and loaded the group gear, tools, and all personal gear onto the boats provided by Canyon Jet Services. Trent Keller (GCROA / Western River Expeditions), Lori Makarick (NPS) and Linda Jalbert (NPS) gave an orientation to the project,

completed the required paperwork, and discussed work and river safety prior to departure. The group travelled upriver and set up camp at Mile 243 Right, where they based for two nights.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND WORK ACCOMPLISHED

**Bridge Canyon City**—There was a large, deep ravine in the middle of the camp, dividing it into two distinct parts. The ravine sides were very steep and dangerous to navigate around. A group of six filled in the deep ravine with sand from the steep sites and flattened out the surface. With the ability to use both sections and establish a central kitchen, we then focused on clearing out exotic plants from designated tent sites throughout the camp, and improving and widening the trails to the campsites. We removed 194 square meters of



Crews filled in large ravine near pull in area at Bridge Canyon City camp with nearby material from cut bank to facilitate campsite set up and overall safety. photo: NPS photo.

invasive plants including red brome, barley (*Hordeum murinum*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and some native arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*) to improve the site. We also defined a secluded toilet site at each end of the camp by pruning the encroaching vegetation and we also disposed of firewood from the site. We pruned a total of 147 meters of vegetation at this camp.

**Separation Canyon**—This camp has been impacted by flash flooding from the canyon and is really only used when there is no chance of rain. We removed ten square meters of invasive ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) from tent pads and core camp areas. We cleared



cobble to make a trail from the river up to the camping sites up the wash. We dismantled a fire ring and cleaned up charcoal.

**Mile 242.2 L**—This is a new beach from the October 2013 High Flow Event (HFE). We cleared and established a better downstream toilet trail, and pruned and leveled some nice sites into the upper tier of this beach, which added a few new sleeping areas. We removed arrowweed and red brome to create the tent pads, clearing a total of 51 square meters. We pruned a total of 57 meters of vegetation at this camp.

**Mile 242.7 R**—We cleared encroaching vegetation at this site and levelled the existing tent sites. We pruned a total of five square meters of vegetation at this camp.

**Mile 243 R**—This was our base camp. We established a lower and an upper kitchen area, so the camp will still be usable during higher water months. We cleared



Toilet trail pruned and delineated at 243 right camp. photo: NPS photo.

arrowweed and invasive annual grasses from the tent sites throughout the camp, and used shovels to level tent sites in the upper area. We cleared 40 square meters of vegetation to create camping areas and 28 square meters to create the lower kitchen and core camp area. We also established a level trail downstream to a downriver toilet site. We hauled 40 buckets of sand to fill in gullies in the upper campsite areas. This camp could accommodate large groups now. We pruned a total of 42 meters of vegetation along trails at this camp.

**Spencer Canyon**—We pulled 18 garbage bags of invasive plants, clearing over 100 square meters from campsites and core camp areas. The primary species

removed were riggut brome, but we also removed sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), and red brome (*Bromus rubens*), which were in great abundance at this camp. We cleaned up piles of tree limbs from the middle of the beach and campfire rings that were distributed around the camp. We also fixed poor pruning that had been completed in the past. We pruned a total of 16 meters of vegetation at this camp.

**Surprise Canyon**—We spent quite a bit of time here and literally cleared out an enormous dead standing tamarisk forest across the entire upper campsite. We completed that work in a 5,000 square meters area. The standing dead trees presented a fire hazard and could be readily pulled from the ground without much effort. The camp now looks more inviting and can host a large group of up to 28 people. We also improved the toilet site upstream and delineated several tent sites in this upper area by removing out very thick



From Left to Right: Connor, Clancy, Doug, Dave, Lori, Kayson, Corey and Ken workin' it at 243. photo: NPS photo.

non-native grass with shovels, pruners, and scrapers. We pruned a total of 33 meters of vegetation at this camp.

**Mile 250 R (Tomahawk camp)**—This site had been worked on previously by NPS and partners. A large portion of the upstream side of the camp was washed out due to heavy flash flooding. We pruned existing trails and campsite areas, widened and leveled the existing camp sites, and added some new clearings for tent sites with minor vegetation removal. We used some of the vegetation to obliterate old trail work and steps that no longer were needed due the wash out. We also improved the toilet trail and location. We pruned a total of 20 meters of vegetation at this camp.

**Mile 268.4 R**—This site is primarily used by private boaters. This site did not look very inviting at first, but it looks much better now for a variety of group sizes. We cleared vegetation from the existing camp pads and pruned the trail to the toilet. We pruned a total of 24 meters of vegetation along trails and campsite boundaries. We removed tumble mustard, ripgut brome, and camelthorn (*Alhagi maurorum*) from campsite areas to open them up for use.

**Mile 274 L**—This site is often called the Grand Canyon Youth camp. This site has shade from the Goodding's willows (*Salix gooddingii*) that frame the boundary and it could be a good area for supplemental planting. We focused on clearing out the vegetation from the existing camp pads (21 square meters) and



Boat loaded with over 20 bags of exotic plants removed from Spencer camp. photo: NPS photo.

then created one new nine square meter site by removing Emory's baccharis (*Baccharis emoryii*). We pruned a total of 24 meters of vegetation along trails at this camp with a focus on the primary trail and the trail to the toilet.

**Mile 279.5 L**—This camp is just above take out and is also called Cow Paddy camp. We did minor pruning of the existing trails at this camp. This camp can accommodate a large group. We pruned a total of 20 meters of vegetation at this camp.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

We only completed a limited amount of campsite creation because we would need more site planning, consultation and an archaeologist on site for the projects that require more ground disturbance above the new deposition areas or areas that had been previously work on.

The work we completed is cyclic and requires a commitment to follow-up maintenance and monitoring. Another similar trip should occur in March 2017, with the park's concession office serving as the primary contact to get the work scheduled.

The NPS extends thanks to Trent Keller for coordinating project logistics and for working with us on outreach to Hualapai staff and private boaters. Thanks to all project participants: Dave Brown and



Spencer camp areas opened back up for use after crews manually removed invasive rip-gut brome, red brome, and tumble mustards that had invaded the camp. photo: NPS photo.

Kayson Poteet (TOUR), Ken Gouff, Brock DeMay, Tim Snyder and Chris Sofranac (ARR / GCWW); Trent Keller, Corey Chatwin and Clancy Chatwin (WRE); Helen Howard (GCPBA), Greg Squires, Trevor Carlile and Sam Stallings (CJS); Doug Lentz, Connor Lentz, Linda Jalbert and Lori Makarick (NPS-GCNP) and Heidie Grigg (NPS Lake Mead). The non-NPS project participants were signed up as NPS volunteers and 240 hours has been documented as volunteer support for river stewardship.

## Big Day At Diamond Creek



**W**E ALL KNOW THE SMELL of mud-leaden flood-water, and I caught the scent of it almost before I could see the flood rushing from the mouth of Diamond Creek on August 7TH. As our two-boat motor trip approached, deep red water piled into the cliffs as it made its final turn from the drainage, flowing over what used to be the parking lot and cascading into the river. It was big water, no doubt, but after taking a few pictures, scanning the scene and considering our take-out schedule, we ran Diamond Creek Rapid upon waves of white foam and dropped into the narrows of the Lower Gorge.

Beyond Diamond Creek the river rose significantly and around Mile 228 we began to encounter more than just heavy water and white foam. Swirling in both the eddies and the current, nearly filling the constricted channel of the gorge, was a slick of sticks, logs and other flood debris churning with the swelling river. The smallest pieces rode a boat of foam and tangled

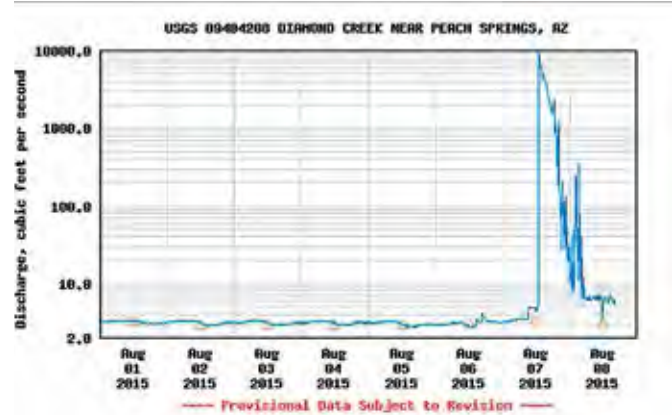
branches that held together through the waves and swirls like a woven blanket. The larger pieces bobbed up and down, often being upended and sucked beneath the surface of the water, only to be released suddenly and forcefully downstream. The largest logs compared eagerly to our side-tubes, 22-feet end to end. We had caught up with, and were caught up in, the front of the flood and all it had carried with it.

In an attempt to avoid the worst of it, we drove in the eddies, pulled our motors and reached down to clear biggest offenders from beneath the frames and near our propellers, but it became quickly apparent that the debris was besting our efforts. When the motors on both boats repeatedly failed to take in the chunky water, an essential function of cooling, we pulled over to let the log jam pass downstream. As we changed a motor, tied to the rocky slope of some no-name eddy around mile 230, we gave a few half-hearted “woops” to an Outdoors Unlimited trip as



they floated by in the current. We received a couple nervous hoots back, but the mood was obviously one of concentration. I was jealous they were at least moving downstream, a good, albeit nerve-racking, time to be in a rowboat.

After an hour, we fired up the motors and floated in our eddy for a few minutes, letting the trapped logs that had completely filled the underside of the boats float free before we made another attempt downstream. After more bouncing off the walls, floating without motor power, freeing propellers, clearing motor intakes and one twisted ankle, we ran the rapids. The passengers on my boat, who were just as excited and upbeat as they'd been all trip, acted as spotters, pointing out the biggest logs, yelling "Port!" and "Starboard!" We picked our way through the remaining whitewater amid the clunking sound of wood hitting the aluminum frame beneath the boat and the un-



avoidable crack of log versus propeller. I've never been so happy to see the calm water and wider corridor of Lake Mead.

