



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION

President's Message August 2021

Greetings everyone I trust the summer is treating you well other than the heat which is causing numerous challenges throughout the state and northwest.

I was in McCall recently and air quality index was three times as high as it was in the valley due to the forest fires. There are numerous fires in Idaho as well as surrounding states and the smoke seems to come our way.

There have been numerous conversations about the water flows in Hells Canyon which affects all of us that use boats in the river. Idaho Power along with Army Corps of Engineers and FERC, (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) decide the amount of river flow and the timing of releasing the water.

It's a greater challenge when there is a drought as we need irrigation water and power as well as water to support the fish habitat. Hopefully we have a great snow pack this coming winter to compensate for what we have lost.

At our next general meeting August 9 we will discuss in detail how to manage the Confluence Run due to the water challenges. As I understand a lot of boaters are leaving later in the morning and returning later in the evening to get the right flows.

One possibility may be that we don't run down the river as a group and everyone is free to go where they want and return for dinner at a set time, we'll make a decision soon.

Come join us at our August meeting for dinner and some great conversation.

Safe boating and camping,

Clyde Durham, WWA President

SAVE THE DATE

2022 BANQUET

February 5th, 2022

EXPO IDAHO - BOISE, IDAHO

Up Coming Events

August 9th
September 11&12
November 6&7
February 5, 2022

General Meeting
Confluence Run
Hammer Creek Run
Banquet

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*2021 **2021 – 2022

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Most popular is the BUSINESS CARD FULL YEAR* for \$150.00
(*with Business Membership).

Satellite Phone

The WWA has had a satellite phone for several years to be used on club functions. When it is not in use it is available to members at the rate of \$20 a week plus minutes used. Contact Clyde Durham.



Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Western-Whitewater-345499968794364/>

We are on the Web <https://westernwhitewater.org>

Our August 9th meeting will be at Fiesta Guadalajara in Nampa, 1202 N Jacob Alcott Way, Nampa, ID 83687. The meeting starts at 7:00, please come early if you would like to have dinner.

New Life Jacket Labels

If you have been shopping for new life jackets this year you may have noticed that the labels have changed. Several years ago Coast Guard dropped the classic codes of Type I, II, III, IV and V that have been used for many years to differentiate the different types of life jackets available for boaters. The code types have been replaced with pictures and more details that help explain the functionality of the particular life jacket. The change was made to standardize life jacket labeling with other countries, including Canada and the European Union. It took a few years for the manufacturers to start producing the life jackets with the new labels but they are now being sold. They started showing up in Idaho earlier this year and I have seen them at several retailers. Rest assured, your existing life jackets with the old labels are still legal to use as long as they are in good condition (no rips or tears).

Remember, Idaho law requires that boats be equipped with one properly fitting and Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person on board, and boats 16 feet and longer need a throwable device. Kids 14 years of age and younger are required to wear a life jacket on boats 19 feet or less when the boat is underway. It is strongly recommended that all passengers on boats wear life jackets – it can be the difference between life and death in an emergency (especially in cold water and moving water).

For more information on the new labels visit: <http://wearitlifejacket.com/>

Dave Dahms
Boating Program Supervisor
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TRAILER CHECK

Safety Chains - Most everyone has seen the results of the March 2021, pickup-travel trailer accident at the Malad Gorge Bridge in Gooding County, Idaho. The result was the pickup hanging off the bridge connected to the safety chains. (www.idahostatejournal.com) Note: There were four survivors, 2 humans and 2 canines.

The intent of safety chains is to control the trailer in case it comes undone during travel, but there is a real risk of wildfires if the chains are allowed to contact the road surface. With the dry, hot conditions we are experiencing now, the potential of wildfires is ever present. An out-of-state visitor set a series of fires up the Payette River a few years back caused by dragging a trailer with a flat tire and the wheel sending sparks onto the roadside.

Please take the excess slack out of your trailer chains by twisting the chain into shorter lengths. Leave enough slack to allow for turns. The chains should be approximately six inches above ground level.

During your trips, check the safety chains, tires and wheel bearing heat, often to help prevent wildfires.

Safe Travels from an “Old Boater”

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TRAILER CHECK- PART 2

Tires - Experience shows that most tire problems are a result of under inflation (low tire pressure). Low tire pressure causes the tire to overheat and eventually fail catastrophically, when under way. In hot weather this failure potentially increases considerably. The failure of the tire may result in tread separation leading to a blow out and damage to fenders and boats. Proper tire pressure allows the tire to perform as it was designed. Trailer tires are designed for 6 to 10 years of service depending on care and amount of use. Sun rot will weather-check a tire in very short time, when the trailer is not in use it is recommended that the tires be covered to protect them from the sun or stored in covered storage or indoors.

When buying new tires check for load capacity, speed rating, date of manufacture and place of manufacturer. Date and place of manufacture will help you choose a set of tires that are current and made using the same technology. Some speed ratings are 65 mph and 80 mph freeway travel will exceed design criteria. Speed ratings are the last letter in the tire code i.e. 225/45R17 75L, the 75 is the load index and L is the speed rating (L is up to 75 mph). If no speed rating is indicated the speed rating for trailer tires is 65 mph.

Some tires shops don't feel trailer tires need to be balanced but your boat is loaded with electronics and the less you beat it up the longer it works, not to mention better tire wear and mileage.

Safe Travels and High Adventures to All - Old Boater