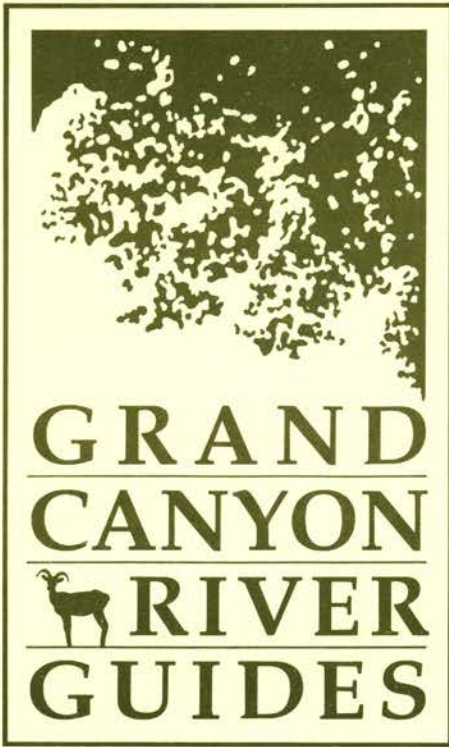


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- Protection Act Update
- On Saving Grand Canyon
- Lawyers, Guns and Money?
- GTS, Spring Meetings and 1st Aid
- The Secret Life of Cryptogam
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- Stairways
a poem

The News

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

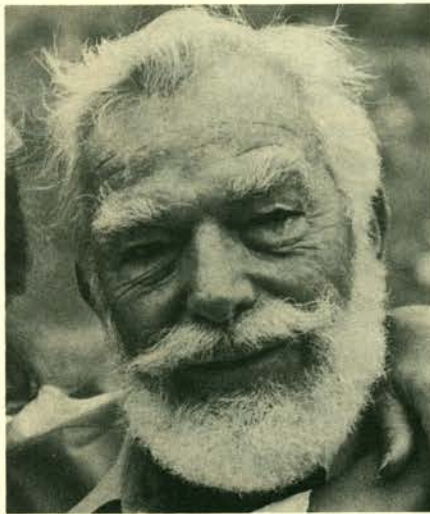
Michael Jacobs Award a Tie.

The second annual Michael Jacobs Award was presented to two outstanding boatmen: Tim Whitney and Martin Litton, selected in a tie vote by the guides.



'91 Jacobs Award winner Tom Workman with Tim Whitney

Tim, the epitome of "the boatman's boatman," has been floating around since the early seventies. His presence has always been professional and inspirational to new boatmen as well as the seasoned ones. He has put seemingly infinite energies into the guide training activities and efforts to protect the Grand Canyon. Congratulations Tim!



Martin Litton

D. Bremner

Martin has been in the Canyon longer than the sand and has been a major player in the environmental politics of the West. He is one of the main reasons we still have a river in Marble Canyon. Last year, at 74, he became the oldest person to have rowed through Grand Canyon. Well done!

Moving up to second boatman

Two decades ago I had my first encounter with the Colorado River. Like many of you there was someone who turned me on to it, a friend who worked here. I kept coming back, and haven't been quite the same since. In some ways it was the Canyon I needed, but I could see that on my feet. More than the Canyon itself it was the experience, the passengers, and especially the people I got to work for and with. It turned out to be a community, a bunch of special people sharing the same adventures and giving them to others.

GCRG, like much of life, can be compared to a river trip. In the past four years we've covered lots of ground and we've done a good job of it. There's a lot we can be proud of. We didn't set out to do "great things", we just set out to do things and they turned out great. It shouldn't really surprise us. It's just another river trip. Like the river, it's not perfection we're after, but participation and celebration. Get enough quality people headed in the same direction and good things happen.

It's been my pleasure to have worked with quite a few quality people in the past two years. You could say I was trip leader for a while and I had a bunch of good second boatmen. The Steigers, Gruas, Edwards, and Whitneys. The Fritzs, Sadlers, Hibberts, Stoners, and Dierkers. The Dimocks and Potochniks. These are just a few, I've left out as many as I included. With dozens of others we've created an organization that represents our community. Now I hand over the lead oar and motorhandle and become one hell of a good second boatman myself. Before I do let me put my two cents in on the direction of this outfit.

Its time to level off, to set our sights on taking care of our community. We're all volunteers and we have limited time and energy. Let's use them to take care of the Canyon and the people who ride down the river. Let's get as many of us involved as possible because it just plain more fun to do it that way. This organization isn't going to change the world, but the people in it damn well might. We'll change it the only way that really matters - one person at a time. Show people the Canyon and let it do its magic.

Ed Abbey once wrote, "...boatmen. If we were going to go to war again I can't think of any I'd rather have on my side. I mean, all of these good men and women. And if they were on the other side I'd join the other side." That about says it for me too. Thanks. I'll run sweep for a while.

Tom Moody

The Present Status of the GCPA

Congress lumbers on. The Senate finally passed its version of the Grand Canyon Protection Act as part of an omnibus bill; unfortunately with the non-reimbursability amendment tacked on. That means all costs for producing the EIS and operating the dam in a different manner will be born by the general taxpayer, instead of the people who actually use the power from Glen Canyon Dam. The version already passed by the House doesn't have that amendment. So now congress is in joint conference committee to work out their differences.

As you may know, the problem with the non-reimbursability amendment is that it puts one more burden on the federal budget - a very unpopular stance, especially in an election year. This makes the GCPA veto-bait for the Bush administration.

Passage of the bill is more urgent than ever: in March the Bureau of Reclamation, the lead agency in the Environmental Impact Study, *removed* the following phrase from the statement of intent of the EIS: "minimizing the impact to downstream environmental, cultural and Native American resources." What this means is that the EIS now has no direction whatsoever, and its benefit will be minimal at best. Because of the Bureau's heavy-handed approach to the EIS, the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife, the NPS, several tribes and a coalition of conservation organizations are requesting that the Secretary of the Interior remove the Bureau of Reclamation as lead agency in the Glen Canyon EIS process.

What to do? Write your congressmen and senators *one more time*. Specify how important it is that the joint committee remove the non-reimbursability amendment. State that those who benefit from inexpensive, federally-funded power projects such as Glen Canyon Dam should be obliged to pay for the costs of that power. Regardless, *the GCPA MUST pass*. Things *are* moving along, thanks in large part to your letters. But those letters are still needed, they are still important. We have to continue to make ourselves heard. Please write. And thanks.

Andre Potochnik



Cleaning Up

My boat was a pukish brown-green color, perfect for a garbage scow. It has always been my fantasy as a boatman to do a trip for the sole purpose of hauling garbage.

The goal for this year's GTS trip was to clean up the rim-accessible beaches in Marble Canyon from Lees Ferry to South Canyon, with five snout rigs provided by Moki Mac, PRO, and the National Park Service. Some of the more interesting pieces of garbage found were used pampers, a toy sheriff's truck, a crudely fashioned but effective whip, and a full jar of salsa. We left most of the garbage at the top of Badger Creek for Tom Workman to pick up. I kept the truck and the whip.

Upon pulling into camp at North Canyon, there was a disagreement with the Park about who should set up the shitter. Initially, Mark Law did not want to set up the Park's unit because the extra fecal matter from the guides would create a weight burden for whoever would have to set it up on the continuing Park Archaeology trip. Finally, it was decided that two portos would be necessary. In addition to accommodating the shitting capacity of all the guides and Park Service personnel, it provided the guides with the opportunity to experience first hand the future in human waste management. The most common comments in regards to the new park porto were "precarious," or "good view."

The next day we left camp bright and early around 9:00 or 9:30. After a fun morning of running the twenties and a botched but exciting attempt at surfing 24 mile rapid, we arrived at South Canyon where the hikers departed.

Later that day I sat parked under an overhang watching waterfalls cascading down across the river. The red buds were blooming bright purple, I had a beer, and I was dry. I wondered about the hikers. Kevin Chanler later told me the hike out was excellent, highlighted with car size boulders coming down and torrents of rain.

After the trip I spoke with Brian Dierker. He said this about GTS trips in general, "The Guides Training Trips increase the continuity between the Park Service and the Guides. It gives them the opportunity to get together and share their placement in the great corridor. All people alike have the chance to interact. It doesn't matter if you sport the uniform of the Green and Gray or a simple loin cloth, our jobs are the same. The Canyon is our country's greatest

jewel, and all of us Rangers and Guides alike are merely the custodians of this treasure's well being, and the guardians of its great future. Protect it at all cost; for us, our children, our children's children, and all who follow."

