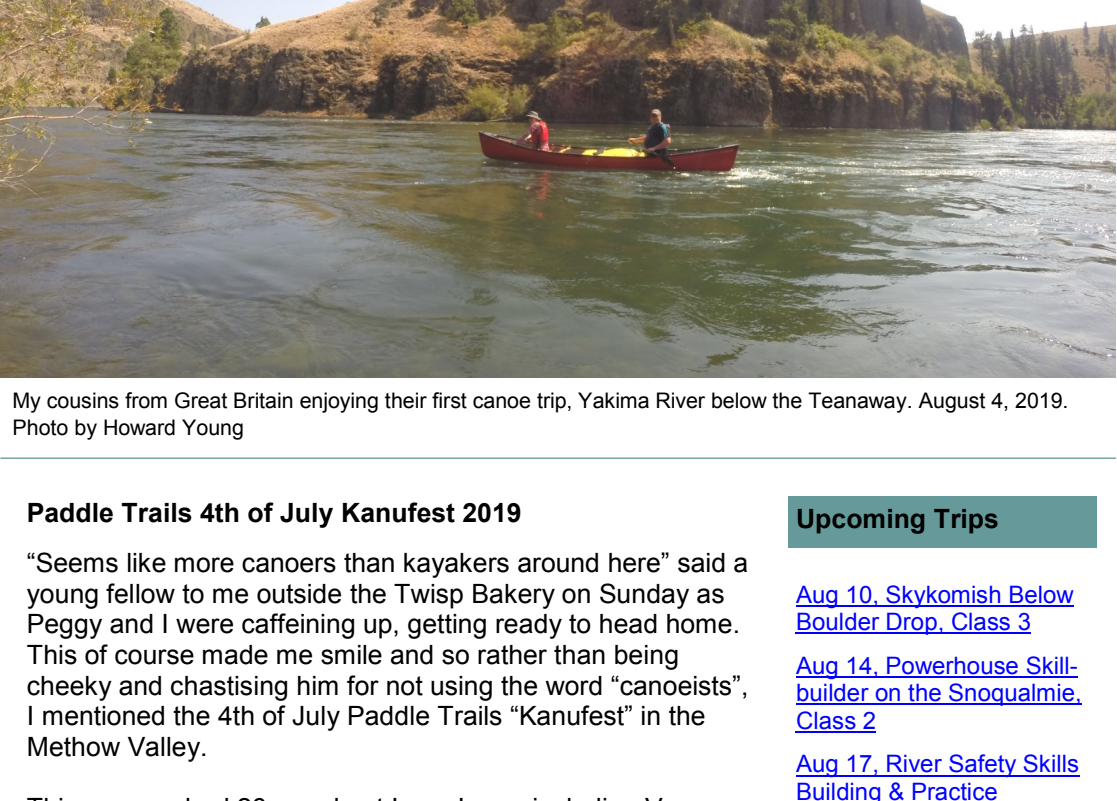




Paddle Trails Canoe Club

CANEWS

August 2019



My cousins from Great Britain enjoying their first canoe trip, Yakima River below the Teanaway. August 4, 2019. Photo by Howard Young

Paddle Trails 4th of July Kanufest 2019

"Seems like more canoes than kayakers around here" said a young fellow to me outside the Twisp Bakery on Sunday as Peggy and I were caffeining up, getting ready to head home. This of course made me smile and so rather than being cheeky and chastising him for not using the word "canoeists", I mentioned the 4th of July Paddle Trails "Kanufest" in the Methow Valley.

This year we had 26 people at Loup Loup, including Vancouver Islanders Rick and Iain; Vancouverites Dan, Marlene and Denise; Kamloopsian Bob Costerton, and Bend'er Todd Chorba (from Bend, OR). Washingtonians made up the rest. It was a good turnout this year considering the water levels which, hovering just above 1000 CFS, were low but surprisingly fun. It was never too shallow. We had great weather each day too with temperatures in the upper 70s to mid-80s.

