

boatman's quarterly review

the journal of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc volume 17 number 4 winter 2004-2005



Big Eddy

David A Haskell

Prez Blurb • Farewells • River Widow • Draft EIS/CRMP
Masquerade Ball • Book Reviews • Powell Centennial • Lake What-a-Huge-e?
Howland Island • Fall Meeting • Adopt-a-Beach • Whale Foundation • WFR

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...is published more or less quarterly
by and for Grand Canyon River Guides.

Grand Canyon River Guides
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

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

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

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

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

Deadlines for submissions are the 1st of February, May, August and November. Thanks.
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Prez Blurp— Interesting Times Ahead

AFTER I FINISHED the article on the Draft Colorado River Management Plan, the National Park Service (NPS) released another series of documents on the CRMP website with some more information—posters and handouts for the series of public meetings. If you missed the meetings, you might want to take a look at these; they contain some more of the details that were left out of the 813-page primary document.

While I'm just beginning to digest these, I did find one thing of interest: some of the questions I'd emailed the planning team about how various features were going to work are now being asked of the general public. For example, with respect to the proposed registration process to measure demand:

“As part of the registration process, what questions would you like to see asked, and what data would you like to see recorded?”

and

“What safeguards could be put in place to help ensure people do not artificially stack the system or generate additional demand?”

Measuring demand to adjust the split allocation is a pretty central part of the Colorado River Management Plan, yet it appears the NPS still doesn't know how this will work. The outfitters are pretty alarmed, and for good reason: while they could lose summer launches to the non-commercial sector, it would be impossible to get them all back again, assuming changes are made under this system. This will adversely impact their businesses, our jobs, and access to the canyon for the folks who depend on, and enjoy, the services we provide.

On another subject, there's been an exciting development in the form of another experimental flood, a couple days before Thanksgiving: 41,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) for sixty hours beginning on November 20TH.

After the criteria for triggering an experimental flood was set, we had a couple of low runoff years in which the sediment contribution from the Paria river fell below expectations, making the sediment researchers wonder if they were ever going to get their flood.

The beaches in Grand Canyon continue to dwindle, and recent research has show that the campsite area

above the 25,000 CFS waterline has decreased significantly in the past couple years, in large part due to the encroachment of vegetation. At the same time, lower summer flows have been steadily chewing away at beaches currently in use, down next to the river's edge, while the sediment entering the system above Marble Canyon continues to wash on through to Lake Mead, where it's not needed.

Meanwhile, the power people were wondering about the impact of a possible flood on power revenues, which are already down due to the lower surface level of Lake Powell. The plan was that once the sediment trigger was reached—measured in tons of silt and sand washed out of the mouth of the Paria River over the season—flows would be reduced to a steady 8,000 CFS for the remainder of the year, and the experimental flood would happen early in the new year. But the steady 8,000 CFS would prevent fluctuating flows during the month of December, when the Bureau of Reclamation would produce some valuable revenue.

Having seen the prospects of a Beach and Habitat Building Flow all but disappear at a recent meeting of the Adaptive Management Work Group, our sediment advocates came up with the idea to do the flood earlier, which would achieve the dual purposes of getting sediment up high before it could wash out of the system, and at the same time allowing resumption of fluctuating flows during the months of December where the power people could gain some badly needed revenue.

Mother nature also cooperated, with a couple late season storms helping push the contributions of the Paria River to the stage triggering the flood. As I write this, Matt Kaplinsky is packing his bags to go monitor the flood and document the results.

And the drought continues. Total unregulated inflow to Lake Powell in water year 2004 was only 51 percent of average. Unregulated inflow in water years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 was 62, 59, 25, and 51 percent of average, respectively. Although water year 2005 is off to a good start in September and October, as of November 8, 2004, the current elevation of Lake Powell is 3,570.5 feet (129.5 feet from full pool). Current storage is 9.2 million acre-feet (38 percent of live capacity); current projections show the lake reaching an elevation of about 3,565 feet on January 1, 2005. Of course, lake levels will continue to decline until the runoff picks up again, usually in April.

Lately, there's been speculation about what happens next if the drought continues. Jeri Ledbetter recently said, "When I went to work for Glen Canyon Institute, we set out to drain Lake Powell. When I left, we were halfway there!" If the above forecast for January is right, we'll be 75 feet above the level at which power plant operations will have to shut down—3490 feet elevation—a scenario the pessimists see happening

in as little as two years. If the drought continues, the optimists ("faith-based climatologists?") hope it takes at least few more years, and occurs under a Democratic administration, so they can blame it on Bill Clinton, or perhaps Hillary, and let them take the rap for the inevitable tax increases. Loss of power-plant revenue will be a serious fly in the ointment, to the tune of nearly \$2 million a week.

When Lake Powell is high, Glen Canyon Dam hydropower generates about 75 percent of all the revenue of the entire Colorado River Storage Project, as much as \$95 million a year. As you might imagine, that buys a lot of stuff—including dam maintenance and operations here and elsewhere, all those pesky scientists and their projects, programs for native species, to mention a few things—actually when you add it all up, it's a pretty long list.

And then there's all those thirsty folks downstream, still expecting their seven and a half million acre feet per year, even though in recent years the inflow has been between 4 and 5 million acre-feet. Recent studies of southwestern paleoclimates suggest that drought conditions might persist another ten, twenty, or more years—long enough to exhaust the rest of the "live" storage behind Glen Canyon Dam.

If the power plant shuts down, it's still possible to release water through the four eight-foot diameter river outlet "jet-tubes" and drain Lake Powell as low as 3374 feet to utilize another 116 feet of water stored below the power plant intakes. After that, there's no way to drain any more. Seven and a half million acre feet is a steady 11,000 CFS year around release, well within the capacity of the river outlets, and plenty of water for Colorado River trips.

But the storage remaining below the point at which the current power plant operates is definitely limited, and if the rains don't return, it will make sense to think about cutting back releases to a steady state operation—water in, minus some withdrawals (minor) and evaporation (significant), equals the water out for the lower basin—and hope that all the folks downstream can learn to cope. The alternative, turning the river off (or lowering the lake to a level where there is no way to release any more, which amounts to the same thing) is unthinkable.

The lower basin states have already started talking about who is going to get what, if the rains don't resume and Glen Canyon Dam is forced into some sort of steady state operation. Based on the last few years, that could be something more on the order of four million acre-feet annually, equivalent to a steady state release a little less than 6,000 CFS year round.

Now there's talk of building a new power plant that could utilize water from the river outlets, and generate at least some revenue to ease the transition a

bit, at least as far as power revenues are concerned. And this is where it starts to get really interesting, because that would mean fluctuating flows—“load following” or “peaking power”—to maximize revenues. Daily lows could easily slip well under 5,000 cfs, low enough to make motorized boating problematical, and a two week rowing trip into an endurance contest. Of course, everyone would try to make the best of the daily peak flows, but at some point downstream they’d be going by in the middle of the night.

It’s impossible to guess the likelihood of this “worst case scenario,” but every year the drought continues and lake levels decline it makes it seem more possible. It could be that in the worst of all possible worlds, the water

for river trips will run out before the current controversies over carrying capacity, allocation, allotment, motors, wilderness, and the non-commercial permit system are resolved to everyone’s satisfaction.

On a lighter note, if you missed the GCRG Fall Meeting and/or the Historic Boat Project Masquerade Ball later the same day, you can read about them elsewhere in this issue. And if you want to look at some of the costumes in glorious color, you can find them at the following website: www.geocities.com/shioshya/thumbs/untitled.htm

Drifter Smith



Along the Palisades

David A Haskell

Dear Eddy

IN REFERENCE “FAREWELLS: BOB SHARP” BY DIANE BOYER
AND “DON BRIGGS” BY LEW STEIGER IN BQR 17:3.

CONNECTIONS

MORE LIKELY THAN NOT, most of us have experienced situations when some unexpected connection shows up between our lives and those of others. The Fall 2004 BQR contained no less than two such connections for me.

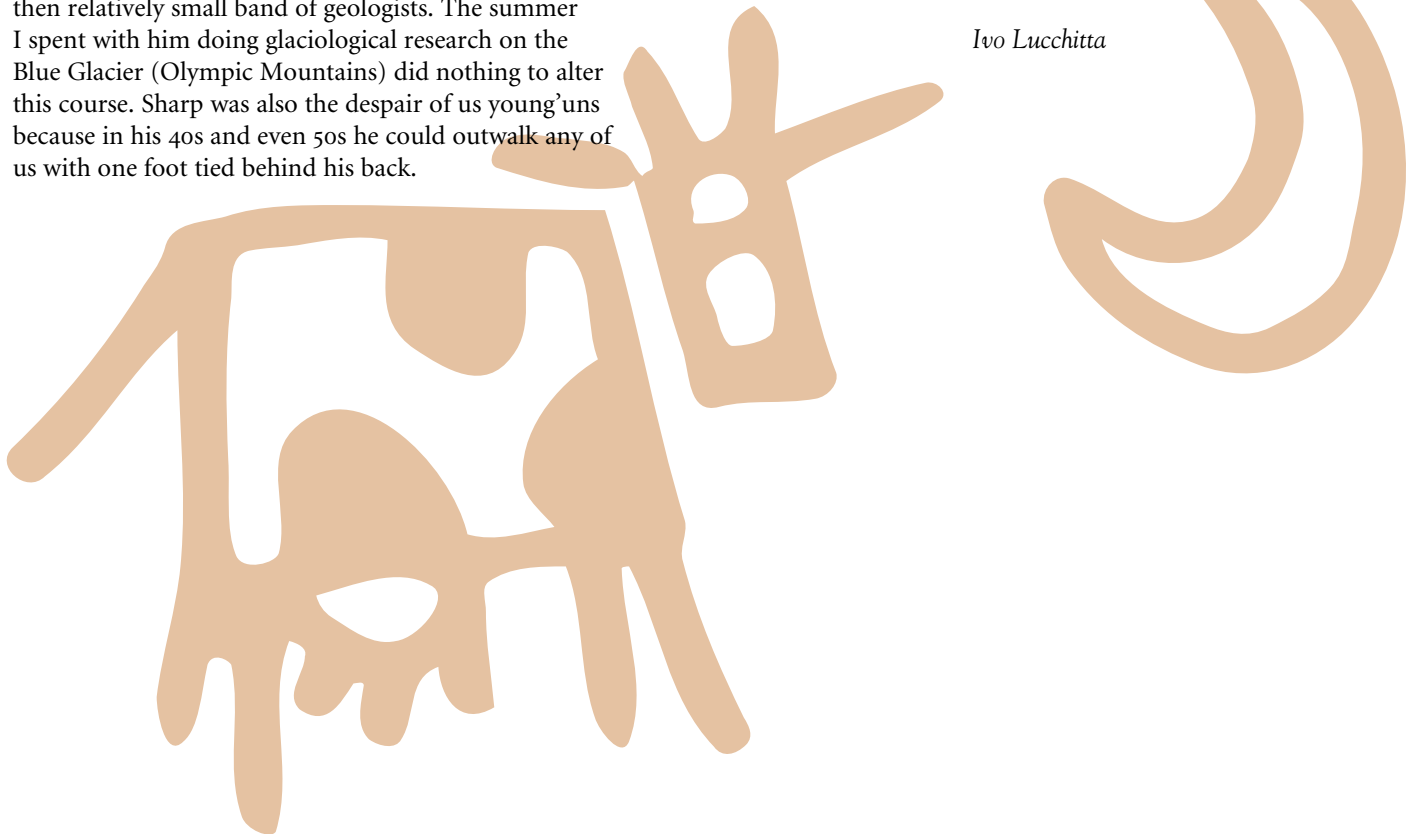
The first has to do with Bob Sharp, whose obituary was run in that issue. Many years ago, I was preoccupied with physics, but had to take required courses in other sciences such as Astronomy and Geology. These were pretty heady courses—Linus Pauling was my Chemistry professor, Fred Hoyle took care of Astronomy, and the likes of Feynman and Gell-Mann hovered about in quantum fashion. Well, Bob Sharp was the Geology guy, and what he did was nothing short of magic. There, suddenly, the world around me changed from a barely-noticed entity to a book that spoke with eloquence, clarity, and beauty. What’s more, even my sluggish synapses realized that here was a way of doing research, making a living, and generally having a great deal of fun outside instead of in some dark room or lab. There was no going back; Sharp is the one who inflicted me on the then relatively small band of geologists. The summer I spent with him doing glaciological research on the Blue Glacier (Olympic Mountains) did nothing to alter this course. Sharp was also the despair of us young’uns because in his 40s and even 50s he could outwalk any of us with one foot tied behind his back.

The other connection is the article on Don Briggs, believe it or not. It appears that Don’s first trip down the Grand Canyon was as an assistant to a certain Alan Wilson, aka Crazy Al. And it so happens that the first Canyon research trip I was involved in—1972 I think it was—consisted of a single ARTA snout-rig rowed by Crazy Al. “Rowed” is a bit of an exaggeration, actually. The damn thing carried nine people, I think, tons of geologic gear, even more beer, and a great deal of miscellaneous items. It went where it wanted, including sideways into the hole at House Rock and down the left at Bedrock. In exchange, it gave the smoothest ride imaginable by taking the median path between wave crests and troughs in rapids. Through it all, Crazy Al (we called him “Spider”) kept his aplomb, magnificently garbed in an emerald muumuu and a floppy hat that would have graced Henry VIII’s head. But not in Lava. At the first lateral in Lava, a black bag rose up from the depths and firmly coiled its tentacles on Spider’s left oar. Spider fought a mighty battle with tentacles and bag throughout the entire rapid, a latter-day Laocoon. And the run? Perfect. Who says you need a boatman ? (Shhhh!).

Well, over the years I have asked many people if they knew Crazy Al. None ever did. And now there he is in the BQR, resplendent in text and photo. Life is good.

Here’s one to you, Spider!

Ivo Lucchitta



Farewells

BOB FLAMME

BOB FLAMME started running the Colorado River sometime in the early to mid-1980s, first supporting scientific research trips as a boatman, then quickly evolving into a permanent fixture on science and private trips on the Colorado and San Juan Rivers. It did not take long for him to develop a deep love for the Grand Canyon. Bob became a proud member of Grand Canyon River Guides and accepted every opportunity to spend time at GCRG functions.



Bob was also an avid Canyon explorer and hiker. There was an ever-pleasant appreciation of the beauty and serenity of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River in Bob's expression. Bob passed away among this beauty on October 10, 2004 at age 75, while hiking the Spencer Trail at Lees Ferry; a truly poetic ending to his time on earth.

Kenneth Carothers

[JUST ONE BOB FLAMME STORY...]

ONE DAY, while driving his motorized snout-rig on a private trip in Grand Canyon, Bob pulled into the mouth of the Little Colorado River, where a number of other boats were parked while their passengers were off hiking. Being of a friendly and social disposition, he wandered over to a large motor-rig, and struck up a conversation with the guy who was driving it.

"How's it going?" Bob says.

"Terrible!" replied the guide, "I hit a rock back up in 'the roaring twenties' and broke part of the frame that supports the transom. It's starting to look like the transom won't survive the trip, and if it falls off I'll lose the motor and the boat will be inoperable. I'll probably get fired if I ever get back off the river." The guy looked pretty miserable.

"Why don't you show me what's broke" Bob says.

The guy in the boat says, "Well, if you want to take a look, come on back here."

Bob climbs to the back of the boat, leans down, and sizes up the broken frame. After a bit he straightens up and says, "Well, that sure looks like it could be fixed with a little bit of welding."

The guide, knowing he's hundreds of miles and too many days from the nearest welding shop, is almost in tears as he replies, "Yeah, but I doubt it will hang together long enough to get me to the takeout."

Bob, as you'll recall, sounded a bit like he was retarded when he spoke. It seems that when he was young, his native intelligence was seriously "misunderestimated" (as "W" would say) and Bob was assigned

to special education classes. Consequently, he became socialized with the retarded kids, and acquired mannerisms that misled people when they first met him. Bob was also inordinately fond of beer...

So, it's not surprising that when Bob said, "Would you give me a beer if I fixed that for you?" the guy with the broken frame, sizing up Bob for some sort of older lunatic type who has mysteriously materialized at the mouth of the LCR, was dumfounded.

Finally he blurts out, "If you can fix that I'll give you all the beers you can drink."

Bob replied, "Better start setting them up—I'll be right back" and headed off to where he'd parked his rig.

In a few moments he returned, outfitted with welders gloves, dark goggles, and a carrying a portable oxy-acetylene welding outfit. After a lifetime of fixing things, Bob was never too far from his tools.

By the time all the passengers returned to their boat, everything was ship shape again, Bob had quenched his thirst with a liberal quantity of ice cold beer, and the astonished guide knew that sometimes miracles really do happen in the depths of Grand Canyon.

(I've forgotten who told me this story. I hope I haven't butchered it too badly.)

Drifter Smith

RON HAYES, one of the founders of Wilderness World passed away on October 1, after suffering a subdural hematoma as the result of a fall near his Malibu home. He was 75 years old.

Ron was born in 1929 to Marion de Rode Brune and Sam Hayes. Both of his parents were very involved in theater and acting, which was an influence that stayed with Ron his entire life. Ron attended Stanford University from 1949–1952 and graduated with a degree in foreign relations. It was here that he met a young Slovak student, Vladimir Kovalik, who would become his best friend for life. Ron and “Vlado” both had a passion for climbing and were deeply involved in the Stanford Alpine Club. Together they had countless adventures in the Sierras and beyond.

After graduating from Stanford, Ron spent a year and a half as a Marine Lt. in Korea during the war. After the war he settled in the San Jose area and worked for ksjo radio. During this time he and his wife Joan had three children, Vanessa, Peter and Heidi.

In 1957 the siren call of Hollywood was strong and Ron moved his family to the land of showbiz. With his theater background, resonant voice and handsome looks it wasn’t long before he was making regular appearances on almost every western/adventure/detective show, eventually logging guest roles in over a hundred different shows. He starred in four series over the years, including *The Everglades*, *The Rounders*, *Lassie* and *The Western Outdoorsman*.

Ron was heavily involved in the Sierra Club and was part of David Brower’s inner circle during the fight to save the Grand Canyon from the dams. It was on one of these trips that he and Vladimir decided to make their living as river outfitters.

Thus was born Wilderness World, a joint venture between Ron, Vladimir, and Nada Kovalik in 1970. All three of them were devout environmentalists, before the notion was popular, and, with Vladimir’s skill at designing cutting edge boats and gear as well as their commitment to running intimate, oar powered trips, a legend was born. Wilderness World soon had the contract with the Sierra Club to lead their Grand Canyon

and other trips. Ron headed up the Canyon crew through the mid-1970s.

Although Ron officially left Wilderness World in 1976 to return to his acting career, he continued to be instrumental in some outstanding Canyon trips. In 1977 Ron organized a very special trip featuring guest speakers David Brower and Mark Dubois. Those of us lucky

enough to be there will never forget sitting on the beach at the Marble Canyon dam site as David Brower spoke about the battle to save the Grand Canyon along with the resulting loss of Glen Canyon. As the tears poured forth, each and every person there was moved in a fundamental way never to give up the fight to save our sacred and special places.

