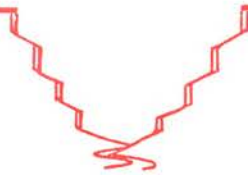


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# GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES

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FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA 86002  
(602) 774-0526



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

The newsletter of the Grand Canyon River Guides

May 1990

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

Dear Members;

Happy 2nd Anniversary! April 1990 marks the end of two years for Grand Canyon River Guides. How about that?

A lot has gone on since a small group met at the Hatch warehouse in the spring of 1988. We've incorporated, elected officers, had meetings, sent newsletters, put on two successful Guides Training Seminars, opened working relationships with the Park, the outfitters, and other organizations interested in working for a better Grand Canyon. We've got over 300 members and more joining all the time. We've become an instrument for communication between guides of the different companies, between commercial and private boaters, between the guides and those who make decisions concerning the Canyon. We've gotten the word out to guides and passengers about important issues that effect the river. The letter writing campaign we all conducted last summer was directly responsible for Secretary Lujan's decision to finally begin an Environmental Impact Study of Glen Canyon Dam. I think we've been pretty successful.

We began this organization on the belief that the guides, who spend more time in the Canyon than anyone but the Chuckawallas, had a lot to say about things down there and nowhere to say it. GCRG is where we say it. And people listen. For example, two weeks ago GCRG was invited to Washington by Congress to testify before committees considering legislation to protect the Canyon. I believe that as long as we are willing to stand up, others who care about the Canyon will look to us for straight answers.

There are a number of goals to work toward for the next 2 years. Some of them are:

- \* Better communication between the officers and members and more involvement by members in the structure of GCRG.
- \* Continuing our newsletters to get valuable info to members and the general public.

- \* Regularly scheduled meetings of the GCRG Board of Directors to encourage and involve as many members as possible.
- \* Working as a group on the on-river problems of congestion, Colorado river courtesy, and newly discovered archeological artifacts.
- \* Staying active in the Glen Canyon EIS and the Miller legislation to protect the river corridor.
- \* Increasing our base of members to include as many guides as possible and lots of our passengers too.

There's lots to do but we've got a good start. Let's keep the ball rolling. Thanks for your support in the past two years. Now that the ground work is set, let's make the next two even better.

Keep your bottom wet,

Tom Moody, President

## We Believe....

Grand Canyon River Guides believes that there is a way to operate Glen Canyon Dam that will benefit the downstream resources of Grand Canyon National Park; endangered species, sediments, other wildlife and habitats, and recreation. And that these benefits can be gained without seriously hurting those that depend on the electrical power generated by the dam. We support the Secretary of Interior's decision to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement on Glen Canyon Dam operations. We support the need for specific research flows to adequately study present and alternative operations. These research flows must have priority during the study period. But we feel the damages identified in GCES phase 1 continue and the neglect-

ed resources we are trying to better manage are being lost. Enough science is available to set interim flows, flows less damaging to downstream resources than present operations, and that these flows should go into effect as soon as possible. The costs? They won't be that high. Latest estimates, using Western Area Power's own methodology, indicate that the most extreme change to operations, steady flows, would result in costs of less than one tenth of one cent per kilowatt hour.

We are working toward a win - win result. We feel that all will benefit in the long run, including power users who also enjoy the wonders of the Grand Canyon.

- \* Water delivery is the primary function of Glen Canyon Dam, specifically the delivery of an average 8.23 million acre feet per year. This is not an issue.
- \* Phase 1 of Glen Canyon Environmental Studies identified that fluctuating flows and flooding have adverse effects on downstream resources.
- \* Uncontrolled spills, such as the flood of 1983, are the most disastrous of all operations to the ecosystem of Grand Canyon.
- \* Spills are not an "accident of nature" but the result of a conscious decision in operations of the dam. Spills can be eliminated simply by changing reservoir criteria.
- \* For the past 28 years daily and hourly operations at Glen Canyon Dam have been designed to optimize peaking power with complete disregard for the well-being of the downstream resources of Grand Canyon.
- \* While we agree that power is a valuable resource, it should not be given priority over environmental resources.
- \* Power is not the issue, peaking power is. The same amount of electricity is produced during steady flows as during high fluctuations.
- \* The costs for changing operations to benefit the Canyon will not be high.

Tom Moody

## Glen Canyon Dam....a history

**Glen Canyon Dam completed.** 1963

**Lake Powell fills for first time.** June 1980 - Bureau proposes increased peaking power operations.

**Glen Canyon Environmental Studies ordered** - April 1983 - Due to public outrage over peaking operations, Bureau orders studies to determine the effects on downstream resources.

