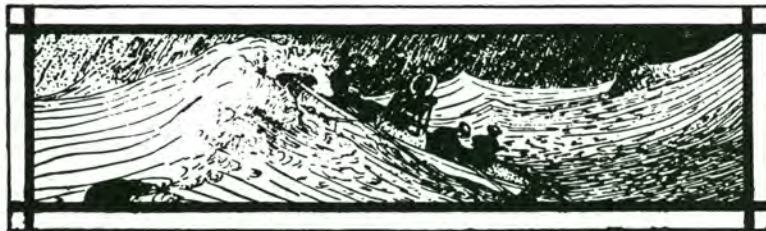


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Box 1

Grand Canyon River Guides

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FEBRUARY 1991

Lines in the Sand

On July 31, 1991, in the middle of this year's River season, the research flows will end. In the few months that follow, the scientists of Glen Canyon Environmental Studies will gather up a ton of data, analyse and reduce it, and come up with the technical report for the Glen Canyon Environmental Impact Statement. They have a massive job ahead of them. This science will give us many valuable facts, but we are wrong to expect that it will give us the values necessary to chart the future. Only we can determine what the Canyon will be and it's time we looked carefully at our role in the process.

Ten years have passed since public outcry over a BuRec proposal to increase peaking power operations at Glen Canyon Dam and our growing concern over the loss of the beaches in the Canyon set us on this road. It seems a good time to ask ourselves the multimillion dollar question: Are we better off today than we were 10 years ago? Sadly the answer to that question is no. The disastrous floods of 1983-86 flushed millions of tons of sand out of the Canyon forever, eroding high beaches which hadn't seen water for 20 years and, more importantly, scouring the volumes of sand stored in the River channel from beaches eroded in the 60's and 70's. It takes only one trip across the sand bars of upper Lake Mead to see evidence of that. We are not gaining ground. More importantly, we could be losing our focus on where we're headed.

Where are we going? How do we see the Grand Canyon 10 years down the road, what will the River be like in 2000? That is our responsibility. In a lot of ways the investigations of the past 10 years have muddied the waters as much as cleared the air. We now know so much about different parts of the River system that we are in danger of splintering into a dozen constituencies devoted to a dozen things. Is there one cause that can bring us together? Yes, I think so. Its time to draw our line in the sand.

We can save the beaches.

Beaches doesn't really describe it accurately, sediment is a better term, the total sediment in the system, above and below river level. Why choose sediment? Because we have spent a lot of nights spread out on the sand watching stars and satellites crawl across the dark sky overhead. Because it is the keystone of the whole riverine ecosystem, the base upon which all things rest. Because if the Colorado River is the heart of the Grand Canyon, its sediment is its blood.

For 10 million years the sediment of the Colorado River, too thick to drink, to thin to plow, has kept this natural wonder in equilibrium. The construction of Glen Canyon Dam will change the River corridor for the next 800 years, that's a certainty. But most of the processes that existed before the dam still exist today. Plant and animal communities evolve and flour-



Tom Brownold Photo

Georgie's 80th - Hatchland - November 10, 1990

ish. The rules have changed but the game continues to be played. Not so with the sedimentary process. That process is out of balance, the River's ability to erode continues but its ability to redeposit is seriously damaged. What is left now to build new beaches, to deposit substrate for the riparian vegetation, deliver the nutrients to the marsh systems? What will re-shape and tailor our frequent flash-floods and debris flows, what will smooth out that really big rapid when it comes down? Nature gave the muddy Colorado those responsibilities and we can give them back.

Can it be done? It can if we decide it's important. Seventeen percent of the sediment that flowed through the Canyon predam is still contributed by the Paria and Little Colorado drainages. Knowledgeable hydrologists believe that, with limited changes to dam operations, the River could once again achieve sediment equilibrium, whereby the same amount of sediment will leave the system as enters it. There will be a balance between erosion and deposition. Careful dam operations can conserve sediment within the system which can then be redeposited by short, controlled floods above normal camping beach levels.

The many people connected with

the GCES have done a good job of telling us how the system works, how complex it is, what problems we face. We owe a debt of thanks to these men and women for the time, energy, and commitment they have given the Canyon. But the best studies in the world will not tell us what the Canyon should look like in the future. Science sets down the facts, it cannot establish values. The future of the Canyon is in the hands of its users, of you and me, and the people who go down the River, the folks who use the electricity, who drink the water, who fish at the Ferry, who live in LA... many of whom have never even seen the Canyon.

The Secretary of the Interior and our representatives in Congress will make the final, official decision, but we can have a say if we want it. The Grand Canyon Protection Act has been reintroduced in Congress, it needs our support. This summer GCRG will again organize a letter writing campaign for our passengers. You can make all the difference right there. Think about it, ask about it, be involved. The beaches are a critical element of the Grand Canyon, the world's grandest. Let's protect them.

It's time to draw our own line in the sand.

Tom Moody



This year's GTS will be a little different from the last two years. Instead of classroom sessions in Flagstaff or the South Rim and a river trip that few could participate in, this year we've opted to combine elements of both in a multi-day encampment at Marble Canyon, which will include slide and video presentations at Hatchland and field lectures at Lee's Ferry.

Why Marble? Why the Ferry? We get to be outside. We get to be close to the river and the Canyon. It's central to Utah and Flagstaff both, and potentially freer from distractions (and more fun) than Flag or the South Rim. It will take some commitment to get up there, but those who do go will get a better sense of community and continuity. There'll be flowers everywhere. The air will be sweet as all get out. It'll be cool.