Ron was a lifelong environmental activist and was one of the principal founders of Earth Day, helping launch the first Earth Day celebration in 1970. He was always involved in both local and national battles to save our environment from developers, dammers, and the like. He continued to get down to the Big Ditch on private trips every few years through the late nineties.

I never tired of watching Ron convey his love of the natural world to the clients on later Wilderness World trips. It was his

mission to pass on his love of the canyons, rivers, and mountains to everyone he met. The actor in Ron was always present. He could captivate people with the way he spoke and carried himself. Sometimes this could be quite amusing. Anyone who ever scouted a rapid with Ron will always remember the way he would regally stand, perfectly straight and tall, one hand on his hip, the other arm extended fully as he pointed out the route. It was as if he was on camera, even though I don’t think he was aware of it, and the other guides would all smile and wink at each other as the clients “oohed” and “ahhed.”

Ron is survived by his three children and five grandchildren. His activism and river adventures live on in all of them. He remains a great influence for so many and leaves a legacy of joy for those of us lucky enough to have known him. May he always have stout oars in his hands, a beautiful canyon ahead and the wind at his back.



Vladimir Kovalik and Ron Hayes circa July 1995 on a private trip in Grand Canyon.

Kyle Kovalik

Announcements

FOUND

Pentax Camera found at Deer Creek on August 9. It was in a cloth bag with a woven design of a river in Nepal. There were a couple of rolls of film too. Call Jon Stoner at ARR (928) 527-0269 to claim.

FOUND

Nikon N65 camera in a case with zoom lens at North Canyon on September 20. Contact Jon Stoner at ARR (928) 527-0269 to claim.

FOUND

I found a wedding ring at Silver Grotto a few years ago and attempted to use this list to find the owner. I received a very firm letter from the NPS demanding I immediately turn it into the park.

Apparently anything found must by law be turned into the NPS. I sent it to them and requested that if it was unclaimed that it be returned to me and lo and behold it was.

So, if anyone lost a woman's wedding band a few years ago at Silver Grotto contact me and I will return it. Rich Bryant at dsrtrats@infowest.com.

NEW DEAL FOR GUIDES

Outdoor Prolink, a new company, is the premier online resource for outdoor professionals. As a guide you're going to be able to get access to gear, news, and other related resources which will make your life easier. Apply now and you'll be immediately entered to win some great prizes from CAMP-USA, Gregory, Indigo Equipment, Optic Nerve, Macpac, Franklin Handholds and Mountainsmith! To sign up go to www.OutdoorProlink.com.

JOBS AVAILABLE

Canyoneers, Inc. is interviewing for dedicated Grand Canyon river guide crew members and Certified, Grand Canyon motor trip leaders. All applicants must have a current WFR or CPR, or be registered for a class which you will complete before employment begins. Since we are primarily a motorized company doing a limited number of rowing trips, we request that only persons interested in running motorized trips apply. Strong interpretive skills covering Grand Canyon human history, biology, archaeology, and geology are a real plus! Our season is from April through September. We are interested in folks who can work the entire season, but especially April, May, the first part of June, and mid-August through mid-September. We are looking for boatmen and women who can work in harmony as a team, and who value and possess personal integrity. We offer a competitive payscale which includes both river and shop work and offer a variety of benefits. Candidates should contact Joy Staveley at Canyoneers, Inc. Please send a resume to Joy at joy@canyoneers.com or by mail to:

Joy Staveley
c/o Canyoneers, Inc.
PO Box 2997
Flagstaff, AZ 86003

Please include references with name and phone number or mailing address. Please indicate a phone number where you can be contacted at the time you submit your resume.

River Widow

YOU'VE ALL HEARD and memorized the stories of the first, brave boatmen on Grand Canyon, as well as the stories of yourselves, the strong men and gutsy women who've followed in their footsteps. But you might be interested to listen for a moment to the perspective of another group who's involved in the guiding life, if only from a distance—the wives, the girlfriends, the lovers, the “significant others,” left behind entire months of the year—the river widows.

“River widow” sounds so sad. The “wife at home,” and the “girlfriend” sounds possessive, somehow. We seem like a quiet, brooding group. And while we're definitely not a bunch of pining wimps (we don't use up a box of Kleenex every time our men leave), we do dampen the sleeve of our shirts sometimes, as you drive off in your trucks with your oars on top and your ammo cans rattling. We do slam the door on the way into the house. We're angry and jealous and want to tell you a few things, but aren't sure how to start.

First of all, don't take this news wrong; just listen and learn something. Know that we love you, and that we love your love for the River. We like that gentle part of you, your tie to the earth and to something spiritual. We like how your eyes sort of glaze over when you're on the river, staring at the red cliffs and sunset. We imagine you *must* be thinking something profound and poetic, and your quietness makes us sure. We like that you know how to cook, can talk about plants and rocks and politics, and we like that you're good with people. We love that you love the River but we still have trouble feeling content when you go, for a number of reasons. For example:

You don't call. The fact that you *can't* call doesn't remedy this problem. You need to be aware that we can still feel you *not* calling and that emotion knows no excuses. We think you don't care. If you think about us, we don't know it, so we assume otherwise.

You don't write. The fact that you can only mail a letter at Phantom Ranch and we wouldn't get it until after you get back doesn't remedy this problem. We can feel you *not* writing and that emotion knows no excuses. See above.

You are with other women. The fact that you are faithful and true and (perhaps) not even attracted to either the boatwomen or the clients doesn't remedy this problem. We can feel you having *experiences* with other women and that emotion knows no excuses. We imagine them with their shirts off on the beach, arching their backs and tossing their hair in the sun, warming their goosebumped, tanning skin from a day in the rapids, bathing away the dirt while you make

peach cobbler in the Dutch oven. We imagine them admiring you—the guide—how hard admiration is to ignore and how full of intensity becomes the friendship that has an inevitable time limit. We may imagine “things” happening. More importantly and seriously, we imagine you spending quality time in a beautiful place with some faceless, (okay, also topless) person. And the images grow and morph and paint themselves in all the colors of our insecurity because you *don't call or write* to reassure us otherwise.

(I have to interrupt this tirade to also admit that I have no idea what the experience is like for men whose girlfriends or wives are guides, who leave them behind on the doorstep for repeated weeks at a time. Is their experience even harder? Are their ever-transforming images even more vivid? Or do their minds have a way of staying grounded somehow? Someone else will have to write about that...)

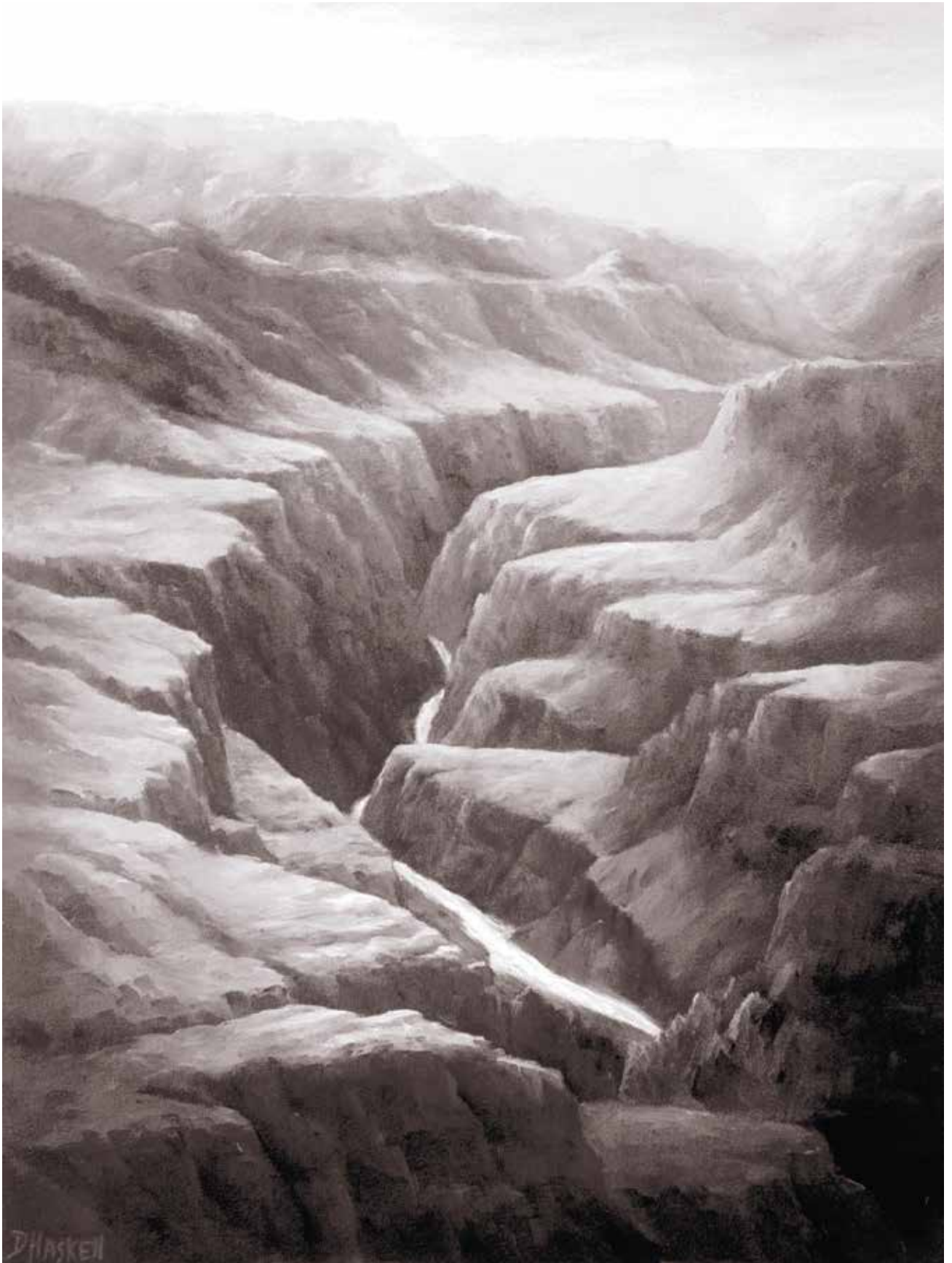
Whoever we are, left back home, we go to work (or take care of kids, or keep the business going), pay bills, keep track of our 401k, drive in traffic, eat at the desk, watch the news, go to sleep cold, and don't understand why our lives have to be so lame and boring and stressful all at once while you actually get that excited, giddy, adventurous look on your face when you're heading off to do what *you* do for a living. We are unspeakably jealous. And while some of us become guides ourselves because we don't like that feeling and know we belong on the river too, others of us know being a river guide isn't our calling. We aren't actually sure what our calling *is*; no one has called us yet. So we go through a major life assessment every time we wave you goodbye.

We live for a couple days or weeks in this mode, this craziness, and you never have any idea we go through it. But irony rules the world. Thus, the very day you are scheduled to get off the river, sometimes even the day before that, we get used to you being gone. We have just gone out for a drink with friends and are barely in the door, when you call.

“Hey! I'm off the river! I wanted to call you first thing! How are you?”

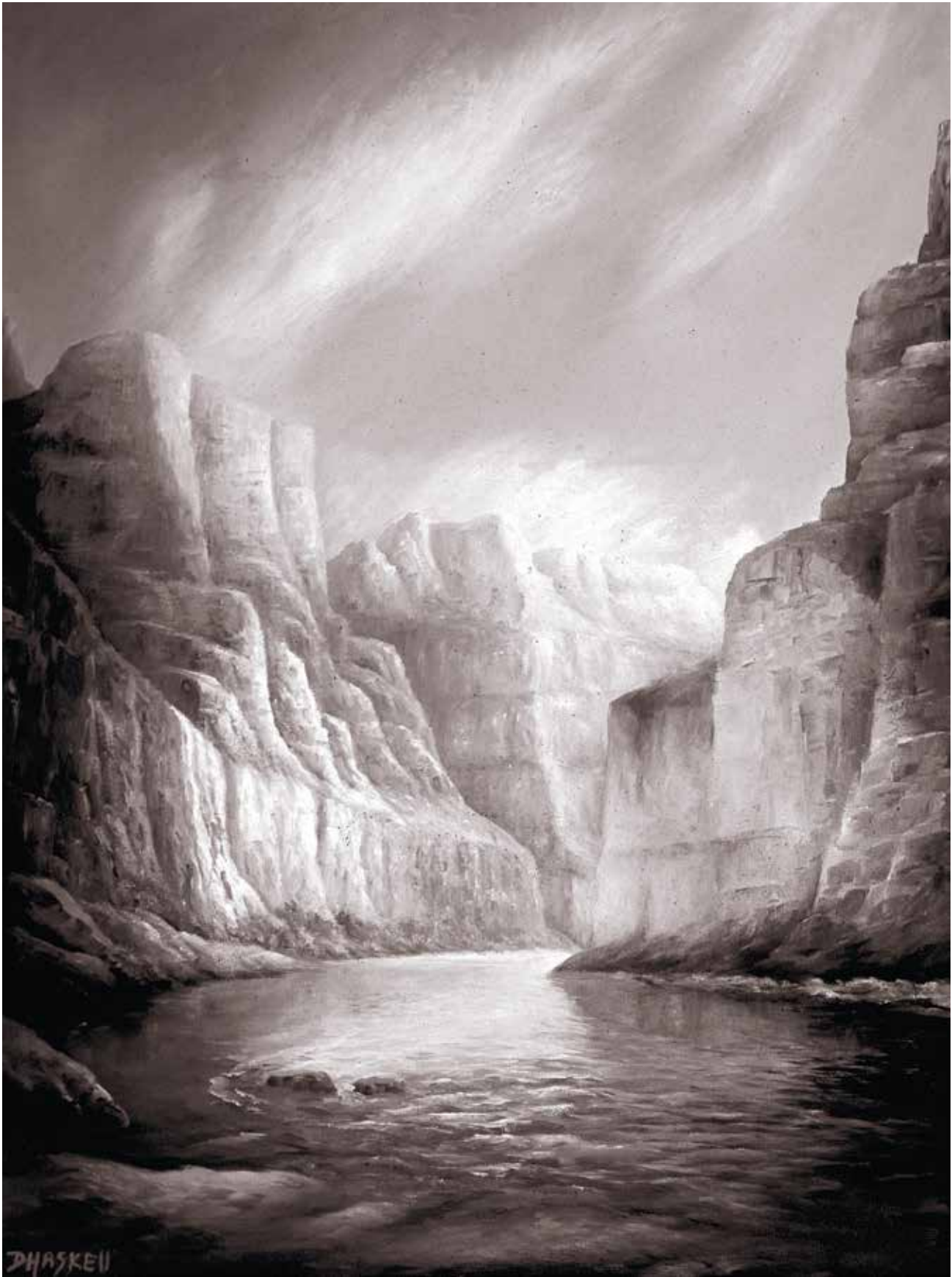
“Fine, great, really. I'm surprised, though; I thought you got off tomorrow.”

Karla Miller



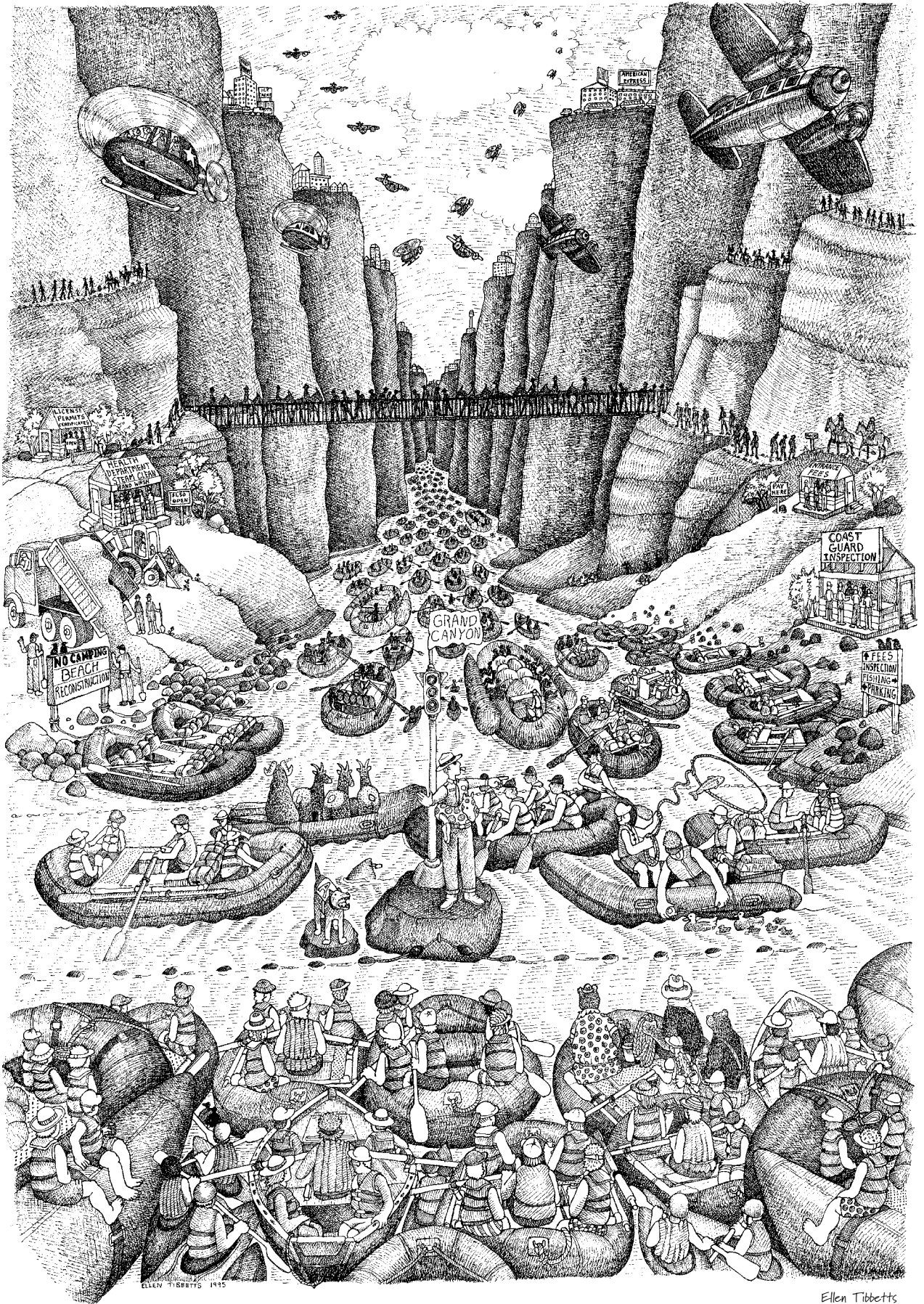
The Beginning

David A Haskell



Morning at National Canyon

David A Haskell



Draft Environmental Impact Statement— Colorado River Management Plan

AFTER FOUR YEARS, two starts, a couple lawsuits, numerous public meetings, thousands of written comments, a couple million dollars spent, and a lot of controversy, the “Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Colorado River Management Plan” (henceforth called deis) is here at last. A monumental 813 printed pages, with eight appendices in electronic form on a CD-ROM, which still lacks much of the information needed to understand it. It is gargantuan, contradictory, opaque, political, redundant, pedantic, “scientific to a fault,” and in places nearly incomprehensible. And there are some new ideas and new approaches to old problems.