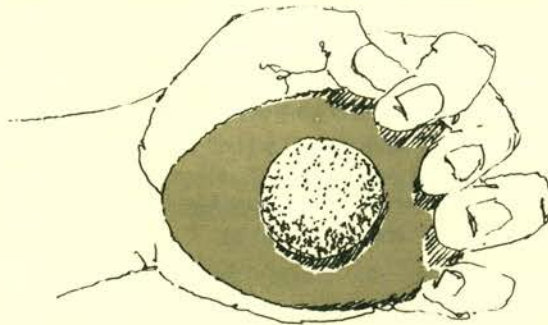
J. P. Running

Tricks of the Trade

Rudi Petschek offers this analogy:

The Earth as an avocado

"If your geology lecture starts with the structure of the Earth, a good time for it is when your avos start to ripen. I once started a geology lecture by holding an avocado so that the pointed end was hidden in my hand, exposing only the spherical part. I sliced through its equator and twisted off its upper half, exposing a model of the Earth, with core, mantle, and crust, in their perfect proportions. And if it happens to be a smooth skinned avo, even the barely perceptible surface texture is in proper scale."



also a Time Line from John McPhee's *Basin and Range* ...

"With your arms spread wide to represent all time on Earth, look at one hand with its line of life. The Cambrian begins at the wrist, and the Permian extinction is at the outer end of the palm. All of the Cenozoic is in a fingerprint, and in a single stroke with a medium grained nail file you could eradicate human history."

Thanks Rudi! Time Lines are a great tool. I recall seeing a couple of versions on the sand, some cleverly involving group members, ("you're the Cambrian, you're the first primate" etc.). So while there's still a few beaches down there long enough for expressing the Earth's history, maybe someone could help the rest of us with their version of this trick. Write Tricks of the Trade. You don't have to give up all your secrets, but we know there are a lot of great ideas out there. Lets pass 'em around.

Fritz

On saving the Grand Canyon

THE GRAND CANYON PROTECTION ACT H.R. 429. Title XII. Sec. 1202.

"The Secretary shall operate Glen Canyon Dam... in such a manner as to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park was established."

We got some terrible news this spring. The Grand Canyon Protection Act just made it through the Senate. Now all it has to do is get past the conference committee and the President and it's law. Which is good for the Canyon (potentially). But tough on us.

After ten long years of sensing a problem, agonizing over it to find a solution, fixing on a goal and working toward it through thick and thin... we're about to stumble past one of our prime landmarks and out into the Great Unknown again: that great grey wilderness where things aren't simple anymore and no one knows quite where to go. Out there, if we get that far, we're going to come face to face with the biggest monster of all. Because if we really want to set this situation up so the Canyon is well taken care of for a long time to come, the next act we'll have to change is our own.

We're going to have to wake up and take a brand new look at the world around us.

Systems

The problem we had was an unhealthy system. We were losing sand faster than it was coming in. Long term, that meant no beaches, which meant nowhere nice to camp and a diminished riparian habitat. So we got an EIS started in order to find out how to change that and bring about a healthy, functioning system that would still be thriving about the time our grandkids needed to take a break and come check it out. Then we decided we'd better get a law passed too, because we didn't trust the guys running the process. Recalcitrant old fuddy-duddies in the Bureau of Reclamation, it seemed, wouldn't sit still on the exact focus of the EIS. They kept changing its definition. And WAPA couldn't stand to knuckle down and give an honest, clear reckoning of what potential changes might cost.

Getting a law passed was a good ticket for GCRG and our environmentalist compatriots because it was tangible. People could get their minds around it. We had a problem, we'd found some bad guys with an evil motive (greed, of course), and we had a

goal; we knew what to do. We could ask people to write a letter and send money to help us fight the good fight. So, we did, and the people did, and pretty soon the senators and congressmen got to work. And meanwhile the "other side" did the same thing.

Eventually, the democratic system responded.

Sec. 1204. GLEN CANYON DAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT; LONG TERM OPERATION OF GLEN CANYON DAM.

(a) Final Environmental Impact Statement- Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a final Glen Canyon Dam environmental impact statement, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. et seq.).

(b) Audit- The Comptroller General shall-

(1) audit the costs and benefits to water and power users and to natural, recreational, and cultural resources resulting from management policies and dam operations identified pursuant to the environmental impact statement described in subsection (a); and

(2) report the results of the audit to the Secretary and the Congress.

(c) Adoption of criteria and plans- (1) Based on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations made in the environmental impact statement prepared pursuant to subsection (a) and the audit performed pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall-

(A) adopt criteria and operating plans separate from and in addition to those specified in section 602(b) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 and

(B) exercise other authorities under existing law, so as to ensure that Glen Canyon Dam is operated in a manner consistent with section 1202...

A little further down we find:

(3) In preparing the criteria and operating plans described in section 602(b) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 and in this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with the Governors of the Colorado River Basin States and with the general public, including-

(A) representatives of academic and scientific communities;

(B) environmental organizations;

(C) the recreation industry; and

(D) contractors for the purchase of Federal Power produced at Glen Canyon Dam.

It addressed the wants of its people. All of them. So we (and the Canyon) are pretty much where we've been ever since this thing started... in the hands of the EIS process. But the chilling aspect of that is, everybody keeps saying it's a flawed EIS- too much, too fast, maybe too broad. We don't know, the tally isn't in yet. But the smart money says the whole ball of wax is headed straight for the courts.

Which indicates that right now we have two choices. Stay on our present track and make a lot of lawyers happy for a long time to come. With no telling what result we'll arrive at, or if any of us will even be around to see it.

Or make this EIS work. Believe in it, support it and make it do what it was designed to do. And that's where the hard part comes in. Because what goes around, comes around; and if we want to build something here that lasts and is really good for the Grand Canyon, then slaying dragons isn't going to cut it anymore.

The only way we can ensure long term health for this place is by making a healthy Grand Canyon something the Bureau, and WAPA, and CREDA can be proud of too. Otherwise, it'll be a battle every step of the way, and we'll never get it done. It'll never end.

"THEY'RE KILLING THE CANYON!!" our side said. "For Profit!"

"Your rates will go up 65% next summer!" their side said in the same kind of letter. "Why? So the river's easier to run. So they can jam even more people through the Canyon. For Profit!"

What goes around, comes around.

To realize the goals that led to the EIS, we all need honest answers to three questions.

* How do we run the dam, within its many constraints, to best protect the system?

* How much will that really cost?

* What can each of us give (not take, or squeeze out of somebody else) in order to make this EIS work?

We figure those things out, we can get on with it. Why should we? Because life is short and we need to wrap this issue up, soon. It's something we can

all do, together, and be proud of. It'll be good for us. We can break some new ground for the whole country if we do it right. And the fact is, that ground needs to be broken. Because there are other fish to fry out there.

Old Warriors, Old Wars

Here at GCRC, we've been wracking our brains all week long to try and figure out what's next. Who should we write letters to this summer? What should the letters say? Do we write the President and ask him not to veto the bill? Or veto it? Do we write the Secretary? Dial 911?

The EIS is making us paranoid. They won't say what the focus is. The WAPA audit is highly suspect. What do we do? Get rid of them? How? (Who'd run the dam? Who'd deal with the electricity?)

I ran a river trip in '89; it was the first big EIS trip and all the agencies and groups were there; everybody was jockeying around about who was going to study what and why. And a funny thing happened. Kinda' liked those Bureau guys, and the water guys, even a power guy or two.. they really didn't seem all that bad. But about the time they would sit down to talk about stuff with the "other side", people would tend to get hot and bothered. Then they'd start scoring points on one another.

Went to a lot of meetings later on, it was the same thing time after time.

It was tough to understand why this happened so consistently when it obviously got in the way. Nobody was against the Canyon, really, and the changes being proposed didn't seem that far out of reach. (They might hurt a little, but they didn't seem impossible if it meant leaving a topnotch Park behind after we're all dead and gone.) But people were not coming together. Or they would for a little while, then forget.