**Floods.** 1983-85 - Wet years and a Bureau policy of keeping the reservoir full results in a spill of 97,000 cfs in 1983 and continuous high flows through 1985.

**Fluctuating flows return.** 1986 -The return to fluctuating flows rapidly erodes flood deposited sands and reveals loss to sediment resource.

**GCES Final Report.** 1988 - GCES Final Report states that fluctuating flows and high floods adversely impact downstream resources. Bureau refuses to act and orders further studies.

**EIS is ordered.** August 1989 - Upon urging by Arizona's Senators, litigation by National Wildlife Federation and Grand Canyon Trust, and the grass roots letter writing campaign, Interior Secretary Lujan orders an Environmental Impact Statement on operations of Glen Canyon Dam.

**Public scoping sessions.** March 1990 - Public scoping sessions are held in 7 cities. GCRG speaks at Phoenix, Los Angeles, Flagstaff (twice), and Washington, D.C. Public power/Bureau position is that EIS is sufficient, no need for interim flows.

**Senator Bradley requests interim flows.** March 25 - Senator Bradley sends Lujan letter requesting Lujan set interim flows at Glen Canyon Dam.

**Rep. Miller introduces legislation.** April 4 - Rep. George Miller D- CA introduces legislation to 1) reauthorize dam to prioritize resources of Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Rec. Area, 2) minimize or eliminate flooding, 3) set emergency interim flows that minimize damage to downstream resources. The bill has 29 cosponsors.

**Arizona Senators request interim flows.** April 20 - Senators McCain and DeConcini send letter to Lujan requesting interim flows and threaten legislative action.

**AZ House delegation requests interim flows.** April 23 - AZ House delegation, (Udall, Stump, Rhodes, Kyl, and Kolbe) forced by Senators' position and rapidly eroding support for public power, meets with Lujan and requests interim flows be established at end of research period (July 1991).

**Lujan agrees to Interim flows.** Lujan

agrees to set flows 90 days after end of research period (July 1991).

**Miller subcommittee hearings.** April 26 - Joint hearing of subcommittees on National Parks and Water, Power, and Offshore Resources in Washington, D.C. At last minute Interior withholds NPS and Fish and Wildlife Service testimony. Congress forbids Bureau and WAPA to testify, recesses rather than adjourns hearing, until such time that all Federal agencies agree to cooperate.

**Public power groups recognize need for interim flows.** Public power position now recognizes the need for interim flows, but argues they should be implemented at the end of the research period so that studies of the "status quo" can be completed.

*Tom Moody*

## Interior refuses to let NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife testify

On April 26, 1990, the House subcommittees on National Parks; and Water, Power, and Offshore Resources held a hearing in Washington, D.C. to hear testimony on legislation introduced by Rep. George Miller, D- CA. The bill is designed to do three things; 1) amend the original legislation to make protection of the Canyon's resources second only to the storage of water, 2) minimize or eliminate flooding, and 3) set less harmful interim flows at Glen Canyon Dam while the EIS is in progress.

But the evening before the hearing Secretary of Interior Lujan notified the Congressmen that he would not allow National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to testify. Angered by this, Chairman Miller refused to let the Bureau and Western Area Power representatives testify until such time that the Secretary was willing to provide all of the requested agency representatives. A second hearing is scheduled for the near future.

With the Secretary's actions there is an increasing likelihood that the bill will actually pass. Last week Arizona Congressman Morris Udall stated his support for the legislation and promises its earliest consideration in the House Interior Committee. As Arizona's senior Congressman, a longtime environmental advocate, and chairman of the House Interior Committee, Udall's support is considered an important step to protection for the Canyon.

*Tom Moody*

## GTS a hit again

This year's Guides Training Seminar was a huge success. There was good interaction among the guides from various companies, as well as between guides and the Park Service. Many thanks to Denice for organizing an informative trip. There were a few points discussed on the trip that are worth mentioning to all guides.

1) Researchers this winter found 1500 trout in Nankoweap Creek during the peak spawning day. Twenty six different bald eagles were seen in the area in a single day. Golden eagles and ravens also took advantage of the great food source at Nankoweap. Please notify the GCES office of the tag color and number of any tagged fish caught.

2) Note that the Park Service has a new frequency for emergencies in Grand Canyon. The new frequency is 128.05, also be aware of the new frequency map.

