

boatman's quarterly review

GCRG
25th
year
1988 – 2013

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

IN APRIL, on the way to a River Rescue course in Yosemite, my Dad and I arranged to meet Esther and Martin Litton at the California Cafe in Palo Alto near Stanford University. Two years ago, we had a similar opportunity to enjoy an afternoon with the Littons. Once again, they were vibrant and full of grace. Well into their nineties, Esther and Martin still live independently in the home they built in 1959 in Portola Valley.

Over lunch we listened to many of their life experiences: UCLA, WWII, family, *Sunset Magazine*, early river trips, and the Sierra Club. Our conversations naturally intertwined with stories about the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—Marble and Bridge Canyon Dams—and the spark that created Grand Canyon Dories. The Littons were equally candid about some colorful situations surrounding the *Emerald Mile's* run through the canyon during the flood of 1983. Prior to this conversation, I was fairly familiar with the back story to the record-setting push from Lees Ferry to the Grand Wash Cliffs at 70,000 plus CFS in a tad under 37 hours. However, hearing Martin's perspective, directly and in person, gave me much greater appreciation and understanding. In particular, it was interesting for me to hear that Superintendent Richard Marks had agreed to call Martin back the following day, regarding any objections to Kenton, Wren, and Rudi's launching a solo dory and heading downstream on the swollen Colorado. The glint reflected in Martin's eyes conveyed a great deal about his independent character, as he stated he was "gravely relieved" when the mutually recognized deadline of five P.M. passed without hearing from Marks. Whatever the reasons for this lack of communication, it has become apparent to me that possibly the most relevant part of the story lies in Martin's support for his guides, his passion for their project, and knowing the appropriate time to say "Go." The *Emerald Mile's* epic run with her trio of boatmen speaks convincingly of the human spirit drawn by a sense of freedom, the joy of running a boat, and learning to make the most of opportunity.



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I have been striving to appreciate for some time why the Sierra Club as a whole did not act quicker in their opposition to the dams at the sites of Marble Canyon and Bridge Canyon. This is perplexing, especially when one considers the dams intended for the Green River in Echo Park and Split Mountain had recently been defeated, most notably through action taken by the Sierra Club. Furthermore, the gates had closed at Glen Canyon, undoubtedly revealing many realities of what is lost when dams are built. During the fifties and sixties, the Marble and Bridge Canyon dam sites were outside the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park, making them largely out of range of the public view. However, to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, the threat these dams posed to Grand Canyon must have been palpable. I expressed to Martin my difficulty understanding why the Club's leadership was not absolutely committed to stopping these dams from the beginning. His response, stated plainly, was that some of the Club's directors were simply uninterested in taking a stand. They felt the Bureau should be tolerated to proceed, even if that meant flooding massive parts of Greater Grand Canyon. Fortunately for all of us, and for those yet to be born, an important shift took place during one particular Sierra Club board meeting. Martin, speaking with conviction as one of several directors, ultimately persuaded others in the room to change their minds. With renewed vigor from Martin's speech, Executive Director David Brower launched a pivotal campaign against Marble and Bridge Canyon Dams. The campaign brought about opposition from people from all over the country, including key individuals in government. The opposition overwhelmed the Bureau's efforts, and "a chain of destructive forces" was stopped in its tracks.

Before meeting with the Littons, I was able to find an exhibit copy of *Time and the River Flowing* by Francois Leydet. The book was published in 1964 by the Sierra Club, edited by Brower, and contains photographs taken by Ansel Adams, Phillip Hyde, Clyde Thomas, and others. The book was created in an effort to notify the public, before it was too late, about the Bureau's intentions to build dams in Grand Canyon. Perhaps the most lasting aspect of the book is that it implores readers to recognize their stake as co-owners of Grand Canyon, and to become active participants in decisions that affect its future. In the book's foreword, Brower gives his highest accolades to Leydet for "doing the impossible" and to Litton for "making the impossible feasible," as the timing of this book's publication was absolutely crucial. Both Brower and Leydet passed away a number of years ago. Sometime after Francois died, Martin flew his Cessna 195 into the canyon and

dropped his friend's ashes in the river above Lava Falls. The Littons are likely "the last leaves hanging from the vine," of those directly involved with the creation of this magnificent book. I was touched that Esther and Martin signed our copy of *Time and the River Flowing* to my son Reed.

In regards to our organization's 25TH year, I believe it is important to recognize the Littons for the contributions they made to guiding in Grand Canyon. Their company undoubtedly helped give rise to the imagination of Kenton Grua and a handful of others who set this organization in motion. GCRG's first newsletter contains a blurb titled, "Martin has a plan..." it speaks of Martin's "profound idea" of the need for more reasonable flow releases from Glen Canyon Dam, and that all peaking power should be moved to Hoover Dam. Remarkably Martin always seems to have a "plan" his plans offer ample room for others to grab a hold of and build upon. Martin began river-running in the early fifties; a few years later in 1955 he ran Grand Canyon for his first time. With the birth of GCRG in 1988, Martin more than anyone else, passed the torch to the rest of us. Grand Canyon and the river are continually in his thoughts. In fact, my Dad called Martin from Yosemite Point a few days after our lunch together. During their conversation Martin expressed a deep interest in getting back to Grand Canyon. Incidentally, he said; "Just as you called, I was on the way to work out on my rowing machine."

Latimer Smith

25 Years Of GCRG

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, 2013 marks the 25TH Anniversary of GCRG. In honor of that, we have decided to make this issue of the BQR our 25TH Anniversary Celebration issue. In this issue, we will reflect on how far GCRG has come in the last 25 years and highlight many milestones. Our oral history cover boy/girl is the organization itself. All the available individuals that were involved in the start-up of GCRG

came together and had a big yap session this past winter, reflecting on the beginnings—an important oral history to record. Hope you enjoy the issue of the BQR as much as we have!



Dear Eddy

IN RESPONSE TO JOHN BLAUSTEIN'S ORAL HISTORY IN SPRING 2013 BQR, VOLUME 26:1

MY FATHER, RON HAYES, was a Grand Canyon river guide. He did his first trip down the Canyon in the mid-sixties; was one of the very first guides for Martin Litton (rowing the *Betty Boop*, a 14-foot, 10-inch McKenzie dory he and I spent two years fitting with hatches in our Sylmar, California garage); and in 1971 he and his Stanford Alpine Club climbing partner Vladimire Kovalik ("VK") launched their own river company, Wilderness World, Inc. (WiWo).

Dad ran the entire Grand Canyon operation, ending up with 65 trips down the Canyon, while VK ran all the other rivers, which included the Stanislaus, American and Tuolumne in California, the Middle and Main Salmon and Hell's Canyon in Idaho, and the Rogue River in Oregon. Dad sold out of WiWo in 1978, but the company continued to operate in Grand Canyon until '83 under the supervision of VK's son, Kyle.

Dad insisted that all his guides not only do the job of rowing and cooking, but that they study about the Canyon and deliver an in-depth interpretive program to their clients. I think Wilderness World was one of the first river companies to insist on this from all their guides.

Ron was a very active member of the Sierra Club, having joined the Club in the early fifties, and he campaigned to save wilderness areas at every opportunity. One of his best friends was David Brower. Dad was also one of the early pioneers of technical rock climbing in Yosemite, doing his first routes there in the late forties with his childhood best friend, Alan Steck. (Dad and Al ran all the way across the Golden Gate Bridge on the day it opened in 1936.)

The photo I have attached has the entire crew from that infamous trip where Martin rowed and flipped three of his dories in Crystal rapid. [Editor's notes: This photo has been

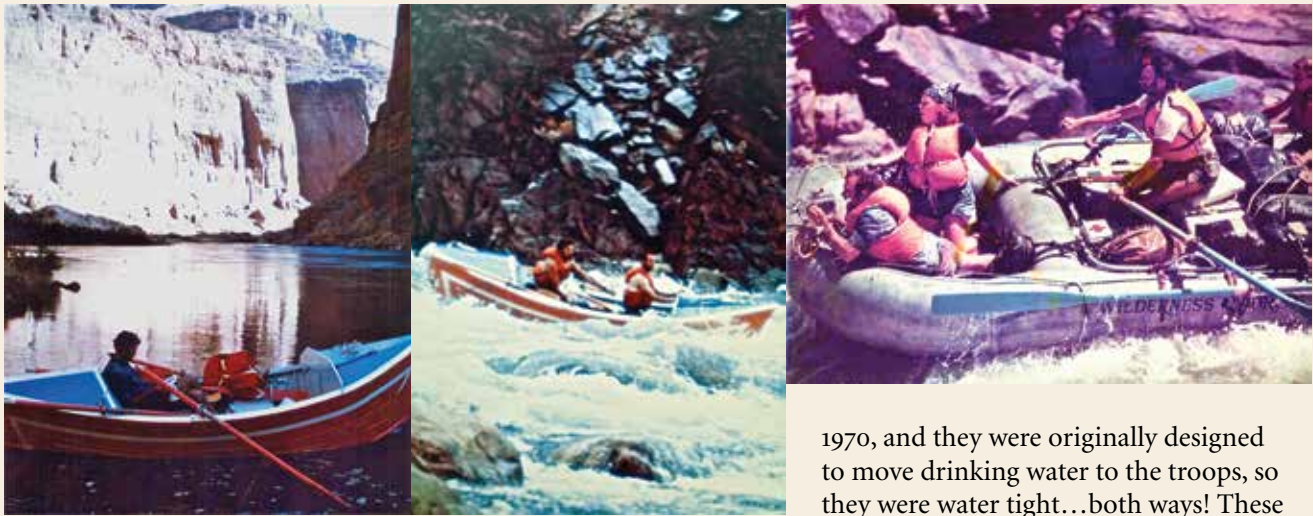
identified by John Blaustein and Rudi Petschek as Martin's *second* trip of 1971. He flipped the three dories on his *first* 1971 trip.] Dad and the *Betty Boop* were the only ones to finish the trip upright. As a matter of fact, Dad never flipped the *Boop*, and he always ran the right side of Lava," the spine down Crystal, and he even had a run down the left side at House Rock. His signature move was the right at Hance.

The names I have attached on the photo may be off, but standing on the left end of the *Music Temple* [which John Blaustein rowed on this *second* trip—his first as a guide—and which now resides in the historic boat collection on the South Rim] is my Dad, wearing the Seminole Indian jacket he received from that tribe when filming his 1961 TV series, *The Everglades*; wherein, he was the only star of a TV series to represent a National Park Ranger. Standing next to Dad is Vladimire Kovalik, and showing the "karate chop" is Chuck Carpenter, another original oarsman for Martin.

I think this is a photo of historical significance, and it would be compelling to find out who else is in the photo. [Additional figures of note have been added, courtesy of John Blaustein's memory] That is Ernst



Group photo of Martin Litton's second Grand Canyon trip in 1971.



1970, and they were originally designed to move drinking water to the troops, so they were water tight...both ways! These were the river bags of choice for all WiWo

trips throughout the seventies.) The rapid Dad is rowing his Havasu in is Hermit, and the shot was taken just as they are about to hit the biggest “wave”...not the biggest “hole”...(that would be Crystal)...on the entire river...at the time (1976– 77?). This photo hung in the Marble Canyon restaurant for many years.

Have a good day, and check yer blade angles in the tongue!

Peter Hayes

Haas sitting at Dad’s feet [label correction made] and Martin Litton, sitting to the far right, is an easy spot. I think that is John Blaustein sitting in the sand to the left [center, corrected] sporting a pair of Chuck Taylor Converse tennis shoes (which are the only shoes I will ever wear while piloting rapids on any river I ever run). Dad wrote a piece recalling the day of reckoning at mile 98 on this [the first 1971] trip, naming it “Dog Day Afternoon,” and it is tracing paper to the memories of John Blaustein (JB). I hope you enjoy the photos. I have included a couple of Dad in the *Betty Boop* just for fun. The one in the rapid is at the top of the “old” Crystal in 1970, and may have been taken by either JB or Ernst Haas...JB would know for sure. [JB says he did not take it.] The one in the Havasu was taken on a film trip with Walt Blackadar, and the woman in the bow is Walt’s daughter. (I like how everybody has their mouth open!) Dad has his signature “Sierra Club Cup” hooked on his belt (in those days Dad would routinely drink straight from the river!), and he is wearing a ski-vest that would never pass inspection these days! (He swam only once in those days, a flip in Upset.) Dad always ran with the emergency gear. Of note in the Havasu is the old “Holcomb Bag” filled with trash and a pair of those old “com boxes” strapped down with old seat belts Dad bought at a salvage yard. This was way before cam straps were invented for river running, and Dad took great pride in the way he rigged with rope, which was a carry over from his time as a climber and as an “arborist.” Dad was a tree trimmer for his entire life, because when you are an actor, you need a “Plan B,” and Dad’s was working in the trees in the San Fernando Valley. It kept him in killer shape, and synching down a load of branches in the pick-up was no different than strapping down those old school, Viet nam-issue, “black bags.” (VK bought a ton of these in

PS: On my first trip down the Grand Canyon in ’77 (with Whale, Pepper Tonsmeire, Floyd Stevens, Larry Stevens, Tom Olsen and Kyle Kovalik), I ended up with a mellon-sized rock in my Havasu after running the middle of the hole in Crystal, and it took us half an hour to bail the boat in the eddy below. I almost flipped in Sockdolager, Granite, Hermit, Crystal and Lava. I’d never seen water as huge as the rapids in the Grand Canyon, and following Kyle’s line became increasingly stressful as the hot days melted by. The water was dark chocolate the entire trip, making it very difficult to read. 1977 was a benchmark low water year on the Middle Fork, so arriving on the Canyon late that summer was a real shock to my senses. I rowed the “Honey Boat,” an really beat-up Havasu filled with all the garbage and human waste...it was ripe by day nine because it was 90–100 degrees every day.

Currently, I’m living out my last years with a terminal lung disease (Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis due to—I am quite sure—my exposure to a Chevron crude oil spill running down the creek in my back yard for months in the summer of 2010), but I still get on the river, rowing a vintage 1979 bucket boat: a 17-foot Calaghari Eagle with a Mancini break-down frame and a couple of those old-school, aluminum “com boxes” in the cockpit.

Farewells

BILL OTT, MAY 13, 1946–APRIL ?, 2012

WILLIAM ANTHONY “BILLY” OTT, Moki Mac guide during the eighties and nineties, disappeared while on a long solo hike in western Grand Canyon during April of 2012. Other than a few boot prints, significant search efforts have revealed few clues related to his disappearance.

In 1979, Bill completed an upriver hike from below Great Thumb Mesa to Lees Ferry, much of it solo, a large portion with Keith Miller. Bill came back in 1981, and in 78 days walked from Lees Ferry to the Grand Wash Cliffs, mostly solo (Steve U’Ren accompanied him from Soap Creek to Tanner; his sister Paula and others joined him for various portions), making him the first white person ever to hike the length of Grand Canyon on the north side of the river below the rim. When Bill got to Kanab Creek, he faced a dilemma. His food cache was missing and his boots were nearly worn out. So he walked north to Kanab, bought boots, food and supplies, returned down Kanab Creek, then continued on to Pearce Ferry.

During December of 1989, Bill scrounged up a cheap, disposable raft and set out from Lees Ferry alone. Grapevine Rapid above Phantom Ranch blew a hole in his boat (which was already leaking badly through the fabric). He struggled to reach Phantom and asked the ranger if he could rifle through the storage shed, where hikers left stuff in an effort to lighten their packs. Bill found a tent and used it as a very large (and mostly ineffective) patch over much of the boat, expending the last of his glue. When Bill got to Pearce Ferry, he unloaded his old worn out boat and neatly rolled it up. He hefted the rubber up onto his shoulder and made the long trudge up the ramp to the dumpsters and plunked it in; that boat’s last ride, “disposable” after all.

Fifteen years later, Bill still fostered the idea of completing his traverse of the Grand Canyon on the south side of the river. In 1996, he hiked upstream from Pearce, exiting the Canyon somewhere downstream of Diamond. He re-entered the Canyon at Tanner and hiked to Eminence Break, leaving a little unfinished business at both ends of the Canyon.

Bill traveled the Southwest studying rock art, becoming an authority on Archaic rock art, and in particular, the Grand Canyon Polychrome Style, multi-colored panels that were created thousands of years ago. Bill found his passion in digitally documenting this western Grand Canyon rock art style. Because he couldn’t capture the large panels in one exposure, he had to stitch multiple images together. Back home, Bill painstakingly repaired the digital images he had created. No artistic license taken, he would simply, pixel by pixel, recover the artist’s intent, repairing obvious damage caused by time and nature. The completed images reveal aspects of these sites not otherwise discernable. It was tedious, painstaking work, but once Bill got his head into something, he worked it to its conclusion.

Unfortunately, it was Bill’s search for Grand Canyon rock art that spelled his demise. In early April of 2012, Bill began his last solo trip in Grand Canyon. He was hoping to find out if the



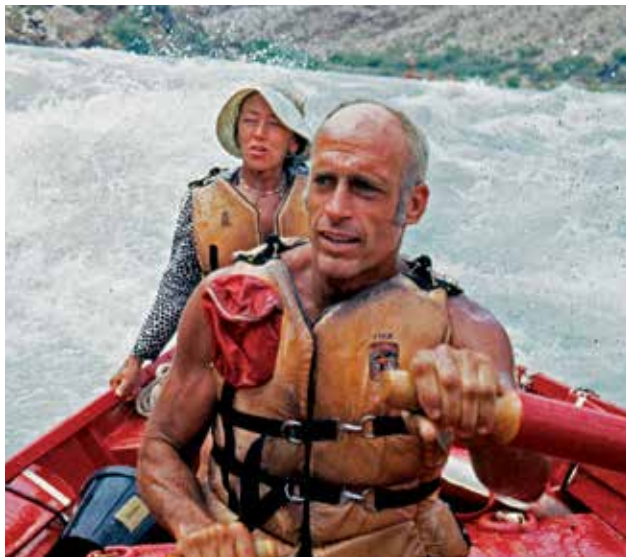
photo by John Azar

Polychrome rock art tradition continued on the south side of the river, in areas now controlled by the Hualapai. Bill speculated that the remote and foreboding nature of the terrain in the western sector would explain why no Polychrome panels have been discovered in that region. Knowing that getting permission to enter these lands would be nearly impossible, he slipped undetected into Mohawk Canyon on April 7, 2012. He hiked down the bed, and began exploring the Esplanade, looking for the colorful panels he thought might be located there. He planned to be out for 20–25 days. When he didn’t return a month later, GCNP and Coconino County started a search of the area. Other than a few boot prints down into the Redwall, virtually no signs were found. We may never learn what happened to Bill, but at least for now, it seems that he has found a poetic end, the Grand Canyon, as his last resting place, a place that was dear to his soul. In the last email that John Azar received from Billy, he typed these words: “...I do love being alone and friendless in the wilderness...I think it makes one strong, if one “makes it.”

some of his old buddies

TO THOSE OF US WHO KNEW HIM, Fred was an incredibly intelligent, generous mentor. As a teacher, he compelled us to use our minds and think for ourselves. As a river runner, he had a long history of sharing his knowledge of the Canyon and river boating with all who showed an interest.

Fred's first experience with Grand Canyon was in 1937, at age eleven. On a vacation with his parents, he rode a mule down to Phantom Ranch and got his first look at the Colorado River. He would return seventeen years later to boat its silt-laden, unsettled waters.



NAU.PH.2004.8.2.55b.2 Margaret Eiseman Collection

Born in St. Louis, Fred had the opportunity to travel to the Southwest in 1938 with a group called Prairie Trek. That months' long expedition gave him an appreciation for the stunning natural and human history the wild areas of the Southwest offered. He returned multiple times in the forties as one of their counselors.

After earning masters degrees in both Chemical Engineering and Education from Columbia University, Fred started teaching high school science. With his summers free, he returned to further explore the Southwest in his Dodge Power Wagon, occasionally bringing students with him. On a 1952 trip, he met Margaret (Maggie) Gorman who had recently rafted Glen Canyon. Maggie invited him to accompany her on a Glen trip, which he did in 1954. While preparing to leave from Hite for that trip, they met Georgie White. It was decided that they would accompany her on a Grand Canyon trip the following summer.

At the Lees Ferry launch of that trip, Georgie surprised Fred by asking him if he would row one of her small triple rigs. He decided to accept the offer

even though he had virtually no experience rowing. He said navigating that thing down the river was, "...not a matter of rowing as much as praying." Even so, he and Maggie returned and worked with Georgie in '56, '57 (at approximately 120,000 CFS), and '58.

In 1958 Fred and Maggie were married and also met Gaylord Staveley. Desiring to have more control of his boat, Fred solicited a job rowing Cataract Boats for Mexican Hat Expeditions. He and Maggie worked for Mexican Hat from 1959 through 1969. One of their trips was the infamous Barry Goldwater trip where their boats were portaged around Hance by helicopter. Fred also managed to get two of his students, Doug Reiner and Wally Rist, work as Mexican Hat boatmen. Wally later spent many years working as one of Martin Litton's trip leaders.

In 1971, after seeing Martin Litton's dories, Fred decided that long, self-equipped, self-guided trips were the best way to really experience all the canyon had to offer. That summer, after ordering two dory hulls from Keith Steele and finishing them out himself, he started running six week private trips. Accompanying he and Maggie in their own dories were Dr. Malcolm McKenna (Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York) and his wife Priscilla. These trips truly were educational in every sense. *If only those kinds of opportunities were still available today.*

By 1972, the Park Service was starting to restrict use of the river by private boaters, adding many new rules and regulations. Fred and others thought these were overly intrusive and were instrumental in filing a law suit against the Park. When the case lost, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal, Fred decided his river running days had ended.

In 1961, he and Maggie made their first trip to Bali, Indonesia. He was intrigued by the customs and traditions of the island, and, after leaving the river, decided to focus his attention on writing about its cultural and natural history. For most of the last forty years, he has lived a majority of each year in Bali, writing and publishing about his second home.

In a recent interview, Fred commented, "...we were lucky enough to be born at a time when there was the kind of window that we like to look through...we were able to be there in a time when the place was relatively uncrowded." Lucky for us, in the crowd that was there, was Fred Eiseman. He lead a rich, energetic life, that was too full of accomplishments to begin to list. Fortunately, he added much of that richness and energy to the lives of those of us who knew him.

Thank you Fred!

