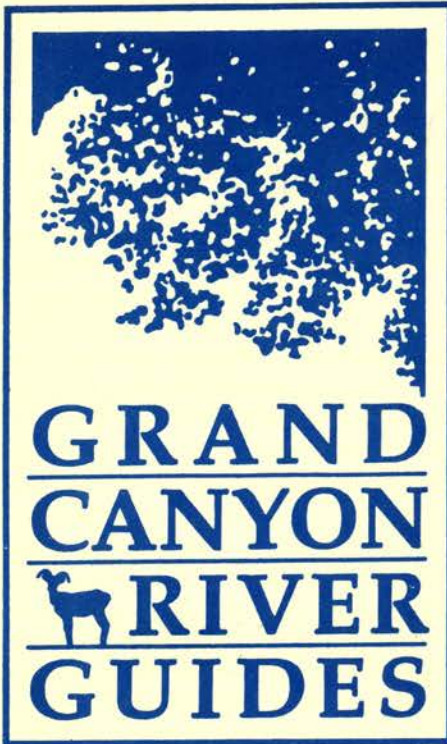


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The News

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- * Protecting the Grand Canyon *
- * Setting the highest standards for the river profession *
- * Providing the best possible river experience *

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Remembering the WRGA

Congress must save this marvel for posterity

.....Glen Canyon Dam stands across the mighty Colorado River. The dam will continue to store water and generate electricity as Congress originally intended. But because the hand of man now controls the flow of water through the dam and through the Grand Canyon, Congress, acting for the American people, has a responsibility to ensure that our hand is guided firmly by the ethics of stewardship. We must resist the arguments of those who know "the price of everything, but the value of nothing." We must be guided by a keen and deliberate appreciation for the value of other forms of life on the planet and our power to harm and destroy them. Above all, we must conserve and protect those unique resources and values that caused Congress to designate the Grand Canyon as a national park and to make its special qualities available to the American people for all time.

-Stewart Udall

excerpted from *Arizona Republic* editorial, Oct. 23, 1991

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington -- Andre Potochnik, GCRG Rep.

The Grand Canyon Protection Act:

Where is it now?

As you may know, the House version of the GCPA (H.R. 429) was passed as part of a big omnibus bill (with 33 titles!). The unpassed Senate version (S.144) is before the Subcommittee on Water and Power right now.

What have we been doing about it?

Besides exhorting our membership to write and call their Senators, GCRG sponsored me to do a Washington lobbying effort for the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing on S.144 that took place Oct. 24. I spent three days roving the hallways of the Senate and House office buildings, teamed up with various combinations of lobbyists from other environmental organizations. We spoke with Arizona Senator McCain and staff people of other relevant Congressmen.

What happened at the hearing?

The Subcommittee gave the environmental panel three speaking slots for testimony. We opted to join a coalition that included Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, America Outdoors, and American Rivers in order to present a common statement. Our statement was synthesized and presented by Rob Elliot. Rob delivered a powerful lead-off statement which emphasized the need to place Canyon environmental protection ahead of water and power interests. Jacob Coin, of the Hopi Tribe, followed with a moving statement about the importance of preserving the integrity of Grand Canyon as the Hopi spiritual homeland. Dave Marcus then proceeded to use WAPA's own numbers to convincingly refute the potentially severe financial impacts that purportedly would result from reduced peaking power capacity at the dam.

There were two other panels of speakers. One included representatives of power users and water interests in the Upper Basin states. The other panel consisted of Commissioner of Reclamation Dennis Underwood accompanied by Jack Davis of the National Park Service and Michael Brennan of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Briefly, the power consumers want an amendment added to the bill which places the financial costs on the general taxpayer instead of the power consumer. We maintain that power consumers should have to pay the environmental costs associated with production of their electricity. In addition, this would make the GCPA 'veto bait' for the Administration. Underwood stated that protective legislation isn't necessary because Secretary Lujan has demonstrated his concern for downstream resources by instituting moderately fluctuating interim flows. Our argument against this is: can you guarantee that this Secretary and future Secretaries will have similar concern for the Grand Canyon without this legislative mandate? Certainly not, we think.

During our lobbying efforts before and after the hearing, we made the above points and

tried to extricate the GCPA from the huge and controversial package of bills to which it is attached. That was the reason it failed to pass Congress before adjournment last year. We appealed to have it passed on its own or with a more appropriate package of bills.

Did we make a difference?

Yes, I think legislators and their staff tend to sit up and take notice when a volunteer comes such a long way to make a point. Was it worth the \$800 bucks to send me there? Got to be! We paid our membership fee to be an organized force for protecting the Canyon. We have to work on all fronts, from grassroots to tree tops to make a difference. Should we do it again? You bet! We 652 Grand Canyon River Guides are the only spokesfolks for the tens of thousands of river running public who have been powerfully affected by the Grand Canyon river experience. Our efforts do have a real effect. S. 144 will have gone through markup by the time you read this; hopefully no weakening amendments will be attached. Until it passes Congress, it won't be too late to call your Senator and Congressman to reaffirm your support for GCPA. Do it! ... and stay tuned.



A reverence for rivers

Man's engineering capabilities are nearly limitless. Our economic views are too insensitive to be the only criteria for judging the health of the river organism. What is needed is a gentler basis for perceiving the effects of our engineering capabilities. This more humble view of our relation to the hydrologic system requires a modicum of reverence for rivers.

-Luna Leopold, 1977

GCRG Fall Meeting - ya had ta be there

About 3 dozen hearty boatfolk made it to the fall meeting in Kanab on the chilly first weekend of November. On Friday evening we met informally in Grand Canyon Expeditions bunkhouse, batted around ideas and issues, downed a few beers and stamped and addressed our latest Protection Act flyer.

We gathered around the woodstove the next morning in a corner of GCE's huger-than-life warehouse. After the opening minutes, membership and financial reports, we got down to business. The last week-end of March was chosen for the 1992 GTS, and ideas for making it even better were discussed. The Courtesy Flyer was overhauled one more time. Andre Potochnik told us of his lobbying trip to Washington DC to push the GCPA, and we were all brought up to date on the bill's progress.

The Concessions Reform issue was the day's main topic. Many facets of it were brought up by the GCRG board and officers, NPS personnel and company managers. The concensus was that the reform bill could have overwhelmingly negative effects on the industry, and consequently on the Canyon itself. This led into a discussion on initiatives that we could take to make the public more aware that the river industry is taking care of the place, that we are giving something back to the Canyon, rather than just milking it. It's one thing to say "we aren't in the same category as the big Park Service concessions that brought this backlash down on our heads"; it's another thing to prove it.

A few such initiatives came immediately to mind:

Clean-up trips - whatever happened to the old clean-up trips? Why not reinstate that, perhaps starting with a massive assault on the beaches of upper Marble Canyon at next spring's GTS?