Why? Money? That was a serious question. WAPA and CREDA kept saying that to drastically change fluctuating flows was going to cost tens of millions (and double electricity bills for its customers). But their figures have always been vague, to put it mildly. And worst case estimates from outside consultants hired by environmental groups end up consistently in the neighborhood of 25 cents a month tacked onto the average ratepayer's bill because of interim flows.

Well it's chemistry, I thought. And we're the cul-

priests. Because every time you visualize a situation where you're cool and somebody else isn't, that sets it up all wrong. If you set it up where if they give ground on something it's because they're wrong and you whipped it out of them... they're bound to fight you. Every time. So at first I couldn't understand why "our side" kept doing that. Then I got paranoid myself.

Everybody's either getting paid to be here or likes to do this, I thought. So nobody cares how long it takes. People want this thing to go to court. If it takes ten years, or twenty, so what? It's a career to them. They can send their kids to college. That's why these people operate the way they do and refuse to give each other the mutual respect it's going to take to get something done here.

I believed that for quite a while, then did a little research and realized it's more than that. And less. It's partly just about who gets to drive, who gets to turn the faucet on and off, It's about "Precedent" and "Turf." But also it's about symbols now, and old scars. A very real part of the trouble we're having today goes back thirty years.

For America in the '60s the Grand Canyon was the Great Divide. It was the birthplace of big time environmentalism and, simultaneously, the beginning of the end for the axiom that with enough technology (and cement) mankind could always roll up its sleeves, take hold of the earth, and make it better.

In the mid '60s the Sierra Club grew to prominence on the back of a single issue: stopping dams in the Grand Canyon. They were driven by bitterness over the loss of something irreplaceable: Glen Canyon. So they fought hard, and a little dirty maybe, but they won. And thank God they did.

When they did, though, somebody else lost. Old school engineers in the Bureau of Reclamation and water managers throughout the west were dealt a bitter blow of their own. The dams they wanted to build would have generated huge amounts of hydropower, and cash. The authors of the Colorado River Compact had overestimated the river's annual flow and by the mid '60s people who knew the system were already beginning to realize that. To them, the power revenues from Marble Canyon and

Bridge Canyon could have financed tapping another river somewhere else for delivery to southern California. Which in turn could have bailed out every other state in the Compact when it came to water consumption.

Sounds weird, doesn't it? But as strange as that dream is to us, so was the notion that floating down some old river might be valuable, to those guys.

CRSP in its original form was wild. Huge. But Glen Canyon Dam, instead of being the starting point it was originally intended to be, became the end of sorts. And now it and the Grand Canyon sit side by side, very much intertwined in both a real sense and a way that's more ephemeral. They are beacons to opposing mindsets. Victory and defeat. Defeat and victory.

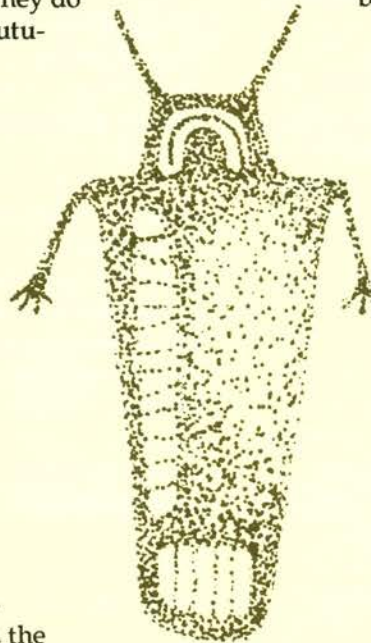
That's the real baggage we've got to overcome if we're going to move on with this thing. The old wounds. The stereotypes. And the idea that this has to be a Defeat for anybody. The choice is ours as a collective whole. If we do this right and make this EIS work, everybody can win. Just as it happened thirty years ago, we can break some new ground today. We can take care of this aspect of the Grand Canyon and move on to other good works instead of pissing ten more years of our lives away on this one simple problem.

If we do it wrong, everybody loses. Except the lawyers.

Who do we write to? (How about the power and water users? The towns and utilities that share the Plateau with us?) How about the Bureau? And WAPA. And Manuel Lujan. What do we tell them? How about "thanks". Thanks for responding. Thanks for hiring the GCES squad. Thanks for interim flows. (Thanks for caring about the Plateau, That we need each other. That people and the environment can live together.) It's your Canyon too (your trout, your eagles, your tammies), and we can't take care of it without you.

The BIG Picture

You start really looking at this stuff, it's spooky how intertwined everything really is. How did river running in the Grand Canyon happen? We all talk



about the Big Bang in the '60s: "Yeah, the public caught on somehow...The whole thing just took off like a rocket."

Wrong. In a crazy way, the Bureau begat the Sierra Club, and the Sierra Club begat us (the river industry).

The real explosion on the river was a direct offshoot of the Sierra Club campaign to stop Echo Park and Marble Canyon Dams. All those old ten boat Hatch trips in the mid '60s, and all that publicity about the Grand Canyon, came straight from the fray itself. The idea that the Canyon might be lost made people want to see it.

In *Cadillac Desert*, Marc Reisner describes a key moment. David Brower has gone to an ad man, Jerry Mander, for help with a grass-roots letter campaign to stop Marble Canyon Dam. Brower wants to run a spread that reads like an open letter to the Secretary of Interior. Calmly, the ad lays out an impeccable, perfectly reasoned case for not building the dams. Mander talks him out of it. They need something with little more punch. Something like: "Now only you can save the Grand Canyon from being Flooded... for Profit." Brower isn't sure, so they run two versions. Mander's outdraws Brower's about ten to one. The rest is history.

Trouble with that approach in the '90s is, very seldom is it ever really that simple, and anybody can play the same game. "Hungry and can't find a job?" asks a popular bumper sticker today. "Eat an environmentalist."

In the December '91 issue of *Outside Magazine*, Jon Krakauer tells a great story about a coming backlash. A new scam calling itself the "Wise Use" movement is out to turn the tide, rewrite the Endangered Species Act, open up the Parks to mining and drilling, log the forests and so on. Basically just kick ass on "the #@! environmentalists." They're raising millions on precisely that platform. How are they doing it? Same way it all started, with Sierra Club and the Grand Canyon dams. They use hype. "In politics," says one Wise Use founder, "perception is reality. Facts don't really matter." They use direct mail and the money is pouring in. What are their best weapons? An old story: "Fear, hate, and revenge," says the founder, "are the oldest tricks in the book."

Overall, as a country... where will this trend lead us? I asked Jim Ruch of the Grand Canyon Trust why some of the old school Bureau guys were so adamantly opposed to interim flows. "They don't believe there's a problem," Ruch said. "Somebody is

making it up. They're sure that the footprints of all the tourists going down the river on expensive river trips are wearing the beaches away. It can't possibly be the water that's doing it. In short, there's a very strong desire not to believe there's a problem."

Where does this come from? "Fear of change. These people have lived and worked in a community of peers and relationships that are all centered around the public power industry: customers, buyers, sellers. Their mission is to produce low cost power reliably to their customers, and they have tried to do that as best they could. Now a lot of people are coming in and saying: you're doing it wrong. And with that comes a fair implication that they are bad people for having done what they've done. The natural human tendency when approached that way is to say, 'Well up yours and the horse you rode in on.'"

What's the Grand Canyon Trust doing about it? Well, they've taken a cue from old John Wesley Powell for one thing, and are attempting to look past arbitrary borders and treaties to view the Colorado Plateau as an entity in itself: the entire natural drainage system, inextricably linked. They had a Symposium last fall designed to bring a broad variety of interests (those who live and work on the Plateau) closer together for a change, instead of the opposite. One of their keynote speakers was the mayor of Missoula, Daniel Kemmis.

Kemmis made a great speech and it's too bad it won't all fit here.. He said a lot of good things, one of which was, "There has been some talk about the idea of compromise and how that all fits in. To my mind what we're dealing with here is something else. Compromise is usually a matter of trying to find the lowest common denominator. That is one way of doing politics. One way of reaching consensus. But lowest common denominator is not what we're talking about. What we're talking about here is reaching the highest common ground."

Maybe we need a similar symposium on Glen Canyon, a forum to reach for the highest common ground.

The highest common ground. It's not a bad fantasy for the Grand Canyon. Or the rest of the country. We'll never get perfect, but if we don't begin to turn the tide somewhere, who will? The Grand Canyon might just be the perfect place to start. Might end up being a new kind of beacon.

Lew Steiger

An alternative to lawyers, guns and money...

