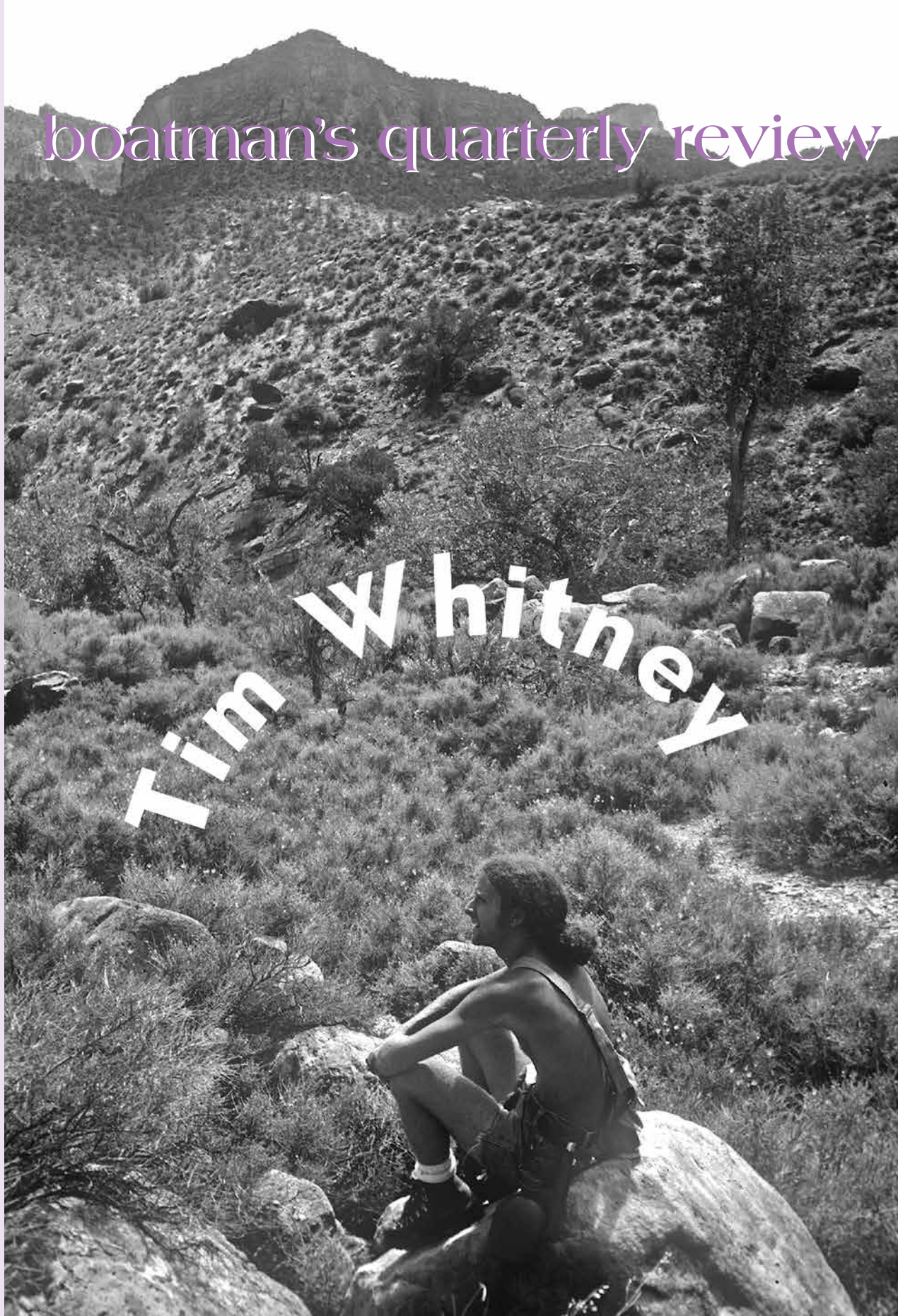


Nankowcap, September 1975

photo: Bob Whitney



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boatman's quarterly review

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

Grand Canyon River Guides
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

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

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

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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 CD or emailed to GCRG; Microsoft Word files are best but we can translate most programs. Include postpaid return envelope if you want your disk or submission returned.

Deadlines for submissions are the 1st of February, May, August and November. Thanks.
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Prez Blurb

IT'S TAKE-OUT DAY ON A YEAR-LONG TRIP. Thank you all for the opportunity to stand in the footwell at GCRG with my hand on the tiller. It's more like boating than I would have expected. We don't determine the way the river flows, we just steer as best we can. Fight the current when it goes somewhere bad, ride with it when it's right, put up a fight in the rapids and hope to come out smiling.

A lot of the big issues are still in process. Decisions about overflight noise are going to be made soon—I hope you've been listening to the engines, listening to the natural quiet, and thinking about what seems like the right solution to you. Energy is going to become a bigger and bigger world issue and there's uranium in and around the canyon—this country is going to have to decide what's really important, and I hope you'll make your voice heard every time the question comes up.

But, truth be told, it's not all about the big issues.

It's in our day-to-day lives, living passionately in a place that we love, where we really make a difference. Each in our own odd little way.

I just got off a trip that makes a fine example. One of the guides takes a new age spirituality approach to the canyon—a style that doesn't fit the ground I walk on but seems to reach some passengers. Another ratchets things extra tight to seek safety and survival through synchronous and correct movement. Another laughs and goofs off like a kid but somehow never stops being a great teacher. I'm the guy who wrings out ever bit of water from every wave on the river and hikes a little too fast for comfort because there's so much good stuff to go see.

It all adds up to a river trip that will affect people for the rest of their lives. They find a guide they can be comfortable with, another that will stretch them, another they might disagree with but who will broaden their perspective. In every guide they'll find someone who is passionate about the place, who has bent their life to match the twisting pattern of the river, who will do all they can to help others get a taste of that muddy brown water, an earful of the canyon wren, the feel of Tapeats sandstone and Vishnu schist under their palm.

It's good stuff.

Thanks again. My best to all of you.

Take care of yourself, take care of your friends, take care of the canyon. And have a hell of a lot of fun out there.

Sam Jansen

Farewells

Tom Clausing

TOM CLAUSING WAS KILLED along with six other people in a helicopter collision between two medical helicopters over Flagstaff, Arizona on June 29, 2008. Tom was working as a flight paramedic for Classic Lifeguard. Previously, he worked as a paramedic for the nps in Grand Canyon. You may have met him during an evacuation from one of your river trips, or during a wfr course either in Arizona or at his home in Leavenworth, Washington.

He was driven to provide and teach the best in patient care. Although he made his home in the Northwest, he loved flying over, and traveling in the Grand Canyon. He participated in a dozen private Canyon trips, most recently in March 2008. His motto was: never stop exploring, and never let your ego get in the way of learning new things.

His wife, Lucca Criminale, a CANX guide, and many others who crossed paths with him will miss him dearly.

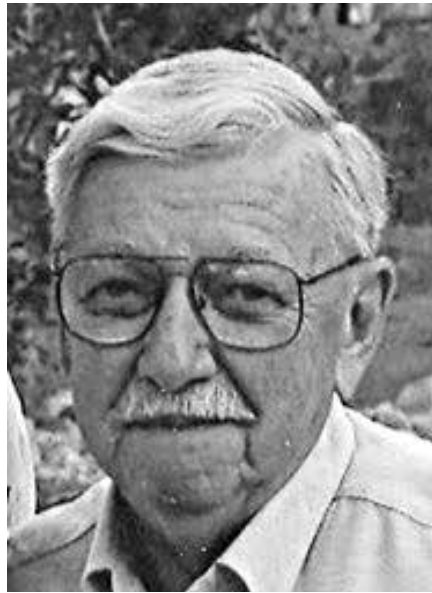


Don Baars

DON BAARS DIED Monday, July 7, 2008, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital at the age of 80. Don's legacy as it pertains to the geological understanding of both the San Juan and Colorado River corridor is beyond words. He received a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Colorado in 1965.

Don served in the U.S. Army for two years in Japan, 1952 to 1954. He then worked as a geologist for Shell Oil Company and later as a research geologist for Conoco. He taught geology for three years at Washington State University and then became a professor of geology at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, in 1968.

He earned a commercial pilot's license with instrument rating. He originated river field trips for geologists in the Grand Canyon in 1969 and conducted educational trips for geology students and professional geologists on the San Juan and Green Rivers while at Fort Lewis College.



Don worked as a consulting petroleum geologist from Evergreen, Colorado, until the mid-1980s, when he worked as a research petroleum geologist for the Kansas Geological Survey. He retired in 1996.

Don received the Distinguished Public Services to Earth Sciences award from the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists in 1991, and the Journalism Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1997.

He presented many talks to various professional societies and published more than 100 technical papers in professional journals and guidebooks. He also

published numerous books on the geology of the Colorado Plateau country for non-geologists.

He was an avid mountain climber and made the second ascent of St. Peter's Dome in the Columbia River Gorge in 1947. He made the first ascent of Stein's Pillar in central Oregon in 1950.

Don Crisp

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE WORKED with or used Canyon Jetboat Services, you know Captain Don “Crittter” Crisp. On July 17, 2008, Don passed away due to complications from kidney surgery. Don was always a big hearted man, who loved what his job and being in the Canyon. His skills as a captain were unsurpassed. He lived well and will be missed by his family and friends.



Jack Morrison

THE RIVER RUNNING COMMUNITY has lost a favorite son. Jack Morrison passed on from this life on August 13, 2008. Jack succumbed to an aggressive form of cancer but he did so with an enlightened outlook and peace in his heart. Surrounded by friends and family in his final days, Jack held true to his Buddhist beliefs and as usual made everyone around him more comfortable.

Jack grew up in Southern California and started river running as a Boy Scout on a Diamond down trip in Grand Canyon in 1970. Within a few years, he was running trips for oars with a select crew of roving guides that would travel in a river company bus between the Rogue, San Juan, Cataract, Grand Canyon, and California rivers. River running came natural to Jack and he became known for his innate rowing ability and Zen-like approach to rivers. Knowing no limits, he soon branched out with Sobek to explore rivers around the world. With first descents of rivers such as Chile’s Bio Bio, Kashmir’s Zanskar, and India’s Tons under his belt, he started his own company, White Magic Expeditions, and concentrated his efforts in India and Nepal. Jack was free with his knowledge and passion for exploring exotic locations around the world and quick to encourage others to accompany him or even go it alone. On one fateful visit to India, Jack and friends were invited to attend an audience with the Dalai Lama. This profound experience no doubt influenced Jack and his beliefs.

As time moved on, Jack started a family and raised two sons, Walker, 17 and Griffin, 13. He gradually moved away from commercial river trips and started his own computer consulting company in Marin County, ca. While raising his sons Jack kept true to his river running roots and continued to run private trips around the west.

Jack never sought the limelight or center stage.

He was far more comfortable on the periphery while others gave the speeches or led the trips. He preferred the intimacy of conversations with friends or new acquaintances. With a quick and infectious laugh, he was able to put anyone at ease when talking. Heartfelt is perhaps the best descriptor of Jack. Genuine, honest, and likeable fit just as well for this devout Buddhist who would shoo away a horse fly rather than swat it. It is no wonder that Jack was at peace in the end because that is how he lived his life.

Namaste Jack.



Guide Profiles

Marieke Taney, Age 34

Name? Marieke Taney (Pronounced Ma-ree-ka and it's actually my middle name, my parents never intended to call me by my first name which is Rosanna)—A lot of people call me Rieks.

Where were you born & where did you grow up? Born in June of 1974 in the old hospital right here in Flag Town usa. Did some good growing and raising here too. My mom is from Holland, so I spent a lot of my childhood in Amsterdam as well.

Who do you work for currently (and in the past)? I work for the great company of Canyon Explorations. I did a few trips for oars when I was starting out; I've done some trips for AZRA, a handful of science trips and some GCY trips.

How long have you been guiding? I suppose I started working in the canyon in 1999, but I started guiding back-packing type trips for NOLS and various other organizations before that.

What kind of boat(s) do you run? The jumble...Sotar, Wing, NRS, Avon (I prefer the Avon)—any and all of those plastic, hypalon or rubber 18-foot oar boats or 14-foot paddle boats...sometimes I get to run my Wave-sport kayak.

What other rivers have you worked on? I started out in Grand Canyon. I've worked some trips on the Main Salmon, did a trip on the Alsek River in Alaska for Sobek, and a semi work trip on the upper Yangtze River in China.

What are your hobbies/passions/dreams? I love to ride my mountain bike and kayak. I would like to pursue my art more and maybe write and illustrate kids books someday. A dream of mine is to stay in Grand Canyon as long as I can. A hope is to avoid having any more knee

surgeries!

Married/family/pets? I got married in September 2007 to a fabulous guy named David Dill who I am lucky enough to work in the canyon with. I've got a wonderful mom, a great brother and a beautiful new chocolate lab pup named Rhio.

School/area of study/degrees? The continuing Grand Canyon classroom...but formal education is a BS in Parks and Recreation Management from NAU and a MS in Forestry/Environmental Education from the Teton Science School and NAU. I think I am going to start on my PhD pretty soon.



What made you start guiding? Figured it was time... growing up in Flag around the boating community, hearing all the stories...it was a decision I had made long before I knew I was making it.

What brought you here? My mom's love for Grand Canyon (it's the only reason she came to the us).

Who have been your mentors and/or role models? My talented

paddle captaining and kayaking husband Dave. My brother Harlan, who is an amazing guide even though he is younger, started working in the canyon long before I did and got me on my first trip. Carol Fritzing (Fritz) showed me how to row a boat (probably pretty frustrating for her when I couldn't make it around windy corners). Brian Dierker—since childhood...what can I say? Rachel Schmidt who showed, and continues to show me what a great trip leader is like. My friend Tracy Scott who's got the fastest wit in the canyon and makes me laugh and cry (and drink too much whiskey at times). The greatest thing is, I look up to most of the folks I have worked with because they are all so talented in their own way...the list could go on forever.

What do you do in the winter? Up until this coming winter I ski patrolled at various places – Arizona Snow-bowl, Kirkwood, California and recently A-Basin, Colorado. In the spring I work as a heli-ski guide in Alaska for

Alaska Rendezvous. Because of too many times under the knife for my knee I am going to change my life a bit...I just took a full time teaching position at NAU.

Is this your primary way of earning a living or do you combine it with something else? I think the new teaching job will take care of earning a living and I love to teach, but working in the canyon will always be my life.

What's the most memorable moment in your guiding career? There are many but two stand out: the disabilities trip I was privileged to do and, getting caught in a big flash flood in Tuck Up canyon coming back from the Shaman's Gallery. We had a 14-year-old girl with us who went through the gamut of emotions during the

event and tearfully told her father after we had made it back safely that she wanted to be a river guide.

What's the craziest question you've ever been asked about the canyon/river? Why on earth would I (or anyone) ever want to do this for a living? (I don't think this individual enjoyed being in the canyon very much.)

What do you think your future holds? Beauty.

What keeps you here? A feeling and a love greater than words.

Tom Hansen, Age 54

What made you start guiding? I was introduced to river running by my father, Russ, when I was thirteen. He was a school principal and was always looking for something different to do for the summer. He started running Grand Canyon for John Cross and Cross Tours in 1967. Cross Tours was located in Orem, Utah where I was born, raised, and still live. During the winter of 1968 he decided that he could do this river running thing himself after working for John for two years. So, he walked into the NPS office, put down his \$65 (I think it was) for a concessionaire's license and started a company. I remember sitting around the dinner table with the family and deciding on the name for the company—Tour West. Who knew? All five of his sons became river guides, though I am the only one who has stayed with it.

What was your first trip like? Dad talked his good friend Frank Stratton, also an educator, into joining

the company and they took the maiden voyage of Tour West in 1969. I was fifteen and was thrilled to be able to go. I don't remember a lot about the trip except that I had fun. I do remember that I was nervous at Crystal because it was only two and a half years since the debris flow had dramatically changed it. I could tell when my dad was nervous, and he was nervous scouting Crystal. I remember that the water temperature was a lot warmer—maybe because I am older now, but probably because it really was warmer. Lake Powell was still filling up back then and not nearly as deep.

I do remember having a layover day at Deer Creek Falls. There was a big beach there back then, big enough for a nice camp. From Saturday afternoon till Monday morning not a single boat came by. This was back when less than 5,000 total people had gone through the canyon. It didn't seem strange back then, but now I think about it and am amazed. I have camped in a lot of the places that we are no longer allowed to camp: Red Wall, LC, Elves, Shinumo Creek, Deer Creek, Havasu (who would ever want to camp at Havasu?).



How long have you been guiding? When I was seventeen, dad needed a third guide for a trip with himself and Wayne Tobler and there was nobody else who could go. He talked to the NPS and got permission for me to go as a guide. The scariest trip of my life, but when I was done I was addicted.

Is this the primary way of earning a living or do you combine it with something else? I've had to take "real" jobs through the years—when I got married and my family grew (I have been married 30 years and have four kids)—but I have always stayed with the river. I take several trips each year now using vacation time. I went back to school and got a degree in Computer Science. I am now a Senior Solutions Engineer for Microsoft. What a strange marriage of jobs between computer software and rafts and rapids. The river is my sanity.

What kind of boats do you run? I run both motor and rowing trips. Since I have limited time for the river, I have to choose between one rowing trip or two motor trips each summer.

What other rivers have you worked on? I have also worked on the main fork of the Salmon and in Cataract Canyon. I have run many of the sections of the Green River along with the Yampa and Dolores.

What's the most memorable moment in your guiding career? Even though I have been running the Canyon for 39 years, I am proud to say I don't have a single rock, beach, rapid, or cliff named after me or story told about me (that I know of). Not that I haven't screwed up big

time; I have just been able to pay people off, or bury those that I couldn't pay off. My biggest screw-up was flipping a 37-foot S-rig in the little rapid between Cave Springs and Tiger Wash, but that's a story for another day, or perhaps Christa's next book.