Recycling - Follow the lead of some of the Flagstaff outfitters and develop an industry-wide program for all recyclables on all trips.

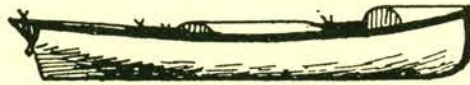
Turds - Work aggressively to help NPS solve the human waste disposal crisis in such a way that all the private trips can easily comply.

Congestion - Working with the outfitters to

help (voluntarily) reduce congestion on the river. The Courtesy Flyer is a start. Urging outfitters to add one more day to each trip would be another.

The meeting wound down by mid-afternoon, the beer keg revved up and a large burger fest followed, thanks to Connie and Pam, and all the chefs. After dinner, boatman Neal Ekker and his Kanab-based band set up. They featured an amazing fiddler-ess, and played well into the night as various singles and couples bounced around the dance floor. By late-thirty, there were just a few of us left, propped around the woodstove, plotting great things and telling the tallest of tales.

Many thanks, Mark, Mike and Marty of GCE for bravely opening your doors to us. We were all rightfully impressed with your base!



1992 Guides Training Seminar

The 1991 GTS, based at Marble Canyon, was such an overwhelming success that we're going to do it again. We'll be repeating the segmented program of Advanced First Aid Refresher / CPR / GCRG Spring Meeting / GTS, ending with a float trip, allowing a maximum of people to attend whatever portions their schedules will allow.

We're planning to give poor Patty and the folks at Hatchland a year off and hold our First Aid and Spring meeting at the Wilderness River Adventures warehouse in Page, Wednesday through Friday. Then we'll head to Marble for three days. Again we'll be seeking innovative speakers to present accessible, interesting and usable information, tools and stories. Again, we'll be camping on the rim at the Old Marble Canyon Lodge and moving here and there for different topics. Again, we'll be inviting boaters from yesteryear to share their stories and times.

We plan to finish it up with a 2-day clean up trip.

We'll leave Lee's Ferry by boat on Tuesday and clean the heavily impacted fishing beaches of Marble Canyon. After camping a night, we will send the boats out with the trash and hike out South Canyon Wednesday afternoon.

It will be great, so make the time, and be there.

Sex, Lies and Mental Health

A GCRG Interview

A few weeks ago, several of us were handed an interesting item that called itself a "Health Needs Assessment and Demographic Questionnaire for Grand Canyon River Guides", which we were supposed to fill out and return to its maker as soon as we could.

You didn't have to sign your name on it and that was a relief, because some of the questions got pretty personal. Like: How many sex partners have you had in the last ten years? Approximate annual income? Quality of relationship with your parents ...good ...fair ...poor (check one). And so on.

Partly to find out what the author was up to (and secretly wanting to ask how many sex partners everybody else had had), we set up the following interview with Elena Kirschner, a dory boatman now in her final year of nursing school at NAU.

...some of the questions got pretty personal. Like: how many partners have you had in the last ten years? ...They all lied like dogs on that part.

GCRG- So tell us, how many sex partners did everybody else have?

EK- First off, that's confidential. And secondly, I couldn't tell you anyway.

GCRG- Not even ballpark figures?

EK- Sorry. They all lied like dogs on that part.

GCRG- Really?

EK- (cocks an eyebrow)- Let's just say they interpreted the questions in the safest possible manner.

GCRG- Well... did they fudge high or low?

EK- Don't push your luck, ok? The questionnaire was part of a project I needed to do for a class in Community Health. My assignment was to look at a group of people and what makes them a community (according to a variety of definitions). Then to assess their health needs and come up with a mental health issue that was considered problematic for the community by its members. Then finally, to think about some possible interventions for easing that problem.

And I'd been thinking about a whole number of different projects until one day we had a lecture in class on what makes a community and I couldn't stop thinking about the Grand Canyon river guides. Because they so fit the criteria for that. So I decided to give it a whirl.

GCRG- Come now. Find a mental health problem in this community? Surely you jest.

EK- Right. So anyway, the top of my list was relationship issues, and what guides do about them. And another thing that came to mind was alcohol use and abuse on the river. But it turned out that neither of those were really foremost.

GCRG- They weren't?

EK- Nope. Not even close. I mean everybody said relationships were a problem, but it seemed to be that people just accepted that as part of the job: a necessary corollary to being a river

guide. And alcohol was seen as more of an individual concern. We were supposed to interview 3 members of the community and then 3 others who served the community as health care professionals, and to ask them really broad questions about what they see as the health needs of the community. So I started by doing that, and then I realized that in order to understand it all better, it would be helpful to have some demographic material. So I made up a little questionnaire, gave it to 40 people, and compiled the data from there. Then interviewed several more boatmen and a couple more health professionals too. Real broad interviews about health needs of guides in general.

It was interesting. In every interview I did, when I would say "What do you think the health care needs of this community are?" everyone started with physical stuff. And in the 20 year group, all the things that people mentioned were chronic problems. Things like: back problems, carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis, bursitis, joint problems, and skin cancer. And talking to a couple of health professionals I got the picture that really this is just the tip of the iceberg: having problems like carpal tunnel now will lead to arthritis and other chronic conditions that boatmen have yet to experience.

GCRG- So that's the big issue?

EK- Nope. It wasn't what I'd expected at all. The biggest issue by far was retirement.

GCRG- Ha!

EK- Yeah. And it's a real complex issue. Because it isn't leaving that's the problem, necessarily. It's the feelings about staying. I mean some people leave and some don't, but it's a heartache for both sectors. Just the thought of it. It's like breaking an addiction. There is, I think, a feeling that people come away from a long time involvement with guiding and don't have anything to show for it. There aren't financial rewards and there's no retirement and they never had health insurance and they didn't get a gold watch. They just come away with this feeling like maybe they did something cool for a few passengers somewhere along the line and that's it. And they also have this community. And that is a really neat thing, but when they try to change careers there's also a big fear of losing connections there, which tends to compound the problem.

But one of the assignments for this project was to think about what's called the mind-body connection. And what's clear for us is that there's a pretty strong requirement of good physical health for being a guide. So, aging is a stressor. People realize their health isn't what it used to be, and there's a physical element that puts a cap on the length of time you can do this. And yeah, there's a lot of people pushing the envelope... like Georgie and Martin and a few others. And maybe they've just figured out how to get other people to do the heavy lifting for them, or whatever, but for the general population I think there exists a feeling that you can only do this so long. And every time there's some little physical injury it's a reminder of that fact.

GCRG- Why do we keep doing it then?

EK- Cause we love it! We love the Canyon and we like turning people on to it, and we like hanging out with our buddies and living outdoors. We like the freedom of it and the excitement and the challenge. It's a great life. It really is. But at some point in time there will be a transition. Wanted or not.

GCRG- So what... ah... would you say is the intervention for this problem?