The question before us today is: Will the passage of the Grand Canyon Protection Act bring us closer to the final solution over operations at Glen Canyon Dam? The answer is yes and no (see Lew Steiger's article page 4). It is an important step toward protection of Grand Canyon, but in itself cannot guarantee that the current EIS will not end up in court or worse. GCRG joined the effort to protect Grand Canyon with the naive notion that a lasting solution could be reached that both sides could live with. We encourage a win-win solution, one that need not be defended in court, a solution that will provide the framework for future cooperation. We live on the Plateau, breath its air, earn our livings and buy our electricity here. We believe a fair solution exists. We don't have to disable the dam to do it. If it costs each of us a few cents a month to save the beaches and riparian areas, we should be the first to pay.

The Grand Canyon Protection Act is a key element to a solution for operation of Glen Canyon Dam and taking care of the Canyon downstream. It provides a clear statement of intent for the EIS, to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park was established. We strongly support passage of the Act. But if it passes can we brush off our hands, pat ourselves on the back, move on? The answer is no.

As it now stands there will be a winner and there will be a loser. Deep wounds will be inflicted on the "loser"; wounds that will fester at every issue of development versus the environment on the Colorado Plateau for the next generation.

The worst scenario is the virtual certainty that whoever loses will take the whole thing to court. It may take years of expensive litigation before a final decision is reached. We may end up with a crippled dam and an unprotected Canyon. Pessimistic aren't I? There is hope though. A win-win solution can still result, a solution that all sides can live with.

The key is us, the constituents of the Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon Dam. The river users, the water users, the power users, the conservation groups, the fishermen, the utilities, and the municipalities. We must stop fighting this out through our surrogate agencies and Congressmen, and instead sit down, put aside our standard positions, and find the things we agree on. The question is how...

Last fall Grand Canyon Trust initiated a bold program called Community Initiatives. The idea was that regional problems can be solved regionally, that solutions to economic development and environmental protection on the Colorado Plateau should be made by those who live, work, and play on

the Plateau. In a three day symposium, community leaders were brought together to discuss problems and begin a process to arrive at regional solutions. There are still disagreements but a dialogue was started and everyone now has a better understanding of the differing viewpoints. Since we can't get everyone down the river for a couple of weeks to talk this over, maybe this would be an excellent method for narrowing the gap between sides in the Glen Canyon Dam issue.

Here is a proposal: A three day symposium sponsored by members of all sides should take place this fall. The objective of the meeting is to bring all sides together, discuss possibilities, listen to views, and focus on thing we can agree on.

If there is a win-win solution to the controversy of operations at Glen Canyon Dam it lies in communication, not in a contest for political power. The simple truth is that it's in the best interest of all sides to find that highest common denominator. Within the framework of the Grand Canyon Protection Act, the endangered Species Act, the Colorado River Compact, and the Colorado River Storage Project Act there is common ground we can agree upon. Let's sit down and find it.

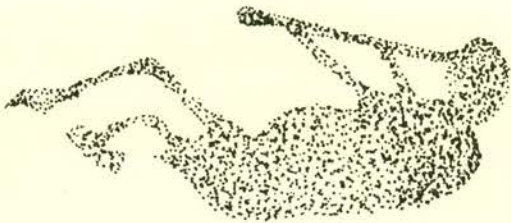
Tom Moody

...focus on those things that we can agree on. Like what? Like noone wants to detroy the Canyon's riverine environment and noone wants to bankrupt the people of the Colorado Plateau. And noone wants this to end up in court. There's a start.



GCRG and Outfitters Meet

The day before our Spring meeting, GCRG officers met with a majority of the outfitters to discuss some of the issues affecting the industry today. It was pretty exciting to see that many of the outfitters talking about ways to work on common problems. The two main issues discussed were the special populations trips and the perceived congestion problem during high season. An agreement was made to meet again in September and keep the cooperative effort rolling. We were quite encouraged by the amount of positive energy there.



GCRG Spring Meeting 1992

Another big turnout. We've created a monster. We have a strong voice; let's use it for the betterment of the canyon and the industry. Let us know what you're thinking. Get involved. Don't be shy. We are all part of this great thing called the Grand Canyon River Guides. Come to our bi-monthly meetings and speak out. If you missed the general meeting at the W.R.A. Warehouse in Page (you know who you are) here are the main topics addressed:

--The courtesy flyer has been approved and is being subsidized by the NPS. Now all permittees will get a copy.

--The outfitters (a majority of 'em) got together and discussed special populations trips and congestion.

--First Aid Certification: How requirements are changing, where they're going and when the changes will take effect.

--Human waste carryout for '93. No more plastic bag methodology. We need ideas, suggestions, innovations. How do we save our backs from the new, heavy 2-3 day containers? How do we make a plastic-less day use kit? All input on this is encouraged and welcome.

A few issues were brought up for discussion:

What is the basis for new regulations? Questions arose at last year's concessionaires' meetings regarding the formation of regulations: Do written recommendations from on-river evaluations become regu-

lations? What input do guides and outfitters have in this process? Tarps under the tables was the example used in this discussion as well as concessionaires' forum. The group decided the board should draft a letter expressing our desire to be involved in the process. It was suggested that formation of regulations should involve:

- 1) identification of a problem
- 2) discussion of alternative solutions
- 3) implementation of a solution

Also aired was the idea of giving private trips the option of hiring a qualified guide. Can of worms? Discussion was varied, tentative and divided. Pluses include resource protection, safety, expertise in Grand Canyon. Minuses are liability, pay, insurance, etc. It was decided to write a letter to the NPS addressing this idea.

"Where do we go from here?" was another topic. GCRG has become a large, well funded and somewhat powerful organization. What do you, the members, want GCRG to do? Remain active in politics? Sponsor educational activities and seminars? Help provide affordable insurance, clothing and gear for members? We need to hear from all members on this. Please write, call or talk to a board member.

A proposal to streamline our bylaws was presented and nominations for vacating offices were made as follows:

President:	Brad Dimock
Vice President:	Teresa Yates
Board of Directors	Shane Murphy
(3 to be chosen)	Jon Toner
	Dirk Pratley
	Garrett Schniewind

It's *hard* to get anyone to run! Let us know if you'd be interested in joining the ranks in the future.

After formal discussions were closed, Chef Kominisky fed us all linguini. A limited amount of order was restored after dinner and the Michael Jacobs Awards (a tie this year!) were presented. We then polished off 4 kegs while listening to some classic tales from Jerry and June Sanderson, Tony Sparks, and the not-that-old Dick McCallum. It was great to hear some of the unwritten tales from the era between the history books and most boatmen's memories.

Mark your calendars, our fall meeting is on Halloween weekend, Sat. October 31st. Edie Crawford (CanEx) has offered her place on Lake Mary in Flagstaff! Costumes optional, but you better....be there!

Another Incredible Guides Training Seminar

The 1992 Guides Training Seminar was a tremendous success. Over a hundred guides gathered for five days to attend lectures, talks, forums and workshops at Marble Canyon and around Lees Ferry. There were slide shows, historical movies, Native American folklore and hilarious readings from Nevills' journals. Two nights of storytelling around the camp fire produced some engrossing river history you could really sink your teeth into (Scott Thybony on the murder of Powell's men, for example). And, if that wasn't enough, there was a two day float and clean up trip from the Ferry to South Canyon.

Just as in 1991, the Old Lodge at Marble Canyon was HQ and we camped on the rim behind, overlooking the rio. Unlike last year we had a new addition - the Big Top - a 50' walled tent which served as classroom, theater, office and dormitory. Very cozy. A



the Big Top

profession led by Elena Kirschner, Charly Heavenrich and Les Hibbert.

Again, the format of providing a large number of guides with usable information in a communal environment proved fantastic. Jano and Ote and crew put on a brilliant camp cooking extravaganza that would have put old Koms to shame. Great food and dazzling footwork in the kitchen.

Each night we were treated to lots of river history. Bob Rigg came back from Alaska with a phenomenal collection of river movies from the 50's. Don Harris, who ran with Bert Loper for 10 years, told us about running from the 30's through the 70's. Roy Webb treated us to readings from the recently acquired Nevills journals. One night we were all privy to the recollections and observations of those intrepid river runners, mule packers and part time comedy team of



a Jumping Mouse talk at the Ferry

new T-shirt designed by Mary Williams almost sold out! (We're printing more. Order one now.)