Rich Turner

KENT FROST

JANUARY 7, 1917–MAY 16, 2013

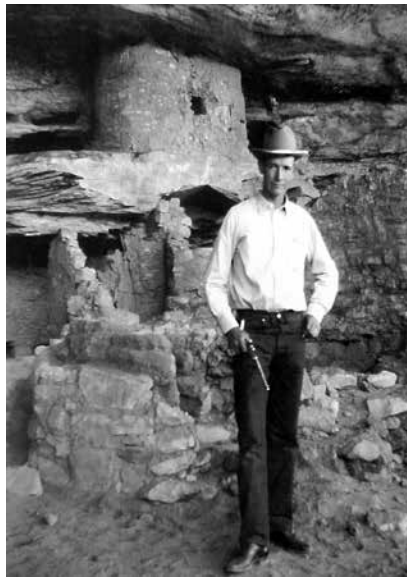
KENT SMITH FROST, hiker extraordinaire, canyon explorer, outdoorsman, river runner, tour operator, mountain man, storyteller, artisan and good friend to many, passed away May 16, 2013 at age 96.

Though born in Snowflake, Arizona, Kent lived his entire life in San Juan County, Utah. Kent began his wanderings from the very start. For example, while his family lived on a cattle ranch near the town of La Sal, Kent and his two brothers, Alfred and Melvin climbed Mt. Peale, the tallest mountain on the Colorado Plateau at 12,721 feet. Kent was just eight-years old at the time—his brothers eleven and six respectively.

By age fourteen, with his family settled near Monticello dry land farming, he spent every spare moment he could exploring the landscape; usually alone. Kent hiked extensively across the high desert taking only the basics, which usually included a pistol, rabbit snare and knife. At age seventeen, with his cousin Ruel Randall, he hiked overland more than 100 miles through rough wilderness to the ferry crossing at Hite, where they built a homemade raft (with the guidance of Arthur Chaffin), and floated on the Colorado River through Glen Canyon to Lees Ferry, Arizona.

At 21, Kent became a boatman for legendary river runner Norman Nevills. He soon began assisting Nevills with boat building projects. After the tragic death of Norm and his wife Doris in an airplane accident (1949), Kent continued guiding river trips and boat building for Frank Wright of Mexican Hat Expeditions. River running captured Kent's heart and he completed many trips on the San Juan, Colorado, Green, Salmon and Snake rivers and was one of the first 100 persons to boat through the Grand Canyon. In 1963, Kent mourned as Lake Powell began to drown his beloved Glen Canyon. He quietly protested Glen Canyon Dam and through the remainder of his life always hoped for the restoration of Glen Canyon.

Kent served his country during WWII with the U.S. Navy on the Pacific Ocean. After his return, Kent took inspiration from Norm Nevills and, instead of returning to farming, he and his wife Fern started Kent Frost's Canyonlands Tours. Together, they began guiding the first back-country jeep tours in the Canyonlands area and over the next thirty years introduced hundreds of travelers to the ecology, beauty and ruggedness of the



Canyonlands region. In the early 1960s they lobbied politicians to create Canyonlands National Park, which was formally established in 1964; the designation provided protection of the area and rewarded them with increased business.

Besides being a respected and accomplished tour guide, Kent was also an artist and craftsman. Using discarded items such as used horse-shoes, sign posts and drill caps he crafted and forged useful items such as Dutch oven tongs, benches and cooking and camping utensils. He even converted a Willy's Jeep into a four-wheel drive camp trailer that could successfully negotiate sharp

turns and steep ledges. In his later years Kent became known as "Slickrock" to the members of the American Mountain Men Association. He was a crack shot with his flint lock rifle and won many a contest for his marksmanship.

Kent knew the region intimately by land and river and shared his experience, creativity, and adventurous stories with those individuals who were fortunate enough to journey with him. It is said no one knew the canyons of southeastern Utah better than Kent Frost. In 1994, Kent Frost was named a "Legend" by the National Park Service for his part in helping start the commercial touring industry. The National Park Service also honored him by naming their Cataract Canyon rescue boat the "USPS Frost." In 1985, Kent was inducted into the Utah Travel Council's Hall of Fame. Additionally in 2010, he was inducted into the River Runners Hall of Fame at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River, Utah.

To learn more about Kent Frost read his book, *My Canyonlands*, which documents many of Kent's stories. Available at Canyonlands Natural History Association.

To see and hear Kent, watch the documentary film, *My Canyonlands: The Adventurous Life of Kent Frost*. This film features Kent telling stories and has interviews with fellow river legends Katie Lee and Ken Sleight. Contact Chris Simon at 801-485-3211 or 435-260-8646 or at sagelandmedia@gmail.com. Also available through Canyonlands Natural History Association.

Kent Frost's photographs and journals are at the University of Utah, Marriott Library Special Collections. Much thanks to Marian Krogmann for tireless hours of transcribing.

Susette and John Weisheit

Clarity

I CAN BE ONE CYNICAL S.O.B. I know that. I think it started as an early defense mechanism to keep from being completely assimilated while growing up where the Bible belt buckles. A short time ago, frustration over having spent the past decade-and-a-half dedicating service and allegiance to this profession and still having no real retirement and less access to proper health care than our clients' pets had me in full-on cynic mode. The cross hairs of much of that negative energy somehow ended up focusing in on GCRG. Inquiries to GCRG board members regarding quality of life issues exasperated my frustration as they were frequently met with the conversation-arresting sound bite, "we're not a union." I never suggested forming collective bargaining units or going on strike, I just wanted to have a discussion. Sound bites are dangerous.

All of that frustration and dead-end inquiries made it easy to buy into some popular myths that were floating around these parts. Like GCRG is an instrument of outfitters and was primarily funded by them. Or that GCRG is a Club Flagstaff organization that caters primarily to the elite of the river community. My membership was due up and I was not planning on renewing it. While I enjoyed going to the GTS and learning from all the great presenters, the perceived hypocrisy of it had me determined to do something else. I was pretty much done with the whole thing and wanted nothing else to do with GCRG. But then, there was Gracie.

Amazing Grace Clark did her first river trip with her husband and daughters Tracy and Geri in the seventies after reading an article about it in *Playboy* magazine. It was love at first sight and she continued to take trips for the rest of her life. Gracie and I became friends while I was "paying dues" doing the meet and greet in Vegas and when the boss gave me the "keys to the car" she bounced through with me on my first trip. Our last trip downstream was a spring single boat when she was eighty. Even then, Gracie was always the first one off the boat with gear on and water bottles full for each hike. She had one caveat that she made everyone abide by; absolutely no whining. Having a little five-foot eighty year-old leading the charge made it an easy rule to enforce. Our last water time was during a break from her chemo when we were all able to slip away up to the dam and float down. A few weeks later at 82, frail and dying of cancer, she was water skiing, making sure to squeeze as much joy as possible into time left.

By the time the GTS came around she was in bad shape but was determined to make it. It was a glorious day and she held strong making it through until well past the last speaker had finished. As Art and I walked her out, Gracie left me with one last bit of counsel. "Life is too short not to be happy. If you're not, you gotta do something about it or let it go." Grace awoke at 3:00 A.M. the next morning deathly ill and she passed a month later. She had held out for that last visit to see the river and her river family. Before she left though, she set me up for one more life's lesson and nominated me for the GCRG board—at least Geri and I are pretty sure it was her. She was going to make sure that I quit whining and took some action to try to better it all.

During the two years since Grace passed I have served on the board and have been schooled with regards to the work that GCRG does. The untruths that my suspicious self bought into are just that—not true. GCRG is not an instrument of anybody other than ourselves and our four-part mission statement. We receive less than 17 percent of our funding from outfitter contributions and donations. Almost all outfitters are long-term GCRG members and boatmen and support us where, when, and how we really need it. The rest of our funding is dependent on membership dues and individual donations. That's why timely dues renewal is so important. We operate on a well-managed but very tight budget.

GCRG is not all about Club Flagstaff. We have members from all over the country and our current president, Latimer Smith is a Northsider who has worked only for companies in the center of the universe—Fredonia, Arizona. Ariel Neill our next president has literally worked geographically and culturally for companies all around the Canyon. If we experience imbalance at times or Club Anything, it is usually due to a lack of a diverse group being willing to get involved.

I can still be a cynical old curmudgeon, but I am an honest one. If any of you have issues with GCRG or feel that it does not properly serve its members or its mission statement then I encourage you to seek out any board member and engage them in conversation. Even better, take to heart the lesson that my dear Grace gave to me and get involved. Everyone in this community has a voice and yours is as valuable as any. Diversity serves us best.

Roger Patterson

Humpback Chub Translocations— An Update, By The Numbers

BEGINNING IN JUNE OF 2009, Grand Canyon National Park, with the help of many cooperators including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the USGS–Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, initiated a series of humpback chub translocations from the Little Colorado River to Shinumo and Havasu creeks. The main objectives of these initial experimental projects is to explore methods to establish a second spawning aggregation of humpback chub within Grand Canyon beyond the Little Colorado River, and to provide rearing, or nursery habitat for juvenile humpback chub. Through 2012, 902 juvenile humpback chub were released in Shinumo Creek, and 543 were released in Havasu Creek. An important component of these experiments is monitoring the survival, growth, and movements of translocated fish. Monitoring is conducted at least twice a year at each tributary using netting methods, as well as using a passive-integrated transponder (PIT) tag antenna, which operates continuously just above Shinumo Falls. A uniquely coded PIT-tag, which is about the size of a large grain of rice, is inserted into each fish before they are released, allowing biologists to track the growth and survival of individual fish, as well as determine whether they have passed through the antenna and left Shinumo Creek for the Colorado River.

Preliminary monitoring results indicate that approximately 48 percent of the humpback chub released in Shinumo Creek left the stream through April of 2012, and one fish released in 2009 was detected in May 2012 more than 45 miles upstream in the Little Colorado River by the USGS. Many others that left Shinumo Creek were re-captured in the Colorado River near the mouth of Shinumo Creek (between Bass Rapid and Shinumo Rapid) or in Middle Granite

Gorge downstream. Growth rates of fish released into both streams is as high or higher than growth rates measured for juvenile humpback chub in the Little Colorado River or in the Colorado River where growth is inhibited by cold water. The average size of fish recaptured in Havasu Creek one year after their release indicates that they had more than doubled in size, and



Translocated humpback chub captured during monitoring efforts at Havasu Creek, Grand Canyon National Park.
Photo by Amy Martin/NPS.

many fish have grown to adult size. Survival analyses and additional data collection are still in progress.

Although no reproduction has been detected as of yet, these results suggest that at a minimum these tributaries would serve as excellent rearing areas for juvenile chub. The NPS and its cooperators will continue to monitor these translocations, and long-term management strategies of translocated humpback chub within Havasu and Shinumo creeks are being developed through the NPS Comprehensive Fisheries Management Plan.

Brian Healy and Clay Nelson

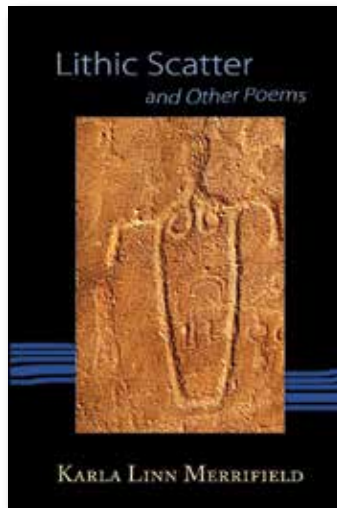
NOTE: Brian Healy is the Fisheries Program Manager and Clay Nelson is a Fisheries Biologist within the Science and Resource Management Division of Grand Canyon National Park.

Books! Books! Books!

Lithic Scatter and Other Poems, by KARLA LINN MERRIFIELD, Mercury Heartlink, 2013, 114 pages, ISBN 0988227991, \$16.00.

AT ONCE SWEEPING, visceral, earthy, gritty, ethereal, and primordial, Karla Linn Merrifield's *Lithic Scatter and Other Poems* unfolds a kaleidoscopic odyssey of the American West at its all-natural wildest. Here is the frontier seen—and felt—through the eyes of a visionary poet who explores the region's vast

terrains as anthropologist and archeologist, historian and ethnographer, shaman and seeker-after-self. From the whimsical to the emotionally searing, these 59 poems evoke landscapes rich in myth and mysticism, loss and hope. From the Colorado River to the San Juan River on a dory, to trails through a dozen National Parks, to flights of the imagination from mountain peak

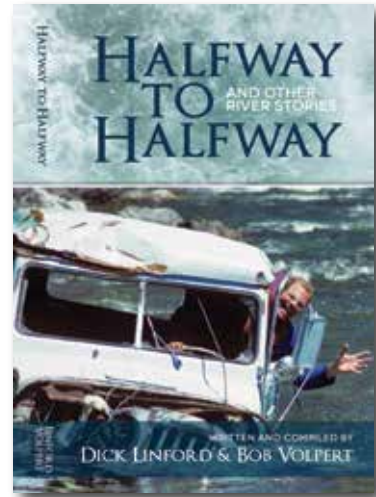


to desert floor, Merrifield captures the West's majesty and brings it home for all to discover. Available on Amazon.com.

Halfway to Halfway by DICK LINFORD AND BOB VOLUMEPERT, Halfway Publishing, 2012, 218 pages, ISBN 978-1477605264, \$18.95.

AFTER ANOTHER SPRING with low water on southwestern rivers, I had plenty of time to dream of old river adventures, and limited time to go out and create new ones. But I did find time for a new book of river stories to help me with my river dreaming. *Halfway to Halfway*, by Dick Linford and Bob Volumepert, is a great new addition to my river tales library. Linford and Volumepert are river outfitters and old boatmen. *Halfway to Halfway* is a compilation of their personal river stories and the stories of their river compadres. Have you ever heard the river story

where the bronzed, river guide saves the hapless clients from certain death in the apartment-sized hole?! Yeah. Me too. Fortunately, Linford and Volumepert realize that the best river stories are not about that. The best things about running rivers are the people we meet, the places we see, and the things that happen along the way. In *Halfway to Halfway* you misbehave with California boatmen you haven't met. You take George Bush down the Rogue River. You meet a ghost on Idaho's Salmon river. You even get to meet Bus Hatch. I enjoyed the many tales in *Halfway to Halfway* and I think you will too. See you downstream.

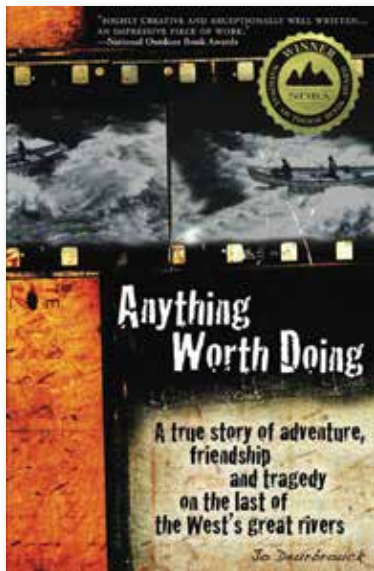


Jon Harned

Anything Worth Doing—A true story of adventure, friendship and tragedy on the last of the West's great rivers, by JO DEURBROUCK, Sun Dog Publishing, 2012, 216 pages, ISBN 978-0-9852578-0-4, \$15.00.

WHEN A READER IS more than familiar with the central characters in a dramatic river incident where things go wrong, one approaches a non-fiction narrative with a mix of excitement and caution, certainly the latter. Time and age have done their work on our most cherished river memories. Old companions and long-ago events are firmly shaped, for better or worse, in our imaginations. We may not like to be reminded of ancient sorrows or that the story we have told ourselves may be incomplete and possibly inaccurate. Naturally we are reluctant to let go of our treasured narratives, especially the ones that transcend our own interpretations and become part of our group story, the stuff of legend and myth.

As I began reading *Anything Worth Doing* I wondered how author Jo Deurbrouck would treat the story



of Clarence Reece and Jon Barker (and who were joined at the last moment by Craig Plummer) on their attempt to run the Main Salmon on 96,000 CFS in June 1996. (The title is taken from Reece's oft repeated catch phrase "Anything worth doing is worth overdoing.") One question chased after another. Does she

know what she is talking about, river-wise? How will their characters be portrayed? Will their human flaws be treated with empathy or glossed-over? Would she make them heroic stereotypes or something more? River guides can be touchy about the details of the stories they tell themselves (and anyone who will listen)—exactly where the flip in Crystal or Lava occurred, when the flashflood took out the kitchen, who was on the trip with an infamous passenger. Would the author's tale be unrecognizable, roughly match my own, or surpass it?

In short, would Deurbrouck get it right?

The answer to all these questions is an emphatic yes. Deurbrouck, an ex-river guide herself, has managed a difficult feat: to place her boat-self firmly on the eddy line between fast water and slow, to capture the action and also reflect upon it, to spin an adventure story while singing a lyrical hymn to the beauty and power of a river at flood stage. Her evocative descriptions of the high-water, debris-filled river—its strange currents, unpredictable waves, peculiar sounds, and raw power—fill the heart with wonder, and terror. When Deurbrouck writes about Reece and Barker rowing the river at night we witness a writer at the top of her game.

Though I dislike using the cliché, *Anything Worth Doing* is a page turner in the best sense of the overused words. From the get-go Deurbrouck builds gunnel-gripping suspense, increasing the tension by employing well-placed eddies/digressions—insights into the 1970s and '80s river guide culture, back stories concerning her research efforts, an affectionate exploration of the friendship between Reece—into the flow. Finally, there is Deurbrouck's clear-eyed, almost slow-motion account of Reece's drowning below Chitam

Rapid. Anyone who has had a near-miss or lost a companion on the river will find themselves rereading this section, perhaps replaying their own interior movie of similar events. Deurbrouck grapples with the most difficult question of all: was Reece's death avoidable? To her credit, she gently pries apart the legend from the two very different characters of the river men, breathing life into both. Reece and Barker, though quirky as any boatmen, had both oars in the water.

Readers of Grand Canyon boating history will inevitably draw comparisons (and contrasts) between the Idaho river men's 1996 high-water run and the 1983 speed run through Grand Canyon by dory guides Kenton Grua, Steve Reynolds, and Rudi Petschek. (Both runs were made in dories.) A close reading of *Anything Worth Doing* will surely offer insights into both runs and the characters involved as well as rich material for inspired river banter among passengers and crew while drifting downriver or at a late night camp gathering.

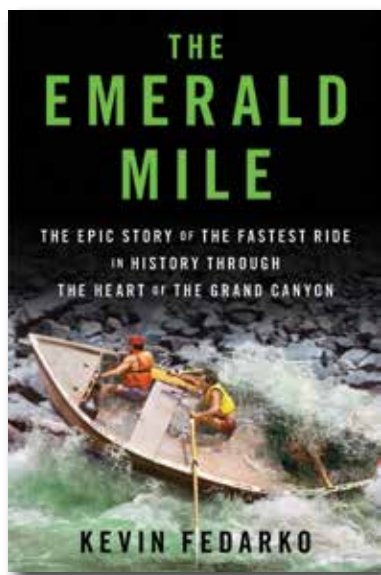
Anything Worth Doing is a river read that belongs in every guide's ammo can.

Vince Welch

The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History through the Heart of the Grand Canyon, BY KEVIN FEDARKO, Scribner, 432 pages, ISBN 978-1-4391-5985-9/978-1-4767-3529-0 \$30.00 hardcover/\$14.99 ebook.

GRG'S 25TH and the Colorado River's high water 30TH anniversaries also coincide with the speed run in 1983 by Rudi Petschek, Steve "Wren" Reynolds, and Kenton "Factor" Grua in the wooden dory, the *Emerald Mile*. Given that this is a BQR celebration issue, the timing is "just right" for Kevin Fedarko's book titled after their classic boat. Many Grand Canyon river runners are familiar with the legend, and share a version, "Speed" by Lew Steiger in Christa Sadler's 1994 *There's This River: Grand Canyon Boatman Stories*, aloud to their fellow travelers. At about 35 pages and the longest in the book, Steiger's story is based on interviews he did with Grua, founding president of GCRG. Fedarko states that, "It was fortunate that [Steiger] did because... [it was] an account that had, until then, simply been part of the disordered oral history of the river—the tales that boatmen tell one another at the end of the day when they are lounging around their decks drinking beer" [353].

But *The Emerald Mile* is much more than just that one dory story, though that is definitely the most exciting. Fedarko effectively weaves it with several other narratives, among them tales of explorations; other speed runs; the dory mystique. “And out of all of this emerged a connection that bound the dorymen more intimately to the water, the rocks, and the boats they rowed than any of the generations of river runners that had preceded them” [111]); the building of major dams on the Colorado River with a focus on Glen Canyon Dam; weather, water, and hydrology; 1983 high water, causes and affects; the unfolding of on-river events during the high-water releases, the carnage and mayhem, the rescues and soul-searching; and how close Glen Canyon Dam may have come to an ultimate demise (I won’t spoil this one for you, nor even



tell you the page number where you can find the answer—the read is that good). Fedarko’s in-depth research reveals the many details that occurred throughout that exciting water year of 1983. Those who experienced some of it will be drawn back into reliving the events, having them clarified where our memories have failed us

over the past thirty years. “[I]t didn’t make a whit of difference who was where at the absolute peak. Everyone who was on the river during that magnificent and terrible time was changed by what he or she had seen and done. And in this sense, whether they liked it or not, the river folk and the engineers at the dam shared a bond that would tie them together for the rest of their lives” [330]. Those who weren’t there can begin to understand what it was all about, and can be sucked into thinking they also may have been there.

There are many highlights of *The Emerald Mile*, but of prime importance for me as a historian and archivist is Fedarko’s use of primary source materials: he interviewed every one he could find who was still alive and had been connected to the 1983 events; and he dug into the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service archives for inspection reports, incident reports, and u.s. District Court violation notices (they

cited Grua with conducting a river trip without a permit on the same form as they would if he had illegally parked or “exceeded speed limit by driving”). Other highlights are Fedarko’s descriptions. This is from the chapter, “The White Demon,” about the Crystal wave, “an almost perfect hydraulic jump—part of the perfection resided in the fact that the jump had formed the sort of liquid pipeline that is normally visible only to big-wave surfers... This was the most magnificent and fearsome thing any of [the rangers] had ever seen” [244]. Indeed! When I motored past it at around 60,000-plus cfs, I found myself mesmerized by it, almost totally disregarding the run.