*Mikenna Clokey  
Photos by Taylor Mckay*



# Pete Gibbs

*Pete Gibbs—a pioneer boatman from the golden era of the early 1960s—worked for Western River Expeditions and Ron Smith’s Grand Canyon Expeditions in Grand Canyon; and for Dee Holladay, A.C. Ecker, Jim Campbell and Bob Sevy in Utah, Idaho and Alaska.*

*Gibbs is known worldwide in rock climbing circles for his real job: inventing and manufacturing the Gibbs Ascender, a cherished and extremely functional piece of equipment that most certainly extended the horizons of that world.*

*This Adopt-A-Boatman interview was conducted March 3, 2009 at Pete’s home in Salt Lake City. It was edited for publication by Richard Quartaroli. —Lew Steiger*

**GIBBS:** Well, I grew up here in Salt Lake City, lived here all my life. Born in 1943, so I’m now 65 years-old. I went to Stewart School in junior high, which was a university campus school, an experimental school. I graduated from high school at East High, got a bachelor’s in physics from the University of Utah, and eventually a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Utah.

I was a member of a very active Boy Scout troop that was sponsored by the Unitarian Church. We did an awful lot of outdoor stuff, camping and fishing and the like—no river running, though.

**STEIGER:** If you don’t mind my asking, what did your folks do for a living?

**GIBBS:** My father was a mineralogist and a chemist. He worked at the U.S. Bureau of Mines, running the mineralogy lab during the uranium boom and he saw a lot of people coming in with samples and a lot of people wondering if they were being lied to. Only a few of the samples they brought in had any uranium in them but I have to wonder if that’s why my father died of lymphoma many years later.

**STEIGER:** So what did draw you to the rivers, and to river running?

**GIBBS:** I had the good fortune in, I think it was the summer after my seventh-grade year, one of the boys in our class—Matthew Brady was his name—his father and uncle, Lionel and Lyle Brady, took all of the boys in the class on a river trip. They had their own boats, and they took all of us down on a flat water trip [on the upper Colorado River] from Dewey Bridge, right near the Dolores, where the Dolores comes in, down through a lot of that slow water, as kind of a warm-up. And then later they took us all through Glen Canyon, which was just a *wonderful* experience. That

was a wonderful, wonderful experience, getting out in the side canyons. Gosh, they were glorious. All these little streams with pools that had been worn out, and lovely curvatures and places you could soak or swim. Of course I particularly remember going up...is it Aztec Creek? [Aztec Creek in Forbidding Canyon]... to the [Rainbow] Bridge, and climbing down on the top of it, and the Moki Steps that led down to the top of it. That was great. And then of course being kind of surprised when we got down close to the end and were unable to get to Lees Ferry, we had to take out above there [at Kane Creek], because the coffer dam for Lake Powell was being built at the time.

**STEIGER:** How far along was it?

**GIBBS:** I’m not sure, because we didn’t actually see it. We took out a mile or two above where it was, and we didn’t really see it, so I don’t know.

**STEIGER:** I remember Art Gallenson just said he was on a trip like that—he did a trip with Ken Sleight. They went through Glen Canyon, and they did the same thing. They had to stop up above and go out. But they went around to the bridge that was just being—there was an opening ceremony, they were just opening the bridge, and these guys sat there and they watched ‘em. [Glen Canyon Dam Bridge, completed in 1959.] They made this big to-do of it, and they put the first bucket of cement [June 17, 1960] in on the coffer dam, and there was all this pomp and circumstance that went with that. And I asked him, “What did you think of that?” And he said, “Oh, they didn’t know.” He said Ken Sleight was the only one who really grasped what was goin’ on there. Did you guys, when you went through, what was your take on all that?

**GIBBS:** It wasn’t even really a topic. Nobody talked about it. The guys that took us didn’t tell us anything about what was going on, other than we knew that the dam was being built. And it wasn’t controversial at all. I hadn’t met Ken yet—Ken Sleight—or anyone else that was really involved. Art [Gallenson] got pretty seriously involved himself, later—protesting.

**STEIGER:** Protesting Glen Canyon, or protesting those other ones?

**GIBBS:** Protesting the attempts to put the dams into Grand Canyon. That was what he was really involved with.

**STEIGER:** So for you, that first Glen Canyon trip...

**GIBBS:** That was a big influence. That was really a wonderful time, and such a spectacular place. But the one who really got me involved was Art Gallenson. I met him in college. I’m not sure how much *he* had

done at that point—probably not much at all. We went out to a bar one night, he and I and Ron Smith, and I forget who else was there. Probably Dee Holladay was there. We watched “Hardtack” Glade Ross just having a wonderful time. It was his last gig of the season before he went out to work for Hatch for the summer. (laughs) And it was stuff like that, you know. Art made a real effort to include me in things that were going on in the river business, and eventually got me a job with Western River Expeditions. And of course I met Ron through them, too—Ron Smith—and eventually worked for him too. And Dee Holladay. Had a good time with Dee. Didn’t ever work for him, but did a lot of tripping with him.

**STEIGER:** Now Glade Ross, was he the ranger? Or he was a Hatch boatman, and then he became a ranger?

**GIBBS:** He was still a boatman. I met him again when was the ranger at Jones Hole.

**STEIGER:** And he was a musician too?

**GIBBS:** Yeah, he played in a rock band in a little dive. He and Ron Smith and Larry Evans built these river kayaks—what they thought a river kayak should be like—like a normal kayak, except longer and flatter, so it didn’t turn very well, which was kind of sad—at least the one that Larry built. I eventually bought from him. Ron and Glade Ross both mounted oar stands so they could row them.

**STEIGER:** So they could put oarlocks on them. Pete’s kind of describing these kind of extenders that put the oarlocks far enough out that you could, I guess, get a stroke; that you could have enough oar on the inside of the oarlock to get some leverage.

**GIBBS:** Out and up, so you could actually get the oars out of big water.

**STEIGER:** I visited Ron Smith one time, and I saw one of those boats you’re talking about, which was *really* interesting. And you got one of ’em, but yours didn’t have the oarlocks?

**GIBBS:** Mine didn’t have the oarlocks—Larry Evans’. And it was too flat. I know Glade and Ron both turned theirs up at the end, so you could actually turn it pretty well. And Larry’s was more like a sea kayak. It ran fast and straight, but you couldn’t maneuver it very well. I used it mostly for fishing Lake Powell and stuff like that.

**STEIGER:** Could you just tell me a little bit about your first experiences guiding, what your first couple of trips went like?

**GIBBS:** Yeah. In those days there weren’t any training programs. Basically they put you in the boat and said, “Follow that guy.” The first trip I was on was on the Yampa for Western River Expeditions. It was spring and the water was pretty high. I fell in the river before

we even got on the water. (laughs)

**STEIGER:** Off the boat?

**GIBBS:** We were loading and the boats were tied up kind of loosely. The boat I was on moved, and I went bloop! into the river. No big deal. That trip was an eye-opener, a great experience and something I really wanted to do.

The next week’s trip didn’t go quite as well. Our boss, Jack Currey, had booked two separate groups and Paul Thevenin and I were assigned to a family with two girls of about ten and eleven. The rest of the boatmen had about thirty clients to deal with. A whole bunch of people and a lot of boats. It was raining, it was extremely muddy at the put-in, and you could see they weren’t very sure about going on this thing, but off we went. We were down—well, it was in the second day, and we came on a whole bunch of Hatch boats. I mean, there were a whole lot of ’em. I didn’t know what was going on. Paul was up in the front, talking to whoever was running that group—it was probably Dennis Massey. Anyway, I was back at the back, and I didn’t know what was going on. My other boat was up there so I pulled out from behind one of these—I mean, I was in a ten-man, I couldn’t see over the 36-footer. So I pull out from behind this 36-footer, went bloop! into a hole and flipped the boat.

**STEIGER:** Oh no!

**GIBBS:** Part of this, I should have mentioned that the parents of these girls hadn’t wanted them in my little boat, but Paul managed to talk them into getting into my boat five minutes before I flipped it.

**STEIGER:** Oh, God.

**GIBBS:** Okay. Well, I got my first flip over with, I guess. So now my boat is upside down, and this Hatch boat pulls up alongside of me, and they get my boat tied up alongside of it, upside down, and I climb in and the girls climb in, and it is, in fact, Dennis Massey. It’s flood stage and the river’s going really fast. He gets the boat to shore and jumps with the rope but he can’t get it stopped. So now I’ve gotta get on the oars, and I’m this little skinny kid on my second trip ever.

**STEIGER:** And this is *his* boat, with your upside-down boat tied alongside of it.

**GIBBS:** Yeah, pulling on it. And I had the good fortune of finding the only eddy in *miles*, and got it in, and we got everything straightened out. Massey didn’t hit me or anything! (laughter) I think he could see how frightened I was. Well, what I didn’t know at the time, was the reason they had been talking to Thevenin was that the word was out now, that Warm Springs had washed in the day before.

**STEIGER:** New rapid.

**GIBBS:** New rapid. *Much* more serious rapid now.

And one of their boatmen, sitting on his life jacket, had been killed in it. [Les Oldham, June 11, 1965.]

**STEIGER:** And this was Warm Springs that you flipped in then?

**GIBBS:** No.

**STEIGER:** This is *another* one.

**GIBBS:** Yeah, this was a little tiny thing called Five Springs. There was only one hole in it—I couldn't have done it any other place.

**STEIGER:** ...talkin' about your flip. And that was a ten-man, in a little thing above Warm Springs, which had just been created. Those things weren't that easy to tip over—I know! Were they? That was my first boat, and man, I put it in some terrible places.

**GIBBS:** They're heavy enough, they're pretty stable.

**STEIGER:** You must have gotten it just right.

**GIBBS:** Yeah. I didn't see it coming, and all of a sudden I got in a funny angle, and blip!, I was over. We now knew we had to stop at Warm Springs, and we did do that, which was interesting. All the Western River people showed up from the other group. I remember... Who else? Roger Upwall was there. Who else was there? Jack Currey, of course, was there. It was the three of them, Jack, and Paul Thevenin, and Roger Upwall that were the most experienced. Most of us, like—and Dave Mackay was there—were real inexperienced. We were starters. I mean, it's flood stage, things are going *fast*.