Topics ranged from geology and archaeology to ravens and river rescue; from interpretive techniques to canyon flowers; from handling the handicapped to Hualapai history and the Hopi perspective (instead of Anasazi, the Hopi prefer Hisatsinom); revealing information from Dr. Walt Taylor on skin cancer and carpal tunnel syndrome. Blair Davis from the Coconino County Health Dept. spoke on hygiene, disease, and food sanitation. We received an update on the status of the GCES, Crumbo's trail work and new directions for human waste disposal and a co-operative, industry wide recycling effort. There was also a terrific forum on health insurance, personal finance and personal change in the guiding



after hours at the hogan

Vaughn Short and Ken Sleight. For about 3 hours around the camp fire that night Vaughn and Ken pored through the pages of their escapades together on the rivers and in the canyons since the early sixties: searching for Everett Ruess, outfitting in the early days and fighting for Glen Canyon ("they called it the place that no one knew. Huh?...hell, we knew it!"). Now those were some good 'ol days. You could almost taste it.



Scott Thybony- who Dunn it?

The last two days were spent on a float to South Canyon to sift sand and bag litter on some troubled beaches before hiking out to the Buffalo Ranch. "Atta' boys" to those volunteers.

So... t'was a great session. A solid program. A fun program. Seems like they get better every year. If you didn't make it this year, come next... it's worth it. Do yourself a favor and... be there. Aloha!

We owe a tremendous thanks to all those who spoke, to those who orchestrated it and most especially to Jane Foster and her crew at Marble for letting us descend on them for what must have seemed like an eternity. Thank you so much!

And another thanks to Jane for the Photo Contest. There are some new pictures in the Marble Canyon

Lodge this spring. In February Jane Foster and the Marble Canyon Lodge sponsored a river runners photo contest to spruce up the restaurant's collection. A lot of beautiful entries surfaced and \$400 in prizes were presented to the winners one evening during the GTS. The undeniable 1st prize went to Teresa Yates. Have you ever seen a shot of Georgie like that one? Other winners were Joe Knapp, Pete Weiss and Byron Sanderson. Since it was such an enjoyable and rewarding exercise, it'll likely be repeated. Stay tuned.

Tim Whitney



Short and Sleight

all photos GCRG Archives

On Golden Rapid

Our lives, now and in the future: how can a guide's profession be better? After guiding: then what? How does one prepare? At the Guides Training Seminar Charly Heavenrich, Elena Kirschner, and Les Hibbert spoke to guides about guide needs, present and future. Charly has written up the results of that workshop.

I have put together some preliminary suggestions based on responses from the On Golden Rapid seminar and my own sense of next steps. The major areas we need to address fall under the headings of: **Job, Physical, Financial, Support, and Self Esteem.**

Job

We want to contribute more and receive recognition from management. This should come as no surprise since all surveys of employees show that belonging to a meaningful organization, being able to contribute without fear of retribution, and receiving recognition placed 1,2,3 in every survey (money is #5). Regarding input to/from management, guides wanted hiring, firing and performance guidelines, to be able to influence scheduling, the security of part time employment once we have left full time work, more opportunities for couples to work together on the river, options for growth within the industry, and more off-river support such as showers, beds and insurance.

Physical

Responses indicated concern for the lack of availability of reasonable health insurance. In addition we should become more aware of preventive health measures, such as techniques for safe lifting, methods for staying fit (during and off-season), including a stretching and strengthening program for on and off the river.

Financial

As Les Hibbert indicated, we all need to become more conscious of the value of financial planning. Perhaps GCRG and the outfitters could work together to develop a program to increase awareness of financial options as well as retirement programs. Some outfitters might be willing to consider setting up a profit sharing and/or pension plan. As a former pension consultant, I would be willing to gather some information on current alternatives. We should also look at our needs for retirement - what I would call transition planning, plus some options for career planning while we are still employed in the Canyon. The key is to start looking early in our careers rather than waiting until we *have* to make a new choice.

Support

We need to learn how to give and receive support. The motto is, "You've got to do it yourself, and you can't do it alone." Actually, it's not true. You can do it alone. It's just a lot more lonely and more challenging to "do it alone." We need to develop our community, based on Elena's definition of community. We are a unique group of individuals involved in a common purpose - sharing and supporting the Grand Canyon. We need to learn how to create a community that provides both personal and professional support. We need to learn how to work with each other and with management and ownership more effectively. We need to recognize that our success and our well being are intertwined. We have all we need within the guiding community, both active and retired, to make what we do even more rewarding. GCRG is the perfect vehicle to get the ball rolling.

Self Esteem

Many guides fail to recognize their value or the contributions they make in the lives of others. In addition to wanting recognition from owners, guides need to learn how to accept personal responsibility for giving and receiving recognition to each other. We need to acknowledge and value the skills we develop to be successful in the Canyon. We must set personal and professional goals, and learn how to keep the passion, stay motivated and prevent burn-out. Developing and sustaining self-esteem is a conscious process.

GCRG is dedicated to protecting the Grand Canyon, setting the highest standards for the river profession, and providing the best possible river experience. We also need to support each other in a direct and conscious way that will lead to lifelong benefits. I hope we can set aside a significant period of time at the next GTS to plan ways to accomplish this. In addition, we need to invite the owners and managers into this process because we are all in this together.

In the spirit of adventure,

Charly Heavenrich



First Aid Conundrum

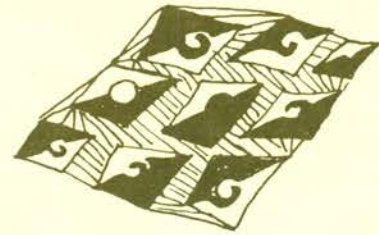
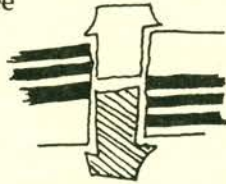
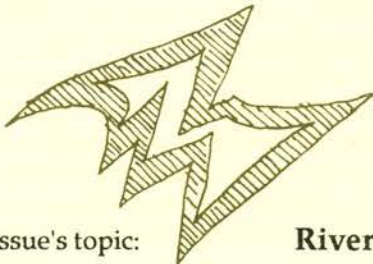
The requirements for emergency care on a river trip are set by the Park Service with recommendations from the outfitters. The outfitters are the ones that carry the liability and the Park Service is a rider on their policies.

The *Advanced First Aid* standard that the Park Service has required is in its final death throes. If a guide's *Advanced First Aid* card is current through this year's season; OK. If a guide's *Advanced First Aid* card is not current, then a guide should have *First Aid - Responding to Emergencies*. The courses that were taught this spring by Patty Ellwanger and myself gave the new card, which is good for three years.

This new course is not the final solution to the emergency care question. During this next winter GCRG, the outfitters, the Park Service, and the American Red Cross will be getting together to come up with a more appropriate emergency care program. *Wilderness First Responder* and *Wilderness Emergency Care* are two recently developed programs that are much better suited to our river running environs.

If you have an input as to what you would like to see along these emergency care lines, send your thoughts to Emergency Care, c/o GCRG. Thanks.

Dan Dierker



Wuddyathink?

This issue's topic:

River Congestion: What to do?

Birth control - less people in the world of work means less people in the real world of the river.

Allen Wilson

Grand Canyon symbolizes time. Let's have fewer people, each enjoying the Canyon a little longer. Lengthening all trips by one day means 16% less people, 16% less trips, same number of user days.

Tom Moody

The biggest crowds come when it's hotter than blazes! Send some north; talk some into off-season trips, and tell some of them "no!"

Jeri Ledbetter

Cut user days until the biosphere gains control of the Homo sapiens cancer that afflicts it.

Pete Gross

Downscale all the permits to the size of our smallest outfitters. Georgie seemed to do OK for 40 years with 2500 user days - why couldn't everyone?

Fritz

The NPS may or may not (!) support armed combat and body removal. Negative population growth isn't fashionable. We'll have to remain as cooperative as possible

Zeke Lauck

River congestion... an issue hot as a pistol. What's the big deal with boats backed up like jumbo jets just above Crystal?

And as small compensation to the Havasu Nation they get to collect on the parking concession!

Brad Neuman

I didn't know it has allergies... I don't know, take two Sine-Aid and call a bureaucrat in the morning?