Fedarko rows baggage boats for Grand Canyon Dories and has written several articles for *Outside* magazine about his trips. One of note, “They Call Me ‘Groover Boy’” (July 2009), gave him his river nickname. An excerpt from *The Emerald Mile* appeared in the May issue, which I shared with one of the BQR editors, Mary Williams; she commented: “Wow, what a story, even if I’ve heard it a hundred times. Kevin is good—my heart rate went up!” If you are going to read only one book this river season about the Colorado River through Grand Canyon, make it Kevin Fedarko’s *The Emerald Mile*.

C. V. Abyssus

Fall Rendezvous

SAVE THE DATE!

2013 Fall Rendezvous

October 5–6

Marble View on the North Rim

Cost \$40

The Gathering Of The Guides: GTS 2013— “Go Big Or Go Home” 25th Anniversary Celebration

SUFFICE IT TO SAY that the population of Marble Canyon, Arizona more than doubled at the end of March when roughly 275 people rattled down the dusty Hatch River Expeditions driveway for the annual Guides Training Seminar. And these folks weren't just coming from Arizona and Utah, mind you. Attendees hailing from fourteen different states found their way to this tiny blip on the map; a location that looms large in the hearts of river runners, making their pulse quicken as they anticipate their first river trip of the season. And of course, this wasn't just any GTS either—we were gathering to celebrate GCRG's 25TH birthday with a blow-out event. “Go Big or Go Home” seemed such a fitting theme (certainly one that river runners could relate to), as we explored big challenges, big changes, big history, big geology and more over the March 30–31 weekend.



The parking lot positively overflowed with vehicles, boats, dogs, the Whale Foundation Health Fair tents, and our “river kitchen” where head cook Simone Stephenson whipped up delicious food for the ravening hoards, with assistance from her husband Tim, Pam Quist, Matt Herrman and other stalwart members of the cook crew, Russell Sullivan and Tom Barry. These intrepid folks spent all weekend outside the warehouse, working hard at the daunting task of keeping the food coming and our bellies full—our sincere thanks to all of you!!! And then there are the attendees—our colorful tribe of river guides, tons of NPS personnel, private boaters, and other folks who just love anything and everything to do with the Colorado River, which is undoubtedly

the tie that binds us all. We were supremely honored that our “Super Superintendent” Dave Uberuaga joined us for the entire weekend, soaking up the talks, networking with the guides, and endearing himself to every single one of us with his passionate address to the crowd on Saturday afternoon. Thank you Superintendent!! We are thrilled to have you at the helm.

And of course, our GTS speakers—where would we be without them! They took their time to share their expertise with our group, stuffing our heads full of new facts and fascinating stories to share with our river passengers this season. A huge thank you to all of our wonderful speakers for making this such a profound learning experience. The talks were wide ranging from threats to Grand Canyon, to the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument, from differing views on the age of Grand Canyon, to a super helpful Emergency Situations Clinic. We oohed and aaahed as Matt Kaplinski zoomed us over the river floor with his bathymetric surveys; larger-than-life Amos Burg became our new hero (our many thanks to author Vince Welch for coming all the way from Oregon to share his love for the “last voyageur” of North America’s great waterways); and we learned about the elusive George Flavell’s 1896 river voyage from Marieke Taney who truly loves interpreting and sharing Colorado River human history every bit as much as Brad Dimock does. It’s so encouraging to see that younger generation picking up that baton and running with it. Bravo!

Speaking of Brad, what a wonderful presentation he put together on the origins of GCRG and the *Boatman’s Quarterly Review*. It was a fascinating look back at our highly improbable journey, and a reminder of the guide passion, stewardship, ingenuity and humor that magically combine within an organization that



we proudly call Grand Canyon River Guides. It is humbling that GCRG is still alive and kicking a quarter century later, and we're still every bit as committed to celebrating our unique community, and to protecting Grand Canyon and the Colorado River experience we love for the long haul. As the expression goes, you have to know where you've come from to know where you're going and Brad reminded us all of that strong foundation and our continuing evolution.

With celebration must also come acknowledgements and accolades, and we had that in spades, honoring everyone from our fabulous BQR editors (Mary Williams, Katherine Spillman, and editor emeritus, Brad Dimock), to our Colorado River Runners Oral History Project coordinator/interviewer extraordinaire, Lew Steiger, all the people who run GCRG's important programs, and all of our dedicated officers and directors over the years. Special recognition went to two very important women in GCRG's history, Denice Napoletano (Silver Shoebox Award) and Jeri Ledbetter (Outstanding Advocate Award). Without their considerable assistance building GCRG's membership and developing the "business end" of our organization, GCRG may have very well remained just a great idea. The amazing talent, intelligence and drive of individuals such as these is what makes GCRG so very special to this day.

We would also like to thank Stephanie Jackson for coordinating the Native Voices segment, the commercial river outfitters for supporting the program, and to our friends from the Hualapai Tribe: Dawn Hubbs, Marcie Craynon and Bennett Jackson, for sharing their valuable perspectives on respecting cultural sites. And of course, the elk tamales were simply delicious! We were also honored to hear from Beep Jenkins (Hopi Tribe and former GCRG board member) about the threat of development at the LCR Confluence, and from residents of the Bennett Freeze area who brought this issue down to a very personal level, speaking passionately of the potential impact to their lives and culture.

The crowd swelled even further on Saturday night for all the fun stuff—the updated 1983 high water video (who doesn't love big water!), courtesy of Jeffe Aronson who was adding footage to the video right up till the moment he drove away from his California home to come and share it with us; the super fun "Flipped Out for Grand Canyon" presentation by Tom Myers and Bronze Black (can't wait for the book!); the raffle with tons of great swag (thanks to all our raffle donors); and last but not least, one of the best GTS bands we've ever had, BlammityBlam. Mix talented guides from Western River Expeditions together with other fabulous musicians playing original songs,

many of which were about the river, and you have a winning combo that kept people dancing far into the night. Kolob Sound amped up the concert quality with professional sound and lighting too. All in all, it was a raucous and fun filled evening befitting a gathering



of the guides, where everyone had a blast, laughing, clapping, stomping, and swinging their dance partners around the warehouse floor into the wee hours.

If we could sum up our river community, surely it would be the word "exuberant"—loving what they do and where they are privileged to work and play, passionate about learning and protecting the place they love, thrilled to meet new people and share their knowledge. The GTS harnesses that raw energy, and draws in the guides like bees to honey at the beginning of each river season. This particular GTS raised the bar and in the enthusiastic assessment of so many attendees, it was "one of the best ever!" Our sincere thanks for the support of the commercial river outfitters, the National Park Service, and the Grand Canyon Fund, and last but not least, to our wonderful hosts, Steve and Sarah Hatch for letting us descend upon Hatchland once again. Iconic Bob Rigg of speed run fame stopped in at the GTS and expressed it so well when he said, "It's so great to be here. It feels like I'm home." I know we all shared that special feeling. Thanks everyone for sharing the journey with us! We hope to see you all next year.

Lynn Hamilton
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GCRG

Guides Training Seminar River Trip: Cooperation And Learning In Action

WHAT AN UTTERLY FANTASTIC GTS river session—a truly magical mix of river guides from nine different companies, Hualapai tribal representatives, speakers and NPS personnel, coming together to learn from one another and build lasting relationships. This year, we took NPS involvement and cooperative stewardship projects to a whole new level. Superintendent Dave Uberuaga took five days out of his hectic schedule to join our upper half with river rangers Brian Bloom and Dave Desrosiers. Vanya Pryputniewicz (NPS recreation planner), Ian Hough (NPS archaeology), and Martin Stevens (NPS public health) joined us as well



Roger Patterson, GCE and Trip Leader. We all upped our game as the trip progressed thanks to Roger's leadership.



Guide participants start out clean and polite.

to share their expertise. On the GTS lower half, participants got down and dirty (so to speak), helping get 1,000 plants into the ground (yes, 1,000!) as part of the Granite Camp pilot project, led by NPS plant biologist, Melissa McMaster. Wow what a feat! We look forward to hearing more about this exciting project that combined tamarisk removal with native plant re-vegetation efforts.

Other top notch speakers joined us as well, such as Karl Karlstrom (geology) and Laura Crossey (springs and travertines) from the University of New Mexico, Joel Barnes from Prescott College, Dave Kreamer (professor of hydrology at UNLV), Peter Huntoon (geology) and Zeke Lauck (Adopt-a-Beach program). Exciting last minute additions to the GTS lower half included John Davis (TrekWest), Craig Miller (Defenders of Wildlife), Larry Stevens (Grand Canyon Wildlands Council/MNA),



GCONP Superintendent Dave Uberuaga listening to the Trip Leader. That's 'Uber' Dave, or 'Super Dave' to us!

and Ed George (videographer). Conservationist and wildlands explorer John Davis is spending the next ten months hiking/biking/boating roughly 5,000 miles from Mexico to Canada to highlight the pressing need for wildlife corridors along a visioned Western Wildway. We were extremely honored to have him along with us from Phantom Ranch down to Havasu as an integral part of his trek. You can follow his amazing journey at: trekwest.org.

Our many thanks to everyone who made this trip such a huge success, from the outfitters, to the guides themselves, our NPS partners, tribal reps, and speakers. A special shout out goes to Art Thevenin, manager of Grand Canyon Expeditions and Justin Salamon manager at CANX for their logistical support, and to one of the best trip leaders we've ever had, GCRG director Roger Patterson of GCE. Roger threw himself into the coordination role with total enthusiasm. His

leadership and mentorship were outstanding. Thank you, Roger!

We offer a few observations from our fearless trip leader, Roger Patterson:

"Everyone showed up with their best. I have never been so honored and proud to run with a group of outstanding individuals. The time with "Super Dave" and the other NPS folks was excellent and a very positive bonding experience; the re-veg project was a total success; and the speakers were all superb and well received. The guide

participants all contributed the best of themselves and that foundation is what led to such a successful journey. Respect and professionalism were the bedrock that everything else was based on.”

And Roger’s heartfelt words of encouragement to the participants on the trip should resonate with anyone who has had the privilege of experiencing the GTS river trip:

“I want to encourage each of you to take this experience and what you learned from it back to your individual companies and cultures and share with them. Every one of you is a leader. That came through again and again throughout the trip and I hope that you get that and continue to step into that role and continue to empower yourself with that mindset. It was an honor and a privilege to run with you and I hope to do it again someday.”

Grand Canyon is the world’s best classroom. It offers more than enough learning for a lifetime. We urge you to take full advantage of it and talk to your outfitter about joining our GTS river trip in the future. It will be one of the best things you’ve ever done, we promise you!

Lynn Hamilton
Photos by Laura Crossey



Some of the Granite Camp restoration team.



Evening campfires.



Karl Karlstrom provides a geologic overview.



Peter Huntoon explains the rerouted course of Whitmore Canyon after blockage by massive basalt flows.

Whale And Snake

It's Grand Canyon River Guides 25TH year anniversary. Congratulations and thank you to all the Volunteers who have guided the GCRG over the years. In the spirit of looking back to GCRG's beginnings and celebrating this momentous milestone, we here at the Whale Foundation would also like to look back. As serendipity would have it, we received this great article from Jerry Hughes this spring. It is a great homage to our friend, boatman, and namesake, Curtis "Whale" Hansen.

—Dan Hall

YEARS BEFORE CURT HANSEN became "Whale," we grew up together in tiny Hazelton, Idaho. Curt's big brother Larry and big sis Connie were high school upper classmen we all admired, as was my sis, Roberta aka "Bertie" who was a classmate with Connie. Small town Idaho for sure.

Curt and I were pals, and eventually at a young age got into our first misadventure together. We decided to raid Mr. Thompson's gooseberry patch. We made the raid but did not escape cleanly. Curt (age five) had a relatively high-speed bike with training wheels and did get away. At age four, I tried to elude pissed-off Mr. Thompson on a tricycle. I was dead meat. Curt's parents and mine were bummed that it seemed like the two of us were started into a life of crime. They didn't know about river running yet.

The next adventure of note was playing Little League Baseball for the Hazelton Lions, sponsored, of course, by the Hazelton Lions Club. What fun. Practices, games, fans, uniforms, road trips, no groupies... Bob English was coach. Whale and I shared playing catcher and outfield, depending on the game.

From 1963-'65, we played football for Valley High School—the Vikings. Whale was a tackle and I was tailback. I carried the ball many times behind Curt's blocks. I remember all those practices, games, chilly fall days in pads...

In 1965 when Curt graduated, I was a junior. He had already signed up for the U.S. Army. On graduation night, Whale and some pals did the expected. They drank some beer and got in trouble. Not serious trouble, but trouble none the less. No charges against Curt because he was off to the University of Vietnam.

My high school senior year 1966, Curt showed up at school, and he was in uniform and lean and mean after boot camp. Curt was never actually very mean. But he was slim and fit. I worried about him going to Southeast Asia. He seemed okay with it. The girls flocked to hug him in his uniform.

After my first year at University of Idaho, I hired on with Hatch River Expeditions in May of 1967. Worked that first year in Dinosaur and Idaho. Started guiding in Grand Canyon in June of 1968.

I would hear bits and pieces about Curt in Vietnam throughout the time he was there. Nothing directly from him. Then, during college spring break of 1969, I was boating a geology field trip (Don Barrs, Four Corners Geologic Society—wow what fun trips) for Hatch during March. Whale was there training in on the Hatch crew. He took me aside and told me that he had heard about Hatch from our mutual high school friends Mike Weatherwax and Brick Wells who were on the Hatch crew. He told me he used me for a reference with Ted. Hoped that was okay. Of course it was. Curt and I were back together. This time working for Hatch River Expeditions. We boated together in Grand Canyon, on the Yampa/Green, and the Middle Fork of the Salmon during the next few summers.

Curt became "Whale" on the Hatch Crew. After a night of revelry, Curt was "sleeping" very soundly (perhaps passed out) on the beach. Early in the morning the Colorado was lapping up against him while guests were waking up. A woman exclaimed, "My God, he looks like a beached whale." It stuck. Curt was "Whale," "Whaler," "The Whale"...

In those Hatch years, Whale didn't like to talk about Vietnam.

CURTIS GRANT HANSEN

V. Club 3, 4; "Annie Get Your Gun" 3; Football 1, 2, 3, 4.



Curt's High School graduation picture.



1969 Hatch Crew at Middle Fork take-out. Left to right: Warren Herlong, Mike Tenant, Whale, Jerry Hughes, Dennis Massey.



1971—Whale and me rowing a Hatch 33-foot outside-rig (aka tail dragger) at Lava.



1971—Whale and me rowing a Hatch 33-foot inside-rig at Lava.

But one night he did. We were camped illegally in the bay at Havasu with the moonlight reflecting off the white cliffs. He was haunted by the war. I'm sure he would be considered a PTSD victim today. Door gunner firefights with a 50-caliber machine gun in his hands were over the top for sweet, mild-mannered Whale. His first crew on a gunship were all wounded or died, and Whale was still there. Then, many of the replacements to the wounded/dead crew members were also wounded or killed. Whale lived on. Sitting on top of his bullet proof vest to save the family jewels rather than protecting his body cavity. He made it through. Survivor's remorse. Curt came home and went to Grand Canyon.

From then on, we all know the story. Over the years, Whale was the best guide or the maybe much less than best depending on the trip. Marc Smith, Grand Canyon Expeditions, sent me a large color image of Whale's wrecked Hatch 33-footer at Hance. Marc knew Whale visited us in Idaho, and wanted me to have that image with the NPS helicopter hovering over the wrapped pontoon. I put it up on the Hughes River



Whale and Brick Wells on a Hatch outside rig motoring the hole at Crystal. Probably 1969 or 1970.
Image courtesy of Earl Perry.

Expeditions office wall for the next time Whale would visit. He never made it back to the office that last time to see Marc's picture. The picture is still hanging in the same place, right over the copy machine. I think of Curt every day when I see it.

After one of Whale's firings from Hatch, he worked for Fred Burke. Fred wanted to have a father/son talk with Whale to help him get some positive direction. Whaler was in such a "give a shit" mood that the "father/son" conversation ended with Fred firing Whale on the spot. Curt bounced around all the Grand Canyon outfits a bit. Worked for most or all of them, and was fired by some more than once. But everyone loved the Whale, even the outfitters who fired him. And, in balance, Whale was a damned fine, knowledgeable Grand Canyon river guide. He carried a heavy burden the rest of us didn't, and my guess is he did the best he could.

What a blow to hear of his death.

I've shared some images of "Whale." River photos around 1969-'71. High school images of Curt. Wish it was still the fall of 1964 and we were getting ready to play the dreaded Wendell Trojans in football, or 1971 scouting Lava Falls before rowing some Hatch 33-footers down the left side, or taking out ten-man rafts and loading the trucks at the Confluence of the Middle Fork and Main Salmon.

In Idaho, we have the beginning of an organization similar to the Whale Foundation. The Redside Foundation (www.redsidefoundation.org). This offspring is a tribute to beloved Idaho guide Telly Evans—also a suicide victim, and indirectly to Whale. From afar, all of us Idaho guides have admired the Whale Foundation. I'm confident Redside Foundation will be a big success.

Hope this message brings a smile to some old boatmen. I loved the Whale. I miss Whale.

Jerry "Snake" Hughes

GCRG's 25-Year Publication History At A Glance

FROM CUT-AND-PASTE and copy machines to computers with the latest design software and full color printing, the *Boatman's Quarterly Review* has grown up in 25 years. Now much more than a newsletter, the BQR was conceived by and grew under the hand of Brad Dimock pretty much from early on up to the summer of 1999 (over 11 years). Since then it has been a joint effort by Katherine Spillman and Mary Williams.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the contributors and proof-readers. And a special thank you to the Walton Family Foundation for their generous support of the production.

Most of the back issues of the BQR are available to read online at the GCRG website. Some of the early volumes are not available due to technical issues, but soon they will be scanned and posted.

There is a ton of information and hundreds of great stories contained in these issues. A trip back to read some that were published before your time, or before you were a member, will be well worth it.

Mary Williams and Katherine Spillman
BQR EDITORS





11:1 Winter 1997-98



11:2 Spring 1998



11:3 Summer 1998



11:4 Fall 1998



12:1 Winter 1998-99



12:2 Spring 1999



12:3 Summer 1999



12:4 Winter 1999



13:1 Winter 2000



13:2 Spring 2000



13:3 Fall 2000



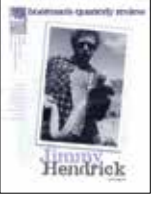
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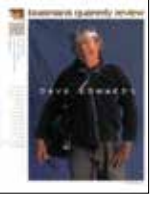
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14:2 Summer 2001



14:3 Fall 2001



14:4 Winter 2001-02



15:1 Spring 2002



15:2 Summer 2002



15:3 Fall 2002



15:4 Winter 2002-03



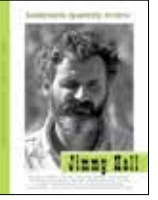
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16:2 Summer 2003



16:3 Fall 2003



16:4 Winter 2003-04



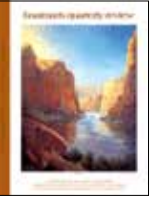
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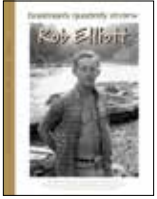
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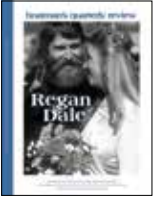
17:3 Fall 2004



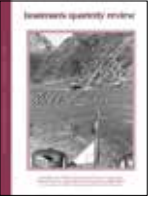
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18:1 Spring 2005



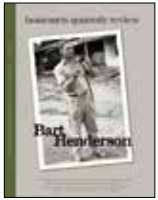
18:2 Summer 2005



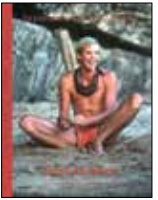
18:3 Fall 2005



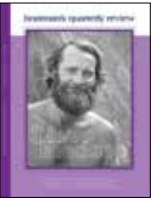
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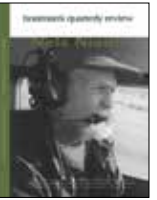
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19:2 Summer 2006



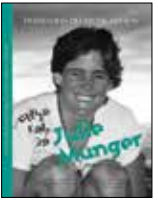
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19:4 Winter 2006-07



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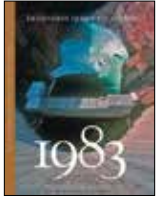
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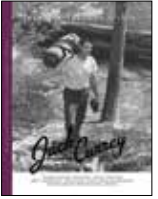
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20:4 Winter 2007-08



21:1 Spring 2008



21:2 Summer 2008



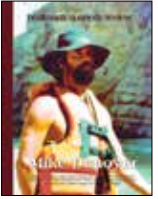
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21:4 Winter 2008-09



22:1 Spring 2009



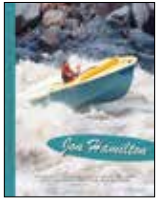
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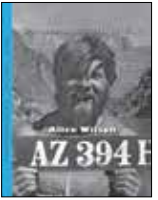
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22:4 Winter 2009-10



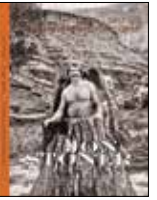
23:1 Spring 2010



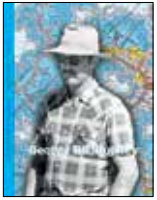
23:2 Summer 2010



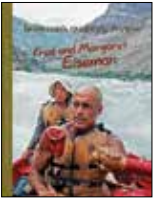
23:3 Fall 2010



23:4 Winter 2010-11



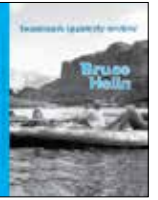
24:1 Spring 2011



24:2 Summer 2011



24:3 Fall 2011



24:4 Winter 2011-12



25:1 Spring 2012



25:2 Summer 2012



25:3 Fall 2012



25:4 Winter 2012-13



26:1 Spring 2013



26:2 Summer 2013

(Some Of The) Best Of The BQR!