**STEIGER:** Pretty chilly water?

**GIBBS:** It's chilly, and you don't want to be upside down. And it's a set-up where if you miss the pull-in at the bottom, you're gonna go around the corner. So the question became, "How do we get all the people through this thing? We can't really walk 'em around safely, unless we can get some boats pulled in at the bottom." So that's what we started trying to do, getting boats in at the bottom. It worked for a couple. Paul and Jack and Roger ran all the boats, and pretty soon they got tired from running all the boats, and weren't able to stop. So I think it was Jack and Roger who went around the corner. So now we don't have very many boats left.

**STEIGER:** Plus two of your good guys.

**GIBBS:** The really strong boatmen are gone—or two of 'em. (laughs) I ended up running a boat from there and should have flipped. I could never have stopped it. I was a skinny kid. Oh, one of the other things, there was this group from Colorado there, that had a funny boat. It was a wooden box that was on these sort of legs, and they had a bunch of inner tubes and stuff in it, and there were two guys that would sit in it on a seat, with little tiny oars, one on each oar. They were just guys out screwing around.

**STEIGER:** And they just cobbled together this thing?

**GIBBS:** They cobbled this thing together. They seemed to know what they were doing. They were just doing it as a joke. They didn't expect anything like Warm Springs to be there. So they got a ride with me. I agreed to take 'em through, and they just pushed this thing off. And it went down and it hit this horrendous hole, flipped on its top; went down, hit the next hole, flipped upright; ran out just fine! It was *just* fine. So that's kind of the story of my second trip.

**STEIGER:** Now, you said 36-foot boat?

**GIBBS:** Oh, they were 33's.

**STEIGER:** So these were 33's with floors in 'em?

**GIBBS:** With floors in 'em, yeah.

**STEIGER:** No wonder those guys got tired!

**GIBBS:** Oh shit yes.

**STEIGER:** And they were rowing them one to a boat?

**GIBBS:** Yeah, without tandem oar frames. First time through, they were okay. I remember seeing Jack the second time through. He had a kid with him, one of the other young boatmen, who threw a rope as Jack got as close to shore as he could at the bottom. Somebody caught it and ran it around a tree. The old rope stretched, went pow, and snapped back! And Jack sailed on around the corner. Well, you know, the boat was full of water and extremely heavy at that point.

**STEIGER:** So the oarsman sat right in the middle of the boat? How did you...?

**GIBBS:** Yeah, just slightly behind the middle—not much.

**STEIGER:** Man oh man.

**GIBBS:** They were heavy, hard-to-row boats. They were all 28's and 33's.

**STEIGER:** Just how you'd even change an angle, you know...

**GIBBS:** Yeah, it's slow. I wasn't strong enough to handle it.

**STEIGER:** Oh man! I gotta say, I saw some of those movies. Paul Thevenin had this copy of the movie from Mexico, from the Grijalva. Boy, you look at that stuff, now that didn't seem like such a bad place to have a big ol' 33-foot boat. But watchin' these movies, it just cracked me up, because it didn't look like anybody really knew all that much about what... Guys would just be rowin' upstream. They weren't really even doin' much.

**GIBBS:** Right.

**STEIGER:** I say that with the utmost respect.

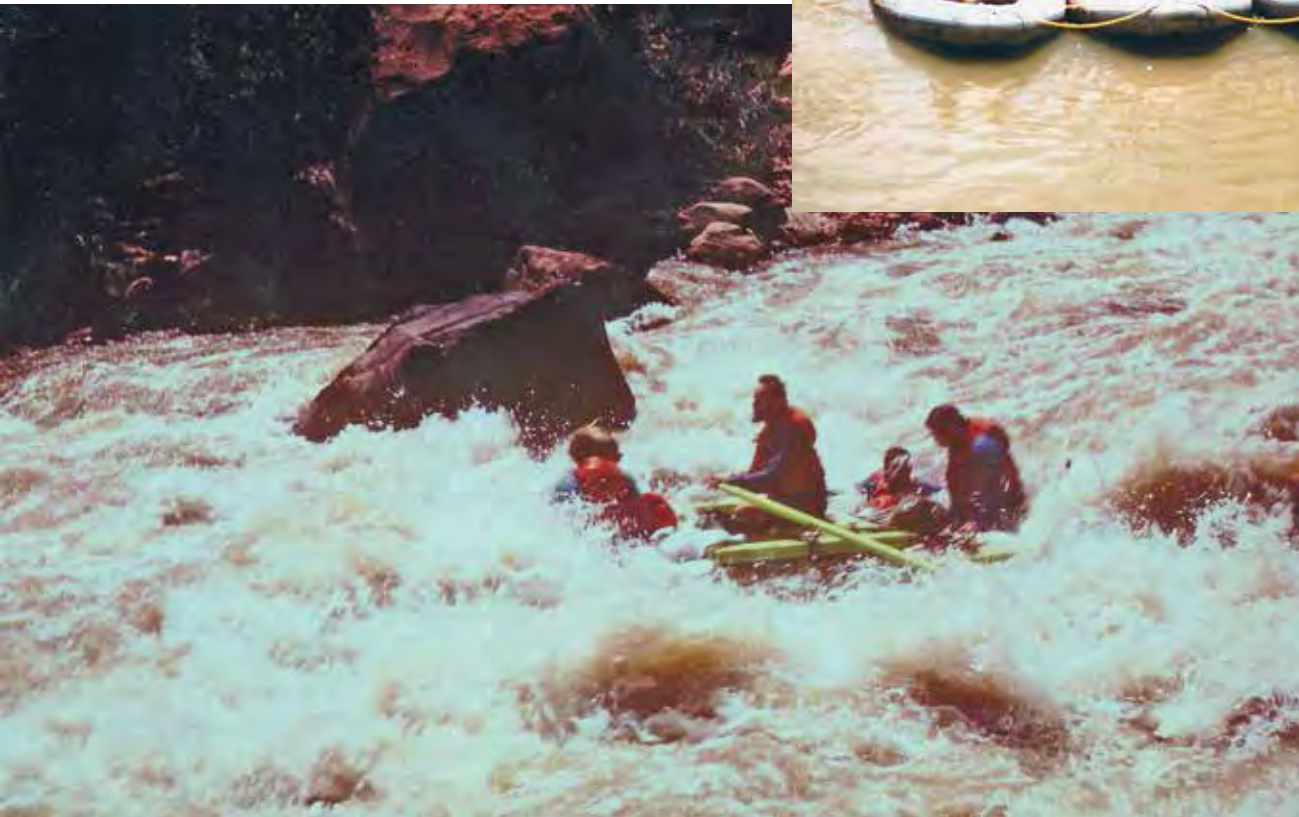
**GIBBS:** There were a lot of things we hadn't learned yet, about downstream pushing, about making a boat track, getting a boat that *will* track. We didn't know about any of those things yet.

**STEIGER:** Was it just, try to downstream ferry to get





Upper Right: Horn Creek  
Right: Triple Rig, above something big.  
Below: In Lava



where you wanted to go? Or was it even *that* far along?

GIBBS: We mostly did upstream ferries. It just wore you out and didn't get you anywhere. Slowly we learned about, "Oh yeah! Eddies! Eddies will help!" (laughs) And eventually downstream ferries. That was a while.

STEIGER: Had you been hired by Jack Currey?

GIBBS: Uh-huh.

STEIGER: How'd that go, that process? How did he strike you, and what was your interview process like?

GIBBS: Interview?! There wasn't any interview. It was kind of...

STEIGER: "We need some guys to row these boats!"?

GIBBS: Yeah. That's right. He took us on that first trip, on kind of a chance basis. And at the end of the trip he said, "Okay, I'll hire you, you, and you, if you want to work for me." God, the wages were... I don't remember. It wasn't much, though, fifteen bucks a day or something. Something like that. (laughs) And there wasn't any training. It was "get in the boat and follow that guy," and that was it.

STEIGER: So how'd those little girls do?

GIBBS: They never were in my boat again. No way! That was it, I ran empty for the rest of the trip. It was easy, I guess. Thoroughly disheartening, though.

STEIGER: Had to bail your own boat.

GIBBS: Yeah, had to bail my own boat.

STEIGER: Didn't get fired, though.

GIBBS: No, I didn't get fired. Paul Thevenin, a very nice man. Really a nice man. Made sure that I got through it okay.

STEIGER: Yeah. He's had a long career as a mother hen.

GIBBS: Yeah, for a lot of people.

STEIGER: Well I was so excited to talk to you, just because honestly, I have heard so many people talk about you. I guess, like I was sayin', mostly Don Neff. Who else? Well, Ote Dale. And there were others too. Could you describe just kind of how your career went with Western, just how that sort of went?

GIBBS: Okay. Well, I started out, moved to Jack's warehouse out in Vernal for the summer, and that first summer worked a couple more Yampas, and then a whole lot of Lodores. I think maybe there may have been a Desolation in there somewhere, I'm not sure. During that period, Art Gallenson and I and Kent Richards and Dave Mackay were doing a lot of hiking, not just in Grand Canyon, but various places, and getting to like that a lot, particularly doing the trails that were at the time kind of deserted in Grand Canyon. We hiked a whole lot of those. At the time, it was just the burros that were keeping the trails open. Nobody was hiking them.

STEIGER: Give me an example of one of them.

GIBBS: Oh, the Hance Trail, and Red Canyon Trail.

STEIGER: Now this is late sixties we're talkin' about?

GIBBS: Yeah, it would have been '65, '66, somewhere in there. And then people started using the trails. Eventually the park service decided that they wanted to get rid of the burros, because they're not native, of course. And that was pretty awful, showing up to hike along the Tonto Platform, and finding these dead burros—in the trail, of course, because that's where they were when the guys in the helicopter shot them. That's the way the park service got rid of them.

STEIGER: Now, what years were those?

GIBBS: Oh, that's a little later, and I'm not sure I can pin it down.

STEIGER: Do you remember Steve Carothers?

GIBBS: Oh yeah.

