



# RAPIDS

WESTERN WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION

RAPIDS

## SKILLS DAY 2015

The 2015 version of the Skills Day Run was a day of various uncertainties completed with an exclamation mark of success and fun as nine boats with 23 persons ran from Hells Canyon Dam downstream to Wild Sheep Rapids. The first uncertainty, and clearly an important one, was the level of stream flow below Hells Canyon Dam.

As advised by many, and that advice is most appreciated, the release below HCD was dropped to 6,300 cfs and at that flow the launching of boats is tenuous at

best. Actually, boats can be launched at that level but loading a boat at that flow generally causes problems with equipment. I have seen a trailer frame bent to the point of barely limping down the road after loading at that flow. Still, the Skills Day was on and if need be the event could become an event on Hells Canyon Reservoir.

Fortunately, the morning of May 16 the river flow was increased to 8400 cfs and the Idaho Power plan was to hold it at that level until late evening.

That made for easy unloading and loading of all boats. The second uncertainty was the weather. However, as a friend tells me, there is no such thing as bad weather just poor gear. As luck would have it, there were a couple drops of rain through the day but not enough to even put on a jacket let alone a rain coat. The rain held off all the way through dinner that night as well. More about dinner later.

Once on the river, we  
*(Continued on page 2)*





## SKILLS DAY 2015

*(Continued from page 1)*

divided into three groups and with four boats that had never been on the river, Randy Clagg and Jim Shore helped lead each boat group down river through some rapids to the “quiet pool” just above Wild Sheep Rapids. The groups stopped there for lunch, some fishing, and some scouting of Wild Sheep Rapids. A couple of the more experienced boat captains ran Wild Sheep and then went on down to Granite. During lunch there were several fish caught and relaxing conversations amongst the group.

Upriver the skills day runners stopped at Brush Creek and navigated that rapid several times to better understand how each boat responds in the moving water. I ran or rode through the rapid several times with some of the “new to the river folks” and imparted my knowledge (just hope it helped). At that level of river flow, there were some rocks to avoid in Brush Creek that I had only seen a couple of times but they marked well and were easily avoided. All the boats and boat captains received a pass-

ing grade at Brush Creek.

A little more fishing and the group headed to the launch site and eventually to dinner. The dinner consisted of some great steaks (compliments of the WWA) and awesome pot luck side salads to compliment the steaks. There are some great cooks in the club and it was evidenced by the side salads and desert that evening. Desert was blueberry upside down cake and ice cream. Special thanks to Jim and Anita Shore for the cooking setup for dinner and to Randy Clagg and Jim Shore for their leadership down river and back up river. It was a very enjoyable run and one that needs to be repeated.

Photos this page and front page courtesy of Jim Shore





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Photo of the cabin on the north side of the river across from Mackey bar. This is the building our club donated money to help add on too. Photo courtesy of Dave Horton

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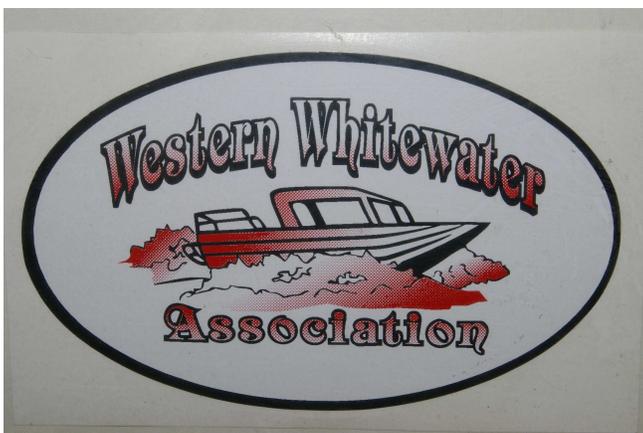
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### LOGO HISTORY

On this page is a copy of our logo through the years. The far left was used for a short period of time then the one on the right came into use until about 1995 when the lower logo was designed. It is still in use today.



### NOT IMPORTANT BUT POSSIBLY OF INTEREST

I wanted to let everyone know that the fact that there isn't a "Presidents Message" in this issue, or for that matter, not much in the way of stories, is my fault. I am going to be out of town next week and so am sending this out early. And I didn't give anyone a chance to send me an article. See you on the river soon. The editor, Anita Shore

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## Internet Addresses

**Idaho Current Streamflows: (New Address) 5-01**

[http://water.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current?type=flow&group\\_key=NONE&search\\_site\\_no\\_station\\_nm=](http://water.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current?type=flow&group_key=NONE&search_site_no_station_nm=)  
(enter it once and bookmark it!)

**Idaho Power Streamflow Information: (03-02)** <http://www.idahopower.com/h2o/idastream.cfm>

**Riverflow Information:** <http://www.idwr.state.id.us/planpol/techserv/flows.htm>

### Addresses and Telephone Numbers

**Salmon River Reservations:** Slate Creek Ranger Station: 208-839-2211

**Hells Canyon Power Boat Reservations:** Reservations must be made online. <https://www.recreation.gov/>

**River & Reservoir Levels:** Bureau of Reclamation: 208-334-9134

**Bliss Dam Outflows:** Idaho Power (Call weekdays only) 208-388-2255

## Calendar of Events

**JUNE 8, 2015: 7 P.M.** General Membership meeting—Canyon Creek Eagle Bar, Hells Canyon Reservoir

**September 12, 2015:** Confluence Run

**October 24, 2015:** Hammer Creek Fishing Day

**General membership meeting:** Second Monday of the month at Canyon Creek Restaurant, Nampa ID at 7 P.M.