Except for Sunday, we ran two trips each day. On Thursday, a large group of around 20 did the usual McFarland to Lower Burma Rd section, which even with low water was great fun and had some surprisingly big wave trains. A second group of 4 paddled the Carlton to McFarland section. Special mention to Jim Asa who reappeared from a long absence and joined us on the McFarland stretch and looked to be in great form and to Sarah Mattingly who paddled her first trip with PTCC in Carol's IK and did great. There were no reports of any swims from either group. On Friday we did Black Canyon and McFarland stretches, again with no notable mishaps. Ok, there were rumors of maybe one or two, but no one swam the Black Canyon or Staircase rapids. Jim Lawton borrowed a hard-shell kayak to paddle on the McFarland section and enjoyed it so much, it is reported that he is now considering buying one.

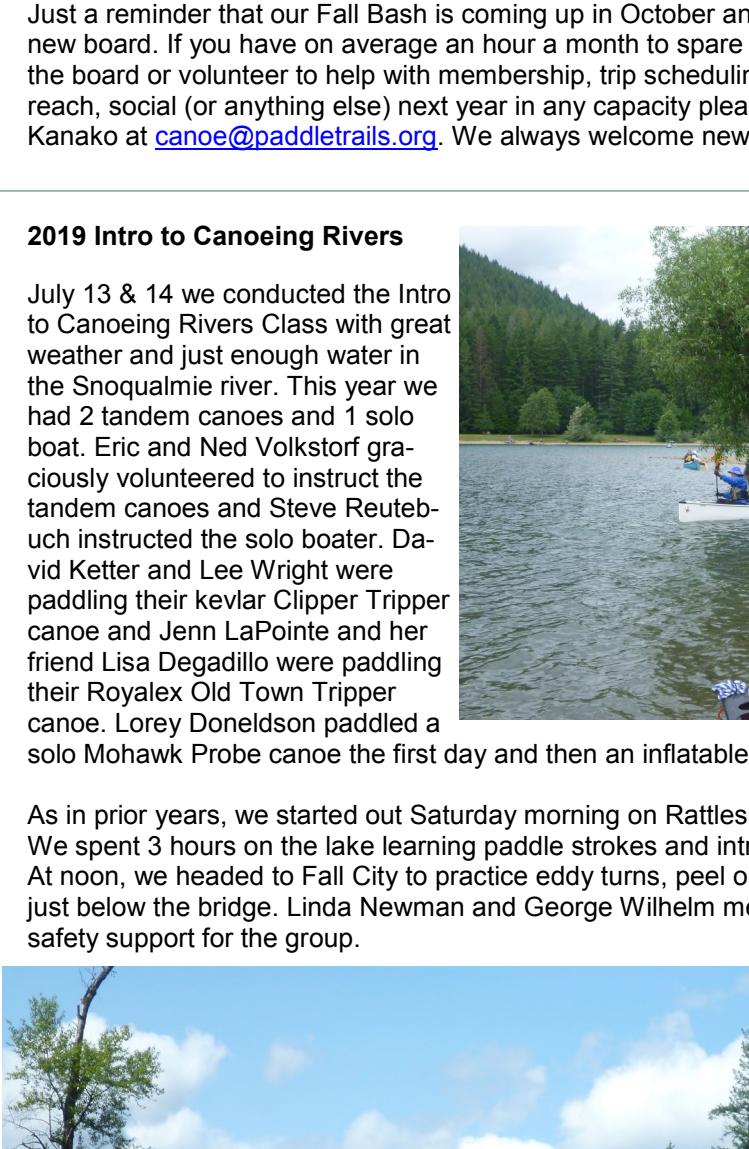
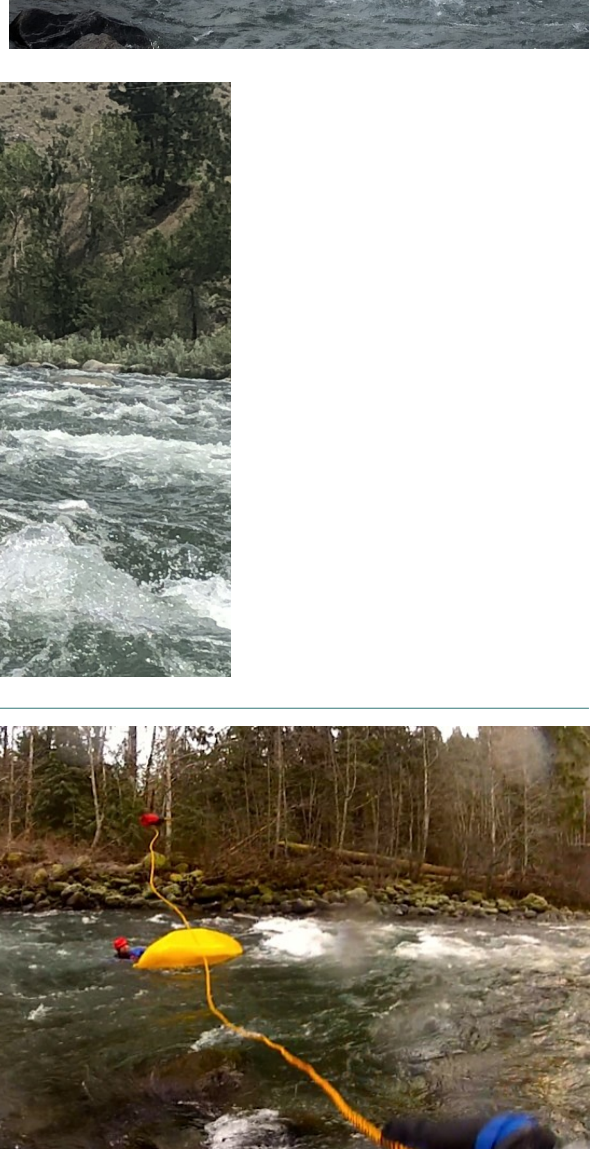
At Loup Loup on Friday evening, we had a big thunderstorm with heavy rain and we may have set a Guinness Book of Records record for gathering at least 16 people around a picnic table under a 12 x 12 tarp. Saturday cleared up and we paddled similar sections as the previous day with the exception that some of us put in at "upper" Burma Rd for the Black Canyon section in the name of bagging some of the good surf waves on the lower McFarland section. Even though this made for a longer day, adding almost 2 hours of paddling time, many in the group maxed out every last play spot all the way to the takeout.