Doug Ross

Sacrifice June. Remove all use limits for June. Lower them to a pleasant level for the rest of the season. Extra pay for June boatmen.

Brad Dimock

Short term: Return to pre-1977 allotment levels. Long term: Pass out free birth control to everyone in the Americas. Crowding means too many people!

Dave Lowry

For our next issue, how about 25 words on:

Helicopters at Whitmore

Send your thoughts to Wuddyathink?, c/o GCRG

Cryptogamic Soil: Unappreciated, Misunderstood, and Downtrodden

Now, you've all gone hiking in the desert and noticed a dark, spongelike, yet crusty soil. It's called cryptogamic soil by some, and it covers all the land surfaces between the rocks and the plants. This crust is actually a symbiotic community of several different types of organisms, cryptogams being only a few. Lichens, mosses, microfungi (mushrooms) and algae all have moved in and made a home within the crust, but the actual crustmaker is something called cyanobacteria. Scientists have recently changed the name from cryptogamic soil to CRYPTOBIOLOGICAL CRUST which is more taxonomically and biologically correct; as it incorporates all the life forms involved.

Cryptobiotic crust has an ambitious and unique place in the desert ecosystem. It holds the soil together in such a way that neither wind nor water can disturb it. Yet, at the same time it is very delicate stuff. Boots, tires, and hooves can destroy it for lengthy periods of time or, in some places, completely, thus changing the soil surface and imbalancing the entire area. People need to know about cryptobiotic crust; not just to appreciate it biologically, but to protect it religiously.

Last year at the Guides Training Seminar, Ted Melis described a footprint he found in the Grand Canyon that he thought could have been left one hundred years ago, still visible in the desert soil. This footprint, possibly left by Stanton in 1891, was recorded by the cryptobiotic crust.

Under the microscope, cyanobacteria look like a bundle of long filaments inside a thick, gelatinous sheath. They are a type of blue-green algae of the Kingdom Monera, yet are actually bacteria. They are prokaryotic, meaning their genetic material is not enclosed in a cell nucleus (very primitive), and like algae are autotrophic; meaning they need only water, sunshine and some soil nutrients to survive. Unlike plants, they are non-vascular; they produce by spores (not flowers or seeds). When dry, cyanobacteria lie dormant, but once it rains, they begin to move. Traveling across the topsoil, sometimes beneath it, cyanobacteria continually leave their sheath material behind, secreting new material in front as they move along, glueing the soil particles together. This mucilaginous material maintains its gooey consistency long after the organism has left, creating a spider web of sticky fibers which permeate the topsoil. Over time, this web becomes so strong that it is

impervious to wind or water erosion. These well-developed crusts become highly stable and soon many species of lichens, mosses, microfungi, algae and other forms of bacteria find a comfortable home, settle in and help strengthen the soil bond further.

Each of these cohabitants has a unique function as well. The fibers of the cyanobacteria, which formed the original crust, wrinkle over time. This increases the surface area and allows more sunlight to be absorbed. It's this mature crust that gives the cryptobiotic soil its 'miniature city-like' appearance. Mosses and algae are also non-vascular, non-flowering organisms, yet are plants, and like plants create their own food through photosynthesis. This puts them on the first level of the food chain, the producers. They create food for themselves and inevitably their neighbors. Mosses also do a good job of absorbing and storing water, but the primary water storage facility is actually the cyanobacteria; water is easily stored inside the discarded sheaths. The lichens help the soil absorb the sun's heat by their black color; collecting heat for their own growth, as well as the growth of their neighbors. The microfungi help recycle all the old or dead material of its neighbors back into the soil; constantly recreating fertile soil and giving the community the greatest source of phosphorous, nitrogen, potassium and calcium possible. So the colony protects itself, nourishes itself, warms itself, waters itself and has its own funeral parlor / garbage recycling system. The unity achieved by all these completely separate organisms has enabled them to exist comfortably in some of the most arid and erosive places on Earth as well as creating a functional component that benefits the entire ecosystem. Two scientists from India actually introduced cyanobacteria to one of their rapidly eroding deserts and saved it.

The history of cyanobacteria is impressive. Jayne Belnap, Research Biologist for Canyonlands, thinks it's "...one of the oldest forms of life known, bacteria being the oldest. Cyanobacteria were preserved in the fossil record as stromatolites, which lived and died in intertidal areas. Almost 3.5 billion years old, these stromatolites were the first organisms known to convert the Earth's original carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere into the oxygen-rich atmosphere necessary for life as we know it today". Wow. You may know about the great stromatolite specimen at Carbon Creek (the 'brain rock') around Mile 64.

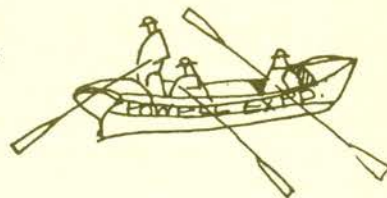
There are several things that threaten cryptobiotic crust - all man made. Air pollution: too much sulfuric acid and other types of acid rain significantly affect the delicate chemical balance of the colony. Footprints: both by man and grazing cattle compress the silt, destroying the bond and, with it, the entire community (notice the way desert critters follow trails in cryptobiotic areas? This minimizes their impact). In summer, when the crust is the driest and most brittle, cattle are sent to graze in enclosed desert pastures, trampling the crust and annihilating great areas of healthy desert life. But tires from mountain bikes and motorized vehicles are the most destructive. They break up the crust in continuous lines. The wind blows away the crust fragments, then disperses the exposed healthy soil and sand. The surrounding areas are then easily undercut and eroded as well. Soon a 'sand dune' effect begins. What was once a stable desert area is now a sand dune, moving with the wind, unable to sustain life and destructive to the surrounding biotic communities. Mountain bikes can break a trail of crust on a hillside, which can form a gully in the tire groove during the next good rain. This gully can spread and eventually wash out the entire hillside. Cryptobiotic soil cannot be repaired. It must reform from scratch. This takes time, warmth and wet weather in areas that are famous for their extreme fluctuations of temperature and dryness.

So you see, these are tenacious and necessary beasts; unappreciated for their history and ability to work together, misunderstood for their incredible usefulness to the entire desert ecosystem, and downtrodden by our shameful treatment of them.

Cynla



Some of you may remember when Quayle Expeditions ran trips on the Green and Colorado Rivers. A friend of Amil Quayle's submitted this poem. We hear Amil's in Nebraska but we haven't been able to track down him to get permission to publish it yet. But it's too good not to.



Stairways

The only good thing about this apartment
 Is the way the wooden stairway wobbles back and forth
 It feels risky and nice
 I'm sure it will collapse some day
 Somebody might get hurt
 I always wonder if this will be the time
 Is this what old river runners do after they have long since
 given up on running rapids
 Worrying about other people getting hurt
 Wondering at the high cost of each epiphany
 Sacrificing love for the one sublime minute in Lava Falls
 Betraying family and friends for the passion of water and rock
 Taking their physical needs eagerly at random when it comes
 Crying lonely behind the great granite rock in the inner gorge
 Crying more lonely at the shock of Las Vegas after the trip ends
 Sleeping fitfully to the sound of F-4 Phantom jets by Nellis
 Air Force base
 Spending the horrendous post-trip letdown day in the Buckskin
 tavern in Kanab
 Listening to gloomy Ray Price singing Kristofferson songs
 Returning to the warehouse with a whiskey head that feels like
 an atomic explosion
 Next morning unloading the truck of gear from the dead river trip
 Wondering about this peron from Cincinnati
 That person from Philadelphia
 Hoping to God they never see the one again
 Praying to God they see the other someday
 Knowing they probably never will
 Loading for the next trip
 Driving to Lees Ferry
 Spending a bad night
 Waiting for the passengers
 Sizing them up when they arrive
 Going back on the water again
 Nine days of agonized ecstasy
 Over and Over
 Until it was over
 Is this what old river runners do
 Climb the rickety stairs of their lives
 Wondering with mild amusement when the stairway will collapse.

