

April 2015

Welcome New Members!

David Rust

Rhonda
Dundon

Dave Braun

Isaac Harmson

Paula Lund &
Steve Timian w/
Peik, Kjetil &
Finan Lund

Tom & Marilyn
Valentine

Deann
Peterson

Mary Ann Burns

Chris Coppin
&Truc Pham

Hayden Smith
& Julia Pusateri

Lee Chavez

Mark
Gunderson

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Presidents Message by Stan Mrzygod

Welcome to our 30 new SCKC members! Our last general meeting of the season on April 24th will feature Brett Saguid and Stand Up Paddle Boarding. SUPS are the fastest growing segment in paddle sports. Find out why.

Our club has ordered a 22 foot voyager canoe from Clipper Canoe in British Columbia. It can hold up to 8 paddlers and can be paddled well with as few as 4. This eye catching boat with distinctive up-swept ends will be used for group outings, camping tours, children's introductory sessions and offer some of our more senior members a way to get back on the water. Our

clubs name boldly printed on the sides of this white, gleaming beauty will greatly increase the visibility of SCKC. We will have fun with this canoe!

On July 11th SCKC will be partnering with City of Spokane Parks & Recreation, Out There Monthly and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance in an outdoor adventure festival called "Spokatopia" at Camp Sekani. SCKC will be organizing paddling events in conjunction with a dozen other exciting sampler of outdoor activities. In addition, there will be music & beer! Plan to be there as a participant or a volunteer

for SCKC. Because we will be funneling our volunteer resources into this event and the kid's oriented "Paddle Splash & Play" events, we will not be organizing the Spokane River Classic this year.

This was not an easy decision but a necessary one. Due to below normal snow levels and above normal temperatures I would strongly recommend that you get out "early and often". It's not too late to coordinate a trip yourself as the schedule still has many open dates! Lastly, if you are among the few who have still not renewed your membership, do so immediately, please. Enjoy the paddling season!

Summer Canoe and Kayak Clinics

Before you hit the water this summer, think about attending one of the clinics we are offering. Each summer our clinics allow paddlers to learn or improve basic skills under experienced club instructors.

[Solo/Tandem Canoe - flatwater session, May 31](#)

[Solo/Tandem Canoe - moving water sessions, June 13 & 14](#)

[Beginning Whitewater Kayak - June 27 & 28](#)

[Sea Kayak - July 15, 18 & 19](#)

Cost is \$55.00 per paddler, per clinic. Membership in Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club is required. You will need to provide the equipment specified in the class description. All participants must be 12 years or older. And last but not least, pre-registration is required.

To register or for class information go to: <http://www.sckc.ws/>

Questions about registering? Contact Lynaia Liptak, Clinic Coordinator

liptak.lynaia@gmail.com or (509) 325-2338

Questions about specific clinics? Contact the instructor listed on the web site for that clinic.

Trip Report Grand Ronde by Pierre Finch

According to www.americanwhitewater.org "The Grande Ronde runs through a remote canyon in northeastern Oregon. The put-in is located at Highway 82 mile 33.5 on the downstream river left side of the bridge across the Wallowa River. This highway starts in La Grande, OR which is the closest significant town. The Minam Store is located at the put-in and provides raft rentals, shuttles, and a limited selection of supplies. Good nearby camping is available at the Minam State Recreation Area which makes a good place to rendezvous with your group the evening before your run...As an added bonus the Minam Roller provides a fun surf wave for those who want to get in a session the evening before putting on."

David White and Pierre Finch headed for the Grand Ronde Thursday morning Feb. 25. The forecast was not great-it called for snow and rain with wind combined with dropping temps on Saturday. Unfortunately the forecast was correct!

We put on at Minam and took out at Mud Creek on a sunny Sunday. The river was running at 2853 cfs and was so boney I did not get good pictures while paddling since there were too many rocks to dodge.

The camping was very nice with some great campfires and we had a great trip on a wonderful river. We saw lots of wildlife including river otters, bald eagles, king fishers, mangansers, northern flickers, bluejay, chukar, elk, deer and varied thrush.



Beautiful canyon walls



David White models his cold-weather attire



Nice put-in with a view

Member Profile: Violet Sturgeon by V Sturgeon with J&B Harrison

It is always nice to find a young person who is enthusiastic about the outdoors and especially paddling sports. Club member, fourteen-year-old Violet Sturgeon, wrote the short biography below to tell us a little about herself and her growing passion for kayaking. After reading about her, we think you will agree she is a very special young lady.

I have been white water kayaking for about two years. I started off canoeing and eventually moved on to white water rafting. I've always felt comfortable in water because I grew up swimming and I've always thought the water was surrounded by mystery, so I wanted to understand how to read it better.

One of my favorite paddling experiences was on the Clark Fork, on a raft, and it was extremely thrilling because the oarsman ran Tumbleweed middle left and he happened to get knocked off the raft because we nearly flipped. I really enjoyed this certain experience because it made me realize more than ever before that free flowing water in nature deserves respect. Another one of my favorite experiences was the first time I kayaked the Priest River (Binarch Creek Rapid), it was also my first class 3 kayaking. I really

liked this experience because I went with a really cool group of kayakers, two other fourteen year olds were with us and it was really fun boating with people near my own age.