Attempting to appease everyone, it will please no one. With all due respect to the intense efforts of the many good folks who sacrificed a couple years of their time and hard work trying to walk on water, reverse the flow of time, and save the canyon even as they deliver it in to the hands of the hordes who would devour it, we need to ask if it’s “good enough for government work.”

The answer, I think, is “not yet.” But we are on the way, and with your help—and more effort from the Planning Team—we can fill in the blanks, trim out the glitches, fine tune some new ideas, and come up with something that might actually work.

If you are on the Colorado River Management Plan (crmp) mailing list, you should have received a copy in the form of a CD-ROM. If not, it’s available as a download from the crmp web site in pdf format. (See the sidebar on getting and understanding the plan.)

Before launching into a description of the various details of the preferred alternative, and discussing some questions and speculations about how they might work in practice, I should mention a couple significant omissions from the deis. First, although you are left with the impression that there is a reason why the preferred alternative was developed, and chosen over the other contenders, the reasoning behind the choices that were made often is not to be found in the draft plan. Second, the plan is long on intentions but short on details about how they are to be realized.

By the time you’ve received this issue of the *boatman’s quarterly review*, another (final?) round of public meetings will have been held. As explained to me by Mary Orton, the mediator who hosted the last set of public meetings, these sessions will provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to discuss various aspects of the plan with members of the planning team, get more details, and learn the reasoning behind the decisions that were made. The object is to educate interested stakeholders so that their written comments will be based

upon a true understanding of the reasons for, and intent of, the various features of the management plan.

As for the lack of specific details, the following statement from the Executive Summary is worthy of attention:

Monitoring and Implementation Plan

Subject to the availability of necessary funding, the National Park Service will develop a monitoring and implementation plan once a revised Colorado River Management Plan has been approved.

If I read this correctly, they are saying, in effect, “When the final plan is approved, we’ll know what we want to do, but we’ll need more time and money to figure out how to make it work.”

Here is a quick review of the crmp, and how it addresses various issues raised in public scoping comments:

Appropriate level of visitor use consistent with natural and cultural resource protection and visitor experience goals.

Nps proposes a whopping 27.5 percent increase in total user days, with the increase going to non-commercial (“private”) boaters. The impact of this on resources is “reduced” by requiring smaller maximum group sizes, allowing fewer trips on the river at one time, and “mitigation” actions like closures, enforcement patrols, education, etc.

Allocation of use between commercial and non-commercial groups.

Commercial allocation remains unchanged, but non-commercial use increases 77 percent as measured in “probable” user days. Commercial allocation remains controlled by user day counts, but has new restrictions on when and how many launches can be scheduled. Non-commercial use is controlled by launch allocations, one per day year-round, plus a small (eight person or less) trip every other day during the summer season. Non-commercial user days are not controlled directly, but are limited by trip size (still sixteen), trip length (shorter in all seasons) and whether or not all launches are used, and what proportion of them are full size trips taking the maximum length of time.

Administrative use.

Administrative use, which includes law enforcement, trail work, vip vacations, research, “trout chipping,” education, tribal trips, and anything else the nps decides

to do on the river, is not regulated in the Draft crmp—although they say they are sensitive to the impact (25 percent of all actual user days) of these “non-recreational” activities.

Non-commercial permit system.

A new access system, in the form of a “weighted” lottery, is proposed to replace the wait list for non-commercial permits. During the transition, a dual system will exist—waitlisters can stay on the list, or accept incentives to switch to the lottery system.

Appropriate levels of motorized and non-motorized use.

The current nine month motor season will be shortened to six months (March through the end of August) and the number of commercial motor launches will be reduced.

Levels of helicopter use to transport river passengers to and from the river.

Helicopter exchanges are limited to the four month summer season (May–August) and maximum passenger counts are slightly reduced from current limits.

Appropriate levels and types of upriver travel from Lake Mead.

There’s a separate plan for the canyon below Diamond Creek, which I have not examined in detail, since I’m not familiar with trips that routinely go across the lake. If you are familiar, please take a close look and let the Grand Canyon Board of Directors know what you think.

Quality of river trips (including crowding, trip length, group size, visitor experience, and scheduling issues).

A mixed bag of scheduling improvements, restrictions on maximum group size, reductions in trip lengths, questionable approaches to crowding, and some negative ideas about closures, additional law enforcement presence, more rules and regulations, etc.

* * *

Grand Canyon River Guides is a non-profit organization dedicated to:

- Protecting Grand Canyon
- Setting the highest standards for the river profession

Getting, and Understanding, the Plan

If you don’t have a copy of the plan, you can get it here: www.nps.gov/grca/crmp.

Follow the link to the Draft EIS crmp to download the plan in pdf format (Adobe Acrobat Reader Version Six required) or get instructions for getting a copy on a cd-rom, or a paper document.

If you don’t have Internet access, you can mail a written request for the disk, or a paper copy, to:

Crmp Planning Team
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

There are advantages to having the document in electronic format: the index at the end of Volume Two is of limited value for looking up things you are interested in, but the search function in Adobe Acrobat Reader will find every mention of any word or phrase you type. If there is more than one way to express the topic you are interested in, try them all: the search function looks for the exact phrase you enter, not variations or close cognates. For example, if you are interested in “driftwood” you might also try “firewood” or “fuel.”

Start by reading the “Executive Summary” at the beginning of Volume 1 (downloadable as a separate file); these eighteen pages will give you an overview of the alternatives, starting with A—the “no-action” status quo, through H—the NPS preferred alternative, and six other alternatives.

In addition to the 813 pages in Volumes One and Two, there are a number of useful supporting documents in Appendixes A through J—also available in electronic form, or on a cd-rom in the back of Volume Two. If you want a paper copy, you’ll need to print it out yourself.

Even with all of these at your finger tips, you won’t find answers to all of your questions. You may also want to consult some of the other supporting documents that you can download from the crmp website. These include a number of useful handouts from the Public Scoping Sessions, a summary of comments received, “Recent Use Statistics, Graphs, and Reports,” back issues of the “Soundings Newsletter,” and copies of the 1989 and 1979 Colorado River Management Plans, to mention a few of the resources available.

Still, you will have unanswered questions—see the side bar on Public Meetings.

- Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community
- Providing the best possible river experience

Our comments on the plan will be based on these objectives; however, we also recognize that each of us has our own perspective on the meaning of these goals and how they can be best achieved in practice.

In no particular order, here are some of the proposed changes and some of the questions that they raise.

Carrying Capacity

The nps decided that there is a large amount of unused carrying capacity. It's interesting that all of the alternatives, except for the "no-action" alternative, involve increased use levels (as measured in user days), with only one alternative (B—one of two no-motor scenarios) in the same ballpark as the status quo; five of the other alternatives would have allowed for even higher use levels than the preferred alternative (H—an increase of 27.5 percent); Alternative C contemplated an increase of 65 percent.

Is such a large increase in use consistent with the park's responsibility to protect the resource? Where is the evidence that shows that such a large increase in winter and spring shoulder season use won't have a permanent, and negative, impact on the ability of the canyon to recover from the impact of the high summer season use levels? How is it that as beaches shrink, campsites disappear, and more restrictions are placed on activities at scenic attractions, that carrying capacity can continue to increase with each new management plan?

Adjustable Split Allocation

Full utilization of non-commercial launches (all available launches taken, most trips near maximum size and length) could mean that non-commercial user days would actually exceed commercial use, although the nps estimate of "probable use" is that commercial use would be 53 percent and non-commercial use would be 47 percent of the total.

The deis proposes to measure relative demand for commercial and non-commercial recreational use by requiring all would-be boaters to register with the park before seeking a spot on a commercial or non-commercial trip. Furthermore, the information gathered would be used to "adjust" the split allocation, switching up to two launches a month from one sector to the other, with the safeguard that no sector could end up with less than forty percent.

Members of the "expert's panels" convened in Phoenix a couple summers ago seemed to agree that they had no idea how demand could be measured, and some experts ventured that "demand" for commercial and non-commercial trips was a case of "apples versus oranges," in which direct comparisons would be inappropriate and misleading. Other experts testified that given the impossibility of measuring relative demand in

the different sectors in a meaningful way, any division of the allocation would be arbitrary.

How does the deis justify the proposed changes from the existing allocation initially assigned by Alternative H? Won't this registration system be a cumbersome burden on all recreational users, not to mention an administrative nightmare for the nps? What information will they collect, how will they use it to determine "demand," and how will they insure that neither sector can scam the system to produce results in their favor? Can this registration process settle the questions about relative demand, and—if not—why bother?

Trip Size Reductions

Maximum commercial trip size is reduced to 32 people, including crew, but the crew does not count towards the user day allocation. The reasoning is that members of the crew do count in the sense that they influence total group size, but subtracting user days for the crew on a trip would provide an undesirable incentive to send out trips with minimal crews to maximize revenue.

Trip size reductions, in conjunction with a reduction in the number of summer season motorized launches, will make it difficult for outfitters to use all their motorized user days without substantial changes in their operations. The deis projects 68,636 motorized user days for 369 summer launches, an average of 186 user days per trip. If trip lengths average seven and a half days (similar to today), trips would have to average 25 passengers plus crew to consume these user days. This means that the typical summer motor trip, under Alternative H, would be a two boat trip with a group size of up to 32 people—a large group, seeking a large campsite every night. Currently, more than one out of three motorized trips are one boat trips; when the crew sleeps on the boat (typical), they have the same footprint on the beach as a private trip, and don't need a large campsite every night.

According to the deis, it's the size of the group that you're traveling in that has the most effect on perceived crowding. But Alternative H seems to mean that one boat motor trips, with their smaller group size and greater campsite flexibility, will be rarely seen during the summer months. No doubt some outfitters will opt for offering at least some longer trips, with smaller group sizes, to increase customer options and also use up their allotment. But these longer trips will certainly cost more than shorter ones, and be within the reach of fewer people; many outfitters will probably feel more comfortable selling larger trips of the same length as those they offer today.

How should we suggest that the nps address this issue? Is a reduction in the size of the largest trips worth a commensurate reduction in the availability of smaller trips? Should there be more summer motor launches, or a longer motor season, to make at least some smaller trips likely? Or should we just cross our fingers, pray for the best, and hope this all works out as an improvement?

Other Sources of Information

A number of stakeholders, including gcrp, have written to the Planning Team with questions about various details, and the Planning Team may eventually post the answers on the crmp website. You might want to check there from time to time for additional information, as well as look for updates on our own website: www.gcrp.org.

As we gather more information, from attending the public meetings etc., we will try to post reports and updates on our website. By the time you have this issue of the *boatmans' quarterly review* in your hands, the public meetings will be over and we should have more details.

Other organizations will be commenting on the plan, and in spite of different perspectives on some issues, we have many concerns in common with the other stakeholders. Consequently, finding out what others think may help improve your own understanding of the plan, and sharpen your comments, whether you agree or disagree with their positions. Here are a few suggestions:

- Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association—www.gcpba.org
- Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association—www.gcroa.org
- Grand Canyon River Runners Association (new organization for commercial passengers)—www.gcriverrunners.org
- Grand Canyon Trust—www.grandcanyontrust.org
- River Runners for Wilderness (the no-motor advocates)—www.rrfw.org

This is by no means an exhaustive list...

Trip Length Reductions

Maximum trip lengths decrease overall, as follows: summer season non-motorized trip maximums are reduced from eighteen to sixteen days, while motorized trip maximums are reduced from eighteen to ten days regardless of season. Shoulder season non-motorized trips are reduced from 21 to 18 days, and winter trips are reduced from 30 to 25 days.

A significant number of commercial passengers as well as majority of non-commercial boaters would like even longer trips than are available today, yet the deis opts for more people, having shorter trips. There's an acknowledged trade off here.

Shouldn't we support "the best possible river experience"—including options for trips that are no shorter than those currently available, even if it means "carrying capacity" can't increase 28 percent? We advocated longer minimum trip lengths in our comments during the public scoping sessions—shouldn't we oppose any movement towards a "one size fits all" river experience?

Crowding, Congestion, and Competition for Campsites

The nps plans to address these issues with tighter controls on launches, which are based in turn on the projections of the River Trip Simulator model. The River Trip Simulator (rts) was developed several years ago and is based upon numerous reports of actual trips and their interactions, as well as interviews with trip leaders about what they would do in certain interaction situations. However, the

rts model was based on current rules regarding activities at attraction sites, campsites, etc.

Won't new rules and restrictions invalidate rts projections of trip interactions as guides make different decisions about campsites and daytime activities than they did when the information upon which the rts is based was collected?

Campsite Competition

A new "small" non-commercial trip is proposed (eight people or less), with one launch every other day from May through August. These trips would be required to camp in small campsites, as identified and mapped out by the nps. Buried in the details of mitigation possibilities are similar proposals to designate medium sized camps for medium sized trips, and large camps for large trips.

Isn't this a step in the direction of assigned campsites, which most boaters vehemently oppose? Is it reasonable to expect that non-commercial boaters, who have waited for years, will cooperate and bypass places they intended to stop? Won't some get "lost" and end up where they aren't expected, complicating things for everyone else? Why wouldn't you add another crew member to a 24 person trip, changing it to 25 and qualifying for all the large camps? Would you be banned from fitting a large group into a medium or small camp, if you wanted to hike or visit an attraction site there? Won't small trips be excluded from many attractions by this rule? Isn't the point of the revised launch schedule—and fewer "trips at one time"—a reduction in campsite competition, and—in that case—why do we need yet another cumbersome and onerous rule to address the same problem?

Visitor Experience

Some aspects of visitor experience, such as perceived crowding, will be improved under the plan, while others (availability of longer trips, increased restrictions on activities) will suffer. The attitude towards visitor experience in the plan seems ambivalent, at best. On the one hand, they are allowing for increased visitation (measured in number of people, or user days—for non-commercial users). Yet they are proposing a number of restrictions on what people can do on a Grand Canyon river trip—how long you can stay, where you can camp, and what you can do in some places.

Overall it looks like we are moving in the direction of a “one size fits all” approach, rather than attempting to maintain (or increase) the variety of options and choices available to recreational river runners, commercial and non-commercial alike. Under the plan, the longest available trip will be shorter, and the shortest trip longer, than is currently the case. While there will be less crowding (at least some of the time) during the summer, and particularly in June, the desirable spring shoulder season will see a noticeable increase in trips, congestion at attraction sites, competition for campsites, etc. Meanwhile, the desirable fall shoulder season will be available to fewer people, due to reductions in launch opportunities during September, including the end of motor launches on August 31st. Under the plan, nobody will get to choose an eighteen-day trip during the summer, a 21-day during the shoulder season, or a thirty-day trip during the winter. And nobody will get to choose a motor trip longer than ten days, ever.

Won't the reduced options for types, sizes, and lengths of river trips detract from, rather than enhance, the quality of river experience available to recreational users? Given the uncertainty about demand levels, is it reasonable that quality of experience suffers so that the number of recreational users can increase so much? Won't a shorter motor season mean more research trips that require motors will have to run during the busy summer season?

Changes Common to All Alternatives

Include the Following

- One trip per year limitation on recreational use, whether commercial, or non-commercial.

According to the parks' own information, only 0.68 percent of non-commercial boaters averaged one or more trips a year between 1998 and 2002. No similar information is available on commercial repeat users, but it's probably in the same ballpark. What is the problem with repeat use, and won't the enforcement of this regulation, which will require checking the identification of nearly 150 people a day at Lees Ferry, be an absurd waste of time and effort?

- A guide will accompany passengers on all trip-related hiking, including exchanges into and out of the canyon.

Since passengers will hike at very different rates, a group that starts together at the rim or river will be spread out several hours apart at the other end of the trail. Will it really make any difference if there is a guide that starts out with the group, if the guide could be separated by as much as several hours from some of the hikers? Or is this just another attempt to shift legal responsibility onto the outfitters who allow and/or encourage hiking exchanges?

What happens if someone wants to hike in a day early and spend the night at Phantom Ranch, hike out a day later, or use the North Kaibab trail? Won't even more people who shouldn't be attempting a hiking exchange be encouraged to do so if they know there will be a guide with “the group”?

- Day use only (no camping) at the mouth of Tapeats and Kanab creeks.

All side streams are sensitive environments, many are already protected by other restrictions (Icr, Elves, Matkatamiba, Havasu, etc.) or campsite location (Nankoweap, Clear Creek, Monument Creek, Stone Creek etc.) Wouldn't a single rule limiting all perennial side streams to day use only and “no camping at the mouth” be more appropriate than an ever increasing list of specific closures?

- Swimming and wading at the Little Colorado River restricted to the lower 300 feet of the confluence from March 1st to August 31st, no boat parking in the Icr. *The deis says “the effect of river running on humpback chub is unknown” and suggests that roiling of substrates may adversely affect young fry. But humpback chub have evolved to live in extremely muddy water, and the increased turbidity caused by recreationists could be just as easily considered an advantage for fry, in that decreased visibility would reduced the likelihood of predation by trout and other non-native species.*

Wouldn't it be more reasonable to consider the impacts of researchers, who have repeatedly captured, tagged, clipped, implanted, and handled Humpback Chubs as a significant factor in their decline, if one must seek possible human caused impacts above and beyond the effects of Glen Canyon Dam?

Won't this regulation, based upon the flimsiest of speculations, discourage respect for regulations in general? Furthermore, won't this also introduce uncertainty into the interpretation of the “trout chipping” experiment that has been underway for several years? If some of the Icr is to be set aside for swimming, why not the vicinity of the rapid upstream that is a popular attraction for river runners? Wouldn't swimming there be less likely to have adverse impacts on eggs and fry than the proposed swimming area near the confluence?

- Commercial guides may not be hired on non-commercial trips.

How is this an improvement over the wording of the “Non-commercial Use Affidavit? The current Non-commercial Use Affidavit reads: “...2. The purpose of the trip must be for its recreational value. The trip will not be conducted for

the following reasons: a) Monetary gain for any trip participant...3. Collection of a set fee (monetary compensation), payable to a trip participant, individual, group, or organization, for conducting, leading, or guiding a non-commercial river trip is not allowed.”

What does this rule “clarify”? Does it mean you can hire someone who is not a commercial guide on a non-commercial trip?

- Minimum trip length to Phantom Ranch will be three nights and part of four days.

Won't this change, and the proposed restriction on activities at the lcr, result in more crowding at other sites between Nankoweap and Phantom, which aren't modeled by the River Trip Simulator?

