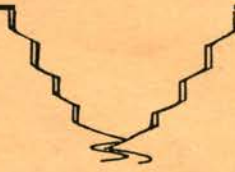


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# GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES

POST OFFICE BOX 1934  
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FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA 86002  
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VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

A Non-profit Organization

February 1990

*Professional guides dedicated to the quality of the Grand Canyon experience*

## Grand Canyon: at The Crossroad

With the coming Environmental Impact Statement on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam, we have to ask: "What has happened to the Grand Canyon in the 27 years since the dam was built?" And, "Where will the Canyon be after the next 27 years? Or 50? Or 100? Scoping Sessions for the EIS will be held at the following places: Try to be there in person, and call all your friends and former Grand Canyon clients that live in these areas:

- SALT LAKE CITY, UT - March 12, 1990 at 7:00pm, Salt Lake City Hilton Hotel, 150 West 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT.
- DENVER, CO - March 13, 1990 at 7:00pm, Denver Sheraton Airport Hotel, 3535 Quebec Street Denver CO.
- PHOENIX, AZ - March 15, 1990 at 7:00pm, Phoenix Sheraton Hotel, 111 North Central Avenue Phoenix AZ.
- FLAGSTAFF, AZ - March 16, 1990 at 7:00pm, Flagstaff City Hall, Council Chambers, 211 W. Aspen Avenue Flagstaff, AZ.
- LOS ANGELES, CA - March 20, 1990 at 7:30pm, Airport Marina Hotel, 8601 Lincoln Blvd. Los Angeles, CA.
- SAN FRANCISCO CA - March 21, 1990 at 7:00pm Fort Mason Conference Center, Landmark Building A, Laguna and Marina Blvds. San Francisco, CA.
- WASHINGTON D C - March 27, 1990 at 1:30pm, Interior South Building Auditorium, 1951 Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington D C.

At these scoping sessions, alternatives to the dam's present mode of operation will be identified. If good alternatives don't arise right now, the rest of the EIS won't matter. Needless to say, a strong turnout for each of these sessions is critical for keeping the government on its toes. If you want to speak, you should call the Bureau of Reclamation

See page 2.

## OVERVIEW

After Glen Canyon Dam was finished in 1963, sediment carried by the pre-dam Colorado River began to collect in the still waters at the head of Lake Powell. In its natural state, the Colorado carried a tremendous amount of silt, at an average of 500,000 tons a day past any given point, and sand was constantly being deposited along the shoreline in the Grand Canyon. Since the dam, the Canyon's fine white beaches have been steadily disappearing, borne off by the clear "hungry" water now released from Lake Powell.

Those who've known the river longest estimate that somewhere between half to two-thirds or more of the sand that was in the corridor before the dam has now either settled into the channel, or gone to the head of Lake Mead. At first the change was gradual, but in 1983, record flows were unleashed after the Bureau of Reclamation misjudged the spring runoff that year. The ensuing clear water flood scoured the channel bottom and de-stabilized the shoreline.

Since then, the rate of beach erosion has increased dramatically. Concern today centers, as it has in the past, on the fact that the dam is operated as a peaking-power facility, with high releases corresponding to peak demands and top power rates, followed by lows meant to conserve water during times of less demand. Daily fluctuations are extreme, with highs often equaling 500% to 600% of the previous lows. In places the waterline will migrate up to 15 vertical feet a day, and the repetition of this, year after year, seems to have accelerated beach erosion to an alarming degree.

Already, river runners are feeling the pinch: as beaches in critical areas get smaller or disappear altogether, camping is stifled and congestion increases along the river corridor, where overcrowding is thought by many to be a serious problem already. Of equal concern is the riparian habitat as a whole

See page 2.

## "Crossroads", cont.

(801) 524-3309 TODAY and ask to be placed on the agenda. We need everyone who cares about the Canyon to be there and the more "respectable" you look, the better.

GCRG wants, in the year 2020, to look back at 1990 and say "We did some good there. We did the best we could for the Canyon." To that end, we think these points need to be stressed during the scoping sessions and throughout the process that follows:

- (1) The Grand Canyon must take priority when it comes to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam.
- (2) During the EIS alternative flow regimes need to be tested and studied to determine their effects downstream. Adequate time needs to be allowed for this phase.
- (3) the EIS should provide for long-term monitoring of the effects of whatever flow regime is adopted and allow for changes which benefit the downstream environment.
- (4) Studies need to focus not only on the effects of low and fluctuating flows, but also on allowable peak releases.