Fourth of July "Kanufest" is my favorite PTCC event of the year and this year was no exception. There was a constant good vibe on and off the river, great friends, fun paddling and some fantastic owl and coyote serenades in camp. Thanks to all that came and made it so fun. Special thanks to Jerry Eller and Carol Beers for co-ordinating and providing alternative paddling options each day and especially to Carol for bringing an extra IK and her willingness to loan it.

Check out the photo album "[Paddle Trails Kanufest 2019](#)" for more pictures of Day 1 on the McFarland Creek section.

Here's the list of attendees: Jim Asa, Bob Schneider, Mary Keppler, Celia Parker, Lori Lodzinski, Carol Beers, Jerry Eller, Robin Stanton, Doug King, Patrick Mars, Sarah Mattingly, Pat Contor, Dale Perry, Meryl Douglas, Inky, John Kelly, Dan McGinnis, Marlene Alvarado, Denise Wrathall, Rick Bryan, Iain Law, Bob Costerton, Todd Chorba, Jim Lawton, Helen Buttemer, Peggy Mainer, Dave Mainer.

Dave Mainer

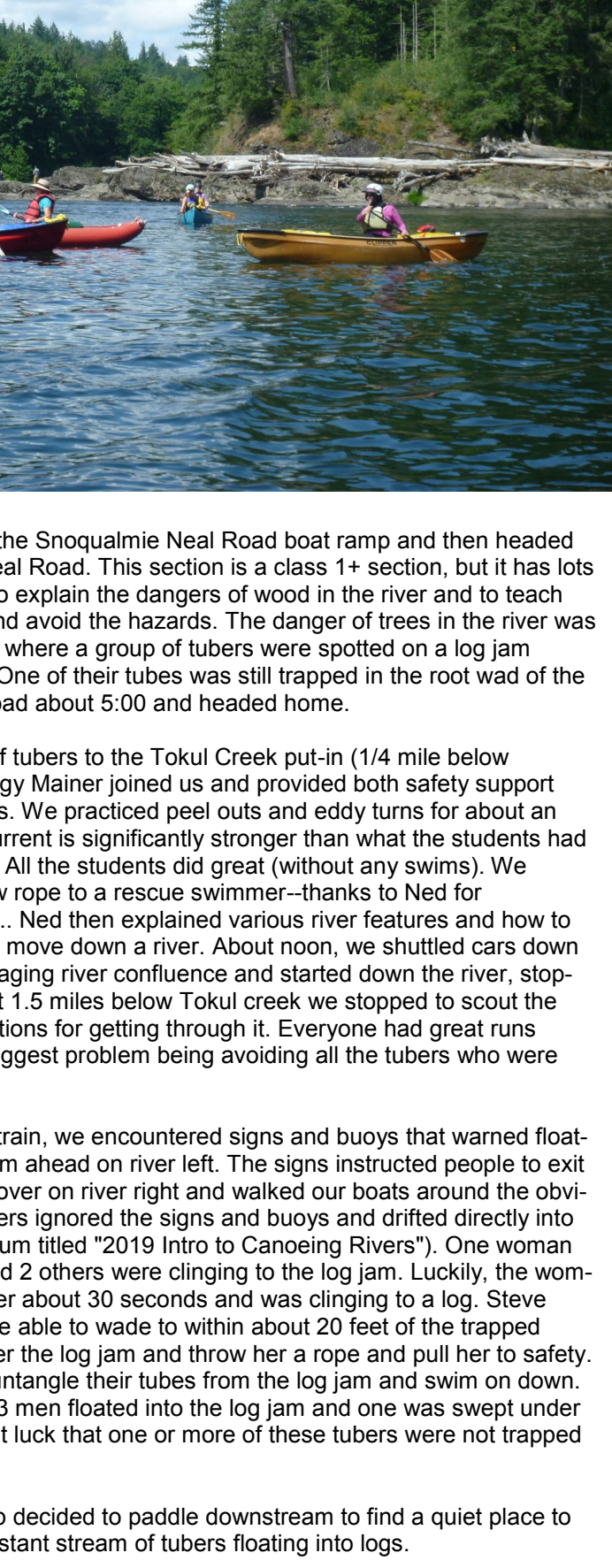


Safety Clinic Next Week

August 17, 2019

This class is offered by experienced club members, covering basics & unique scenarios in canoeing safely and being prepared. The class is partly indoors with theory & discussion, then outdoors to practice new skills.

[Sign up](#)

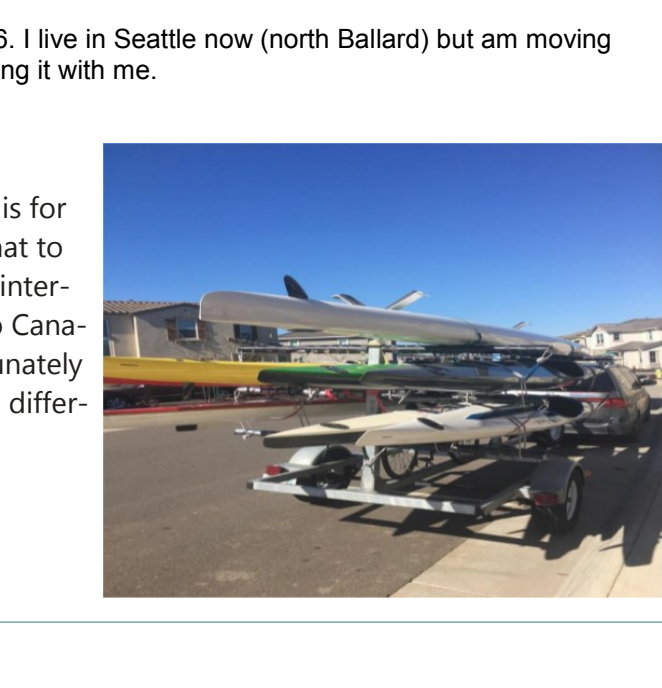


LFBM (looking for board members)