We have several days of activities planned, including First Aid and CPR courses, interpretive hikes, panel discussions, campfire talks and storytelling. And, naturally, the spring GCRG meeting. Our primary goal this year is to provide useful information in a way that is interesting and comprehensible... i.e. good stuff in a form we can best pass along to our passengers.

The official camp out will be at the old Marble Canyon Lodge. We can sleep right there or further out, overlooking the river. GCRG will provide the food from dinner on Friday the 19th, through lunch on the river Tuesday the 23rd. Lectures and field work will include topics such as Anasazi material and culture, Hopi religion from the horse's mouth, debris flows, NPS updates and info, swiftwater rescue techniques, Stanton's Grand Canyon trip, big bones from old caves, conservation, the EIS, etc.

It's going to be a good GTS. What it's really about, as always, is kicking the season off right. Getting our ducks lined up professionally and politically, just because we can make it a kinder, gentler river if we do. Etc. We're all busy, but if you're gonna say you care and stuff, you just about have to show up for at least a part of this thing.

The 1991 GTS

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 17 - Red Cross Advanced First Aid refresher (Hatch warehouse) - you're on your own for camp.

Thursday, April 18 - part 2 of First Aid (Hatch warehouse).

Friday, April 19 - Red Cross CPR; GCRG Spring Meeting (Hatch warehouse); Dinner is on GCRG.

Saturday, April 20 - Lectures begin, and so does free food (Hatch warehouse); Camp that night at Marble.

Sunday, April 21 - Field Lectures (Paria beach, Spencer Trail, Lonely Dell, etc.) Camp at Marble.

Monday, April 22 - Field Lectures continue; Camp at Marble for the last night, after this you're on your own.

Tuesday, April 23 - Tour of Glen Canyon Dam; float trip back to Ferry; lectures on the boat.

Thursday, April 25 - Red Cross Advanced First Aid: Full course (Hatch Warehouse).

Friday, April 26 - Part 2 Advanced First Aid (Hatchland).

Saturday, April 27 - Part 3 First Aid (Hatchland).

Sunday, April 28 - Red Cross CPR (Hatch). Those wanting First Aid or CPR must pre-register by sending a \$10 check made out to the American Red Cross along with an index card listing your name, address, and WHICH courses you're interested in to: Patty Ellwanger, HC 67, Box 32, Marble Canyon, AZ 86036 (602-355-2241). If you need certification, do that right NOW.

April 14 thru 16- Worldwide Explorations' Rescue 3 is offering a swiftwater rescue class at Lee's Ferry. Good for national certification. \$170.00 a head. \$50.00 registration, sign up A.S.A.P. Bring a wetsuit or a drysuit for the water portion. Call 774-6462 for info.

Over the years, we have won and lost battles to protect free flowing rivers from flooding by dams such as Glen Canyon. Now we are involved in one of our first major struggles to require the Bureau of Reclamation to address the downstream impacts of one of its dams.

The bad news is that while damage to the Colorado River's beaches and trout fishery appears to be accelerating, the Glen Canyon Dam Operations E.I.S., under the leadership of the Bureau of Reclamation, continues to sputter along in fits and starts. The good news is that the Grand Canyon Protection Act was reintroduced on January 14, 1991 and Congress continues to question the Administration's handling of the E.I.S.

Here's "the latest" to bring you up to date, and a plea to write a letter or two to your Congressman and Senators.

Rob Elliott sent this article, which he wrote for America Outdoors- a new nationwide outfitter's association. We liked it so well, we decided to just plagiarize big chunks of it for you.

The GCD EIS:

Scoping hearings were held at six cities in the west plus Washington D.C. March 12 through May 4, 1990. The Bureau of Reclamation received 17,000 written comments, reflecting intense public interest on the downstream impacts of the operation of Glen Canyon Dam.

The EIS team (made up of representatives of several cooperating agencies) has been working on developing alternatives for about four months and plans on releasing the alternatives to the public at the end of February this year. Field research will be completed at the end of July, 1991; the Draft EIS is expected to be available mid-1992, and the final EIS by the end of 1993.

Until recently, the EIS has stumbled: in part through lack of a clear statement of objectives for the EIS process and partly because of disagreement between the cooperating agencies over the relative priorities. Although the primary objective is to evaluate the impacts of current and alternative dam operations on the downstream environmental and ecological resources of Grand Canyon National Park, hydroelectric power generation is included as one of "the resources affected by the dam."

What's wrong with this picture? The purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act is to protect the environment, not power. In that hydroelectric power is one of the identified resource values, alternatives are being studied to maximize power production along side other alternatives to minimize environmental impacts. Again- given the generating capacity of the overall western grid vs real de-

mand for power, and the unique character of the Grand Canyon -what's wrong with this picture?

We have received word that the EIS will evaluate 10 alternatives. Aside from the "no change" alternative, it appears all of the others include both flow options that could release up to 33,000 cfs, and structural elements. Structural elements exceed changes in how the dam is operated and can include any structural change from stabilizing beaches with natural materials up to a reregulation dam. This is not exactly the full range of environmentally sensitive alternatives.

The Bureau of Reclamation told us in a presentation at CONFLUENCE '90 that they have paid considerable attention to Congressional intent with respect to interim flows (less damaging flows through the end of the EIS process). In Congressional testimony last year Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan made a commitment to implement interim flows within 90 days of the end of field research (July 31, 1991).