Daily maximums are important for two reasons:

(a) Lower peak flows immediately creates significant increases in the number and size of available beach areas. (b) The lower the daily peaks, the greater the capacity of the river to retain existing sediment input (see "Overview" for a more detailed explanation). Perhaps the best scenario would be one which most closely approximates the pre-dam river, ie: seasonal vs daily fluctuations with periodic controlled "floods" to rebuild Canyon beaches.

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## Toll Free Number for Recorded Water Releases

The Bureau of Reclamation is providing a new public service at the Glen Canyon Dam. By calling:

**1-800-752-8525**

You will hear a 90 second message giving predicted water releases for the day along with other data. The message is updated every morning at approximately 7 AM. BuRec reminds recreational users of the Colorado River downstream from Glen Canyon Dam that the predicted flow pattern can change unexpectedly if unplanned events occur. Those in the Page, AZ dialing area may continue to call 645-3978 for the automatic recording.

## "Overview", cont.

wildlife and fish, too, are affected by the running of the dam.

So where do we go from here? Is there any way to conserve the sand in the Grand or are the Canyon's beaches destined to become a thing of the past. There is still some sediment input from side stream tributaries. Is it possible to manage the system to stabilize and even to some extent rebuild the beaches? This is where high daily peak flows create a problem by scouring up sand that collects in the bottom of the river and moving it downstream to Lake Mead. The higher the daily peaks, the greater the scour power of the river. Lower peaks would allow the accumulation of considerably more sand in the river bottom which periodically could be scoured up and deposited on beaches by "controlled flooding". This flooding could be timed to coincide with maximum mud from tributary flooding. However, to best conserve available sediment input between "controlled floods" the river should be low when it's muddy in order to increase the amount of sand that accumulates in the river bottom rather than Lake Mead. The EIS needs to study these aspects of river management as well as the effects of low flows and fluctuations.

On the other side of the coin, if one disregards the Canyon and the river, hydro-electric is arguably the best power presently available. The cleanest, cheapest (if you forget the cost of building the dam), and by far the most flexible... hydropower is particularly useful for filling in the peak loads of a system forced to meet constantly changing demands. Those who manage that system aren't monsters. They have a complicated job to do and it's hard for them or anyone who hasn't lived with it a long time to grasp the sweep of change that has already occurred in the Canyon under the dam's present mode of operation.

Not all of the changes have been bad. A fine trout fishery was made possible by the dam. Tamarisk trees, routinely swept away before the dam, now provide shade, erosion control and wildlife habitat. The bottom line is, as long as the dam is in place, we can neither return to "what's natural", nor ignore responsibility for what isn't.

Ultimately, the questions we face now are: What is the Canyon we know today worth to our society as a whole, and how do we balance long-term management of that against the conflicting needs of the various water and power interests now served by the status quo? How severe is this conflict, really? Is it possible to fine tune the system in such a way that this EIS and the decisions that come from it can be considered a success story for all concerned?

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Well, the EIS oars are finally in the water and we are starting to move downstream. The quality and success of the EIS process rests primarily with you. How do you wish to participate? A series of seven public scoping meetings has been scheduled to help get your input. (See page 1, Crossroads.) These sites were chosen in order to provide Reclamation with initial public feedback concerning potential alternatives to change operations of Glen Canyon Dam and also to help us gauge the level of involvement the public wishes to have. Your involvement in the Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact statement is vital. The initiation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process does not guarantee a change. NEPA is only a process, one that can lead to an open discussion of the issues of concern and a credible decision process.

How do you get involved? Better yet, how do you get involved and voice your opinion? First is through the public scoping meetings. The objective of the public scoping meetings is to allow for an open discussion of the issues of concern and potential alternatives to the present operations at Glen Canyon Dam. To assist you in your participation, we are developing an information packet that will include a background paper on the key management concerns at Glen Canyon Dam; an alternatives option packet that will identify an array of potential alternatives to operations; and additional information on contact points and feedback processes. This packet will be available from Reclamation and I recommend that you use it as a workbook to help focus your thoughts and comments.