BEST ADVICE

10 Ways to Prepare for a River Trip

- One week before the trip, have a yard of sand delivered to your home. Sprinkle liberally in your bed, dresser drawers, on kitchen and bathroom counters. Fill your salt shaker, sugar bowl and cereal boxes with sand and use them as usual. Place garbage can lids of sand in front of your fans and run them continuously at maximum speed.
- After renting a projection TV, illuminate the walls and ceiling of your bedroom with old dracula movies, especially the snake, spider, lizard and bat infested scenes.
- Have your friends form a long line. Then, systematically pass the entire contents of your home out of the front and into the back door of your house.
- With an industrial size brush and a bottle of bleach, wash, rinse and sterilize the hubcaps of your car thirty minutes after sunrise and immediately after sunset every day for eight days.
- With a large meat tenderizer, practice beating beer cans down to the diameter of a hockey puck.
- Sit on the hood of your car while riding through the car wash.
- Line your sandals with sandpaper and spend two hours per day on a stair master.
- Drape the allotted contents of your brown grocery bag on the bushes and rocks in your back yard. Twice a day practice changing while your neighbors watch.
- With twenty-seven friends standing in the shallow end of a swimming pool, practice looking nonchalant as you carry on a conversation and pee simultaneously.
- Crap in your upstairs waste paper basket, then, with your pants still around your ankles, run downstairs and pee in the tub.

Other helpful hints:

- Keep putting out cans of kippers and oil soaked sardines until someone finally eats them. This will usually take around six to seven days.
- Hand out free beer to anyone that can Eskimo Roll a kayak and looks as if they will rob your house during your eight day rafting trip.
- Put liberal quantities of “Gun Slinger” hot sauce on everything you eat. Practice saying “I love this stuff” without your eyes tearing and your nose running.
- Always answer “yes” to the question “Do you see any rocks?”
- Always answer “no” to the question “Does anyone want to go on a power hike?”

Sent in by Tiim Whitney, who got it from Roxanne Denoyer at Grand Canyon Expeditions, whose passengers created it.

Volume 10, Number 3 | Summer 1997

BEST VICTORY

Grand Canyon Protection Act Passes!

Volume 5, Number 4 | Fall 1992



BEST FASHION STATEMENT (GUIDE)

Guide Profile : Marieke Taney

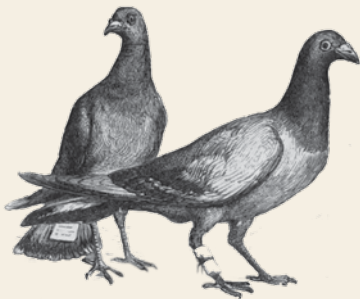
Volume 21, Number 3 | *Fall 2008*



BEST USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Oral History : Wesley Smith

Volume 9, Number 3 | *Summer 1996*



“AzRA spotted me money to raise homing pigeons. That was before we had radios. They gave me \$150 allowance and I bought six pairs of pigeons...

“They would retrieve from the Grand Canyon back to Williams. They could make it back within an hour. But these [first] pigeons were sort of retards. They would sit on the boats. We would have them in apple crates and stuff. And when we let them go, we’d have to throw rocks at them to make them go home!...

“This is amazing; once we started carrying them, we didn’t have any accidents! I think the most important message we ever sent was ‘hike a guitar into Phantom Ranch.’”



BEST SPECIAL OPS GIG

Oral History : Bob Euler

Volume 13, Number 4 | *Winter 2000-2001*

GCNP Anthropologist Bob Euler, self-described as “not much of a climber,” flies Kenton Grua and Ellen Tibbetts into the Canyon at Mile 43.5 in 1976 to free climb the Anasazi Bridge route out to the rim and back. Shown here climbing around the bridge, the two found weaving equipment in a cave along the way.

BEST SWIM

Oral History : Bill Beer

Volume 9, Number 4 | *Fall 1996*



BEST BIRTHDAY PARTY

Georgie White's 80TH Birthday. Photo by Tom Brownold

Volume 4, Number 1 | Feb 1991



BEST (I.E. MOST UNIQUE) BOAT CARGO



A Boatload of Wild Burros, Cowboys, and Catahoula Curs
Volume 21, Number 2 | Summer 2008

“Once they had gathered a boatload of about a dozen burros, the crew headed downriver to Diamond Creek. The animals never panicked and appeared to handle it better than some human passengers.”



Tales From The Truck—Bobcat Trip: Going Feral
Volume 26, Number 1 | Spring 2013

“In early January, a Western River Expeditions rig hauled a 6,400 pound Bobcat Trackhoe from Lees Ferry to Phantom Ranch.”

BEST WARNING

1983 "Camp High, Be Cautious" notes
Volume 22, Number 1 | Spring 2009

GLEN CANYON DAM RELEASED
60,000 cfs FOR ONE HOUR
11:00 am MONDAY JUNE 6
FLOWS WILL CONTINUE OVER
50,000 cfs THROUGH THE
DAY.

CAMP HIGH- BE CAUTIOUS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
JUNE 6, 1983

DAM RELEASE UPDATE

BuRec will release 90,000 cfs from
Glen Canyon on June 27 after 5 pm.
Flows will remain at 90K or above
for approximately two weeks.

CAMP HIGH--BE CAUTIOUS
National Park Service
6-27-83

see other side

update
80,000 tonight - 6/27
92,000+ on 6/28

ALL BOATERS:

FROM LEES" FERRY TO PHANTOM RANCH:

All trips must stop at Phantom and check in with ranger. A copy of your passenger manifest, including names of all crew members must be left with Phantom Ranger.

BELOW PHANTOM RANCH:

NOTICE: As set in 36 CFR 2.6A Closures and Public Use Limits: "The Superintendent may ... close to public use all or any portion of a park area when necessary for the protection of the area or the safety and welfare of persons or property by the posting of appropriate signs indicating the extent and scope of closure.

All persons shall observe and abide by officially posted signs designating closed areas and visiting hours." Rangers and notices will replace signs.

The superintendent has closed Crystal Rapid to all passengers of both private and commercial trips. Passengers must walk around Crystal with only boatmen and swampers to run Crystal.

This closure is due to the extreme hazard of Crystal Rapid. 4 motor rigs and numerous oar boats have flipped. 90 people were in the water. There has been one fatality and 15 injuries.

This closure is in effect until further notice. Water levels are expected to remain at 70,000 cfs with possible increases for at least 10 days.

Saturday, June 25, 1983
National Park Service

courtesy of Michael Denoyer

BEST FASHION STATEMENT (OUTFITTER)

Oral History : Georgie White Clark
Volume 12, Number 2 | Spring 1999



BEST USE OF A CIRCUS TENT

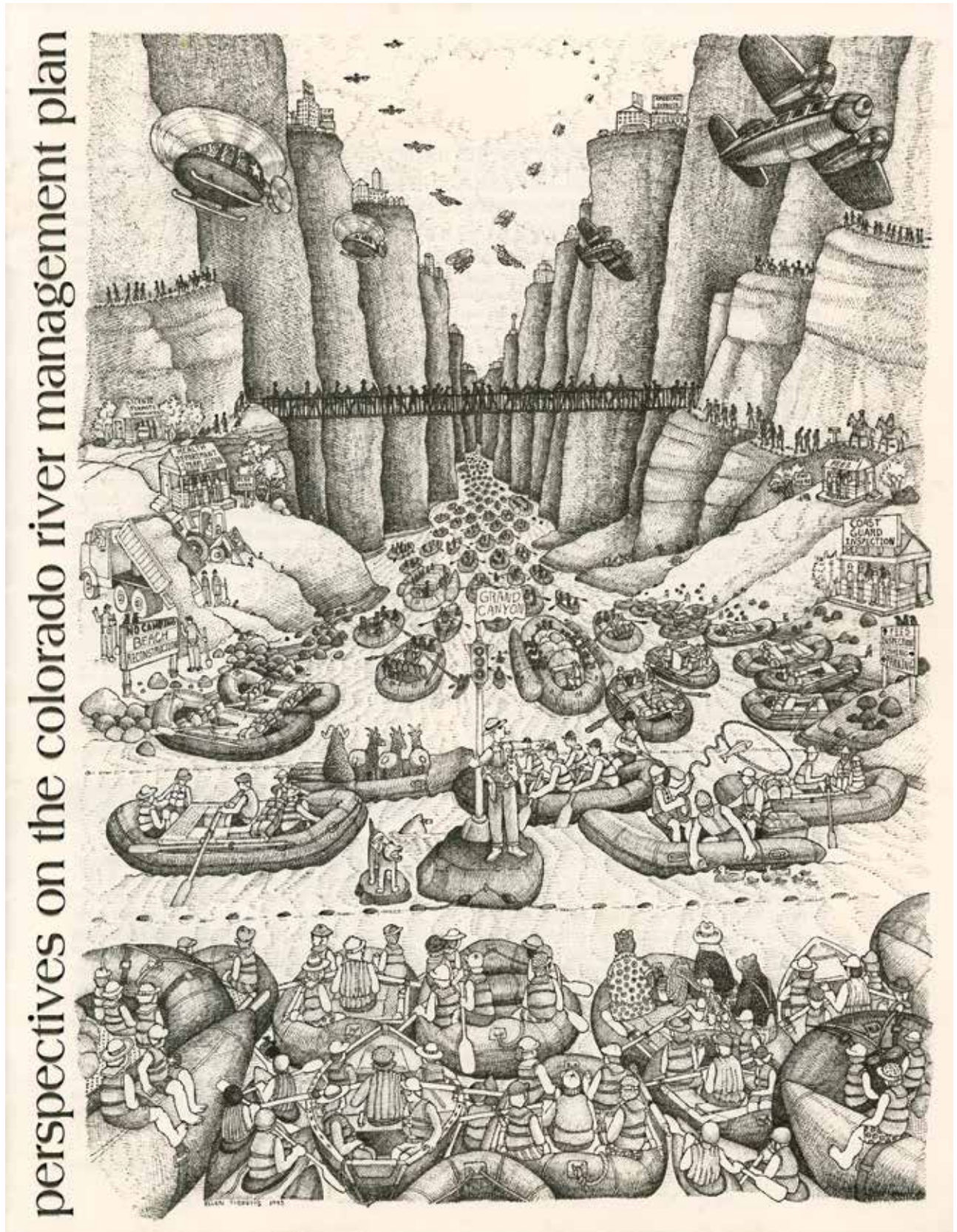
Fall Meeting

Volume 10, Number 4 | Fall 1997

BEST ILLUSTRATION

Art by Ellen Tibbetts

Perspectives on the Colorado River Management Plan | Special Edition | *January 1998*



BEST FAMOUS ARSES



Oral History : Katie Lee
Volume 10, Number 1 | *Winter 1996–97*



The Many Sides of Barry Goldwater, 1909–1998
Volume 11, Number 4 | *Fall 1998*

BEST DESCRIPTION OF A RUN

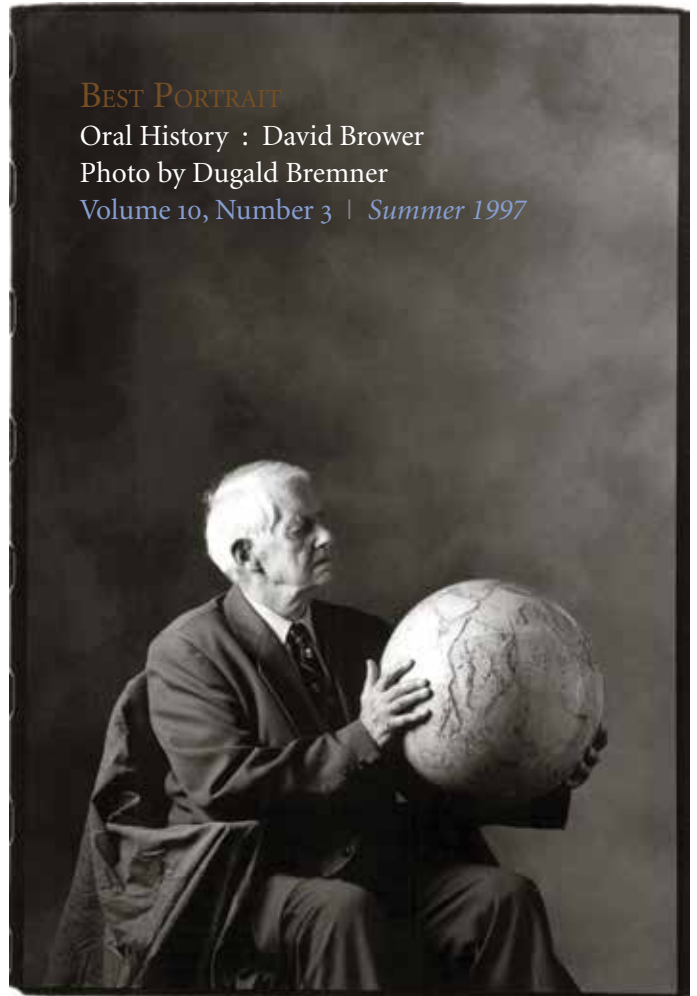
Volume 12, Number 4 | *Winter 1999-2000*

After breaking his own record as the oldest person to run a boat through Grand Canyon, Martin Litton, 82, describes the run down the left at Lava Falls.

“Well, if you are on the run there are just a couple of rollers—nothing to worry about. But to the left is death and destruction. To the right, eternal darkness.”

BEST PORTRAIT

Oral History : David Brower
Photo by Dugald Bremner
Volume 10, Number 3 | *Summer 1997*



BEST USE OF CACTI



Oral History : Brad Dimock
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2 | *SUMMER 2006*

GCRG at 25

THE BEGINNING:

LEW STEIGER: I remember I did this trip with Kenton [Grua] and Denise [Napolitano]. It was a three-boat trip in 1987. It was the last trip of the year, and everybody was home, and I had done a couple of other trips for the company that year, and I was so thrilled to finally worm my way into the Dories. It was so cool there at Hurricane and all this, and I was suckin' up to Kenton already, because I wanted to keep workin' for that company. I remember gettin' off that trip, and we get back to Hurricane, and everybody's crying. I mean, everybody was cryin'. I don't know if *you* remember it that way, but everybody was all upset. Come to find out, Martin had just sold the company. I remember there was a long period of...kind of denial about that. Seemed like that trip was October or somethin' like that.

DENISE NAPOLITANO: Might have been September.

STEIGER: Was it? Well maybe it *wasn't* the last trip of the year then.

NAPOLITANO: It was a long time ago. My memory's failing.

BRAD DIMOCK: I was on the final trip in October, but the trip we got off and came back and found out was in September.

STEIGER: Ah! Well, I think that in a way...and maybe I'm reachin' back too far. But my sense of what was goin' on with Kenton was: the wheels in his head started turnin' somewhere in there, and ultimately he just needed *somewhere* to put all that energy. Which turned out to be GCRG. I don't know. But I went off to New York that winter, and I wasn't even at the first meeting, so—you know, how did he round up everybody, how did that go?

DAN DIERKER: Well, that was kind of in this house [Brad Dimock's home—*The Pole House*, in Flagstaff], and [Billy] Elwanger was there, up there [motions toward the upper level]. Brian [Dierker] was there, I was there...Kenton of course.

DIMOCK: Big Bruce [Helin] was there.

DIERKER: Bruce. Anyway, so it was kickin' around. We kind of said, "Well, we'll give it a go. Brad was skulking around about how this got to be in his house when he wasn't really even that interested in it.

STEIGER: He didn't even *like* Kenton then! (laughter)

DIMOCK: "Dammit Kenton!"

DIERKER: Yeah. Anyway, Brad was just telling us to hurry up and get done with it so he could go to...But I

remember we committed to it by everybody throwing in ten dollars for postage, to get the organization off the ground.

NAPOLITANO: Uh-huh.

DIERKER: Remember that?

NAPOLITANO: I do. And then it didn't cover it, because Kenton and I had to loan it like another three or four hundred dollars for the postage, and to limp through the winter.

DIERKER: Exactly. But I remember that. And I remember fronting a couple of people, because they were dirtbag broke and didn't have ten bucks. Well, I guess it started that way. It was just one evening. Tom Moody was there, Ellwanger. Tim [Whitney] might have been there.

* * *

It's amazing how fast 25 years can go by if you're not careful. Or even if you are. In honor of GCRG turning 25, somebody had the bright idea it might be fun to round up as many participants from those glorious days so long ago as we could and see what we'd get if we all just sat around awhile and shot the breeze about the organization way back when. On January 12TH of this year we came together at Brad's house in Flagstaff and let her rip. As per usual we didn't begin to do justice to the overall topic as a whole. Participants included, in the order they sat in the circle: Brad Dimock; Dan Dierker; Dave Edwards; Jeri Ledbetter; Pam Whitney; Michele Grua; Christa Sadler; Andre Potochnik; Denise Napolitano; Dennis Silva; Lew Steiger; and certainly not least, Lynn Hamilton.

(The executive summary of how GCRG got started, by the way, is that Kenton Grua got it into his head it should happen and willed it into being.)

* * *

PAM WHITNEY: Well, I remember Kenton and Denise and Lew, and I don't remember who else, coming to our old house and talking about it. So I don't know that Tim was there to begin with. I think you guys came to talk about what the idea was, and maybe that was even before just the whole idea about what you guys were gonna do, because we at the time had our company [Rivers and Oceans], so we were working with all the outfitters. I think it was just kind of, "What do you think

guides dues paid 1987
GCRG

20.00	Bob Melville	pd	+
20.00	Ray Winterpreter	jr pd	+
20.00	Dean Buchser	pd	+
20.00	Mike Walker	pd	+
20.00	Jeff Yoast	pd	+
20.00	Tom Moody	pd	+
20.00	Dumannen Jordan	pd	+
20.00	Debra Kirschner	pd	+
20.00	Gary Bolton	pd	+
20.00	Ginger Hinchman	pd	note: address change
20.00	John Mahan III	pd	+
20.00	Curt Nansen	pd	+
20.00	Martin Lippman	pd	+
20.00	Bob Lippman	pd	+
20.00	Bill Elwanger	no wife	+
20.00	Terry Brian	no wife	+
20.00	Wanda Brian		+
20.00	Kenton Greig	no wife	+
20.00	Denise Kapetana	no wife	+
20.00	Walt Greig		+
20.00	Red Walsh		+
455.00	Mike Taggett	previous meeting @ Flag	+
20.00	Bob Ford	no wife	+
20.00	Pat Conolly	no wife	+
20.00	Brian D	no wife	+
20.00	Brad Simuck	completion date note trade for printing	+

470.00

GCRG's first membership list - 1987

about this? What are the outfitters going to think about this?" Just the general idea, because there was a lot of concern about this, that it would be a unionized type of thing...

DIERKER: That they would feel threatened.

PAM WHITNEY: ...and that the outfitters would be threatened and so on and so forth, and maybe it would work against the boatmen, as opposed to *for* them. I just remember that conversation going on.

DIERKER: There was a very conscious effort to include...because it seemed heavily on the rowing side, but also to include the motoring facet. That's why we really wanted Elwanger there (several agree) and Tim—we wanted to make it all-inclusive; and include the northern boatmen and the southern boatmen...

LYNN HAMILTON: I talked to Billy Elwanger yesterday or the day before. He's in Georgia, I think, but he says hi to everybody. You know how he talks in that good ole' boy kinda way. He's like, "Well, you know, Kenton used to row up in his dory to my motor-rig and tie on and we'd talk, and he'd show me a little bit how to row. And we just really wanted to get the motor guides and the rowing guides together. So it was really just like a simple

idea and a case of beer. We just got together and talked and this thing was formed." I think in his mind it sort of veered off from the exclusive *guides only* kind of vision that he might have had. But still, I think a large part of it was overcoming that motor/oar division that really existed back then, which the current guides don't really have any idea of, because it really doesn't exist that much anymore.

DIERKER: One thing that antagonized that was the wilderness thing—and no motors—was still a contentious thing. So that was kind of splittin' it. That might have driven us to create the boatmen's organization, because we didn't quite look at it that way. But there was starting to get to be that schism a little bit... When was the first year that we actually took over the GTS [Guide Training Seminar]? Was that even before the guide...?

HAMILTON: It was '89.

DIERKER: In '89? Okay. Anyway, I think that was one of the greater coalescing things. But that's on down the story, I guess.

STEIGER: Weren't you there, Edwards? You were like one of the first directors.

DAVE EDWARDS: I was on the board.

STEIGER: What I remember about the GTS was it *was* one of the first things...

DIERKER: At the [Flagstaff] City Hall.

STEIGER: Well, what I remember was: there was a time on the river when it was absolutely motor—or—rowing, and there was this mondo split between the two. There were two different worlds, and I was a motorboatman. The first time I saw a dory I actually ran into one. (laughter) I was on an ARR trip with Moody and Ross Garrison. I was the swamper, I was tryin' to steer. We came up on those guys above Havasu, and I bumped into a dory, just because the sons of bitches (whoever it was) wouldn't get out of the way. I wasn't tryin' to, I was just tryin' to drive around 'em. But we got into the mouth of Havasu and I just kind of ducked down and went off somewhere. But I remember Regan [Dale] and Kenton kinda gettin' into it with Moody and Ross over that. (laughter) And it was funny because we sure thought those were pretty boats. We loved 'em. I didn't mean to bump into anybody.

But there was indeed this real *schism*. What I remember, when the ice first started to melt there, was Kim Crumbo started bringing everybody together on these river training trips, when he was a ranger in the river unit. We didn't even call it the GTS then—it was the BTS, the Boatman Training Seminar. I remember Fred [Burke] called me up and he's like, "I want you to go

on this trip,” because he had donated a boat for it, and he had Dick Clark drivin’ it down to Phantom Ranch. I was like, “Well, why can’t Dick just drive it all the way, Fred? You don’t need me to come in there.” “No, I want you goin’ in there.” So I was like, “Okay. Well, how much are you gonna pay me?” “Well, I’m not gonna pay you anything. You’re gettin’ a free trip, Lew, for cryin’ out loud.” He says, “All these other people on this trip are *payin’* money to go.” Everybody had to pay like a hundred bucks or something—somethin’ like that—or the outfitters had to pay to get ’em on there. Fred said, “You’re gettin’ to go for free.” I said, “Bullshit, I’m not gonna go on that, with the government, *for free*. You’re gonna have to pay me *somethin’*.” He said, “Well, I’ll give you ten bucks a day.” So I hiked in, for ten bucks. “It’s the principle of the thing, Fred.” (laughter) “It’s not gonna be for fun.” So I hiked in for my ten bucks a day, to Phantom Ranch. I was there thirty seconds and I knew I would have paid like *thirty* bucks a day, just to be there, because it was so much fun. I remember Suzanne [Jordan] was on that, and Martha [Clarke], and [Bob] Melville, and Dennis Silva. There were all these rowin’ guys. Whitney! That’s when I first met... Tim Whitney was on that, actually. I mean, it was like this very first big crack in the ice...

POTOCHNIK: Do you remember what year it was?

STEIGER: Well, ’81, ’80?

DIERKER: It was before big water, ’80, ’81.

STEIGER: Yeah, it was low water.