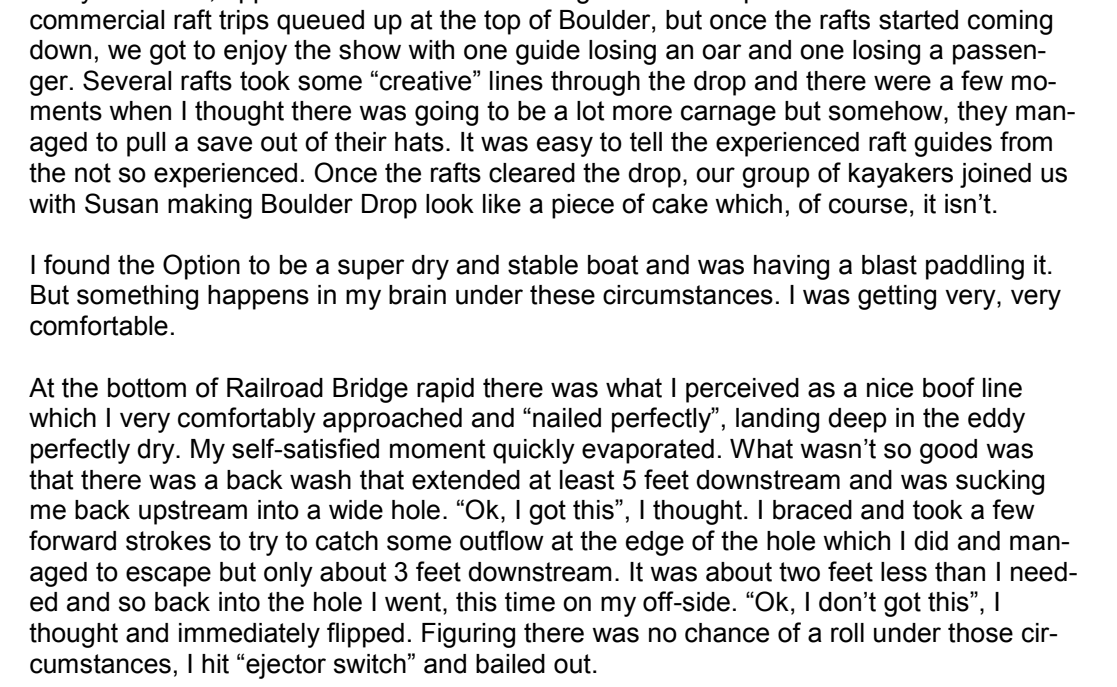
Just a reminder that our Fall Bash is coming up in October and that is when we elect the new board. If you have on average an hour a month to spare and you'd like to serve on the board or volunteer to help with membership, trip scheduling, class coordination, outreach, social (or anything else) next year in any capacity please contact Dave Mainer or Kanako at canoe@paddletrails.org. We always welcome new members too.

2019 Intro to Canoeing Rivers

July 13 & 14 we conducted the Intro to Canoeing Rivers Class with great weather and just enough water in the Snoqualmie river. This year we had 2 tandem canoes and 1 solo boat. Eric and Ned Volkstorf graciously volunteered to instruct the tandem canoes and Steve Reutebuch instructed the solo boater. David Ketter and Lee Wright were paddling their kevlar Clipper Tripper canoe and Jenn LaPointe and her friend Lisa Degadillo were paddling their Royalex Old Town Tripper canoe. Lorey Donaldson paddled a solo Mohawk Probe canoe the first day and then an inflatable kayak the second day.



As in prior years, we started out Saturday morning on Rattlesnake Lake near North Bend. We spent 3 hours on the lake learning paddle strokes and introducing paddling concepts. At noon, we headed to Fall City to practice eddy turns, peel outs, and ferries for an hour just below the bridge. Linda Newman and George Wilhelm met us in Fall City to provide safety support for the group.



At 3:30 we shuttled cars down to the Snoqualmie Neal Road boat ramp and then headed down river for the 3 mile run to Neal Road. This section is a class 1+ section, but it has lots of wood hazards that were used to explain the dangers of wood in the river and to teach new paddlers how to recognize and avoid the hazards. The danger of trees in the river was vividly illustrated at the first island where a group of tubers were spotted on a log jam around the left side of the island. One of their tubes was still trapped in the root wad of the tree. We safely arrived at Neal Road about 5:00 and headed home.