The second way to be involved is by getting on the EIS mailing list. By getting on the list, you will receive all the information produced for the scoping meetings and any additional follow-up information that is developed. I would suggest that any of you who intend to get involved, make an effort to be included on the mailing list by writing to the following address:

- **Glen Canyon Dam - Environmental Impact Statement U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
P O BOX 11568 Salt Lake City, UT 84147**

Now, what about the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies? Are they to continue? Will they play a role in the EIS? The answer to the question is YES. The GCES program is moving into the most important phase of its existence, the quantification of low and fluctuating flow impacts. The GCES program results will be used to quantify and verify the potential environmental impact associated with the operational alternatives that are chosen for evaluation. Contrary to some opinions, the best decisions

will be based on the knowledge of how the Grand Canyon ecosystem would respond to operational and/or structural changes. Without the data, the decisions associated with the EIS process may be only half answers. I continue to ask for and thank you for your support of the GCES. The success of the Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement process will be measured in many different ways. To some it will be reflected in a change in operations at Glen Canyon Dam. To me it will be a success if we get all of the issues on the table and they are dealt with in an open and credible process. **NEPA works if you get involved and become part of it. It is doomed to failure if you sit on the sidelines and lament the bureaucracy of it all.** The decision on the future of operations of Glen Canyon Dam will have to weigh and balance many environmental and societal factors. I don't want to kid anyone - this will be a tough process. But the fact remains that it is now in motion and your opportunity for evaluating changes at Glen Canyon Dam now exists. I invite all of you to become involved. *Sincerely, Dave Wegner, GCES*

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## EIS: HERE'S HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- 1. Get on the mailing list. Send a postcard with your name and address and ask BuRec to include you on the mailing list for the EIS on the Glen Canyon Dam. (See "Environmental Impact Statement.")
- 2. Attend one of the public scoping meetings if you possibly can.
- 3. **WRITE A LETTER!** Whether or not you're at one of the scoping meetings, the most effective way to make your opinions known is to write a letter to BuRec.

In detail, outline your concerns of the present mode of operations at the Dam, and identify a potential alternative to operations. The workbook BuRec will send you, if you're on the mailing list, will help you with potential alternatives. The public comment period is March 12 to April 27, 1990. Send your letter to: **Glen Canyon Dam - Environmental Impact Statement ATTN Wayne Cook UC - 400 P O BOX 11568 Salt Lake City, UT 84147.** Send copies of your letter to: GCRG, P O BOX 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; Senator Bill Bradley, Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Energy & Natural Resources, 306 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington DC 20510; Rep. George Miller, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Water, Power & Offshore Resources 1522 Longmore Building, Washington DC 20515; Rep. Mo Udall, Chairman, Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs, US House of Rep., Washington DC 20515; copies to your own members of Congress as well.

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## Mark Your Calendar

We have planed a two week long series of GCRG events:

- Saturday March 24th: GCRG annual spring meeting to be held at 9AM at GCD/OARS warehouse, 1802 Kaibab Ln. Flagstaff, AZ.
- Sunday March 25th, Monday March 26th, and Tuesday March 27th: Bob Melville offers an ADV first aid Refresher. CPR is offered on the 27th also. (fee & pre-register required for 1st aid and CPR, ph. 602-774-1526).
- Wednesday March 28th : 1990 GTS Flagstaff Lecture Series.
- Thursday March 29th : 1990 GTS Flagstaff lecture Series Lectures
- Friday March 30th: Free Day
- Saturday March 31st (noon) thru Saturday April 7th (noon): GTS River trip, motoring eight days to Phantom Ranch, sponsored by the G C outfitters, if you what to go, ask your outfitter if they will send you as their company representative.