What is the strangest question you've ever been asked? Several different men have asked me if after the trip we drove the boats back upstream at night because they didn't see any going upstream during the day. (We really have a hard time getting the rowing rigs upstream that way.)

Do you have any hobbies? One of my hobbies/passions is photography, particularly in the Canyon. Raechel Running got me interested in this in the early '90s and with the advent of digital cameras. I take 500 plus pictures each trip. One trip I took 1,020 pictures.

What's most difficult about guiding? The most difficult part of running the river now is the two weeks after my last trip of the season. I always suffer from Post River Depression Syndrome (PRDS). Show of hands how many of you have the same illness every fall?

What keeps you here? There have been lots of changes over the years—the rigs, beaches, rapids, faces, even the mindset of the guests (for the better). The constant through it all is the spirit of Grand Canyon. Nothing is better than sitting in the quiet of the evening when the dishes are done and everybody is happy and full, and you can hear the sounds of the Canyon, smell it, and feel the breeze.....Ok, now I'm in my happy place.

Dear Eddy

I LOVED THE RECENT ARTICLE by C.V. Argonautus titled, "1958 High Water!" C.V.'s pondering got me pondering. The USGS just released a report (USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2008-5075, online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5075/>) describing a computer model that predicts stage in Grand Canyon for small flows and large floods. While we need to remember all computer models have some level of error (note the lead author is a rapscallion), this particular model predicts the 1957 flood overtopped the boulder by 1.5 feet, consistent with the water surface in the photo showing P.T.'s journey (see the report). If

one were to run the 1958 flood through the computer model, the predicted water surface would lap up onto the boulder roughly two feet below the top—precisely the water level needed to hang driftwood. It appears the computer model's results corroborate Argonautus's story. C.V., I'm buying your story until someone better looking comes along.

Chris Magirl

U.S. Public Health Service in the Grand Canyon

IN A PERFECT WORLD, every job interview would include the question, “Do you like to hike?” That’s one I was asked in June 2007 when I was competing for the National Park Service Public Health Consultant position stationed in Flagstaff, Arizona. Wow. What a job! After being here for over a year now I am convinced this is one of the best assignments in the country.

I have served in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps (www.usphs.gov) for a little over six years. Never heard of it? If so, you are not alone. I didn’t learn about the USPHS until I was in graduate school working on my Masters in Public Health degree. The USPHS is one of America’s seven active duty, uniformed services. There are more than 6000 officers across the country working in many different health professions. We work day-to-day in a wide range of Federal agencies to fight disease and poor health conditions both here in the United States and internationally. I have been assigned to positions in Fresno, California; San Jose, California; Lenexa, Kansas; and now in Flagstaff, Arizona. In addition to these assignments, USPHS officers are also organized into deployment teams to respond to public health crises including natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and terrorist attacks. The USPHS Commissioned Officers are known as “America’s Health Responders.” For example, I was deployed during Hurricane Katrina on a team assigned to help prevent disease outbreaks among the many thousands of people in evacuee shelters. It was an incredible experience!

Since 1918 the National Park Service’s Public Health Program has been working to prevent disease and promote Public Health in the National Park system. Within the NPS Division of Visitor and Resource Protection is the Office of Public Health (OPH) headquartered in Washington, DC. Included in the staff of the Office of Public Health are ten Public Health Consultants who are stationed in field offices around the country and cover a geographically defined number of Park units. We conduct on-site evaluations, surveillance, data analysis, and direct consultation to assist park superintendents in reducing disease transmission. My current assignment covers most of Northern Arizona and part of Southern Utah including Grand Canyon National Park (NP), Glen Canyon NP, Petrified Forest NP, Navajo National Monument (NM), Canyon De Chelly NM, Wupatki NM, Sunset Crater Volcano NM, Walnut Canyon NM, Tuzigoot NM, Montezuma Castle NM, and Hubble Trading Post National Historic Site.

It didn’t take long after getting here to fall in love with Grand Canyon National Park, especially the inner canyon. The 2008 GTS River Trip was a great experience for me. Thanks to everyone who made that trip possible.

I made some great new friends and had an incredible time. I also gathered a wealth of information about Public Health on the river through discussions with guides, getting “hands on” experience with camp logistics, and testing water characteristics at multiple locations during the trip. I scribbled a lot of notes into my book during the trip! Although I got input from just about everyone, I’d like to especially thank Nate Jordan, Alan Neill, and Ariel Neill of Wilderness River Adventures for their outstanding assistance with my data gathering and feedback on my ideas. I’d also like to give kudos to Greg Woodall for imparting many hours worth of Grand Canyon knowledge throughout the trip.

Over the last few months information obtained on the GTS River Trip has been used to enhance and further develop Grand Canyon National Park’s public health program on the river. This will be ongoing throughout the upcoming year. Most of this initiative will impact how the National Park Service manages public health on the river. River guides won’t see major changes to public health requirements for commercially-operated river trips: most will remain the same. However, there will be a few minor changes in some areas such as drinking water filtration and disinfection.

Boatman’s Quarterly Review subscribers have great collective experience on the river. On a regular basis I’d like to blend that experience with the Public Health knowledge of the USPHS. As one way of doing this feel free to send any suggestions, questions, or comments you may have to matt_walburger@partner.nps.gov or call the Flagstaff office at 928-226-0168. Together we can enhance our ability to provide a healthy and safe river experience in the Grand Canyon. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to Public Health on the river!

LT Matt Walburger

Let's Work Together

GCRG AND THE GRAND CANYON TRUST have very similar objectives for protecting and enhancing the Colorado River and Grand Canyon. Our common interests go back decades. We worked together on the Grand Canyon Protection Act, on restricting scenic overflights, and more recently, we have been steadfast allies on the Adaptive Management Group, which oversees and provides recommendations on the Bureau of Reclamation's management of the Glen Canyon dam. We're also both staunch supporters of the new park management and the natural resource protection efforts they have prioritized.

GCRG and the Trust do not always see eye to eye on every issue, nor should we expect to. We're two independent organizations with slightly different experiences and perspectives—and we are individually and collectively stronger because of this. The important point is that we share a common objective—the unwavering protection of the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon and its surrounding landscape.

The Trust was created in 1985 and has re-invented itself on several occasions—the most recent being in 2002 when Bill Hedden took over leadership of the organization. The Trust now has over 4,000 committed members, a staff of 22 people working in four states (including a substantial presence in Washington, DC) and, long story short, has matured into a very formidable and effective regionally focused organization.

Trust programs range from holding the Bureau of Reclamation's feet to the fire on Glen Canyon Dam management; to stopping uranium exploration and mining immediately adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park; to fighting the proliferation of oil and gas development across the entire Colorado Plateau; to ecological restoration of an 850,000 acre ranch on the north rim of

Grand Canyon National Park; to promoting renewable energy and sustainable economic development projects on Native American lands; to developing the largest and most effective volunteer program in the region.

GCRG and the Trust are both stronger and more effective when we work together on issues. GCRG brings to the table a far more intimate knowledge of the river and a perspective from people who spend 100 plus days per year living and working in the depths of the Grand Canyon. Guides also have the perspective of seeing the canyon for the 300th time, or through their client's eyes, for the first time—with both experiences having important lessons. The Trust brings added staff and financial resources and political access to the table. In these times, when the challenges loom large, it makes sense to team up whenever we can.

In an effort to help create a stronger partnership, the Trust is offering all current members of GCRG a free one-year membership to the Trust. The Trust will also provide a regular update on issues of common interest which will appear in future issues of the *Boatman's Quarterly*. And, in an effort to get to better know GCRG and its members, the Trust will also be attending and participating in GCRG's spring guide training.

If you are interested in receiving a free one year membership in the Trust, including a subscription to its twice annual *Colorado Plateau Advocate*, please fill out and return the coupon below. We encourage all of you to take advantage of this offer.

The river will be better protected, and we will all be stronger, if we work together.

For more information on the Grand Canyon Trust, please visit: www.grandcanyontrust.org.

Please sign me up for a free one-year membership to the Grand Canyon Trust.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip Code: _____

e-mail: _____

Please mail this to: Grand Canyon Trust, 2601 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, az 86001.

New Geoarchaeological Investigations of Cultural Sites Along the River

WHEN VARIOUS PHASES of ancient peoples visited Grand Canyon, they left behind a rich legacy of life in one of Earth's most renowned and challenging landscapes. More than one hundred years after John Wesley Powell recorded the first archaeological observations along the Colorado River, the people who lived within Grand Canyon's inner corridor remain an intriguing mystery.

Archaeological research continued sporadically throughout the last century, but decades ago, NPS managers, river runners, and archaeologists became aware that cultural sites occupying ancient flood terraces were being destroyed by gully erosion and by visitation trailing and desecration. This launched a debate over the role of Glen Canyon Dam in the degradation of sites, and two decades of hard work by the Park and a league of scientists to study, monitor, and mitigate the erosion ensued. Gullying is an entirely natural consequence of rapacious run-off from desert catchments, and doubly so in the monsoon-driven summer storm cycles of the southwest (Figure 1). But erosion of silt/sand river



Figure 1. A meter-scale gully has exposed the stratigraphy of a culturally-rich, ancient Colorado River flood terrace.

terraces likely has been exacerbated by significantly reduced sediment loads of the post-dam river. Just how much, and in what ways, remains a spirited discussion between agencies and scientists; but in the end, what matters most is the preservation of the cultural heritage of the inner canyon.

Beginning in 2006 geomorphologists from Utah State University (USU) and archaeologists from Zuni Cultural Resources Enterprise (ZCRE), Humboldt State University

(HSU), National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation began a study to assess the severity of erosion affecting over 150 of the most at-risk sites between Glen Canyon and the Grand Wash Cliffs. The resulting "treatment plan" concluded that a variety of erosive processes play a role in cultural site degradation. Overland flow (run-off) and visitation trailing are foremost among them, but others, such as intense rainsplash, soil creep, and eolian (wind) erosion also contribute significantly. Yet only one-third of sites were found to be in need of some sort of mitigation (good news!) either to preserve them in place (always the preferred option) or to excavate if information was being lost. Over the next several years the USU/ZCRE/HSU team will work closely with the Park and the Bureau to mitigate loss of the irreplaceable cultural record.

Last year (2007) river runners and backpackers were invited to visit ongoing excavations in Furnace Flats conducted by the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) and overseen by NPS archaeologists (see BQR winter 2006–2007, v. 19:4). These excavations, the first to be conducted in Grand Canyon in many years, revealed spectacular and unprecedented cultural features from the Pueblo I and II period in the Canyon. The USU/ZCRE/HSU excavations will likewise be accompanied by an NPS interpreter. Although we are separate projects, the MNA and USU/ZCRE/HSU teams will work closely in the coming years to collaborate on the larger picture of our cultural and geomorphic discoveries.

The study and treatment of sites is science-based, with ongoing input from the tribes. Excavation enables researchers to sample ethnobotanical materials (such



Figure 2. Archaeologist Kenny Bonvekaty samples a buried hearth in Glen Canyon, 2008.

as pollen to determine diet, farming practices, etc.) (Figure 2) and to measure the precise age of cultural features before they are gone. Fortunately, sampling usually entails only partial removal of most features. Also, in cases where traditional excavation is necessary to understand the context of the site, care is then taken to return it to as natural a state as possible. The goal is to ensure sites will persist into the future just as they have throughout the past.

Cultural and Geomorphic History

The relatively recent Pueblo II period (ad 1000–1250, or 1000–750 years before present) is the best-understood phase of Grand Canyon cultural history. This and roasting features of the (~500 year-old) protohistoric period (Figure 3) are both represented by relatively abundant surface evidence. However, cultural evidence



Figure 3. Excavating a meter-scale roasting feature in Western Grand Canyon. The contents may reveal environmental conditions at the time food was being actively prepared.

of the preceding several thousand years lies deeper in the sandy terrace stratigraphy as represented mostly by charcoal and ash-rich thermal features. These represent cultural horizons for which comparatively little is known. Throughout the mid-late Holocene (about 6000–1,000 years ago), the river buried faint traces of Archaic and Basketmaker cultures as the flood plain accumulated sand, and where they have escaped obliteration, these rare features remain undisturbed. Although not represented by artifacts such as pottery or by living structures, these oldest remains provide new information about the subsistence strategies of Grand Canyon's oldest inhabitants.

The cultural and physical landscapes were as inseparable for ancient peoples as they are for us today. The changing riverine environment as recorded in terrace sediments may have forced people to adjust their living

patterns throughout the Holocene. Large floods may have had a lot to do with this. Geomorphologists are interested in the history of the river's behavior, particularly with respect to climate change and patterns of flooding and erosion in the last 10,000 years. Thus we have an excellent opportunity to view the stratigraphy as a window into the past—and document carefully the environmental histories of each site—that ultimately influenced how people lived, traveled and farmed in the canyon (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Geomorphologists analyze stratigraphy in a test trench overlying an extensive burn horizon. From these maps, interpretations will follow that paint a picture of changes in Colorado River behavior through time.

The USU/ZCRE/HSU project sites are scattered amongst the high terraces along the river. If you see us at work, please pull over for some interpretation and to peruse the informative kiosk that will be stocked with maps and handouts. For more background information on the project, updates and educational links, visit our website (due to be online by end of the summer 2008) at www.usu.edu/geology/gcgap.

Gary O'Brien, Jonathan Damp & Joel Pederson

Ongtupqa — Salt Canyon

HOPI CHILDREN GROW UP hearing stories about Grand Canyon, called Ongtupqa in Hopi. They're not stories of historical river runners and explorers, nor are they stories of rapids and epic runs, and they're definitely not stories of revelry around the campfire. They're stories told by grandparents about their relatives, their ancestors who lived and thrived in Ongtupqa long ago, before moving to the tops of the three mesas where Hopis now live. They're stories of family members embarking upon the ceremonial Salt Trail to harvest the sacred and necessary salt supplies needed by the people living on the mesas. And they're stories about the origin of the people and the Sipapuni, the place of emergence for all Hopis. Ongtupqa, Grand Canyon, is where Hopis return after death, the most sacred of holy places, the home of many Hopi deities as well as loved ones who have passed.

Grand Canyon plays a central role in the cultural, spiritual, and everyday life of a Hopi. Hopis think of themselves in relation to Grand Canyon, defined by it; having emerged from the depth of Sipapuni, each Hopi will return to Ongtupqa after death, their spiritual home. This worldview gives the Hopi tribe a unique sense of stewardship of Grand Canyon. As Will Talashoma, explains it, "Grand Canyon belongs to the Creator. We Hopis are the primary stewards, appointed to take care of it. The younger generations don't necessarily inherit it, they become the new caretakers. Please respect this."

This sense of stewardship motivated the Hopi tribe to become a part of the Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) back in 1991, and since then their involvement has grown and developed. The Hopis are one of 25 stakeholders involved in the management of the dam, which currently includes five other tribes, federal and state agencies, environmental and recreational interests, power contractors and the basin states affected. The Hopi perspective provides an alternative method of assessing and managing the ecosystem, one far more holistic than that offered by most of the other participants. Millennium of co-evolution has shaped Hopis understanding of the landscape, leading to an intimate yet far-reaching view.

Hopis worked for many years to record cultural information about the plants, animals, historical and archeological sites, as well as clan histories in Grand Canyon. The focus shifted in 2001 when the Hopi tribe voiced their need to become a more fully engaged partner in the management of Glen Canyon Dam. This led to the development of the Hopi Long-Term Monitoring Program which seeks to integrate Hopi philosophies, teachings, and values with the dry scientific approach. The main method used is for the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

to receive scientific reports generated by GCMRC and then "translate" them into language and subject matter which focuses on the areas of Hopi interest. This information on the current state of the specific resources and landscape is then presented to Hopi groups and individuals who are asked to respond based on their knowledge of Hopi teachings. Since river trip participants generally have the deepest understanding of Grand Canyon and have visually assessed the resources firsthand, their feedback has become very useful for the program. Thanks to an annual Hopi River Trip, which has been run every season since 1992, a number of Hopis have been able to contribute in this way to the Long-Term Monitoring Program.

So, every year, a carefully chosen group of men prepare themselves to enter the most sacred place a Hopi can go—Ongtupqa. Certain ceremonial and cultural responsibilities are fulfilled as the trip approaches. At Lees Ferry, prayers and offerings are made at water's edge, as well as personal preparations of herbs and minerals applied for protection. We participants introduced ourselves to each other with deeply felt words of gratitude and respect as we prepared to enter this awesomely beautiful and dangerous place. Hopis respect Grand Canyon as a place of the spirits. It is a place to speak and step carefully and respectfully.

Yet despite the seriousness of the pilgrimage we were about to embark upon, the lighthearted mood of the group took over. This year's trip was "focused more on the young people, their cultural learning and personal soul-searching," according to Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, director of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Leigh has been the overall Hopi leader on most Hopi trips since 1992 except for this year. This year's cultural leader, Merv Yoyetewa, was a reflection of that focus, being a very fit, funny and out-going guy in his late fifties who loved to joke and sing out loud. But the depth of his respect and gratitude, the eloquence of his descriptions of Hopi prayers and beliefs, showed why he was chosen to lead.

The ages, personalities, histories, and levels of participation in the Hopi societies back on the mesas of each person varied, but the overwhelming sense of community and camaraderie was strong and steady in everyone. Our boatman, Lynn Roeder, is a favorite of the Hopis, having worked many of the Hopi Grand Canyon trips with her characteristic humor and competence. Mike Yeatts, senior archaeologist and Project Director for the Hopi tribe, was knowledgeable, informative, and unfailingly energetic. Our crew was Robert Jenkins, aka Beep; Grand Canyon river guide, past participant on three previous Hopi river trips, and the son of Leigh Kuwanwisiwma. Beep's knowledge of the cultural sites and traditions, history of the

monitoring program, and excellent cooking skills made him an invaluable part of the trip.