The Bureau of Reclamation also told us in Albuquerque that the future of the agency is undergoing change. The mission of the Bureau is evolving from a construction agency to a resource management agency, we were told. And it's true, there is some great talent in the agency to facilitate the move in this direction.

These kinds of statements are attractive to us and we want to do everything possible to support the Bureau of Reclamation in embracing their new mission.

Time will tell if it's rhetoric or reality.

The Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1991:

All of us who have worked on the Grand Canyon Protection Act were very disappointed that it failed to pass in the waning hours of the Congressional session last October. It actually passed both the Senate and the House, but then became embroiled in a larger controversy over reclamation law. The bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to (1) operate Glen Canyon Dam in a manner which protects downstream resources; (2) implement interim operating criteria and releases from the dam while the Bureau of Reclamation prepares the EIS; and (3) establish a long term research and monitoring program on the impact of Glen Canyon Dam operations.

The Act is needed now more than ever. Beach degradation in 1990 accelerated at an alarming rate due to two possible reasons: (1) the research flows themselves may have been very damaging, and (2) the beaches have been washed clean so many hundreds of times by fluctuating flows that silt matrices no longer exist to hold the grains together and the beaches are more vulnerable to erosion than ever before.

The other reason the Act is needed now more than ever involves the policy decision at the end of the EIS. At that point the Secretary makes a decision on which alternative to implement, but as it stands, the objectives of the EIS are so broad, the Secretary is left with little direction, and his decision is further confused by conflicting missions of the Interior Agencies involved.

The heart of the Grand Canyon Protection Act fills one simple purpose: it clarifies once and for all the values for which the operations of Glen Canyon Dam will be managed.

You can help :

January 14, 1991 Senator McCain reintroduced the Act in Congress as Senate Bill S-144. Along with a coalition of environmental and fishing groups, we will be working to secure its prompt passage.

First, write a brief letter to your Representative and Senators asking them to co-sponsor and support the Act. These letters make a difference, particularly when written by people who have been through the Grand Canyon. We need a new volley of letters now to assure the speedy passage of the Act early in this session of Congress.

Please mention in your letter that new Congressional hearings are needed, so critical questions can be asked of the Bureau of Reclamation as to the progress and direction of the EIS. Please send copies of your letters to Senator Bill Bradley and Congressman George Miller, Chairmen of the committees which will hold the hearings.

Grand Canyon Trust Offers Memberships

It has always been the policy of Grand Canyon River Guides not to offer our membership lists to any other organization, even those we work closely with. We feel you the members appreciate that courtesy. Recently Grand Canyon Trust asked us to offer memberships in their organization to all members of GCRG. The Trust is a regional conservation organization which is concerned with protection for the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau. We have worked closely with them on a number of issues and urge our members to take them up on this offer. To sign up just check the appropriate box on the master mail blank in this newsletter. Cut it out, stick it in an envelope, and mail it to GCRG.

The CRMP Constituency Panel

It was the first meeting of the Colorado River Management Plan Constituency Panel, a long old title but a dang good idea.

Les and Denice and I were there for our team. The panel also included representatives from the outfitters, private users, the Grand Canyon Trust, and a group called "America Outdoors" (a new national river outfitters association which marries what was once W.R.G.A. with E.P.R.O.).

First on the agenda was a report from Resource Management's Linda Jalbert on her "Contacts and Crowding" survey. Her results indicated that the number of contacts exceeded the LAC (Level of Acceptable Change) included in the present CRMP. The point was made that extra GCES trips were definitely a contributing factor in 1990, and the reliability of the studies upon which the LAC was based was also questioned. The bottom line, though, is it is still pretty darned crowded down there sometimes, so what do we do about it? Anybody out there got any ideas? Send em to us please. (The best one we've heard so far is to lengthen the shortest trips in order to give guides more flexibility with which to space ourselves out.)

Also from Resource Management, Jan Balsom gave us a report on the current state of archeology in the Canyon and Kim Crumbo reported on his efforts to mitigate the human impact on beaches and trails. They have accomplished an awful lot, and GCRG and the Canyon sure do appreciate their efforts.

The conversation then went to shit... or should I say human waste carry out? The Park wants to get away from the current system (plastic bags and ammo cans) and require a holding tank system which can be emptied into sewage disposal facilities. Why? you ask. When the present system works so well? Mainly because of concern over new EPA regulations regarding human waste in landfill dumps. I pointed out that no holding tank system which doesn't require additional water is available commercially, and the present system works so well that it's worth at least exhausting the possibilities of how to deal with the end product in a safe and legal manner. The GCRG excrement committee (Stoner and Grua) is working on a solution. Got any ideas? Pugh!

Next subject was private trips and how the NPS is working to help them use all their allocation.

The new alcohol and Drug Policy was presented, heavily amended from

Below is the latest draft of the NPS Alcohol policy. It now places the responsibility for such a policy in the outfitter's and guide's hands and adopts a standard similar to the Coast Guard guidelines for determining intoxication levels.

draft, 12-20-90: Colorado River Management Plan
Commercial Operating Requirements Appendix C Section III D
D. Use of Alcohol and Controlled Substances by Employees While Engaged on River Trips

Every River Company must issue a company policy related to the use of alcohol and drugs by employees. Such policy must at a minimum include the following standards:

- Any employee assigned duties while transporting clients on the river shall not drink any alcoholic beverage during such transport.
- No employees shall operate a boat or serve as a crew member while under the influence of alcohol.
- The use of drugs or other controlled substances is prohibited at all times. Legal non-prescription or prescription drugs may be consumed as long as the drug does not cause the individual to be intoxicated.
- Consumption of alcohol by company employees upon establishment of a camp must be moderate and to the extent employees can satisfactorily perform their camp duties and provide proper direction and service to the clients in camp.