On Sunday, we beat the hordes of tubers to the Tokul Creek put-in (1/4 mile below Snoqualmie Falls). Dave and Peggy Mainer joined us and provided both safety support and excellent paddling instructions. We practiced peel outs and eddy turns for about an hour at Tokul Creek, where the current is significantly stronger than what the students had encountered on the previous day. All the students did great (without any swims). We demonstrated how we use a throw rope to a rescue swimmer--thanks to Ned for "volunteering" to be the swimmer... Ned then explained various river features and how to identify them and use them as we move down a river. About noon, we shuttled cars down to the boat ramp just above the Raging river confluence and started down the river, stopping occasionally in eddies. About 1.5 miles below Tokul creek we stopped to scout the wave train and explain various options for getting through it. Everyone had great runs through the wave train, with the biggest problem being avoiding all the tubers who were now floating the river.

About 200 yards below the wave train, we encountered signs and buoys that warned floaters about a very dangerous log jam ahead on river left. The signs instructed people to exit the river on river right. We pulled over on river right and walked our boats around the obvious hazard; however, several tubers ignored the signs and buoys and drifted directly into the log jam (see trip photo album titled "2019 Intro to Canoeing Rivers"). One woman disappeared under the log jam and 2 others were clinging to the log jam. Luckily, the woman surfaced below the log jam after about 30 seconds and was clinging to a log. Steve Reutebuch and Eric Volkstorf were able to wade to within about 20 feet of the trapped woman who had been swept under the log jam and throw her a rope and pull her to safety. The other 2 women managed to untangle their tubes from the log jam and swim on down. Within minutes, another group of 3 men floated into the log jam and one was swept under it and surfaced below it. It was just luck that one or more of these tubers were not trapped under water.

After all this excitement, our group decided to paddle downstream to find a quiet place to enjoy our lunches without the constant stream of tubers floating into logs.

At about 3 pm we arrived at the take-out and loaded up for home. Dave, Peggy, David, Lee, and Steve stopped in Fall City for refreshments and food. A great day was had by all.

Steve Reutebuch

Gear Talk

Who doesn't need another boat? Check out all the greatest info and deals on gear at [Gear Talk](#)

Old Klepper Aerius II For Sale

\$200 obo
Klepper Aerius II collapsable double kayak.
Well used but with strategically placed waterproof gorilla tape, it's a usable day trip/play boat. Needs work if you want to use it for multi-day trips. At least 25 years old.
Frame has had some repairs but is in good shape. Useable as is but also excellent for spare parts.
Hull needs patching and rubber material is degrading in stern.
Comes with assembly and repair instructions and some repair materials.
Does not come with paddles or extra gear.
Has rudder and seats
Call or text Dave K. at 360-670-2386. I live in Seattle now (north Ballard) but am moving to Bellingham soon. Prefer not to bring it with me.

Kayak/canoe trailer for Sale

An excellent kayak/ canoe trailer is for sale @ \$3000. Please circulate that to anyone you know who might be interested. The trailer was brought to Canada recently from WA, but unfortunately it cannot be licensed here due to different VIN rules. It's a fine trailer.
Drew
drew.harrison@shaw.ca
250-652-8543

Recent Trip Reports

A Maiden Voyage, a Dumb Move and a "Mysterious" Ou...

On Saturday, June 24th 4 club members, Susan Batchelor, Pat Contor, Jesse Swedlund and myself were joined by a few friends of club members on the Boulder Stretch section of the Skykomish at just under 2000 CFS. The weather was cool and so was the paddling. I thought 2000 CFS might be a bit on the "juicy" side but it wasn't. It was a really nice level. Pat paddled his Silverbirch Agent 88, Jess was in his glass Viper 11 and I paddled a Blackfly Option -- a maiden voyage for me in that boat.

Susan and the gang of 'yakkars put in at the confluence and so Pat, Jesse and I had the opportunity to warm up in the pool below Boulder Drop while we waited for them which I, in my new boat, appreciated. The wait was longer than anticipated as there were several commercial raft trips queued up at the top of Boulder, but once the rafts started coming down, we got to enjoy the show with one guide losing an oar and one losing a passenger. Several rafts took some "creative" lines through the drop and there were a few moments when I thought there was going to be a lot more carnage but somehow, they managed to pull a save out of their hats. It was easy to tell the experienced raft guides from the not so experienced. Once the rafts cleared the drop, our group of kayakers joined us with Susan making Boulder Drop look like a piece of cake which, of course, it isn't.