- Generator use will be restricted to emergencies and pumping rafts.

This is to control noise. Why not a more general requirement, limiting other optional sources of noise as well (drums, boomboxes, etc.), setting special rules for when camping with hearing of other trips, and/or establishing “quiet hours” at camp, starting some length of time after sunset? How about a “recommendation” to “please be quiet so your group and others can appreciate the natural soundscape of the canyon”?

Changes in the Non-commercial Permit System

In addition to allocation and launch changes discussed above, the waiting list will remain closed and will be phased out. A new “weighted lottery” is proposed to distribute launches not distributed through the waiting

Commenting on the Plan

First, gcrg's Board of Directors could use your help in drafting our comments. Send your questions, ideas, etc to us at gcrg@infomagic.net

We will try to post a draft of our comments, as we develop them, on the our website [www.gcrg.org] during the month of December, in time for feedback before we send them off to the nps.

Second, we encourage everyone who is interested to make their own comments as well, and not expect gcrg to say everything for you, or in exactly the same way you would. Your experience, perspective, and love for the canyon will help make the final plan better, if you speak up and let them know what you think.

The nps has some specific expectations for comments; knowing what they are before you begin will make it more likely that your comments make a difference.

You can download a comment form from the crmp website, or fill it out online at www.nps.gov/grca/crmp. Or send your comments in writing, or by fax, or make them at the public meetings.

Detailed instructions, forms, addresses, etc are on the above website. The most important things to remember:

- You need to tell them what part of the plan you are commenting on—page number or heading is ideal—but you really need to point at something specific before beginning your comment.
- Be as complete as possible—saying you don't like something is ok, but for your comment to have any weight you must also say why you feel that way, how you would like to change it, and why your idea would better address the objectives of the plan than their approach in Alternative H. It is the quality of the argument you make that is important, not the number of times they hear the same comment from other people. So think your ideas over carefully, and try to address the reasoning behind the plan and show them a better way to meet their own objectives.
- It may be worth addressing some of the missing details about how the plan will be implemented—at some point, they'll need to figure all this stuff out, and if you make a good case for a smart idea, you'll be doing them a favor.
- One objective of the plan is to create a management approach that is relatively easy to administer. Approaches that make things simpler rather than more complicated for the nps, will get their attention. Some of the stuff in the Preferred Alternative sounds like it may be unnecessarily complicated, or impossible to administer; saying so, and explaining how a simpler approach could work, may result in a plan that is easier on all of us.

list. Incentives will be proposed to induce people on the waiting list to switch to the new system, but staying on the list (under the new rules) will also be an option. People staying on the waiting list, as well as people entering the lottery, will have to identify all the people in their group, and nobody can be in more than one group at the same time.

Some of our members do non-commercial trips, others don't. To what extent should Grand Canyon River Guides be concerned with the details of the non-commercial access system?

Won't a weighted lottery, in which participants get an additional chance for each year they have participated and lost, eventually end up as the waiting list all over again? It would appear that as repeat losers accumulate extra chances, the odds of a new participant winning a permit diminish; eventually, almost all permits would go to people who had been in the lottery for many years. How is this an improvement? Few details of the proposed system are clear; will these changes reduce, or inflame, the controversy over non-commercial access to Grand Canyon river trips?

Adaptive Management

Recognizing that things may not work out as expected, or produce the desired results, the deis mentions “adaptive management” to fix things before the next plan revision, yet provides no details of how this would work.

Will feedback from the public—guides, outfitters, passengers, non-commercial boaters, and other stakeholders—have a say in determining when changes need to be made, or will the park decide? Will there be any consultation with stakeholders about proposed changes, or will they be arbitrarily imposed by the nps?

This is not an idle question; many “adaptive” changes occurred under previous management plans. The waiting list is a good example. In recent years the folks in the river permits office made a number of changes to make it work more smoothly and fairly, but the basic problem that the list grew longer each year was not addressed in a timely fashion. It was allowed to grow to the point that phasing it out now—when people have lined up for trips that may not happen for twenty years—is a major problem in the transition to a new system.

Mitigation Proposals

These include proposed closures at Vasey's and Elves Chasm (for the snails, which have been introduced at Elves), limits (or perhaps a ban) on collecting driftwood on winter trips (important scorpion habitat?), increased numbers of patrol trips (to better enforce new rules), more guide “education,” etc.

Much of the success of current Colorado River management depends on the cooperation of boaters, commercial and non-commercial alike, who do a good job of following the existing rules because they recognize the need for them, and that by and large they make sense.

Won't we be further ahead if we have fewer rules that make more sense, rather than an ever increasing number that address specifics (“no generators” rather than “please be quiet”)? The nps can't be behind every bush, or check every camp—why create a climate that depends on cops, rather than cooperation?

Grand Canyon River Guides has been a leader in guide education, with our popular Guides Training Seminar, an annual river trip featuring guides from many companies, and this popular publication.

Is it unreasonable to ask that education work both ways, and that all of us—guides, outfitters, recreational boaters of all kinds, and the nps continue to learn from each other how we can best:

- *Protect Grand Canyon*
- *Set the highest standards for the river profession*
- *Celebrate the unique spirit of the river community, and*
- *Provide the best possible river experience?*

Drifter Smith

Masquerade Ball Undisguised Success

THE GRAND CANYON Historic Boat Project's first gala event, a masquerade ball and silent auction, was a smashing success. Bidding was strong at the auction and nearly every item sold. Limbs Akimbo blazed into the night and the strangest looking characters danced and danced. The event was success beyond our greatest hopes, and we look forward to taking it to the next level in 2005. Thanks to all who helped put it together, all who donated auction items, and to all who attended. And thanks to Aspen Printing for printing Ellen Tibbetts's wonderful poster, and Ellen for drawing it.

The Historic Boat Project is also glad to announce that the cleaning, evaluation, and conservation of Grand Canyon's boat collection is moving along well. We are currently working with the Museum of Northern Arizona to present a major display at their



Ellen Tibbetts

facility next year, telling the story of the river and its culture and history as seen from the boats that traveled down it.

Our long term goal remains a major permanent display at South Rim. Current Park Service plans place this in the historic Laundry Building, just across the tracks from the Bright Angel Lodge. The facility should do much to tell our story to the immense audience that visits South Rim each year, and build interest and a broader constituency for the River and the Canyon.

Brad Dimock

If you would like to see more of the costumes (in color) you can find them at the following website: www.geocities.com/shiohya/thumbs/untitled.htm



*Drifter Smith and Sue Ordway dressed up as Condors for the Masquerade Ball.
photo by Michael Quinn*



*Brad Dimock masquerading as Buzz Holmstrom at the Ball.
photo by Michael Quinn*

A Little History Revisited

I ONLY MET GEORGIE WHITE once. It was in Los Angeles at a hearing about whether to eliminate motorized rafting on the Colorado River. Georgie gave a low key, but impassioned talk in favor of maintaining motorized rafting. (David Lavender gave a very vigorous talk, proposing to eliminate motors.)

Over the years, I met many old-timer Sierra Club members, who recalled Georgie, who was a member

and went on mountain and rock climbing trips. Georgie was considered a good climber and “boone companion.” All those old-timers are now gone.

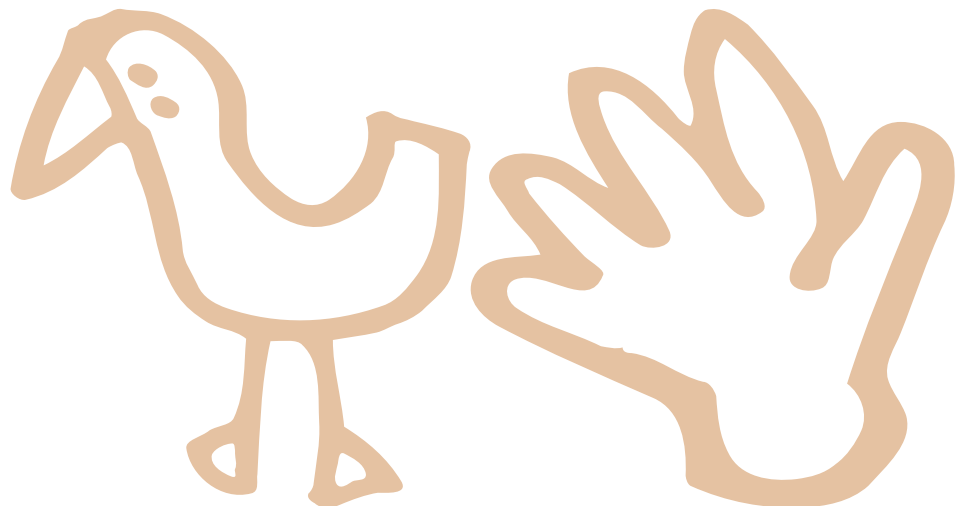
I thank Bob Cates of the Sierra Club History Section for providing the photo and information.

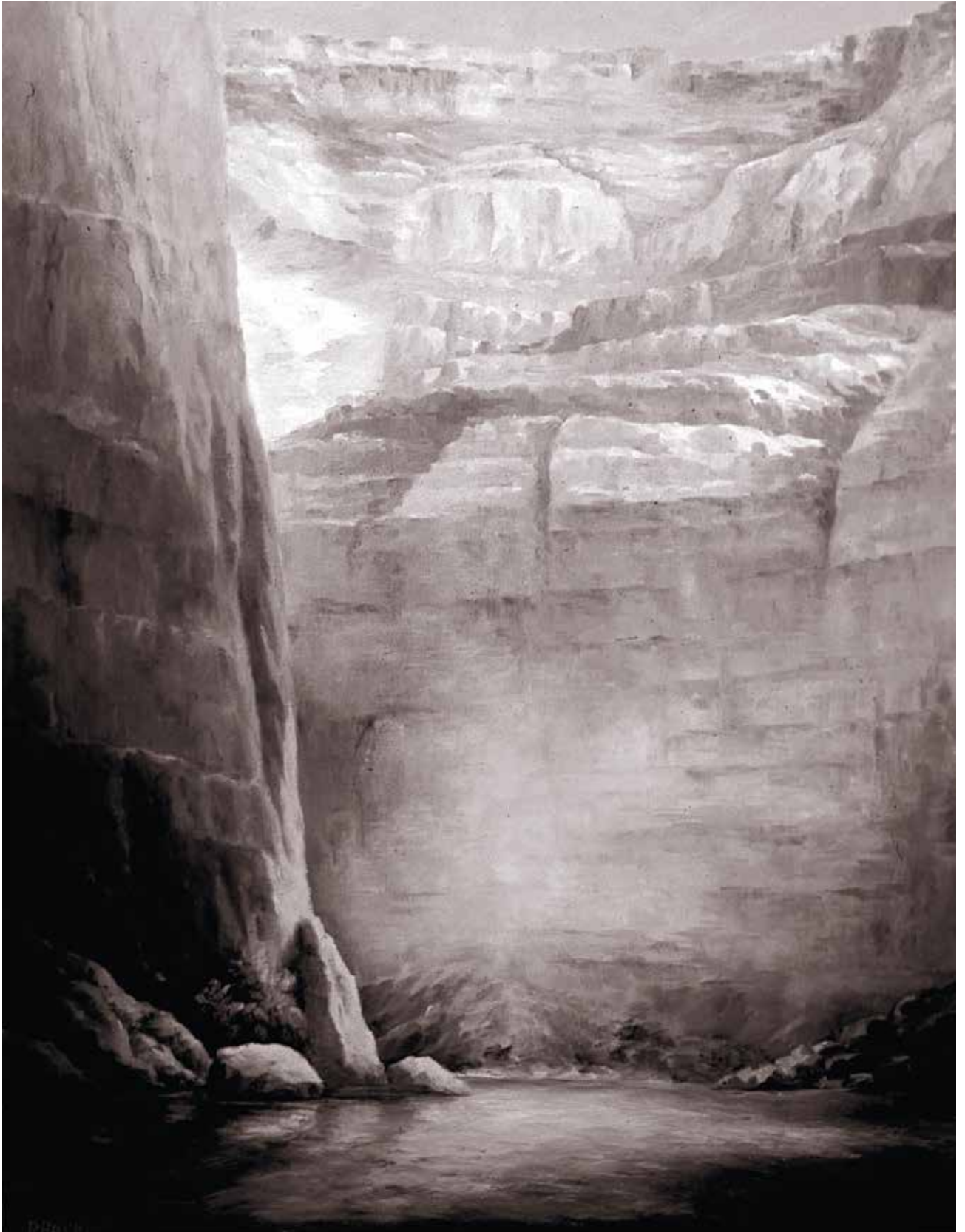
Dove Menkes



Still on the way to NEW YORK BUTTE 4/29/51

Front: E. Pierce, G. White, F. Pierson, F. Sanborn, L. Ames.
Rear: D. Kenyon, L. Johnson, L. Werner, B. Roditti, K. Rich, B. Hatch,
H. Murdock.





Walls of Marble

David A Haskell

The History Behind the Histories

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS have become the hallmark of each issue of the *boatman's quarterly review* and with good reason—they exemplify and capture the very spirit of river running culture in Grand Canyon. We feel that it is our responsibility to “crystallize” that essence, as river running has indeed forged its own traditions and created new ones, building its own colorful culture over time.

A decade ago, GCRG worked with Northern Arizona University's Cline Library and the Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation to tape, record, and transcribe over eighty interviews. Those interviews run the gamut of some of the wildest and most incredible river stories imaginable, coupled with broader themes—*How did river running as we know it start out? Where did it go? What is the significance of Glen Canyon Dam? What happened during the big flood of 1983? When it comes to management, where do we go from here?* These oral histories connect us to the river running community, they provide us with much needed historical perspective, and they teach us respect for the Colorado River and for the intrepid individuals who are irresistibly drawn to it time and time again.

The initial funding gave us the big push we needed to dive in and capture those memories before they were lost. We were so very lucky to be able to interview such amazing individuals as Georgie White, Tad Nichols, David Brower, Bill Beer, and many others. While still focusing on “historical figures,” we have also broadened our focus to include more contemporary river runners, hoping to demonstrate some of the changes and as well as the continuity over time. After all, each new generation of river runners demonstrates “history in the making” and they all have new stories to tell.

To our knowledge, there exists no other river running oral history compendium of such depth as is continually presented in the *boatman's quarterly review*. This is primarily due to the exhaustive efforts of Lew Steiger, who has plied countless interview subjects with plenty of beer, lots of laughter, and probing questions. His expertise and that of Brad Dimock, who conducted many key interviews himself, has made our Oral History Project what it is today. Our editors, Mary Williams and Katherine Spillman, play no small part as they take these disparate submissions and magically turn them into a fabulous publication. What utterly talented individuals all of these folks are. We're so lucky to have them working on our behalf.

GCRG has been able to forge ahead with our Oral History Project due to generous support from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, and most recently, from the Arizona Humanities Council. This funding allows us

to bring these oral histories to you as a regular feature in the BQR, while NAU Cline Library Special Collections Department continues to serve as the archival repository for the tapes, transcriptions, and safety dubs. In fact, many of the transcripts can be accessed on NAU Cline Library's website, www.nau.edu/library/specoll and some online sound recordings are available where narrator permission has been granted. This broadens public access to these interviews as the website and digital archives are regularly used by researchers, students, tourists, and river

history aficionados. And of course, most issues of the *boatman's quarterly review* are posted in a searchable format on GCRG's own website, www.gcrg.org. If you are a recent GCRG member and have a desire to wander through past issues,



Arizona Humanities Council

this is an easy way to do it.

As yet another way of sharing these oral histories with you, GCRG will include a presentation at our Guides Training Seminar Land Session, (March 26–27, 2005) to summarize the findings of our Oral History Project. This portion of the event will be sponsored by the Arizona Humanities Council as part of our public outreach component. Look for more details in the next issue of the BQR.

It is our hope that these oral histories will instill a sense of stewardship and advocacy as they provide wonderful opportunities to vicariously share those experiences and that same sense of wonder and awe for Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. The deep love of the place shines from these interviews; and it is a love we all share. Our partners in this endeavor believe as we do that these interviews provide a freshness and sense of immediacy that more static biographies lack. The secret is, of course, that river runners spin the best stories of all...

Lynn Hamilton

The Powell Centennial—August, 1969

I'D BEEN A RIVER GUIDE for three years. I was young and cocky, a "Bronze River God" before they coined the phrase. Nothing could humble me. I was running the Grand for the first time, not to "experience" the Canyon and not just to "beat" the river, but to be able to tell everyone else that I had. It was really a terrible attitude, but there was no way you could tell me that.

In 1967–68, I'd worked for the American River Touring Association (ARTA, now called AZRA in Arizona) on the Middle and Main forks of the Salmon and the Selway in Idaho, the Rogue in Oregon, and the Stanislaus and South Fork of the American in California. By 1969 I was running my own river touring business on these rivers plus the Yampa and Green in Utah with my brother, Dave, and three friends, Loren, Ron, and Duncan, as partners.

We decided to add the Grand to our schedule for 1970. We figured we'd better do a reconnaissance run, so in mid-August of 1969, five of us (Loren couldn't make it but another friend, Dick, was able to join us) drove up to the South Rim, got a permit and headed for Lees Ferry. It was that easy back in those days.

We drove to Page for groceries. Being "mountain river" guides, we'd never seen a monolith like Glen Canyon Dam, so we took the opportunity to go on the self-guided "follow the footprint" tour. It wasn't until then that we realized who John Wesley Powell was, and the significance of August 27, 1869, and Separation Canyon.

In 1969, the dam was only six years old. The Canyon was more than a million times older than the dam. Even so, the dam was impressive. Almost a century ago, Powell had helped create the Bureau of Reclamation, the government agency that was responsible for damming the river that made him famous. The Bureau built the dam, then named the reservoir after him.

When we returned to Lees Ferry we began loading our fifteen-foot army surplus "ten-man" rafts with twelve days of food and gear. An older guide, Jack Currey (founder of Western River Expeditions), had just finished rigging his 37-foot motorized "J" rig. He looked down on us with our little boats and said "You're gonna die!" We figured he didn't know that we were also "Bronze River Gods." By the time we finished rigging, we'd forgotten the century old rumors about Powell and Separation Canyon.

Back in the sixties, Grand Canyon Dorries and Mexican Hat Expeditions were the only oar powered companies in the Canyon, and they only ran a trip or two a year. Georgie White, Hatch, Western, ARTA, and a few other companies ran large motorized rigs, and

even they only ran a few trips each year.

Consequently, the only other river party that we saw in twelve days was Georgie, at Elves Chasm. We'd heard about her leopard skin bathing suit and preference for Coors, so it wasn't hard to pick her out. She had a couple of Los Angeles firemen along as guides, rowing three ten-man rafts lashed together. She ran the motor rig, which consisted of three 33-foot bridge pontoons strapped together. It looked ten times bigger than our little rafts.

