

River News

Salmon River Rafting Company

Fall 2019

The 2019 Salmon River rafting season presented several challenges for lodge accommodation trips. Various construction projects and conflicting activities limited the availability of some of the lodges and resulted in fewer lodge trips this season. As has occurred for the past several seasons, the snow pack in the mountains was adequate but the runoff began earlier than normal. Thus, we had reasonably good river flows but the utilization of jet boats for our egress from the canyon was reduced. Most trips used the chartered air taxi flights from Shepp Ranch for the return to Salmon after the last river day. The mountain west, in general, experienced fewer wildfires this summer and neither the fires that did occur nor smoke created problems for our trips.

Among returning guests were Debbie Sibley (this was her 59th Salmon River trip), Weston Miller, Gary and Barbara Greenwell, and the Wantroba family. Gary and Barbara previously made the trip in 2015 and Kent and Forrest Wantroba, with their father Del, rafted with us in 2014. This year the Wantrobas returned with a family group of nine. It was also a pleasure to have several guides who have “moved on” to “real” jobs return to help with river navigation and chores. Doctor Nick Baird arranged for a week away from his day job to work one of the trips in August, and Morri Stewart and Heather Ewing joined Steve Gale and me for the July trips. It was indeed a pleasure to have these friends and former guides work the river again and create new memories to compliment those from years gone by.

I occasionally receive inquiries from former river trip guests regarding how long I expect to continue running trips on the Salmon River. This was my 39th season on the Salmon and my 53rd year as a river guide. I enjoy the river and I’m still having fun. I realize my time on the river diminishes with each passing year. The lodge accommodation trips I offer may also be coming to an end. As some of these



Marvin and Jeanne Getz brought their entire clan to the Salmon River for a family vacation.



The Wantroba family on the Salmon River

facilities go on the market, it is likely that new owners will want to operate differently or not at all. I perceive that these lodge trips may disappear in a few years. I'm mentioning this in case you are considering a future trip on the Salmon River, particularly a lodge trip. The river will always be here but the ability to experience the canyon with nightly lodge accommodations may not.

Next season is a milestone of sorts. Forty years on the Salmon is a tenure only a few outfitters can claim. Every trip and every year on the river has taught me something new. Experience is the predominant educator and I continue to be an avid pupil. Some lessons are physical, like the physics of moving water or the inter-species relationships of wildlife observed on the banks of the river while some are more humanistic like the value of individual



Francesco, Sebastian, Santino Moretti and Maria Fernandez



Gary and Barbara Greenwell

diversity of the people who have joined me on those trips. One of the positive aspects of the multi-day trips is the time it affords to get to know the people who have shared "river time" with me on the Salmon River. Over the past thirty-nine years I've had the pleasure of meeting several thousand people and there is not one with whom I would not rejoice in reconnecting on the river. If another river trip appeals to you, try to arrange a trip within the next couple of years. I'd love to share the river with you again.



Wayne and Steve: Septuagenarian river guides

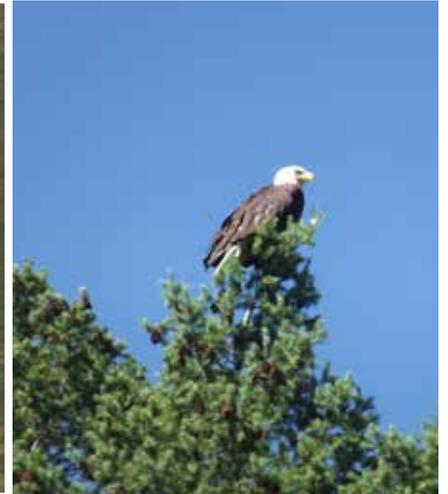
Memories from the Salmon River - 2019



Guides: Morri Stewart and Heather Ewing



Guide: Nick Baird



A bald eagle observes our flotilla



Morri Stewart training a future guide



Another rapid successfully run



Father - son kayak team



Trip participants help deflate the rafts at the end of the trip



Dining in the wilderness



Rocky Mountain Big Horn sheep



Mother - daughter kayak team



Relaxing in a natural hot springs



Making friends

2020 Scheduled Departures

Summer and Fall departure dates remain the same each year. Only the April dates are adjusted annually.