### AM. RED CROSS ADVANCED FIRST AID REFRESHER AND CPR CLASSES

Check your cards, if you need to renew, here are a few options:

GCRG will offer classes during the GTS week in Flagstaff, AZ. Bob Melville will teach an Advanced First Aid REFRESHER on Sun., Mon., Tues., March 25, 26, and 27, 1990. A CPR class will be included in this class on the afternoon of March 27th. The classes will run from 9 to 5 each day, with break for lunch. Sunday's class will be held at the Flagstaff City Hall staff conference room, on the second floor of 211 W. Aspen in Flagstaff; Monday and Tuesday's classes will be held at the USGS conference room in building 3, 2255 Gemini Drive in Flagstaff. **Pre-registration and fees are required for this class. Call GCRG for details at 602-774-1526**

Patty Ellwanger will be having her annual classes at the Hatch warehouse, Marble Canyon, AZ. The FULL Advanced First Aid Class for new and long expired cards will be held at 8AM on April 11, 12 & 13 with a CPR class on April 14, 1990. The REFRESHER Advanced First Aid class is at 8AM on April 20 & 21 with CPR the 22nd. Pre-registration and a deposit of \$10.00 is due by April 1st. The fees are: full class, \$40.00; Refresher, \$30.00; CPR, \$15.00. Call Patty for more information and to register at 602-355-2241

## 1990 GTS

GCRG 1990, Guides Training Seminar: Lecture Series held at Flagstaff City Hall Council Chambers, 211 W. Aspen St.

### Wednesday, March 28:

- 8:00A Jack Davis, Introduction
- 8:30A Martin Litton, environmental issues
- 9:00A Don Elson, cenozoic evolution of G C
- 10:00A River Subdistrict open forum
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:00P TBA
- 1:45P Jim Rush, Grand Canyon Trust
- 2:30P (tentative) Ivo Lucchitta, geology
- 3:15P Jim Mead, prehistoric mammals in G C
- 4:15P Chuck Barnes, precambrian rocks
- 5:00P DINNER
- 6:30P Bill Leibfried, aquatic resources
- 7:15P Steve Carothers, influence of the dam on birds

### Thursday, March 29th

- 8:00A Jon Evenson, lifting and body mechanics
- 8:45A Dave Wegner, GCES
- 10:00A NPS Resource Management open forum
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:00P (tentative) Bruce Babbitt, G C environmental issues
- 1:30P Bill Rudisill, hearing loss and motor noise
- 2:15P Stan Bues, Suprise Canyon formation
- 3:15P Dr Konrad Brooks, carpal tunnel syndrome
- 3:45P Georgie Clark reminisces, including Q and A's
- 4:15P Don Keller, prehistoric western G C
- 5:00P DINNER
- 6:30P Vaughn Short, Canyon poetry
- 7:15P Scott Thybony, the men that left at separation

### 1990 GTS RIVER TRIP SCHEDULE

The trip is an eight day motor trip to Phantom. We'll have boats from Canyoneers, Wilderness and Western running for us. There will be 25 guides on board along with 15 lecturers of canyon lore. Be there if you can, ask your outfitter to send you as their company representative for the trip. March 31 - Day 1: noon at Lee's, camp at Jackass. Anyone interested in hiking in at Jackass to help with the beach clean up is also welcome to stay for dinner and spend the night. (pre-registration required, call 602-774-1526 for details.) April 1 - Day 2: hike at North and camp at South. April 2 - Day 3: hike at Saddle and camp at Saddle or Nankoweep April 3 - Day 4: Nankoweep hike and camp at Carbon. April 4 - Day 5: Carbon - Lava geology talk and hike, camp at Tanner April 5 - Day 6: helicopter lecture and camp tentatively at Basalt April 6 - Day 7: Unkar archeology hike and camp around Hance-Grapevine April 7 - Day 8: arrive at Phantom about noon, all hike out. Empty boats deadhead out.

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE

TECHNICIAN

AND

## BACK COUNTRY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

(national certification classes at Lee's Ferry)

Swiftwater Rescue I	Apr. 27-29
Backcountry Evacuations	Apr. 30-5/1
Swiftwater Rescue I	Sep. 21-23
Swiftwater Rescue II	Sep. 24-25

for more information contact:

**WORLDWIDE EXPLORATIONS, INC**

(602) 774-6462

P.O. Box 686 / Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Glen Canyon N.P.S. concessionaire

## HELP WANTED ADS

### TRIP LEADER WANTED

Canyoneers, Inc. is accepting resumes for the 1990 River Season from Grand Canyon Trip Leaders with extensive motorized raft experience. As a minimum, the applicants must meet current NPS Trip Leader qualifications. Those available full time from mid April thru mid September preferred

Send resumes to:

**Canyoneers, Inc.**  
Attention Joy Staveley  
P O BOX 2997  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

### GUIDES WANTED FOR:

The Salt, Verde, Gila, Dolores and San Juan rivers, during March, April and May 1990. Call George or Gary at