DIERKER: One reason that they had to start those is because of the new contracts. There was this agreement that the Park Service, with all these regulations, had to start taking on some of the educational aspects. Remember when there was... They were basically forced into dealing with the guides because they were requiring first aid, they were requiring these acknowledgements—not the boatman’s licenses yet—but in the new concession deals that they signed then, they also said, “Well you guys need to participate in the education.”

STEIGER: And train up. I know the motor guys said, “Well, shoot, our guys don’t even know *how* to row.” There was that aspect. I remember bein’ on that trip, and there were a whole bunch of different boats. They had a paddle boat, there were rowboats. I think we had a Western boat and an ARR boat and all this good stuff.

DIERKER: Right.

STEIGER: But before that it was like, “Here’s our company over here, and there’s your company over there.” We were all kind of isolated from each other. And it was a significant icebreaker. So we’d had a couple of those, but then here’s the Park, suddenly they’re sayin’—when GCRG just got started, the Park said, “Ah, we don’t want

From 25 years of articles in the BQR

The Great GCRG Timeline

by Richard Quartaroli and Mary Williams

GCRG hosts first GTS at South Rim

GCD EIS started

	1988 April	1989
President	Kenton Grua	
VP	Billy Elwanger	
Secretary/Treasurer	Denise Napolitano	
Treasurer		Supt John Davis
AMWG*		
TWG**		
Editors	Tom Moody, Lew Steiger, Shane Murphy, Dan Dierker, Dirk Pratley, Dave Edwards, Jeri Ledbetter, Brad Dimock, Ellen Tibbetts	
Issue #	1:1	1:2, 2:1, 2:2
Directors	Terry Brian, Dave Edwards, Mike Walker, Tim Whitney	Lew Steiger, Tom Moody, Suzanne Jordan, Jon Stoner, Dave
Company Reps	Bill Ellwanger, Suzanne Jordan, Tim Whitney, Shane Murphy, Jane Bernard, Bill Trevithick, Karen Byerley, Geoff Gorley, Brad Dimock, Nels Niemi, Georgie Clark, Mike Jacobs, Bruce Helin, Gary Bolton, Walt Gregg, Dave Stratton, Jim Anderson	Bruce Babbitt speaks at Flagstaff GTS
	First GCRG meeting at Hatch	GCRG takes over GTS, Freelance guide pool, human waste disposal changes

* Adaptive Management Wrok Group

** Technical Work Group

to do this anymore, this is worthless.” And didn’t we say we’d do it because they didn’t *want* to do it?

DIERKER: They still have to. And that’s why they always have a presence or send somebody to speak at the GTS.

HAMILTON: It’s a cooperative effort. We do it, but it’s a cooperative deal between GCRG and the Park and the outfitters.

DIMOCK: But in ’89, Mark Law [former river ranger] did say they were gonna drop it. I was at a meeting over at Perkins with Moody and myself and probably Kenton, and Mark Law. And one of the new guys—might have been Dan Davis, Jr. But Kenton and Moody said, “Okay, *we’ll* do it, then. We’ll make it happen because you’re gonna drop the ball. But Mark was going to drop it. He said, “We are not required to do it.” Whether he was or not, he said they weren’t.

STEIGER: “Ah, we don’t want to mess with it.” I remember just kind of witnessing that and going, “No, that’s a good thing. It’s good for us to get together.”

DIMOCK: [sitting in front of all the newsletters] We did it—I just looked—in ’89 and ’90 at City Hall, and then ’91 started at Hatchland.

NAPOLITANO: Before we got the Big Top.

DIMOCK: Big Top came a little later.

STEIGER: But Bruce Babbitt came to one of ’em.

(**DIMOCK:** Yeah. **DIERKER:** Yeah.) And didn’t he inspire everybody? How did that work?

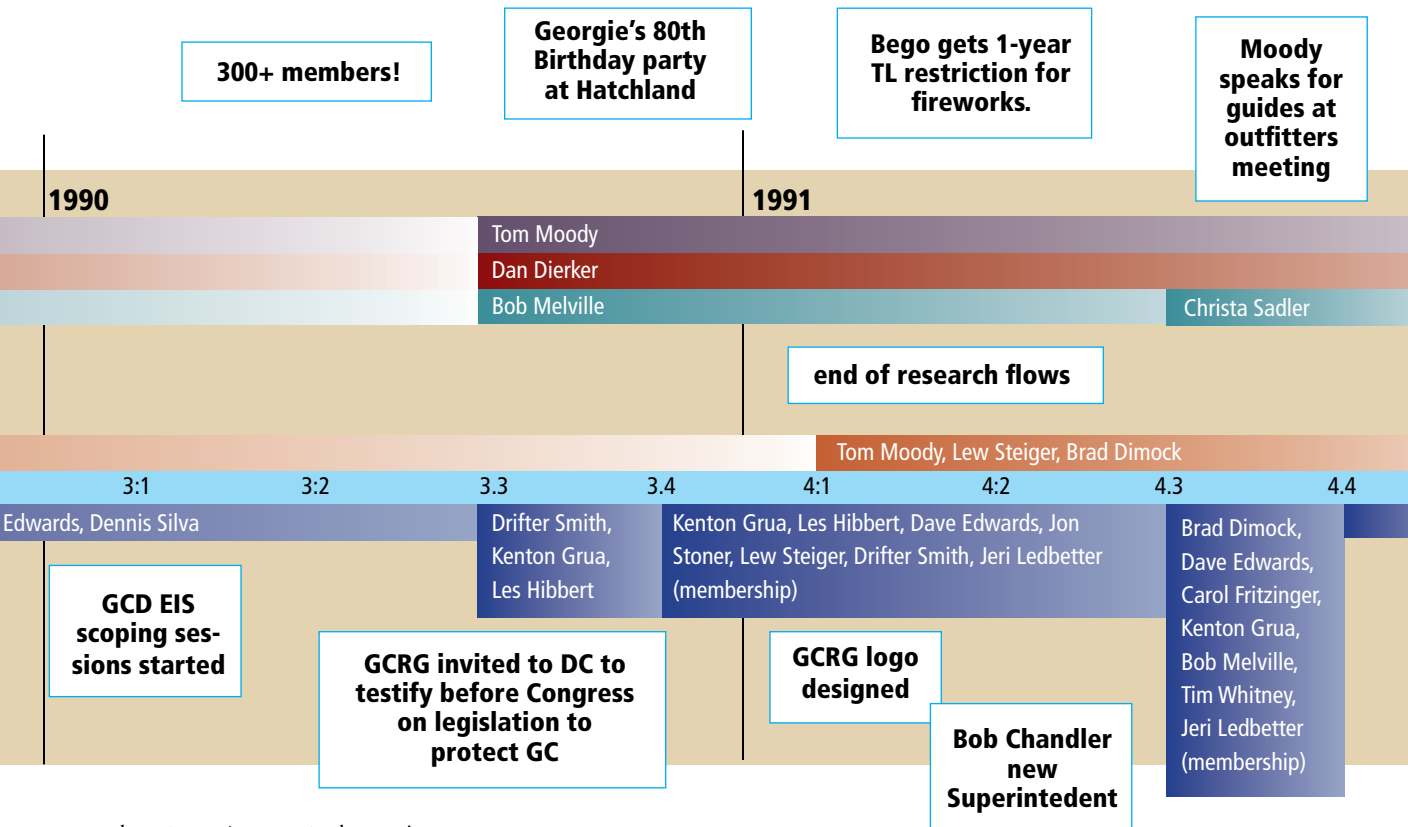
DIERKER: I think that was the one at the City Hall, right?

DIMOCK: There were two at City Hall. [consults files] Okay, 1990, Babbitt’s not on it. In ’89 he was on the list. And he gave this brilliant speech on how the EIS [on Glen Canyon Dam] was going to be great for everybody, and we’ll all give-and-take and it’ll be a wonderful thing and everybody will get somethin’. It’ll be great. And he left, and Martin Litton got up, threw his speech in the air, and said, “*Compromise?! Did he say compromise?! How the hell do you think we ended up with a dam there in the first place?! We compromised!*” And then he gave this *wonderful* speech on *no* compromise, no negotiation. Standing ovation. But of course Babbitt had left. (laughter) That was City Hall ’89.

LEDBETTER: Babbitt talked about rolling over and compromising and making nice, and people kind of clapped politely. Martin was the one that inspired us.

* * *

SADLER: I really remember Tom [Moody] being... He was our which president? (**SEVERAL:** Second.) Second. I remember his presence kind of helping lend a lot of



validity and credence to the organization. At first I think a lot of people just saw it as this bunch of slimy old boatmen who were trying to get something. And Tom, with the high road, was so professional and thoughtful and humorous. People were like, “Oh! Well! Okay!”

DIERKER: As Tom’s vice-president, he would refer to me as his hatchetman.

STEIGER: Good cop, bad cop. (laughter)

DIERKER: Pretty much!

EDWARDS: Dan Dierker would roar, and Tom would laugh. You remember that laugh? You’d have some terrible situation and Tom would laugh...

DIERKER: But Tom was interesting—he said, “Well, let’s just go up there and talk to ’em,” when something would come up. And he would call up and get an appointment with the superintendent, you know. And we were thinkin’, Huh, there’s a novel idea! He goes, “Why not? Let’s go talk to those guys!” It was great. I’d be like, “No, no, no, we’re all adults now. Let’s go up there and *attack* them.” But Tom was always, in his way—one of the problems with the whole environmental thing is the knee-jerk reaction to always being on the defensive. That’s what the Grand Canyon Protection Act, when they got that, Tom was a big part of that—he goes, “Take the initiative and be on...not the offensive, but present the problem, instead of waiting for the problem

to come to you. You go there first.”

EDWARDS: Proactive.

DIERKER: Proactive. Tom was really good about that, and I think he gave, as Dave said, the river guides a lot of credibility because he said, “We’re players. Let’s go take it to the fore.”

EDWARDS: That set the tone for years. (several agree)

DIMOCK: He was a great politician, is what Tom was.

STEIGER: He was a statesman.

SADLER: He was a statesman, not a politician. Please don’t call him a politician.

STEIGER: He was a leader.

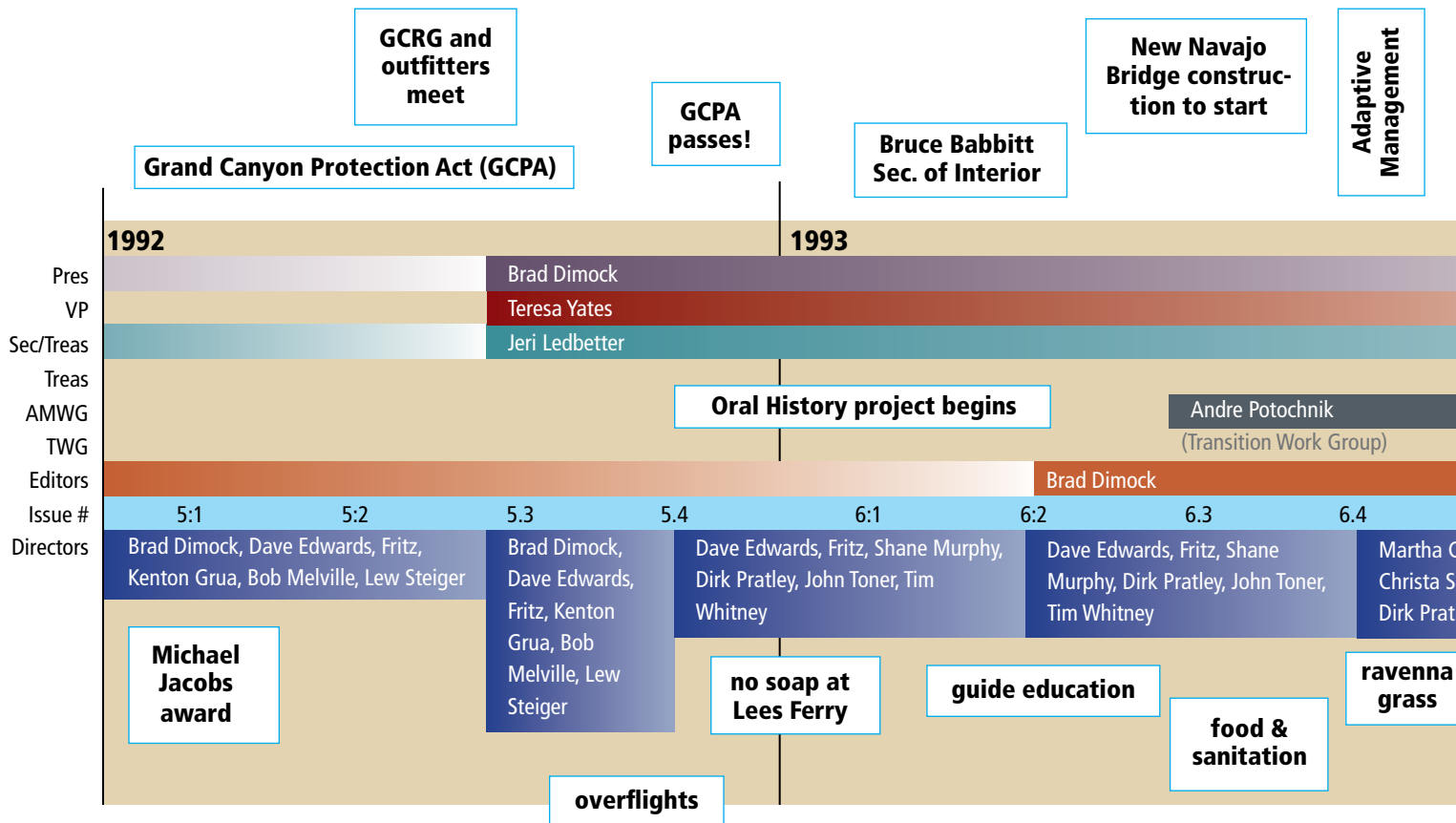
DIMOCK: But he knew how to do the dance with those guys, that none of the rest of us did. I thought.

DIERKER: Probably some of that is because his dad was so involved. You know, his dad was in the state legislature, and I think he was raised that way, in a way.

STEIGER: Yeah, Tom’s dad was a wheel down there, he really was.

DIERKER: Yeah.

POTOCHNIK: In one of the early meetings of GCRG here, this is from that meeting. Tom Moody was president, and he handed this around to everybody. And this is a thick booklet of all past meeting minutes. It’s tabbed, different colored tabs, organized. And I was like, “Holy smokes, this guy’s got his act together! I mean, I feel



like I'm part of something that's actually real." And I thought, "I can take this seriously, this is good stuff."

STEIGER: Do you guys remember *Robert's Rules of Order*? (SEVERAL: Yes.) I remember, like with Kenton we had these meetings, and it'd be like, "Gimme a beer... Where's the beer?" And then when Moody took over, I remember there was a point where he explained it to us how we were going to proceed, straight out of *Robert's Rules of Order*, and like, "What are you...? Are you kidding me?" But he held us to that—for a little while. (laughs)

HAMILTON: (laughs) We've devolved since then.

DIERKER: Right, devolved.

DIMOCK: A brief high point. (laughter)

STEIGER: But when you guys first put down the ten bucks—not to get ahead of ourselves—here's Kenton, and why did you put your ten bucks in that night?

DIERKER: It was for our first mailing, to start to do a mailing to all the river guides. Kenton got the list from the Park, because we had already had a river list, we were doing the guide certification then. So there was a list of licensed guides.

SADLER: Do you remember how many it was at the time?

DIERKER: I think it was like the mid-2000s, somewhere in there.

NAPOLITANO: The addresses were incorrect, most of them. I remember that.

DIERKER: That's what the mailer was for, kind of like an announcement of this potential organization... I don't know if we've got that letter. It was just kind of a statement, what were our objectives—which were kind of all over the road then, but looking out for boatmen's interests, hoping to get a major meeting asking for input, blah, blah, blah.

DIMOCK: Here's the purposes as stated in the April 1988 first volume, Volume 1, Number 1: "One, to help preserve the Grand Canyon river experience; two, to give the Grand Canyon River Guides a unified voice in matters concerning river management in the Grand Canyon; three, to provide a forum to exchange ideas and solutions regarding on-river problems which affect us all; four, to promote high standards of excellence for the guiding profession in Grand Canyon.

STEIGER: And who wrote up all that stuff?

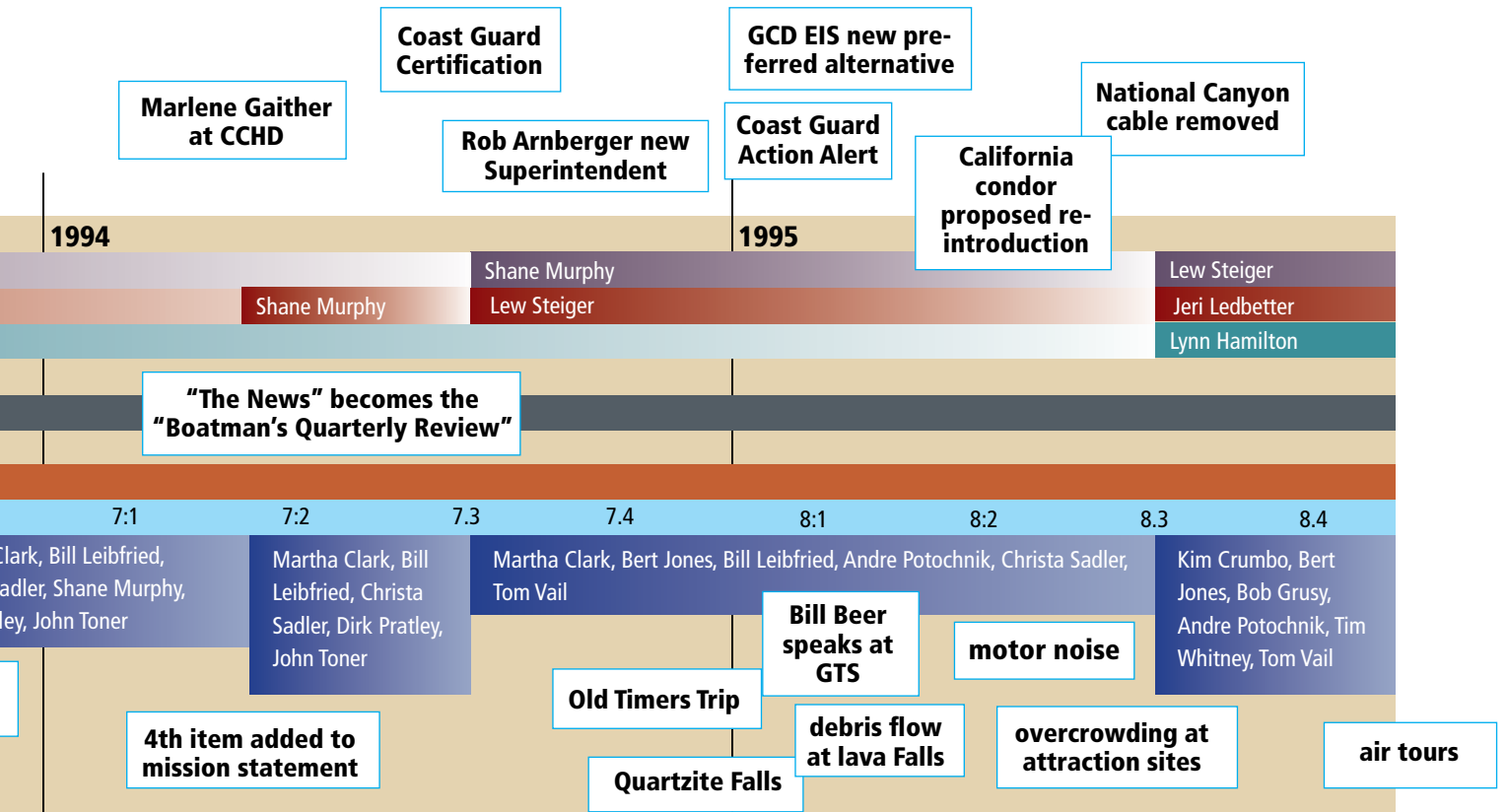
DIMOCK: Probably Kenton.

NAPOLITANO: I think Tom might have helped.

POTOCHNIK: Sounds like Tom.

STEIGER: It does, doesn't it?... And then there was a big meeting at Hatchland, when Billy got elected. When was that?

DIMOCK: The would have been April '88.



STEIGER: And Whitney was on the board. First board got elected.

DIERKER: Was that at Hatchland, or was that up in Marble? And that was the GTS, right?

STEIGER: Well, later, but first, wasn't it Ted [Hatch] said, "Yeah, you can have this meeting here?" I kinda remember that.

DIERKER: That was a big deal.

STEIGER: Yeah, it *was* a big deal, 'cause... I remember laughing, "Well, we can't be a union if we're gonna have this at Hatchland."

DIMOCK: Then later Ted threw us out.

LEDBETTER: Yeah, [unclear] that was a lot later.

NAPOLITANO: We were welcomed for a little while.

STEIGER: Ted threw us out?!

DIMOCK: Yeah, Tom Martin got up and made some *horrible* speech about outfitters, and Ted said, "You guys are outta here." (several agree) So we got banished to Marble for quite a while.

LEDBETTER: And that's when we got the Big Top [a green canvas, Army-surplus mess-tent].

DIMOCK: And then we went to Marble for quite a while and put up the Big Top and...

SADLER: It blew around.

DIERKER: Dragged the Cadillac across the desert.

DIMOCK: Dragging my Cadillac sideways.

DIERKER: The presidential-mobile [Brad's Cadillac convertible].

HAMILTON: Yeah. We sold it to a Navajo revival group or something.

NAPOLITANO: The tent?

DIERKER: Ted finally saw where we were going too—that it was in our interest to support the commercial thing, because it gave us a job.