STEIGER: I did one of these interviews with him—he was tellin' me that he got 'em goin' on it, because they had hired him to do a human impact study, and they had all these controls where they'd throw out these little rings on these beaches and count the debris. So they were doin' it on a lot of camping beaches, but then they went to other beaches for control, where people didn't go, and they went to several places where here were these burros, and came to the conclusion that the burros were a far greater danger than people at the time. That was what Carothers thought. They were shootin' 'em. But then the Fund for Animals got in the act. I had never heard that they were shootin' 'em in that area before, like on the Tonto Platform, like on the Hance Trail.

GIBBS: Yeah, they were. They were trying to get all of them out of the park, if they could. I do admit that they could be dangerous. I got charged by one. I accidentally trapped one in the back of... Blacktail Canyon? I don't know, it was one of those canyons in that area that we camped at. I just went hiking up, and it dead ends.

STEIGER: And there was a burro.

GIBBS: There was a burro in there. It practically ran over me, trying to get out.

STEIGER: Well, I didn't mean to spin you out. So you went to hikin'. We were on your Western career.

GIBBS: Oh, right, okay. We started doing a lot of hiking. Eventually I got into doing, as I got a little more experienced, I got to run Grand. (chuckles) Oh my, another little aside here. One of the hiking trips that Art and I—there probably were a couple of other people with us—but we'd come in at Red Canyon, as a matter of fact, and we ran into Jack, or I guess it had been arranged that we were gonna run into Jack Currey, who was down there with one of the first of

the J-rigs, just this monstrous beast. The idea was that he would take us down to... I don't remember, he probably dropped us off at Bass Camp, but I'm not sure. But anyway, he wanted help, because it was this massive thing, this huge beast that he'd built. He was using these old Johnson motors, and he didn't trust 'em. So he wanted to row it through the rapids. He used the motor in the flat water. I don't know, did you ever see the Currey clubs? They were always these huge, handmade things that weighed a *ton*.

STEIGER: Were they square-shafted too?

GIBBS: A lot of 'em were square-shafted, yeah. They were *awful* oars, just horrible things. Anyway, he had these two oars. They were big things, I couldn't lift one.

STEIGER: On a 5-tube-J-rig?

GIBBS: Right, yeah. Jack took one, I took the other. He's probably four times as strong as I am. You can imagine how this is gonna work! (laughs)

STEIGER: This is the *maiden* voyage of the J-rig?

GIBBS: Yeah.

STEIGER: He meets you guys at Hance. "Now let's row this thing through here."

GIBBS: "Let's row this through Hance," and we did. (laughs) Basically we lined it up and let it go. Wasn't anything else you *could* do.

STEIGER: What do you suppose the water was runnin'?

GIBBS: There was a fair amount. It wasn't real high, though. We went out and ran the middle slot.

STEIGER: You weren't goin' down the left or anything?

GIBBS: Oh no, no, no. No (laughs), not with *that* thing!

STEIGER: You know, and back then, maybe I'm wrong, it seemed to me like the middle—and I only started in the early seventies—but it seemed like the middle of Hance used to be a lot scarier. I don't know if I'm right on that or not, but I remember down there, just opposite the Whale Rock, there was this thing in there that was just...

GIBBS: Yeah, I agree with you, it is a lot easier now.

STEIGER: Did you guys hit that in the J-rig?

GIBBS: Of course. It was like a Georgie [White] rig. There was so much of it that *some* part of the boat was always out of the hole, you know.

STEIGER: Wow. So you rowed that thing through the whole gorge?

GIBBS: Yeah, we rowed it through the whole gorge.

STEIGER: Was there a Crystal [Rapid]?

GIBBS: No, Crystal hadn't come in yet. I mean, there was a rapid there, but it wasn't serious. Yeah, that happened. Neff probably talked to you about that, I

would guess.

STEIGER: He did.

GIBBS: It was he and I that ran that boat through.

STEIGER: You were on a triple-rig.

GIBBS: On a triple-rig. Probably the first rowing rig through after it was created [in December 1966], I would guess—I'm not sure about that.

STEIGER: He did, but why don't you tell me your version, startin' at about Hermit. Seemed like John Cross, Jr., must have been just ahead of you, because I remember doin' this trip, we called it the Old-timers' Trip at that time. And I remember he laid claim to bein' the very first one through.

GIBBS: Could be.

STEIGER: And then it seemed like Neff told me you guys were right behind him.

GIBBS: Uh-huh.

STEIGER: And Neff said below Hermit he could see all this debris along the shoreline, like there was a dam, like it had actually dammed the river up, and backed water up. And then when you got to Crystal, you could see the remnant of the dam, and the river just cuttin' through. Is that about right, does that ring a bell?

GIBBS: Well, that's right. It doesn't mean that the river had just cut through, just as we got there, or anything. There was still an *awful* lot of debris that was pushing out, well into the river, that was damming things up, and was holding a lot of detritus back.

STEIGER: Yeah, that was the picture he gave. So the remnants were still there, but the river was startin' to work on it?

GIBBS: Yeah. There used to be—you know the top hole—there used to be another hole down below that was much sharper, just really nasty. It wasn't a roaring big thing, it was just sharp, you know, like Upset gets sometimes. And we ran right through that thing. I'm on the back oar, kind of holding on, and there's a point where you let go of your oar and grab your seat, you know. And I looked up as Don... "Oh, there's Don." He's still in his seat, but the boat's kind of like this at this point.

STEIGER: Pete is looking up at the sky, dead vertical.

GIBBS: Yeah, there's the little boat in the front, and eventually it came back down. We had tied heavy ropes underneath the boats so that it wouldn't fold, or we'd have folded it right then for sure. (laughs)

STEIGER: Who was tellin' me about that? Somebody was sayin' that Ron was real particular about tyin' those ropes. And I guess was that from a Georgie experience or somethin', where those would pancake under? The upstream boat would go under?

GIBBS: Yeah. It was more about... Most of Georgie's problems were with folding.

**STEIGER:** The downstream boat goin' *over*, instead of the upstream goin' under.

**GIBBS:** Right. That's where she had most of the problems.

**STEIGER:** So that's what the ropes would do. Actually, those ropes wouldn't do anything for the upstream boat.

**GIBBS:** Right. That same trip, when we got to Lava Falls, that happened to me. The back boat that I was on folded under the other two. There was an awful lot of tension, because we had some ropes along the edges and along the top, too. But it went dead under, and then I'm tryin' to figure out, "Which way do I go to get out of here?" and crawled out eventually, and picked up a couple of passengers that had been washed out of my boat, and got it back out, because there was enough tension from the ropes, and enough flotation in the boat that it hadn't really gone flat under. It was like that, and it came back up.

**STEIGER:** Probably that was along about the V-wave, or the bottom hole or somewhere in there. (laughter)

**GIBBS:** Somewhere in there. It was at the bottom hole, is where it was. We stalled in the bottom hole, and this wave came in from behind and blew us out of there, you know.

**STEIGER:** Boy. Now, I want to go back to Crystal. Who else was with you guys? Was that Ron Smith himself?

**GIBBS:** Yeah, Ron was there.

**STEIGER:** When you came up on it, had you even heard that it was there? No, you didn't even know, did you?

**GIBBS:** We didn't even know, uh-uh.

**STEIGER:** So how did all that...?

**GIBBS:** We were gonna stop and look at it anyway, and got our eyes opened. (laughter) I had a lot of fun working for Western: a lot of good guys, Dave Mackay and Art [Gallenson], Roger Upwall, Paul Thevenin, and a lot of good people. And one of the really fun things about it that you don't see much anymore, is that we moved around a lot. You got to work a lot of different places. You could start out, in the spring you might go to Grand. You might do a Cataract in there. And then you'd kind of move where the water was. You'd go up and run the Yampa, and maybe go to Idaho and do the Selway and the Middle Fork. One year we went up into Canada—well, one year I went to Canada—I think they did it two or three times—to run the Upper Columbia that's now dammed up. And then you'd move back down,



Indian Creek, Middle Fork Salmon





Alaska

working your way back to Grand Canyon. It was really a lot of fun doing that.

**STEIGER:** And that was just Jack wantin' to get everything goin', and wantin' to be a presence on all these...?

**GIBBS:** Yeah.

**STEIGER:** What a golden age.

**GIBBS:** A lot of the Hatch guys did the same sort of thing, they got to travel a lot too. It was a wonderful time that way. And then eventually I moved on. Art had gone to work for Ron Smith, and he kind of got me to go work for him as well. That was good; I had a lot of fun there too. Ron's a very interesting guy to work with, very smart guy, very meticulous about everything. He wanted everything to look nice. He wanted everything to operate well. He was very thoughtful about how to build equipment better, to make it work better. That's when he got into taking the floors out. Hatch had done some of that too. And putting the aluminum frames in that forced the boat to bend in the middle, and gave you a lot better low center of gravity storage—made a boat that really ran better. The first boats, one of the things Jack Currey didn't understand was that you needed to have

someplace for the boat to bend, initially. I remember one of the first monster J-rigs that he had down there, they had a *huge* frame on this thing, a single piece was actually two pieces that they had...It was so big they couldn't get it in the truck, so they had two pieces that fit together, a small pipe inside long pipe—or square, actually, not pipe—steel square. When they got to the end, of course it had been stressed, they couldn't get it apart again, so they had to cut it in half.

Anyway, what I started to say about all of this was that there were a number of incidents with those early J-rigs, where they'd hit a hole, and because the boat was so stiff, the boatman sitting at the back would get catapulted clear over the front.

**STEIGER:** Just when they first dropped in?

**GIBBS:** Uh-huh. Because the boat was so stiff, it worked like a springboard and it would snap the boatman and just throw him right up on the deck, or right in front of the boat.

**STEIGER:** So bending in the middle was to take the strain off the *back* end.

**GIBBS:** Right.

**STEIGER:** Hm. Did the boat that you rowed through with Jack, that first J-rig, so that was stiff all the way?

GIBBS: Uh-huh.

STEIGER: Yeah. That must have been exciting.

GIBBS: At least we were standing up near the center of the boat—we weren't back in the motor well.

STEIGER: Yeah, to get launched.

GIBBS: To get launched, yeah.