The scientific part of the trip was largely documented by completing two written surveys—one in the beginning of the trip and the other at the end—to see how perceptions may have changed throughout the course of our expedition. Mike clearly and thoroughly recounted information about the state of culturally important resources and how they've changed over the years, including showing fascinating repeat photos for visual clarity and impact. More than one person on the trip mentioned their gratitude for his knowledge and commitment to the tribe.

Due to the Hopi belief that all things are related, the resources of interest to the tribe are many and complex, though due to cultural and ancestral ties, perhaps the areas related to traditional cultural properties are most important. These include archaeological sites as well as extremely sensitive areas such as Sipapuni, the sacred Hopi Salt Mines, mineral gathering caves, and ancient offering sites that are still being used today. The terrestrial resources are very important as well: the state of the plants traditionally used by Hopi (such as willow, reed, and cattail) as well as that of the exotics; the animals from bighorn sheep and mule deer to birds, snakes, toads, insects, and spiders; the fish; the sand and sediment; and of course the water—the Colorado river itself, the Little Colorado River, and various springs and seeps.

The cultural responsibilities and activities permeated the trip and gave it a significance much deeper than simply a science trip or recreation trip. Ceremonial smoking and offerings were made each morning

and evening, as well as other preparations and prayers before getting on the water every day. Every participant spoke reverently of having heard stories of these places and described the feelings of respect and privilege it gave them to see it in person: Of being alive and full of joy, as well as being a free man, at Vasey's spring, where in the 1500 and 1600's the Spanish priests forced the menfolk of Hopi to trek in pursuit of holy water for their churches; feeling comforted by seeing your very own clan's symbols and message in the petroglyphs at South Canyon; gasping, breathless from the climb, at the view from the Nankoweap granaries, amazed at what your ancestors undertook daily as a matter of everyday living; holding a piece of pottery from the Hopi mesas in your hands at Unkar, and feeling the connection deep in your bones. The past, future, and present blend into one, spiraling through time while we stand grounded, deep in Ongtupqa.

Of course, there was an occasional reminder of our current place in time—the other trips we saw on the river. This raised the question of what Hopis think about all this recreation by Anglo tourists? For the most part, the Hopis on this trip were quite generous and understanding of the thousands of tourists trooping through their spiritual home. In the next issue, we'll further explore the Hopi experience, their thoughts on the tourists, and what Hopis would like visitors to learn on their trip through Grand Canyon.

Wendy Himelick

Wee Red Makes Another Return Trip; Wen on the Move Again

THE 1960 JET BOAT *Wee Red*, the only watercraft ever to have made a round-trip run on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon, led by the international crew of Kiwis and Yanks—Bill Austin, Bill Belknap, Buzz Belknap, Jon Hamilton, Guy Mannering, Dock Marston, and Phil Smith—has recently made another return trip. On April 29, I accompanied Cam Staveley, of the Colorado River Fund (CRF), to Page, Arizona, to trailer the historic boat from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to Grand Canyon National Park. Conservator Brynn Bender has stated that the faded red color will probably be reclaimed after cleaning and that the boat should be ready for display for the 50th anniversary of the historic uprun in 2010.



Wee Red then. Jet boat Wee Red plunges down Vulcan Rapid [Lava Falls], Garth Marston at the controls. Photo courtesy NAU Cline Library Special Collections NAU. PH.96.4.94.87

On June 30, Grand Canyon National Park personnel moved Norm Nevills's flagship "sadiron" or "cataract" boat, the *Wen*, from the 1938 Nevills Expedition trip from the conservation shop to the Canyon View Visitors Center after a much-needed, and thorough, cleaning. It is the first historic boat to go on display after all the boats got transferred from the old Visitors Center for conservation efforts. Besides being Grand Canyon's first commercial river trip, it was notable for boating the first two women, Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter, the entire 277 miles of Grand Canyon.



Wen then. Norman Nevills in Wen near Tanner Mine [Mile 65.2] July 1949. Photo courtesy NAU Cline Library Special Collections NAU.PH.97.46.46.13



Wee Red now. Photo courtesy Richard Quartaroli.



Wen now. Photo courtesy Mike Quinn, GICNP.

Further Historic Boat Updates

The Belknap-donated 1963 sport yak, *The Dock*, is completely cleaned. The inboard motor boat *Esmeralda II* is in the process of being cleaned; the motor is done, oil changed, and the spark plugs cleaned. Zee Grant's *Escalante* kayak is in process and should be finished by the time you read this. The small inflatable raft *Georgie* is being cleaned and the tubes filled with polystyrene beads to keep her form. There are three canoes in the collection, all from the Kalamazoo Canvas Boat Co.: one from Emery Kolb's garage, the one that held the skeleton thought to be Glen Hyde; and two from Glen Canyon NRA, believed to have belonged to David Rust—there is a 1968 letter from Dock Marston to Ken Sleight to that effect. GCRG member, and former Grand Canyon Dories boatman, Rich Turner is again volunteering, cleaning and assisting with a cover for one of the Rust canoes and

cleaning and “beading” the *Georgie*. Thanks, Rich!

It's been a while since there has been a report on the Historic Boat Project. We're pleased to say that there continues to be progress on the effort to apply the National Park Service “Organic Act” principles to these classic watercraft: to conserve for future generations and provide access to these irreplaceable resources. At the 2008 GTS, boatman and GCNP Superintendent Steve Martin stated his support for this ongoing project. The Grand Canyon Association has taken over the fund-raising aspect, assisting with the exhibit area display. We hope to have more frequent details about the historic boats, so stay tuned and keep on floatin'.

C.V. Aboatus

Katie Lee Exhibit

THE CLINE LIBRARY at Northern Arizona is pleased to announce the debut of a new exhibit celebrating the life and living legacy of outspoken Southwest environmental activist, author, and folksinger Katie Lee. Stop by Special Collections (second floor) and check it out. A confirmed westerner who hails from Tucson, Arizona, Katie grew up exploring the desert. She has done what she set out to do not once but twice. An accomplished singer and songwriter, although in the days before it was very profitable, Katie researched one of her favorite types of music—cowboy music of the Old West. Her first book, entitled *Ten Thousand Goddam Cattle*, documents cowboy songs and verse. Katie followed-up the book with a double-album of 28 songs and a film. She appeared at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and produced an award-winning PBS documentary, *The Last Wagon*.

When she was in her thirties, Katie began taking boat trips down the Colorado River with her friends, such as Frank Wright and Tad Nichols. She fell in love with Glen Canyon. In attempt to raise awareness of the splendor and mystery of the Colorado River and to fight the Bureau of Reclamation (Wreck the Nation), Katie not only wrote her own songs about the river, but she also discovered those written by others, collecting them on two albums: *Colorado River Songs* and *Glen Canyon River Journeys*.



Katie Lee in water-filled pothole at Llewellyn Gulch. Photo courtesy NAU Cline Library Special Collections NAU.PH.99.3.1.15.22

When the Glen Canyon Dam was closed in 1963, all of Katie's beloved places, Music Temple, Hidden Passage, and Moki Canyon, drowned in the backflow. Katie shared her journals of those river trips in a 1998 book, *All My Rivers Are Gone*, and in a 2007 reprinted version (many new photographs and additions) of her elegy to the spectacular canyon in *Glen Canyon Betrayed*. As author Chuck Bowden penned for the back of *Betrayed*, “There once was a real river, a living rasty thing, called the Colorado. And there once was [a] Canyon called Glen. Katie Lee has fought for both, for those 125 canyons murdered by our government and buried under that cesspool called Lake Powell. [She] has taught us to do better and the lesson is simple. Fight.”

Today, Katie is active with the advisory board of the Glen Canyon Institute.

As part of the exhibit festivities, the Cline Library will host a free public event with Katie on Saturday, October 4 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Cline Library Assembly Hall. Please plan on attending for a memorable evening of Katie's stories, songs, and readings, featuring rarely-seen or heard photos and folk operas. Books and CDs will be onsite for purchase and signing by Katie after the event. Parking is available behind the Library in Lot 13 off of Riordan Ranch Rd.

Back Up, Buddy!— A Call to Action

This article is a compilation by Nicole Corbo and Glenn Rink, with help from Brad Dimock, Robert Miller, and Lynn Hamilton. Jon Stoner intends to submit a related article about financial planning for an upcoming BQR. These thoughts are intended as a wake-up call to guides at an early stage in their career. It is also a call to action for the whole community, to address a pervasive issue that doesn't get enough attention...that is, until it becomes your issue.

UP, IT'S THE SAME OL' STORY... You've got a young boater who's full of excitement for a place. She works really, really hard, just happy to be there. Though she's heard the words of precaution, she bends precariously at the waist to lift box after box from the boat hatches, because there's no good way to "lift with your legs" when doin' such stuff. She carries those heavy boxes and other awkward items alone. She does it because she can, and because feeling strong feels good. Besides, everyone else is doing the same thing. Truthfully, she doesn't even think about her back. Why would she? It doesn't hurt...yet.

If you look at it in geologic terms, which guide-types are prone to do, then you realize how young we are as a species. So it just goes to follow logically that as such youngsters we should be expected to make some mistakes (sometimes over and over). It still stands to make me wonder, though, why we don't seem to learn from the past. Why do we seem doomed to repeat the mistakes of those who came before us? Maybe it's because what's needed to truly affect change is a major shift in thinking, and that's never easy to come by.

Would I do it differently, if I could go back and do it all again? Probably not, because people's attitudes and the way they think is a big part of why it goes the way it goes.

"Your back is older than you are," Walt said. He smiled at me with that endearingly shy look he has, his head bent to the side, a tousle of grey hair hanging in his eyes. "It doesn't mean your boating career is over," he continued, pushing the hair away, "you just have to be smart about how you do things. You know, do things differently."

This conversation came after things had already gotten pretty different. I'd been dropping trips and, instead of boating, I'd been answering phones and giving orientation talks. I was picking up odd jobs around town to pay the bills, and I had feelers out for some sort of employment that would keep my heart happy and my back stable. Oddly, I had already been planning on doing shorter river seasons and was looking into graduate

schools, but a seemingly minor back injury forced my hand to change things sooner than I'd wanted. I was stressed and panicked, but not just about finding work, more so about my physical ability level for *the rest of my life*. I'd always imagined myself as a fully functional 80-pluser (like those inspirational characters I'd taken down river). I planned to show up on trips saying, "hey, kiddo, can I row this one?"

Truth be told, I still imagine it that way, and I still plan to do trips 'til I can't. Thing is, like Walt said, I've got to do things differently...we all do.

Nicole isn't the Lone Ranger. Many (most?) guides have suffered pain or loss of function from years of physical abuse related to river activities. These injuries don't usually result from a single event. Rather, they result from repetitive actions, like awkwardly pulling 20MM ammo boxes out of hatches, participating in bag lines where you twist your spine while holding heavy objects, or worse, catching thrown river bags, not to mention all the wear and tear from loading and unloading frames and rubber, trip after trip. Then, brushing your teeth one day, a back pain hits you hard and sharp, and you can't move. Your back is mush.

While back problems are not unique to river guides, they are common among river guides. We, as a community, can make changes in how we do business, changes that will lower the number of guides who have to deal with a shortened boating career, fear and frustration about long-term ramifications from an injury, and panicked scrambling to make ends meet.

The river community has come a long way from the old days of running motors from the back end of a donut, steel frames, no lift gates or winches, or rigging every trip by hand at Lees Ferry. Some of us think we still have a ways to go.

Multiple Choice:

Who is responsible for your back health?

- a) passengers
- b) individual guides
- c) outfitters
- d) the river gods
- e) GCRG Association

Clearly, each guide is responsible for their own occupational choices, how they go about that occupation, making improvements to reduce back strain, or even outright refusing to go along with the status quo. Only guides can take care of their bodies. Only guides can plan their own sustainable future. Ultimately your back is your responsibility. However all of the above entities can

play a role in improving guide health.

Who can participate in reducing back strain in river-related procedures?

- a) outfitters
- b) passengers
- c) individual guides
- d) GCRG Association
- e) the river gods

Everyone can get involved to make changes that will have long-lasting positive impacts for present and future guides.

Outfitters will have to think creatively, hear advice from their guides, and implement new solutions to reducing back strain. They could require that two people *always* carry certain heavy items, and find ways to pack gear (when possible) to reduce the number of heavy, awkward items. Also, they might help find ways to make back safety as cool and enticing as profit-sharing. Outfitters could market trips as adventures where passengers should anticipate and welcome some physical discomfort as part of the price they will pay for living and breathing in beauty for a spell. Sometimes it seems like outfitters attempt to entice every potential passenger by assuaging their every concern for creature comforts. One Grand Canyon outfitter insisted that guides carry a four-person tent down the river for each passenger on their trips. Was this necessary? Of course not. Rather, it was simply abusive to the backs of the guides. Excessive and unnecessary crap on trips needlessly contributes to wear and tear on the backs of guides. Although most passengers *do* consider their river trip an adventure, it's really important that they don't expect to have the many luxuries they might bring on a car-camping trip.

Guides will have to think about what's required of them and realize that the few extra minutes it takes for two people to carry something now will save them years in the long run. Guides need to be creative, finding ways to reduce the back strain involved in loading and unloading trucks, rigging, and the daily round of activities on the river, and find new approaches to the most abusive tasks. Guides also need to be conscious of back health during every task, to ensure that they develop healthy habits and maintain them.

The BQR could be a forum of ideas related to reducing back strain related to river activities. How about a Heloise Hints section in the BQR for outfitters and guides to share tips on, and creative solutions to, reducing back strain? How about inviting a back strain expert to the land Guides Training Seminar? Or inviting an expert in industrial efficiency (an OSHA representative?) to participate in all phases of the GTS river trip; preparation, the trip itself, and cleanup? OSHA personnel are reputed to know about reducing job-related injuries and back strain. Outfitters can show their commitment to guide health by

welcoming this level of scrutiny, with the idea of gain for everyone in the community in the long run.

Here are a few other ideas. With a little brainstorming, our creative community can come up with many more.

- 1) Many outfitters use lift gates to load/unload gear. Motor companies use winches or small truck-mounted cranes to load heavy items. How about rowing outfitters developing something similar to load the heaviest items on row trips directly into the boats? One rowing outfitter does all their heavy loading with cranes. Yeah!
- 2) Pulling 20MM boxes out of hatches may be one of the worst back strain activities rowing guides do on trips. Some outfitters use large aluminum boxes to store items in, and then do their food shopping for only those things that they need for that meal. This reduces back strain. 20MM boxes were a great cheap solution in the early days of outfitting when river trips were a \$300 fringe vacation. Things have changed. It may be time to move on to a less back straining technology.
- 3) One outfitter riveted handles on the lids of their 20MM boxes to make them easier to extract from hatches. This reduced back strain, not to mention bloody fingers.
- 4) Some outfitters have done away with the heavy iron crap (Dutch ovens and griddles), instead using aluminum products; way lighter and easier on bodies.
- 5) Don't consider hauling that two-handed item by yourself. It may not hurt now. But I promise you, you'll notice it years from now. It's great to be the guy or gal who can do anything. But working together builds relationships and will be appreciated when you have a stronger back in your later years.

Realize that any new system won't be perfect the first time. New ideas always need to be tried out, modified, and further improved upon before they work well. It's a process.

How about some more brainstorming? Our biggest success may come from making a shift in our way of thinking about ourselves and our jobs. How do you make it cool for guides to ask for help moving heavy things? Our fellow guides will help us out; so will passengers. On almost every trip, there are at least a couple of passengers who are uncomfortable with their role as "dudes", and are anxious to help out. Are we too cool to accept and make use of that help? Those passengers will have a better time, and we'll have happier backs, for longer. Can guides be cool and still leave behind their two personal 20s, or their bedding, which only fits in the largest waterproof bags imaginable, and generally doing with less? Or asking outfitters to work with them on developing new protocols? How can we make it cool for outfitters to listen to guide ideas?

After we've done all we can do, it'll be up to the river gods. Back strain in the river business is inevitable. For many, the solution will be to relish guiding for awhile, and then move on while still in good shape. It'll help to have done some planning for this exit, whether it comes when you expect it, or unexpectedly, as in Nicole's experience.

For most of us, guiding is exceedingly more palatable than working 9–5, with only two weeks vacation a year. We're happy to leave the so-called "real jobs" to the folks we take down the river. But what would you want to do if you weren't guiding anymore? Not that 9–5 is the answer, but there's definitely something to be said for looking beyond guiding toward other gainful employment. Thinking about and preparing for an alternate career path makes it less of a back-up plan and more about simply broadening your dreams.

Many other career paths avoid the 9–5, involve being outdoors, and allow us to earn a living. Be creative. Your possibilities are only limited by your imagination. Some even involve remaining in, or close to, Grand Canyon. Talk to silverbacks who have found other career paths, perhaps even while continuing with their guiding. Pursue educational opportunities. Use that infernal question, "So, what do you do in the winter?" as a key. What else are you passionate about? Most often, these passions can be translated into something lucrative. Find ways to

develop your passions, talents, and skills so that they can lead into an alternate career path.

With an alternate career path in place, you'll likely cherish your time on the river more, while also looking forward to the next phase of your life. You'll have a greater sense of self-empowerment and a better mental outlook. When you do finally step out of guiding, it will be a positive thing instead of a crisis situation.