Nothing shall limit commercial river companies from establishing or enforcing a more stringent policy.

the first draft. (see box)

There were a few minutes left for other business and we brought up concerns such as the need to continually examine and modify regulations to reflect changing conditions, and the need for more campsites in critical areas of the Canyon.

The long and short of it all is, we thought this panel was a great idea, and we were tickled to be there.

Here's to Superintendent Davis for making it happen.

Kenton (the Factor) Grua

Concession Evaluations

There have been more than a few bad feelings and misunderstandings on the river over the concessions evaluations carried out by the River Sub-district. It doesn't have to be that way, and it is in everyone's best interest that we work together to make this procedure as positive and painless as possible.

We spoke at length with Bruce Wadlington and Ginger Bice of the NPS Concessions office recently, and they contributed much toward what will hopefully be a better understanding of the system in the future.

The evaluations, they said, are part of a standard procedure required of all NPS concessioners and do not necessarily reflect badly on the job that is being done on the River. In fact, according to Bruce, the river outfitters score consistently higher than the vast majority of Rim Concessioners (see score box).

Part of the conflict in the past has been over the meaning and importance of these scores. Apparently a 3 is still in the satisfactory range by NPS guidelines, while to many of us a 3 is 60% and barely a passing grade. (We guides are a proud lot, and given the difficult and complex job we do on the river, we sometimes have a problem with the possibility that any-

thing we do might be less than perfect.)

The rest of the story, though, is that the most common complaint last summer centered on the perception of undue emphasis toward the negative in too many NPS contacts on the river.

The bottom line is, commercial guides and the Park Service alike have a common mission: protecting the Canyon, and taking care of the visitor. And every time we get caught up in an unnecessary or unproductive conflict with each other, we're shirking that responsibility, because the "Grand Canyon experience" suffers accordingly, and it's the visitor who comes up a loser.

*From: Ginger Bice,
NPS Concessions Specialist*

Evaluations are scored on a scale of 1-5. 5 is the highest score and indicates no major deficiencies exist. Scores of 5, 4, and 3 are all satisfactory ratings, with scores of 4 and 3 indicating some attention is needed to improve operations. Scores of 2 and 1 are considered unsatisfactory and indicate serious deficiencies exist. When deficiencies are identified each operator has a reasonable period of time in which to correct the problem, normally 15 days. In 1990 there were no overall annual ratings of unsatisfactory for any concessioner.

Concessions evaluations are not law enforcement contacts and should not be viewed in the same context. There are times when law enforcement issues may be reflected in the evaluation program as an indication of performance. Law enforcement actions are not normally part of the evaluation. The remote nature of the river corridor dictates that the River Sub-district staff is responsible for on-site evaluations and for law enforcement. The two functions of the Rangers should not be confused, one with the other.

If we can answer any questions please write or call us.

Total 1990
Evaluations: 65

pre-season
evaluations: 20
(no scores given)

Evaluations
scored:

Score:	No.
5	42
4	0
3	3
2.....	0
1	0

WE COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT

She talks about swimming the river those first times, with Harry Ale-son back in the 40's. Didn't have a boat and didn't care, just went anyway. Took an empty malt can to carry their food in - some powdered soup, instant coffee, a bag of hard candy. They hiked upstream from Diamond Creek as far as they could, then turned around and jumped in; ran the whole lower gorge in BIG water, chock full of silt. The soup and the matches got wet immediately and all they had then was cold coffee and the candy.

Her big boat, to this day she could run that across the ocean, she says. "I'm positive it'd go right across if you could keep in gas." She nods earnestly and laughs. "It'd take some people to hold on, though. They'd have to be able to hang on. And they'd have to have the heart for it."

She laughs again, like a twelve year old girl this time. And looks clear through you with those sky blue eyes of hers. "It could be done though," she says, still nodding. "That's for sure."

We threw a little bash for her this fall, compliments mainly of Ted Hatch and crew. No good reason, except it was Georgie's 80th birthday and the time was right. It seemed like a good time for all of us to come together and pay tribute or something. To whatever. Forty year's history... our friends. To a leopard skin bathing suit and a hard hat.

Georgie was on a roll that weekend. "I think it's good different things do still occur," she said at one point. "Because people are so well spoiled today. In the old days nobody ran the river, only a couple of adventurers that you never hardly saw. It was rough, and it was tough. There was no way out and no other boats or helicopters or anything like that. On our boat we were dependent on one another and right there, whether it's rocks or punctures or anything, that's what you got and how you're gonna get out. It's up to you to get through."

Not everybody made it to the par-

ty, damnit. But it would be shorter to list the absentees than tell who did come. People just kept coming, really, by the hundreds, and the Hatch warehouse got too full, and the place went nuts before it was over. Brian Dierker (dressed in a leopard skin leotard) jumped out of a triple-rig cake and carried Georgie off finally. They hopped in a Cadillac convertible and sped away into the night and didn't come back.