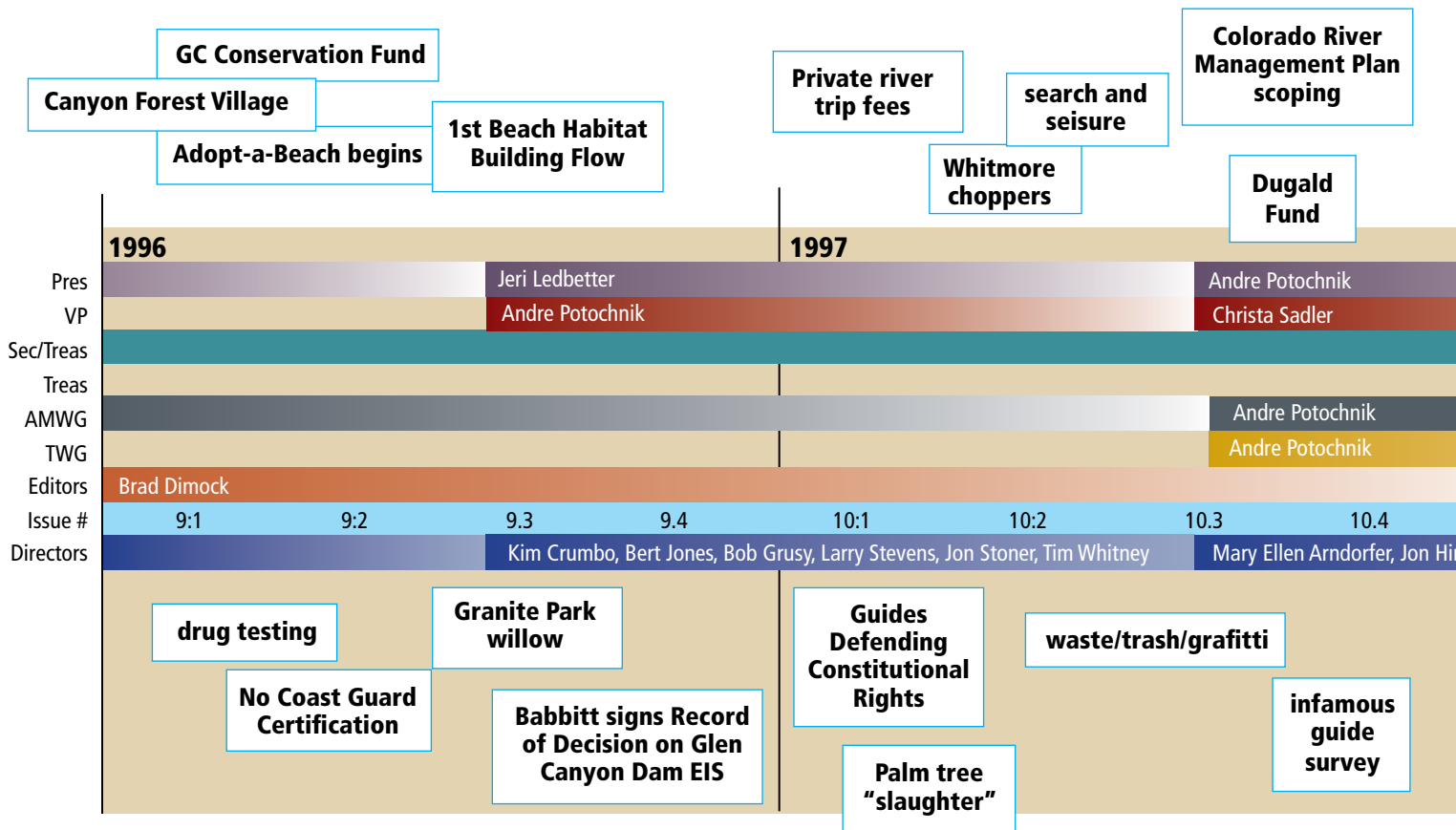
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LEDBETTER: Initially GCRG was 501(c)(6)... Because we didn't know what we were yet, and it was the easiest thing to get, the safest thing to get. At some point there was a decision that we would try to get a 501(c)(3), because it would make contributions tax deductible, and allow grants and various things. But part of the reason that people were suspicious was we weren't 501(c)(3). And 501(c)(6) allowed it to be more of a union.

DIERKER: Right. But also we were trying to effect legislation, right? We didn't understand that a (c)(3) could still be...

LEDBETTER: You still *can*. You can be 501(c)(3) and still effect legislation, but that can't be your primary purpose.

HAMILTON: Well actually, we didn't get our 501(c)(3)



until like 1993 or something like that, *because* we'd had too much legislative activity until that time.

LEDBETTER: No, it was just because it was agonizingly hard to get it to change. We had to prove we were doing all these other things. We had to document *everything*. It wasn't that we spent that much money on legislation, because you *can* spend a certain amount. It was that it's just so hard to make that transition from six to three. It took years.

HAMILTON: It actually says that on our 501(c)(3) letter, but you're right, even when I started working for GCRG in 1995, you were *still* sending them documentation, I think.

LEDBETTER: That was horrible. The lesson there is start with 501(c)(3). (several agree)

POTOCHNIK: Thank you, Jeri, for all that work you put in.

STEIGER: Well, and thanks to Denise, too, because I remember... So you started with the famous shoebox?

NAPOLITANO: We had a shoebox, yeah.

LEDBETTER: No, Melville was a different shoebox.

NAPOLITANO: Was that a different shoebox? Okay.

LEDBETTER: [Bob] Melville had a whole different shoebox.

NAPOLITANO: We might have had a little—it was like an index card box, it was smaller. And in fact it's still

over at OARS.

DIERKER: Melville's thing was the Grand Canyon Protection Act. That's what his baby was.

DIMOCK: But he was secretary-treasurer for a while.

STEIGER: And Bob Melville was the greatest membership guy, ever. (several agree) Melville signed up...hundreds of people.

DIMOCK: Millions. (laughter)

NAPOLITANO: And they all had one thin Andy Jackson.

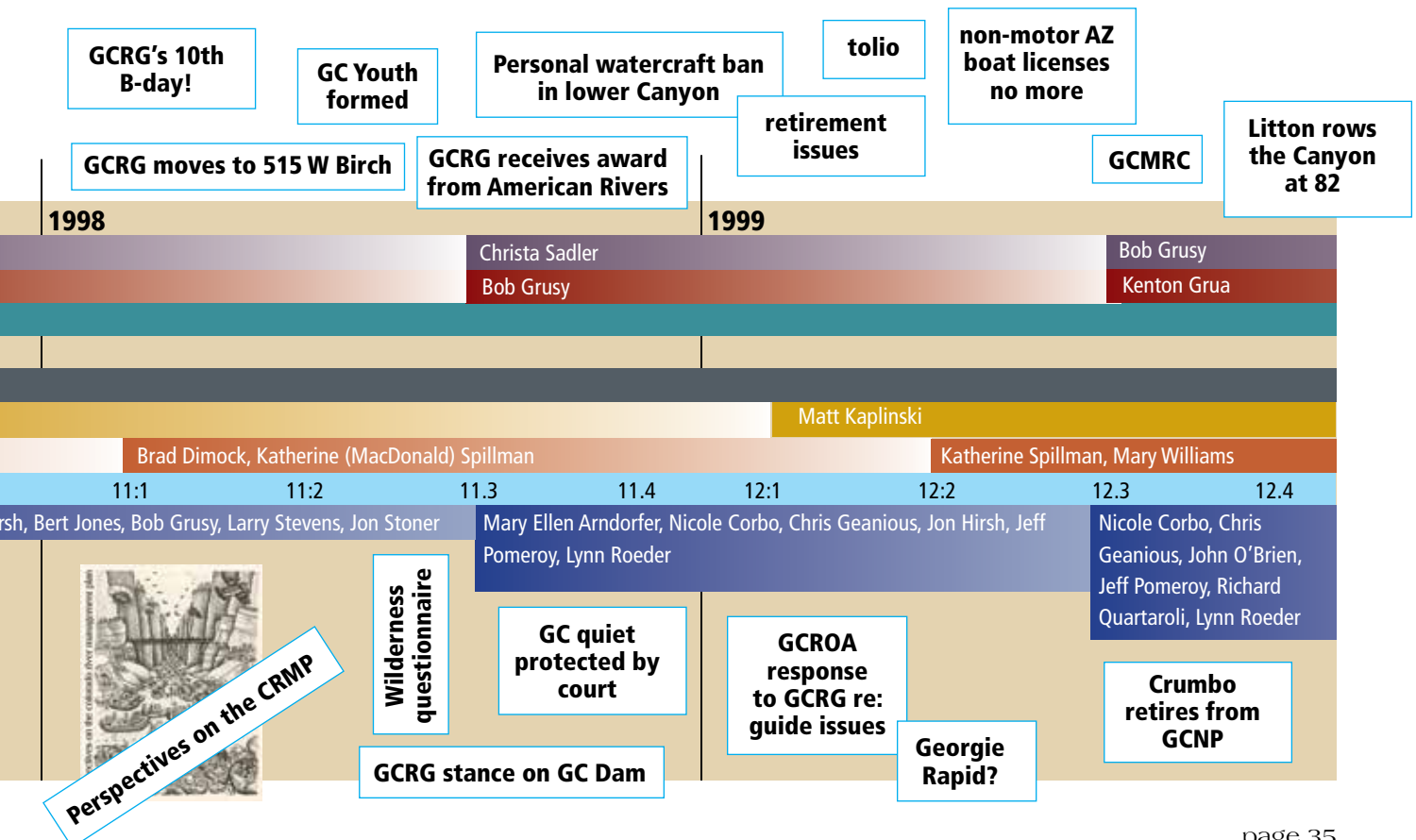
LEDBETTER: Paperwork was not his strong point. But Denise took the original list, and you had a database.

NAPOLITANO: Yes. And Suzanne Jordan helped a lot with that, at an old computer that Mike Walker had over at OARS. We made up a mailing list on some type of old Excel program, and then you could *print out* labels! You know, dit-dit dit-dit dit-dit-dit. And we could put 'em on the envelopes without having to handwrite everything. It was like, "This is so cool!" (laughter)

LEDBETTER: Well, it was a shareware database—which is free—free is good. Did you manually enter all that information? Or did you...

NAPOLITANO: It seems to me that Suzanne Jordan spent hours, or multiple days with multiple hours in each, typing in everybody's address and things like that.

DIERKER: Then we farmed it out to a couple of places, right? Disabled...



NAPOLITANO: Yes, a mailing service. One or two times there was a meeting at the OARS warehouse on the dory side, and I think Suzanne Jordan, after one of those, just went, “We can’t keep handwritin’ this stuff.” So she typed everything into a computer database and we could print out these labels and just put ’em on the envelope and off it went. It was fabulous. I mean, at that point, that was like most of the time involved. “Okay, let’s write some more envelopes out.”

STEIGER: I remember sitting with Kenton, strategizing into the wee hours of the night. Me and him would be out there in the living room, and you [Napolitano] would be in there, like in front of some little ole’ computer doing *all* the work, lickin’ the envelopes, doin’ all this stuff.

NAPOLITANO: The screen was...It was the black-and-white, with the green letters. I don’t think there was a mouse.

LEDBETTER: No, no, it was all like...

POTOCHNIK: MS DOS.

LEDBETTER: It was PC, but it was really early, with the little flashing cursor.

NAPOLITANO: And then the up and down arrow. There was a guy named Tony that worked for Diamond, he was going to NAU, and he came over to Kenton and my house. We lived on Birch Street, and he helped us both

with computers—how to work it, and he left his computer there, and we had like—we could use two at once! God, this is uptown! That was probably ’89 or ’90.

LEDBETTER: There was a point in ’89 when I offered to help, and I would come over. I either had a key or knew where the key was, and I’d come over to your house and mess around with the database, and I’d enter stuff, and I got things set up, because there hadn’t been a renewal process yet.

NAPOLITANO: Oh! “Send in your \$20” and then never ask for twenty more.

LEDBETTER: “Time to renew,” yeah. And if you don’t ask them for that, they won’t give it to you. My first problem with that database was Mike Walker said he’d give me the twenty dollars if he could be membership Number one.

STEIGER: Jeri was mad at Walker.

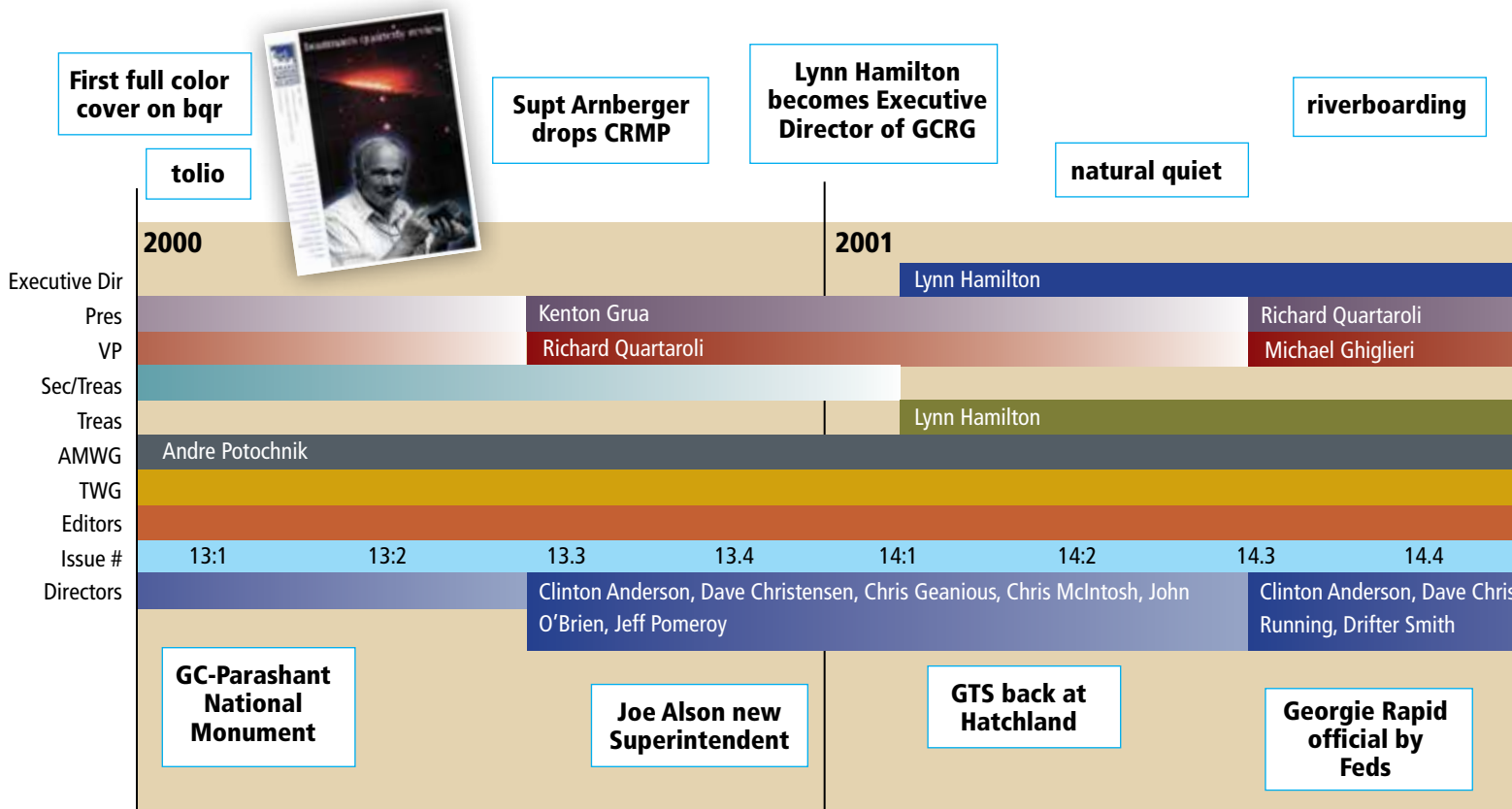
DIERKER: You know, Walker was at that first meeting too.

LEDBETTER: Yeah, and he threw in twenty dollars.

NAPOLITANO: And we had a meeting or two at his house in [Baderville?].

DIERKER: That does ring a bell.

LEDBETTER: If there are disparaging comments about the shoebox, that did not come from me. [To Napolitano] You were amazing, with the resources you had.



What you had was a really crappy computer, a really bad program. That database, one day it had a seizure, and it created 5,000 records for Crazy Al [Allen Wilson]. I started with 500 records, and suddenly there were 5,500 records, and 5,000 of them were Crazy Al. So we had new databases. But your organization was great. There *are* these disparaging comments about a shoebox...

NAPOLITANO: Well, you know, everybody has to start somewhere.

DIMOCK: I think that was Melville's shoebox...

LEDBETTER: Melville became the secretary-treasurer, and I said, "Moody, I can help with the database, and I can help with the membership, and I can do all that." He said, "You can't do that from Indiana." I said, "Yeah, I think I can." And he said, "No, no, Melville's gonna do it."

NAPOLITANO: He volunteered, he *wants* to do it.

LEDBETTER: Yeah! Excited about it! And then about two months later I get this box, a shoebox, from Melville, and he'd taken all the mail apart and put the envelopes in one stack and the checks in one stack, and the notes in another stack, and then just mashed it all in the box and sent it to me.

NAPOLITANO: "I can't do this anymore."

LEDBETTER: Yeah, all he did was open... So that's the shoebox that he mentioned. (**DIMOCK:** That's the

shoebox *I* was talkin' about.) It's not anything against your shoebox, which was magnificent. (laughter)

HAMILTON: There's been apparently multiple shoeboxes.

SADLER: You had a system.

STEIGER: Well I think we're gonna need a picture of this little filing thing.

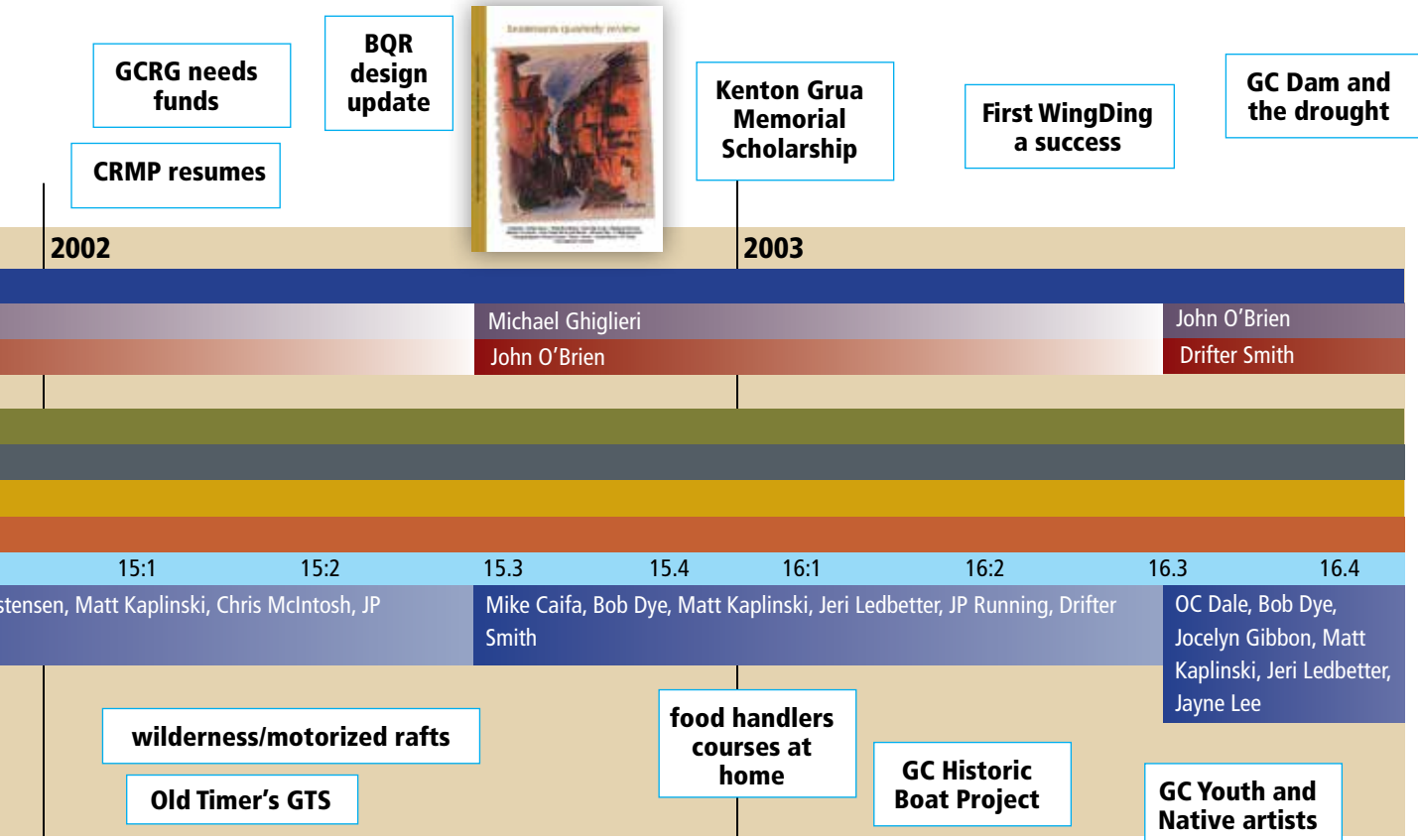
The last "shoebox" before the database.



* * *

THE GRAND CANYON PROTECTION ACT:

STEIGER: My Kenton Grua-Tom Moody story goes like this—I was so impressed with Kenton because he realized he had to clean up his act in order to be heard by the outside world. But what also impressed me



about Kenton was there came a time when he realized, “Okay, this is way bigger than just me, and I don’t want to keep being the president, because as long as I’m the president, these guys are just gonna see this as bein’ Kenton Grua’s little club.” I remember him kinda sayin’ that.

I also remember havin’ a discussion with Moody *way* early in the game where he was talkin’ about he was on this trip with you [Dierker] and Jack Schmidt.

DIERKER: That’s when they came up with that idea of being proactive, like Andre says, of going in, taking the initiative, instead of being on the defensive.

STEIGER: Well I remember Moody just talkin’ to me one time, and he described this trip where these guys were all sittin’ around the campfire down there, and this is Dan and Jack Schmidt and a bunch of college kids way back before GCRG even existed. They came up with this idea one night that there should be a law, *that’s* what you were gonna need to protect the beaches. I remember Moody was talkin’ about it to me, and he called it the Beach Bill. But in my mind—and maybe this is just a little fairy tale that I’ve concocted for myself—I remember sittin’ in one of these meetings—and maybe you were there, Edwards—where Kenton says, “It can’t be just me. It’s gotta be somebody else.” And somebody goes, “Well, yeah, but who

in the hell else is gonna want to do *this* job?!” And Moody was there, and he said, “I guess I could do it.” ... I just remember we were wringin’ our hands about who on earth would want to be president if Kenton...

DIERKER: Tom stepped into the breach.

STEIGER: I remember him sayin’, “I could do it,” and all of us just goin’, “Yeah! That would be great!”