A few final thoughts: Remember, the maintenance of back health does not come from enduring adversity, it comes from avoiding adversity. Don't be a jackass, sacrificing your body and your adulthood in the name of a fun, cool job, and being a tough guy/gal. Know when to call enough *enough*. The silverback guides are a rare breed, and it's even more unusual to find one who is solely guiding—that person, if he or she exists, is an anomaly in a dead-end career path. So, keep doing what you love, be diligent about protecting your body (it's the only one you've got!), and work toward creating a fulfilling life beyond guiding. Hey, we know that all guides love to live in the moment, but being proactive, making smart choices, and formulating a long term vision will benefit *you* for the rest of your life.

Glenn Rink & Nicole Corbo

CRMP Visitor Experience Monitoring Update

THE NPS CREW CONDUCTING attraction site monitoring has been very busy this summer. We've been in the field each month since April at popular day use areas including the LCR, Deer Creek, Havasu, Phantom Ranch and the Whitmore area. The monitoring efforts focus on use levels and use patterns



Deer Creek July 11, 2008.

at attraction sites and passenger exchange areas. The basic purpose of the monitoring is to learn more about the use patterns (river traffic and campsite occupation) and use levels at sites under the new CRMP.

We are currently working on a database so that we can share the information that we have collected with all of you. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for a monitoring overview in the upcoming winter BQR.

We would like to thank all boaters down on the Grand. It has been a pleasure meeting you this season. Your generosity is out of sight and is graciously appreciated by the crew. We are very enthused that so many boaters are passionate about protecting the amazing Grand and all of its resources. Thanks also for your comments and observations on park management under the new CRMP.

We look forward to meeting and chatting with folks as our season progresses.

*Shannon McCloskey, Kirstin Heins,
Aaron Divine, Maddie Tighe, & Dean Reese*

For Y'all Who Take Out at Diamond Creek, Check out Pearce Ferry Rapid



Photos by Tim Whitney

Book Reviews

The Very Hard Way, Bert Loper and the Colorado River
by Brad Dimock, Fretwater Press

PROBABLY EVERYONE WHO READS the BQR knows the outline of Bert Loper's story, and most have seen at least one of his boats in the Canyon, or both. You may have stopped to really look over the *Ross Wheeler*, the metal boat on river left, just above Bass Camp, and/or the *Grand Canyon*, Bert's Boat, below Buck Farm. But who was Bert Loper? A great boat-builder? A skilled white-water technician? A crazy old goat who over-estimated his own ability in the Grand Canyon? Brad Dimock says none of the above.

Most of you already know Brad Dimock, from meeting him on the river, or at the GTS, or at one of his book signings. Brad is a well-known river guide, mostly, though certainly not exclusively in Grand Canyon. Thirty-plus years of running the river in Grand Canyon, founding editor of the BQR, a past president of GCRG, Dory boatman, motor boatman, kayaker, boat builder, historic river trip re-enactor, and in the last ten years, author.

Brad Dimock's latest book is a biography of Bert Loper, and the story of the legend of Bert Loper. Most readers of the BQR know Brad's other books, he was co-author of *The Doing of the Thing*, a biography of "Buzz" Holmstrom, and the sole author of *Sunk Without a Sound*, the history behind the Glen and Bessie Hyde story. In those two books, Dimock tackles the story of an incredible character, Buzz, and an incredible mystery, the honeymoon trip of Glen and Bessie.

In this latest book, Brad sets out to tell the story of, as he puts it, "a very ordinary person". Along the way, he tells us how this very ordinary person became so well known in modern river lore, at least in Grand Canyon lore. The title is taken from Loper himself, describing his outdoor life of boating, climbing and hiking: "...every thing I have done in my 60 years in the west have been the very hard way but I still love it all."

Bert Loper was born in Missouri, 139 years ago to the day as I write this (July 31st). The day he was born, John Wesley Powell's first trip arrived at the confluence of the

San Juan and Colorado Rivers. In the course of his life, Bert lived around the west, mostly where he could find work, as a laborer, then a muleskinner, then a miner, first in coal mines, then hard rock mines, and later self-employed as a placer miner/pro prospector. While placer mining along the San Juan River in 1893 and 1894, Bert developed a taste for running rivers. He would return to rivers for the rest of his life. Returning to them meant long stretches away from them, finding work in mining towns across Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, and Sonora, as well as freighting work around Utah, and boating work where ever he could. As he got older, the work was less physical, including stints as a caretaker of a building in Salt Lake City.

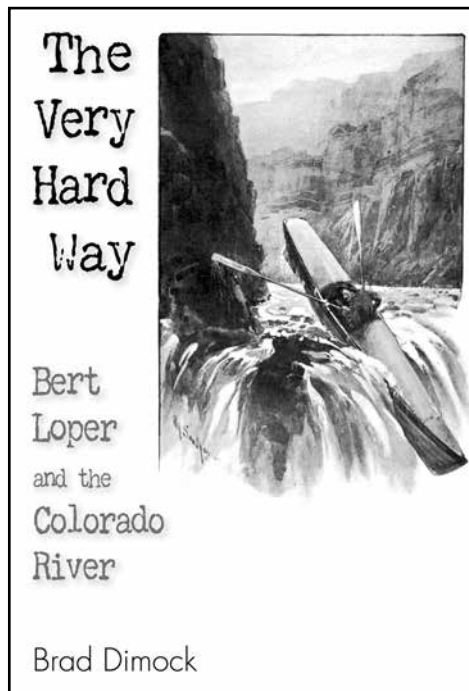
Brad weaves the story of Bert Loper's life in and out of the story of his last trip, and of how the people he knew thought of him. Brad does this by alternating chapters, one chapter will have Bert as a young man, learning to work in the mines above Rico, Colorado, and the next chapter will be the recollections of one of his fellow boatmen from his last trip with Bert. It is a very effective way to tell the two stories together.

It takes a book like this to try and attempt to get at the question, "What was so special about Bert Loper?" The book reveals he wasn't the smartest person to run the river, nor the most educated. He wasn't the best boat-builder,

or even the slickest boatman. He wasn't the best salesman, or the best businessman, or the best writer, or poet to run the river.

He might have been the first person ever to fall in love with the idea of going down the Grand Canyon on a river trip. That has to resonate with the river runners of today, and the boatmen. To fall in love with the idea of going down the Grand Canyon! If you know what that means, then you know what I'm talking about. If you don't know what it means to fall in love with the idea of going down the river, then I can try and explain it to you, but you may not believe it. It is when you think about the Grand Canyon, or your next trip, or your next season, when you are not on the river, or not in love with someone or something else.

The other attributes Bert brought to the table were



strength and courage, in an old fashioned sense of the words. Something nearer to what we would call an indomitable spirit, or willingness to persevere. Like towing and rowing his boat upstream through Glen Canyon, 180 miles, in the winter. Like launching on his first successful Grand Canyon trip at the age of 70.

In 1875, John Wesley Powell said this about the Grand Canyon:

"It is a region more difficult to traverse than the Alps or the Himalayas, but if strength and courage are sufficient for the task by a year's toil a concept of sublimity can be obtained never again to be equaled on [this] side of Paradise."

That is the type of strength and courage that Bert brought to bear on the problems he encountered in his life, and also to the opportunities, as he saw them. He had run much of what is now commercially run on the

Colorado Plateau, and most thought he had seen plenty. In his eyes, he hadn't run the Grand Canyon yet, and at the age of 70 was so in love with the idea of going down the Grand Canyon that he built a boat and went down the river. Down the river to see what was there, to be a boatman again, to be part of a crew again, to meet new people and become fast friends with them.

This is a great book about a great topic, and also more than I thought it would be. It's not just the great river story of a great boatman. It's the story of how an ordinary person led an extraordinary life, on his own terms, right up to the very end of that life. Take a look at this book, you will like it, whether you read it over the winter, or in one or two sittings.

John O'Brien

Riverman: The Story of Bus Hatch by Roy Webb, published by Fretwater Press.

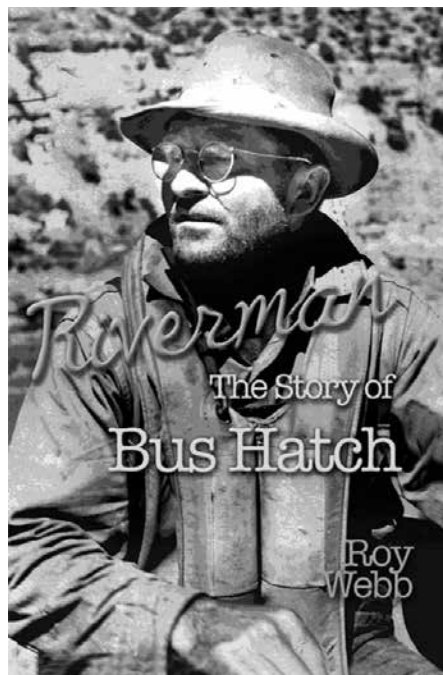
IF THERE WAS A SINGLE PERSON responsible for creating the modern commercial river trip in the southwest, it would be Robert Raphael Hatch, better known simply as "Bus". Hatch launched his career in the 1920's when rivermen built their own boats, taught themselves how to run rapids, shot wild game for food, and rarely encountered another party on the water. By his last voyage in the 1960's, Hatch had ushered in the age of modern river tourism and watched the arrival of huge pontoon rafts and motor-rigs as well as frequently crowded campsites and the inevitably increasing regulations that followed them.

Historian and veteran river runner, Roy Webb, has recently released an updated edition of his original biography of Hatch and his company, Hatch River Expeditions. Starting with Hatch's childhood in Vernal, Utah, Webb describes the close-knit family and circle of friends who would provide the foundation of Bus' personal and professional life. Inspired by the tales of pioneer river runner, Parley Galloway, young Bus started floating the rivers near his home as fun outings with

the boys and a chance to escape the pressures of his growing building contractor business. Even then Bus showed a natural talent for both building and handling boats that would later make him one of the top white-water men of his generation.

Webb describes how Hatch continued pushing himself to longer trips and harder rivers until finally running the full length of the Grand Canyon in a historic and often hap-hazard 1934 trip with Clyde Eddy, Russell Frazier and Frank Swain. As one of the first fifty people through the canyon, this alone would have secured his place in history. But Bus's more lasting impact would come in the form of river tourism. As his reputation grew, wealthy adventure-seekers started offering to fund his expeditions in exchange for a seat on the boat. Soon Bus was organizing regular tourist trips down the Green, Yampa, and later Colorado rivers as a side business to his construction work. With the assistance of his sons, by the 1960's, Hatch River Expeditions had evolved into the country's largest and most famous commercial river running company.

The book also covers somewhat lesser known aspects of Hatch's career including a chapter on his significant (if indirect) role in defeating the proposed Echo Park



Dam on the Green River in the 1950's. Hatch-guided trips by the Sierra Club and *National Geographic Magazine* helped spur public awareness and later opposition to the river's impending fate while propelling Bus and his company into the national spotlight. Other sections describe luxury-equipped personal river tours for the Kennedy family and a historic, but ill-fated movie-making run on Pakistan's rough Indus River which earned Bus membership in the exclusive Explorer's Club. The book also chronicles how in later years growing crowds, changing environmental attitudes, and increasing regulations would steadily erode Hatch's close relations with the Park Service and set the stage for river usage debates that continue to this day.

But beyond describing the major events in Hatch's life, the book is also a warm character study of a man whose personality often mirrored the rivers he ran: driven, energetic and prone to switching from a calm surface to a rage and back again in an instant. Indeed, Bus's temper—and the way in which it quickly dissipated—was legendary. As his grandson would recall, "One minute you were a knucklehead, the next he would pat

you on the back and you were his best hand." But Bus was equally famous for his unswerving loyalty to family and friends, his good humor in the face of adversity, and his undying love of the outdoors. Until his last days on the river, Bus never forgot what had brought him there in the first place: fun, friendship, and the simple freedoms of being out in nature.

Roy Webb is an experienced Grand Canyon boatman and brings an insider's voice and authority to his descriptions of the river and the culture that has developed around it. Much of the book is based on extensive interviews with Bus's family, coworkers, and friends which give the accounts an intimate and detailed—if sometimes one-sided—view of the both the man and his exploits. Extremely readable and often light-hearted, it is a book that Bus himself would have enjoyed and every serious Grand Canyon historian or river rat should own.

You can purchase this fine book at your favorite local bookstore, or through Amazon.com.

Erik Berg

New Releases

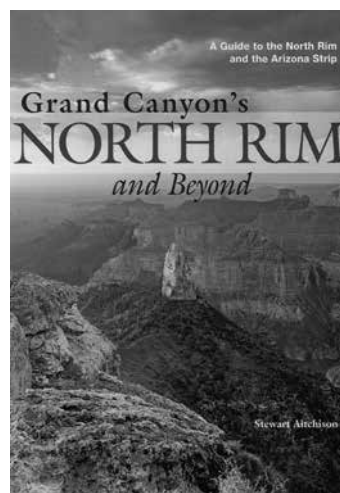
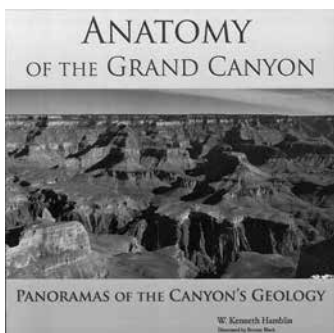
GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION announces three new books to their line-up. *Anatomy of the Grand Canyon*, by W. Kenneth Hamblin, is not a geology textbook encumbered with language unintelligible to the average reader. Rather, it is a visual tour from the canyon's rims, the Colorado River, and the air: from the beginning of the Grand Canyon at Lees Ferry, to its conclusion 277 miles downstream at the Grand Wash Cliffs.

With *Grand Canyon's North Rim and Beyond*, Stuart Aitchison shares his knowledge of the plant and animal communities, geologic forces, and human history that set the remote North Rim apart from the busy South Rim. The stories

continue, stretching across the broad Arizona Strip to provide insights in to the vast scenery of this little-known land.

Grand Canyon: Views beyond the Beauty by acclaimed photographer Gary Ladd, is your personal guide to the Grand Canyon, the only book the answers the question, "What's down there?" If you have ever stood at a Grand Canyon overlook and wondered which buttruss you are looking at, the name of the trail that snakes far below, or what the Colorado River looks like close-up, your curiosity will be satiated by the spectacular photographs and friendly narrative of this book.

All these books and more can be ordered at www.grandcanyon.org.



Back of the Boat — The Whale Foundation News Bulletin

NEW WHALE FOUNDATION HELPLINE TOLL-FREE NUMBER:
1-877-44WHALE

RUNNING YOUR OWN BOAT

Being a Grand Canyon river guide is full of challenges—long hours, tremendous responsibility, absence from family, tricky income flows—you know the list. But one of the best parts of this community is that we look out for each other, and this care for each other led to the creation of the Whale Foundation (WF). We were created by guides for guides and support staff (reservationists, drivers, etc.) as a tool to connect members of our community with professionals in many fields—from financial planners to doctors. Our particular emphasis has long been on mental health, and the WF has done a lot of good in this field.

One of the difficulties we face at the WF is that folks often call when they are concerned about one of their peers. And while we can offer assistance to the caller on his or her anxiety about a colleague, we do not reach out to those you are worried about unless they contact us themselves. A guide caring for guides is great, but when it boils down to it, a guide has to run his own boat.

Please ask friends and coworkers that you think need professional assistance in some aspect of their lives to contact us directly one of three ways: 1) the Helpline (877-44Whale), 2) a WF Liaison, or 3) by Word of Mouth direct referral through a member of the Board or Health Services Committee. All of these resources can provide information and referral for all WF services including medical and mental health, substance abuse, vocational counseling, and more.

In addition, *the Helpline* provides a confidential phone consultation/triage with a trained case manager; the Helpline is available 24/7—response is within 24 hours (but most often same day). (Note: the Helpline *does not* displace the role of a community's designated emergency services such as 911, fire, police, and hospital emergencies.)

WF Liaison volunteers work within the river community and have received training to be alert, to listen, and to be accessible to colleagues on or off river who may desire to share personnel problems for which a referral to WF services may be appropriate.

The WF maintains strict confidentiality. The WF is constantly evaluating its performance and taking on ever evolving needs of the river community. The guiding community has received tremendous support through the WF from the medical community, outfitters and passengers.

FALL MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING—OCTOBER 25, 2008

The Whale Foundation Health Services Committee will hold a fall training session, “Fall Mental Health Awareness Seminar and Liaison Training” on Saturday, October 25th from 8:30 am to 4:00 PM at the Flagstaff Photography Center on Heritage Square. This workshop will provide tools to the river community about real life challenges that guides, passengers, friends, and/or family members may experience on the river. The workshop is free and open to all members of the river community. We provide lunch as well as driving expenses for our out-of-town attendees. To register, call the Help Line 877-44whale.

2009 WHALE FOUNDATION CALENDAR

Hold on for another great Whale Foundation calendar. The 2009 14-month calendar will be available this fall. Dave Edwards coordinated this year's awesome images. It makes a great gift and a handy organizer. You may download an order form off our website at www.whalefoundation.org and mail us a check with your coordinates (PO Box 855; Flagstaff, AZ 86002) or pick one up at the office at 515 W. Birch Street in Flagstaff. The price is \$10 out of the box or \$13 shipped nationally. Like last year, supportive retail outlets also have the 2009 calendar for sale. Check our website for stores in your neighborhood.

KENTON GRUA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS— JUNE 2008

The WF awards scholarships to guides in career transitions. This summer's kgms recipients are: Ani Stube, Adam Bringhurst, Robyn Janssen and Nicole Corbo.

The deadline for our second round of 2008 scholarships is November 1st!

WINGDING VII

Mark your calendars now! The Whale Foundation will hold our *seventh* annual WingDing on Saturday, February 21, 2009 from 6–11 PM at the Coconino Center for the Arts in Flagstaff (2300 N. Fort Valley Road).

GRAND CANYON CONSERVATION FUND APPRECIATION

The Whale Foundation thanks the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund for their financial support of our community education/outreach efforts.