Georgie asked about our run in Crystal. When Powell had run the river 100 years ago, Crystal was the first of a series of small rapids he named "the jewels" (followed by Agate, Sapphire, Turquoise, Ruby and Serpentine). Crystal Creek had flash flooded just three years ago (December 1966), choking the river with huge boulders, and the rapid was getting quite a reputation. We'd heard it was as challenging as Lava Falls, but twice as long.

The river was high and really muddy, and with the long flat stretches between rapids it was an almost unpleasant contrast to the clear mountain streams that we were accustomed to. The Little Colorado was flooding, dumping massive amounts of red mud into the river. Dave, Dick, and I had been taking turns rowing and it was Dave's turn to row Crystal. You'd think he'd have been the one to go for a swim, but the river picked me.

Back then, at high water the upper hole in Crystal was a giant rooster tail, and the wave mostly broke downstream. The big problem was a ten-foot lateral wave on the left, off the downstream cliff of Slate Creek, which fed into the rooster tail and could easily cause a "corkscrew" flip. Dave got carried too far left, turned to hit the lateral straight on, and the wave blew me right over his head. He ended up hanging on to the oar handle off the side of the raft, while Dick held the oar blade which had creamed him as Dave fell off.

I was wearing a kayaking life jacket, which didn't float me to the surface nearly fast enough, to say the least. I really learned to hate having red mud in my sinuses after that. Four years later, at extremely low water, I had the pleasure of being able to swim out to the rock that made the rooster tail, have lunch and take a nap. It's amazing how small that rock is compared to the wave. That day, my kayaking jacket worked just fine. I felt a lot better about Crystal after that.

I had the opportunity to swim Crystal one more time, in 1982. I tried to catch the Slate Creek eddy in a kayak at high water, but the boiling eddy fence was impossible to cross. I ended up going backwards into the upper hole, which by then had changed and

often broke upstream. Again my kayaking jacket was marginally useful. This time, my helmet came out first, without me, causing a bit of panic among the onlookers. Fortunately, the water was green so I didn't have to suffer through another bout of muddy sinuses. In 2001, I took my family on a private trip and my son, Travis, who's a competitive rodeo kayaker, ran upper Crystal five times. He caught the Slate Creek eddy twice, and surfed in the big hole until he washed out. Times have changed!

Early in our 1969 trip, we had decided to pick our runs based on the consequences of making a mistake. After scouting Bedrock Rapid, we decided to run left. We were afraid that if we tried to run right and didn't make it, we'd get stuck or flip on the bedrock island. Instead, we got stuck in the tight eddy on the left. It's a difficult eddy to row out of, even with a small boat. It took a long time to get out of it and down through the narrow shoot. We later learned to run ARTA's 22-foot snout-boats (giant oar-powered catarafts) down the left side without getting stuck in the eddy. I've probably run left in Bedrock as many times as I've run right.

In 1971 I took my parents and a bunch of friends on a private trip through the Canyon. I tried to run right at Bedrock, flipped on the island, and swam the left side with my mother, my brother Chris, and my girlfriend. It was my first flip. It's still my mother's favorite story.

We also ran left of the hole in the center of Upset, figuring we'd be less likely to flip on the left than if we tried to go right and missed the cut. Since then, I've run almost sixty trips in the Canyon, several in a kayak and in all kinds of rafts, and I've always run left in Upset. It's a surprisingly easy run.

Back in 1969, there were very few regulations. We collected firewood, built cooking fires on the sand, and buried our trash and human waste. It wasn't until a couple of years later, when the number of trips began to skyrocket, that the regulations began to multiply. The regulations today may be a burden, but the Canyon is much cleaner now than it was then. In 1972-'73, several of the outfitters ran cleanup trips. Shane Murphy's award winning postcard picture of an overloaded paddle raft in Crystal at high, muddy water was taken on one of these trips—I was the captain on this kamikaze run.

By the time we reached Lava we were beginning to wonder just how important our highly perfected rowing skills really were. Did it matter if we could put our boat within a foot of where we wanted it? The river and canyon seemed so much more powerful than the mountain streams we knew so well. The Canyon had made good progress towards humbling us. I had come to tell everyone that I had conquered the Grand, but was beginning to realize that it was more a case of the

river "letting me pass." It's too powerful to "beat." All of us began to understand that there was far more to the Grand Canyon than the rapids. This harsh desert with its throbbing muddy heart was really beginning to grow on me.

At Lava, it was my turn to row, and we decided to run down the middle, just right of the ledge hole. We lined up on a boil that would sometimes appear (we called it the "imaginary bubble lineup"). Both boats ended up in the big hole at the bottom right, but were too swamped to flip. I swear those old army surplus boats were part submarine. We got awfully tired of bailing them. In later years, I had the opportunity to swim Lava several times, both by accident and intentionally. I never could give up my kayak jacket, so I had a bad swim or two, but each time the river let me go. I still can't help but feel the sense of control that is so important for us to feel is nothing but an illusion.

It happens to all of us, the shock of encountering the other world as we reach our takeout. Only for our trip, the shock was temporary. We had planned to take out at Diamond Creek, but a big flood had wiped out the road. We weren't about to row sixty miles across Lake Mead to South Cove (there wasn't a boat ramp at Pearce Ferry back then), so we decided to hike to Peach Springs to arrange for a motor boat to tow us.

About two miles up, we came across three geologists sitting next to an army surplus jeep which was lying on its side, with river gear scattered in the creek bed. They represented the Powell Society and were trying to get their rafting gear to the river to make a very important deadline but Mother Nature had stymied them. Fortunately, we had boats, and they had plenty of food and beer. Unfortunately, we had to carry it two miles back to the boats.

There was no way on earth that I could have predicted that I would spend August 27, 1969 at the mouth of Separation Canyon with a group of U.S. Geological Survey geologists, sticking special issue postage stamps celebrating the Powell Centennial onto thousands of pre-addressed envelopes with beer wetted tongues. John Wesley Powell had helped create the USGS, and had been its second director. It was a fitting end to our trip.

Pete Winn

Lake What-a-huge-e?

DR. CRYSTAL SCIENCE says (I only have a masters degree in science...) in ancient times a small lake existed in the Grand Canyon. I call it Lake What-a-huge-e (the name and possibly the whole story came to me in a dream). This lake extended from Fossil Rapid to Blacktail Canyon and possibly beyond. Imagine...a lake, its clear waters lapping on a shoreline of cottonwoods and reeds in the heart of Grand Canyon. Imagine too a bronzed native man, muscles bulging, paddling his cottonwood canoe towards a sexy native woman dressed in a primrose bikini, bathing on a woven yucca matt. Whoa! Dr. Crystal Science believes this lake surely was a hot spot for locals.



Dr. Crystal Science

Lake What-a-huge-e tells us an interesting story in Grand Canyon geology. Evidence shows a remnant damsite, lake deposits, out of place river gravels, a nonrusted dolomite band, and a yucca matt. With this abundant evidence, Dr. Crystal Science believes Lake What-a-huge-e formed in the not so distant past.

Today's riverrunners can see Lake What-a-huge-e's remnants. The damsite is the primary evidence of the prehistoric lake. Its location is approximately one quarter mile above Fossil Canyon and consists of a pile of broken up rocks (see Figure 1, river right). This rock pile is approximately 300 to 400 yards long and eighty feet high. Upon closer inspection, one might notice the rock pile is mostly made up of the Redwall Limestone. Knowing this, one can look up in the Redwall to a source. Sure enough, just overhead on the opposite side of the river is a rather huge slide area which is bordered by the Butchart



Figure 1.

Fault. This is easily visible from about 200 yards upstream of Fossil rapid (see Figure 2, looking upstream). More evidence comes from the Dolomite Band in the Bright Angel Shale. Normally this layer takes on a very distinctive red color, but at the damsite, the layer isn't rusted,



Figure 2.

which means the rock probably was buried by the dam and exposed recently (see Figure 3).

One might ask where are the lake deposits? Curiously, upstream from this remnant damsite are rather large sand dunes (see Figure 4). These dunes could easily represent an ancient lake.

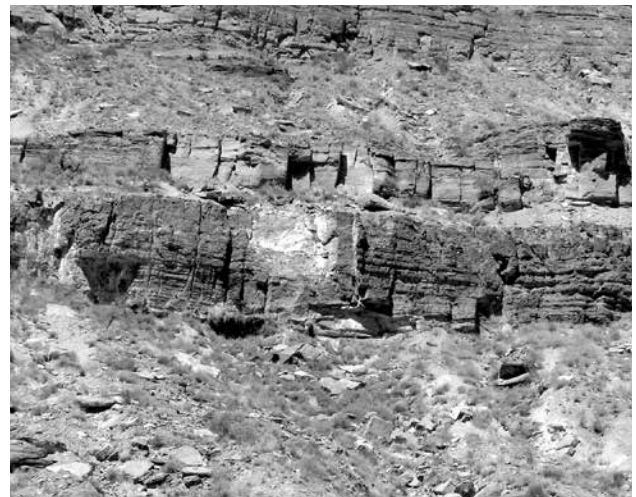


Figure 3.

Another interesting clue is the pile of river gravels which exist upstream of Forster Canyon on river right



Figure 4.

(see Figure 5). These gravels might play a part in Lake What-a-huge-e. Dr. Crystal Science believes that there is substantial evidence to claim Lake What-a-huge-e's existence.

In short, I have either discovered or made up an amazing geologic event in Grand Canyon. An earthquake occurring on the Butchart Fault precipitating a landslide,



Figure 5.

the formation of a dam and Lake What-a-huge-e (see Figure 6). Then as the Colorado River filled the lake and overflowed the dam, erosion took over to the point of no more Lake What-a-huge-e. That's all for now folks.

Look around. Check it out on your next trip.

Dr. Crystal Science
(aka Jon Hirsh)

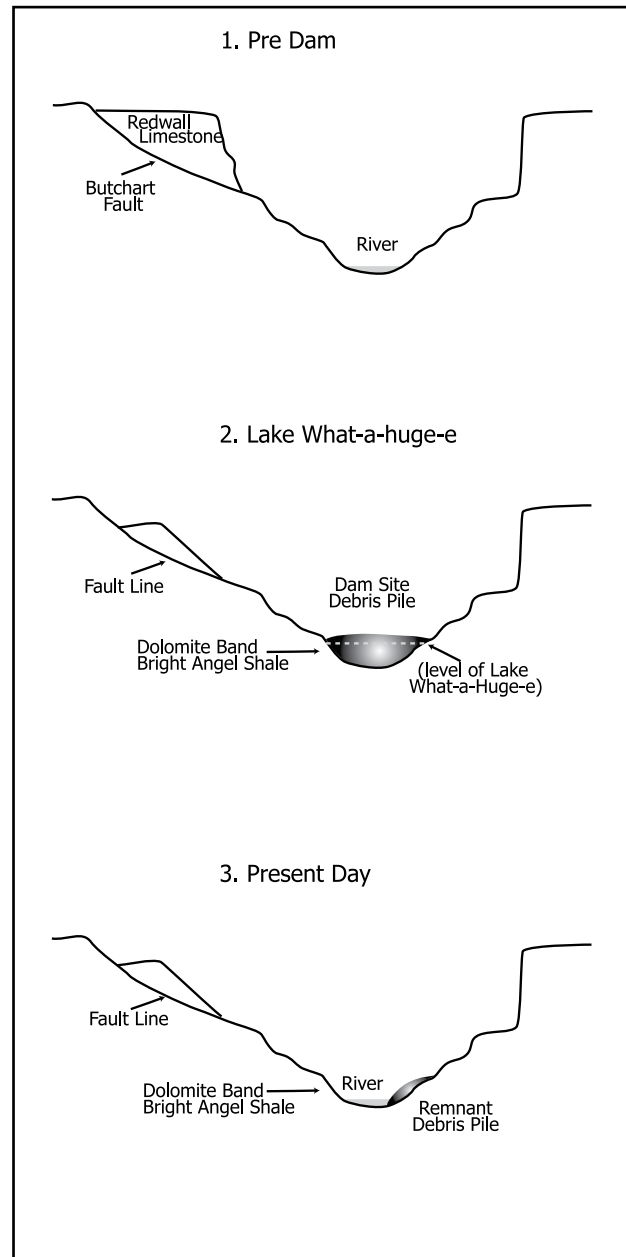


Figure 6.

The Curse of Howland Island

THOSE WHO DO NOT remember history, said a philosopher, are condemned to repeat it. Grand Canyon river guides prove their philosophical mettle all the time by telling river stories going back to the Powell expedition. Though cynics have implied that guides occasionally stretch the truth, and though it's well known that Mark Twain's years as a river guide turned him into a great fiction writer, this living body of river lore has kept many guides out of trouble by reminding them of all the mishaps of the past. The importance of knowing your Grand Canyon river stories is underscored by the case of Amelia Earhart. If only Amelia Earhart had been more familiar with Grand Canyon river running history, she might not have vanished without a trace on her 1937 attempt to fly around the world.

The most challenging leg of Earhart's flight was the long open ocean between Australia and Hawaii, too long to cross without refueling or rest. So Earhart planned to land on a tiny island, only one and a half miles long and a half-mile wide. This island would be hard to locate with the limited navigational tools of the time, yet Earhart's life depended on it. Out of all the islands she could have selected, it may have been a bad omen that she selected an island that bore the name of two brothers who, in another great American feat of exploration, had vanished without a trace.

Howland Island wasn't named specifically for Oramel and Seneca Howland, who left the Powell expedition and disappeared. But it was named for their family. After arriving on the *Mayflower*, the Howlands became the leading family of American whaling. Dozens of Captain Howlands sailed Howland whalers all over the world. (Powell historians have puzzled over why Powell referred to Oramel Howland as "Captain Howland." Powell may only have been acknowledging a famous connection between the name Howland and the title of Captain.) Howland ships were roaming the Pacific Ocean at a time when many islands remained uncharted. Such islands could turn into critical sources of food and water, and low-lying coral reefs were deadly nighttime hazards. The Howlands charted such islands and reefs, and it was inevitable they would name an island for themselves. If the Howlands had been more patient, they

might have found a more idyllic island than the one they claimed in the 1820s. Located just off the equator, Howland Island was a coral reef no higher than twenty feet, well loaded with sand, and because of its isolation, it was loaded with tens of thousands of seabirds, and thus also with some thirty thousand tons of guano. Thinking of guano mining, the British would later claim Howland Island, but due to its isolation there was no immediate reason for Britain and the U.S. to squabble over it. Sometime in the 1830s a Scandinavian ship must have wrecked on Howland Island, for when a Howland ship came through in 1841, it found the island infested with Scandinavian rats. The grim warfare between the birds and the rats only added to what one Howland called the "lonely and forlorn" feel of Howland Island.

It was the very loneliness of Howland Island that made it essential to Amelia Earhart. Within a thousand mile span, Howland Island was the most substantial



If only Amelia Earhart had known her river running history...

piece of land. The usefulness of Howland Island was brought to Amelia's attention by her secret admirer, Gene Vidal, the federal Director of Air Commerce. Amelia had become good friends with the other feminist hero of the age, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Amelia now appealed to the Roosevelts to help her develop a runway on Howland Island. Officially, the runway on Howland Island would be developed as an emergency airstrip to encourage commercial aviation in the Pacific, but Earhart biographers have little doubt it was one of many personal favors that the Roosevelts did for Amelia. If this article already sounds like fiction, then add the words of Gene Vidal's son, novelist Gore Vidal: "Eleanor was in love with Amelia and Amelia used this to get her way over lots of things." (Interviewed by Mary Lovell in *The Sound of Wings*, St. Martin's Press, 1989). To everyone else, the name "Howland Island" may have been a meaningless name, and no Earhart historian has commented on it. But there was one person whose interest may have perked up. President Franklin Roosevelt was a former Assistant Secretary of the Navy with a broad knowledge of sea lore, and he was also the first Howland descendant to become President. The prospect of Howland Island playing a star role in an epochal American adventure couldn't have hurt. The Roosevelts arranged for the Howland Island airstrip to be a WPA project. Some World War One bulldozers, graders, and rollers were rounded up and loaded on a Navy ship, along with a small construction crew, who under international law would constitute colonizers and thus settle the century-old conflicting claims between Britain and the United States. And when the time came for Amelia's flight, President Roosevelt stationed a Coast Guard cutter at Howland Island to broadcast radio signals, a searchlight at night, and a smokestack plume by day.

Amelia's first attempt to circle the world was westwardly. She made it from California to Hawaii just fine, but when she tried to take off for Howland Island, she crashed on the runway. The plane, heavily loaded with fuel, suddenly veered to the right, and she tried to correct, but the plane swung too far left and smashed the landing gear against the runway, and the plane skidded on its belly, sending out a shower of sparks, breaking the gas tank and spilling out gas. Some said it was a miracle there wasn't a fatal explosion. Earhart's admirers vehemently denied any mistakes in her piloting and portrayed it as a freak event.

Of course, Oramel and Seneca Howland weren't the first Howlands to vanish without a trace. With so many Howlands roaming the seas, it was inevitable that some would vanish, sometimes through known events, but sometimes they simply vanished without a trace. All the Howlands had very nearly vanished without a trace when the first Howland, Pilgrim John Howland, had fallen overboard from the *Mayflower* and very nearly

perished. It was also inevitable that Howlands would crash ships, such as in 1828, when Captain Edward Howland wrecked the *Lyra* on a reef at Oahu, the very place where Amelia Earhart would crash 109 years later. When Captain Oramel Howland wrecked his boat in Disaster Falls on the Powell expedition, it was just an old family tradition.

After shipping her plane back to California for repairs, Amelia Earhart re-started her world flight in the other direction, through Africa and Asia. She made it all the way from California to Australia just fine, and all that remained was the Pacific crossing. She made it to New Guinea just fine. On July 2ND, Amelia Earhart took off for the twenty hour flight to Howland Island. She must have gotten close to Howland Island, because the radio operators there heard her voice clearly, but they never saw her plane. And she must not have seen Howland Island. Later, critics would censure her for relying on traditional visual navigation and for learning the radio so poorly that the crews at Howland Island couldn't get her bearing or carry on a conversation with her. Her admirers would say her disappearance was a freak event. All we know for sure is that Amelia Earhart twice crashed on the way to Howland Island, and she vanished without a trace.

As with Oramel and Seneca Howland, there were persistent rumors that Amelia Earhart had been found, taken for a spy, imprisoned, and executed, in her case by the Japanese. There were even rumors that she had completed a secret spy mission and returned to live anonymously in the United States, no doubt next door to Bessie Hyde.

All we know for sure is that to gamble your entire adventure and your life on finding a tiny island named for a family full of adventurers who have crashed vessels and vanished without a trace was an act of hubris that no self-respecting Greek god could possibly have ignored. I do not know much about Polynesian gods, but I doubt they felt any obligations to an American feminist hero flying a loud machine and failing to propitiate the vastness of the sea.

On December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked Howland Island and reduced its facilities into rubble.