EK- Well, when you talk about implementing a change within a community there are two basic ways of going about it. One is called first order, and that means you make a change within the constructs of the system in order to... make people feel better. And the other is second order change, which means actually challenging the basic assumptions of the system itself.

When I finally figured out that retirement was what people were most discontented about, I went into the literature and read about it. And found some interesting things. Like, certain characteristics lead to more problems, and coincidentally (ha!) those are low pay, lack of insurance, lack of retirement benefits, physical jobs that can lead to injury, and lack of recognition for achievements. Those characteristics all increase the risk of discontent at retirement, and

I finally figured out that retirement was what people were most discontented about...

really the literature in psychology and psychiatry has shown that those characteristics can

lead to major depression, major anxiety, even psychosis in a lot of people. There're two guys, Holmes and Rahe, who set up a little scale-called the Social Readjustment Scale -which measures the stress associated with various life events. And retirement is WAY up there. So what I tried to show in my paper is that boatmen have all the normal stresses associated with retirement, and a lot more. Because it's not just a job. It's a source of identity. It's a source of spirituality. It's a source of community.

Anyway, thinking about first order change led me to stress management and there I found that the stronger a support system you have, the more able you are to effectively cope with stress. So I thought that if guides could see their community as a support system and use it that way, the stress of retirement wouldn't be so tough on them. And the best way to do that is recognize that they can be connected to the community of river guides without being on the river. That their community can be a source of strength when they're trying to break away from full time guiding instead of a source of conflict. I mean I think there IS some little competitive twitch between guides, like "How many trips you doing?" and "Haven't seen YOU around!" ... as though it's not so cool, you



know, to not be down there all the time. And I think the idea is to get away from that mentality and support people for whatever it is they're doing in their lives and realize they're vital to the community even if they're not working down there full time. Cause the issue of retirement isn't just an individual problem you go home and mope about in your spare time. It's a community-wide issue that affects anybody who's ever put a bunch of their energy and identity into being a professional guide.

The deal is that change in a community has to come from within. It's not like some outsider can come in and say "ok you guys are really screwed up and you've gotta leave this job cause it's a dead end and you're gonna die bums in the gutter if you don't."

GCRG- What 's next, then?

EK- Well, the first step is to see what people want to do about it. You can't just decide on some program and plop it on everybody. But support helps people cope, so we should get together on this thing.

GCRG- And the second order? What's that all about?

EK- Like I said before, second order change challenges assumptions of systems. And what I see as being the key in this case is that the job originated with the assumption that it would be a transitory thing: something that guides would do for a few seasons while they went to college or did this or that, and then they'd move on. It wasn't ever assumed that guides would spend their lives perfecting guiding, you know? But the problem is that's what happened. There are a lot of guides who've donated their working careers to being the best Grand Canyon river guides they can be. But the system hasn't really kept pace in terms of material rewards. And... just as important, simply in terms of recognizing what's happened. And that, eventually, becomes real hard on people's self-esteem.

GCRG- Ah-ha. Maybe we ought to get everybody a gold watch every now and then.

EK- Well, one way outfitters could acknowledge their long term guides is to be flexible with scheduling, for example. And the companies I've been involved with are that way. Like there's no stigma put on doing just one or two trips a year. I think that kind of thing is really valuable for both the guides and the trips they do join. Somebody, may-

be Bob Melville, said "what happens then is they have all that love and all that energy and expertise, and they are bringing it to one or two trips a year and they are pouring it out."

GCRG- Yeah, and the thing about that is, then those older guys can help train the younger ones too. Pass on some of what it took them so long to figure out about the job.

EK- Well, Moody said that. Sort of. He said it's important for the people who've been around to give those who are coming in a reality check on what long term guiding is. Like, maybe they need to know it's not a financially viable career.

Another thing, in other populations, family and spouse are the main support systems when people retire. And most guides don't have that.

GCRG- What could you do about that, though?

EK- Just recognize it. Support couples working together if that's what they want. Some other supportive things would be looking into a group medical insurance plan and doing preventative teaching. Some companies do offer counseling or physical therapy seminars for avoiding injury. Any or all of these changes would benefit not just guides but our product too, in the long run.

GCRG- Well, we haven't done all that bad in the past. And nobody forced us down the river at gunpoint, did they?

EK- Nope. And making changes of this kind means being slow and delicate and positive all the way. But they are worth moving toward. And it's happening. Nothing we've talked about here is really news to anybody. For the current older generation of boatmen the key to mental well being about all this is support. It's about remembering why they chose this life, and what a cool thing they have been a part of. The more people can hang together as a community, whether they're on the river or not, the better they're going to feel about the time spent here. Cause the idea is that we care about each other, and we're all in this together.

Editor's Note: One of our topics at the spring meeting will be "A career in guiding". We'll be discussing these and other issues important to professional guides. Got any letters to us?

Wuddyathink?

Last issue we asked,

"Is the term 'boatman' sexist or unisex?"

Here are the replies.....

What's in a name? A boatman by any other name would smell as bad. -- Mike Yard

It's obvious enough that I'm female without drawing additional attention to my gender by insisting on being set apart. I'm proud to be called a boatman.

-- Jeri Ledbetter

Boatman - sexist. Sounds like a jock. Better use River Guide, it means more, better things.

-- Liz Hymans

Implementing the use of the Jamaican inflection 'Botemon' would resolve this meddlesome dilemma.

-- Elson Miles

Every woman I know who rows prefers being called a boatman.

-- Moqui

As a 58 year old woman, I like it fine. What I would really hate would be such things as boatwoman, boatperson, boat driver or boater.

-- Nancy Clark

What's wrong with "Guide?" That term sidesteps the sexism issue altogether, and emphasizes that your considerable skills are not limited to Boating!

--John P(assenger) Linderman

Always gender for generic perish? Must ministrals lose lyrics they cherish? We've *chairperson* and *flagger* to right the wrongs.

Let *boatman* remain in river runners' songs.

-- Dale Verhoeven

If "boatman" is sexist, many other words must be changed, i.e: Personkind, Doberperson Pincer, Personhole cover, Yeoperson, Flagperson, Persondrake root, Personatee, Persondate, Personhandle and, of course, Personslaughter.

--Ron Harris

Definitely unisex! I love the term. "I'm a Grand Canyon boatman," I tell people with pride. Of course, then I get correspondence addressed to "Eddie"!

-- Edie Crawford (Schniewind)

"Boatman"...

is...neither sexist nor unisex;

is...generic, denoting ability to handle a boat on moving water;

is...bereft of any sexual connotation whatsoever. -- Shane Murphy

BOATMEN; females aren't.

BOATPEOPLE; refugees we're not.

BOAT; a means.

GUIDES; we are.

RIVER; why we're here.

DOWN with (sexist) "BOATMAN"

UP with (unisex) "RIVER GUIDE".