The Whale Foundation
PO Box 855, Flagstaff, az 86002
Help Line 877-44whale
www.whalefoundation.org

Tim Whitney

IN 1964, MY FOLKS HAD THIS GREAT IDEA. My mother had a brother living in Phoenix, so we had a bunch of cousins there. My folks had this wild idea that they would give us the family station wagon—the three boys, Larry, Bob, and Tim—eighteen, sixteen, and fourteen—give us the family car and a AAA Triptik to take us across the country and then meet them in Phoenix... In retrospect, it was one of the greatest gifts they could have ever given us. It was just this incredible adventure for three teenage boys to pack up the family car with an old galvanized steel Coca-Cola cooler and our sleeping stuff...my dad had a box made for the top of the car—we packed all our gear in there. We were gonna just camp out and sleep in the car and drive across the country with this AAA Triptik. It was just great! All these historic places that we were gonna stop to see along the way...and we could call, and they had a copy, so they'd know where we were. It was bold and it was generous to give the three boys—and I couldn't drive yet—about a 3,000-mile trip from Hamilton, Ontario, to Phoenix, Arizona.

A Triptik was where—they still make 'em—you tell them approximately what your route is gonna be, and then they'll make a map, a little flip folder of a map of the general area that you're going across the country, and then take a marking pen and line out your route, and it would show you, so you just flip to the next page. It was like a flip-chart river guide, to take you across the country.

They had friends who thought they were crazy to let us do it. Larry had gone to New York City a couple of times. Early training was to learn how public transportation would work, and then they'd just let him go to a museum or something and say, "We'll see you back at the hotel," someplace, and Larry had to find his way back. He loved it. And Bob was sixteen and impatient for life and already driving all over the place. So between the two of them who could drive, and then Number Three—here I am, just kind of taggin' along—"Whatever you guys say," you know.

I remember we came through Flagstaff, and then we must have gone to the South Rim because we saw Emery Kolb...we did go to the Kolb Studio and Emery Kolb was still narrating the movie, which was *Down the Mighty Colorado*. Was that the title? I think it was. *Down the Mighty Colorado*. He would stand in the studio and narrate it, and that was pretty memorable just by itself but then later on, you know as years went by, it was a great memory to have, that we actually had seen Emery Kolb narrating his movie, and I think we went up and shook hands with him at the end of the show because he'd hang out there and talk to people if they wanted to,

and talk about the movie and stuff, so that was pretty cool. I mean we were pretty excited to remember that later on.

I thought he was just an older gentleman, you know, who was kind of thin and...he had a pretty forceful voice as I remember. You could easily hear him, he would project pretty well. I think we were just sitting on folding chairs in the studio, and the projector was playing the movie over the top of everybody's heads, just like they all did then, and he would just stand there and he introduced it and then he narrated the movie, like he'd done it a million times. It was a very quick meeting, of course, before we left, and we were off to something else around the South Rim.

We hit [Hwy] 89, and we were driving up towards Marble Canyon, we were going to go to the North Rim first, and then to Zion. But we came towards Marble Canyon, and we got one of those classic little desert monsoon storms. It just came across 89—I mean, I think about it now, we used to watch them at Vermilion Cliffs, these storms that would just roll out of House Rock Valley, come right down the road, and cross the platform, and over the river, and bounce into the Echo Cliffs, and then go somewhere else, up and over. So we're drivin' along pretty close to Marble Canyon, I think, and here comes one of these storms. And there we are, it's a '64 Ford Country Squire station wagon with one of those canvas desert bags hangin' off the front on the radiator. And we come through and we get rain and hail that lasts for a half a mile, and then it's gone. We're drivin', we're back out in the sun! That was just an amazing thing for us. We'd never seen weather like that before. Here's this really intense, short-lived thunderstorm that we come through...But anyway, we get down to Marble, we stop at Marble Canyon, and I'll never forget—we came across the bridge, looked at the river down in the canyon, and it was like this great western experience. We'd never seen country like this before, let alone as big as the country was as we were drivin' out.

STEIGER: How'd you figure out to go to the North Rim?

WHITNEY: It was on the Triptik.

STEIGER: They figured it out for you?

WHITNEY: Oh, yeah. You know, take 'em to the North Rim. Then we went to Zion. I don't remember Bryce, but I do remember Zion. I have a picture of us riding horses in Zion...But I remember the Marble Canyon Lodge, and behind where the cash register is now, there's still that little wooden platform. I remember standing up on that little wooden platform, and there were all of the Arizona knickknacks and souvenirs—ashtrays and shot glasses and rubber tomahawks, all that stuff. The one

thing, though...I'm not even sure there was a sign to the Ferry, but I sort of regret or lament that we didn't know, nobody said, we didn't know enough to be looking for a sign for Lees Ferry in 1964. Who knows, maybe nothin' was goin' on down there? I'm not even sure it was paved.

STEIGER: I'll bet it was a dirt road.

WHITNEY: Probably a dirt road. But no ramp, you know, and maybe just a little slot to get down to the river. I mean, who knows, maybe Georgie [White] could have been rigging or something? But probably nothin' was goin' on down there. Anyway, we went back, we looked at the river, and then got in the car and we headed to the North Rim. We wound up getting there, I remember it was nighttime when we got there, and I'm not even sure where we were exactly, but I do remember that we were camped out. We came in and everybody was so tired that I actually wound up driving into the park. [**STEIGER:** Fourteen year-old Tim.] Yeah. There was nobody around. It was late at night and those guys were...both Larry and Bob were exhausted and so... they just said "Well just drive in and we'll go to the campground." I think we probably spent a couple nights there.

So that's where we really saw the canyon, and it blew our minds, of course, and we were trying to just comprehend the whole scene. As I remember, there really wasn't anybody around...But it was just a spectacular aspect of the trip.

Later on, camping at Zion, I was sleepin, stretched out in the front seat, and in the middle of the night, Bob slides over the back of the seat—I guess he was sleepin' in the back—and Larry was outside maybe. So Bob slides down behind the driver's seat, and he'd been driving—I mean, it'd been a long day—he'd been driving most of the day. So I moved my legs, he slides into the driver's seat, starts the car. I said, "Well, where are we goin'?" And he didn't say anything, just kind of drove and then stopped and went back to sleep. We wake up in the morning, and we're like a hundred yards from our gear pile. We'd unloaded a bunch of stuff out of the car, our food and a cooler and this other stuff...and we realized that Bob had driven in his sleep. And we're not that far from the river! So that's a long-standing story about Bob driving around Zion in his sleep—nobody's the wiser.

Eventually we wound up in Phoenix, and then came back to the canyon with my cousins and the whole family when my folks flew out.

But I think it was in the early '80s we were coming down from Page, working for Fort Lee Company, and the same kind of thing happened, where we came through a storm—we were on our way to the Ferry to rig the boats, and came through the same kind of a storm we saw in '64. And I flashed on it at that moment; it was one of those déjà vu things. So that was my first introduction to the canyon. Yeah. It was a great adventure, and I know that there were some people...

I remember my uncle told my father he was crazy to let us do that. The impact of what they had given us didn't really hit me for many years. I think about—here I am 28th season in Grand Canyon, and who'd have ever thought—bein' here fourteen years old, living in Canada, that I'd ever wind up out here, living here and working in the canyon.

Who would have thought it? What a big old world it is, and yet how small too, at the same time. Tim Whitney started out with Sobek and Fort Lee Company. He went on to work for Wilderness River Adventures and Arizona River Runners, among others, and along the way had the foresight and good fortune to marry Pam Manning, (who was Vice President of ARR and Special Advisor to Fred Burke at the time). Together they started a travel company, Rivers and Oceans, which— thanks to inside information borne of their own vast experience— has become the pre-eminent booking agency for trips all over the Southwest, and beyond. Tim has given untold time and energy to the Whale Foundation over the years. He was a founding board member of GCRG, and the first "Adopted" boatman of the River Runners Oral History Project. The following excerpts, like so many of them we do in this publication, are just the tip of the iceberg where Tim's story is concerned. —Lew Steiger

My father was in the Navy, and when he got out of the service after the Second World War—He actually ran PT boats in the South Pacific and had a pretty interesting history there, in the same squadron as Jack Kennedy. We always thought that was a pretty exciting thing, because when Kennedy became president, we thought my father should go down to the White House and visit his old friend. Of course that never happened.

The story we like to tell in the family was that they were both in the Solomon Islands at the time of the sinking of the PT-109. My father had his boat, 174, in Squadron 10. It was a pretty interesting story, really, how they brought it from New Jersey, on the deck of a ship, through the [Panama] Canal, and all the way out to the Pacific, and then dropped them off there, New Caledonia, and then they went to the Solomon Islands. They were patrolling and delivering mail, doing all kinds of things, watching for Japanese movement in the channels between the islands. My dad was just a ninety-day wonder, you know, out of college. People were just joining and signing up, and if you had an education, and could go to Midshipman's school or whatever, they'd move you up, you'd start out as a junior officer. But the story is that my dad's executive officer at the time was a guy named Barney Ross, who came to his wedding. My

dad wasn't like, pals with Jack Kennedy, but they knew each other and they were in the same anchorage. So they were taking turns, basically going out and looking for Japanese tankers and supply ships and that kind of thing. Something had happened to Kennedy's executive officer, so he asked my father if he could borrow Barney Ross. My dad said, "Well, I'm not goin' out tonight, so if that's okay with Barney, it's fine with me. I'll have him back for tomorrow night." Well, Kennedy takes Barney Ross with him and goes out and gets cut in half by a Japanese tanker. Barney Ross winds up becoming one of the heroes of the PT-109 story. You know, these guys were swimming out into the channel in the middle of the night, looking for an American ship to come and rescue them. And then the story goes on about how they hid out on the island, Japanese all around, and finally wrote a note on a coconut shell, a message that finally got out to where they could get rescued...they got it to a native, who delivered it to some Australian coast watcher. Yeah. The island they were on was not much of an island, but there was a native contact there and those guys handed him the coconut, and JFK had written on it. Actually, I think he had it in the oval office when he was president. They had saved it, and it had survived the war—But anyway, my dad got out of the war and came back and settled in a little town in Connecticut, and then found a piece of property along the Connecticut River, and that's where my first memories are as a little kid: had a day sailboat and a couple of little skiffs, so we could mess around on the river. It was on a cove off the side of the river. That part of the river was about six miles up from the mouth of the river in Long Island Sound, so there was tanker traffic on the river, bringing fuel up and down. It was a commercial river, but also a lot of sailing in those days, and powerboating. We grew up on South Cove, and you could see the river, but it was this quiet backwater, and there weren't all that many houses around, so it was a great place to grow up, just boating around, and catching snapping turtles, getting chased by swans and seeing all these ducks and geese, and big patches of honeysuckle where you could burrow around and just take the boat everywhere. As long as they knew where we were going, it was fine. So we got to spend a lot of time growing up on the water.

We first saw Sputnik there too, from our backyard, in 1957.

I have to think—I guess about 1970 maybe—Bob came out and was visiting the cousins in Phoenix, and then wound up staying for a winter, and was doing a bunch of skydiving outside of Phoenix. [STEIGER: So he'd met Dick Clark skydiving?] Right, and that was that connection. He'd been goin' to school at the University of

Wisconsin, and came out with a couple of friends and they were skydiving. I came out for part of a winter, and jumped for several days a week for a couple of weeks. I was in school in Madison, Wisconsin, so I went back to school and Bob stayed, and he was working out here. Then he made his way up to the canyon. It was Myron [Cook] and Dick [Clark] and Dick Coffee, Jeff Byrne. They all hiked in to Phantom and got jobs. How that happened exactly, I'm not sure, but Bob wound up down at Phantom Ranch and was working there for a little bit, and [writing] great letters about, again, the big-eyed stuff about livin' in the West, and snakes and scorpions and all this great stuff, in the bottom of the canyon and the river goin' by. So they saw a trip come by, and there weren't that many trips, I guess, and Bob just said, "Where are *they* comin' from?" And then Dick went up to Lees Ferry and met Tony Sparks and got hired by Pat Conley, and then Dick plugged Bob into Fort Lee Company, too.

Time goes by, 1973, and Bob's gonna get his first boat. Bob said, "C'mon out." Everybody had to find their own crew at that time. I think there were only three boats, they only had three boats and they were all on 8-day trips down to Pearce. They had been going, of course, all the way out to T-Bar, runnin' 10-day trips for \$400–\$500. But now it was 1973, so it was a lot more sophisticated. (chuckles) So I drove out and got on this trip. I'm trying to remember who else was...I think Dick Clark was runnin' a boat, and maybe Dave Hinshaw or Gary Mercado. I'm trying to remember. So off we go...I don't remember a whole lot about that trip, except again it was just really big-eyed stuff. But I remember being somewhere in the first couple days, being up in Marble somewhere, and just sitting by the river, down near the boats, and just watching the river go by and thinking about what a force this place was. I mean, I'd grown up on a river, but this was another...completely different animal. It was spellbinding, really. I just remember being completely taken with the moving water, and the force of it, and the sound of it, and the rapids. I'd never seen any whitewater before, and it was so powerful and indifferent. But the enormity of the adventure was just mind boggling. And then all the other parts of it too: you know, you're cooking and cleaning and showing these people around. In fact, I don't really remember if there was...I mean, there was some hiking, but I think we maybe got to Saddle Canyon and they'd been up there once or twice before kind of thing, but it was all about looking for these new places. I remember the skeleton was still there at South Canyon. I *do* remember that, up against a wall. You think back on it now about how primitive some of the gear was, and the techniques. The beginning for me was all those aspects: stopping to collect firewood at the end of the day, and there was certain wood that you wanted, and certain wood you just didn't want.



Tim Whitney at the Grand Canyon - 1975.
photo: Bob Whitney

STEIGER: Yeah, cookin' wood. That was pretty romantic. (laughter)

WHITNEY: But I just threw myself at everything. Whatever there was, it was just "give me more!" It was just great. And the Port-a-Potties, they had moved into something really sophisticated then: the blue goo. It wasn't just take a shovel and leave a stick in the sand. We'd moved to the blue goo, so it was all in one place. Dig the hole and bury that. So then the next thing that we could see was blue goo stains on the beaches, and have to figure out the next move.

But the river was really—I was completely taken. The canyon, too, but there was just something about the water and the river in the canyon that captured me completely.

It was my third trip down the river before I ran Hermit in a boat. I mean, my brother Bob is also the same guy who taught me how to ride a two-wheeler.

STEIGER: Did Bob get you started skydiving too?

WHITNEY: Yeah. "Give it to Tim—he'll eat it, he'll do it!" So take me to the top of a hill, put me on a bicycle and say, "Now just keep your balance and the *faster* you go, the easier it is to stay on there," and then run into a fence and go head over heels. Bob said, "Yeah, you should swim this rapid, this is a really good rapid to swim." [**STEIGER:** Hermit?] Hermit. First trip down the

river. Bob said, "Well, I'll just drive. You just run off the back of the boat, then I'll run it, and you just float on through there, and I'll just pick you up at the bottom." It was a Mae West lifejacket. [**STEIGER:** Pretty high flotation.] Yeah, but not high enough. (laughter) The one instruction was, "When you see the wave coming, just turn your head to the side, and throw your arms up so that you kind of go up over the top of the rapid." Well, I mean, you know, I threw my arms up, I turned my head to the side, and went through the top *three feet* of the wave. I was freezing and half drowned by the time I came out at the bottom. So on the next trip, I really got smart, I brought a wet suit!

STEIGER: 'Cause you knew he'd make you jump in there again?

WHITNEY: Well, at that point I thought it'd be fun, but it'd be nice to have a little more flotation. Nobody ever thought about putting on *two* lifejackets, which was kind of hard to do, actually, with a Mae West. So my first two trips down the river, I swam Hermit.

I left Wisconsin and was working for Baja Expeditions for Tim Means down there, in the winter of '79, doing these whale watching trips in Magdalena Bay, which was really great stuff too. I think it was May of '79—Bob and Dave, Gary Mercado...Gary had been over in Africa for the early Sobek trips, and so I'd heard about that, and I'd written to Rich Bangs. Rich wrote back "Well, how'd

you like to go over to New Guinea in May and run a couple of trips over there?” I didn’t really have—I mean, I’d been on some Grand Canyon trips, but I didn’t have any real whitewater rowing experience. I knew how to row a boat on flat water. I thought, “Well, sure!” (laughter) So I’ll never forget, it was one of the most memorable days of my life, getting on a plane in Los Angeles and leaving for New Guinea, which meant you also had to go through Australia. Fly to Sydney, then fly up to Townsville or Cairns, and then get a flight from there into Port Moresby. Actually, Bob had been in La Paz at the same time that spring. So he gave me a crash course. He just sat down and gave me a crash course in how to row a boat on a whitewater river.

STEIGER: At this point you hadn’t even really started workin’ in the Grand Canyon?

WHITNEY: No.

STEIGER: You’d swamped a little bit on motor trips.

WHITNEY: Yeah.

STEIGER: Okay, good deal, now go over there to New Guinea...

WHITNEY: Yeah, go over there to New Guinea and start runnin’ a Class IV river, Class IV or V river. But, you know, I was into it, and excited and not just willing, but I was ready to go. I was impatient for life, too, that way.

I just had to pinch myself, thinking, “I’m flyin’ to New Guinea, and I don’t know what’s going to happen when I get there, but I’m in!” You know, just, “Put me in, Coach!”

Actually, I had been on a Stanislaus trip with—I think T.A. [Tony Anderson] and Double A [Ann Anderson] were on that trip. Been over in Angel’s Camp and had one Stan trip. So I’d rowed a little bit. That was plenty, ready to go!