So take heed. The next time someone starts to tell a Grand Canyon river story, think twice before you vanish to get a beer or chat with your buddies. If you fail to heed the lesson of Amelia Earhart, you could be next to vanish without a trace.

Don Lago

A Fabulous Fall Meeting

FORTUNATELY, MEETING SUCCESS is not a function of the number of people in attendance. Such was the case with Grand Canyon River Guides' Fall Meeting held on Saturday, October 30th, at the oars warehouse in Flagstaff. Traditionally a much smaller event than our spring Guides Training Seminar, our Fall Meeting was an unqualified success with a core group of river guides, outfitters and speakers participating and enjoying the day. Our Fall Meeting may be the "scrappy little brother" to the big Guides Training Seminar (gts), but it's a great event nevertheless and one you should consider attending in the future!

Here are some important highlights for those of you who may have missed the meeting:

Whale Foundation

Sandy Nevills Reiff spoke about their new emphasis on post-traumatic stress as a direct result of the rash of river tragedies this year that impacted quite a number of river guides. You'll see an article about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

River Incidents

Sherrie Collins of Grand Canyon National Park reported on 39 total commercial river trip incidents during the 2004 river season, with 33 helicopter evacuations. These 39 incidents break out to fourteen medical and 25 trauma, not including twenty cases of gastrointestinal illness. Gcrg has been working for years to impress upon the Park how important this information is for river guides, providing them with a direct means of optimizing safety through prevention measures. Knowledge is power, as they say, so pay attention now...

The fourteen medical incidents were as follows: one seizure, one chest pain, two urinary blockages, one sepsis, two infection/abscess, one respiratory distress, two dehydration (with one of those alcohol induced), one stroke, and one tooth abscess.

The 25 trauma incidents were as follows: one un-witnessed drowning at night, eight boating accidents (meaning people getting hurt on boats, not boats bashing into each other!), five falls while hiking, two hand injuries while hiking resulting from "rolling boulders," three falls in camp, two falls on shore, two falls jumping from the boat, one torn bicep, one dive into shallow water.

As for the gastrointestinal illness (note the total of twenty, down from 46 in 2003): nine commercial trips were infected.

Overall, river guides have been doing a fabulous job. Dehydration incidents were exceedingly low and

there were no reports of hyponatremia. Bravo! This clearly demonstrates how far education can aid prevention. What else can you take away from this recap of river incidents? Get the safety message out to your passengers as often as possible. Falls seem to be the biggest contributor to the trauma numbers, whether occurring on hikes, in camp, on shore, or even jumping from the boat. And use your common sense. Place guides on difficult sections of a trail while hiking. Be aware of the comfort and skill levels of your guests; they don't have to go on every single hike to get a true Grand Canyon experience.

Additionally, we were introduced to Adam Kramer, the new nps Public Health Consultant. He knows volumes about public health issues such as Norovirus, but he is new to the river so say hello and introduce yourself when you get the opportunity. His easy-going demeanor will go far to assist commercial river trips through education and prevention measures. As he pointed out, you must chlorinate your water, because filtering alone is *not* sufficient to kill viruses. A few drops of bleach will do (follow established guidelines). If done correctly, your water will be safe to drink, with less chlorine than is often found in our regular tap water. As an aside, putting the chlorine in your jug before adding water helps with aeration and eliminates the chlorine smell.

Medical Control

Ah, where to begin. Undoubtedly the most contentious talk of the day (ironically too, considering the crmp talk later in the day), the discussion of the murky depths of the medical control issue were plumbed to the best of our ability. Points and counterpoints, comments and rebuttals—all these were swirling madly primarily between gcrg representatives (yours truly, Drifter Smith, John O'Brien), Sherrie Collins of Grand Canyon National Park, and Garrett Schniewind of Canyon Explorations/Expeditions. Nevertheless, the discussion was a calm and rational one revolving around guide responsibility, liability, and company policy. To give you a glimpse of the discussion, here are a few important viewpoints that were raised:

- **Good Samaritan laws.** As a working river guide, you are *not* covered by the Good Samaritan clause, since Grand Canyon National Park requires you to have this training and you are paid to do the job.
- **Liability policies.** You are not covered under your employer's liability policy should you be sued for using medical training that requires medical control.

- **Dueling lawyers and diametrically opposed views** Our source, an attorney for the Wilderness Medical Society and recreation liability specialist, was very clear that any time you adopt standards outside of basic first aid (such as invasive procedures or administering drugs), you *must* do so only under the advise and control of a physician. Garrett Schniewind’s source, on the other hand, discounted “medical control” as a concept that was fabricated by wilderness medicine providers to cover their companies legally while noting that not all wfr providers include or discuss medical control as part of their training. His legal source tells him that more trouble lies in “failure to act”, which could include not getting the requisite training.
- **Not all protocols are created equal.** There are many protocols in wilderness medical training that do not require medical control with up to seventy percent of the wfr training falling into this category. It is the remaining thirty percent of wilderness protocols which include “medical control” as a condition that must give guides pause to consider. Some of these include deep wound care, administering medications such as epinephrine, and reducing fractures or dislocations.
- **Buyer beware.** Not all wilderness medicine courses are created equal either. The quality of courses can vary widely so do your homework and make sure that the class you are planning to take is a quality course that covers the situations you may encounter in the Grand Canyon environment.
- **Call early, call often.** This is a great motto and one that Grand Canyon National Park enthusiastically espouses for emergency situations. However, *do not confuse this with medical control*. The park can only offer *advice*; they *cannot* and will not define your scope of practice or act as a medical control officer.
- **We’re not in the same boat.** Sherrie Collins of gcnp noted that “we’re in the same boat” with wfr training. Yes, we may have the same training, but the similarity ends there. Grand Canyon National Park has medical control (through Flagstaff Medical Center). Most commercial outfitters, and therefore, most commercial guides, categorically do not. In the field, a guide needs to know what he/she can and should be doing without the distraction of wondering what the legal ramifications might be. This is the fine line where “using your best judgment” moves beyond ethics into legalities in crisis situations where seconds count. This is an unfair burden for river guides doing the best they can in oftentimes harsh wilderness conditions with extended care times. And that brings us to another point...
- **Outfitter policies.** Of the thirteen outfitters we were able to informally poll, the vast majority did not have medical control. A few thought they did, but were mistaken. This highlights both difficulties of finding a consulting physician to act as medical control, as well as some general confusion about what constitutes medical control. For example, a doctor licensed outside Arizona doesn’t fit the bill. Additionally, there has been a nearly universal reluctance among commercial outfitters to provide first aid policies in writing. Add to that the fact that policies (such as those regarding the use and availability of epinephrine) vary from outfitter to outfitter, and you end up with a very convoluted situation. Garrett Schniewind made a case at the meeting for not having written rules that cover all situations. To his credit, he has made a concerted effort to ensure that he is not asking his guides to do something unreasonable. Unfortunately, considering the confusing nature of this issue, who is to say what might be reasonable (and legally defensible) if not even lawyers can agree? Most companies have written policies for their employees covering everything from alcohol and drug use, to sexual harassment. Does it make sense to you that they wouldn’t have written first aid policies for their guides unless they realized what a legal “hot potato” this really is?
- **Here a lawsuit, there a lawsuit.** Sherrie Collins stated that there have never been any lawsuits brought against river guides in this kind of situation and felt it unlikely for anyone to initiate one. Garrett, as indicated previously, felt that “failure to act” was more dangerous legally than using the training without the requisite medical control. Our point is simply this—we live in a litigious society and people often sue over just about any darn thing imaginable. That doesn’t make it right, but that’s the harsh reality. Just to say it hasn’t happened yet is no reason to consider this a non-issue (which is the gist of the arguments from Grand Canyon National Park and from other quarters).

So, where does all this leave river guides? It leaves you with some real thinking to do and some questions to ask. So often in this complex world it is vital to *question* rather than taking issues at their face value. “I’ve got this great training,” you say, “and I’m ready to go; just point me at a medical emergency on the river and I’m all over it.” Well, think again, my friend, and think hard. Above all, ask questions—ask them of your wilderness medicine instructor and ask them of your employer. If you are not sure how something is supposed to be handled, don’t wait till you find yourself caught in that situation. *Ask questions and get answers*. Do not assume that your training legally allows you to perform everything that you’ve learned. Educate yourself. That won’t solve all the problems, of

course. Medical control is still a bit of wishful thinking for the guiding community in Grand Canyon and the wfr “standard” produces an uncomfortably un-standard response among companies and guides when it comes to dealing with actual first aid emergencies in the canyon. Gcrg will continue asking questions. You should too.

Historic Boats

As many of you know, Brad Dimock has been diligently working with the Grand Canyon National Park Foundation (gcnfp) to get their Historic Boat Project off the ground (pun intended). Conserving these historical gems of river running will provide a compelling learning tool for future generations. The gcnfp Masquerade Ball fundraiser following our Fall Meeting brought the project that much closer to being a reality. Look for an article about it in this issue of the bqr!

Colorado River Management Plan

It was unfortunate, to say the least, that Grand Canyon National Park eventually declined our invitation to speak about the Draft crmp at our Fall Meeting. Apparently lawyers got in the way (sound eerily familiar?). The Park’s solicitors have cautioned them that the public process (meaning their public meetings) and the Park’s website are the appropriate venues for discussing and answering questions concerning the plan. They also felt that individual meetings with any single constituency could be perceived as preferential and that, according to the rules, they must provide all interested stakeholders with the same information. Well now, it doesn’t seem to be a very “public” process does it? Nevertheless, we forged ahead with our own discussion, raising our own questions only to receive no answers, or at least until the public meetings commence. Drifter Smith did a masterful job of summarizing what’s in the plan and the lack of clarity on a number of issues. His eye for detail and balanced interpretation provided attendees with a good overview of the Draft Alternatives (primarily the preferred alternative, the weighted lottery and split allocation). Drifter will outline gcrg’s thoughts on the Draft crmp elsewhere in this issue so I will not reiterate them here.

Knowing Grand Canyon...So What?

Larry Stevens gave us a thought provoking and somewhat existential talk about what we think we know about Grand Canyon. Larry’s key points included:

- 1) Many of us know something about Grand Canyon, but we see it through the filter of our assumptions and world views. Humility and good planning are key to communicating to our audiences.
- 2) The problem of many people thinking they know and understand Grand Canyon is exacerbated at the level

of the amwg and Park managers, who similarly operate through the fog of agency policy and assumptions. In the case of humpback chub management, several embedded biases cloud judgment on management options, including:

- a) Humpback chub is a good “umbrella species” for ecosystem management. It does not appear to be so, as its life history is not much related to pikeminnow or other native fish, or any terrestrial species.
- b) Managing for humpback chub is constrained by unknown population status in the pre-dam river.
- c) Managing the river for humpback chub will bring us a temperature control device on the dam that may exacerbate, rather than improve, conditions for Humpback chub in the mainstream.

- 3) The assumptions and biases are deeply fixed in the psyches of the constituent publics, and although many of those beliefs are dubious or not supported by data, the beliefs clearly have become part of the river socio-ecosystem. Ultimately, this cannot improve management, even though the amwg program is probably the best collective river management program in existence. Management can only be improved by conducting studies that challenge our assumptions, and using that information to update and revise our belief systems.

The Grand Canyon Science Show

Matt Kaplinski provided an overview of the decline of camping beaches in Grand Canyon, the possibility of a November 20th flood flow, and the effects of the trout removal experiments. We also got to see some nifty psychedelic maps of the topography of the bottom of the river channel. A few salient facts from Matt’s talk(s) are:

- It is ironic that the Draft crmp preferred alternative focuses on an overall increase in use at a time when the campable area along the Colorado River in Grand Canyon is continually decreasing.
- Campsite area at 31 study sites has decreased by 55 percent from 1998 to 2003.
- The rate of campsite loss is greater than the loss to the sand bars in Grand Canyon primarily due to vegetation encroachment.
- Monitoring of rainbow trout spawning activity indicate mortality rates of 23 percent in 2003 and 28 percent in 2004. This occurred primarily at the end of the flow fluctuations, when inter-gravel temperatures reached lethal levels.
- Spatial and seasonal patterns in young rainbow trout suggest that, in 2004, the majority of the trout fry probably came from Glen Canyon. In other words, rainbow trout in Grand Canyon are “leaking” out of Glen Canyon and not spawning in significant numbers downstream—at least in 2004.
- The trout population in Glen Canyon is at, or near

the amp target level of 100,000 fish and the recent decrease in the trout spawn (see above) will further decrease the adult population when that year class is recruited into the adult population. However, amwg recommended that the experiment should continue in 2005. It is curious that the flows will continue, even though we have reached the target levels of the population and that high fluctuating flows export about 150 percent more sediment than “normal” dam operations. However, when you consider that these high flow fluctuations generate considerable power revenues to the depleted basin fund, it all starts to make sense. Perhaps we should call them “power generation enhancement flows” instead of trout suppression flows.

- Preliminary results from the non-native removal efforts in the vicinity of the Little Colorado River show that the program has been successful and removed about half of the rainbow trout population. But, an assessment of whether this removal will improve humpback Chub population dynamics will not be known until at best 2006, but most likely 2007.
- Hoopnet catch-rates of humpback chub are inconclusive relative to the survival of the humpback chub.
- The two storms we had in October put us 85 percent of the way towards the requisite sediment “trigger” we need for a flood flow. Lower flows leading up to

this period have conserved the sand in the system. If we have a “flood flow” it will occur on or around November 20th for 60 hours, at a level of 41,000 cubic feet per second.

So, there you have it. I know some trips were still on the water at the time of our meeting, and other guides have already scattered to parts unknown—that’s what makes the Fall Meeting somewhat of a challenge attendance-wise. But as you can see, it was a dandy day, and quite enlightening from a variety of standpoints. Martha Clark plied us with her fabulous food and we even had more beer than we could finish (say it’s not so!) donated by Cork n’ Bottle in Flagstaff. Our speakers were fabulous and very well received. Many people volunteered their time to make this event a success, and of course the biggest thanks go to Regan and Ote Dale of oars for letting us descend upon them and use their warehouse for our meeting. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

If this overview of our meeting wets your whistle, you simply must attend the Spring gts, March 26–27, 2005, at Hatchland. Or come next October, whenever and wherever we hold our next Fall Meeting. Grand Canyon River Guides’ meetings are always “grand.”

Lynn Hamilton

Guides Training Seminar 2005

THE ANNUAL Guides Training Seminar sponsored by Grand Canyon River Guides, the commercial river outfitters, Grand Canyon National Park, and the Grand Canyon Association, will be held as follows:

GCRG Spring Meeting

Date: Friday, March 25, 2005

Location: Marble Canyon Lodge (Marble Canyon, AZ) Discussion of: GCRG board nominations, CRMP, conservation issues, etc.

Dinner and party follow at Hatchland afterwards.

Guides Training Seminar Land Session

Dates: March 26-27, 2005

Location: Hatch River Expeditions Warehouse, Marble Canyon, AZ

Cost: \$30 for the weekend (covers food)

Lodging: on your own, camping ok

Bring: a camp chair, a mug, dress warmly and in layers and stay for the weekend!

Focus: the cultural, natural and human history of Grand Canyon, and current Park issues

Prerequisite: None. The GTS land session is open to anyone and everyone interested!

Guides Training Seminar River Session

Dates (upper half): March 29 – April 4 (Lees Ferry to Phantom Ranch)

Dates (lower half): April 4 – April 12 (Phantom Ranch to Diamond Creek)

Cost: \$165 for upper half, \$185 for lower half

Focus: same as above, but on the water with excellent speakers in the best classroom in the world!

Prerequisite: must be a working guide or trainee in Grand Canyon to be eligible (with work for the 2005 season). You can be sponsored by an outfitter (who will pay your way), or you can apply as a freelance participant and pay for yourself. If you choose this latter option, you must still meet our requirements, and we’ll need you to send us a check (which we’ll hold until we determine if you can go), a paragraph about your experience, why you want to go and why you should go. This will help with our participant selection process.

Adopt-a-Beach—

Long-Term Monitoring of Camping Beaches in Grand Canyon

Executive Summary of Results for Years 1996–2003

Introduction and Methods

THE ADOPT-A-BEACH (AAB) program has completed its eighth year as a study that monitors camping beaches in Grand Canyon. This program, sponsored by Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc., is implemented by a one hundred percent volunteer force of river guides, scientists, and nps personnel. Results are submitted to various agencies such as the Cultural Resources Program of the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (gcmrc). Results are also presented to the Adaptive Management Program so that private and commercial recreational interests are represented as stakeholders in Colorado River management as reported to the Secretary of the Interior.

Methods implement repeat photography and observational comments that document the condition of a selected set of Grand Canyon camping beaches from April through October of each year. The selected beaches lie within three critical reaches (Marble Canyon, Upper Granite Gorge, and Muav Gorge) of the river corridor. A critical reach is defined as an extended area in which camping beaches are sparse, small, and/or in high demand. Two recently added critical reaches (Glen Canyon and Lower Granite Gorge) will also help in understanding long term erosion and system-wide sediment distribution.

The program assesses visible change to beaches resulting from changing regulated-flow regimes, rainfall, wind, and human impacts. Volunteers for this program are unique in that they run the Colorado River many times in one season, and they are able to provide sets of repeat photographs for each study beach. To date, guides have produced over 1500 repeat photographs and associated field sheets having recorded the sequential condition of beaches throughout the commercial boating season, year after year. Research results include total change to beaches after being impacted by certain flow regimes, longevity of the 1996 Beach Habitat Building Flow (bhbf) deposits, change to individual beaches between monitoring seasons, and primary and secondary processes that cause change in camping beach area and quality.

Results and General Conclusions

Results of this study since 1996 show that beaches have continued to decrease in size system-wide, even after the High Maintenance Flows (hmf) of year 2000 and the Winter High Fluctuating Flows (whff) of 2003. From

1996–1999, the net effect of controlled flow releases from Glen Canyon Dam resulted in the continued winnowing of beachfronts, cutbank retreat, and loss of camping area. The highest number of beaches showing negative impacts from fluctuating flows were reported in 1997, at which time flows reached a maximum of 27,000 cfs. Erosion to beaches through years 1998–1999 continued, but effects were not as profound. This decreased magnitude of change through the years since 1996 reflects two geomorphic processes:

- 1) the increased stability of beach fronts as they attain an angle of repose.
- 2) decreased amounts of sediment that can be eroded from beaches. By fall 2001, most beaches that had initially gained area from the hmfs of 2000 had returned to their 1999 condition. These conditions persist today.

Many factors are contributing to long-term erosion of these beaches. Primarily, erosion from medium fluctuating flows that contain low sediment concentrations resulted in conditions that are similar to those before the bhbf of 1996. Secondary processes contributing to erosion are listed here and are ranked according to magnitude of impact:

- 1) gullying and flash-flooding from rainfall
- 2) beachfront erosion from campers
- 3) wind deflation.

Some recreational area loss is due to encroachment of vegetation, mostly tamarisk.

