

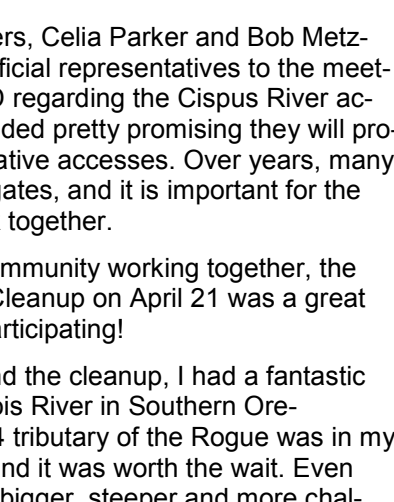


Becca's new boat out on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River

President's Currents

by Kanako Iwata

Spring is here! It is so nice to boat under the bright sunshine and the blue sky with lots of water! It is also the time of our annual Spring Bash. This is a great opportunity to bring your family, enjoy the breakfast cooked by the club officers, play fun games, and then those who want can get out to various sections of nearby rivers.



The River Safety Class on April 21-22, though had to be postponed a week, was a great success. I missed it but heard 8 members from Washington Kayak Club and our club were trained by Casey Garland. If you have never taken a swiftwater rescue class or need a refresher, there is one more class on May 19-20, unfortunately overlapping the Bash date.

Thanks to our two volunteers, Celia Parker and Bob Metzger, our club could send official representatives to the meeting with Lewis County PUD regarding the Cispus River access. Bob reported it sounded pretty promising they will provide the regular and alternative accesses. Over years, many rivers got blocked behind gates, and it is important for the boating community to work together.

Speaking of the boating community working together, the inaugural Nisqually River Cleanup on April 21 was a great success. Thank you for participating!

Missing the safety class and the cleanup, I had a fantastic self-support trip to the Illinois River in Southern Oregon. This beautiful Class 4 tributary of the Rogue was in my bucket list for some time, and it was worth the wait. Even Class 2 and 3 rapids were bigger, steeper and more challenging than what we call Class 2 and 3 at home. Class 4 rapids were intimidating, and the only one Class 5 called the Green Wall was humongous! I could find some ultimate chicken lines to sneak around the biggest waves and holes, while big boys bravely and skillfully paddled through them. Four of us safely paddled 150 rapids in 32 miles in 3 days.

Renewed Membership?

If you haven't renewed your PTCC membership for 2018 do it now. Without renewal, access to the website and CANEWS will go away by the end of February.

[Renew your membership](#)

Upcoming Trips

[May 12: South Fork Skykomish River II](#)

[May 13: Green River Headworks II+\(III\)](#)

[May 19: Spring Bash, I, II, II+, III](#)

[May 19—20: River Safety & Rescue Class](#)

[May 24 –28: Naches River Valley Weekend II-III+](#)

[May 24—28: Sol Duc River Weekend II-IV](#)

[May 26: South Fork Stillaguamish River, Lower II](#)

Sign up for trips by clicking on the above hyperlinks or the [Events Calendar](#)

Website Resources

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[Club FAQs](#)

[Tech/Outfitting Guidance](#)

[Gear for sale](#)

Spring Bash

Come join us for a fun Day! As always there will be a breakfast, rope throwing challenges for kids and adults with great prizes for best throwers, and multiple river trips ranging from Class I to III to choose from. All in one full day of fun. Stayed tuned for more information or see the Spring Bash Event on the 2018 trip schedule.

Location: Beaver Lake Park, 25101 SE 24th St, Sammamish, WA 98075. Camping available at Tolt McDonald Park

When: May 19th 8AM to 5PM.

Sol Duc Weekend Trip

As always we have the Sol Duc weekend coming up Memorial Day weekend. Enjoy three days of paddling on some of the nicest rivers in the state. Class II to IV.

When: Thursday, May 24, 2018, 10:00 AM until Monday, May 28, 2018, 5:00 PM

Where: 5 available runs on the Sol Duc River near Bear Creek, west of Port Angeles, WA

Contact:: Joyce Stuart joycestuart2003@gmail.com

Nisqually River Clean Up — a Ton of Trash Removed!