STEIGER: Just before I forget, Crystal, we left off there. I just wanted to hear a little bit more about the experience of runnin' that—I guess because you looked it over. Well, Neff told me this story about it, that sticks in my mind, and I'm just wonderin' what your experience of it was, of actually runnin' it. As I recall, Neff basically said he remembered lookin' it over and goin', "Holy shit, we're gonna kill somebody doin' this. We're gonna die here." It looked *so* bad. He said it was kind of the first one where he thought, oh man, he couldn't see a way through. He basically said Ron just said, "Okay, here we go boys, here we go," and you guys didn't think it over very long, and just went ahead and did it, and he said he was scared shitless the whole way down. This is a bad interview technique, but I'm just wonderin' how that appeared to *you*, that whole experience.

GIBBS: Well, I was certainly intimidated by it. It was my first trip working for Ron, and I was basically goin' along, followin', doin' whatever needed to be done, to keep my job. Ron said "run it," so we ran it! I was talkin' about this thing in Lava, where the boat got turned under. That was just the opposite. Ron ran his, I think it was a thirty-three, through at that point. I don't think he was building boats yet, I'm not sure, he may have been.

STEIGER: Did he have a basket frame already, or not?

GIBBS: I don't think so. Anyway, he came running back up and yelling at us, "Stop!" It was big water. It was real big.

STEIGER: "Don't go!"

GIBBS: It's too late, we're already on the water. Whew! Boy, we had a ride! (laughs)

STEIGER: Yeah. Wow.

GIBBS: I worked for Ron for a few years and eventually did the trip on the Omo [River in Africa]. That was kind of the last of it. I moved to Idaho after that.

STEIGER: You yourself physically moved up there to live?

GIBBS: No, I was still living here in Salt Lake, but summers I was going up to Idaho, to the high-water Middle Fork, working for Jim Campbell mostly. And early spring I was working trips for A.C. Ecker on the Dolores and Cataract. I guess by that time Ron had sold Canyonlands Expeditions, for whatever reason. Anyway, I think that's where A.C. got the permits, I

think, those old Canyonlands permits. I'm not sure about that. In the fall I'd come back down and work some more trips for A.C. on the Green or wherever. Eventually Jim Campbell's operation went downhill. It was a very well-organized business, but Jim himself fell too much in love with Sheepeater Ranch, which was this river guest ranch that always lost money, as most guest ranches do, and basically I think took all the money out of the business.

Anyway, from there I moved on to working for Bob Sevy—Sevy Guide Service out of Stanley. Worked a lot of Middle Fork of the Salmon, Main Salmon. Worked a bunch of trips in Alaska for him, on the Noatak, and the Alagnak, and the Alatna. I remember a couple of others. They were great experiences, a lot of grizzly bear run-ins. (laughs)

STEIGER: Now, I guess we ought to note that you have a lot of experience climbing too, am I right?

GIBBS: Uh-huh.

STEIGER: This was the other thing that made me want to talk to you, was I was talkin' to Ote Dale for this project and Ote told me a story about you goin' down and climbin' this...It's a granite face down there right below Grapevine.

GIBBS: Right.

STEIGER: On a one-boat trip. Maybe we should touch on that a little bit. Now last night you told a story about there was one little problem. But while my mind's on it, I wanted to say, were you guidin' as a boatman because you needed to make a livin'? Because Ote told me that you invented the Gibbs Ascender, which is this piece of climbing gear, the way she put it, that's kind of ubiquitous, and you've basically lived happily ever after since then. Were you guiding to make a living, or were you guiding for fun?

GIBBS: I was really guiding for fun at that point. The ascender business was supporting me pretty well. It was a small business, but it served me very well. And I had a lot of fun doing a lot of climbing.

Well, you wanted me to talk about the Grapevine wall. That was kind of an interesting thing. I went down there to climb it with Bego Gerhardt and Ed Hikida, my friends. And the night before we were going to climb it, we'd set one lead, and we were camped down at the bottom of this thing, a couple of steep gullies that lead up on each side of this big pink pegmatite face. There's a lot of debris that's come down these bowling alleys, the black schist bowling alleys, basically. So there's no beach, it's just all of these massive black rocks—other than occasional little pockets of sand. Anyway, we had dinner and spread out for the night, because you couldn't sleep anywhere near anybody else—there wasn't room. Sometime

during the night, I got up. I needed to pee. I thought I was stepping into one of these pools of sand, and it turned out to be the fire pit, with white ash on top of the very hot coals. In my half-awake stupor, I stuffed my other foot in, trying to pull the first one out. It was a great fortune that we had left a bucketful of water right there, where I was able to get to it quickly and get my feet in, or it would have been much more serious. Anyway, in the morning my partners sort of wondering why I wasn't up, pushing them to start climbing. I had to explain to them what had happened. I punctured my blisters and got the swelling down enough so that I could get my tennis shoes back on and we rowed down to Phantom. From there I got a mule ride out. They had to hike. We left the boat there at Phantom—Ron's other trips picked it up. And one of the real pleasures of that five-hour ride was that the last third of it, it was in a snowstorm. (laughter)

STEIGER: Oh, man!

GIBBS: Just another real pleasantry of it. Golly. Well anyway, about a year later, I went back with Bego and Ote and Eric Eliason. Eric and I did climb it.

STEIGER: And what was it that made you want to climb this one spot?

GIBBS: It's just a spectacular place.

STEIGER: You were on a river trip and looked it over once and said...

GIBBS: Yeah, said, "Hey, there's a crack system sort of here, and sort of over there, there isn't, but it's good hard rock." The pegmatite was solid, but the schist was terrible. The most dangerous part of it was really the rock fall, because there was stuff comin' down those gullies all the time.

STEIGER: Boy, it just really strikes me, just to row a ten-man with four people down there. That didn't give you any... I mean, a one-boat trip? Were people doin' stuff like that?

GIBBS: Not as far as I know.

STEIGER: That seems pretty unique.

GIBBS: Yeah, probably was.

STEIGER: And I think that was probably—what did you say it was? '73 [1973]? '74?

GIBBS: Yeah, somewhere in there. I did it both times. The first time I only made it to Phantom. (chuckles)

STEIGER: Did you get a private permit, or how did that all work? Just went?

GIBBS: The permit system wasn't really running yet. And the first time, Ron said, "Here, you can take the boat," and off we went, put it in the water. The second time the whole permit thing was starting to happen. I guess it's safe to say this now. The permit thing was starting to happen, and Ron said, "Well, you can't just put it in at the Ferry anymore." So he had one of his

trips drop the boat off at Jackass Creek, and we hiked in and picked it up and put on.

STEIGER: (laughs) "There, that'll be okay, because we don't want to put it in at Lees Ferry."

GIBBS: Yeah. (laughs)

STEIGER: Yeah, I think it's alright. What are they gonna do?

GIBBS: They aren't gonna do anything at this point anyway.

STEIGER: Yeah. Boy, it is funny, because I remember I started workin' in '72, and I don't remember *ever* seein' a private trip. The only people you ever saw were people that were workin' commercial, or then when they wanted to get rid of motors, then there was all of us doin' trainin' trips—quote, "training trips." And I don't remember seein' people just down there privately for years and years and years.

GIBBS: Yeah, there weren't many. There weren't many doing it.

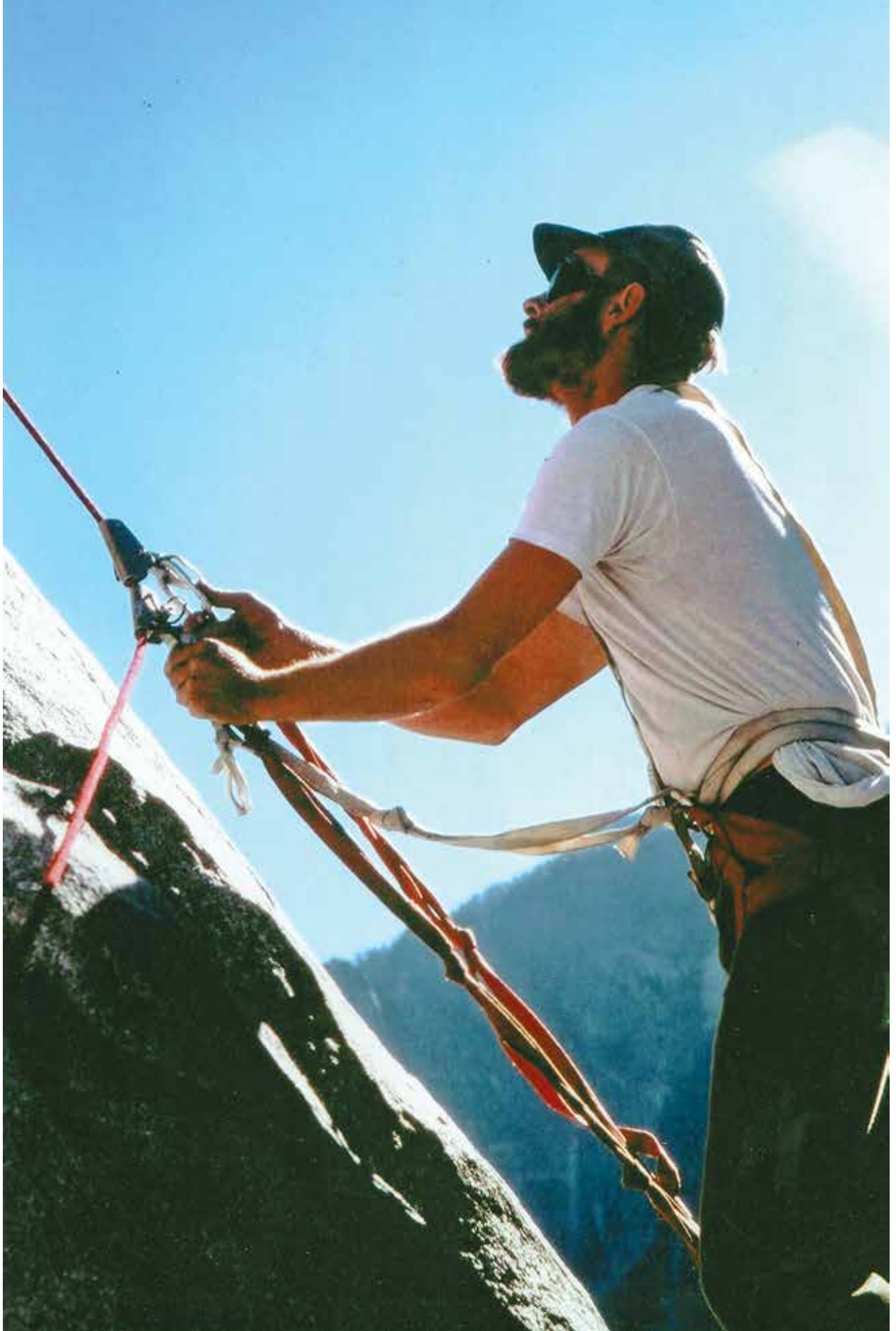
STEIGER: We're kinda bouncin' all around here. I wanted to elaborate just a little bit more on... You said makin' that change from Western to Ron. You were talkin' for a little bit, just about his knack for equipment—just because I don't know that we really have it, maybe one other place in this whole project. It just really seemed like his boat designs really were remarkable, and his ideas were real substantial, and real solid, and really impacted the entire industry, because now you go down there... I mean, there's some of those old die-hards that are still runnin' variations on their rigs that evolved, but even the ones that aren't S-rigs, I'll bet you'd be hard pressed to find one that doesn't have an aluminum basket in it, or something like that. You really do have to hand it to him for that. And I guess you, being an engineer and a physicist...