My favorite paddling experience was, by far, helping to run safety at Camp Journey, a camp for kids with cancer. This was one of the most amazing experiences I've had the pleasure of taking part in, in my life so far. I really loved seeing these kids and teens fighting horrible battles, but still being able to enjoy life so much, I am really looking forward to doing it again next year.

Family wise, they have been nothing but supportive. School work and dance do get in the way of going on the Wednesday night floats, which really bums me out, but sometimes you just have to roll with it. I am still only fourteen, so I have no job, yet.

I am from Spokane, but I've always wanted to travel. Growing up near so many rivers and lakes definitely played a part in my water activities.

I have quite a few other hobbies. I am an avid downhill skier, but I am trying out Telemark skiing, with the encouragement

from my dad. I also am a ballet and lyrical dancer. Dance plays a major role in my life. I enjoy writing short stories, but I am usually much too embarrassed to let anyone but a couple of close friends read them, reading is also something I enjoy. One of my favorite hobbies is playing video games; I don't really like the shooting games though. Swimming will always be a favorite activity too.

I am a bit too young to volunteer at a lot of places, but I still try my best to get out and do it when I can. I volunteered at Camp Journey last summer, we helped teach some of the kids how to kayak, I was part of safety because I wasn't experienced or old enough to have my own group. I still lack enough experience to have my own group, but maybe in a few years I'll be good enough. I also hope to volunteer at the Human Society when I'm old enough.

My paddling bucket list hasn't gotten too crazy yet, but there's definitely some places I really want to boat at. I would first like to kayak the gorge of the Clark Fork, next would be the Tieton, after that I hope to boat Lightning Creek and eventually work my way up to boating in South America, such as Ecuador and Costa Rica.
Ctd on pg 4

Violet's favorite paddling experience was running safety on the water at Camp Journey, a camp for kids with cancer.

Violet Sturgeon ctd from pg 3

Violet Sturgeon represents the future of our club. Share your paddling knowledge with a young person today!

One non-river goal is to work up to getting my roll and being able to boat class 4 and 5 water.

Many people encouraged me to start paddling, starting out when I was very young. One of the main people that encouraged and supported was my dad and I have to give a big thank you to him for pushing me to try new things. I also have to give a big thank you to Terry Miller, Celene Olgeirsson, Theron Vanhoff and Susan Luchesi. Not to mention countless other people who were patient with me when I was new on the water and are still patient with me today. Another big influence on whether I paddled or not were the countless hours spent watching kayaking movies and thinking how amazing it would be to be

able to do incredible things like that.



Violet preparing to paddle the Priest River



Sunset in the Grand Canyon

We watched as the large, yellow, 18 foot Sotar raft got forcefully pinned against the upriver side of the dreaded "Cheese Grater" rock, a single car garage-sized nightmare at the bottom of Lava Falls Rapid. Although still upright, the surging and fickle currents of the mighty Colorado River aggressively rasped the pneumatic rubber tubes of

the raft across the "Grater's" surface again and again. Of the three distressed raft occupants, the rower undoubtedly realized the full magnitude of their plight as one of his two oars was jammed tightly against the rock and the other held under the raft by the strong current. After toying with the hapless raft for many

breathless moments, the river mercifully delivered a random upwelling of water beneath the raft which propelled it back out to the center of Lava Falls Rapid and directly into a concentrated, high velocity, 12,000 cubic feet a second maelstrom. The sudden acceleration and change of direction of the raft resulted in an

Ctd on pg 5

Grand Canyon Trip Report ctd from pg 4

immediate sixty degree upstream tilt of the raft which propelled all three rafters overboard in a high, graceful, arch-like trajectory. They were all in perfect formation as they plunged head first into the frigid river. Unburdened of its human freight, the raft continued merrily on its way downriver, upright and dry, sans occupants. This mishap is appropriately termed as a "royal flush"! The Colorado seemed to say to all mortal observers, "See? I'm still the boss here!" To their great relief, the swimmers were promptly rescued by their mates below the rapid. Although not lacking for comedy since everyone survived unhurt, this entire episode was sobering to our group of eleven adventurers, all in smaller rafts, and especially so for the rower with a diminutive thirteen and a half footer. (His partner elected to walk around the rapid.) We were now "up next" to test our skill and luck in Lava Falls. Of the 162 rated rapids on this spectacular 280 mile journey, this would be our most challenging "final exam". Apparently the "river gods" satisfied their lust for chaos with the previous group as all six of our rafts had a mostly uneventful run with only an ejection of a single passenger. Our celebration at "Tequila Beach" downstream was intense and heartfelt. Yet another moment of

adventure in the Grand Canyon.