Some of us got kinda worried.

There was no stopping that party, though. The music kept going and people were dancing up a storm and suddenly there were fireworks, big ones, and everybody spilled outside to watch them.

It was a clear night sky and the stars were shining and you could see way out there. Way, way out there. Clear past the Milky Way. And the fireworks were huge, the biggest. They kept going too, one after another: bright showers of color that lit up the cliffs on either side. You could've seen the spectacle from miles away... from the Echo Cliffs and the Paria Plateau, the Kaibab Monocline. Saddle Mountain, the road-cut up to Page, the Navajo Bridge.

"The Canyon's good for people," Georgie says. "They got to learn you know, it isn't everything just to earn so much money all the time and to keep wanting to climb the ladder up no matter who they step on. In the Canyon, it's the person themself that counts. So if you're the president or the ditch-digger, I don't care. And nobody else does either. Not while you're out here. After all's said and done, it's mainly how you got along and this type of thing. With each other."

Yeah. Well, nobody was having much trouble with that one right then anyway. We were getting along pretty darn good at the time, all things considered. Take away the usual quota of broken hearts and minor lifetime grudges, the only real problem at the moment was, we'd lost our guest of honor. That Cadillac had flat pulled out.

The fireworks got bigger. (Except that every time there was the faintest lull, Brad Dimock would shut his eyes and let fly these little popcorn fart bottle rockets. So if you'd been listening from Bitter Springs or maybe Cedar Ridge you'd have heard it like this: BOOM, BA-BOOOOM, BA-BA-BLAM, sssss... pop. WHAM, CRASH, pop. Only much smaller of course, with an echo.

"My first Grand Canyon trip was about 1970," Bart Henderson said. He'd flown in from Alaska just for this party. Like Bob Whitney from New York and Dave Shore from San Francisco, and Don Briggs from there too. People from all over. "I rolled into Marble Canyon at the tail end of the season when Hatch was still at the Bat Caves and in the first fifteen minutes I met the whole crew," Bart said. "Steve Bledsoe and his brother Dave, Pete Reznick, Pat Conley, Tim Means. Bryce was there, and Whale... all these people that are still here in one way or another. Still in the business."

Boom. pop. Bang.

And yeah everything changes. But one of the coolest things that night was you could say the same for the business as a whole. For more people and more river companies than you could shake a stick at, or ever name in one sitting. In one way or another, they were still here.

"Georgie? Well, she was one of the first to start taking people through the Grand Canyon," Ellen Tibbetts said. "So they could see it."

"She's the essence of what a guide should be," Brian had said earlier. "As far as opening their soul to a client. You know, everybody always has their own protective agents when it comes to how they guide, certain walls they put up between them and the people they take down the river. But... I don't think Georgie has those walls. She's a friend to everybody on that boat. And if you've been around her and appreciate those values, it really shapes your own sense of how you ought to do the job."

"It's about the people," Ellen said.

"If you're going to do it professionally

I mean."

"I'm not sure I remember when I first saw her," Fritz said. "She's just always been there, and you've always heard stories about her. ...I sure enjoy seeing her every time she goes by, though. Letting the folks know who she is, and telling them a raft of stories about her."

Fritz shook her head and smiled, thinking about how big the story really is. "Trying to explain to 'em how lucky they are to get to see her down there."

"Georgie fell in love with the place and saw it's potential," Dan Dierker growled. "I don't think she originally just looked at it as a commercial venture. I think she's always felt the more people you take down there the better mankind is. Because it's a place that enriches humanity at large. You know, as long as you don't get 'em all down there at the same time of course... But essentially we're honoring this lady because we're all kind of her progeny. And hey, she's still down there isn't she? She still thinks it's the best place in the world. And if you ask me, she's right."

Finally, about five minutes after the last firecracker was spent, the Caddy came rumbling on back and we found out where Georgie and what's his name had got off to. (That one boy," Georgie calls Brian, shaking her head. "The big one.") Turns out their chauffeur, Nathan, had sailed that old boat on up the highway to a point on an overlook. And there they sat, under the clear night sky with all that space around them, all those fireworks above. A couple of the wild ones, both in leopard skins that night. And they had a cold one. Cold Coors beer- Georgie's favorite. And right there, they drank a toast to it all. Or maybe two.

After all, it was a lot they were toasting.

"Home," Bart said the next day just before he left. "All those people, they were coming home."

Lew Steiger

GEORGIE'S PHOTO

GCRG is making 11"x14" prints of Tom Brownold's group portrait (see page 2) available at cost plus postage. The cost is only \$13. All orders must be recieved by GCRG no later than March 10, 1991. We will order prints at that time. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Fill out the order form in this newsetter.

Letters to the Guides

The Brushfire

(from Andre Potochnik who lead this trip for GCD)

I guess when we saw Bego shoot those fireworks off at Stone Creek for that fellow's birthday last July, none of us had any idea we would still be dealing with it today. Sometimes an event takes on a significance and magnitude of its own that far exceeds its immediate effects. Bego didn't burn down the Canyon that night, but he sure started a fire. When he admitted guilt and paid his fine at Pearce Ferry, we figured it was a done deal; a mistake, not to be repeated. The fire smoldered for awhile, then suddenly, six weeks later, erupted out of control. It ended up burning more than Bego's toes.