GIBBS: Yeah, I appreciated what he did. It was smart stuff. Making simple innovations that really made a difference, you know.

STEIGER: Yeah, really. And those frames, boy, just bomber, simple, light, indestructible. Those were really somethin'.

Movin' on to the Omo... How about if you just tell me how that shook out, and how you got involved, and how that went?

GIBBS: Well, Ron was working on a project with *National Geographic*. He was trying to promote a project to go run the Omo River in Ethiopia. Barry Bishop was involved, and I guess there were a lot of politics that go on at *Geographic*—that's at least what Ron was telling me, there really were a lot of politics to deal with. And by the time they got the whole thing put together, Richard Bangs had scooped us, he'd gone over there and run it. So now the *Geographic* wasn't



Pete Gibbs, putting his Gibbs Ascenders to work.



real happy about the situation, because it wasn't a first, they couldn't make a big deal out of it in the magazine as being a first. But we went over and ran it anyway. Ron put a bunch of money into it, and *Geographic* put some money into it, and then we took, I don't know, four or five customers of Ron's to sort of help pay for it. And we sent all of the equipment over, and all the food over to Ethiopia. I ended up going in Ron's place. I don't know whether it was really because he was disaffected with the whole situation, the politics and all of that, or he really was just too tied up with the business. I don't really know.

But anyway, I ended up going over and running the trip for him—a wonderful deal for me! And Haile Selassie, the Ethiopian king at the time, was a big supporter of *Geographic*. As a result, we were able to get rifles in, and get all of our equipment in, and get some help getting things to the put-in, things like that. We were loaned some liaison people, and we had one young gentleman from Eritrea, which was at that time part of Ethiopia, that went with us on the trip, because he could speak several languages, including Amharic. That was a terrific trip. The water was very high. I remember about the second night—or it may have been the first night we were on the river—in the middle of the night, the river had come up about three or four feet. We practically got washed out of camp! It was pretty high, fast, and fun.

**STEIGER:** Did that just mean it was rainin' upstream somewhere? Or was there snowmelt involved too?

**GIBBS:** There was some snowmelt involved too, yeah. But there was a lot of rain, it was the rainy season. Before we ran it, we had these topographic maps that we'd made up into a scroll map like Les Jones used to make, by taping chunks of map together. Alan Root flew us over the river, flew us down the river. And I was just going madly, marking down "possible camp here," "bad rapid here," "possible camp here," as fast as we could go down through there, so I had some idea of what we were gonna be up against. That helped immensely. There was also...Gosh, I remember flying into this just spectacular place. It was a big alcove that was probably, I don't know, 600–800 feet high I suppose, with a waterfall coming over it—a big semi-circular thing with water coming over it. Above it there were some people within five or six feet of the edge, washing clothes. (laughs) We flew around in this monstrous alcove. That was a neat thing.

Anyway, we got down onto Lake Rudolf, went right through the delta on the way onto Lake Rudolf—or whatever it's called now, I forget [Lake Turkana]. The boatmen—five of us at that point—drove the boats across the lake and into Kenya. We wanted to get the

boats out of Ethiopia. We were going to give them to Richard Leakey, who had a camp down there on the lake—which we managed to do.

**STEIGER:** I wonder how that connection was made with Leakey?

**GIBBS:** Probably through *Geographic*, but I don't know.

**STEIGER:** I did a trip recently with John Yost, a Sobek reunion, and I was signed on by Bart Henderson to be the recordist of the thing. And Yost admitted his dad was the ambassador to Ethiopia at the time, and was stationed at Addis Ababa. Yost and Rich Bangs and this guy named John Kramer had all gone to high school together in Maryland, right outside of D.C. In high school they had become fascinated with the idea of exploring and they wanted to run rivers. But Rich Bangs was out there workin' for Hatch, and they had just sort of announced this desire to run rivers worldwide, but Bangs was kind of in training. They had made up an explorers' club in high school, but they hadn't drawn a bead on the Omo until John Yost's dad calls him up and says, "Hey, these guys are gonna run the Omo, right here in Ethiopia."

**GIBBS:** Is *that* what happened? I'll be darned.

**STEIGER:** Yost and Bangs were like, "Oh, shit, we gotta get in on this if we want to be the explorers." So they went to Ron—this is Yost's story—so they approached Ron Smith and asked him for a job on this trip. And John was saying, "I will be of invaluable help to you because my dad's the ambassador." (laughter) And Ron was unimpressed and said, "Thanks, but no thanks, boys. I've got my crew and I can't use ya." And so they kind of limped home and thought about it overnight or whatever and decided, "Well, to heck with it, we'll just go do it anyway." And so they kind of scrambled together their trip. And it was on their minds to beat you guys to it, which they did do—which I guess rightly so, Ron will never forgive 'em for, because it sounds like he had a lot of work involved.

**GIBBS:** Yeah, he did.

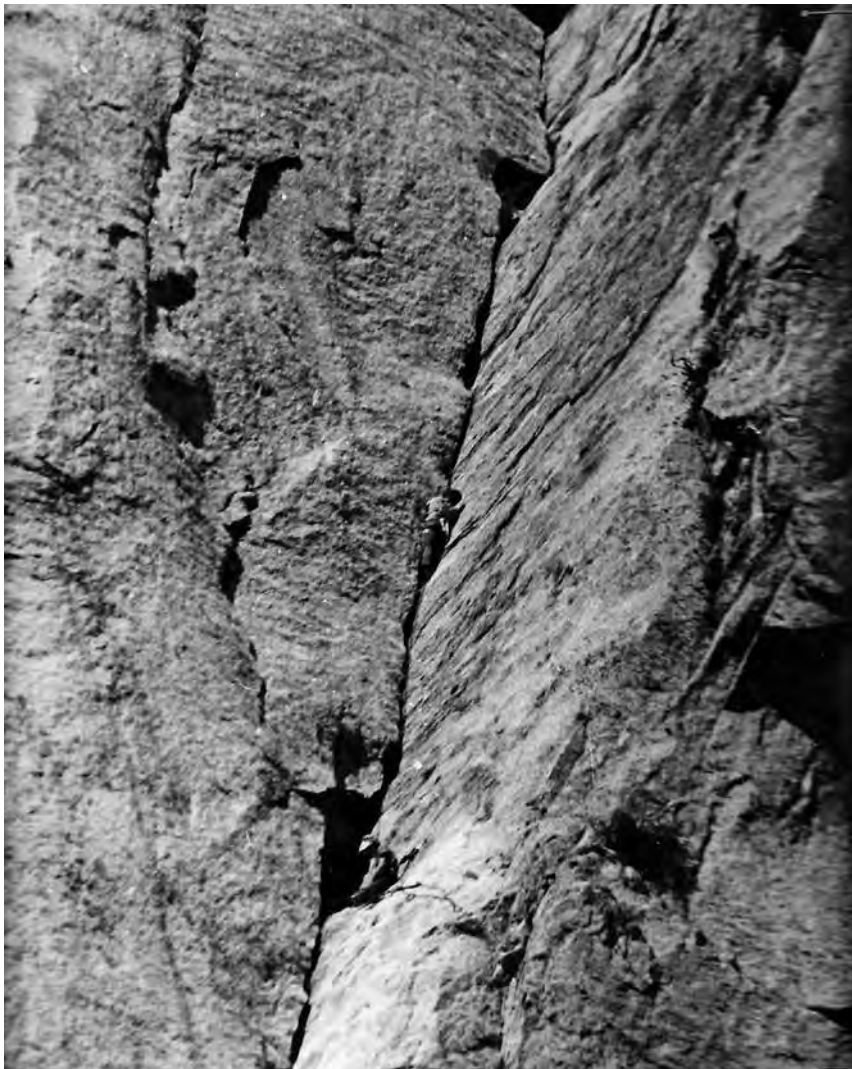
**STEIGER:** That went up in smoke for Grand Canyon Expeditions.

**GIBBS:** It would have been a great piece of advertising, I'm sure.

**STEIGER:** Was that his only foray into international boating?

**GIBBS:** Yeah, pretty much anyway. I know he did go look at some rivers in Southeast Asia. I don't think he ever really tried to run anything commercially, other than stuff in the States.

**STEIGER:** Yeah, he really did a lot in terms of just gettin' people to manufacture good inflatable boats too.



GIBBS: Yes.

STEIGER: Seems like there's a long arc there, that's not really fully well-documented. It's funny what you said about your early days with Western, because the Sobek guys, they sort of had that on the international scale. The Omo launched them, and they became adept at gettin' free airline tickets, and gettin' stuff sent around for free. And they got to kind of go all over. For ten years there was a core crew, and they did just what you were sayin' you guys did here on this continent. A typical season was you'd be on this river now for a trip or two, and then move over to another country, another river, and all that. I think that was unique. I mean, the funny thing now is all the rivers that those guys talk about goin' and runnin' are dammed up. It's amazing how many of 'em, they went and were the first ones to run 'em, and they got to go see 'em, and now they're gone. I could probably name you five or ten of those big rivers that they got to see, that aren't there anymore.