STEIGER: “Here’s your left oar, there’s your right one.” (laughs)

WHITNEY: Right. “Protect your downstream oar.” I just remember taking off from L.A. late at night and heading out over the Pacific for who knows what was going to greet me in New Guinea. So I make it into Port Moresby and I’m supposed to look for this house—a guy named John Mason was the Sobek connection in Port Moresby. That was one of the great things in the heyday of international river running in the ’80s. There were these halfway houses kind of things. You know, people just opened up their places to you. You come and go, and you cook and you eat, you work on your boats there—whatever it took. It was just all part of the adventure for everybody, and running into these people who were expatriated Aussies or Americans...they were all over the world, and if you



Tim with a group of kids in a village along the Watut River in Papua New Guinea - 1979.
photo: Mike Boyle



Tim after attaching the cable from the helicopter to a raft during a portage on the Wahgi River exploratory in Papua New Guinea - 1983.
photo: Mike Boyle

could find a connection like that it just always made everything easier... So I got to Mason's house and there was a note there from Dave Shore in an envelope, and there was a bunch of money in an envelope. The note said, "Welcome to PNG. Learn pidgin, buy a ticket, go to Lae"—this town where the boats were stored—"go to Hagen Hauliers, get all the equipment, buy the food, put all the gear on a truck, (and tell the driver you have 'plenti cargo,') and drive up to the bridge in Bololo, and I'll meet you there." (laughter) [STEIGER: Just put this river trip together...] Yeah, just this casual note: learn the language, buy a ticket, fly up there, pull all this gear together, create a menu, buy the food, put it on the truck and take it to the river, and I'll see you there. And I said, "Yea-yus!" I mean, it was a big—I bit off a big piece there, but that was all part of the excitement and the adventure of it. I got most of it right. I didn't learn the language, but I got up there and managed to get the gear together.

STEIGER: Holy moley! How did you figure out the menu?

WHITNEY: Well, I had just enough experience from the Grand Canyon and from Baja too... [STEIGER: To know what would be acceptable?] Breakfast, lunch, and dinner... These trips were like five, six days, I think. We had coolers.

STEIGER: But once you put in, you were gone for six days. There wasn't any resupply?

WHITNEY: Oh, no, it was a jungle river. It was a river that tunneled through the jungle. I mean, it was equatorial tropical rainforest, eight degrees south latitude... It was a pretty steep gradient until the very last part of the river. That's kind of part of the story—it was May 29 I remember launching, and I think Jim Slade had run into a guy, Jerome Montague, who was over there in New Guinea on a U.N. project to help try and save the crocodiles. Of all things, you'd think how could you ever run out of crocodiles in a place like that? But the famous crocodile hunters, like this guy... they were getting good money for big crocodiles. And out in the western part of the country, on the Strickland River and the Fly River there was just nothing out there, but people were... we actually ran into some people that just kind of came out of the bush. Jerome told me when we met them that we were only like the third [party of] white people they'd ever seen. There were some missionaries. But the idea was to change the economy there by buying small crocodiles so that they would leave the brooding stock alone and stop hunting the big crocodiles, but capture the little ones, and then buy them, and then raise them in farms, so you would leave the breeding population alone. So anyway, Jerome had run some rivers in the east, and Slade said, "Well, we're runnin some trips over here. Maybe we could use you. You could come, join a trip and row boats sometime." So he showed up. So it was three boats, it was Shore, Jerome, and me. So we're at the put-in, and I'm kinda lookin' over my shoulder seeing where you tie what to what. I guess that first trip there were probably maybe five or six people, total. It was kind of a hodgepodge of equipment. There was enough of everything to make the trip happen, but a couple boats had pinned oars. I had a rig where if you hit an oar, like if you hit a downstream oar, it would slide through this sleeve and be stuck in that position... So I wasn't getting ready fast enough, those guys were kind of chompin' at the bit, so they said, "Well, we'll take off and then you just catch up, and we'll just be out here ahead of you a little bit, and you can run down this creek, and then it joins the river."

STEIGER: You're gettin' ready to run this Class IV river? And you've never rigged a boat before, and all you have back then is rope anyway?

WHITNEY: Yeah. And then those guys are ten, fifteen minutes ahead of me. So I just hurry along and I get everything tied down and I shove off, and I'm goin' down the creek and getting into the river. I'm just



Tim and Bob Whitney contracting to have a house built for Sobek in the village of Tapak along the Watut - 1980.
photo: Mike Boyle

delirious with excitement. I had a little fever goin' on. I didn't know what was goin' on, but I was feelin' a little bit off. But still it was like here I am, on a boat, on a river, there's nobody around, it's a really wild place, and I'm just delirious with excitement. Then I hit the first rapid, which is not a long rapid, but there's a few waves in it, and I'm not straight for every wave, and all of a sudden I take on a bunch of water. So I pull over and I bail out. Then it starts to pick up. So right away—I mean, you're up in the mountains in this old gold mining district. So the water's moving along pretty well, pretty fast. So this happens a couple more times, and it's starting to get later in the day. [STEIGER: "Where are those guys?!"] "Where *are* those guys?!" (laughter) And now I'm startin' to really meet the river. Now there's some real rapids. It's "read-'n-run," but it's lookin' pretty big to me. I got nobody to bail, I'm shippin' some water. I'm all by myself... So anyway, it's getting late, and I just decide I don't know what's downstream, and now there are rapids around corners, so you can't really see what's coming up. I'm thinking, "I just want to run down and find these guys." But it started gettin' late enough in the day where it's pretty dark. I finally think, "Well, screw it, I'm just gonna bivouac over here. I'll just pull-in, and I'll figure this out in the morning." Because I know that they're supposed to be at this little village not too far downstream. It's just the river's kinda havin' its way with me, and I'm really not sure what's around

the corner. Now it's a little bit more exciting than I *thought* it was going to be. Yeah. So now I'm a little bit more back to earth. And then...it's almost a comedy now when I think about it. I got the boat tied up, and I had a little bite of something to eat, and I thought, "I'm just gonna bag it." I brought my tube tent from Grand Canyon. I had my trusty tube tent with me. So I'm all set. So I just go up and find a flat spot up in the rocks. I didn't want to be too far away from the boat. It's a little buggy, and I'm kind of lookin' around, thinkin', "I'm too tired, and I'm not feelin' that good, so I'm just gonna lie down." So I just kind of went to bed. [STEIGER: Never mind the tube tent.] Never mind. So then it starts to rain. It's just this classic torrential tropical rain, only lasted about ten minutes. So then I climb into my tube tent. Now I'm lying awake in my bag in my tube tent, and then I remember these frogs came out. So now these frogs are jumpin' around, and I'm lying in my bag in my tube tent in the rain with the frogs jumping on me. I'm thinkin', "Yeah, this is a great adventure." (laughter) Yeah, "We're havin' fun now. I don't remember *this* part of the brochure!" So that was my first night in New Guinea on a river trip. And I woke up in the morning and just went down. And that was the Watut River, yeah. So I just jumped in and started rowin' downstream, and it wasn't raining anymore, it was a nice day, and I just thought, "Well, I'll catch up to them now." Then the gradient started to pick up, and it's a rocky stream, too—there's some big boulders in this river. All of a sudden I hear voices—and as I think about it now, there are people everywhere, and I don't know why somebody didn't find me where I'd pulled over for that night, because there really are people everywhere. There are just eyes in the forest all the time. You really are never really alone, no matter where you are. People don't make any noise, but if they own the land, they've got their eyes on the land, and they know...I mean, they call it parliament of a thousand tribes. It's a very tribal country, and very strong property boundaries. They talk about how they could recognize your footprint in *my* mud. If you'd stepped over the line, it was just like moonshiners who knew if anybody'd come on their property or something. So all of a sudden there's this "Ay-yi-yi-yi-yi-yi-yi!"—just kids yelling, and you can't see anybody, but obviously they see *me*. So I'm thinkin' that I'm gettin' close. Then there's more chatter and yelling and whistling and stuff...these are people that the missionaries have found, so they're wearing western clothes, tee-shirts and shorts. The kids are running around with nothing on. They have a village alongside the river. There's food everywhere, there's plenty to eat. It's a country where the food basically falls off the trees right into your mouth. [STEIGER: Like coconut and pineapple?] And banana and mango. Then pigs are a big meat source for people, and often they just walk around

in the village. The sanitary conditions—I didn't know what to expect exactly, but sewage is just going in the river. They're living with dirt floors. The famous New Guinea men's house, fires are going all the time, and you're just sitting on raised bamboo or slotted wood floors. I mean, just an incredibly rich culture that way.

So I hear this yelling, and I come around the corner, and it's a really nice little rapid where you've got to make some moves, it's a little bit technical. It's not just a run-down-the-middle kind of thing. And then I realize that *there's* the village, and then I see the boats, and there are the guys!

STEIGER: Pretty amazing. So that's your first day... your first real "runnin'-your-own-boat" commercial assignment?

WHITNEY: Right.

STEIGER: Man, that's quite a difference from a Fort Lee trip in the Grand Canyon, huh?

So you did a whole season there, a bunch of trips?

WHITNEY: Yeah. That's when I met Mike Boyle and Rick Redding and Paul Hinshaw. Bob came back for a trip, and...wound up doing trips with [Jim] Slade and a whole bunch of people. And they were booking those trips. Sobek is a pretty popular trip. I think a season there was like doing two trips, maybe three, but the whole package included maybe climbing Mt. Wilhelm, which was the highest peak on *that* side of the island, which was about fifteen [15,000 feet], I think. I'll have to look it up. Yeah, it was a real mountain, and it was pretty interesting to climb into an equatorial alpine environment, where you're at a high elevation, but a low latitude, so you wind up with just the wildest-looking fauna. Fern trees. I mean, these giants—sort of like a Joshua tree, only it was a fern. It was really more of a walk than a climb, but you did have to climb at the end. And then out to Manam Island. So we could be river running and scuba diving, or trekking the Kokota Trail and climbing this mountain. Whatever you could put together, basically.

So then I think that was 1980, and then came back and did a trip...Now I've got the bug. There's just so much opportunity. The world was your oyster, so to speak. People were going everywhere. Sobek was growing, and it just offered this lifestyle to people, to just pack up and be in another country, you know, a couple weeks later, doin' the same thing in Asia or Africa.

After New Guinea, I came back and did a Grand Canyon trip, with Bob. That was like only my third trip. Maybe it was my fourth trip. But that's where Bob said, "You should start drivin' this boat, you need to start learnin' how to run this river."

STEIGER: Pretty good big brother. So he just let you drive almost the whole way, as much as you could stand?

WHITNEY: Yeah, as much as I could. And then I talked to Tony at the end, after that trip, and that was the last trip of the season, I guess, and asked him if I could have a job, come back next year. And he said, "Sure." Then I'm trying to remember if...I should have looked at the dates exactly, because then I think I went off and did an Omo trip, my first Omo trip, that fall, [in Ethiopia] with Conrad [Hirsch] and Stanley [Boor] and Carlo [Iori] and Joy Ungritch...I have to think of who else. But then the next year I came back in '80, and did two more training trips with Fox, Blake Hopkins. So now I had like five trips. And then it was like, "Okay, well, we need you to run a boat." But that was pretty hilarious, too, running with Fox, which was great. I hadn't run everything until running with him... Well, he's just such a great guy to run with—just smart, and a great sense of humor. He really knew how to run the river. I think he'd run for a bunch of people. He probably ran for GCE and for CRATE, and I'm not sure who-all. He came over for several trips. I'm not sure if it was a whole season, but anyway, he was great to run with, just because running with Bob and Dick, that was real precision: the idea of sort of running everything as well as you can. [**STEIGER:** Was Bob as precise as Dick?] Well, I think he was. He got that sense of it. Bob trained with Dick, and so he got the Dick Clark school of river running training. [**STEIGER:** That's a pretty good education right there.] Dick was the same way in his skydiving, analyzing everything to the 'nth degree, and then tried to execute as precisely as possible—I mean, really thought of that stuff, and passed it on to Bob, and he kind of passed that on to me. Fox was just naturally good. He wasn't quite as worried about that stuff...It was funny, made me laugh, he'd be someplace and he'd be showin' me...he's runnin' Crystal, and he wouldn't be where he wanted to be—he'd just go, "Uh-oh!" I mean, he'd just sort of be talking to himself like he was following this running commentary. "Okay, maybe now I'll go over here and I'll do this. Okay, now it's gonna be okay." [**STEIGER:** And the people were all "Aaaaaaaah!!"] No, they couldn't hear him, but I could hear him. He's just sort of talking himself out of a little bit of a pickle maybe, and had a fine run, but it was just so much more relaxed, he knew what he wanted to do, but was not uptight about it at all. Just, "Well, I guess I need to get myself out of this spot over here. And I need to get over there." It was great because it was that influence of being comfortable and more relaxed when you're not getting the run that you want to get. So there was an example, somebody was just taking it as it comes, and pretty relaxed. His heart was pounding, but he was kind of taking it all in stride, just working out of it. It was sort of a more laid back approach, which was a great influence.



*Hanging with the locals on the Omo River,
Ethiopia - 1982 photo: Bruce Helin*

In the earlier days of Fort Lee Company, they were all living there, at Lees Ferry. Their trailers were up behind the bathrooms and the parking lot; and the warehouse was there, back where the park building is now. Then the warehouse burned down, I think, maybe in about '75 or '77—something like that. Then that's when Tony moved everything up to Page. Tony had big plans for the Ferry. Before I got there, there was a restaurant down there.

STEIGER: I remember there was beer, there was gas ...



*Catching catfish on the Omo.
photo: Bruce Helin*

Was there gas down there? And there was a convenience store. You could get a hamburger.

WHITNEY: That was the restaurant, I think. There wasn't a separate building or anything. Yeah. For a while Tony had somebody who was cookin' food down there, not just flippin' burgers. And there was the rental dock, and the skeleton of that dock is still down there, where you could rent a boat and go upriver and catch twenty-pound rainbows—big fish...So there we are, and it was just great bein' at the Ferry and watchin' people...And then the daily trip was goin' on too...there was always action because Tony was runnin' the one-day trip from the dam to the Ferry. Yeah, Tony Sparks started that. And Jay Byerly was in there early, and Patrick Conley. Jay, I think—he kind of sewed the side tubes together. I'm trying to remember, I think there were four tubes. It's terrible, I can't remember if there were just two...I



Before and after. Repairing a hippo-bitten raft at their hotel in Addis Ababa prior to an Omo trip — 1982.
Photo: Bruce Hedin

think there were four. They would run down during the day, people would come down through the tunnel and take the trip. They'd get down to the Ferry and de-rig the whole thing, and put it on a truck, and then the next day's lunch and everything was all pre-done. So we'd put that together, and the next morning about 4:30–5:00 in the morning, everybody'd pile into the back of the truck, have a little something to eat, and the cooler's prepacked for lunch, and drive all the way to Page, down the tunnel to the dam and rig the boats, and take whoever was comin' down, down to the Ferry—and did that every day all summer long.

STEIGER: And you had twenty-horse Mercs, just like everybody else?

WHITNEY: Exactly. And I can't remember what year it was—it was later on, before Tony moved everything up to Page. Tony had Dean Waterman build him an aluminum boat to try to take everything back upstream in a boat: take four or five boats, load 'em on, and run 'em back upstream—the first attempt to not have to drive around every time. But still there would be the rig and the de-rig every day. Of course now they just turn 'em around.

STEIGER: Now they've got it figured out. Oh, man, what a better way, just to turn around and...just get a bigger motor.

WHITNEY: 180 degree turnaround, drive right back upstream, boats stay rigged and in the water all summer. In those days it was probably...I mean, the equipment was already big enough, but the idea of 100-horse, two-stroke outboards to run everything back upstream was

just a little...that was hard to see.

STEIGER: I bet they just never even thought of it.

WHITNEY: Part of the deal was that you rigged and de-rigged all the time. And so that was just the mindset that worked...Karen Byerly was there then, and I think she probably still holds the record for the most one-day trips of all time.

STEIGER: So she paid some dues. Before she got to go downriver.

WHITNEY: Oh yeah. And she was a natural. It didn't take but a couple of trips downriver before she just... Yeah. That shoe fit perfectly.

This is the point in the editorial process where it starts sinking in how much we're going to have to leave out of the BQR for space reasons—not gonna get to that very first BTS trip put together by Kim Crumbo and how much good that did, and all the fabulous characters Whitney met there; or that time Alzedo on the Diamond trip came along and helped push Whitney's stranded boat in after the water dropped out on em in Marble Canyon; or the time they had the emergency freezing rain double-camp at Redwall Cavern there with that other nameless bunch we all know, and the great party that ensued there; or even that time Whitney saw Hawk rowing the four-tubed Western rig through Crystal... Never mind the spotted skunk story or the boats crashing into each other out on the lake in the Pearce Ferry bay either, or the rescue of the bleeding Billy Ellwanger by Bob Hallet and Brian Dierker,

and the debriefing that followed that one... or all the other great parties that have miraculously woven themselves into this guy's career (is it luck, or is it Tim???)... Never mind the Waghi exploratory with Skip Horner and Mike Boyle and John Kramer, and Rich Bangs himself and the BBC in Papua New Guinea. Never mind the scuba-diving escapades all over the globe, and the fabulous underwater photography Tim has done.

One thing we do have to at least touch on here, regardless, is that Tim Whitney had a life-changing day at Havasu in the late eighties. For more on that whole experience see the story that follows this interview.

I hadn't done a trip in about a year, and found myself on this last trip—oh, somebody made some comment about “how long you been doing it?” And it'd been months since I'd been in the canyon. It just came out, I just said, “If you didn't ever have to quit, why would you?”

STEIGER: Well, I'm about to shut this recorder off for now. I know we forgot a million good stories... You talked about the river-running community as being kind of what the WingDing's all about, and the Whale Foundation and all that... Seems like that's another thing we could spend a whole session on: the characters we've known.

WHITNEY: Jim Norton! There was one guy. I'll think a little bit more about it.