Suddenly, out of the blue, Bego was, for obscure reasons, banished from the river for two years; he was now, in the eyes of the Park, a nefarious character with a long-held bad attitude that needed correcting. That didn't sit right with Kenton and me. We had worked with him for some 15 years and felt something had gone awry. We civilly filed our objections with Superintendent Jack Davis. We readied ourselves for a protracted battle. It became an issue; one vigorously discussed at the GCRG fall meeting.

We felt that direct communication with the Superintendent's office would be the most effective way to resolve this situation-out-of-balance. We hoped to beat a fireline around the conflagration, sit down, take a deep breath, and talk about it like civilians in a civilized society. We expected, through level-headed communication, to put things in proper perspective.

It actually seems to be working. We didn't find faceless bureaucrats behind towering stone walls taking potshots at people's lives with paper airplanes. We didn't find glowering officers in dark glasses and starched uniforms with giant pistols gleaming from their belts. Instead, we found Jack Davis a most accessible man; one quite willing to listen to our views

through phone, written, and personal conversation; one willing to seek reality and make judgements accordingly; one willing to believe and respect a guide's personal commitment to Grand Canyon and the people we serve. As I write this, Bego awaits a promised letter from Superintendent Davis, as do I. We hope that the administrative action levied against Bego will be either dropped or softened to something more positive, like service work in Grand Canyon. Banishment is too severe. We believe that this situation, which has created some hard feelings, is being turned around through everyone's efforts. I am optimistic that this signals a positive course in Guide-Park relations.

Waste Incinerator

(from Neal Ekker who lives in Kanab and works for GCE)

Recently the Kaibab Paiute Tribe agreed to negotiate with Waste Tech Services, Inc. concerning the location of a hazardous waste incinerator on reservation land. Waste Tech hopes to burn 100,000 tons of hazardous waste a year at their proposed facility. EPA regulations would allow the incinerator to emit 4,000 pounds of chemical and particulate pollution a day. A 100 acre hazardous waste landfill will be sited near the incinerator. The facility may be located near Kanab Creek only 25 miles from the northern boundary of Grand Canyon National Park. The commercial Grand Canyon boating community should be aware this incinerator will affect air quality in Grand Canyon, and any hazardous waste spills at the facility or leaks from the landfill could leach into Kanab Creek and thus into the Colorado River. Waste Tech's EIS and permitting process has begun. Contact Grand Canyon Alliance Against Incineration, Box 986, Kanab, Utah 84741 or 801-644-5470 for more detailed information on how to become involved."





Baja

From: Glenn Neumann
Baja Expeditions
2625 Garnet Ave
San Diego, CA 92109
619-581-3311

I'm looking for twelve to twenty professional guides who can handle a big crowd for several very hot days. On July 11, 1991, there will be a total eclipse of the sun visible from southern Baja California. It will be the longest total eclipse in our lifetime, lasting nearly 7 minutes.

Baja Expeditions, Inc. is organizing two beach camps to accommodate the anticipated crowds. Obviously, we will need some experienced personnel to help with everything from setting up the camps beforehand, interpretation and entertainment and crowd control during, and general cleanup and removal of facilities after the event.

I know that midsummer is a busy time for Grand Canyon guides. However this may be an opportunity for a few of them to take a mid-season break and to make new contacts in Baja California with an eye toward winter work. Baja Expeditions runs sea kayaking and mountain biking trips from October through April each year, and occasionally needs guides with experience in those activities, and fluency in Spanish.

Anyone interested in more information should write me a short letter that details his or her experience and general interests. Basic first aid skills are expected; and a general knowledge of Baja California and astronomy is encouraged. An ability to speak Spanish would be helpful.

Bio-Bio

...Eric Leaper (of the National Organization for River Sports) has just returned from Santiago Chile. He reports that your efforts are being felt. Word is getting through. ...Most of the ministers Eric met with and President Aylwin's office were keenly aware of the issue. They showed concern for the Bio-Bio.

...Good news from all fronts, the best coming from the private power company (Endesa) which is planning to dam the river. Water will not be diverted until the spring of 1993-94, and probably later... During the upcoming river season a record number of people will visit the region and now is the time to strengthen the effort. Continue to write to President Aylwin, his office is making note of letters and forwarding them. Be sure and contact the ministry of tourism too.

Please forward copies of letters to the Action Committee and contact us if you need further information, addresses, petitions, etc. Keep up the effort, be sure and ask for a reply.

Write to:
Patricio Aylwin, President of Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile
Telefono: 714103, 717054

We are in need of help with mailing and direct lobbying.

Contact:
Gary Lemmer
Bio-Bio Action Committee
P.O. Box 1303
Angels Camp, CA, 95222
(209) 736-4818



THE WAPA EIS

God bless democracy. Along with the Glen Canyon Dam EIS, there is a separate EIS being done by the Western Area Power Administration too. GCRG Director Drifter Smith has been keeping tabs on that process and testified during WAPA's recent scoping session. Part of what he said was:

"The downstream effects of Glen Canyon Dam have been scrutinized since 1983, first during the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies, and currently under the auspices of the GC EIS Study Team.

"While site-specific studies of the other dams may be lacking, we believe it is reasonable to infer that similar effects can be found wherever fluctuating flows exist, and that they exist in proportion to the magnitude and frequency of these fluctuating flows.

"Since WAPA markets power from a number of dams on the rivers of the Colorado Plateau, we believe its marketing criteria may have a much greater overall impact on the limited riparian resources of the Colorado Plateau than is currently recognized...