-- Lorri Desmond

Boatman implies operating a boat, Guide implies giving guidance. Everyone who runs a boat is a boatman. Not all are guides.

-- Brad Dimock

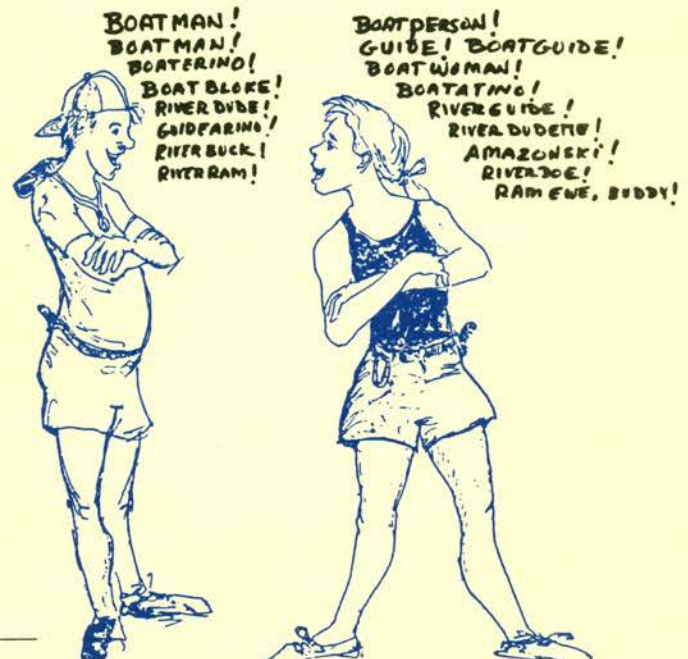
I don't feel it's sexist! I see it merely as an historical term. Semantics aren't what count on the job - I know what I am (especially at the top of Crystal!)

-- Nancy Rivers

Next issue:

"Tarps under the tables?":

Wuddyathink?



Interim Flows begin...

On November 1, 1991 Secretary Lujan ordered interim flows. These flows, similar to the test flows we saw in August and September, are designed to better protect Canyon resources through the end of the EIS in mid 1993. The flow regime was suggested by the cooperating agencies, based upon the best scientific data available, and is primarily directed at beach stabilization.

The "new" Interim Flows are:

Minimum Flow: 5,000 cfs
Maximum Flow: 20,000 cfs
Maximum Flow Increase:
not to exceed 5,000 cfs in 24 hr period
Rate of Flow Increase:
not to exceed 2,000 cfs per hour
Rate of Flow Decrease:
not to exceed 1,500 cfs per hour

Economic Exception Criteria, a worry...

A joker exists in this deck in the form of the "economic exception criteria". These criteria allow Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) to operate purely on economic considerations up to 22 hours each month, operations that need not consider the Canyon. In the opinion of David Marcus, our expert on the economics of power, there is no economic justification for these exceptions. We fear the cost to Grand Canyon will be too high.

The Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation hope to have monitoring in place soon to evaluate the impact of all exceptions to these set interim flows, economic or otherwise.

A problem...

WAPA's interpretation of a 24 hour period is greatly increasing the up and down ramping on weekends. By interpreting a 24 hour period as midnight to midnight, descending flows can be stacked Friday night and Saturday morning resulting in a drop of 10,000 cfs in as little as six hours. Rapidly falling river levels are thought to be the most destructive part of fluctuations. We encourage WAPA to recognize this and design their operations accordingly in the 24 hour period.

Actions like these make us distrust the objective of the "economic exception criteria" and emphasize the need for passage of the Grand Canyon Protection Act.

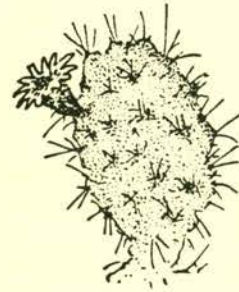
Concession Reform... Just when we thought we could relax

On August 23, 1991 the Interior Department proposed regulations that could turn the river industry on its collective ear. In addition even stronger reform measures have been introduced to Congress by Senator Bumpers and Congressman Synar. The worst case scenario includes these possibilities:

- All concession permits would come up for renewal every 5 years
- Permits could be awarded on the basis of who could pay the highest concession fees
- Concession fees could go as high as 22%
- Permits could not be sold

GCRG feels that some or all of these reforms could have negative effects on the Canyon and the visitor experience. Of special concern is the issue of continuity. If an outfitter has no idea whether they'll still be in business in 5 years, there is little incentive for maintaining quality equipment, hiring quality guides, or providing quality service. Safety will suffer. This will not help our industry.

Present reform is aimed at the largest concessioners, the food and hotel industry and not at the guiding companies. But broad reforms can affect us as well. GCRG has expressed its concerns to the Interior Dept. and will keep you informed. This issue is another which will not go away.



"There may always be an element of indeterminacy in river mechanics that is simply beyond rational comprehension."

-Leopold & Langbein, 1963

Lees Ferry

In the rolling Colorado's
chilly early morning mist,
before the towering ramparts
by the golden sun are kissed,
stands a solitary figure
against the current's force,
casting up the river
to his pleasure's only source.

His wand conducts a symphony-
his fly sails to its place
and his satisfaction with the pitch
is smiling on his face.
He watches where his pink scud sinks-
no time for idle dream-
then he swims and strips his hook's deceit
'till it hangs in a slackwater seam.

Now here what a moment is
(and you all know what I mean),
it's the distance from a fly rod tip
to the water's swirling green.
It's the time it takes to mend your line
'till everything looks just right-
then he feels the take and lifts his rod
and then his line goes tight!

Well the river takes but passing note
as our hero gets his wish
and starts the ritual liquid dance
by bowing to his fish.
With the flexing of his favorite rod
and the singing of his reel,
he knows what he has always known-
he knows how this will feel.

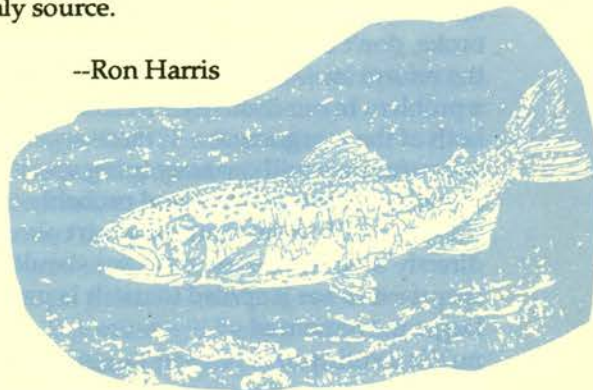
He points his rod-tip at the fish
and feels the lightning run
and tugs the brim of his Irish cap
against the rising sun.
And wading near the water's edge
to a level bar of sand,
he turns downstream to face his foe-
it's time to make his stand.