SPRING WILDLIFE DEPARTURES

(with river lodge accommodations)

April 17	thru	April 23
April 24	thru	April 30

SUMMER DEPARTURES

(lodge or camping)

June 25	thru	July 1
July 3	thru	July 9
July 11	thru	July 17
July 19	thru	July 25
July 27	thru	August 2

AUTUMN ADULTS ONLY DEPARTURES

(with river lodge accommodations)

August 4	thru	August 10
August 12	thru	August 18
August 20	thru	August 26
August 28	thru	September 3
September 5	thru	September 11
September 13	thru	September 19

RATES

Lodge Accommodation Trips

Salmon Option	\$3,300.00 Per Person
Boise Option	\$3,700.00 Per Person

Camping Trips

Salmon Option	\$2,500 Per Adult
	\$2,100.00 Per Youth (6-12)
Boise Option	\$2,900.00 Per Adult
	\$2,500.00 Per Youth (6-12)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (all trips)

For a single room at the Stagecoach Inn on the 1st and 6th nights (before and after the river trip), please add \$100.00 per person.

Above prices are complete. Gratuities are neither required nor encouraged.

Prices include 3% Forest Service Land Use Fee and \$20.00 Recreation Enhancement Act Fee.

Ask about group and returning guests discounts.

Salmon River Rafting Company



PO Box 1887
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Toll Free: 877-734-6099
In Wyoming: 307-734-6099
Cell: 208-351-2433
email: info@salmonrafting.com
Web Site: www.salmonrafting.com

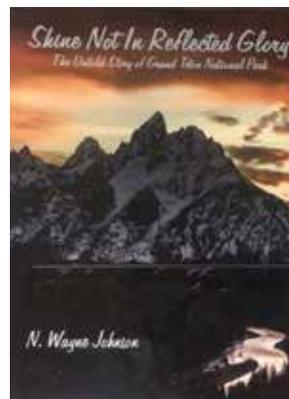
Changes on the Salmon River

Rates for the 2020 season will increase by \$100.00 per person in all categories. This increase is based on my best guess regarding anticipated increases in prices by several of my logistical and service providers for next year. I will keep the advance deposit at \$500.00 per person and, for the time being, the additional charge for the Boise to Salmon air taxi rate at \$400.00 per person. The air taxi expense is largely dependent upon the price of fuel and over the last several years has fluctuated from \$390.00 to \$460.00 per person (plus taxes). I have estimated the 2020 rates for the Boise Arrival Option to require a \$400.00 per person air taxi expense.

Also, I will maintain my policy of honoring the trip price for the year in which the reservations are confirmed. Thus, reservations confirmed prior to January 1, 2020, will qualify for the 2019 rates.

Books Available

My decades long interest in the creation of Grand Teton National Park has culminated in the publication of a book documenting much of the "behind the scenes," as well as overt, maneuvering that resulted in the establishment of this Park. The book documents the various issues and initiatives proposed over a five-decade-long period to provide legal protection for a portion of the Jackson Hole valley. The narrative also examines the arguments, both in support of and in opposition to the initiatives. The book is 500 pages, incorporates 15 maps, and 484 photographs. *Shine Not In Reflected Glory: The Untold Story of Grand Teton National Park* is available in hardcover and paperback editions. It can be ordered from www.inthebookstand.com (the publisher's portal to Amazon, or directly from amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, or your local independent book retailer. It is also available on Kindle, Nook, and Epub formats. Signed copies can be ordered at the address below.



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My small poetry book, *Campfire Thoughts*, is also available at this address.

Wayne Johnson
PO Box 780
Jackson, WY 83001
307-734-6099
wjohnson@blissnet.com