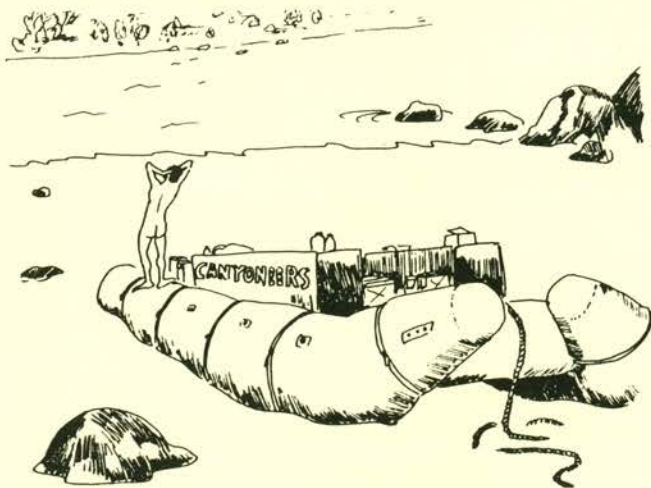
Amil D. Quayle

On Big Boats Without Water

As a professional river pilot I have found it is well to be leery of stories about boats and fast water. They have the aura of mystic heroism about them. It is well also to avoid stories about boats and slow water. Or stories about boats entirely without water! But laugh at such tales, dismiss them as freak occurrences that could never happen to your boat, and you—and your boat—will be the next tale, your number up, your bolt shot.

For example. I once had the captain of the nuclear aircraft carrier ENTERPRISE under my charge for four days between Bright Angel Beach and Diamond Creek. On day two, during a swim stop at Havasu Canyon, I got to talking about big boats stranded on beaches because of water releases from Glen Canyon Dam and how power demands and legal requirements typically dictate river level.

I explained to the captain and his family why these fluctuations force pilots of big boats to maintain a



nightly vigil over their boats. In the morning pilots want their boats to be floating since, without water, the boat serves no purpose whatsoever. I explained that each and every night the boat must be parked with great care, in the deepest pool against the steepest shoreline so that when the water goes out our lines can be loosened. Big boats, stuck on boulders are, under most circumstances, impossible to budge. There they are buried up to the gunwales. Should the river rise, as it eventually will, the boat must be drawn up. In any event, the boat will be, at all times during any encampment, at right angles to the shoreline, perpendicular to the current, with only its snout touching the shore. If more than one boat is parked for the evening all must be tethered together forming a huge inflated playing field, wanting only a stadium filled with cheering spectators.

Let the games begin! Say it is Tuesday night, River Mile 118, Grand Canyon, AZ. The water, the river itself, will drop. As a river pilot you know this. At no cost do you want to rise in the morning to find yourself stranded, your boat far from the river, the water still dropping. Such circumstance paints the pilot and crew in unpleasant caricature. It is one of those small professional faux pas unforgivable in the eyes of those who know about such things: other boatmen will laugh at you. I told my man that I sleep on the boat, up front, and drink gallons of water which cause me to pee frequently. That is how I am compelled to monitor river level, and I said so. I will check the boat half a dozen times. After that I do what I need to do. I crawl back into my sleeping bag.

I discoursed freely on this topic for one complete hour. I told the captain stories of boats I had seen, boats so contorted over rocks so huge that nothing could be done except wait 12 hours for the water to come. Actually, I rattled on, a fine grin pasted to my face, and pointed out that such things rarely happened. Said occurrence had never—and most probably never would—happen to me. At any rate, there was slim chance it could possibly happen on this trip. I told him that. Besides, I thundered in grand summation, it was Wednesday! If the river did anything, it would rise!!

The next morning, at first light, it was "snake eyes" staring me straight in the face. Sure as hell, my boat—a genuine living and breathing 37' leviathan of the Colorado—was 50' from the river, resting peacefully on a very flat, generously wide, sandbar. I had the immediate sensation of dreaming; certainly this was not real. My next thought was to shove the beast back into the water before anyone found out. It was not long before I got to calling this notion one damned stupid idea. I woke my co-pilot. In an instant he was off the boat, standing beside me on the moist sand. We were both naked as jaybirds.

We got dressed. Very Quickly. We started to unbuckle the two outrigger tubes. I sent my other crewperson off to roust the passengers. The captain came down. He took a long look and a walkaround. He did not say much except to express satisfaction that it was my boat and not his. He asked what he could do to help. I said we needed everybody in the outfit down on the beach right now and ready to help. He hurried off immediately.

We pumped air and shoved equipment and lugged

gear and hauled water and pushed-and-pulled and got the boat onto the river while one of our lady passengers oversaw a small auxiliary operation which served fresh omelettes and hot toast, and washed every dish. We were gone in 90 minutes, floating our way freely downriver. It was great food fortune. Not another boat had gone by. No one would ever know.

After we were underway the captain told me a story, a fine story about how he had once run The ENTERPRISE sideways beneath the Golden Gate Bridge. This particular maneuver was entirely unscheduled and completely unrehearsed. Somehow the great ship had ended-up athwart the current and had to be got under the bridge just like that--sideways--between two massive pylons fully one-half mile apart. There was little room to spare. It was a real-life, bigtime, nuclear squeaker. If he had smacked one of those bridge abutments, he said, he would be digging potatoes in Kansas someplace. I told him that I understood that, that I would probably be standing right next to him in the same field, that we would most likely be foraging the very same tuber. He laughed loud. He asked what the water would do tonight, Thursday. I said that it wouldn't do anything, and was correct.

Shane Murphy

Back Country Evacuations

a report by Bob Melville

You're in upper Elves with some adventuresome folks that are having the time of their lives. Suddenly the peace and quiet is shattered by a scream of fear and a cry of pain. Someone has fallen and you've got a cervical-spinal injury to evacuate. Are you ready to do a bomb-proof backboard tie-down to get someone out of there? If you are like me, a veteran of many first-aid classes and wilderness medicine seminars, that's a spectre best left in the dark recesses of the mind, hopefully never to be explored. But I just got some training that made that procedure relatively simple and made me feel confident that I could handle such a situation effectively and calmly.

This is particularly relevant since the Grand Canyon NPS now has a new bigger helicopter that will not be able to land in some of the tight spots they used to, so there will be a greater probability that we will have to secure victims and evacuate them to more accessible landing sites.

The training was a Back Country Evacuation course by Rescue 3 International of Elk Grove, California, in which a dozen guides from AzRA, Can Ex, and Expeditions participated. We spent three days in a near wilderness setting near the Verde River learning techniques for the evacuation of injured or sick victims. Barry Edwards of Sonora, California, was the instructor. He lectured on wilderness first aid and the scope of river guides' responsibilities and liabilities when guiding passengers on adventure trips and in incidents of injury and/or sickness. Most of the three days was spent learning and using techniques and equipment to do evacuations, including one night exercise.

I was a little skeptical that this training might be little more than just techno-jargon applied to the stuff I already knew about evacuations. I was wrong. These were new techniques, at least to me. Significant features of the training were setting up the incident command structure, effective cervical-spine immobilization and backboard tie-down, field expedient litters, tying harnesses for the victim and the rescuer, the use of ropes and pulleys to safely and effectively gain mechanical advantage for evacuation and pulling off wraps.

I think all of us could use more training and practice in all of these techniques. Especially practice. Being introduced to new dynamite techniques isn't worth a damn unless we practice them and make them information we can readily access when the need arises.

And we need to give thought as to what should be required training for guides in the future since the Red Cross has eliminated their Advanced First Aid course and the Park Service will be making new requirements for guides' qualifications. This will be happening in the fall of this year and the new requirements will affect our lives. Give thought to the content and structure of the training and how often we will need to take it. Talk it over and particularly talk to members of the GCRG Board of Directors and others who will be attending the Board of Directors meetings or send a letter to GCRG. Cam Staveley has been talking to the Park Service recently and is a good resource for the latest information on what may be the training of the future.

If you would like to hear more about the Back Country Evacuation training, talk to the participants: AzRA: Cam Staveley, Dave Lowry, Dave Edwards, Martha Clark, Sharon Hester, Chris Hinkle, Bob Melville, Wade Harrison; Can Ex: Edie (Schniwind) & Nelson Crawford, Roger Henderson; Expeditions: Geoff Gourley

Recycling: What's Up?

It's getting started. This summer, OARS/Dories, Canyon Explorations and AzRA are all recycling on-river and in the warehouse. They've signed up with R & W Recycling out of Flagstaff, and all of their recycled goods are being picked up by R & W and hauled away to the brand-new R & W warehouse. Pretty simple, really. We're also coordinating with North-side companies to move recyclables to market in the trucks that deadhead between Kanab, Vegas, Page and Flagstaff.