3) Linda Jalbert is continuing her river monitoring program this season and needs support and input of all guides.

4) A major issue discussed was trail maintenance and beach stabilization. Multiple trailing is still a significant problem. Because the Canyon's desert environment is so fragile, guides and passengers need to minimize their impacts. Please keep clients on the trails. The Park Service has done incredible rehab work in places such as Hance and Cardenas. Please note the elimination of trailing behind Cardenas camp. One solution to this problem is informing people on the orientation talks of their impacts. Tell them to stay on trails when possible, and when walking off trail, walk "like an indian" - step from rock to rock, avoiding cryptogam and plant destruction.

Also note the Herculean efforts NPS has gone through to make a new camp at lower Cremation.

Finally, please notify Kim Crumbo on erosional changes on beaches and trails.

5) The NPS archives on the South Rim are open to GCRG members by appointment. Call Carolyn Richards at the visitor center.

6) Dick White at Glen Canyon Dam has invited GCRG to an indepth tour of the dam. We will have to schedule this ahead of time. Maybe next fall will be a good time. If you would be interested in this drop us a line, talk to a GCRG officer, or your company representative.

*John Hirsch*

## A Letter to the Editor.....

### CURRENT CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AT GRAND CANYON: PRESERVATION OF PREHISTORIC POTTERY CACHES

Archaeologists throughout the country are continually struggling with the difficult decision of how best to preserve the fragile remnants of America's prehistoric heritage for the enjoyment of future generations. Nowhere is this struggle more pressing than at Grand Canyon. With almost 4 million visitors annually and an ever increasing number of backcountry users, the rugged topography and isolation that once protected these fragile resources are gradually revealing their archaeological secrets. Every year, backcountry visitors report the discovery of previously undocumented prehistoric remains in some remote corner of the Canyon. One can only guess how many new discoveries go unreported.

Recently, the issue of pot cache preservation has become of increasing concern to Park cultural resource managers as a number of Grand Canyon commercial guides have taken it upon themselves to implement their own "pot cache preservation program": when they find pots, they remove the vessels from their original locations and re-cache or bury them elsewhere in the canyon where subsequent visitors are unlikely to stumble upon them. The apparent motive for this action is to "preserve" the pots in Grand Canyon for the future enjoyment of selected commercial passengers and friends. The boatmen are reluctant to report their finds to Park authorities because they are aware that the Park Archaeologist may decide to remove the pots to the Study Collection on the South Rim. On the other hand, they do not want to leave the vessels in their original setting because they are afraid other people will find and take them. While these well-meaning individuals may not conceive of themselves as destroyers of archaeological sites, this is in fact what they are doing. In the process of re-caching the pot, the prehistoric context of the pot and its ability to speak about the past is destroyed forever.

A pot by itself imparts a limited amount of information about the past. For example, the manner in which the vessel was formed, fired, and decorated tells us what prehistoric culture was responsible for its creation. The clays that the pot was made from and the particles (temper) added to the clay to make the pot durable can tell us where the pot originated. The shape of the vessel and the designs painted or pressed on its surface can reveal when the pot was made.

It is the context in which the pot occurs, however, that allows archaeologists to piece together the real story of human activities in the Grand Canyon. For example, if clay and temper reveal that a vessel was made north of the Grand Canyon but it is discovered on the South Rim, we know that someone for some reason moved that pot across the Canyon. If the pot occurs (and is recovered) with directly datable remains such as corn cobs or grass padding, archaeologists may be able to pinpoint when the pot was moved. If ten or twenty such pots are found in similar contexts, and analysis reveals that they all date to a certain time period, then the pots take on new meaning: they are no longer isolated incidents floating in time but reflect a distinctive cultural pattern that occurred during a specific phase of Grand Canyon prehistory.

Park archaeologists, like the majority of professional river runners and backcountry hikers, are deeply concerned about the preservation of archaeological remains for the benefit of future generations. Ideally we would prefer to leave pot caches in their original pristine context, not only because we have limited resources with which to study these remains and limited space to house them, but also because we can not predict what future research questions and investigative techniques may be able to reveal about the past. In a few instances, Park archaeologists have decided to leave pots in situ in the Canyon. The circumstances under which vessels have been left in place have included extreme isolation, difficulty of access, and confidence that the individual who reported the find had not shared the information with any other individuals. Unfortunately, these circumstances rarely apply. Under less stringent circumstances, leaving pots in situ entails a considerable risk. Park resource managers must weigh the risk of losing yet another piece of an already fragmentary puzzle against the potential benefits of leaving the vessel in place. In a couple of recent cases, they have opted for leaving the vessels, only to have them moved and hidden by well-meaning individuals who viewed their actions as a form of preservation. While the pot itself may be "preserved" for future generations to rediscover, the context of the pot and its ability to speak about the past has been ruined.