GIBBS: Yeah, even the Bio Bio.

STEIGER: Did you see that? Did you get to go do that?

GIBBS: I ran a trip with Steve Currey.

STEIGER: How'd *that* go?

GIBBS: I flipped. It was the second flip in my entire career. Water was low, and boats were too big. Steve always believed bigger boats are safer. And he still was using those ancient Currey clubs, *disastrously* bad oars. Anyway, I didn't make it. Lost Yak got me—flipped in it.

STEIGER: Oh man, that's a gnarly stretch of river. God! That was somethin' else. Were you guys runnin' Maravias? What was the rubber?

GIBBS: Yeah, I think they were Maravias. Boy!

STEIGER: Big boats.

GIBBS: Big, yeah. Way too big. And those horrible oars. It's one of the things that Steve took from his dad—bigger is better always, and we can make the oars. Terrible mistake. (laughs) That reminds me, one morning on the Middle Fork, seeing Steve go by on a Maravia, pumping as he went, because it leaked so badly, heading for the take-out as fast as he could go. (laughter)

STEIGER: You said last night you're gonna go again here, you're gonna do a Grand Canyon trip in a couple of weeks?

GIBBS: Yeah

STEIGER: How long has it been since you...

GIBBS: Well, I did one last year. Well, it was actually the previous November.

STEIGER: A private?

GIBBS: A private, yeah.

STEIGER: And that's what this one is, comin' up?

GIBBS: Yeah, this is a private trip.

STEIGER: How long has it been since you've guided?

GIBBS: It's been ten years probably. I guided more than forty years anyway. It's a great way of life. Did a trip last June with Bego and friends on the Alsek in Alaska. Great time. One of the glaciers there is moving in. We were not sure that we were gonna be allowed to go, because the glacier is moving on the stream, and it has dammed it up before. Apparently it hasn't quite dammed it yet. I guess ten years ago or so it dammed it



Left: Middle Bell Tower, Wasatch Range  
Above: Black Peeler, Wasatch Range  
Right & Below: Steamboat Rock, Green River,  
Dinosaur National Monument



up for miles, produced a huge lake. And of course once it broke free, it tore out everything down below.

**STEIGER:** I'm just now gettin' the sense that this area right here [Sandy, Utah] was really central to river running in the Grand Canyon, and I guess river runnin' everywhere, just the commercial river running. If you buy that it was the commercial guys, it was commercial river running that kind of spawned the interest in private boating, et cetera, you'd have to say that right here were a whole bunch of pioneers in all that. So you were saying your link was Art Gallenson?

**GIBBS:** Uh-huh.

**STEIGER:** I didn't realize how close together everybody was. Here's the Quist family, Jack Currey, Dave Mackay. Everybody except for Hatch, is what Art Gallenson said at dinner last night. It was just right around here.

**GIBBS:** Well, the Hatches were really from Vernal. They're not *that* far away.

**STEIGER:** Yeah. But right here, pretty impressive to me. I guess this place was a lot smaller then.

**GIBBS:** Yes, it was a lot smaller.

**STEIGER:** Just the whole area.

**GIBBS:** Art and Ron, Ron's wife Shiela and her brother, Kent Vigos, and Art Fenstermacher all went to East High School in Salt Lake. I did too, but I was a year behind. I met them in college.

**STEIGER:** That's interesting, just how that all... And I'm still tryin' to grasp how that idea kind of spread among this little community—like where did it really, start? I haven't figured that out yet.

**GIBBS:** Yeah. Dee Holladay was here too.

**STEIGER:** What are we forgettin' in terms of just history, or even fun stories? What would CLIO... (laughs) which is a river history chat group, what would CLIO expect out of this?

**GIBBS:** Well, I told a story on CLIO that... Well, it's river running, I guess. I knew Bego from college, and I was instrumental in getting *him* started river running. He was more sort of the mountain climber guy from California, and I got him more involved in the desert stuff and the boating. Then one day I got this wild idea that we should go run the Black Box of the San Rafael. You know where the San Rafael is, I guess. It runs through the San Rafael Reef [eastern edge of the San Rafael Swell] and eventually joins the Green River. Sort of the north end, towards the north end of the reef, the San Rafael River cuts through quite a nice canyon, a couple of little sections of canyon. One of them is called Swasey's Box, the other one Black Box a lot of the time. And they're very tight. They're not real deep, but they're very narrow. I talked George... Bego Gerhart, into going. Borrowed a couple of Sportyaks

from A.C. Ecker, who I was working for at Outlaw Trails, and got one of his boatmen to drop us off at the bridge. There's a road bridge to a campground right there, before you get to the canyons. I remember we had a case of beer, some food—snack type stuff—a bottle of tequila, and very little water. We figured we were gonna do it in two days, no sweat. We'll get down to Mexican Mountain, which is sort of a big round section here. I wish I knew more of the geology right there, but the river comes down and goes around Mexican Mountain and out into the flats near Green River.

Well anyway, there wasn't enough water, which was fortunate. We started going down in this fairly flat, narrow canyon, not too high, floating the tequila bottle back and forth between us. Pretty soon, it takes us a while, because we're not goin' very fast here. There isn't much water. Eventually we get into some canyon, and it's gettin' rocky and we're not floating anymore. We're dragging the boats now, and we're dragging them over piles of boulders in a tight canyon. We finally managed to—just beaten up at this point, just beaten up—we get to the beginning of Mexican Mountain. So now there's this relatively open country, and until we get into the Lower Black Box. We camp there, figuring, we'll get out in the morning. We're gonna be a day late, but we're okay. And at that point we saw the airplane circling overhead. It was A.C., he was worried about us.

**STEIGER:** He was gonna pick you up?

**GIBBS:** Yeah. Well, he dropped my truck off at the end of the Black Box, so we just had to drive back to his warehouse. But we didn't show. I guess he saw our fire, even though it was down in the canyon. And the next day we got out. There were places where we hauled our boats up ten, eleven feet, and dropping them down ten or fifteen feet on the other side and crawled through narrow gaps between boulders. If the water had been higher, we'd have been *dead!* (laughter)

**STEIGER:** Oh, yeah, because you'd have just gotten sucked right into the rock piles.

**GIBBS:** Yeah. It has been run, kayaked, but it wasn't really the place for Sportyaks. Unbreakable plastic bath tubs with matchsticks for oars.

**STEIGER:** Well, I'm glad you're goin' again.

**GIBBS:** Yeah, gotta keep half active.

**STEIGER:** It seems like quite the early career. I mean, boy, that's a whole bunch of guys that started their own companies or went off. That was quite the extraordinary bunch.

**GIBBS:** I had various opportunities to do that. I probably could have gotten a permit in Grand, just basically for the asking, when they first set the system

up. But I already had a business, and I really liked being a boatman. I didn't want to be a company owner, particularly.

**STEIGER:** The business, making the Gibbs ascenders?

**GIBBS:** Yeah. That was already running.

**STEIGER:** And have you climbed all along? Are you still climbing?

**GIBBS:** No, I'm not climbing anymore. I found out that fly fishing's a lot easier on your body. (laughter) And it tolerates a little more excess adipose tissue, and like that.

**STEIGER:** Yeah. But you could see the writin' on the wall with the Grand Canyon, where this could be done?

**GIBBS:** Oh yeah.

**STEIGER:** What would you say as to how all that's evolved? Just the situation down there, what's your take on all that?

**GIBBS:** I don't know that I know enough about it to answer the question. I haven't worked down there for quite a while, and the trips that I have done down there in recent years have all been late season, when you don't have the crowd or the motors. I understand there are some real questions about how long who gets to stay at Deer Creek Falls and all that kind of thing. I got yelled at in writing by the various CLIO members when I suggested that Grand really needed to have a camp sign-up system—a mandatory one.

**STEIGER:** Yeah. I guess that is anathema to people that haven't... Those of us who have just been there, these other rivers that you've done in Idaho, they do that, and it works.

**GIBBS:** They do it on the Middle Fork and the Main. It works great. It's really nice. You know where you're goin' for the night.

**STEIGER:** You don't have to worry about it.

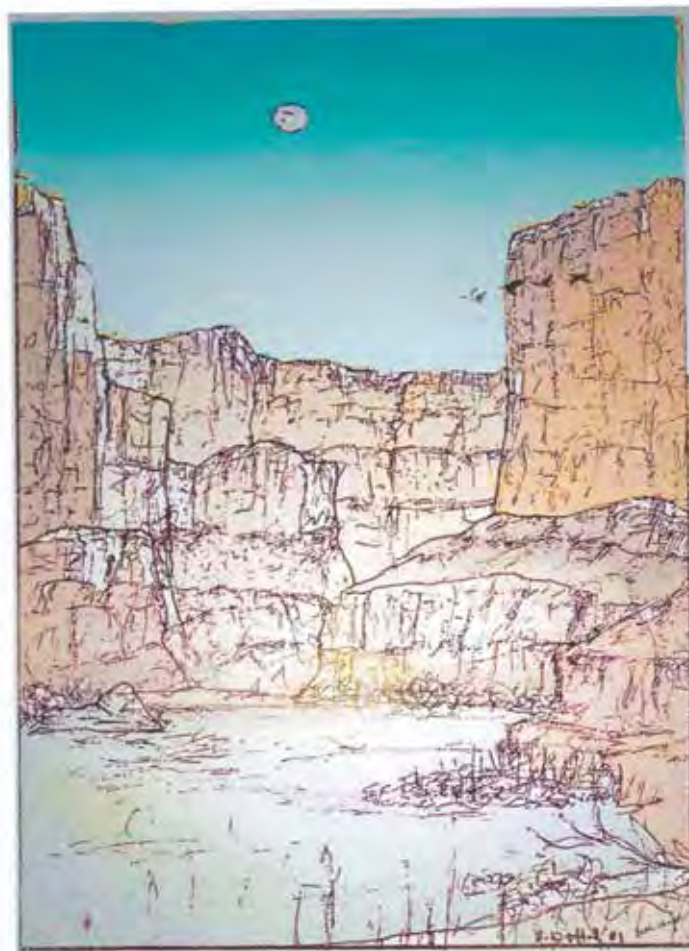
**GIBBS:** Yeah. You don't have the situations like you get in like the Lower Main Salmon during the steelhead season, where there *aren't* assigned camps, and you have—you know, people send a motorboat out early to take the camp. There's a lot of complaints about that.