**WORLDWIDE EXPLORATIONS, INC.**  
P O BOX 686 FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86002  
602-774-6462

be aware that some licenses are required, call for details

# Anatomy of a Chum...



The evolution of the Chums Eyeglass Retention device began on the Colorado River in 1982. In its earliest stage, it was nothing more than a shoestring tied around the head of a river guide to secure his sunglasses while riding the rapids. But one short year (and one quantum leap) later, the fully evolved Chums device took its rightful position on the heads of sport lovers, sun-worshippers and serious eyeglass wearers the world over. Today it remains the chosen species in a world of natural selection.

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## River Safety & Rescue Workshop

Westwater Canyon, Colorado River, Utah

**April 13-15, 1990**  
**Special Workshop**  
**for Grand Canyon Guides**

- Emphasis on high volume rivers
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## CLASSIFIED ADS

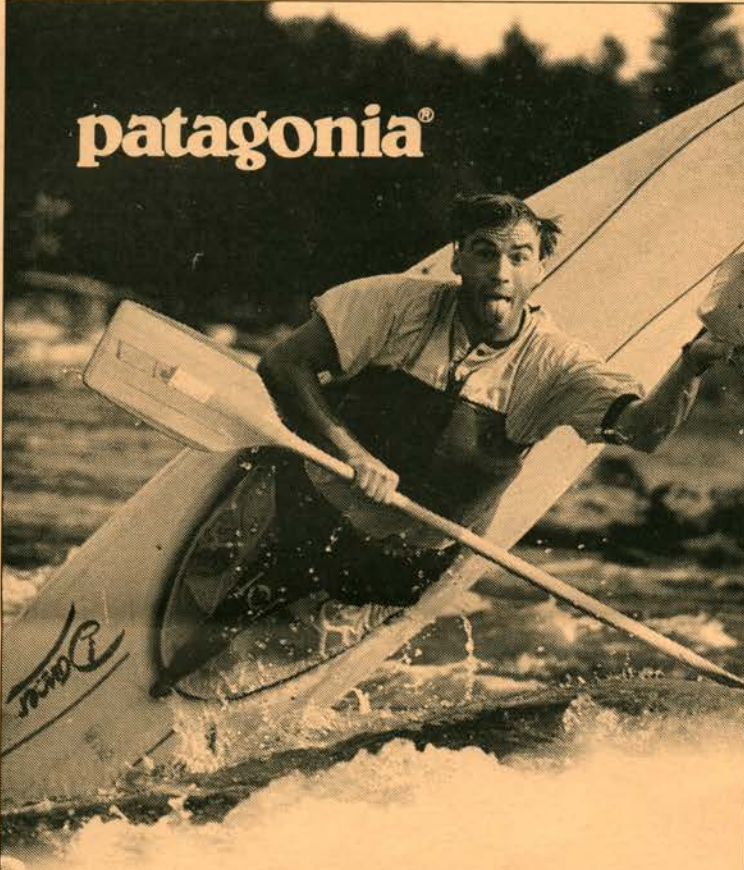
Several used 18 ft Domar "Zambezi"  
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information at 602-774-6422

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Call Dan at Canyon Explorations  
602-774-4559

\*1984 Aztec self-bailer\*, make offer

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

# The Patagonia Pro Purchase Program Is Now Available to Grand Canyon River Guides Members



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**MOUNTAIN SPORTS**

**PRO PURCHASE 1990**

Photo: Henry Georgi Patagonia is a registered trademark of Patagonia, Inc. used under license. © 1989 Patagonia, Inc.