Yes, it's time to put the pressure on
(never let a big fish rest)
this is what he came here for
and his skill is put to the test.
A quarter-hour spent gaining line,
one last run from the net,
one last leap in the morning sun
and he has what he came to get.

Well, it takes both hands to haul the trout
to the shallows by the shore
and using those trembling hands as scales
he reckons ten pounds or more!
As he imagines its silvery, shimmering form
hung stiff from his fireplace beam
he untangles the trout from the mesh of the
net
and slips it back into the stream.

Now in the rolling Colorado's
chilly early morning mist
just as those towering ramparts
by the golden sun are kissed,
wades a solitary figure
against the current's force,
casting on up the river
to his pleasure's only source.

--Ron Harris



The Canyon

The Canyon walls are dented and scraped,
their battle wounds have not been forgotten.
Their tears of long ago divide their fate,
But yet, somehow, they are bound together
by the ones who venture between.

The Canyon walls don't need to speak,
their beauty says it all.
Their peaceful sounds that run between...
The lives of the Canyon walls.

The Canyon walls speak beauty through their
nature,
and if you listen, you will hear them talk to
you.
Their beauty's worth a thousand words,
a treasure people never knew.

*Darah Sandlian
(Aged 13)*

Moody Speaks for Guides at Outfitter Meeting

November 7, 1991 at the South Rim and gave the following talk on behalf of the guides. We have included the complete text here for the benefit of all members.

Good Morning. My name is Tom Moody and, for any who do not know me, I am here as President of Grand Canyon River Guides. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you this morning. Much of the discussion over the next two days will focus on Concession Reforms and the immediate strategies necessary to address them. I would like to discuss for a few minutes some long range solutions to this same issue.

In speaking to several of you it seems that immediate strategies fall into two categories: the "apples and oranges" argument which explains that the guiding/ outfitting industry is a very different animal from the big food server/hotel concessioners. And the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" which argues that most of the reform issues under debate are not presently a problem in our industry. GCRG agrees with both of these arguments. If these arguments are successful they will certainly bring specific attention to our industry and probably to Grand Canyon itself. While this issue isn't aimed directly at our industry now, we shouldn't be surprised to see it spread to us. It is part of a larger movement of public scrutiny of the private use on public land.

Questions about grazing on BLM land and timber harvesting in the National Forests are good examples. The public and politicians will ask us how good a job are we doing in protecting the resource and providing a quality service to the public. They will want to be assured that the public is getting its money's worth, in quality and dollars. When that time comes we must be ready to shine.

This shouldn't be too painful, we are providing a quality service to our passengers and the Canyon's beaches are as clean as any area in or out of the National Park system. We provide high quality interpretive services to 20,000 Park visitors each year. Our safety record is exemplary. Our customers are happy. But perceptions are as valid as facts and the important thing is that we be perceived as acting in a responsible manner, doing an exemplary job not just a satisfactory one. We must not be seen as taking care of the business side of river travel and leaving resource protection to the National Park Service. We must not be characterized as taking more than

we give back. And we must not look to the Park to make our case for us. Let's keep in mind that should one of our trips be evaluated, the very best equipment, highest quality guides, everything according to the commercial operating requirements in camp, the highest score we can receive is satisfactory. If I were to get a perfect score on a test in my classes and received a satisfactory C, I would hardly be happy. The Park is not our protector, we must take that role ourselves.

There are three areas in which we can take this initiative, three areas in which we can work together to make our industry shine, and take care of the Canyon as well:

Taking the lead in

environmental responsibility.

In the 1970's we were at the leading edge of environmental responsibility. While the rest of the country was worried about picking up beer cans we were picking up cigarette butts. We were some of the first to use firepans and carry out our human waste. Now, partly due to the education and example we gave to our passengers, the rest of the country has caught up, today firepans and low

impact camping are taken for granted, it's become the basis for satisfactory ratings. Is it possible that we have been resting on our laurels? If so we can do our best to take the lead again. GCRG has decided to initiate an aggressive industry wide recycling program in 1992. Our purpose is to organize all the companies and recycle everything possible, plastic, glass, steel, and paper as well as aluminum. It cannot be a matter of whether it's convenient or cost effective, it's the sort of leadership the public expects from us and we need your help. We will keep you informed on progress.

A more active role in resource management.

Many of you will remember when the industry organized and ran cleanup trips. We ran Camelthorn eradication trips. Each company adopted 20 miles of the Canyon to keep clean. Since that time we've slowly moved out of that partnership, leaving the protection of the Canyon to the Park. The issues and needs may be different today (no

*Is it possible that we have been resting on our laurels?
If so we can do our best to take the lead again.*

more grease pits in heavily used campsites) but there is lots that can be done. For one, upper Marble Canyon is a mess. It's not our fault but nothing is being done about it and we can help. It is the Grand Canyon and that's our responsibility. GCRG would like to work with you to organize industry supported resource management trips, in conjunction with NPS resource management, to take an active, visible role in maintaining the Canyon.

There is another point that deserves mention. As the industry drifted away from involvement in managing the resource, the Park allocated increasing money and energy into law enforcement on the river. This isn't coincidence. They increasingly view themselves as the managers and protectors, we as the managed. I doubt anyone in this room considers this trend to be good for the industry or for our visitor's experience. The more emphasis we place on resource protection, the more we become active in that protection, the less need there is for increased enforcement.

Take the initiative on problems that face our industry

We must be seen as taking a responsible role in solving the problems that confront our industry. These problems, perceived or real, will find solutions and we will live with those solutions. We will look the best if we take the initiative in arriving at those solutions. In addition these solutions are much more likely to be effective and easier for us to implement. Disposal of our human waste is a good example. For three years we have been aware that the NPS was concerned over dumping waste at municipal landfills. We defended our method, got agreements from our landfills to allow our dumping, and hoped it would go away. But the increased concern nationwide over solid waste problems and water quality should have made us realize that the concern would not fade away. You can bet the Park hasn't forgotten about it. I would not be surprised if sometime this afternoon or tomorrow morning the Park tells us what the solution will be. We will implement it, guides and outfitters, whether we like it or not, and receive none of the credit for the solution. We have failed to take this initiative.

We must be seen as taking a responsible role in solving the problems that confront our industry.

But there are other issues that we can address. The biggest of these is the issue of congestion on the river, especially during the summer months. If you don't think this is big, come to a Constituency meeting, it's always high on the agenda. Monitoring has been in place for a decade or more and Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), the Park tool to manage overuse, are in the Colorado River Management Plan. This concern will not go away. If we refuse to face this challenge soon, we will sit here again, two or three years from now, and listen to the Park's solution. We'll have no choice.

How painful is that solution likely to be? It won't be painless. The solution may be to micro-manage the

problem as detailed in the LACs by restricting access to certain camps and attractions at certain times, or by standardizing trip lengths, or even by assigning camps. Or if the pressure to solve the issue is strong enough there may be demand to macro-manage by reducing the numbers of visitors, most likely by cutting our user days. This is no more palatable for the guides than it is for you. We don't know the answer but we know it exists. We have some ideas as I imagine do you. There will be no painless solution, we must not expect that. But some will be less painful and disruptive than others and better allow us to continue with viable businesses and provide a better visitor experience.