I found the Option to be a super dry and stable boat and was having a blast paddling it. But something happens in my brain under these circumstances. I was getting very, very comfortable.

At the bottom of Railroad Bridge rapid there was what I perceived as a nice boof line which I very comfortably approached and "nailed perfectly", landing deep in the eddy perfectly dry. My self-satisfied moment quickly evaporated. What wasn't so good was that there was a back wash that extended at least 5 feet downstream and was sucking me back upstream into a wide hole. "Ok, I got this", I thought. I braced and took a few forward strokes to try to catch some airflow at the edge of the hole which I did and managed to escape but only about 3 feet downstream. It was about two feet less than I needed and so back into the hole I went, this time on my off-side. "Ok, I don't got this", I thought and immediately flipped. Figuring there was no chance of a roll under those circumstances, I hit "ejector switch" and bailed out.

As I washed out downstream, I watched as my boat continued to get worked by this rather strong, midstream hydraulic. "Not good" I remember thinking, but then I focused on rescuing myself -- an easy swim in the calm green water below the rapid.

Now on shore and a few minutes later, my boat was still firmly stuck, being bounced around deep in the grip of this hole. I stood by on shore watching as a kayaker thought about getting close enough to the boat to grab it had legitimate second thoughts and backed off. Deciding that the boat wasn't going to come out on its own, the only plan I could think of was using a tethered swimmer (which would likely have been me) to swim out to the boat and hopefully grab it. Not a great option.

Then, suddenly, my front airbag washed out of the boat, the boat did and ender and "bam" it was floating free from the "devil" hydraulic. "Good" I thought but then began to worry that my airbag had burst or had a hole in it and I now was going to have to finish the rest of the run with only one airbag. Looking like an "SRS" airbag had just deployed from the front of her kayak, one of the kayakers bumped my still partially inflated airbag to me. Susan towed my boat across the river after it was dumped out by the rest of the group. "So where's this mysterious outcome?" you ask. Well, I think having the air bag come out on its own qualifies but here's the deal.

The air bag, which was held into the boat by a tightly strung rope cage formed by ropes laced between the gunwales, had somehow worked its way out of the boat with no apparent damage to either the bag or the boat. I figured it should be relatively easy to get it back in without deflating it - right? Nope. There was not enough gap in the rope "cage" to stuff the bag back into place and after 10 minutes of patiently tugging, shoving and stuffing I still couldn't get the bag back in and I finally deflated it enough to ease it back in. After re-inflating it I was good to go. "Pretty good outcome all in all" I said smiling. The bag retained all of its air for the rest of the trip and even now, it is still nestled happy and content, fully inflated.

Other than "God loves canoeists" (which I say often enough), the only reasonable explanation I can come up with about how this happened is that as the boat was getting "worked" in the hole, the nylon airbag was very slowly being extruded out between the girths in the rope cage and every time it got hit with a pulse of water, micro puffs of air from the bag that was inside the boat would get pushed into the bag that was outside until after 10 minutes or so there was more air in the bag outside the boat than inside and the bag came out.

As I was telling this happy story to Peggy when I got home and saying "there was this nice boof move at the bottom of Railroad Bridge" she interrupted me with "Oh yeah, there's a big hole there." Wives...

Dave Mainer

North Fork of the Nooksack River, August 3, 2019

Had a great time boating the North Fork of the Nooksack Saturday. Water level was low at 660cfs. It was as high as 1800cfs the previous day due to a hard rain in the valley! Luckily it dropped fast. We had a big turnout with 13 boats which included 3 canoes and 1 IK. All the rest were kayaks. We also had 3 Canadians come across the border for the trip. Only had one swim. A kayaker flipped over just before a log jam on the left bank. Rolled up immediately but flipped back over and floated up against a big log. Very scary for a few seconds, but the boat and swimmer slid off the log and were OK. Almost everyone did the long run that included the Canyon run of about 4 miles and then continued for another 4 miles of class II with some class III wood obstacles that were all avoidable in one's boat. If we all had taken the right route on one of those obstructions no one would have had to get out of their boat. My fault -- I picked the wrong route.

Bob Schneider

www.paddletrails.org | P.O. Box 24932, Seattle, WA 98124 | [Contact Us](#)

This CANEWS is prepared by Howard Young younghs123@gmail.com