Patagonia has started a new pro deal program in Flagstaff for full time Grand Canyon River Guides. Beginning on March 16th 1990, GCRG guide members will have the opportunity to buy work-related Patagonia products at 40 % below the retail price right off the floor at Mountain Sports located in the Green Tree Village 1800 S. Milton Rd. Flagstaff, AZ. Of course, there are a few catches, here's the scoop:

- 1, You must be a card-carrying-current-dues-paid-guide member of GCRG and show it and your picture NPS card when purchasing an item on the pro deal. Mountain Sports will have a list of dues paid members from GCRG.
- 2, Purchases can be made for yourself only, not friends.
- 3, The Pro deal only applies to seasonal items used on the river, such as Baggies, Capilene, Synchronilla, Rain gear, Paddling gear, etc. Dues paid members will receive a detailed list of items in the mail by mid March.
- 4, Feedback is required. When you purchase thru the pro deal at Mountain Sports you will receive a feedback form that you'll need to fill out and mail back to Patagonia as this is a product testing type of situation for them.
- 5, Slides of the product in action are appreciated and if used, paid for in cash or merchandise trade. Patagonia is always updating their catalogue and looking for new photos, please continue to send slide submissions to: Jane Sievert, Patagonia P O Box 150 Ventura, CA 93002.

**BEGINS MARCH 16th, 1990**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Winter \_\_\_\_\_

Present Outfitter \_\_\_\_\_ Year started in G C \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20.00 per year, send your check to: GCRG P O BOX 1934 Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Circle one: Guide member      General Member

## Spring Meeting Announcement

In accordance with the bylaws of Grand Canyon River Guides (GCRG) the Board of Directors of GCRG formally announces the annual spring meeting to be held from 9AM to 5PM on Saturday March 25th, 1990: at the GCD/OARS warehouse, 1802 Kaibab Ln. Flagstaff, AZ. We've come a long way during our two years in existence, our shared goals and voices have made a difference in the Canyon we all love. The united opinions of 200 dues paid members carries a lot weight within the NPS, and letters we generated forced the Environmental Impact Statement on the operations of the Glen Canyon Dam. GCRG's two main projects at the moment include working with the EIS process and our co-sponsorship of the 1990 Guides Training Seminar. Details on the schedule of the EIS public scoping meetings and the GTS are included in this newsletter. Our bylaws call for elections of officers on even years. Please mail in your nominations for President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer to GCRG P O BOX 1934 Flagstaff AZ 86001. Nominations must be made and seconded by dues paid members, and of course, the nominee must be a consenting dues paid guide member themselves. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting. If you cannot attend the spring meeting, you can still make your opinions known. The mail vote for resolutions from Spring 1989 was so successful that we've decided to extend it to elections as well. So if you can't make to the spring meetings, you'll still get a say in who runs the show. Make sure your dues are paid and your address updated. We'll be sending out the voting ballot in April after we receive the nominations at the spring meeting.

The GCRG Board of Directors is working on the spring meeting agenda. Send us your ideas...P O BOX 1934...or call 602-774-1526. Try to make the spring meeting, business will be conducted from 9AM to 5PM and of course there will be the traditional party afterwards.

Grand Canyon River Guides  
P O BOX 1934  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

## COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

The following guides have volunteered to distribute information and accept input for GCRG, they provide a common link throughout the guide community. Talk to your representative, make this work.

Adventures West	Jon Stoner
Arizona Raft Adventures	Suzanne Jordon
Arizona River Runners	Tim Whitney
Canyoneers	Shane Murphy
Canyon Explorations	Garrett Schniewind
Colorado River & Trail Exp.	Bill Trevithick
Diamond River Adventures Expeditions Inc.	Les Hibbert
Grand Canyon Dories	Geoff Gorley
Grand Canyon Expeditions	Brad Dimock
Georgie's Royal River Rats	Bob Dye
Hatch River Expeditions	Georgie
Hualapai Tribal River Trips	Bill Ellwanger
Moki Mac River Expeditions	Michael Jackson
OARS	Mike Jacobs
Outdoors Unlimited	Bruce Helin
Mark Sleight Expeditions	Mike Borcik
Sobek Whitewater Expeditions	Walt Gregg
Tour West	Jimmy Grissom
Western River Expeditions	Dave Stratton
Wilderness River Expeditions	Steve Lowry
	Karen Kazan

### Corrections

In the December 1989 issue of the GCRG newsletter we listed dates for the first aid refresher, spring meeting, Guides Training Seminar Flagstaff Lecture Series, Dam tour and river rescue clinic. The dates have been changed as follows:

- The GCRG spring meeting is Sat., March 24,
- The 1st aid refresher is March 25, 26 & 27.
- The GTS Flagstaff Sessions are Wed and Thur, March 28 & 29 at the Flagstaff City Hall.
- Dam Tour and Tom Workman's River Rescue Clinic have been cancelled.

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