We have a good relationship with the people in this room and we don't want to see the faces change. I guess we'd prefer the devil we know. A lot of work and sweat went into the businesses on the river, but we mustn't forget we owe the Grand Canyon as well. The better we take care of it, the better off we are. We need to protect both and we can. Your guides are committed to this. We plan an aggressive recycling program for 1992 that includes all companies. We're going to take a stab at a more active role in resource management such as keeping Marble Canyon clean. We'd like to address problems perceived in our industry and try to solve them. We need your help. The only way these things will work is for everyone to participate. We have some energy and ideas, we'd like to hear yours.

(Indeed, later that same afternoon Mark Law notified the outfitters of the new NPS plan for human waste disposal. See page 13 in this newsletter.)

Clash of the Titans

a story

Is it always light at 5AM in Arizona? I dunno. It is this morning, on Lake Mead, a quiet place and time, filled with rich, lakeside summer air. It is now barely light; a slow colorful dawn is patiently erupting behind the Grand Wash Cliffs, to the east. Your camp is nestled tight in a close wash, a steep wash cast in sharp-sided tiers made of loose, crumbly grey rock. The encampment is so tiny that your Grand Canyon tourboat--which measures 37' X 14' x 3 tons--is parked nearly in the kitchen, like a huge beached whale. Your 20 passengers are sleeping all around the kitchen, having no place else to lie flat; they are close-in, nearby, tight. It is very quiet. Then: a mighty thunderous crack--BAM!--shatters the stillness. Loud screams, screeching; you hear people scrambling for cover. Thus wrenched from a pleasant slumber on your boat, where you were sleeping deep and gentle and far away just now, this is what you see: two Brahma bulls squared off, butting horns in the middle of your...kitchen. The kitchen?! Really? In the space between your two tables--a place not 4' wide, 10' long?? The customers are fast scattering uphill onto various galleries where they perch in horror. You see this all from many corners of your early morning eyes. Again the mighty bulls crash into each other...BAM!! Snort--Snort, SNORT!!! Remarkable indeed: the kitchen tables still stand! Impossible, actually. The existing beef has exceeded all manner of available space. The two behemoths back up, eye each other strong. They charge. BA...BAM!! Snort!! Paw dust!! Everyone starts yelling. Cheering, really; the customers are cheering! The bulls realize they have an audience. Completely startled, they dart up the wash, disappearing in a dream-vapor of thundering dust, trampling several vacant sleeping bags in the rush. The tables stand proud, erect, upright, unscathed. You may light the stoves now, if you wish.

Shane Murphy



Courtesy Flyer Finally Flies !

On November 8, 1991, Dan Dierker, Vice President of GCRG represented us at the Colorado River Management Plan Constituency Panel meeting at Grand Canyon. The NPS, outfitters, and private boaters were also represented. Some important topics covered were:

- At long last, the Courtesy Flyer was approved by all parties and will be reviewed and printed by the Grand Canyon Natural History Association.
- Concern was expressed that the spirit of interim flow regulations have not been followed by BuRec. The NPS will begin monitoring releases to measure violations of interim flows.
- There is a new ramp south of the South Cove ramp for commercial river use. Any improvements beyond a basic roadway will be the responsibility of the outfitters.
- Greater participation in GCNP issues was strongly encouraged.



WANTED:

Vignettes of 500 words or less for the Newsletter. They should be of interest to the Grand Canyon community, guides, NPS, outfitters, passengers, environmental organizations. They should not be pieces that denigrate or demean any of the above mentioned parties. We're here to have fun, remember?

1991 Concessioner's/NPS Meeting

Here are the big issues:

On-river Evaluations:

There is a space for comments at the bottom of the river evaluation form. Apparently there is some disagreement over the weight of recommendations made in that section. Bruce Wadlington of Concessions stated that, unless the Company challenges the appropriateness of a recommendation, that recommendation should be treated as a regulation and complied with on all subsequent company trips. The question of whether or not a recommendation should carry the same weight as a regulation was raised.

Should any recommendation made by a NPS river ranger be blindly followed? No, problems on the river should be brought up in a forum such as the CRMP Constituency Panel. There all members of the river community can discuss the problems and their possible solutions. Regulations should be formulated in an open, public process, not open to the whims of any individual. It's an issue that we will follow.

Regs for Kayak Support Trips:

The river subdistrict announced its intention to formulate rules concerning kayak support trips. Proposed rules include limits on number of safety boaters and carrying capacity of rafts that accompany trips. The obvious question that comes up is: How much of a problem is this?

No doubt questions do arise over how these trips should be run, but we don't think more regulations are the answer. We support a set of "guidelines" to address these questions and make it the responsibility of the outfitter to justify any deviations. There will always be exceptions. To quote a familiar source: "Rules don't bend they break."

Human Waste Disposal:

The Park didn't forget the issue of waste disposal after all. Mark Law gave us the straight scoop. And it is... goodbye to the plastic bag human waste disposal system. There will be no dumping of waste in land fills by 1993. A surcharge will be placed on outfitters and privates to offset the cost of deposit systems at Diamond Creek and Lake Mead. The details and costs were not available.

A Postscript on Congestion: an idea

At the 1991 Concessioner Pre meeting, GCRC made a pitch for taking a greater role in initiative and leadership in solving the problems of the river and Canyon (see full text of talk on pg 10-11 of this issue) When the dust settled, the issue that produced the most debate was congestion on the river. Its an issue that won't go away and won't be solved by ignoring it. Not only is it a concern at Deer Creek, Havasu, and the LCR, but it creates a problem in getting launch dates, in finding a camp in Marble Canyon and in congestion at the takeouts. A number of suggestions to help were voiced by outfitters:

- Spread the use more evenly throughout the week.
- Spread the use over more months.
- Ask trip leaders to pass by crowded areas.
- Ask guides to adjust river schedules to reduce crowding.

The problem with solving the problem on the river is that, as trip lengths have slowly shortened and more exchange points have emerged, there is less time to adjust schedules on the river. Sometimes there are only a few hours to play with in an entire week trip. An idea came to mind:



Increase trip lengths.....

If we all added one day to each trip there would be:

- 15% fewer bodies in the Canyon
- 15% fewer launches at the Ferry
- 15% less competition for scarce camps
- Greater flexibility in river schedules
- The ability to utilize a greater variety of campsites

No solution is without pain, and this would force us all to change to some extent. But the pain is less than that inflicted by standardized trip lengths, assigned campsites, and a 15% cut in user days. These are the alternatives we face. Let's think about it.