There must be alternative ways for us to deal with this issue without destroying the sites we are supposedly trying to save.

The threat to pot caches represents a small segment of a much larger problem--the continuing, uncontrolled destruction of our country's prehistoric heritage. The Resources Division at Grand Canyon welcomes suggestions on ways to improve the management of these fragile, irreplaceable remains. Comments can be addressed to Jan Balsom and Helen Fairley, Park Archaeologists, Grand Canyon National Park Resources Division, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon AZ 86023.

Helen C. Fairley  
Archaeologist, Grand Canyon National Park

River Guides, Swampers, Boatmen, River Rats.....

## Welcome Back!!

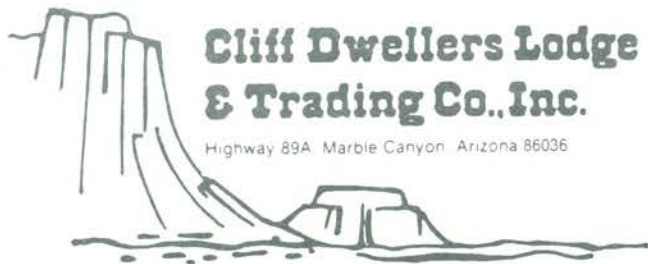
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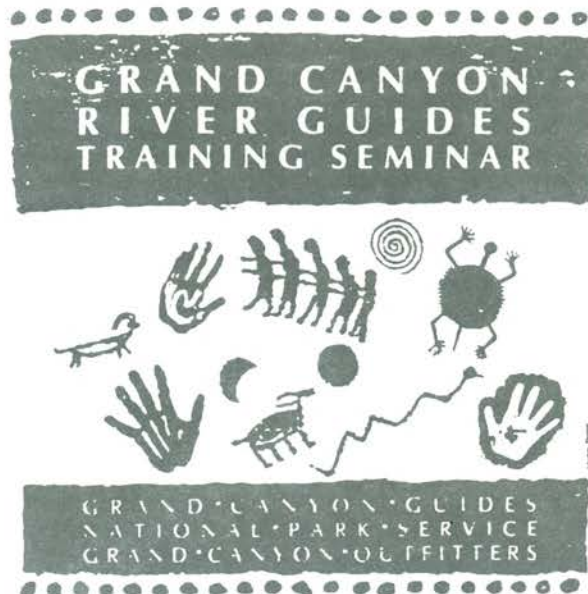
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## Treasurer's Report 3/89...3/90

From outgoing Treasurer Denice Napoletano, a true GCRG hero.

\$20 dues were received from 241 members for a total of

\$4820.00  
+2564.02 old balance  
+1967.00 t-shirt rev.  
\$9351.02 total balance

The breakdown of how these funds were spent:

\$ 150.00 petty cash  
1864.00 printing  
1068.71 postage  
421.44 meeting expenses  
289.00 office expenses  
431.56 phone charges  
516.68 corporation charges  
146.80 travel expenses  
3696.90 GCRG t-shirts  
8585.31 total expenses

which leaves us \$765.71 to date.

*Denice Napoletano*

## Come to a Board meeting

GCRG Board of Director meetings will be scheduled on a regular basis next year. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held twice a month from mid September to mid May. The summer months are just too busy to schedule. Tentatively, they will be held twice a month, on the first and third Wednesday, at 7pm at 331 E. Mohawk in Flagstaff. The purpose of regular meetings is to encourage everyone who is interested to attend. There are lots going on of interest to all, let's all get involved!

## GCRG Annual Spring Meeting

We convened our third Spring Meeting Saturday 9am, March 24, 1990. Had it not been the first incredibly beautiful Saturday of spring and the Verde River at its best level for the year there undoubtedly would have been more than the 30 members who came. But hey, this is an organization of river guides, right? And what do we really want to do after being off the water all winter? Well, a few of us resisted our natural inclination and did appear at the OARS warehouse to talk over the state of our world and what to do next. If we're not floatin', then we are probably talkin'.

We all agreed to have a flyer printed up which describes GCRG: our goals and activities. We can give this to folks on river trips to let them know about us and invite their support and participation. These are in the works and will be distributed through our company reps or available from the GCRG office soon.