DIERKER: We voted before the air was calm, and he was president.

POTOCHNIK: He started in ’90? Didn’t he?

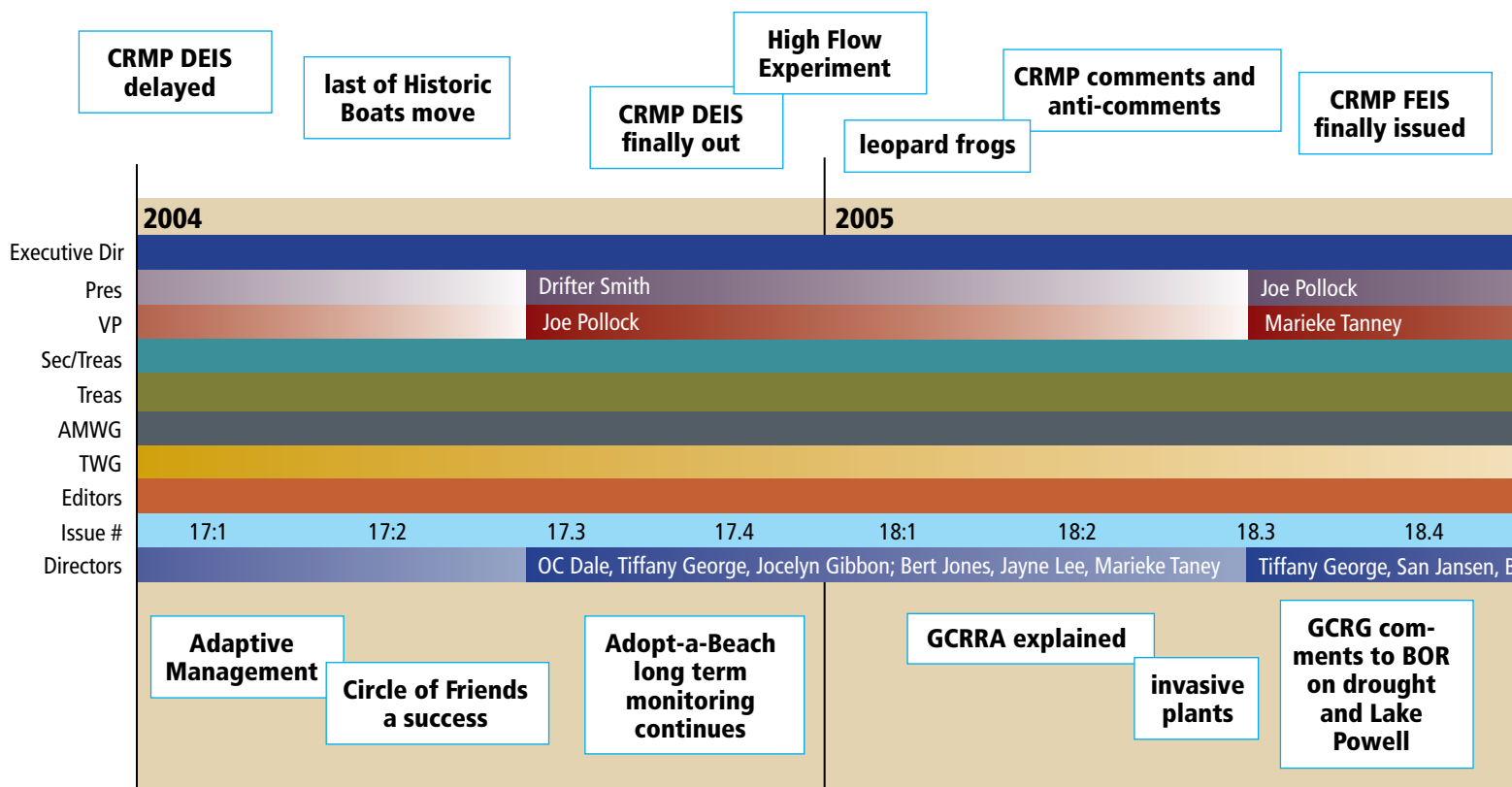
SEVERAL: Yes.

STEIGER: Yeah. But the thing that strikes me now, in retrospect, is, I think that all along he had it in his mind—I think he was secretly wanting to have there be a law for the Grand Canyon.

DIERKER: It was fortuitous that he was with Jack on that, because Jack was familiar with the process and how it all worked with that, and Tom was quite, as I said, from his background, quite comfortable with the legislative process... I think that was the seed of it really.

STEIGER: He did it so gently.

DIERKER: Well, no, he used the system. But the system actually *worked* back then. It’s not as contentious as it is now.



STEIGER: Back before the world was taken over by the corporate oligarchy.

DIERKER: That's right.

STEIGER: But that's another story. But what Moody did, I remember... So many of us were still working on the river. That was our main thing. But I had the sense of Tom Moody comin' back to this. It wasn't like he was a boatman, he was already a civil engineer, he was doin' all this other good stuff. He was doing some boating, but he came back... He was doin' all this stuff *here* because he wanted to *give* somethin' back to Grand Canyon—don't you think?

DIERKER: I think he was up there fishing in Alaska.

STEIGER: Yeah. He had a whole other life that was completely...

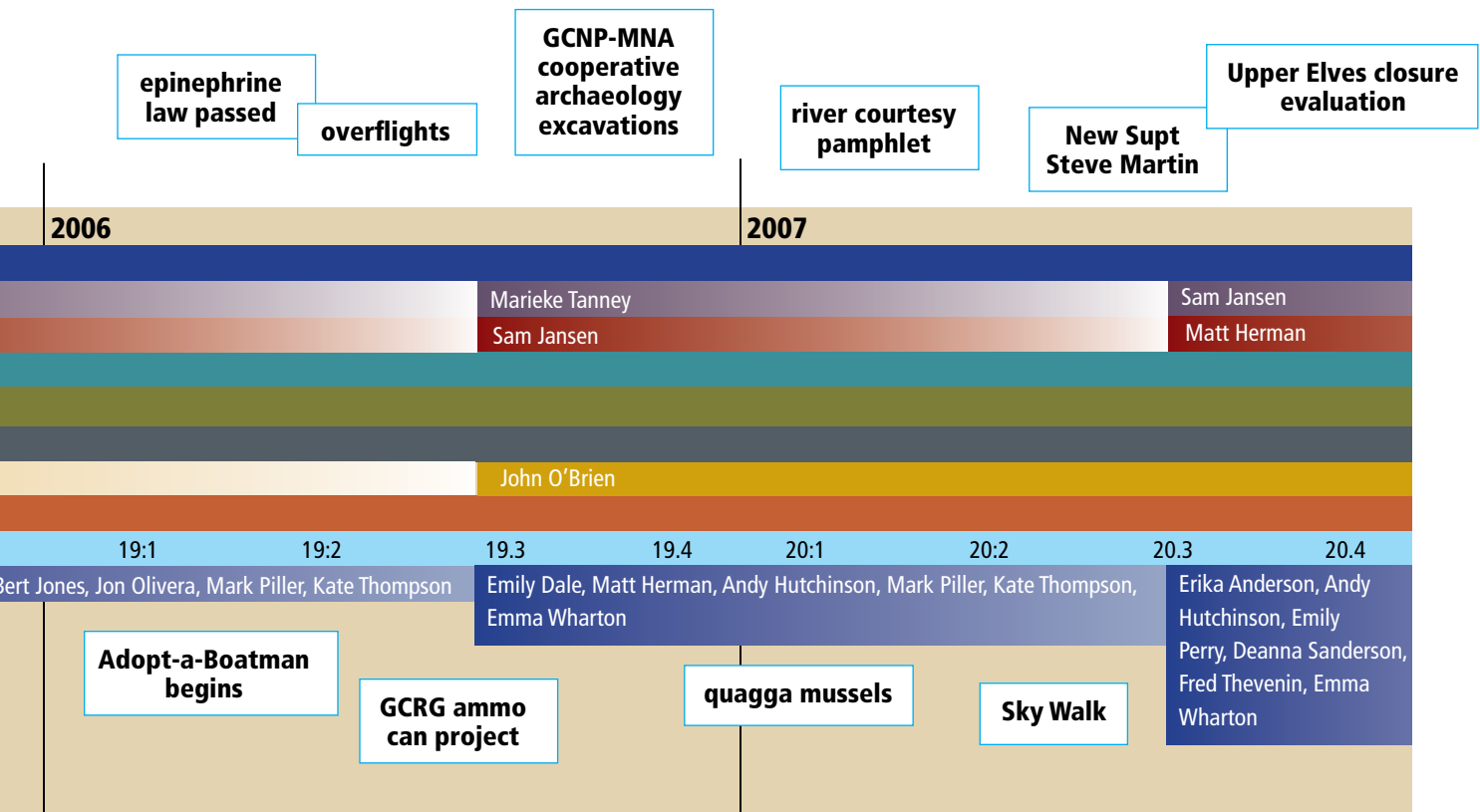
DIERKER: He was trying to earn a living.

STEIGER: Yeah, all this other stuff. And so what's he doin' here, worried about the Grand Canyon? Over a lot of time, thinkin' about it, it seemed like, no, he really wanted to come back here and do something good. And *I* think—and maybe it's just me—but I think he really wanted to get the Grand Canyon Protection Act passed.

DIERKER: Well, he was also involved, because they were subcontractors to provide all the boaters in science. He and Brian [Dierker] and Mike Yard had the

Humphrey's Summit Associates, that were the logistic guys for the studies. And that's where—there again, the serendipitous trio of Dave Wegner, [Steve] Carothers, and Tom Moody—and Brian and those guys, they got the studies, the GCES stuff, going. The Bureau had to do that, but they didn't really *want* to do it, and they were kind of hoping it would just fail, but actually it finally made them look good. Wegner was an important part too. They threw Wegner at it, and they were thinking he'd fail, they tried to make him fail, but he didn't. But Moody was really good friends and worked really close with Dave Wegner, and that whole group, and it worked.

POTOCHNIK: Jack Schmidt was in on the beginning of GCES-1, I think. (**DIERKER:** Uh-huh, he was.) I remember he wrote the final report after three years or whatever it was, and said, "Well, we couldn't see anything." Basically, because of the high-water years. They were supposed to study beaches, but they couldn't see the beaches during that three-year period, so they said, "Well, we'd better do GCES-2 then." That was when Grand Canyon Trust formed. We shouldn't underestimate the importance of the Trust here, and Moody's relationship with the Trust, and Martin [Litton] helping get the Trust started, and those early founders of Grand Canyon Trust, because when the Trust



formed, those were the know-hows in Washington. Ed Norton, Tom Jensen. They knew how to work the D.C. circuit. And so when GCES-2 was starting to wind up, it was clear there was this huge public outcry about the beaches all eroding away. And that was what originally started GCES, was that people—boatmen mostly—were goin’, “Man, the beaches are eroding!” [And our customers were writing Congress.] And so they just threw Dave Wegner at it, like you said, Dan. “Ah, we’ll put him in there, we’ll have a little program called GCES (Glen Canyon Environmental Studies) and that’ll take care of it.” Well, it didn’t take care of it, and by the time the late eighties rolled around, the beaches were still eroding, the Trust got in it, got involved, got started, and decided they needed to pass this Beach Bill that you mentioned, Lew. I never heard that term before. But it became known as the Grand Canyon Protection Act. It was drafted by Ed Norton and some other people that I don’t know. Tom Jensen wrote it also. He later became president of the Trust here in Flagstaff.

They drafted this bill, and it was introduced in Congress in 1990, and it didn’t make it the first time around. Then it came around to ’91, there was a bunch of momentum behind it at that point.

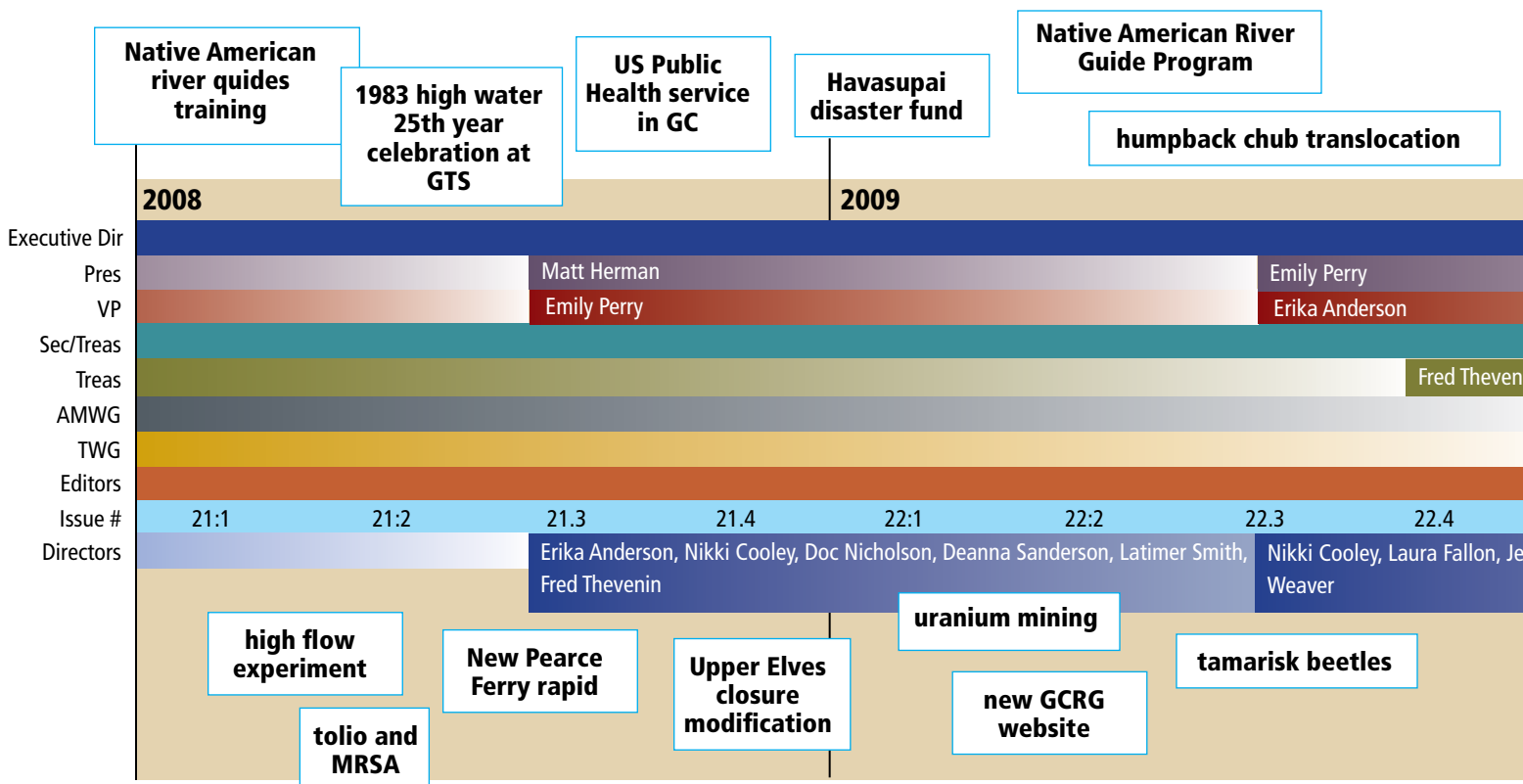
DIERKER: It was championed by McCain before he became so bitter.

POTOCHNIK: Right. McCain and Bill Bradley and George Miller in the House. So that was when we were having the meetings at GCRG. That’s when I got involved in going to lobby for the Protection Act in the fall of ’91, because Moody was supposed to go to represent us, but something came up in his life—I can’t remember, he had a conflict—and it was an important thing, because we were testifying before the Senate Subcommittee on Natural Resources, and it was at the tipping point of getting this thing passed or not. Moody said, “Well, Andre, do you want to go instead? I can’t go.” And I said, “Okay.” I went along with this pile of guys—Rob Smith from the Sierra Club; Rob Elliott from America Outdoors; Dave Marcus, Environmental Defense Fund.

SILVA: *Our* Rob Elliott?

POTOCHNIK: Yeah. Rob gave the talk before the Senate subcommittee. So we had this thing all drafted ahead of time—he just had to read it. But we all went. We walked the halls of Congress and lobbied McCain’s office, Miller’s office, Bradley’s office.

So it was quite an introduction for me. I was just this boatman, geologist, whatever. And we had to put on a nice suit and all that stuff, walk around. But it was real interesting, going to these senators’ and congressmen’s offices. You just talked to the staff, mostly. The



staff is who does all their work for them. The staff just runs it by the senator. I remember meeting McCain. He comes out—and he’s a little guy—comes out, shakin’ hands. I’ll never forget his hand shaking. “Hi, I’m Andre Potochnik, with Grand Canyon River Guides.” I grab his hand, and he just goes (pow, pow, pow, pow, pow!) “Nice to meet you!” Just like this, (boom!) like he’s pumpin’ water in a well or somethin’. It was a real interesting experience. Anyway, then following that Senate subcommittee hearing, Congress did pass the Protection Act, and that was called the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992, because that’s when it actually got passed by Congress.

DIMOCK: October 30, '92.

STEIGER: I remember Steve Lanich was George Miller’s guy.

POTOCHNIK: Right.

STEIGER: And was it Dan Beard, was Bradley’s guy?

POTOCHNIK: Tom Jensen was Bradley’s guy.

STEIGER: Tom Jensen. Those were the guys—Tom Jensen and Steve Lanich, that really did all the work, weren’t they?

POTOCHNIK: Yeah, they were the heavy lifters.

STEIGER: But you were perfect for goin’ back there, man. You had a degree, you’re smooth.

NAPOLITANO: Clean shaven, no ponytail. (laughter)

STEIGER: You were perfect.

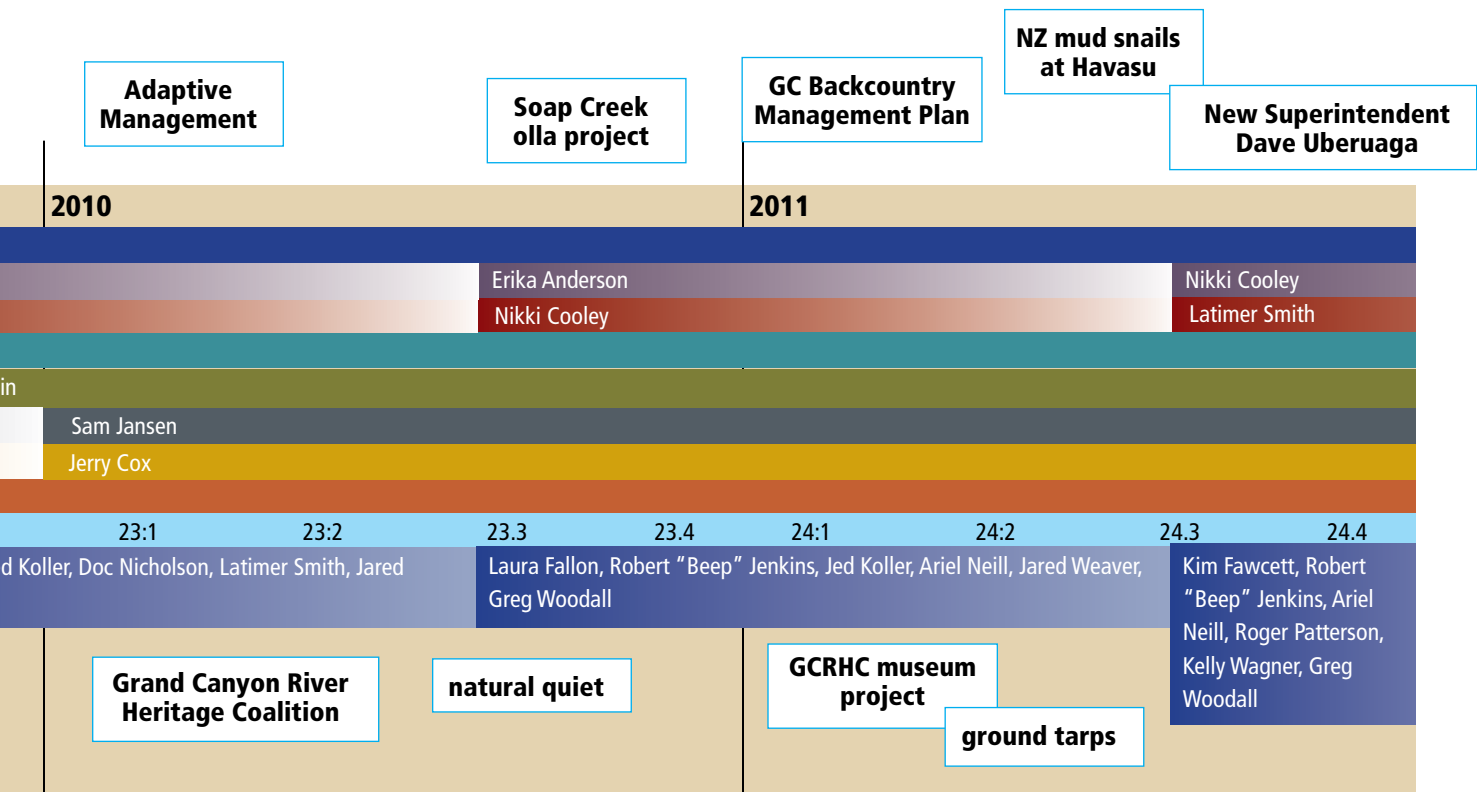
HAMILTON: Mr. Potochnik goes to Washington. (laughter)

STEIGER: That was where Moody was so good, because he had such a great Big Picture sense, and he just empowered us all to do what we did. He had a really good way of deputizing us all to do whatever we were good at.

HAMILTON: What I found so brilliant about it was that even at the very beginning of GCRG, all those guys really realized how essential having an EIS was, first of all. And then they realized if they were going to push for an EIS, they needed a guiding document; they needed a foundation for that, so that the EIS could be as successful as it could possibly be. And so that’s why they really galvanized our membership and the river community at large, and why that particular act got almost more letters written in support of it (**DIERKER:** Oh, it did!) than any other piece of legislation.

DIERKER: It definitely was a concurrent, that it did make the organization. Because I remember after it had passed, there was kind of a little let-down or post-partum depression—God, now what are we gonna change? Remember that? Wonder where it’s gonna go, you know?

HAMILTON: Yeah.