Although carnage, crashing white water and celebrations are memorable components of a canyon passage, for me the subtler aspects were more endearing. During the 30 day tour some things that come to my mind are night-time fireside chats, learning about people whom you have not met before and building trust within the group, the perfect celestial displays on most nights, finessing a demanding rapid to perfection, ancient petroglyphs, blooming yucca cacti, studying a large, shy, Chuckawilla lizard, the perfect skillet of mac and cheese, a dry suit on a soaking, big rapids day, hitting an exceedingly rare "thirty-one" count in Cribbage, wearing shorts and tee shirts in February, a pot-luck dinner, hidden waterfalls, stunning sunsets, a steaming mug of hot, herbal tea, and a warm hat on a cold night.

A precious commodity valued by all and "earned" by all in our party were lay-over days. These holidays away from travel are achieved through rowing 20 mile days at times to stay on schedule. They are valued because the almost daily tearing down camp, mobilizing, tying down gear in the raft, and then unstrapping and

unloading gear, hauling and setting up camp, cooking, etc., consumes about five to six laborious hours. Staying in one spot for a day recharges one's spirit by allowing time for back country hiking, reading, games and accomplishing mundane housekeeping chores. With these simple pleasures as an incentive we were afforded a remarkable nine lay-over days.

Geology is my big thing and the Grand Canyon is a geologist's ultimate destination. The "layer cake" strata within the canyon reveal a 2.2 billion year rock record of the earth's geologic history. The abrasive Colorado River and the steep, erodible terrain make the Canyon a dynamic landscape. The movement of massive amounts of erodible materials is readily apparent. Some rapids and campgrounds wash out or are altered from year to year. The colors, textures and lighting variations are as spectacular as they are diverse. As this was my fourth private-party trip, each one in February, I have witnessed many new geologic wonders and learn more about them every time I go.

Each one of my passages has been unique. This year was unusually warm

And dry, but on a previous trip it was frosty almost every morning. One night in 2011 was a frigid fifteen degrees, and the following night a numbing nine degrees.

In 2013 my wife Lynn and I rented a 16 foot raft and rowed the entire canyon from Lee's Ferry to South Cove at the top end of Lake Mead.

4.5 million people visit the park annually, and 25,000 raft, kayak, canoe, or paddleboard down the mighty Colorado, mostly on guided tours. Several SCKC members have experienced the Canyon recently and to my knowledge no one has ever been disappointed by this world-class natural wonder. Whether from the rim or from the river, I would strongly endorse a vacation to this gorgeous National Park.

Photos from this trip can be found on pg 7

Wild and Scenic Film Festival

April 30th 7 PM

Come join us for an evening of inspirational films at the Garland theater on April 30th at 7:00pm.

Spokane Riverkeeper, Mountain Gear, Patagonia, River City Brewing, the Garland Theatre and Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club, among others, are proud to bring the Wild and Scenic Film Festival to Spokane. River City Riverkeeper IPA will be served.

This will be an “evening of environmental and adventure films that illustrate the Earth’s

beauty, the challenges facing our planet and the work communities are doing to protect the environment. Through these films, Wild & Scenic both informs people about the state of the world and inspires them to take action.”

For more information about the event and tickets go to:

facebook.com/SpokaneRiverkeeper

and

wildandscenicfilmfestival.org



Trapped on Cheese Grater Rock



Above: Swimmers in Lava Falls Rapid
Below: Massive Canyon Walls

GRAND CANYON PHOTOS

See article on p 5





Eddy Line

The Eddy Line is published quarterly by the Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club. Editorial submissions, trip reports, or other items are highly encouraged.

Email copy to Editor, Bonnie Mandel, at sckc_newsletter@sckc.ws

We need to hear from you!

You determine the content of the newsletter with your submissions.

Anonymous submissions are not permitted.

Views expressed in the Eddy Line are the sole responsibility of the author and are not necessarily the official views of the SCKC.

Meetings

General Membership meetings are held 7 pm the fourth Monday of the month, October through April.

Paddle Board meetings are at 6:45 pm the 1st Monday of the month October through April;

All Members are welcome.

All meetings are held at Mt. Gear Corporate Office 6021 E. Mansfield, Spokane,

See you on the water during the paddling season.

Membership

Dues are \$25.00 per household per calendar year.

To join or renew send your check/money order and your completed application and signed USCA waiver to: Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club, P.O. Box 819, Spokane, WA 99210

Online renewal is available.

Inquiries

Sckc_members@sckc.ws

Affiliation

The Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club is an organizational member of American Whitewater.

Upcoming Events

General Membership meetings

April 27 "Intro to Stand Up Paddleboarding"

Paddle Board meetings

April 6

Special Events

April 30 Wild and Scenic Film Festival

2015 Trip and Class Schedules are posted on the SCKC website and updated as needed. Please use the website as your "go to" resource for event information and schedules. New events are added as they arise. All events are dependent on weather and water conditions and could be subject to change.

Paddling:

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Wednesday daytime and evening moving water paddles

April 12 Bonnie Lake

May 6, 13, 20 & 27 Wednesday daytime and evening moving water paddles

May 14, 21 & 28 Thursday evening flat water paddles

May 16 Yakima River with optional camping and wine tasting

May 23 Little Spokane River

May 31 Flatwater Canoe Clinic

Photo Credits:

Grand Ronde courtesy of Pierre Finch

Violet Sturgeon courtesy of Bucky Sturgeon

Grand Canyon courtesy of Stan Mrzygod