Discussion of the Glen Canyon EIS dominated the meeting. Tom Moody was absent from the meeting because he was in Washington D.C. to attend the scoping session there and testify on behalf of GCRG. The overflow crowd of attendees to the Flagstaff session and the consequent scheduling of a second session in April in Flagstaff was noted. (There were over 300 attempting to get into the first meeting, which exceeded the Fire Marshal's limit. About 200 attended a second session, held in April, with the vast majority requesting operational changes in the dam.) We attempted to resolve a GCRG position on the EIS. i.e. 1. establishing protection of downstream resources as a top priority of dam operations, 2. studying the river corridor as a whole ecosystem and determining how best to

maintain the health of that dynamic system, 3. minimum flows, 4. maximum flows, 5. sediment recharge to the river by a slurry pipeline from the head of Lake Powell, 6. continued monitoring by GCES of the river corridor after completion of the EIS, 7. opposition to any structural mitigations in the Canyon such as riprap, etc.

The other issue that went to committee was the establishment of a GCRG policy for guides on archeological finds. We agreed that policy must be put to a vote by the entire membership, but were unable to come up with a comprehensive statement.

The offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer are for two-year terms and needed to be filled again. Also two members of the Board of Directors resigned, opening positions for the remaining year of their terms. Members nominated for office were: Pres. Tom Moody; V.P. Dan Dierker; Sec./Treas. Bob Melville; Directors: Kenton Grua, Les Hibbert, Drifter Smith.

The ballots were mailed to all current dues paid members April 10 and the votes counted May 10. The Board received a resignation from Suzanne Jordan after the ballots were mailed and so directorships were awarded to the top three vote getters.

The 1990-91 officers are:

President:	Tom Moody
Vice-president:	Dan Dierker
Sec./treasurer:	Bob Melville
Directors:	Drifter Smith
	Kenton Grua
	Les Hibbert

A couple of dozen write-in votes were also received for various individuals and offices.

*Bob Melville*

### Grand Canyon River Guides P.O. Box 1934 Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Officers: Pres. - Tom Moody; V.P. - Dan Dierker;  
Sec./Tres. - Bob Melville;

Board of Directors: Lew Steiger, Dave Edwards,  
Jon Stoner, Kenton Grua,  
Drifter Smith, Les Hibbert

Annual Dues: General Members.....\$20  
Guide Members.....\$20

### Membership Application

name \_\_\_\_\_ nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ S.S. no. \_\_\_\_\_  
address \_\_\_\_\_  
ph #: summer \_\_\_\_\_ winter \_\_\_\_\_  
year started in GC \_\_\_\_\_ no. of GC seasons \_\_\_\_\_  
no. of trips: motor \_\_\_\_\_ oar \_\_\_\_\_ paddle \_\_\_\_\_  
present employer \_\_\_\_\_  
other GC employers \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanks to Kenton and Denice

All Grand Canyon River Guides owe a great big thanks to Kenton Grua and Denice Napoletano for their involvement in the last two years of GCRG. Kenton was the guiding force behind this organization's creation and served as its first President. Denice has served as secretary, treasurer, letterwriter, GTS organizer, membership director and a host of other unofficial positions.

These two have done whatever was necessary to keep GCRG alive and often they were the only ones around.

GCRG is a strong and viable organization today and we owe a lot of that the the time and hard work these two individuals have contributed. Here's a tip of the oar (or motor handle) to Kenton and Denice.

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## GLEN CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES Research Flow Schedule Calendar Year 1990

### EIS Update

Things are really happening. For 28 years we have watched the beaches erode as Glen Canyon Dam set its daily operations with only peaking power needs in mind. That is changing. As most of you know an EIS was ordered in August 1990 on the operations of Glen Canyon Dam. Public Scoping sessions to determine the aspects to be studied were held in 7 cities including Salt Lake, Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Washington, D.C. GCRG gave presentations at the meetings listed above. The final date for public input was May 4, 1990. The GCES scientists are conducting the actual research and have designed a series of 17 blocks of research flows to be studied in the next 15 months. Graphs of these flows (still subject to some revision) are presented in this newsletter.

The technical research studies are scheduled for completion in July 1991, and the final Environmental Impact Statement is due in January 1992. Most people, including the scientists, believe this is an unrealistic goal and that the final report will take at least another year to complete. A poor EIS will only hurt the Canyon. But less harmful interim flows must be implemented in the meantime to protect the remaining resources.