I wanted to thank you for your support of the Nisqually River Cleanup on Saturday, April 21, 2018 and give you a quick recap of this Event. The river was at a great level, approximately 2180 cubic feet per second (cfs) at McKenna. The weather was fantastic, plenty of sunshine and no rain. More importantly, the volunteer turnout was great!

- More than 70 volunteers participated in the cleanup. (We had 73 individuals register in advance. Of these, 3 cancelled and another 15 were no shows. We had an additional 17 volunteers register or sign waivers on the day of the Event.)
- More than half of our volunteers were from Washington Recreational River Runners. There were a handful of volunteers with no club affiliation. The rest were almost evenly split from the Washington Kayak Club, Paddle Trails Canoe Club, and Nisqually River Foundation.
- Some 59 of our volunteers boated the river; the rest helped out on land at one of our three water access sites: McKenna Park, Nisqually Park, and the 6th Avenue SE WDFW Water Access site.
- Of those boating the river, 59 boated the Class II-III segment of the Nisqually River from McKenna Park to Nisqually Park; eleven boated the Class I-II segment of the river from Nisqually Park to the 6th Avenue SE WDFW Water Access Site.
- We had approximately 20 rafts or catarafts; 15 WW Kayaks; a handful of Inflatable Kayaks; and a couple canoes.
- We cleaned up approximately 17 river miles, including the three water access sites we used.
- By the end of the cleanup, we had collected approximately 15 yards of garbage, including a large metal tank, a gas lawn mower, part of a wooden deck and lots of other river debris.

This Event would not have been possible, but for all the support we received. The Washington Kayak Club (WKC), Washington Recreational River Runners (WRRR), and Paddle Trail Canoe Club (PTCC) were instrumental in co-sponsoring this Event. Each of the clubs scheduled trips in conjunction with the cleanup, provided trip leaders, and technical assistance. The Washington Kayak Club secured the Certificates of Insurance we needed to get permission to use our three water access sites. The Nisqually River Council and staff from the Nisqually River Foundation helped us recruit volunteers to help out on land. We also got technical support from American Whitewater, the American Canoe Association and the American Rivers National River Cleanup® initiative. I especially want to thank Kanako Iwata-Eng who was instrumental in getting the support of WKC and PTCC; Mike Germani and Dave Ortlund from WKC who helped me secure the certificate of insurance that we needed; Rebecca Post and Brennan Filippini from WRRR who provided advice and guidance from all their work on the Green River Cleanup and mobilized a huge turnout of rafters that were critical to the success of this cleanup effort; Emily McCartan and Sheila Wilson from the Nisqually River Foundation who were key in recruiting and assigning local volunteers to help out on land and helped staff the Event themselves; Karen Pyle and Lynn Schneider who helped at Nisqually Park; and Jenefer Monroe and Dale Perry from WKC and PTCC who served as Trip Leaders.

I also want to acknowledge the support we received from:

- Thurston County Public Works who provided garbage bags, first aid kits, and other items our volunteers used during this Event and covered disposal fees at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center through the Thurston County Litter Control Program.
- LeMay Pacific Disposal who provided trash and recycling drop boxes at Nisqually Park and hauled the trash we collected to the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center without charge.
- Centralia City Light who welcomed us at both McKenna and Nisqually Parks, where our volunteers parked, launched and retrieved their rafts, kayaks and other watercraft and where we hosted our after event BBQ.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife who welcomed us at their 6th Avenue SE Water Access Site.
- The Mayor of Yelm, J.W. Foster and his wife, Nicki who hauled their BBQ grill to McKenna Park, helped us set up for the after event celebration, and served as the grill master.

In speaking with staff and the Nisqually River Council, we're hoping this will become a regular, if not, annual Event. If folks had any concerns that you feel we should address before planning the next cleanup or suggestions on how we should do things differently in the future, please let me know.

Thanks,

Greg Provenzano

Classes in 2018

PTCC offers a great set of courses for paddlers of almost all interests and abilities. We have excellent member-instructors who will focus on safety, helping you learn, but most importantly making sure you have a great time on the water.