**STEIGER:** There's a little of that goin' on in the Grand Canyon now. It's sort of frowned on. But I was really miffed about it, that they increased the private use, to the degree that they did. For years and years and years I wanted 'em to just buy-out some commercial days, but not increase the overall... But I gotta say, oh, you know, there's the occasional day where everybody's stacked up at Deer Creek. But in general, I think it's workin' better than I expected it to. I'd have to say I'm fairly proud of everybody involved, and fairly proud of the system as a whole too.

**GIBBS:** Seems to be clean, and people are takin' care of it.

**STEIGER:** Well, with that, I guess I ought to shut this thing off. Thanks for talkin' to me, I really appreciate it.

**GIBBS:** Well, I've had some fun tellin' stories.



Canyon Moon

Stuart Walthall / Beth Chape

# GCRG Fall Rendezvous Plans 2015— Mark Your Calendars!

**T**HE FALL RENDEZVOUS is open to current members of GCRG (although you can bring a friend(s) as long as they pay the fee). Postcards will be mailed to guides in the next week or so. As we get more details, we'll post them on the GCRG website (look for the Fall Rendezvous under Guide Resources—you can also pay securely online).

**WHEN:** First weekend of October, 2015

**WHERE:** We'll travel out the House Rock Buffalo Ranch Road (FR 8910 off of Hwy 89A in Marble Canyon between Mile posts 559 & 560) and about 28 miles or so to the *lower elevation Nankoweap trailhead* (it may be called the Saddle Mountain trail at that point) and camp in the pinyon/juniper forest there. FR 8910 is a well graded dirt road so high clearance is not necessary.

**ACTIVITIES:** Camping in a beautiful spot with your river buddies, great fall hiking, exploring arch sites, learning about the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument proposal and other canyon protection issues, and generally enjoying the heck out of the beautiful Upper Marble/Royal Arches area.

**COST:** \$40 (*we'll supply your food—just bring your fine self, camping gear, hiking boots, an instrument of choice and BYOB*).

**FUN FACT:** According to *Hiking the Grand Canyon* by John Annerino, the Nankoweap Trail was constructed by John Wesley Powell in 1882 so that a geologist on the trip could study the rock layers

Come and join us! The Fall Rendezvous is always super fun and interesting.

## River Archaeology

**A**PASSENGER TOOK this photo last year during the ten percent hold back from the ten percent extra [water] that we got in 2011. The flow was ideal that day [around 6,000 CFS] to drive around and get some perfect shots of that Western River Expeditions frame that was probably cut loose in '83 after it flipped in Crystal. They could not get it back over so they just jettisoned the whole thing!!!!

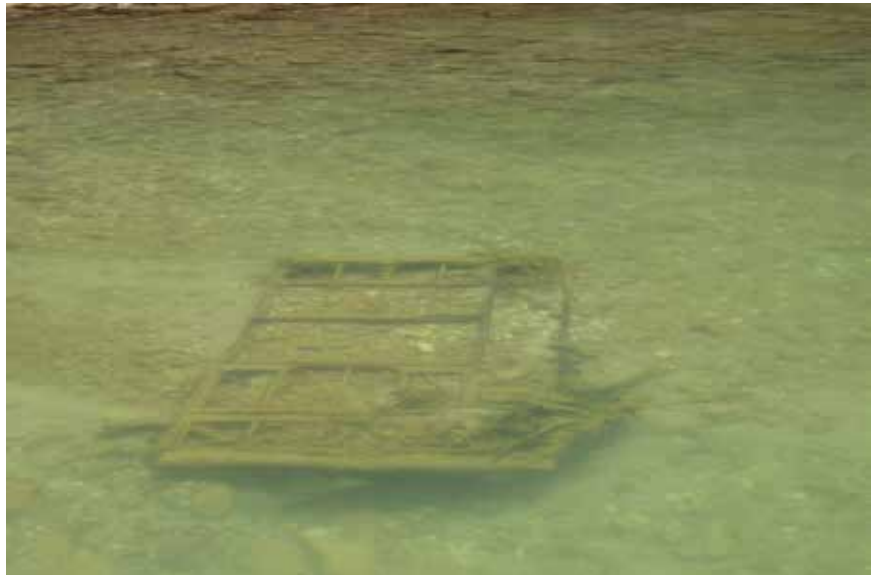


photo: Tracie Rodriguez

# Businesses Offering Support

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

- Artisan Metal Works**—Custom Fabrication 928/773-4959  
**Asolo Productions**—Film & Video 801/705-7033  
**Aspen Sports**—Outdoor gear 928/779-1935  
**Blue Sky Woodcraft**—Dories and repairs 970/963-0463  
**Boulder Mountain Lodge**—800/556-3446  
**Bright Angel Bicycles & Cafe at Mather Pt.**—928/814-8704  
**Canyon Arts**—Canyon art by David Haskell 928/567-9873  
**Canyon Books**—Canyon & River books 928/779-0105  
**Canyon R.E.O.**—River equipment rental 928/774-3377  
**Capitol Hill Neighborhood Acupuncture**—206/323-3277  
**CC Lockwood**—Photography books 225/769-4766  
**Ceiba Adventures**—Equipment & boat rentals 928/527-0171  
**Cliff Dwellers Lodge, AZ**—928/355-2228  
**Design and Sales Publishing Company**—520/774-2147  
**Down By The River Productions/FaheyFoto**—928/226-7131  
**Entrance Mountain Natural Health**—360/376-5454  
**EPF Classic & European Motorcycles**—928/778-7910  
**Five Quail Books**—Canyon & River books 928/776-9955  
**Flagstaff Native Plant & Seed**—928/773-9406  
**Fran Sarena, NCMT**—Body work 928/773-1072  
**Fred Phillips Consulting**—Restoration ecology 928/773-1530  
**Fretwater Press**—Holmstrom & Hyde books 928/774-8853  
**Funhog Press**—AZ Hiking Guides 928/779-9788  
**Hell's Backbone Grill**—Restaurant & catering 435/335-7464  
**High Desert Boatworks**—Dories & Repairs 970/882-3448  
**Humphreys Summit**—boating & skiing gear 928/779-1308  
**Inner Gorge Trail Guides**—Backpacking 877/787-4453  
**J Nautical Ventures**—360/296-2747  
**Jack's Plastic Welding**—drybags & paco pads 800/742-1904  
**Dr. Jim Marzolf, DDS**—Dentist 928/779-2393  
**Kathy Oliver, CPA**—928/853-2403  
**KC Publications**—Books on National Parks 800/626-9673  
**Kingsmark Kennels**—Flagstaff pet boarding 928/526-2222  
**The Kirk House B&B**—Friday Harbor, WA 800/639-2762  
**Kristen Tinning, NCMT**—Rolfing & massage 928/525-3958  
**Laughing Bird Adventures**—Sea kayak tours 503/621-1167  
**Marble Canyon Lodge**—928/355-2225  
**Marble Canyon Metal Works**—928/355-2253  
**Dr. Mark Falcon**—Chiropractor 928/779-2742  
**Moenkopi Riverworks**—boat rentals & gear 928/526-6622  
**Mom's Stuff Salve**—435/462-2708  
**Mountain Angels Trading Co.**—Jewelry 800/808-9787  
**Mountain Sports**—928/226-2885  
**Patrick Conley**—Realtor 928/779-4596  
**Plateau Restoration**—Conservation Adventures 435/259-7733  
**Professional River Outfitters**—Rental boats & gear 928/779-1512  
**Randy Rohrig**—Rocky Point Casitas rentals 928/522-9064  
**River Art & Mud Gallery**—River folk art 435/648-2688  
**River Gardens Rare Books**—First editions 435/648-2688  
**River Rat Raft and Bike**—Bikes and boats 916/966-6777  
**Rivers & Oceans Travel**—La Paz, Baja sailing 800/473-4576  
**Rescue Specialists**—Rescue & 1ST Aid 509/548-7875  
**RiverGear.com**—Put "GUIDZ" for discount code at checkout  
**Roberta Motter, CPA**—928/774-8078  
**Rubicon Adventures**—Mobile CPR & 1ST Aid 707/887-2452  
**Sanderson Carpet Cleaning**—Page, AZ 928/645-3239  
**Sierra Rescue**—WFR and swiftwater classes 800/208-2723  
**Sunrise Leather**—Birkenstock sandals 800/999-2575  
**The Summit**—Boating equipment 928/774-0724  
**Tele Choice**—Phone rates 866/277-8660  
**Teva**—928/779-5938  
**Vertical Relief Climbing Center**—928/556-9909  
**Westwater Books**—Waterproof river guides 800/628-1326  
**Wet Dreams**—River Equipment and Sewing 928-864-7091  
**Wilderness Medical Associates**—888/945-3633  
**Willow Creek Books**—Coffee & gear 435/644-8884  
**Winter Sun**—Indian art & herbal medicine 928/774-2884

## Care To Join Us?

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

**You can pay securely on the GCRG website at [www.gcr.org](http://www.gcr.org) or send a check to: Grand Canyon River Guides, PO Box 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002-1934. Note whether you're a guide member or general member.**

\$40 1-year membership  
\$175 5-year membership  
\$350 Life membership  
\$500 Benefactor\*

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

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

\$16 Short-sleeved t-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

\$18 Long-sleeved t-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

\$12 Baseball cap

\$8 Insulated GCRG 20th Anniversary mug

Box 1934  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

# boatman's quarterly review

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MEDFORD, OR  
PERMIT NO. 110

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



---

THANKS TO ALL YOU poets, photographers, writers, artists, and to all of you who send us stuff. Don't ever stop. Special thanks to the Walton Family Foundation, the Adopt-a-Boatman sponsors, "Circle of Friends" contributors, and innumerable GCRG members for their generous and much appreciated support of this publication.

---



Peregrine strike on a Goldeneye Grand Canyon

J. Owen

John Owen