Tom Moody

Remembering the WRGA

GCRG is not the first group of boatmen to gather a collective voice. Way back in the fifties in Salt Lake City, a bunch of boatmen, many of them young outfitters, formed the Western River Guides Association in an attempt to preserve, protect and defend the river industry and the rivers they ran. Their membership, power and activities grew rapidly and they took the initiative in many river management issues. By the late 1970's their semi-annual meetings had become quite the boater's event. But somewhere WRGA lost touch with the lowly boatman, becoming instead primarily an outfitter's organization. Eventually it ceased to exist altogether when it merged with Eastern Professional River Outfitters (EPRO) and became something called America Outdoors.

Roy Webb sent us a copy of his recent historical piece on the WRGA. His closing page carries lessons that we at GCRG would do well to heed:

Throughout its 40 year history, the Western River Guides Association was essentially caught in the grip of two different forces -- if the WRGA was an individual, it could almost be called schizophrenic. Drawing the membership together was the common bond shared by those who loved rivers, rapids and canyons, and liked to associate with fellow travelers. At the same time, causing it to split apart, there were deep (and in the end, irreconcilable) differences of philosophy among the membership. On the issue of who should have the greater voice in decisions affecting river runners, the guides or the outfitters, the membership of the WRGA was never able to agree. The user-day debate, motors vs. oars, even something as simple as whether there should be free beer at the social events, were all symptoms of this larger division. The outfitters were further divided among themselves; they might unite against the private river runners and government managers, but they were also businessmen, competitors for a fixed natural resource, and professional and personal jealousies often cancelled out any solidarity they might have gained in dealing with common enemies. The Western River Guides Association did accomplish many things, however, and too much emphasis should not be placed on the divisions within the organization. The

Association was instrumental in setting standards for river safety, equipment, and procedures. In this and many other matters, the leadership of the WRGA anticipated government regulations by many years, and when the various river management agencies needed advice on things ranging from what type of boat could safely run the Grand Canyon to how deep the hole for a pit toilet should be, they turned to the WRGA. Despite any differences of philosophy, the members of the WRGA, guides and outfitters alike, united against threats to rivers such as the proposed dams in the Grand Canyon, the McPhee Dam on the Dolores River, the New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River in California, and many others. Dismayed by the peaking power proposals of the Bureau of Reclamation for the Glen Canyon Dam, WRGA helped lay the groundwork for the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies, which are being conducted today and promise to change the entire philosophy of management of dammed rivers by the Bureau of Reclamation. Members of WRGA introduced thousands of Americans to the joys of river running, the thrill of a rapid well run, the peace of a riverside camp. And they left fond memories of many enjoyable meetings over the years, times that are still talked about wherever river runners gather. For these things, more than any debates, however heated, the Western River Guides Association should be remembered.

Roy Webb, 1991



Just FYI:

Dr. Roderick Nash, of UC Santa Barbara, is now on the GCES Scientific Advisory Committee, which is in charge of reviewing all of the science that Dave Wegener is coordinating in the Canyon. He has offered to take any guide's or other member's opinion on what should be done in the Canyon to the meetings of the Glen Canyon Committee. Contact him with opinions, viewpoints, solutions (please!), etc. at: 4731 Calle Reina, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or by phone at 805-964-7311.

Dusty Old Treasures -- The GCRG Archives

This January, GCRG will make the first installment of its Archives, to be housed at the Special Collections Library at Northern Arizona University. It's becoming very clear that this organization is in a unique place in river running history, and that we should begin to preserve that history before it is lost.

Why set up an Archives just for river guides? It's not just about GCRG. Our organization does have records of the work that we have done in river running that are of great importance historically. But beyond that, as guides, outfitters and people who love the Canyon, not just members of GCRG, there is an incredible history stored away in the form of photographs, letters, slides, journals, videos, movies...all manner of information that will help interested people learn about river running and the Canyon.

Why store the Archives in some dusty old library? Why not just keep them ourselves? NAU Special Collections has facilities for caring for paperwork and photographs that will ensure that these items will last for decades. Our old shoeboxes can't guarantee that. Keeping the Archives at NAU also means that anyone who wants to can go there and study the collections, for research or just for interest. No one can check anything out, meaning that things won't disappear.

Why NAU? Special Collections specializes in the Colorado Plateau, and they already house the collections of the Kolb Brothers (see Unsolved Mysteries, in this newsletter), Harvey Butchart and Georgie. We'll be in good company!

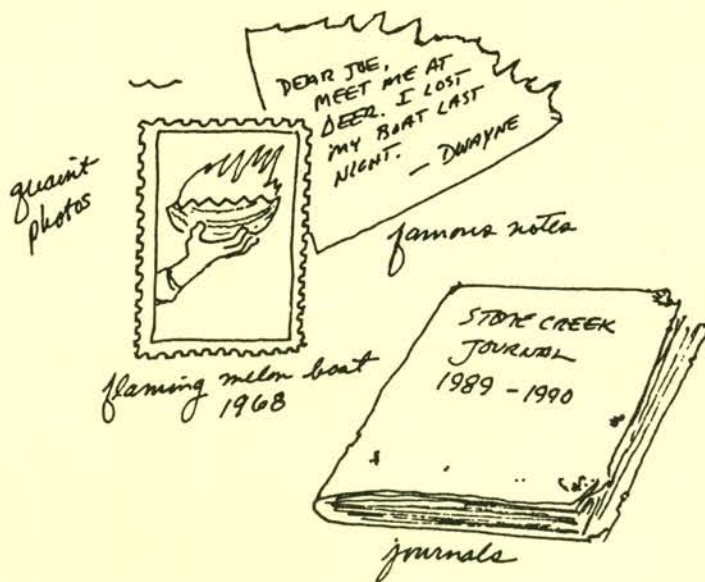
What will the Archives consist of? This is where all of you come in. The Archives will contain all of the GCRG company records (newsletters, meeting minutes, GTS materials, policy statements, publications, etc.), but what really will make this collection special will be the things that we can find "out there", in the river running community. We are making a call for things of historical value to river running: photographs of the river, outfitters and their boats, camp life and equipment, rapids, side canyons, information on important events, like Georgie's party or the 1983 high water season, videos, films, letters, journals, anything that will

help people understand the past, present and future of river running. You should send things to GCRG, we will be making regular donations to Special Collections.

Remember, once something goes into Special Collections, you can't get it back, so you can send us copies of photographs or letters if you prefer to keep the originals. Please send all pertinent information with the item, such as who, what, when, where, why, etc. We will ask you to sign one of our release forms for the records. Remember, you don't have to be a member of GCRG to donate something to the Archives.

There may be some important offshoot projects that arise from this in the future. We are looking into having individual photographs taken of all the guides, and doing oral histories with guides and outfitters, past and present. We'll keep in touch. If you have questions, call or write to me at GCRG. Send any materials for the collection to us labeled "Archives".