"According to WAPA's EIS Information Packet: 'Western's primary resource base is hydropower generation', which allows it to 'offer its consumers the best of all possible worlds; i.e. both baseload and peaking power.' We submit that marketing criteria which result in enormous hourly and daily discharge variations at Glen Canyon Dam- and the consequential negative environmental impacts downstream-are NOT providing WAPA consumers with 'the best of all worlds'. They are instead being provided with cheap power at the cost of unnecessary and undesirable destruction of irreplaceable resources downstream.

"We believe the environmental impacts of marketing criteria can be properly identified only by comparison with a base-line scenario in which NO hydropower is being generated. I.E. How would dams be operated in the absence of any power delivery contracts?

"An Environmental Impact Statement which ASSUMES THE CURRENT LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AS A BASELINE FOR COMPARISON is inadequate. It will not satisfy the legal requirements of the Environmental Protection Act, or meet the requirements of the court order under which this EIS is being prepared.

"WAPA's customers pay no premium for hydroelectric energy during peak demand periods. This encourages the use of electricity in a manner that aggravates the impacts of hydroelectric generation.

"The current approach seems to be 'We'll provide the power, you worry about the conservation.

"But if the price of hydroelectric energy went up when demand went up, and down when demand went down, as it does for virtually everything else, market forces would act to help even out fluctuations in demand and encourage conservation during times of higher energy use."

Thanks to Drifter for taking the time. The comment period for this EIS has been closed, but its results will bear watching, and we'll keep you posted. What happens here may be as important as the GC EIS itself.

The question at hand remains the same. What's most important? That we maximize the operation of Glen Canyon Dam? Or that we try to manage the Grand Canyon as best we can?

Thank You, Tides Foundation

The Grand Canyon Fund for River Conservation of the Tides Foundation, gave us \$1500 this year. \$500 for the GTS, the rest for printing costs. Thanks again, to the outfitters and all who have contributed to that fund.

Energy: The Big Picture

Energy conservation has already become an issue we're all going to have to quit paying lip service to and get serious about real soon. Indirectly or not, we're fighting a war over oil right now. And prospects for the future aren't apt to get better by themselves. As long as we depend on the centralized forms of energy production we take so much for granted today, we'll continue to strip mine, to pollute the air, generate nuclear waste, and dam our rivers, or scour those already dammed.

In the past century, we've used every non-renewable resource around like it was going out of style. And until we re-examine our own priorities and begin to look more toward renewable energy, we're going to continue to head for an extremely unpleasant future; one in which the question of whether we'll have a riparian zone in the Grand Canyon or not may well end up one of our lesser worries.

Meanwhile, here in the desert southwest, the sun continues to come up every single day, just like it always has. And our own entrenched energy brokers continue to pay homage to wrong turns taken twenty and thirty years ago, all the while telling us that solar power doesn't work.

"It's not viable yet."

"Solar doesn't work," says an old solar pioneer. "Until big business can get a meter between you and the sun, they're going to tell you it won't work. It's not ready yet. Because that's what energy is you know, it's BIG business."

And the heck of it is, he's right.

But here we are in Arizona, of all places, and we're losing one of the world's best Parks to the ravages of peaking power from Glen Canyon Dam, and air pollu-

tion from L.A. and the Navajo Power Plant. We're sitting right on top of America's biggest nuclear reactor and its waste. And every day, the sun still comes up. Our utility companies tell us we can't live without peaking power or Palo Verde. But what if half the houses in Phoenix or Salt Lake or Tucson had solar panels on their rooftops? What if we had a few solar-thermal plants salted here and there on the outskirts of town? (Which by the way produce maximum power during peak demand times anyway.)

De-centralized power and self-reliance. Clean, renewable energy from right there on your own rooftop. It's a fantasy that can only begin from the ground up. The status quo will never buy into it, and neither will any government we're apt to elect soon. There is a short term cost to the individual, but here in the desert, solar energy works. Today. And the long term gain, for each of us to just buck up and start making the move on our own right now, might well be one we can't afford to overlook.

L.S.



Board of Directors Election

Yahoo! It's time we got some new blood in here. We'll elect a new Board of Directors at the next spring meeting. So if you can't be there, send in that nomination. Of course, if you're not there, you're might just get nominated yourself....

Being a Boatman

These boatmen.....
Bright, handsome,
talented young
men with many
skills, equally
adept at river run-
ning, cooking, rock
climbing, glacier
trekking, search
and rescue, fishing,
hunting, skiing,
guitar, harmonica,
song. true out-
doorsmen, who not
only know but love
the out-of-doors.
And indeed, how
could you know it
unless you loved
it?

Edward Abbey
"Down the River"

Twenty three years ago my mom dragged me down the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. I was lucky to go and I was never the same again. Neither are you or you would not be reading this or involved in this organization. It's simple to say I fell in love with the Canyon; simple and true. But more than that, I fell in love with the job of showing it to others.

At first it wasn't really a profession, it was a summer job while we waited to grow up. After a few years it became evident to lots of us that we weren't going to grow up in the usual sense of the word. Instead we stuck to the River, learning more about the Canyon, and getting better at our job. The river industry grew up around us, and one day when we looked around, we saw we had more than a job, we had a profession. Our fellow guides weren't all ski bums or on unemployment all winter. They were, they are, college graduates, and entrepreneurs with their own businesses, writers and photographers, teachers and professionals. Most could do lots of other things that would pay much better, but they have one thing in common, they are in love with showing the Canyon to others.