THE THING IS: even if your outfitter signs up with R & W or some other recycling company, making this thing work is really in our hands, on the river and in the warehouse. It's a little extra work, but not nearly as much of a pain as dealing with the unit! Here are some ideas from the companies who are already recycling, and if the system at your company won't work this way, THINK OF SOMETHING BETTER and let everyone know.

In The Warehouse:

Recycle all the packing boxes, office paper, phone books, computer paper, etc. R & W will tell you how to separate it, and even work with your company on the system that works best.

On The River:

WHAT	HOW
Glass, all three colors	Rinse it out, stick it all in an ammo or a crate, and sort it into colors at the warehouse.
"Chip" board (egg cartons, cereal, beer, rice boxes, etc.), other paper and wrappers.	Just smash it flat, and stick it in an old black bag or something waterproof. One bag should do for one trip.
Aluminum and steel (bottle lids count as steel)	Wash 'em, smash 'em and put 'em in separate burlap sacks.
Plastic (hard, soft, you name it)	Again, smash it down, and put it in an old black bag or a burlap sack.

Don't recycle waxed things like cartons of juice or milk, and don't be so anal that you drive yourself crazy trying to sort out the details of the lunch garbage. The point is to get the major pieces recycled. At first it takes some vigilance to remember to bring up the bags every night and separate stuff, but it gets easier, quick.

SO WHAT? Why are we pushing this so hard? Grand Canyon is at the forefront of conservation and resource management policy development. Some mighty powerful eyes are upon us. This is our chance to show the outfitters, the Park Service, the legislators and the general public that our love for the Canyon is broader than just being on the river. With the legislation currently pending in congress, everything we can do to show that we want to protect our environment will help. It helps the industry look good, and it helps the Canyon.

So if your company isn't working to recycle, get on them to call R & W (774-2380) or some other company in your area. This is important, and GCRG won't be able to run with the ball indefinitely. It's going to take all of us in the river community to get it started and make it work, but that's what communities are for: to make things work.

Christa Sadler

Thanks, Larry!

Larry Stevens and the folks over at Red Lake Books were generous enough to put a whole page about GCRG in the latest edition of Larry's river guide. This will help to further broaden our base. Thanks. They have also just published Nancy Nelson's new biography of Norman Nevills. Check it out!

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Insurance

GCRG has begun to study the health care needs of Grand Canyon boatmen. As part of the process, I began to compile general information on the American health care system, its chaotic condition accurately reflected by the resulting unwieldy heap of data strewn across my desk. Let's face it; American health care is a mess and shows no sign of improvement. With costs soaring, insurance too costly for those who need it the most, sad tales abound.

Like the guy with a wife, two kids, no money for health insurance. And that funny new mole he couldn't afford to get checked out. Months passed before he finally wrote a hot check for a doctor to examine the now malignant, ulcerated melanoma. Subsequent treatments, too little too late, bankrupted the family before his death.

Of the guides who have responded to the poll GCRG has been conducting, 35% have no insurance. They have plenty of company; 20 million adult American workers are in the same boat, a group largely related by income. Only 20% of workers with family incomes less than \$20,000 a year have insurance while 82% of individuals with family incomes greater than \$20,000 have it.

What's the answer?

Many Americans are able to get cost-effective group policies through their employment. Here's the deal:

Let's say you have a salary of \$1000. But when you receive your check, you are appalled to find that, after the FICA deduction and perhaps 20% gouged out for federal and state taxes, you have only \$725 left. Then if you can manage to pay for an \$80/month individual policy, you're left with \$645.

Your employer is likewise appalled. After he has paid you, PLUS matching FICA, Federal Unemployment Tax, State Unemployment Tax, and Workman's Compensation premiums, his actual payroll cost has climbed to \$1171.

What if, instead, he pays that \$80/month off the top into a group policy and pays you the remaining \$920? His total cost drops to \$1156, saving him \$15, which may help defray the additional administrative costs of the benefit program. Meanwhile, your net pay would be around \$665--\$20 MORE than if you bought the policy on your own.

Well, that's how it CAN work, but it isn't always that simple. For large companies with steady, full

time employees, the additional administrative costs aren't so ponderous and the rates are better. But for small companies with limited resources who hire seasonal or short-term personnel, those costs can become prohibitive. A catastrophic illness in a small group often results in such a dramatic rate increase that the whole program has to be scrapped, pulling the rug from under the sick employee as well as all the others.

Companies with fewer than 100 employees account for more than half the uninsured American workers. In response, many states are creating added incentives for small businesses to offer insurance programs as well as allowing them to offer "bare bones" policies at a much lower rate. Another solution is for small companies to pool together to buy insurance; such groups have been able to save 35%-50% over the cost of individual small-firm policies.

Some companies in the river community have been making an effort to establish programs. Diamond offers a group policy to their employees, covering part of its cost during the months of employment. Although they don't carry a group policy, AZRA offers incentives to long-term, full time boatmen who buy individual policies, reimbursing up to 30% of the cost. They also have a profit sharing plan for retirement.

These are positive steps. However, the burden of responsibility lies with us as employees. We can't expect to be "taken care of." Nor should we allow ourselves to become dependent upon society or leave our families a legacy of debt in the event of catastrophic illness or injury. Some hospitals report collecting only 50-60% of generated bills; those who DON'T pay effectively double the costs for those who do.

At GCRG, the research is continuing; we need your help. If you haven't done so already, fill out the insurance poll and send it in. It won't take but a minute. As always, we appreciate your comments.

Jeri Ledbetter

Name (confidential) _____
Got insurance?(Y/N) _____ Annual cost _____
Individual or group? _____ Which group? _____
If not, what's the main reason you don't? _____
Do you participate in any sort of retirement plan? (Y/N) _____
What sort? _____
Would you be interested in an insurance plan if it were available? (Y/N) _____
How about a retirement plan? (Y/N) _____
please mail this along with any comments to: Insurance, c/o GCRG

GrandCanyon 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.*

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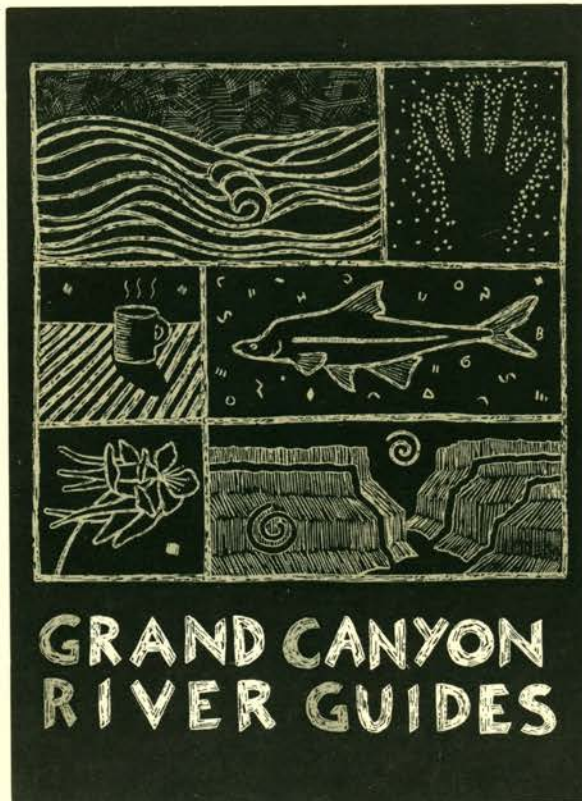
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Dues: \$20 per year. Make Jeri happy and renew before you're due. Thanks.



GCRG T-Shirts

The brand new 1992 GCRG T-shirts are now available. The design, at left, is by Mary Williams.

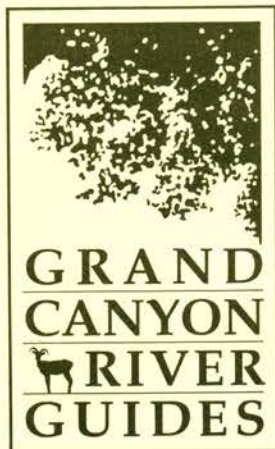
Short Sleeves \$15
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Our GCRG logo stickers are available for 50¢ each

**GCRG Fall Meeting
Halloween weekend,
Sat., October 31st
Flagstaff, AZ**

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P.O.Box 1934
Flagstaff, AZ 86002
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