--Christa Sadler



Read Your Copy of Down the River Lately?

Ron Harris, writer and avid Lee's Ferry-ophile, is researching an article on Ed Abbey. He needs to hear from anyone who knew him in any capacity, went down the river with him, or has stories about him, anecdotal or otherwise. Contact him at 1703 East Rovey Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85016, or by phone at 602-277-7505.

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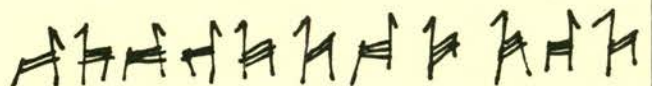


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Recycling: The Good News

SMASH the cans
BASH the tin and steel
SQUASH the cardboard
SLOSH out the glass and plastic

Ahh! The sounds of recycling. The satisfying feeling of reducing the trash and knowing the process helps us all by saving energy and cutting pollution. The good news is that it's beginning to catch on everywhere. Here's a spotlight on one group.

Thanks to the initiative taken by Kris Campitelli and the action of the management, the boatmen and the workers at the OARS/Dories, and GCES warehouse, everything that could be recycled was saved, processed and taken to a local recycling warehouse. The savings to our environment are astounding. Following are some estimates from Kris of the impact made by this group alone:

By recycling cardboard and using recycled paper, they saved:

- *136 trees
- *56,000 gallons of water

By recycling aluminum rather than producing it from scratch:

- *air pollution was cut by 95%
- *energy was saved by 95%
- *20,000 pounds of aluminum bauxite were saved

By recycling glass they saved:

- *2660 pounds of sand
- *866 pounds of limestone
- *302 pounds of feldspar

Many other river companies and individuals are working equally hard to recycle—and that's great! It takes some effort and the immediate rewards are small, at best (a handful of change for a sack of crushed cans, or the physical release from smashing them!). But the long-term rewards are infinite—recycling saves materials and energy, it cuts waste and pollution. The push for recycling can lead to industries making more recyclables, reusables and rechargeables. Ultimately recycling can have a positive impact on issues like the greenhouse effect and acid rain. We can make a difference! Plastics can be recycled, so can tin and steel. (More things than you might imagine!) GET INTO IT!

Alida Dierker

Tricks of the Trade

"...back in the old days a person'd ask a guide a question and ninety percent of the time they'd be sure and get a line of B.S. Anymore, ask a question, and you not only get an answer, you're likely to get a lecture!" --Vaughn Short

Good interpretation has become an essential tool in providing the best possible river experience. It's amazing how much we're learning about the Canyon... and there's always more to learn. Passing this stuff along is our job, finding creative ways to express ourselves makes it fun. Guides are always coming up with new tricks to help people understand. On the water we're bending willow twigs, drawing time lines in the sand, telling stories, creating analogies, inventing geologic neumonics, pointing and waving.

Every guide has different material to work with, and we don't get the same opportunity that our passengers have to ride on all our buddies' boats all day. So we want to know what you say. It's river mile 70-something, suddenly the geology has changed from the Paleozoic pancake stack to the Pre-Cambrian mess. How do you explain this to your passenger up there in the bow who asks? Tell us what you say in your "spiels" about the Canyon.

Whether you're John Hance or Dr. Science, you've got a story to tell. Let's hear it. "Tricks of the Trade" will become a regular column in the newsletter, featuring your interpretive talks about....anything and everything. Some ideas? The Great Unconformity, South Canyon, Unkar Delta, trout, travertine, Stanton's Cave, rapids, cliffs and slopes, the Watchtower, the Hance Mine, the color of the water, how deep is the river, peregrines, eagles, side streams, blah, blah, blah. we could go on and on, but we'd rather you do that. Send us your 500-word column to:

Fritz

GCRG
Tricks of the Trade
P.O. Box 1934
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Wanted.....Old Photographs of sand bars

- Badger Creek Rapids
- Between River Miles 51-56
- Between River Miles 60-72
- Cove Canyon to Red Slide (area viewed from Toroweap

We are compiling a detailed photographic history of sand and debris fan change in these reaches using repeat photography. We are particularly interested in acquiring photographs that were taken just before or after high dam discharges that occurred in 1965, 1980, 1983, and 1984, especially at Badger.

Ideally photos should be from shore so that they can be relocated. If you have such photos and would like to share them with us please contact:

Jack Schmidt
Dept. of Geography
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-5240
(801) 750-1790

Robert Webb
USGS
1675 W. Anklam Rd
Tucson, AZ 85705
(602)670-6821

Unsolved Mysteries

Do you have an eye for identifying photographs of places in the Grand Canyon and along the Colorado River? We need your help! Emery C. Kolb and his brother, Ellsworth, took over 250,000 photographs between 1902 and 1976.

Many of these photos are an historical record of pre-dam Colorado River conditions and are an invaluable reference to show change over time--if they can be rephotographed. But only 11,370 are catalogued and available for study by researchers. The knowledge of Grand Canyon guides and river runners can help. Join the first GCRG "Name That Kolb Photo" get-together at Cline Library Special Collections and Archives (on South Campus, NAU), on Saturday, December 14, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. To better prepare, please call Elaine Sutherland, Curator of Photography, at Cline Library (523-9150), to let us know if you plan to come. Future group dates can be scheduled if there is more interest, and if you can't make it on Saturday, but would like to make a separate appointment, please do!

Nancy Brian
774-9203

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- * *Protecting the Grand Canyon.*
- * *Setting the highest standards for the river profession.*
- * *Providing the best possible river experience.*

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You want a T-shirt?

Sorry the fabulous GCRG T-shirts are all sold out! Well a few lonely mediums still reside in the office, so if the shirt fits, so to speak, buy it. The rest of you will have to wait for the all new, never to be equalled 1992 GCRG T-shirt. Can't wait can you? Sit on your hands, you'll just have to. Thanks.

Dear Eddy . . .

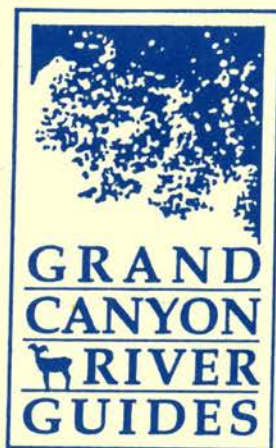
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Artifacts! You name it! We want it. Write:
Letters to the Editor
GCRG
P.O. Box 1934
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In the Footsteps of Giants...

It's time to nominate someone for the 2nd Annual Michael Jacobs' Award.

In case you don't recall, the award is given to someone who has performed outstanding service to the River and the Canyon. The 1991 winner was our one and only Tom Workman, without whom Lee's Ferry would have been just another place to start a river trip. It'll be tough to pick a successor to Tom, but there are some really good folks out there who deserve to be recognized.

Send us your nominations by Feb. 1, 1992. Please include a 50-word statement about your nominee.



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