STEIGER: Yeah... I remember seeing Norton down there, and he was like... Where the hell was he? They were at Deer Creek or someplace like that, and he had one day to get out, because they'd been screwin' around and just lost track of time or something.

WHITNEY: Oh yeah! He went from Deer Creek to Separation, with a stop at Havasu the same day. Walt Gregg and I were down there too.

STEIGER: Yeah... I remember seein' you guys earlier—everybody else at Fort Lee... “We're good. We don't know where the hell Norton is...” and then *way* later, here comes Jim, only about a day late! (laughs)

WHITNEY: That's the same trip. What's Deer Creek? [Mile] 136? To [mile] 242 in one day. Got in there. Yeah, from Deer Creek to Separation, with a stop at Havasu. Plus he needed to stop and let a spider off the boat. There was a spider, and he got ahold of the spider, cupped it in his hands, and he had to pull over to let the spider on shore. Oh, they loved him! And he had a wave on the river... when he waved, it was a wave as big as the West. I mean, his hand just was like the sun comin' up and goin' down. It was amazing. Long story short: Old Ford Torino, with a trailer with all of his own gear. So he basically backs in, pulls everything off of his Fort

Lee rig. [**STEIGER:** Because he's got his special...] He's got his special everything. I mean, he's got a kitchen that looks like the world's largest tackle box. You open it up, and four or five drawers kind of open up, and big forks and spatulas are dangling inside. It'd take four men and a boy to get that thing on and off the boat. He's got so much stuff, he's standing on like four cases of beer in the motor well. I always said it looks kind of like the pots and pans man was comin' down the river, like there's gonna be stuff for sale. He's just got stuff *everywhere*. He's got all the time in the world. Not rushed in the slightest. Who knows if he... Might have had some trouble in Badger, I don't know, and that kind of delayed the trip. So it's eight days later, and you're down there, and he's run from Deer Creek to Separation, and we've come up from what used to be a great old camp, that 242-Mile Camp. So we're thinkin' after dinner, it's dark, we better go look for Norton. I mean, where is the guy? A bunch of people pile on the boats, we take both boats, and we motor back up to Separation. 'Lo and behold, no sooner than we just about get there, here he comes with flashlights—everybody's got a flashlight! They were just comin' into camp, in the *dark*. Lights are flashin' on the side of the river so he can see where he's goin'. We're thinkin'... I'm bein' pretty anal about the trip, you know, makin' sure everything's goin' on here and there, everybody's havin' a good time. And here comes Jim, in the dark, and they hit shore. These people are havin' a *great* time. They get this kitchen box—it takes four people to unload this thing. It's like nine o'clock at night, and they're just startin' to fire up the grill, get the steaks goin'. Yeah! And we went over there and Norton says, “You want a beer?” I said, “Sure.” He had like a couple of warm Coors. They'd probably been sitting in the sun for half the day. He just grabs it, he shakes 'em down in the river, reaches over, puts 'em down, says, “Here you go.” So now the beer's only 98 degrees. And at the end of that season he gave everybody a present. He gave me, Walt, and Pablo [Paul Hinshaw] a church key back from the days when you would open up a can of oil. You would open up a can of oil with a church key, before you had the spout that you would stick in, and open up just like a beer or anything. Only the church key was about two and a half inches wide. So on a pop top, you just put it on the can. (imitates the sound of a geyser) The whole pop top and everything. Every beer was like a wide-mouth Mickey, you know. So he gave everybody one of those, so that everybody'd have a good beer can opener. I mean, he is just a character as big as the West. He was just... It was always a test. He could be infuriating, but then you had to realize that that was *my* problem, it wasn't *his* problem, if he was sort of delaying things or anything, because eventually, “Just relax, it'll all get done.” I mean, he wasn't worried. He was going to make sure everybody



Tim and Bob Whitney on a Fort Lee trip — 1981.
photo: Bob Whitney

got a stop at Havasu, even though they started at Deer Creek in the morning. [STEIGER: Never mind that it was a 109-mile day.] Yeah. “We’ll get there. It’ll be all right. We’ll have somethin’ to eat when we get there.”

WHITNEY: You know, it did strike me the other day—I was talking with Dan Dierker, and we were just talking about the early days...I mean, I did a few trips, and then I was just completely, physically, on my own for a few years there—just one-boat trips with me and whoever I could find to come along. There wasn’t the big crew dynamic of four people on a two-boat motor trip, let alone big rowing trips. It was always just me and the people...The way I started was, we were tryin’ to learn everybody’s name who was gonna be on your boat, *before* you even met ’em. I mean, that’s just what those guys were doin’...yeah, Dick and Bob, and Dave and Gary and Mary too. They would just learn everybody’s name on the drive to the Ferry, so we had that down already. It was only twelve people, it wasn’t such a big deal. But it was not so much about getting people *through* the canyon, as getting them *into* the canyon, was

the way I looked at it. I didn’t have any other approach, but, treat these people like your friends. And you can get along with anybody for eight days. But that’s really what the river has taught me the most about, was people. A lot of times, if you’re just a little bit patient, things will take care of themselves before you jump in.

STEIGER: Yeah, the people that we get to come into contact with—pretty amazing...

WHITNEY: I’ll never forget this guy, Joe Tilly, who was from Texas, he was just a great character on a trip, and a lot of fun. He’d worked for Larry Bell. He told a story towards the end of the trip, and I thought he’d really—you know, a brush with greatness. He *really* had rubbed elbows with some pretty amazing people. So he worked for Bell Helicopters for a long time, and he was one of the chief design/engineer types. At one point they brought Neil Armstrong in as a consultant, and to give a presentation and stuff. Armstrong came and he spent several days there, I guess, and worked with all the engineers and other people in the company, and they just loved havin’ him around. Then before he left, he gave his own private slide show of the moon shot and the landing on the moon. Joe’s tellin’ this story, you know, and he’s going, “Well, there are like 350 engineers in this auditorium—all the

people who were working for Larry Bell, and all the design work. So they're getting Neil Armstrong's private slide show, and he's going through it... "Here we are taking off. And here we are orbiting. And here we are on the dark side of the moon. And here we are undocking and going to the moon and walking around on the moon, and taking *off* from the moon." So there's this whole monologue on the whole story of the very first moon walk. And Joe says, "So then he gets to the point where you see pictures of the lunar module on its way back, about to dock with the command module. And then there's a slide that he shows of the lunar module being like two feet away from the command module, and Armstrong says, 'It's at this point of the mission where I realize that we have a 50-50 chance of coming home.'" Joe said, "You could have heard a pin drop." There were 300-plus people in this auditorium, and it was dead silence. After everything that he'd been through... To make it there, and actually successfully *take off* from the moon... So many places where they could have been stranded already, basically, and to have that line, "If we can't dock with the command module here, it's *all over*." Like let alone burning up on the pad or somewhere along the way or something else. There are plenty of places where it could have gone either way, but right there it hits him.

STEIGER: Amazing!...the lives we've had, the people we've gotten to rub elbows with down here...and back to you, too...pretty amazing that your first commercial trip, there you are in Papua, New Guinea, and all you've got to do is learn pidgen, and go up there and get the boats and make a menu and buy all the food and show up at the put-in with all this stuff. That's a pretty—talk about being thrown into the fire.

WHITNEY: Yeah. It's interesting how broad the spectrum is when you think about what all of our different experiences are, from starting out. Not to preclude what people are learning now, but it's just I was sort of in the last part of those days where... "Okay, kid, we need somebody to drive this boat and you're it!"

STEIGER: Five trips, you're good to go!

WHITNEY: Yeah. And it was happening *way* more... Ten years before that, here's Bob Quist, "How'll I know the Little Colorado?" "It's the first big stream on the left!" Tony Sparks yells at him, as he's leaving Lees Ferry. At least I knew where the Little Colorado was. But he didn't care, he was just gonna go anyway. It was just like, "I'll do it!"



Pam and Tim Whitney working an ARR trip - 1986.
photo: Bob Whitney

HAVASU

(originally published about 20 years ago, in an early GCRG newsletter, before Brad Dimock created the BQR)

August 6, 1988. Tim Whitney and Richard Quararoli are running an Arizona River Runners trip. They're coming down from Deer Creek to Havasu and it's cloudy. It dumps on them pretty good there at Last Chance; they float a minute, the rain passes and the sky



Pam and Tim Whitney. Recent proof of what you can look like after years in this biz if you don't get a real job photos: Sharon Hester

begins to clear. They go on to Havasu and tie up at the motor rig parking down below. Richard is leading this trip. He says it doesn't look like a good day to be on the other side of the creek and instead they'll just go up to the first crossing and take a few pictures. About 10 people stay behind with Whitney.

Richard gets everybody up to the first crossing and says, "OK everybody, there it is. We'll be here 10 minutes or so." Then he turns around and trots down to the mouth, where two Western boats and two Wilderness River Adventure boats are tied. Carl and Mike are running for WRA; a guy named Darrel is there for Western. Richard says, "Hi."

Boom, right there the creek starts to rise.

Richard takes off up the trail, back to where his people are. Meanwhile, a giant rush of something hits the mouth of Havasu: red and thinly disguised as water; filled with sticks, mud, tree limbs—and a person—one little face in the maelstrom.

The face comes roaring down through the creek mouth and goes down on its way out into the river.

Carl is down on his boat and he throws a lifejacket in the face's direction. But just that quick they're gone—jacket and swimmer both.

Back at the ARR trip, people are starting to return from the hike already, trickling in by twos and threes. Whitney is on the ledges meeting them when he looks up and sees this flood coming. Then he sees both Western boats get blown out of the mouth. They're tied together bow to stern and they are totally out of control, cart-wheeling down the rapid.

"Watch out!" Whitney yells to his people. "They're gonna try to come in here! Get back! Stay out of the way!"

Whitney runs down to the water. They've had

a policy at ARR ever since the Fred Burke years that whenever you're tied up at this particular spot everybody wears a lifejacket at all times on the boats. So Whitney puts his jacket on and runs out across his boat to do whatever he can if these Western boats somehow manage to get into the eddy. Darrel's got one motor started by now and he's screaming at the swamper, a guy named Garvin, to start the other one. Garvin's having trouble with this, though, and it looks to Whitney like it'll be a miracle if they ever make it. Whitney looks down into the muddy red water and sees an empty lifejacket. *My God*, he thinks. *It's already washing stuff off the boats up there.*

Then he sees this face.

No hair, no hands, no neck, no shoulders. Just two eyes, a nose and a mouth—that is open in a neat round circle, gasping for air.

Whitney gets about one second to figure out what to do.

Boom. He jumps in, too. He grabs the body that belongs to this face he saw. She's a woman, but Whitney doesn't know this yet. Immediately, she's all over him, trying to claw her way up out of the water. "Take it easy," Whitney says. "Just relax, just breathe easy. I've got you now, it's all over, you're gonna make it." One jacket isn't great, but it's floating them at least. Their heads bob just above the water.

We could go to Tuckup if we had to, Whitney thinks. *We'll just swim down here along the wall and grab onto the first good thing we find and get the hell out of here.* "Piece of cake," he says out loud. "No problem. We got it made."

But no. The Western boats manage to get into the eddy after all. They hit the cliff downstream bent double, in V-formation, with the upstream boat

pointed out into the current and the Johnson 35 on the downstream boat just howling.

The Western guys are just happy to be here right now, and they have no idea there's anybody in the water directly upstream of them.

Whitney looks downstream. *Uh-oh, now we've got a problem.*

Whammo! He and this woman hit the upstream side of the Western boat. *One chance here*, Whitney thinks. He grabs for the lifeline and snags it with one hand, grits his teeth, sees a couple of passengers up there, then—bloop—the current takes them under, just that fast.

God, Whitney thinks. Two Western boats... How long is THIS going to take?

His eyes are wide open and he can't see a thing. It's all black. The water is totally dark around him and the swimmer has him hard by the neck and he can feel himself bumping against the tubes of the boat, one by one, as they're being swept along. He pries the swimmer's hands off his neck and whoosh—the current rips her away.

Oh man, Whitney thinks. *That's it. She's gone.*

Just hold on, he thinks to himself. *Just hold your breath. You gotta hang on...you're in the current, you're gonna come out.* So he holds on and holds on and holds on, ten tubes worth of this shit, and finally he pops up. Comes out of the blackness into light brown water, gets a huge OhThankGod kind of breath.

Well, that was it, he thinks. *That was the one chance you had. You're never going to see HER again.*

But no. She pops up too, a few strokes away! She tries to catch a breath, but she goes back under.

Whitney dives for her. Flounders around in the dark down there and somehow, just barely, grabs her by the hair. He pulls her up and gets another handle on her, a cross-body carry. Looks around. They're between the Western boats and the wall now. The Western boats are coming their way.

At this point, Whitney starts to lose it a little.

Now we're gonna get squashed, he thinks. So he starts to squawl at Darrel, and Darrel sees him finally, and somehow Whitney and the woman end up alongside the Western boat and a couple of those people reach out to grab her, but one of those guys starts to fall in, too. That guy catches himself on the lifeline and he's yelling for somebody to grab his feet. A thirteen year-old kid on that boat appears, finally, and even though he's utterly goggle-eyed at what's happening, he grabs this woman and manages to pull her up.

Whitney sees the stern of the other boat and swims to that. He pulls himself up through the motor well. Garvin is still trying to get the motor in the water; but he can't quite figure out the latch. Whitney drops the motor in and gets it started. The handle's broken but it

runs anyway.

They pull in at the first little beach downstream on the right below the rapid. This woman sprints off the boat and jumps on that land like she's gonna kiss it.

She was a marathon runner, it turned out—a New Yorker, wouldn't you know it, from Whitney's own trip, in her late forties, early fifties. Weighed about 110. She got swept away right there at the first crossing, went over that first waterfall there, down the narrows and out through the mouth; clear through the rapid without a lifejacket and underwater for eighty percent of it.. The whole thing was over in minutes.

You have to really press old Tim to get him to tell the story, and even then, after you try to say what a good job he did, and how proud you are of him, he'll manage to come up with a bunch of baloney like, "Hey, I lost her under the boat, man. *That's* the part that keeps coming back to me."

Whitney will say a line or two of hogwash like that and he'll dig his toe into the dirt and watching him do it, you'll think, *All right. This couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.* A life was in the balance and Tim Whitney had about two seconds to scope the situation out. Contrary to everything we've all been taught, he jumped in without hesitation

This interview was funded by GCRG's Adopt-a-Boatman program, a public funding mechanism for our Colorado River Runners Oral History Project. Individual sponsors for this interview include Richard Quartaroli, Mike Denoyer, and Neal "Bear" Shapiro. Thank you all for making it possible!

Ballot Comments 2008

Good Thing GCRG is Doing

Providing a sane and reasonable voice and platform for the Grand Canyon river community.

Gts on river and land in March. Participate/support crmp monitoring. Plus November/Fall gts “shorty” to keep in touch. Support nps/usfws in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program.

Keeping me informed!

Everything GCRG is doing is great with the exception of not promoting the decommissioning of Glen Canyon Dam.

Keep Lynn on board. BQR, oral history, GTS, Fall Meeting. Uniting the guide community. Ear to the ground on protecting Grand Canyon.

BQR

Generally good work!!

BQR, GTS

Amicus?

Staying in the game.

Looking to the afterlife of river guides. Just about everything!

GTS land and river. BQR.

History stories—get more old timers before they leave us.

Email list—getting info to the people in the field. God knows we need it!! Events. Education about Grand Canyon in the great short blurbs in the BQR!

Staying in business. Using all available allies—i.e. GCA

The Oral History Project is a fine one to keep going.

BQR, GTS, keep us informed via email. Pushing for flood flows.

Keep up the good work.

BQR, good young energy, GTS, good mix of “young” and “old”, “north” and “south”

GTS, emails with river, canyon and guide updates, quarterly essays concerning geology, natural history and politics. Spreading news and good will about GCY and Whale Foundation.

Always good things—publication, information, representing guides! Awesome as always!

Keeping involved!

Continue to, as Kenton put it, “guilt the outfitters” into providing better wages and benefits to their employees; that they may continue to hold the Canyon forth as an example of what this country’s remaining wild places can provide to the souls of those we show this magical place to, that they can pass this on to an ever-growing majority of Americans who believe we must protect and preserve our last wild places.

BQR is fantastic. Giving the park hell for stupid rules is great (i.e. Elves Chasm). The overall support of the guide community is outstanding.

A lot. BQR, GTS, education, advocacy and union of the community.

The BQR, its articles on river history, and interviews.

Misguided Things GCRG is Doing

Nothing

Too much “partying” on GTS.

None! You Rock!

Not promoting the decommissioning of Glen Canyon Dam. This Dam is the single, most destructive thing to Grand Canyon.

Nothing

Amicus?

Nothing

Supporting science work in Grand Canyon without requiring peer group oversight.

Nothing worth bitching about!

Can’t think of any.

Things GCRG Should Be Doing

Do conservation projects on GTS.

Engage in a dialogue with GCPBA about educating private boaters. There’s a lot of stuff happening down there (fires on the beach, camping at closed camps, gathering tree limbs, etc...) that shouldn’t be happening.

Keep me up to date on physical changes in the canyon.

Everything it is!

Working to decommission the Glen Canyon Dam. It’s a slow death for Grand Canyon.

Keep on keepin’ on.

1) Fight the powerful hydropower industry and the corrupt Bureau of Wrecklamation that has vetoed any long term positive changes in dam operations proposed by AMWG and others, 2) Support lawsuits against the park for its failure to protect the river’s wilderness values, 3) Congressional designation as Wilderness will be the only way to save Grand Canyon.

Keep on keepin’ on. More members! Guides! General Members!

Staying with the good fight.

Keep it up!

Require peer group oversight for science that GCRG endorses.