Need more info? Contact the club training coordinator at training@paddletrails.org

River Safety & Rescue: May 19-20

Every year PTCC strives to provide River Safety & Rescue training options. This year, Washington Kayak Club & Paddle Trails Canoe Club (PTCC) are teaming up to offer a Swiftwater Rescue class! Note that May 19 is also the date of the PTCC Spring Bash, so you might prefer the April option.

Casey Garland will present a course on river safety, rope utilization and rescue techniques. Team leadership and rescue planning will also be covered to achieve the best results in a rescue effort. This class is great for a beginning whitewater boater or even a boater looking to tune up their rescue skills.

[Register for River Safety & Rescue, May 19-20](#)

Introduction to Canoeing Whitewater, Part 1: June 9-10

In this 2 day course, explore the excitement of whitewater while learning how to safely navigate obstacles and maneuver efficiently and effectively through a dynamic environment. You will learn more advanced skills and dynamic canoeing techniques as well as individual and group strategies for navigating rapids. Students need to have canoes that are designed and equipped for whitewater.

Difficulty: Class II

[Register for Introduction To Whitewater, Part 1](#)

Introduction to Canoeing Whitewater, Part 2: June 16-17

Enjoy Part 1 and ready for more? Join for Part 2! In this 2 day course, continue to practice whitewater skills while learning how to safely navigate obstacles and maneuver efficiently and effectively through a dynamic environment. You will learn more advanced skills and dynamic canoeing techniques as well as individual and group strategies for navigating rapids. Students need to have canoes that are designed and equipped for whitewater and have successfully completed Part 1 or have had similar experience.

Difficulty: Class II+

[Register for Introduction to Whitewater, Part 2](#)

Introduction to Canoeing Rivers: June 23-24

In this 2 day course, come learn about how moving water affects your boat. This is pre-whitewater, so we are covering some of the basics: entering and exiting current, paddle strokes, and being an active group member. Canoes will need to be equipped with some flotation.

Difficulty: Class I – I+

[Register for Introduction To Canoeing Rivers](#)

Featured Trip Report

Illinois River, Oregon — Self Support Trip

April 2018

By Kanako Iwata-Eng

The Illinois River in Oregon had been on my bucket list for a few years. As this is a challenging Class 4 32-mile stretch, we were aiming for the optimal 1000-1500 CFS range and a nice warm weather. Bill Petty, Doug Nicholson, Bob Metzger and I chose April 20 as our launch date and headed to Grants Pass, OR the day before. Bill has run the river about 10 times, Doug has several times, Bob once about 20 years ago, and this was my first.

In the morning, the water level was 1800 CFS, slightly higher than the easiest range, but I didn't worry at that point, as the flow was supposed to drop. We drove to the Miami Bar where several raft groups were getting ready. We packed our kayaks. Bob got a new T Canyon a few weeks ago for this trip. This old model with a long hull and no stern pillar is easy to pack. Bill, Doug, and I brought large, medium and small Jackson Karmas, respectively, and meticulously packed them. At 11:30 a.m., we launched.

With Doug's wristwatch-style GPS and the maps from the Handbook to the Illinois River Canyon by Quinn et al, we could identify where we were and what to expect most of time. At Mile 3, back-to-back Class 3 and 4 rapids started. Scouting the first Class 3, I realized the Class 3 here are harder than what we call Class 3 at home. They were big, steep, scattered with huge holes and boulders at that level, and eddies were quite turbulent at times.

We soon got to the York Creek 4+. Incorrectly thinking it was Rapid #19, Bob and I went to the right shore to scout. Doug went into a turbulent micro eddy in the river left and managed to get out to scout. Bill recognized the York and had run it before anyone got out of their boat. The York has a couple of ledges and big holes in the left channel. The middle channel was pretty bony but gradual. From where we were, Bob and I could only bounce through the middle. The last Class 4 of the day was Clear Creek. This rapid has rocks in the left side and the right side has big waves and holes. Without scouting, Doug and Bob ran it. I followed Bill, but immediately I was blinded by big breaking waves, and went into the big hole at the bottom. I flipped but rolled up in the pool below.