Campsite area and quality can be greatly enhanced by implementing bhbf's well above power plant capacity, given there is available sediment inputs from the Paria and/or Little Colorado Rivers. Over eighty percent of guides agreed that camping (useable space and quality) had improved dramatically during the Low Steady Summer Flows (lssf) that followed the spring hmf of 2000. Moreover, camps that would normally be under water became available for consistent use. By spring 2001, most guides reported worse camping conditions. This is attributed to relatively higher fluctuating flow zones on beaches, rendering lower camping areas difficult to use, and creating eroded beachfronts that presently expose rocks. Lack of a lower camping area will inevitably force camping and recreation into higher zones and into the more fragile xeric desert zone where many archeological sites are located.

The results of eight years from this monitoring program show that the bbbf of 1996 was the most beneficial management action for replenishing and rebuilding beaches for campsite use. All other subsequent test flows produced small new deposits that only lasted for seven to twelve months, at most. These results suggest that any newly deposited sand transported within power plant capacity flows will be quickly eroded if followed by medium to high fluctuating flows. This was evidenced by three events:

- 1) High flows (the high of about 27,000 cfs.) following the 1996 bbbf eroded much of the new deposit at all beach sites through the summer of 1997.
- 2) Medium fluctuating flows following the fall hmf of 1997 stripped away the new deposit entirely by spring 1998.
- 3) Medium fluctuating flows following the fall hmf of 2000 eroded most of the new deposit by spring 2001. To date, less than thirty percent of beaches show evidence of high-elevation sand (above 30,000 cfs line) deposited by the 1996 bbbf.

Annual implementation of hmfs in spring and in fall would help preserve camping beaches by maintaining the beachfront. The whff (5,000 to 20,000 cfs) of 2003 has been the least damaging flow, as beaches did not lose as much beach area over the winter period compared to other winter periods in previous years. However, whffs should not be substituted for beach building and beach maintenance flows. A regimen of bbbf s that exceed power plant capacity followed by low fluctuating flows are needed periodically to rebuild campsite areas above the 30,000 cfs line. However, future bbbfs need to have enough sediment in the system so as to preserve Marble Canyon beaches and lessen impacts on lower beach areas (below the 20,000 cfs line) systemwide.

For questions or comments please contact Kate Thompson or Lynn Hamilton at Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc., Flagstaff, Arizona (928) 773-1075.

Kate Thompson



Serenity

David A Haskell

Adopt-a-Beach 2004 Review and Update

ADOPT-A-BEACH remains strong, year after year, with a hundred percent adoption rate. There is no other project like this in Grand Canyon, where guides collectively take action and monitor an immensely important recreational resource. The main interest driving this project is simply this: hands-on understanding of how our world-class camping beaches are changing as a whole over time.

Many of us know that beaches or parts of them come and go from season to season. The Colorado River is a dynamic and non-static system and should be managed as such. The questions we are attempting to answer with this project are these:

- 1) Are we gradually losing our major camping beaches?
- 2) What are the causes of beach change?
- 3) How might these changes affect camping in Grand Canyon?

To illustrate changes since 1996, we chose photo pairs of the North Canyon beach (Figure 1). This site typifies the average response of popular campsite beaches to three important test flows imposed by the dam. In the following, we briefly summarize our findings about the first two test flows, and expound upon the third test flow since results have not yet been presented in the BQR:

1) The Beach Habitat Building Flow (bhbf) of 1996 was successful in building up over eighty percent of all beaches under study ($n=41$). Campsites were built up in elevation across the main campsite and back up to the 1983 deposit (Figure 1a and 1b). Figure 2 summarizes the longevity of this deposit until our last photo comparisons were completed in 2003. Since the bhbf, beaches have steadily eroded to the point where about 65 percent of all sites have presently returned to (or are smaller than) their pre-bhbf size. Beaches came back temporarily in 2000 from the High Maintenance Flows. Since then, cumulative erosion from medium and high fluctuating flows, rainfall, and people have deteriorated the overall condition.

2) The High Maintenance Flows (HMFS) of 2000 were successful in rebuilding the beachfront of about sixty percent of camping beaches and depositing fresh sand to main camp areas below the 31,000 cfs zone (Figure 1c and 1d). This deposit lasted less than one year (Figure 2) as medium-high fluctu-

ating flows and rainfall deteriorated the deposit. By 2001 beaches returned to the same state that existed in 1999.

3) The Winter High Fluctuating Flows of 2003 showed variable results in their strategy of conserving sediment. Out of 38 comparative photos from before and after these flows, 56 percent of beaches showed no change or very little discernable change in camp size, 18 percent showed an increase, and 21 percent showed a decrease. (We could not clearly determine change for five percent of beaches). Guides commented that a veneer of fresh sand was deposited on many low elevation bars, but was not enough to create a significant area change that would benefit recre-



Figure 1A—Photo taken 3/4/1996 (flow approximately 9,000 cfs), three weeks before the Beach Habitat Building Flow of 45,000 cfs.



Figure 1B—Photo taken 4/17/1996 (flow approximately 18,000 cfs), two weeks after the Beach Habitat Building Flow.

ation (Figure 1E and 1F). Other beaches were devoid of fresh sand and showed qualities of increasing “hard pan” and rocky areas.

Muav Gorge and Upper Granite Gorge showed mostly no change to beach size. Marble Canyon beaches, however, were impacted in a dynamic way that is not all negative. In this reach alone, the number of beaches showing an increase, decrease or no-change were equally distributed. All increases occurred on low elevation bars where rocky shorelines were now covered with sand. Beaches showing decreases were impacted at the beachfront where sand was typically stripped and re-deposited to create a submerged bar. Results in Marble Canyon were also compared to previous winter-period years. In this analysis beaches showed more overall erosion after each winter period of moderately low fluctuating flows compared to those following the Winter High Fluctuating Flows of 2003. Data suggest that the Winter High Fluctuating Flows are the lesser of evils, and that some eddy-stored sand is redistributed onto low elevation bars. Overall, we interpret this data as follows: this winter regime is acceptable for the duration of the “drought” when the Paria cannot deliver the sediment needed, and flood gates remain shut for the time being. However, we still need to assess 2004 data for repeat results.

So, to answer the questions presented above:

- 1) Yes, our campsite beaches are steadily deteriorating without having had beach-building flows for at least eight years.
- 2) Beach impacts are cumulative from years of regulated flows, rainfall, recreation, and wind but the primary cause of continued beach erosion is fluctuating flows and the secondary cause is rainfall.
- 3) The repercussion of deteriorated beaches is more recreation pressure on an increasingly limited supply of campsites in critical reaches. This will inevitably force campers to encroach upon the Old High Water Zone (OHWZ) and other fragile eco-zones that have not habitually been used for recreation and camping.

What Else Has Helped or Hindered the Camping Situation?

Low fluctuating or low steady flows following an hmf (or potentially a bhbf) have provided more space for recreation and camping on beaches (not for making river time, but for enjoyment of camps). Availability of camping



Figure 1C—Photo taken 9/17/1999 (flow approximately 16,000 cfs), six months before the High Maintenance Flow of 31,500 cfs.



Figure 1D—Photo taken 7/7/2000 (flow 8,000 cfs), three months after the High Maintenance Flow.

space allows for recreation to be concentrated next to the river and not in or near the ohwz. This indirectly protects the more fragile xeric and archeological zones that adjoin camping beaches.

The Little Colorado River has spiked at 20,000 cfs after periods of intense rainfall. In August of 2001, many beaches showed increases throughout the lower portions of Upper Granite Gorge and all throughout Muav Gorge. This pink flood deposit stuck around until the high fluctuating flows of the next season. The data demonstrate the benefits to beaches with sediment influx from a side stream (and cumulative side canyons) simultaneous with a mainstem flow increase.

Vegetation management, or lack thereof, is prominent in all photos. A cursory look at photos shows that non-



Figure 1E—Photo taken 10/7/2002 (flow 6,000 cfs), two months before the onset of the Winter High Fluctuating Flows of 5,000-20,000 cfs.



Figure 1F—Photo taken 4/10/2003 (approximately 7,000 cfs), two weeks after the end of the Winter High Fluctuating Flows.

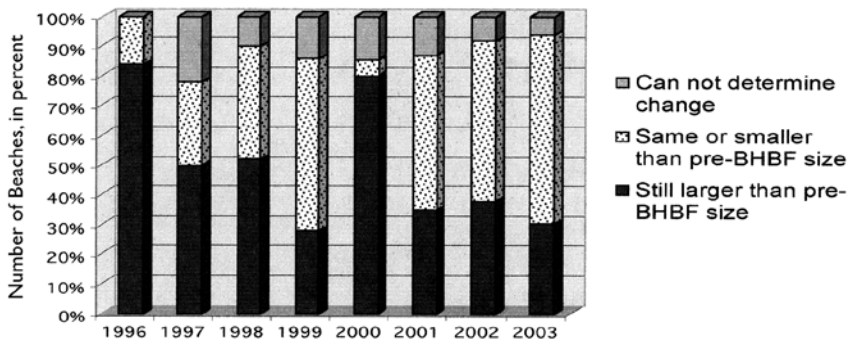


Figure 2. —Longevity of the 1996 BHF deposit based on percent of beaches that show that deposit from year to year. Comparisons were made using end-of-season photos for each year compared to pre-BHF photos.

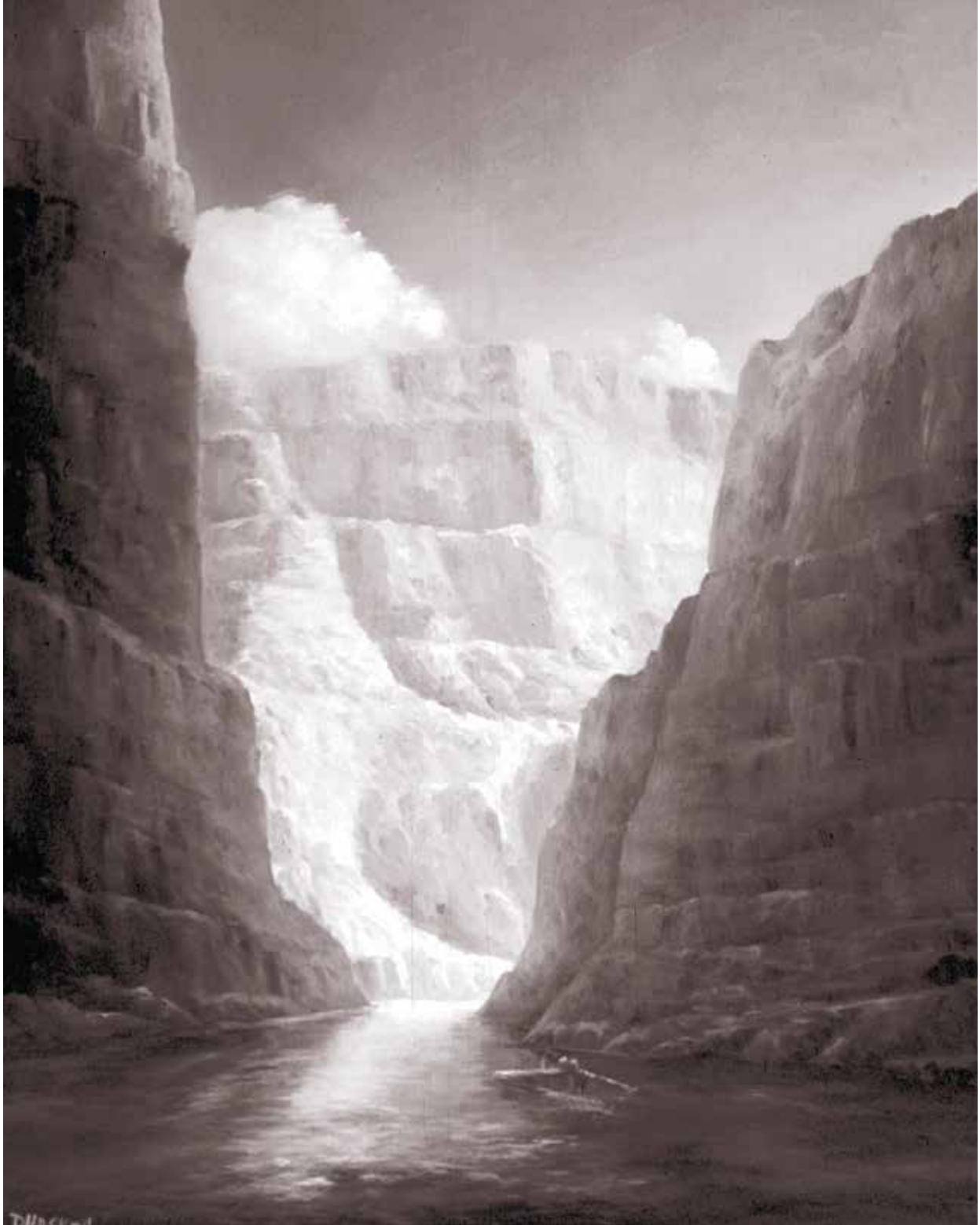
native vegetation encroachment is a huge factor now. Without periodic “flood flows,” this will remain an issue of increasing importance as non-native seedlings take hold, mature, and occupy more camp space.

Available sediment for wind transport has helped in maintaining clean camps. Guides have reported that wind transports and deposits sand throughout camp. However, if no fresh flood sand exists for transport by wind, then scouring and deflation is inevitable in portions of camps. This latter process has been thoroughly reported by guides in non-spike-flow years, along with increases in red ant populations.

Guides and other participants have collected an impressive amount of photographic and observational data since the inception of the Adopt-a-Beach project in 1996. The photo record for the first time is complete in digital format and will be available for all to review on a website early in 2005. A comprehensive review of our camping beaches may in the future include a look at vegetation encroachment and closer collaboration with groups working both in the Canyon as well as in other locales. Look for the website link on the Adopt-a-Beach page at the gcrg site (<http://www.gcrg.org/aab/ab.htm>) and take a look at some of the work we’ve all done together. Keep in touch and tell us what you see. There is little doubt that the project will continue to foster a better understanding of that world down there we hold so dear. All who enjoy a sandy beach in the Grand Canyon will benefit from keeping those on the rim informed of the state of those beaches, our beaches.

Thank you all adopters and funders, which include the Grand Canyon Conservation fund (a non-profit, grant-making organization established and managed by the Grand Canyon river outfitters), the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, and individual contributors.

Kate Thompson & Joe Pollock



Into the Light

David A Haskell

The Whale Foundation Presents— Acute Stress Disorder on the River

WE AT THE Whale Foundation endeavor to serve the Grand Canyon guiding community in whatever capacity we can. This may be as diverse as working person to person with guides who need individual time with an impartial professional, providing access to financial planners, providing educational scholarships, aiding in clarifying and resolving transitional issues through presentations like the first annual Health Fair at the 2004 Spring gts, and introducing topics which may need to be immediately addressed.

My own wonderfully gratifying experience with river guides (or as I will always think of you—river runners) is when you see the relevance of more in-depth examination and knowledge and take action, an exception being an effort to tough out emotional pain alone. Our hope is that we can be of assistance earlier to maximize progress and minimize the length of time people struggle with their issues.

There are three basic stages of change which need to occur for new information and behaviors to be incorporated and utilized. The three are: Awareness, Acceptance, and Action.

Awareness that a need exists is usually on a primarily intellectual level. *Acceptance* is when the need is moved from the head to the heart. When these two stages are examined then *action* can be planned and executed. A clear example of this process is with the formation of the Whale Foundation. In response to their own grief and subsequent awareness, close friends of Whale's (Curtis Hansen) recognized there was no safety net for river guides struggling with depression and substance issues. They wanted guides to have more options other than taking their own life. They recognized offering choices was only a start—this needed to be backed up by professionals who specialized in the issues facing the river community.

The stage was now set for *action* and we began to get the word out that we're here as a support system. Through the years, as you have told us of your concerns, we've implemented new programs—the Liaison Training program, the Kenton Grua Memorial Scholarship program, individual counseling, as well as the Health Fair. These have been in response to your requests. In response to recent deaths on the river, this article will attempt to identify and educate the community on the symptoms of Acute Stress Disorder (asd). In spite of the consummate professionalism and highly developed skills of river personnel, accidents can and do happen. It is a tribute to each of you that so few do occur when thousands of inexperienced boaters travel through the canyon.

Acute Stress Disorder is a reaction to an event we can't predict and can't control. At that point our systems may become overloaded. Although we may perform effectively and stabilize the scene as best we can, the emotional toll can be really detrimental to the guide. In order to understand and to be able to minimize negative effects following a highly charged situation, we excerpt the following information from the *Post Traumatic Stress Debriefing Workbook* by Mary Beth Williams and Soili Pojiela, Ph.D's:

Pre-event Factors

Although there are situations in which exposure to trauma is so great that these factors are less influential (e.g., surviving a major airplane disaster in which almost everyone dies), certain pre-trauma factors often influence how a person reacts to traumatic events. Among them are the following:

- Previous exposure to severe adverse life events or trauma or childhood victimization, including neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or witnessing abuse.
- Earlier depression or anxiety that is not merely situational and impacts brain chemistry.
- Ineffective coping skills.
- Family instability, including a history of psychiatric disorder, numerous childhood separations, economic problems, or family violence.
- Family history of antisocial or criminal behavior.
- Early substance abuse.
- Trouble with authority, even in childhood, including running away from home, school suspension, academic underachievement, delinquency, fighting, or truancy.
- Absence of social support to help out in bad times.
- Multiple early losses of people, possessions, home.
- Gender: women seem to be twice as likely as men to develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (ptsd) at some time in their lives.
- Age: young adults under age 25 are more likely to develop the disorder (Friedman 2000).
- Genetics: members of some families seem less able to withstand trauma than others (Meichenbaum 1994).

Event Factors

There are also factors related to the victim during the event that contribute to the possibility of developing ptsd. These may include:

- Geographic nearness to the event.
- Level of exposure to the event: greater exposure leads to a greater likelihood of developing ptsd.

- The event's meaning to you.
- Age: being young at the time of the event.
- Being a victim of multiple traumatic incidents.
- Duration of the trauma.
- The existence of an ongoing threat that the trauma will continue (e.g., war).
- Being involved in an intentional, man-made traumatic event.
- Participation in an atrocity as a perpetrator or witness (an atrocity is a very brutal, shocking act; for example, purposely killing women and children).

Post-Event Factors

The final category of PTSD risk factors include those that exist after the traumatic event.

These may include:

- The absence of good social support.
- Not being able to do something about what happened.
- Indulging in self-pity while neglecting yourself.
- Being passive rather than active—letting things happen to you.
- Inability to find meaning in the suffering.
- Developing acute stress disorder.
- Having an immediate reaction (during the traumatic event or shortly after) that includes physiological arousal (high blood pressure, a startle reaction) and avoidant or numbing symptoms.