They find they know lots about the Canyon and can interpret it better than most of the experts. They know human dynamics, the skills of molding a group of diverse individuals into a small community that shares what to many is the best experience of their lives. They can do the regular things too; like run rapids, patch boats, pack food, put up the porto, lead hikes to special places, cook some decent meals, generally entertain, and come up with a good story when needed. Some have taken first aid and CPR so many times they could rewrite the book. They can start out at 5 AM to get the coffee going, cook breakfast, pack the boats, run rapids, lead hikes, have a great time all day, camp and make dinner, and still show the last client up how really bright Jupiter is in the clear desert sky before shutting down for the night.

They can relate to and befriend a wide range of people from a variety of backgrounds. And they discover they have a message to deliver, they are teachers too. They teach people what it is like to slow down, to look around and appreciate the natural world around them. That life without phone and TV is okay, that challenging yourself was satisfying, that one can share a very personal experience with a group of strangers-turned-friends and never get beyond first names.

And they teach geology, ecology, biology, and history of the Grand Canyon. Most importantly they teach the importance of taking care of a very special place and what that means to the rest of the world. By word and deed, they show the importance of picking up every scrap of paper, carrying out the waste, recycling the cans, walking softly to protect the crytogam and desert vegetation, and just plain caring.

I'm proud to be part of the community of commercial guides, they're the finest people I know. They've got a big and important job to do, and they do it well. They have a good time, I hope they always do. Because when the fun goes out of this river business there won't be much left in it for anybody. Keep up the good work.

Tom Moody

GCRG Finances

	4th Qtr 1990	Year to date
Begin Balance	\$3303.18	\$1030.10
Net Income	6229.00	9749.00
Total Expenses	(3639.92)	(4386,84)
Decrease Liability		(500)
Ending Cash	\$5892.26	\$5892.26

As agreed on at the fall meeting, GCRG is giving the 1st Annual Michael Jacobs Award for outstanding contributions to river running in Grand Canyon. We received 5 nominations for the award. These are to be voted on by the Guide members of GCRG. The recipient will be given the Award at the April 19, 1991 Spring GCRG meeting at Hatchland. The following brief biographical sketches don't do any of our nominees justice, but space doesn't allow for much justice. Their names and faces should be familiar to most guides. If not, ask a friend.

Nominees:

Don Briggs: Writer, photographer, filmmaker, and boatman, Don was an early ARTA guide. His film River Song and a new one on the mule ride to Phantom Ranch are Grand Canyon classics.

Kim Crumbo: A longtime guide, Kim worked for the NPS River Unit in the late '70s and early '80s. He now works in Resource Management on the South Rim and is author of "A River Runner's Guide to the History of the Grand Canyon".

Larry Stevens: Long time guide with a PhD in Grand Canyon Ecology and author of the "Steven's River Guide", Larry is presently the chief scientist in the Flagstaff office of Glen Canyon Environmental Studies.

Dave Wegner: Dave has served as the guiding force behind the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies since their inception in 1982.

Tom Workman: Don't tell us you don't know Tom Workman. It might be called Workman's Ferry if Lee hadn't been there first. Tom became the Lee's Ferry ranger just after Powell's second trip, and has been helping people get their acts together and head downriver ever since.

Michael Jacobs Award

Join GCRG today....
Its worth it.

Mail now before you forget



----- cut here -----

Mail to: Grand Canyon River Guides P.O. Box 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Make me a:

Guide member \$20/yr _____

(must have worked one paid commercial trip)

General member \$20/yr _____

(must be in love with the Canyon, easy enough)

I have to have _____ of Georgie's Photos (11"x14" B&W)..@ \$13 _____

deadline: March 10, 1991

Total Enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Michael Jacobs Award

Don Briggs:

Kim Crumbo:

Larry Stevens:

Dave Wegner:

Tom Workman:

Guide members
vote for one only

Grand Canyon River Guides is a not for profit organization dedicated to the following goals:

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

Officers:

Tom Moody, *President*
Dan Dierker, *Vice president*
Bob Melville, *Sec/Tres.*

Directors:

Kenton Grua
Les Hibbert
Dave Edwards
Jon Stoner
Lew Steiger
Drifter Smith
Jeri Ledbetter,
Membership Director

GCRG Logo Contest

We need a good logo, by golly. Something evocative to go on t-shirts, stickers, business cards, etc. So here's this contest, and these are the guidelines: It'll have to be one color; something bold, can't have too much detail; xerox copies are ok, and you should send a large size, around 8"x8" or so. The lizard logo on the mailer page is a good example. We need this bad, so come on, don't hold back now. Just do it.

The deadline for submissions is April first. We'll pick the winner at the next GTS.

Grand Prize, aside from having your work immortalized, of course, is a genuine Hopi belt buckle with the new logo on it. Also the undying gratitude of everybody in the organization.

Next Newsletter

We need all kinds of stuff for the spring newsletter. Like: news, fiction, poetry, opinions, artwork, cartoons, gossip, humor. Everybody's invited and we don't mean maybe. So come on now, send it in. Deadline is March 21st.

Ad Department

To offset printing costs, we need you too. Ad space is \$50 a quarter page... cheap. Deadline for the spring issue is April 10th. Call 774-1178 for details, or send copy to P.O. Box 847 Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Grand Canyon River Guides



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