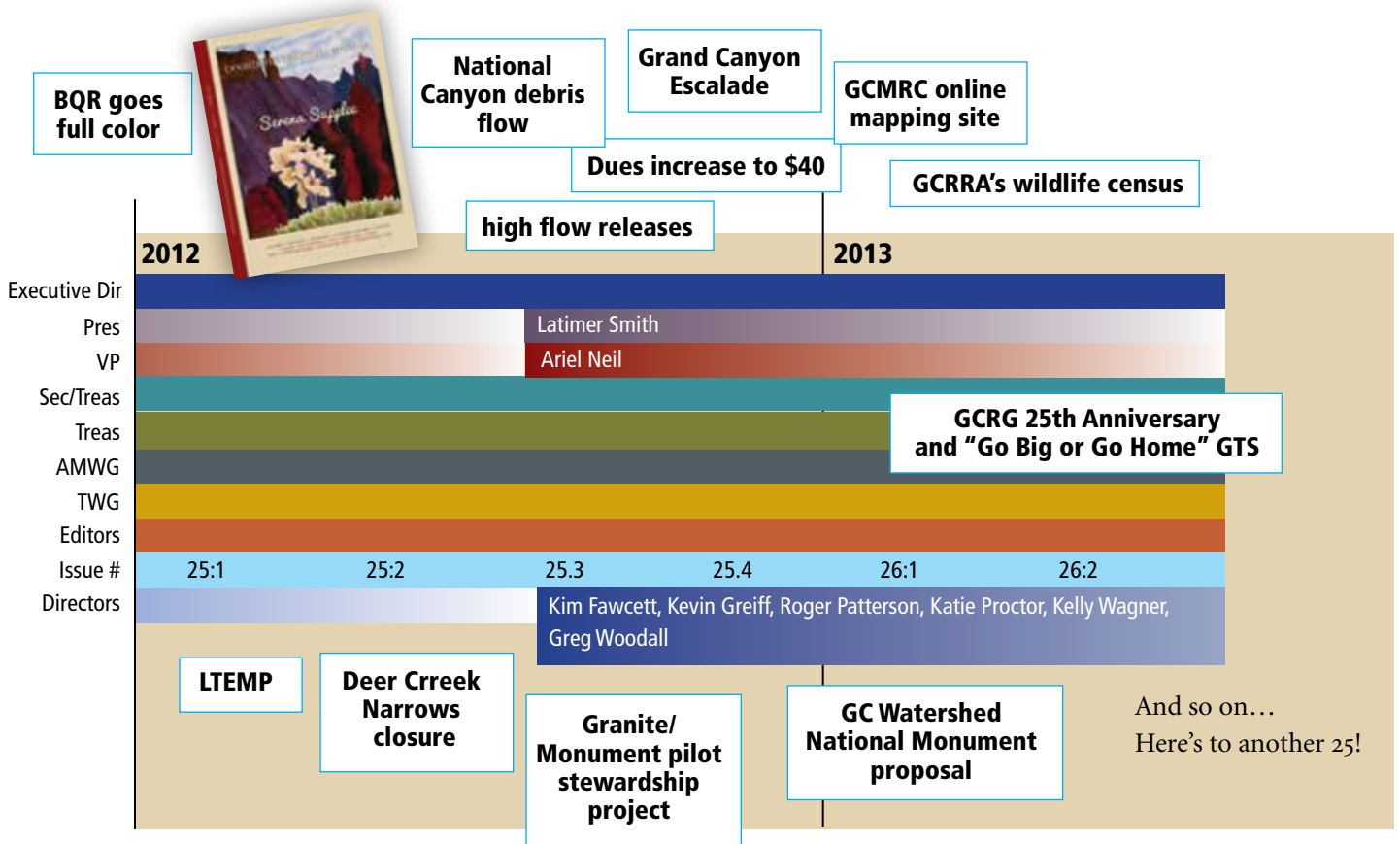
DIERKER: What are we gonna bite into?
HAMILTON: How can we top this?
STEIGER: I see Brad over here... [thumbing through old BQR's]
DIMOCK: Looking through chronology to see how it jibes with all our mythology.
STEIGER: Well I have this way of just rearranging reality into these nice little rosy fairy tales that I like.
DIMOCK: The first mention in here of the Protection Act is when the Miller Bill failed in '90. There's no build-up to it at all in the BQR.
STEIGER: Yeah, Miller was the guy—he was the California congressman.
DIMOCK: He was a good guy.
DIERKER: Weren't we havin' a fall... When the Protection Act did go through, weren't we having a fall meeting out at Schniewind's?
DIMOCK: Yup.
DIERKER: Remember that? A Halloween.
DIMOCK: We interrupted the program to announce, because it was late that night when it passed.
DIERKER: That's right. Then we *really* started drinking.
DIMOCK: And then we had a party. Garrett Schniewind's house. I think we were in the barn, we weren't in the house. But that's the night it passed,

October 30, I think I just read.
SADLER: [to Andre] We were on the Powell trip and we found out about it when we got to Green River.
POTOCHNIK: Oh! That's right!
SADLER: Remember? Because we had Halloween on the river that year.
POTOCHNIK: Yeah, yeah, yeah!
SADLER: We were at Deso-Gray, and then got to Green River and heard that it had passed.
POTOCHNIK: Right. It was like, "Yeah!"
DIERKER: Partied it up there. Right the night of October 30.
LEDBETTER: A group of guides showed up as Lava Falls? So each of 'em... Like one was a bubble line, and one was the black rock...
DIERKER: There were some really good outfits there.

* * *

THE BQR

STEIGER: Which brings us to... I remember when Moody took over as president. It was like the GCRG newsletter—in my mind it was just this little mimeographed thing—this is how we communicate with each other. And Moody calls me, and it was like right



about this time—whenever that was, '90... There's a white one. Let's see, which one. That one? Well, no, there was another one.

DIMOCK: In '88?

STEIGER: Nope, nope, nope. Keep going. You've got 'em all.

DIMOCK: Eighty-nine [1989]?

STEIGER: No, keep goin'.

DIMOCK: Ninety [1990]?

STEIGER: Keep goin'. I think it might be... That one! Yeah! This one here, "Lines in the Sand."

NAPOLITANO: Pull it out, let's see it.

DIMOCK: February '91.

STEIGER: Yeah. Well, Moody wanted me to help him do the newsletter, and I remember I was totally not into it. It was snowin', it was the Super Bowl weekend. The Giants were playin' the Bills, and the Bills had never won. (laughter)

DIERKER: Oh jeez, Lew...

STEIGER: I was rootin' for Buffalo, and I really wanted to just watch the game, but oh no, we had to work on this newsletter. And I was like... So I go up there, in the snow, and anyway, here's Moody with this little bitty Macintosh, and it's me and him, and we're gonna do the newsletter. I kicked and whined and moaned and cried.

PAM WHITNEY: Was this at his house?

STEIGER: Yeah, we're doin' it at his house. I think I made him turn on the game, back in the back-ground—no sound, I couldn't be there to help the team emotionally or anything. Anyway, somehow we got through it. But I sniveled so much through-out, that was the last time I ever had to work on the newsletter. And I'm pretty sure, in my mind, that's why Moody went and got Brad. He was like, "Brad..." (laughter)

HAMILTON: I can't get there with Lew.

STEIGER: But he wanted a quality publication to be the face of the organization, and he explained it to me. I really didn't get it.

DIMOCK: He was livin' over here. [near the Pole House]

STEIGER: No, we were out there [in southwest Flagstaff]. This was out there with Stephanie. He had moved over.

DIERKER: Over to Mohawk.

STEIGER: Yeah.

DIMOCK: The first time I worked on it, it was over here.

STEIGER: Well maybe you had worked on it earlier... Yeah. You had worked on some.

DIMOCK: Print out a page on the dot matrix and paste some pictures on it and take it down to those

guys [the printers].

STEIGER: Anyway, I remember after that—thank god, I never had to help with another newsletter—because Tom got Brad to do it.

LEDBETTER: Well, there was a transition from when Brad made me cover a computer with a sheet because he didn't want a computer in the house. (laughter)

STEIGER: [to Ledbetter] So you brought the computer in?

LEDBETTER: Yeah, I bought a PC and brought it here. It moved around, like it was on these weird little tables, and I'd cover it with a sheet when I wasn't using it, because he was *so* offended by having it here.

DIMOCK: Tool of Satan! It still is.

SADLER: Says Satan's henchman now. (laughs)

DIERKER: He didn't have electricity until Jeri got the computer. (laughter)

DIMOCK: It was a wood-burning computer.

HAMILTON: The early kind.

LEDBETTER: So then he started going over to Moody's and working on that computer. Then computers became a little bit more okay—as long as they're Macs. But you still didn't have a computer here for quite a while (DIMOCK: Long time.) because they were awful things. And there was one, you were working on—were you working on Dugald's computer? [Dugald Bremner.]

DIMOCK: With Moody's, when he was at Dugald's.

LEDBETTER: And it has a surge protector, and he had the BQR nearly done, and a book fell off the desk and landed on the surge protector, turned it off, and lost it.

SILVA: Lost it all.

DIMOCK: Save often! Oh, I forgot that part.

STEIGER: Did it even have a hard drive, was it little floppy disks?

DIMOCK: Well, they had a wee little hard drive in 'em.

LEDBETTER: Yeah.

DIERKER: You had to change it. You had to save it to a floppy.

DIMOCK: You had to always save, or it would just stay in the RAM and disappear.

LEDBETTER: Was that still in *Quark*?

DIMOCK: That was in *Ready, Set, Go*. Tom thought this was the hot little page layout program because it was cheap. And so he taught me *Ready, Set, Go* on the little postage stamp Macintosh, and then when he foisted the whole thing off on me, I made GCRG buy a computer. That was a Mac with a *big* black-and-white screen, which I think Bledsoe still has.

DIERKER: And a copier.

DIMOCK: Nah, copier came later.

LEDBETTER: There was a lot of talk about the copier.

DIMOCK: And then I immediately just started adding pages until I think I peaked at fifty-six pages. But we just decided that was our product, that's how we're gonna milk money out of people, was to have product. And I had this latent desire to be a publisher. I had no idea! But when I was little, I always loved the mimeograph machine. My mom did the community gazette on one of those.

SADLER: It was just that you liked to smell the chemicals.

DIERKER: You liked the chemicals.

DIMOCK: That A.B. Dick thing—I always wanted one. So I went berserk. Tom ruined my life.

HAMILTON: Well, it didn't have a name initially. It was just...

SADLER: Just said "Grand Canyon River Guides" across the top.

DIMOCK: Yeah, and then it became *The News* for a while, and we thought that was stupid.

SADLER: Brad wanted it to be something different, more professional. We talked about a lot of different things and came up... Didn't you come up with *bqr*? Non-capitalized?

DIMOCK: Yeah, I actually had come up with it many years earlier, but had not said anything. Before there was GCRG, I already had the magazine in my mind. It was gonna have interviews, it was gonna have...

DIERKER: Well you were already doing that dory publication, right? Weren't you part of that?

DIMOCK: The Dory... *Hibernacle News*. Yeah, I helped with that.

STEIGER: Look. There's the first one. [*first BQR*] There's Dan, right on the cover.

DIMOCK: Yeah, Dan and Brian. Spring of '94. Oh, did we catch hell for that name, too! Took a lot of nasty-grams on that one.

* * *

FOSTERING THE UNIQUE SPIRIT...

DIMOCK: For me, my personal goal when I was the president was there were a lot of guides who weren't really proud of what they were doin'—they just felt like they're kinda pissin' their life away. I was startin' to get into the history and the heritage of it, and I had some really great pats on the back from some pretty neat people who said, "You guys really *are* doing something worthwhile, something important." And that was something I wanted to be part of our... mission. And so I just found it. It's actually in the first *Boatman's Quarterly*. I added, after much discussion at board meetings, the fourth mission state-

ment was—it was hard for us to come up with the wording—"Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community." But that was oral histories, that was really trying to point out to the community how cool it is what we're doing, and that it *is* valuable, it *is* an honorable profession, it isn't just pissing our life away. And that's a lot of what goes on at GTS and the BQR. So I found that rewarding, that we *were* pushing towards celebrating the community, honoring the community, and elevating the self-esteem of what the heck we're doin' down there. That was big for me. That's what I felt my contribution was—was some of the push to go in that direction.

STEIGER: Yeah, bringin' us together.

POTOCHNIK: Didn't we come up with that at the retreat at Shane's house?

DIMOCK: It might have been out there.

POTOCHNIK: We used to have an annual retreat.

LEDBETTER: That was the one that Charles Moody was sitting in the little chair, in the little baby seat.

DIMOCK: [thumbing through the files] Well, let's see, because... we got home from that and Whale was dead. So Whale should be dead in there, but he's not. Anyhow...

EDWARDS: Something you said, Lew, a long time ago, about being a river guide, is "You've got nothin' to apologize for," and that always stuck with me. And I really like the sense of human dignity and respect that comes from Grand Canyon River Guides and the overall community. The Park Service respects us, we respect the Park Service. I mean, I've worked with the Park Service on trail crews, and they *really* like the guides—the working people do. The higher-ups, I think, do as well. But they like the cooperation and the way we care for the canyon and we respect them. It's good. It's turned into a very rich and rewarding experience, being a river guide in the Grand Canyon. I've come back to it full-time, even though I'm a photographer and all that. I just like it so much. I think I like it more *now* than ever before. I like working with highly-trained teams, people really know what they're doing, they're well-trained. That has to do with the River Guides. And it has to do with the outfitters as well. And you'll *never* find, in this life, better friends than you'll find on the river, because we go through so much together. We get closer than soldiers become together, because a soldier's in a terrible situation. But we're not in a terrible situation, we just occasionally have terrible situations where you see what we're made of, and you surprise yourself. That's all.

STEIGER: Run in there to catch that woman sweeping out of the Havasu Harbor. [Referring to a rescue that Edwards made during a flood there.]

EDWARDS: Yeah.

STEIGER: What do you think, Jeri?

LEDBETTER: For me, being involved in Grand Canyon River Guides allowed me to give back to the community and to the people that gave me the opportunity to be there when I really had *no* business being there at all, and who were patient. Kenton specifically was just incredibly patient with me and said, “Okay, alright next time... Try to go *between* the rocks.”

DIMOCK: “Don’t do that.”

LEDBETTER: “Don’t do that next time.” And so it was giving back to the community as much as the place, although the place was a big part of it too. And we each have something we can contribute to that. Over the years, watching various new board members come in and get excited and contribute whatever they had... they all each had their own gifts that they could contribute to the organization. And that kept it motivated and afloat and kept the inspiration going: When other people started getting a little tired and had to back off, new people came in. That was really fun to watch.

SILVA: Well, I think that the biggest thing for me is it made us a cohesive voice, and we had to sort of speak with one another and get each other’s opinions about things and make some agreements, and then stand behind ’em and say what they were, in order to protect our spirit and guiding profession, *and* protect the canyon, and protect our trade. I’ve got to agree with Brad—the amount of self-esteem that people got from being in a larger group, a larger body, I think—just gave us greater steam and greater confidence to have a voice and think about what we wanted to say. And I think it’s done that to this day—all the new generation of guides are still working with one another to say what they think is important today. That’s worthwhile.

DIMOCK: There’s a lot of guides working now that weren’t born when GCRG was formed. (laughter)

SADLER: Oh, God, Brad!

PAM WHITNEY: Well I think it’s lasted for 25 years because the people who originally started it really inspired the people who followed them. That’s continued through the history of GCRG. There’s been this inspiration that’s been passed down, and as a result, it’s given GCRG a voice that *is* respected.

MICHELE GRUA: Grand Canyon River Guides let *me* keep contact with the river when I was *not* in Arizona, and reading about all this really cool stuff you guys were doing with the CRMP and AMWG and blah, blah, blah. For me, what’s always struck me as being really special about Grand Canyon River Guides is that it seems as if everybody has a sense of the historical importance of what they’re doing, and an awareness of their place in history. I think that it’s not common

for people in the midst of their lives, to realize they’re contributing to something of historical importance. But as players in Grand Canyon River Guides, people seem to be acutely aware of their role in kind of steering the management of Grand Canyon—they’re aware of their participation in that, and how important that is. And that’s always struck me as something unique to GCRG. And for me personally, it gave me a way into the guiding community, and more specifically through the Whale Foundation, and helping work with them, which I think is just tremendously important. I never knew Whale, but I completely support the whole idea of supporting the mental health and spiritual well-being of guides.

SADLER: I don’t know, everybody has said something that seems to me to make an awful lot of sense. To add to that, one of the really great things about GCRG for me is that—kind of playing off what *you* were saying—is it’s not just the river guides. We have also this enormous general membership, and we are a voice for these people who come down and have this extraordinary experience that changes their lives, and they go home, and we are a way to keep them connected with the canyon, with the community, with the things that they need to do to help the Canyon and the community, and I think that’s a really valuable service. I mean, yes, there’s Grand Canyon River Runners now, but they’re not as well formed, and they’re not as large. And we have this really solid foundation. It’s important for me as a guide to always remember that it really *isn’t* about me. But it’s about... you know, it’s about *them*. Then after the trip, Grand Canyon River Guides is a way for them to continue that experience. So I think that’s super-important... You think about all the things we have incubated, helped incubate, and then all of the people who are coming up in the ranks, the people who are *still* yet to be born, and in 25 *more* years will be running rivers, and the current *new* crop will be the old gray-hairs sitting around talking about this, because we’re gonna be down on that island somewhere. But I just think it’s an incredibly important thing, and it’s been really an amazing honor to be part of it.

DIMOCK: (adopting an old geezer’s voice) “When I first started down there I ran with a guy who *founded* GCRG.”

POTOCHNIK: Yeah, just to echo a lot of sentiments here, I could repeat a lot of what was already said. But I think for me personally it’s finding a community I felt I really connected to, because it was based upon a common experience, a common set of experiences in the Grand Canyon, in connection to the river, connection to the canyon. The canyon is really what inspired me to become a geologist, to go to school, go back to

college and get various degrees. And then to find this community, starting when I moved back to Flagstaff in 1990, and to be a part of that—especially through the Adaptive Management Program, and advocacy for the Grand Canyon Protection Act. When I went to Washington, D.C. that time, I couldn't believe I'd actually done that. It was so far afield from anything I ever imagined myself doing in my life. And yet there I was. And it was successful. It was very encouraging to me. I wanted to continue to be involved in that Adaptive Management Program and to see it through and to make sure it got going in the right way. And I was always proud to represent this organization there at all the meetings—many many days of mind-numbing meetings. I can't tell you how many! But I always felt proud introducing myself at the beginning of each meeting, that I represented Grand Canyon River Guides. And I was always proud of the fact, too—or strengthened by the knowledge—that despite the fact that my vote counted the same as the State of California's, and the superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park's, on any voting issue, that I was really voting for a whole lot of people, I was voting for a community of people. So I always tried to bear in mind I was not representing myself there, but representing a whole lot of passion and concern for a very important place on the planet.

NAPOLITANO: 25 years. Like you said, Lew, who'd have thunk it? It's really impressive, and absolutely we should go on.

STEIGER: Well I gotta say, Denise, Jeri, and Lynn... truly, in my mind, you guys have always been unsung heroes. And I don't see, in the early days, how it would have... You did so much of that day-to-day work, just making it happen, and just doing those mailing lists, taking the little labels out, and then movin' on from that. You know, Jeri, it was just like with Kenton, Moody, Brad, there was this kind of evolution—and all the board members and all that—there was an evolution there. But you takin' it, Denise, and then Jeri, you taking it, and taking the skills you'd gotten from the mini-storage business, and lining the thing out. And then also just having the insight to go, "Somebody's gonna have to get paid to do this, because this is just too...much...work." (laughter) Which it is. You know, everybody else volunteers... But I, kind of deep down in my heart of hearts, I feel like, Lynn, if you hadn't been there all this time, no way Jose does this thing just keep goin' on its own.

DIMOCK: Right.

STEIGER: 'Cause the volunteerism is good, but there's only so much you can do. I was so thrilled to see—I met Lynn's son Ryan—didn't get to go with him, almost did—comin' down as a helper. That's really

thrilling to me, just to see him getting a little bit of—or to see him gettin' that peripheral benefit from all this.

HAMILTON: Mamas, don't let your babies be river guides! (laughter)

DIMOCK: Ruining lives, one generation at a time.

STEIGER: For me, the best part of it is it's just like a river trip—you get out of it what you put into it. And that's been the best part of all this. I mean, what you get is people come and we all kind of give what we've got to give. Certainly for me, one little thing I had to give I've gotten back in spades just from that one thing. And you know, you guys, you talked about community. For me, at this point, I mean, yeah, it's community, but it's really *family*. That's the way I feel about it. That's the way I felt about it comin' up here today.

HAMILTON: Okay. Well, I just couldn't imagine when I moved to Flagstaff all those years ago... You know, I was looking for something meaningful to do, but I just didn't know what it was going to be, and it was such a miracle that I fell into this, and that you guys adopted me (laughs) into your family. And really, the issues have been so fascinating to work on, but really what it comes down to for me, what really matters the most is the people. I guess when you've been around long enough, you see that span of time. I feel like GCRG to me is almost like a living, breathing entity—like it has a personality, and it has little bits and pieces of all of you guys, as well as all the people that have come since. It makes me weepy. It's really so meaningful to me. What I've really loved doing is creating relationships and building trust and working with different entities, just trying to bring everybody together to a place where we can talk openly and work together effectively and get some things done. And the people that I work with over the years, all the presidents and the vice-presidents and the directors and all of our [AMWG] guys and our BQR people... I mean, it's just an astounding amount of talent. I'm so optimistic for the next 25 years, because you do see this legacy, and you see this continuity of passion and dedication. And that's what you guys came together to do in the beginning, is to... It was a bunch of dedicated guides that wanted to protect the Grand Canyon and do some good things and have a voice. And we've done that, and we continue to do that. I wasn't around then, but Bill Beer talked at the GTS all those years ago. He said, "Do not underestimate yourselves." And we never should, because the talent is here. It's an amazing, amazing community of such depth. I think there's so many more really good important things that are yet to be done. There will always be a need for this voice. I don't see that ever going away.

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\$18 Long-sleeved t-shirt size _____

\$12 Baseball cap

\$8 Insulated GCRG 20th Anniversary mug

*benefactors and patrons get a life membership, a silver split twig figurine pendant, and our undying gratitude.

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boatman's quarterly review

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More From The "Best Use Of" Category...

BEST USE OF STEEL WOOL

Photo by Rudi Petschek



BEST USE OF BACON GREASE

Photo by Rudi Petschek