We took out at the Pine Flat at 2:15 p.m. This is a huge campsite spread on both shores. We chose the left shore because of the shorter walk. After setting up tents under the bright sun, Bill and I strolled to a nearby bar, a.k.a. a rafter camp, where free drinks were offered by nice young men. Our self-support dinner was modest freeze-dried meals. We hung our food from a tree to avoid animals, bears in particular, and went to bed.

As usual, Bill got up the earliest. By the time I got up, he had lowered the food and finished his breakfast. Bob came to us with a puzzled look and asked, "Did you see my spool?" When we hang the food, we used Bob's string. He tied it and the remaining string on the spool was left on the ground. Bill untied the string and lowered the food but didn't see the spool. Though our food was safe, some animal chewed the string and took away the spool.

Taking advantage of the hot sunshine, we dried our tents before launching at 10:20 a.m. The second day started with continuous Class 2-3 rapids. I found the famous Pink Boulder, too! Soon after that, we were at the Fawn Falls, a.k.a. Prelude to the Class 5 Green Wall. Doug leading the group eddied out, saying he couldn't see a line, and I eddied out, too. Meanwhile, Bill went down center right punching through a big hole. Bob saw Bill and took a little better line. Doug and I chose the sneak line at the extreme right.

We took out in the river left and scouted the lead-in to the Green Wall. This is rated Class 3, but if you mess up, you may go into the Green Wall upside down or backward, which is not desirable. I first chose the left shore line with the most quiet water at first and made two sharp turns to reach the river left eddy above the Green Wall, however, changed my mind to take the center line. A group of kayakers came and all ran the center line, tucked behind a center rock, ferried into the aimed eddy. One couldn't ferry fast enough and went into next to the eddy but still caught the eddy at its bottom. We ran the same way, and it was easier than it looked. We all got out and scouted the Green Wall. It has a cliff on the right side and two ledges. The first ledge with a humongous hole had a sneak line on the left. The second one with two humongous holes has no sneak line and a violent boil before reaching the quiet water. Without looking, Bill started portaging. When I was scouting with Doug, a kayaker ran it but flipped in the boil after the bottom two holes and swam. I decided to run the sneak line next to the first ledge and paddle into a slot right above the second ledge. I executed this ultimate chicken line impeccably with no splashes on my face and portaged about 10 yards. Doug and Bob ran the Green Wall with no problem but with lots of splashes! We saw a catarafter swim the entire rapid. It was a brutal swim and the boater was submerged for a long time under the second ledge. We were happy none of our crew swam.

We were not done yet, though. The Little Green Wall, Class 4, came up quickly. You enter from the center, go right, and then exit to the left avoiding a huge hole at the bottom right. We ran it without scouting. Doug maneuvered between holes fine. Trying to avoid the bottom right hole with a bigger margin than Doug, I tried to tuck behind a center boulder, only to go into a small but deep hole which flipped me. I went into the bottom right hole upside down, but the very hole rolled me up. Bob did the same flip-and-roll drill there.

The #107, Class 3 (yeah, right), had huge waves and holes rafts had go through. But not me! I scouted and chose an ultimate chicken route on the left shore and led Bill down. Doug and Bob went on the hero line from the right.

Finally, the Submarine Hole, Class 4, is a short but intimidating rapid with a wide hole. As soon as we eddied out in the river left, Bob said, "I know where to go," and was gone. He did a big stern squirt at the bottom, and Bill decided to walk. I scouted, and again, I saw a sneak line on the left shore. Seeing me run it so easily, Bill walked back to the eddy and ran it the same way.

Instead of the originally planned Collier Creek, we camped at a small beach on the river right. It was after 4 p.m., and was a very long day.

Before the dawn, we were woken by a goose screaming to claim back the beach. We didn't get up then but put in before 9 a.m. We still had a few Class 3's but started encountering our first put in water in winding canyons. It was foggy when we got up, but by the time we put in, it was sunny and the side creeks and waterfalls were gorgeous. We took out before noon and drove home. The Illinois was a great river with almost 150 rapids in 32 miles. I enjoyed it so much I am already looking forward to running it next season.

Other PaddleTrails Trip Reports are found on the website at:
[Trip Reports](#)