Before you learn more about yourself and how you and others respond to traumatic events, it is important for you to have more information about the numerous possible reactions to trauma. The first of these is called a normal stress response. In times of stress, people react in a variety of ways: they may have physical reactions—their pulse may increase, they may sweat, they may have anxiety, fear, anger or other emotional responses; they may shut down and freeze; they may go into a rage and try to fight; or they may run from the situation. These are all normal responses. Stress that is positive is called eustress. It could involve life-saving or other positive reactions to an emergency situation; a eustress reaction would allow you to rescue yourself or someone else from danger. Negative stress is called distress. It's debilitating and may cause you to function poorly in a dangerous situation—or one that feels dangerous. Stress can impact your body, emotions, thoughts, and relationships.

Researchers believe that there may be personality traits that help a person cope with adversity. People who are high in extroversion (they seek out others) and openness, are conscientious in working toward goals, and have a sense of agreeableness (an ability to get along) are more likely to draw strength from adversity and trauma as a way to cope with what happened.

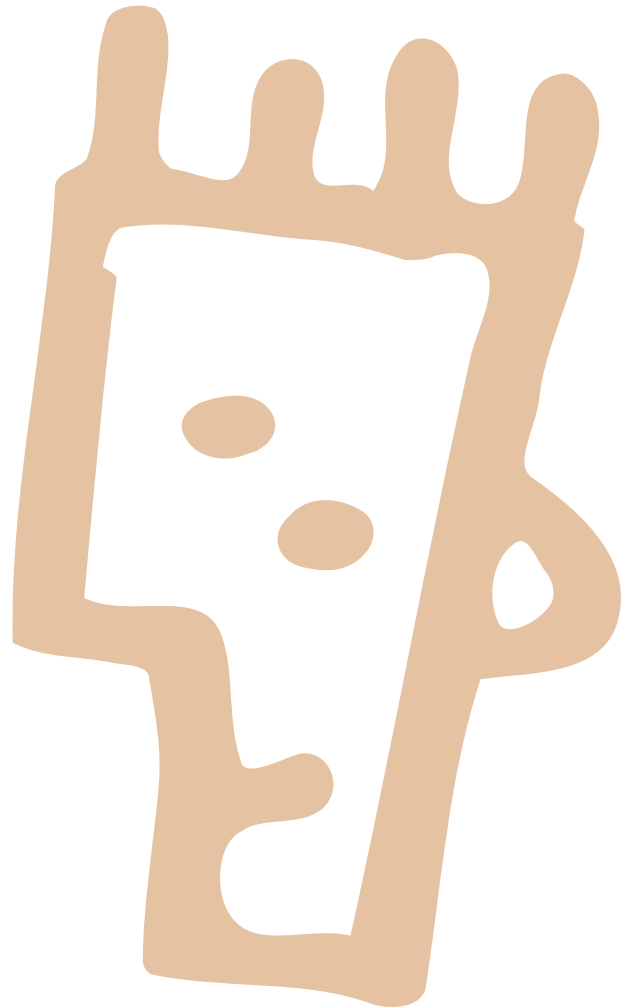
Other important factors that might impact how you react include having an internal locus of control (you are able to reward yourself for behavior and you believe

that control of what happens lies with you, not with sources outside you); self-efficacy (a sense of confidence in your own coping ability); a sense of coherence (the recognition that even seriously traumatic events are understandable, manageable, meaningful); and hardiness or strength. You may also do better in coping with traumatic events if you are motivated to do so, if you have an optimistic attitude, if you have an active coping style, and if you've successfully resolved other crises.

So with this information available, check your awareness of yourself and your emotions, your awareness that you may need to take action in order not to carry the stressors on into your life.

Thanks for being the great professionals you are and hope to see you down river.

Sandy Nevills Reiff



Back of the Boat— The Whale Foundation News Bulletin

FIRST, WE WOULD LIKE to thank the Flamme Family for their heartfelt generosity in donating the Bob Flamme Memorial Fund to The Whale Foundation. We are truly honored to receive this donation in Bob's name and to use it to help the people who live and work on the river and in the Canyon he loved so much. Thank you Ellie, Robert, Theresa, Julie, and Cecilia.

This year's WingDing will be held Saturday, February 5, 2005 from 6–11 PM at the Coconino Center for the Arts, 2300 Ft. Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. Along with a sumptuous dinner catered by Mosey's Kitchen and fabulous collection of local art in the Live and Silent auctions, this year will feature an acoustic crossroads jam session throughout the evening by your friends and neighbors. It's going to be fun, you're all invited, and we hope to see you there!

The success of the WingDing and continued generous private donations have allowed the Whale Foundation's outreach programs to strengthen and reach more members of the Grand Canyon guiding community.

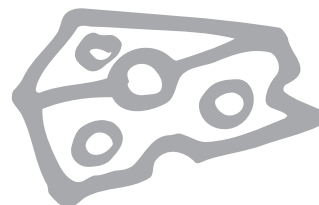
We were also very pleased to award five guides with \$1000 each from the Kenton Grua Memorial Scholarship. Factor would be delighted that river guides in Grand Canyon are being offered the opportunity to further their education through this scholarship. Whether for the purpose of rounding out their education in order to grow as a guide or as a stepping stone for transitioning out of guiding, the scholarship makes the pursuit of these goals an attainable reality for many who would otherwise be stymied by financial impediments. As with any worthwhile endeavor, there are always some tough decisions to be made, and choosing this year's recipients was no

exception. To begin with, we had more than twice the number of applicants that we had last year! Because there were so many outstanding candidates and because we wanted to be able to do the most possible good for the greatest number of guides, we elected to increase the number of scholarships from three to five. So, without further ado, this year's scholarships are going to: Trevor Lugers (Western River Expeditions), Lauren Romley (AZRA), Jon Hirsh (AZRA), Alexander (Zander) Brown (CanEx), and Chris Wright. If you want to apply for financial assistance you can get an application online at www.whalefoundation.org or write to The Whale Foundation at P.O. Box 855, Flagstaff, AZ 86002-0855. The application submission deadline is June 1, 2005.

A very big thank you goes out to retiring board members Sandy Nevills Reiff (who will remain on the Mental Health/Liaison outreach committee and as a provider), Dr. Tom Myers, and Nancy Helin for their tireless contributions and commitment to the mission of The Whale Foundation and love of the Grand Canyon guiding community. And we're thrilled to welcome to the board Ote Dale, Michelle Starr Grua, Jon Stoner, and Chris Wright.

A 2005 Whale Foundation calendar makes a great gift and is available from our website, from any board member or company liaison and from several retail shops including Mountain Sports and Humphrey Summit Ski in Flagstaff, Marble Canyon Lodge, Marble Canyon Metal Works and Cliff Dwellers Lodge in Marble Canyon, and Willow Canyon Outdoor store in Kanab, UT.

*Tim Whitney
Michelle Grua*



WFR Time Again?

IS IT TIME TO re-up your Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification? Are you confused about whether or not the course you take will be recognized by another course provider? Have you heard from a friend of a friend that WFR Course Provider “A” won’t recognize WFR certification by WFR Course Provider “B”, and that you have to take the whole, big week-long course to re-certify with Company “A”? Well...that’s not exactly right. So, for the sake of clarification, here’s a summary of the two big powerhouses of WFR courses:

WILDERNESS MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

They offer re-certification through their Challenge™ Course, which is 24 hours of credit. Prerequisites include:

- Minimum 64 hours continual (not cumulative) training within the past three years from *any* Wilderness medicine training program.
- Proof of current WFR certification.
- Proof of current CPR certification at the level of American Heart Association CPR “Provider” or American Red Cross CPR “Professional Rescuer.”
- Completion of the pre-course study packet, obtainable from WMA.

All students who successfully complete the WFR Challenge Course will receive WFR certification from Wilderness Medical Associates, valid for three years.

WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE

They offer re-certification through their WFR refresher course, which is 24 hours of credit. Prerequisites include:

- Proof of current WFR certification.
- Proof of current CPR certification.

Students with current WFR certification from WMI, NOLS, WMA, SOLO, OPEPA, or WPT who successfully complete the refresher course will receive a WMI WFR card, valid for two years. There is a one year grace period during which you can re-certify by taking the refresher course; however, you are *not* considered currently certified during the grace period. Once the grace period lapses, you must retake the whole enchilada.

Students with WFR certification from any other course provider (not listed above) will receive a letter of completion in lieu of a WFR card. This letter of completion can be given to your original certifying organization, who may then issue an updated WFR card.

Michelle Grua

First Aid Options

NEED A WILDERNESS first aid course? Don’t know where to turn? We’re sure that you need to find something that fits with your schedule and your budget, while filling your needs for a quality course that is accepted by Grand Canyon National Park, right? Ah, so many choices! As we mentioned in our Fall Meeting article in this issue, “buyer beware” on first aid courses, as not all courses are created equal. But you’ll find top-notch courses from the following providers, all of which Grand Canyon River Guides heartily endorses (and they all meet Park requirements of course). Check out their websites for updated information on courses near you!

Desert Medicine Institute (Please see page 44 in this issue for our signup sheet)

Contact: Dr. Tom Myers or Dr. Michelle Grua
Email: gcr@infomagic.net

Desert Mountain Medicine

Contact: Nadia Kimmel, 866-881-6313
Email: info@desertmountainmedicine.com
Website: www.desertmountainmedicine.com

Remote Rescue (wilderness medicine courses and swift-water rescue classes)

Contact: Shoshanna Jensen, 928-607-1589
Email: info@remoterescue.net
Website: www.remoterescue.net

Sierra Rescue (wilderness medicine courses and swift-water rescue classes)

Contact: Julie Munger, 800-208-2723
Email: info@sierrarescue.com or julie@sierrarescue.com
Website: www.sierrarescue.com

Wilderness Medical Associates

Contact: 888-WILDMED
Email: office@wildmed.com
Website: www.wildmed.com

Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI OR NOLS)

Contact: Pete Walka for courses in Flagstaff at 928-779-0061
Email: pete_walka@faculty.nols.edu
Or Contact: 1(800) 710-NOLS
Website: www.nols.edu/wmi

Wilderness Medicine Training Center

Contact: Paul Nicolazzo 509-996-2502
Email: office@wildmedcenter.com
Website: www.wildmedcenter.com

Wilderness First Aid Courses 2005:
Sponsored by Grand Canyon River Guides
Desert Medicine Institute (Dr. Tom Myers & Dr. Michelle Grua)

Wilderness First Responder—March 17–24, 2005 (eight day course)

Prerequisite: None
Location: Flagstaff, AZ (exact location to be determined)
Lodging & Meals: On your own
Certification: 3-year WFR certification and 2-year CPR certification
Cost: \$435

Wilderness Review (Recert) Course— March 12–14, 2005 (two and a half days)

Prerequisite: DMI will accept anyone who has had and kept current a WFR certification (80 hour course) through Wilderness Medical Associates, WMI, SOLO, NOLS, DMM and other Wilderness medicine providers.
Location: Flagstaff, AZ (exact location to be determined)
Lodging & Meals: On your own
Certification: Renews your certification for three years plus 2-year CPR certification.
Cost: \$180

Class size is strictly limited for the GCRG/DMI Review and WFR classes. Send your \$50 non-refundable deposit with the application below to us at PO Box 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002 to hold a space. Checks can be made payable to GCRG. If you work for an outfitter who pays one hundred percent of course costs, just send in the registration form by itself and we'll take care of the rest. The courses are already filling, so act now! GCRG reserves the right to cancel any classes due to insufficient enrollment. Call the GCRG office at (928) 773-1075 with any questions.

FIRST AID COURSE REGISTRATION

Circle one: Review Course Wilderness First Responder

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (important!) _____ Email _____

Outfitter _____

Type of current 1st aid _____

The New Kids On The WFR Block

DESERT MEDICINE INSTITUTE (DMI) has signed on with GCRG to be the WFR course provider this spring. Desert Medicine Institute is a company formed by Tom Myers, MD, and Michelle Grua, MD. Both Dr. Myers and Dr. Grua are Flagstaff physicians with experience managing the unique medical challenges of Grand Canyon, as well as a long-standing passion for the canyon and commitment to helping its

guiding community. DMI was co-founded with Wizard Education, a company in Phoenix with a well-established track record of providing Southwest Wilderness Emergency Life Support courses, as well as First Responder, CPR, BCLS, BTLs, ACLS, and ATLS courses.

A portion of each participant's tuition will be donated to the Whale Foundation specifically for the Kenton Grua Memorial Scholarship fund.



Deep in Granite

David A Haskell

Businesses Offering Support

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

- Canyon Supply—Boating gear 928/779-0624
The Summit—Boating equipment 928/774-0724
Chums—Chums 800/323-3707
Mountain Sports 928/779-5156
Aspen Sports—Outdoor gear 928/779-1935
Teva 928/779-5938
Sunrise Leather—Birkenstock sandals 800/999-2575
River Rat Raft and Bike—Bikes and boats 916/966-6777
Professional River Outfitters—Equip. rentals 928/779-1512
Canyon R.E.O.—River equipment rental 928/774-3377
Winter Sun—Indian art & herbal medicine 928/774-2884
Mountain Angels Trading Co.—River jewelry 800/808-9787
Terri Merz, MFT—Counselling 702/892-0511
Dr. Jim Marzolf, DDS—Dentist 928/779-2393
Snook's Chiropractic 928/779-4344
Fran Sarena, NCMT—Body work 928/773-1072
Five Quail Books—Canyon and River books 928/776-9955
Canyon Books—Canyon and River books 928/779-0105
River Gardens Rare Books—First editions 435/648-2688
Patrick Conley—Realtor 928/779-4596
Design and Sales Publishing Company 520/774-2147
River Art & Mud Gallery—River folk art 435/648-2688
Fretwater Press—Holmstrom and Hyde books 928/774-8853
Marble Canyon Lodge 928/355-2225
Cliff Dwellers Lodge, AZ 928/355-2228
Trebson & Fine—Attorneys at law 928/779-1713
Laughing Bird Adventures—Sea kayak tours 503/621-1167
North Star Adventures—Alaska & Baja trips 800/258-8434
Chimneys Southwest—Chimney sweeping 801/644-5705
- Rescue Specialists—Rescue & 1st Aid 509/548-7875
Wilderness Medical Associates 888/945-3633
Rubicon Adventures—Mobile CPR & 1st Aid 707/887-2452
Vertical Relief Climbing Center 928/556-9909
Randy Rohrig—Rocky Point Casitas rentals 928/522-9064
Dr. Mark Falcon—Chiropractor 928/779-2742
Willow Creek Books—Coffee & Outdoor gear 435/644-8884
KC Publications—Books on National Parks 800/626-9673
Roberta Motter, CPA 928/774-8078
Flagstaff Native Plant & Seed—928/773-9406
High Desert Boatworks—Dories & Repairs 970/259-5595
Hell's Backbone Grill—Restaurant & catering 435/335-7464
Boulder Mountain Lodge 800/556-3446
Marble Canyon Metal Works 928/355-2253
Cañonita Dories—Dory kits, hulls, oars, etc. 970/259-0809
Tele Choice—Phone rates 877/548-3413
Kristen Tinning, NCMT—Rolfing & massage 928/525-3958
Inner Gorge Trail Guides—Backpacking 877/787-4453
Sam Walton—Rare Earth Images, screen savers 928/214-0687
Plateau Restoration/Conservation Adventures 435/259-7733
EPF Classic & European Motorcycles 928/778-7910
Asolo Productions—Film and Video Productions 801/705-7033
Funhog Press—AZ Hiking Guides 928/779-9788
Man of Rubber, Inc. 800/437-9224
Capitol Hill Neighborhood Acupuncture 206/323-3277
CC Lockwood—Photography books 225/769-4766
Canyon Arts—Canyon art by David Haskell 928/567-9873

About the Art in This Issue

ALL OF THE ART in this issue was kindly provided by David Haskell, former Science Center Director for Grand Canyon National Park from 1994–1999.



Dave is generously making GCRG members a special off-season offer. He has four paintings of limited edition Giclee prints of the Colorado River. He will give a twenty percent discount off the price listed on his website for any Giclee print purchased prior to March 1, 2005. In addition he will donate \$25 to the Whale

Foundation for any print sold. So, check out his website!

You may view more of Dave's work on his website at dhaskell.com. If you are interested in purchasing anything or desire more information you may contact him at CanyonArts, PO Box 4141, Camp Verde, AZ 86322, (928) 567-9873, or E-mail at dhaskell@peoplepc.com.

A Covey of Quayle

THREE GENERATIONS of Grand Canyon guides launched on a Moki Mac trip in August. Amil Quayle, 66, got his start on the Salmon River in 1961, and Grand Canyon in 1963. They were running 22-foot pontoons on his first Canyon trip and flipped three of them. Amil was running for Jack Curry's Western River Expeditions in 1966 when, "I was running solo and flipped a 33-foot pontoon in Upset Rapid. I had a father, mother, and two children on that trip and we made our way down to Havasu with one oar, left the boat in the mouth, and hiked out the next morning." Amil ran thirteen years for Western, then three years heading Quayle Expeditions.

Amil's son Bruce, 43, ran eight years for Moki Mac, beginning in 1980. Bruce's son Eric, 19, has been training with Moki Mac since he was fourteen, gaining his license

this year. Bruce and Eric both reside in Seattle, where Bruce works for UPS and Eric is an art student. Bruce's brother Manx, and son River Manx Quayle, live in Fairbanks, where they run rivers privately.

After leaving the river, Amil spent a while in farming in the Midwest before returning to Idaho to teach. He is a poet of great stature, and a painter as well. Amil's poems have graced the pages of the BQR for years. Rivers, canyons, and the life of a guide are recurrent themes. "I reside in the home next to the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, where I grew up playing by that stream. Rivers have always been a big part of our lives."

Brad Dimock



*Three Generations
Eric, Bruce, and Amil in August 2004*

Care To Join Us?

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

General Member

Must love the Grand Canyon
 Been on a trip? _____
 With whom? _____

Guide Member

Must have worked in the River Industry
 Company? _____
 Year Began? _____
 Number of trips? _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

- \$30 1-year membership
- \$125 5-year membership
- \$277 Life membership (A buck a mile)
- \$500 Benefactor*
- \$1000 Patron (A grand, get it?)*
- *benefactors and patrons get a life membership, a silver split twig figurine pendant, and our undying gratitude.
- \$100 Adopt your very own Beach: _____
- \$ _____ donation, for all the stuff you do.
- \$24 Henley long sleeved shirt Size _____ Color _____
- \$16 Short sleeved T-shirt Size _____ Color _____
- \$18 Long sleeved T-shirt Size _____ Color _____
- \$12 Baseball Cap
- \$10 Kent Frost Poster (Dugald Bremner photo)
- \$13 Paul Winter CD
- \$17 Lava Falls / Upset posters (circle one or both)

Total enclosed _____



Ancient View

David A. Haskell

Thanks to all you poets, photographers, writers, artists, and to all of you who send us stuff. Don't ever stop. Special thanks to the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, Arizona Humanities Council, Circle of Friends contributors, and innumerable GCRG members for their generous and much appreciated support of this publication.

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boatman's quarterly review

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