This may be in place already: communicate with the Private Boaters Association via their/our websites. Both groups will have ability to suggest improvements or likes/dislikes of relations on the river. Publish info in BQR. (*Note: Respondent offers to help.*)

Promote more involvement of guides from other rivers, plus national—international section in the BQR. Article

that involves in-depth study of the effects of gear production and repair within the industry.
 Record speakers at the GTS and make them available online.
 “Out” the outfitters—publish pay rates, who provides insurance options, 401K’s, profit sharing, etc...
 Include a guide tip of the quarter.
 Advocating for draining Powell reservoir and for the phase out of motors in the canyon.
 Caring for the Canyon...and the guides who love it!
 Paying Lynn well.
 Do a new outfitter survey. This should be done once a year. It is one of the most valuable things that GCRG does for the guides. I know that the outfitters may not like it, but it helps to see who is really taking care of their employees.
 “Encourage” the Park to minimize its meddlesome regulations such as “continuing education requirements.” Things other than resource protection and public safety are none of the Park’s business.
 Teaching the NPS how to run the river for the experience and not letting them invent new rules and change the experience on a whim.

Ways to Keep GCRG Relevant

Keep bringing in the new folks—we need their spirit and energy.
 Stay tuned and active in Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program.
 Don’t forget our mission statement!
 Keep on promoting guiding as a profession and a “real” job. Keep up the education. Great job!
 Promoting the decommissioning of Glen Canyon Dam.
 Keep the connection strong making the old-new and new-old!
 Sign on as an amicus for the NPS on their River Runners for Wilderness appeal.
 Keep motor guides involved—even if you have to wrangle them into it!
 Raise \$\$; keep up the interviews!
 More involvement of guides from other scenes.
 It seems like there are lots of new guides—do they sign up?
 Great work on the BQR—keep it up. Love the oral history projects.
 You’re doing it. Continue outreach to newer guides.
 Same as last time: listen, weed, attend, think, evaluate, listen and think some more, change minds, wonder about the future, protect the canyon wisely, listen, think, *act*.
 Continue to represent all commercial users.
 More of the same great things, but also keeping the organization flexible and streamlined to change direction in a moment if needed.

Thank you for all the kind words, kudos, encouragement, and great ideas. The GCRG officers and directors always take a hard look at the ballot comments and we appreciate it that so many of you took the time to include your thoughts. It really helps!

A Few Responses From GCRG

- *GCRG has enjoyed quite regular contact with the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association over the last couple of years, which has really solidified our working relationship and goes far to keep those lines of communication open. We believe that communication, coordination, and cooperation between all river users/stakeholders are critical for the preservation and protection of the river experience.*
- *GCRG just sent about 1,000 River Courtesy Flyers (a joint GCRG/GCPBA project) to the Permits Office at Grand Canyon National Park for inclusion in all private permit packets. But river courtesy is everyone’s responsibility, so help out your fellow boaters whenever you can. Everyone will benefit and the resource will too.*
- *GCRG has signed on to the “Amicus Brief” supporting the National Park Service in defense of the appeal brought by River Runners for Wilderness. Although GCRG did not agree with the increase in use engendered by the Final EIS of the Colorado River Management Plan, our organization has actively supported its implementation because we believe river stakeholders have a collective responsibility to make the CRMP as successful as it can be. Simply put, we have a plan that was the result of a thorough and transparent NEPA process including broad stakeholder and public involvement—let’s give the CRMP a chance to work.*
- *GCRG will continue to work within the Adaptive Management Program of Glen Canyon Dam to bring about change and ensure that the mandates of the Grand Canyon Protection Act are upheld. The latest flood experiment was a result of ongoing advocacy efforts by GCRG and other environmental stakeholders. We’ll keep fighting the good fight.*
- *We always conduct a conservation project on the Guides Training Seminar River Trip—camelthorn pulling at Unkar and Crystal. In fact, GTS 2008 pulled over 10,000 non-natives! Nps data indicates that the repeated eradication is really making a positive difference. In addition to this project, we’ll investigate other conservation possibilities. Learning while doing is always optimal, and resource stewardship is critical. And as to the partying, hmmm...the GTS is also supposed to be about getting to know your fellow guides and improving relationships between guides from different companies. That being said, we don’t want the educational experience to be adversely affected. Thanks for the input.*
- *GCRG last conducted a Wage and Benefit Survey in Volume 18:4 (winter 2005/2006) of the Boatman’s*

Quarterly Review. We had initially planned to do a survey every five years, but are considering reducing that to every three years (which would mean we may conduct another survey this year). We believe that the Wage and Benefit Survey is a constructive tool for guides and outfitters alike. So keep an eye out for a new survey in upcoming BQR's!

- And in response to the person who objected to the Park's continuing education requirements and thought it was none of the Park's business, we beg to differ. Besides resource protection and public safety, the other profound NPS responsibility is to protect the visitor experience—a concept that is repeated throughout all the NPS guiding documents. Towards that end, education is the best means to build stewardship and advocacy for our public lands so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. We invite you to come to the spring Guides Training Seminar and you'll find that learning the latest interpretive science is really painless and even, dare we say it, fun. We swear!

Overall, GCRG can't be all things to all people, but we do endeavor to stay true to our mission and goals. By doing so, we demonstrate the love and passion that all of us share for Grand Canyon and the wondrous Colorado River experience, while instilling that passion in others...Let's all "pay it forward." Thanks for your support!

Announcements

LOST

Two wedding rings with diamonds and emeralds were lost somewhere in the Canyon the week of July 25. If found, please contact AZRA at 800-786-7238 or info@azraft.com

LOST

Silver wedding band lost at Little Colorado River in the swim rapid. Not much financial value but huge sentimental value. If found please contact Dave Spillman at 928-774-7429.

FIRST AID INFO

We're working on nailing down first aid dates (WFR and WFR recert) for spring 2009. Once we have details, they'll be posted on our website, www.gcr.org.

Adoption Update

WE OF COURSE ARE TICKLED PINK to bring you the first of many "Adopt-a-Boatman" interviews, but thought you'd like to have a brief update on the progress of this endeavor. Here's the scoop:

BQR published: Tim Whitney interview

Interviews completed & transcribed: Tim Whitney, Howie Usher, Allen Wilson, Don Poulson, George Billingsley, John Blaustein, Jon & Ruthie Stoner

Full Adoptions (yet to be interviewed): Lew Steiger, Richard Quartaroli, Jeri Ledbetter, Tony & Ann Anderson, Pete Gross, Brian Dierker, Loie Belknap Evans & Buzz Belknap, John Toner

Partial adoptions: Dick McCallum (\$400 needed), Serena Supplee (\$360 needed), Vaughn Short (\$500 needed), Brian Hansen (\$600 needed), Ivo Lucchitta (\$600 needed), Drifter Smith (\$600 needed)

You need not pony up the whole balance for any of these "partial adoptions"—whatever you can do will get us closer to our \$750 goal. Our plate sure is full, but we really look forward to capturing the memories of all of these worthy folks. Please note that we are not accepting any new adoptions because what we've got lined up already will keep us busy for quite some time to come.

A huge thank you to all of the "adopters and adoptees" for substantially expanding our Colorado River Runners Oral History Project! It's something we can all be very proud of.

Major Contributors

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES proudly presents the long list of major contributors who supported our organization in numerous ways during this last fiscal year (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008). This list does not reflect the numerous five year memberships or general contributions under \$100, of which there were many. Your support in whatever form (or size), helps us to move forward and maintain a healthy and vital organization that is better equipped for the challenges of protecting and preserving Grand Canyon, the Colorado River experience, and the unique spirit of river running culture that thrives below the Rim.

Of special note—as GCRG celebrated our 20th anniversary this year, our Circle of Friends fundraising drive raised close to \$20,000 for the *Boatman's Quarterly Review*. How very fitting and how intensely gratifying. Thanks to all of you who donated and sent in words of encouragement! When the next wonderful BQR issue arrives in your mailbox, know that you had a hand in making that happen!

We apologize in advance to anyone we may have missed in the lists below. Please let us know. And thanks again, not only to those acknowledged here, but to each and every one of our fantastic members who help us out in a myriad of ways. I don't know how other membership organizations view their members, but it's continually driven home to us that GCRG is blessed to have simply the best members anyone could ever ask for—you are truly our GCRG family! We appreciate your support more than we can say.

Foundation, Government, and Corporate Support (Note: Circle of Friends listed separately)

Arizona Humanities Council (Colorado River Runners Oral History Project)
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Bashas' Thanks A Million (general support)
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Tides Foundation (general support, on the recommendation of Drummond Pike)
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Grand Canyon River Guides Inc., Profit and Loss Statement

Fiscal Year—July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Income

Membership income	\$35,008.00
General contributions	23,360.96
Gts income & reimbursements	23,077.06
Circle of Friends contributions	19,769.00
Amwg/twg grants	12,000.00
Adopt-a-Boatman contributions	10,090.00
First aid class income	8,471.00
Sales (t-shirts, hats, etc...)	8,097.50
BQR grants	7,500.00
Oral history contributions	3,325.00
Adopt-a-Beach grants/contributions	3,000.00
Interest income	1,814.62
Meeting income	1,240.00
Less bad checks	(30.00)

Total Income **\$156,723.14**

Note: Profit & Loss Statement does not reflect hundreds of hours of donated services for BQR proofreading, its annual report, Guides Training Seminar, website maintenance, clerical support, donated equipment and more.... The P/L also does not reflect thatgcrgr's rent is less than fair market value—an annual savings of \$3,600 which greatly helps our organization fund its ongoing programs. Thanks to Dennis and Lauri Wilson!

Expense

Payroll & benefits	\$	
	41,395.04	
BQR (production, printing, postage)	36,463.47	
Gts expenses	22,238.02	
Adaptive Management Program	12,839.72	
First aid class expenses	8,764.19	
Adopt-a-Beach	5,247.72	
Rent	4,800.00	
Cost of goods sold	4,415.11	
Postage	4,195.34	
Adopt-a-Boatman	3,705.35	
Printing	3,187.12	
Meeting expense	1,976.97	
Telephone	1,802.28	
Utilities	1,503.35	
Office supplies	1,235.48	
Other (bank charges, tax prep, etc.)	1,161.26	
Oral history	800.00	
Internet	582.35	
Insurance	444.04	
Depreciation expense	442.00	

Total Expense **\$157,198.81**

Net Income **\$ (475.67)**

Grand Canyon River Guides Inc., Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008

Assets

Cash in checking/savings	\$ 58,369.98
Postage & security deposits	2,256.25
Total Current Assets	\$ 60,626.23

Fixed Assets

Computer & office equipment	\$ 40,855.46
Less depreciation	40,036.19
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 819.27

Liabilities & Equity

Payroll liabilities	\$ 834.89
Restricted funds	277.64
Equity	60,332.97
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 61,445.50

Businesses Offering Support

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

- Asolo Productions**—Film and Video Productions 801/705-7033
Aspen Sports—Outdoor gear 928/779-1935
Blue Sky Woodcraft—Dories and repairs 970/963-0463
Boulder Mountain Lodge—800/556-3446
Cañon Outfitters—River equipment rental 800/452-2666
Canyon Arts—Canyon art by David Haskell 928/567-9873
Canyon Books—Canyon and River books 928/779-0105
Canyon R.E.O.—River equipment rental 928/774-3377
Capitol Hill Neighborhood Acupuncture—206/323-3277
CC Lockwood—Photography books 225/769-4766
Ceiba Adventures—Equipment and boat rentals 928/527-0171
Chaco Sandals—Pro deals 970/527-4990
Cliff Dwellers Lodge, AZ—928/355-2228
Design and Sales Publishing Company—520/774-2147
Down By The River Productions/FaheyFoto—928/226-7131
Entrance Mountain Natural Health—Dr. Mische 360/376-5454
EPF Classic & European Motorcycles—928/778-7910
Five Quail Books—Canyon and River books 928/776-9955
Flagstaff Native Plant & Seed—928/773-9406
Fran Sarena, NCMT—Body work 928/773-1072
Fretwater Press—Holmstrom and Hyde books 928/774-8853
Funhog Press—AZ Hiking Guides 928/779-9788
Hell's Backbone Grill—Restaurant & catering 435/335-7464
High Desert Boatworks—Dories & Repairs 970/882-3448
Humphreys Summit—boating & skiing supplies 928/779-1308
Inner Gorge Trail Guides—Backpacking 877/787-4453
Jack's Plastic Welding—drybags & paco pads 800/742-1904
Dr. Jim Marzolf, DDS—Dentist 928/779-2393
KC Publications—Books on National Parks 800/626-9673
The Kirk House B&B—Friday Harbor, wa 800/639-2762
Kristen Tinning, NCMT—Rolfing & massage 928/525-3958
Laughing Bird Adventures—Sea kayak tours 503/621-1167
Man of Rubber, Inc.—800/437-9224
Marble Canyon Lodge—928/355-2225
Marble Canyon Metal Works—928/355-2253
Dr. Mark Falcon—Chiropractor 928/779-2742
Mountain Angels Trading Co.—River jewelry 800/808-9787
Mountain Sports—928/779-5156
Patrick Conley—Realtor 928/779-4596
Plateau Restoration/Conservation Adventures—435/259-7733
Professional River Outfitters—Equip. rentals 928/779-1512
Randy Rohrig—Rocky Point Casitas rentals 928/522-9064
River Art & Mud Gallery—River folk art 435/648-2688
River Gardens Rare Books—First editions 435/648-2688
River Rat Raft and Bike—Bikes and boats 916/966-6777
Rescue Specialists—Rescue & 1st Aid 509/548-7875
Roberta Motter, CPA—928/774-8078
Rubicon Adventures—Mobile cpr & 1st Aid 707/887-2452
Sam Walton—Rare Earth Images, screen savers 928/214-0687
Sanderson Carpet Cleaning—Page, az 928/645-3239
Sunrise Leather—Birkenstock sandals 800/999-2575
The Summit—Boating equipment 928/774-0724
Tele Choice—Phone rates 877/277-8660
Terri Merz, MFT—Counselling 702/892-0511
Teva—928/779-5938
Vertical Relief Climbing Center—928/556-9909
Westwater Books—Waterproof river guides 800/628-1326
Wilderness Medical Associates—888/945-3633
Willow Creek Books—Coffee & Outdoor gear 435/644-8884
Winter Sun—Indian art & herbal medicine 928/774-2884

A Smoother Take-out?

From a press release in *Williams-GC News*, the first week of August.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced that adeq is awarding a \$35,000 grant to the Hualapai Tribe in Mohave County to protect Diamond Creek, which flows into the Colorado River on the tribe's northwestern Arizona reservation. The funds will be used to reduce soil erosion that occurs when drivers on the unpaved Diamond Creek Road cross the creek in an area of about one-third of a mile where the creek and road are in close proximity. Sediment traps will be constructed at smaller crossings along the length of the road. Diamond Creek Road is about 12 miles long. The road begins in Peach Springs and is the

only road access point to the river between Lees Ferry in northern Coconino County and Lake Mead. An estimated 2,400 vehicles traveled the road last year, and more are expected in years to come because of the anticipated growth of the river-tour industry. The project will divert water from the road. Sediment traps also will help reduce erosion into Diamond Creek and the Colorado River. Water quality and aquatic insects will be monitored and education efforts will be directed to drivers and river visitors. Both volunteers and paid employees will work on the project. The grant is funded with federal dollars provided to adeq under the Clean Water Act.

GCRG Fall Rendezvous

GCRG IS PLANNING ON having our Fall Rendezvous at Toroweap/Tuweep over the November 1-2 weekend. The GCRG board said "Let's go north!" Rather than being stuck in a warehouse, we use the more intimate Fall Rendezvous to get out and "do cool stuff". We think that hiking in that area while learning about mining, volcanism, and North Rim issues seems like a lot of fun and we hope you think so too! Plus, what better way to say sayonara to the river season.

Details to follow, but pencil it in for the November 1st weekend. We have the site reserved for October 31, November 1st and 2nd, because of the travel time involved for some folks. However, the main segment will take place from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon (we'll cover lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday—everything else is byo). We're working on carpooling logistics too. This will be a fee event and spaces will be limited. Look for a sign-up postcard in the mail by mid-September. Hope to see you there!

We'll put the info on our website too when it's available.

Shop at Bashas' and Help GCRG

GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES is participating in the *Shop and Give* program (formerly Bashas' Thanks a Million). It's easy to support GCRG every time you buy groceries at Bashas', anywhere in Arizona from September 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Here's how it works:

- Link your Bashas' Thank You Card to GCRG's group id number (just once on or after September 1) at any checkout. The link remains active until March 31. **Grand Canyon River Guides Group ID Number is: 24776**
- From September 1 2008 to March 31, 2009, be sure that your Thank You Card is scanned every time you shop at Bashas'.
- Supporters who participated in last year's Thanks a Million program must re-link their Thank You Card at the start of this year's program.
- Bashas' designates a portion of your purchases back to GCRG at the end of the program.

So link to GCRG's number, shop at Bashas, and help GCRG every time! What could be easier than that!

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 _____

\$16 Short sleeved T-shirt Size _____

\$18 Long sleeved T-shirt Size _____

\$12 Baseball Cap

\$10 Kent Frost Poster (Dugald Bremner photo)

\$ 8 Insulated GCRG 20th anniversary mugs with lid

Total enclosed _____

Get Rid of Your Watch!

“**W**HAT TIME IS IT?...
What time are we
camping?... How
long is the hike?... What time
is coffee?... What time is
it?... What time is lunch?...
What time is dinner?... How
long 'till we get there?...
What time do we wake up?...
What time is it?”

Incessant pondering of
time leads to pounding of
time. Susan Greenfield, a
GCE passenger, gets rid of her
watch...finally!



photo by Dave Spillman

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

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boatman's quarterly review

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