



THE GRAND CANYON PRIVATE BOATERS ASSOCIATION

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Hello folks

Welcome to the new members – thank you for joining and thanks to those who have renewed your membership. The routine is that after each annual Board meeting, the Prez sends out a newsletter – it will be in 2 parts to keep the newsletter relatively short. Here's part 1 – let's get you caught up.

Electronic Ballot

Use of the electronic ballot turned out to be successful. Less than 10% of the membership responded, which was disappointing. But, it's about the same level of response as in the past. I should mention that the ballots/responses are anonymous. The comments received were in the form of statements, questions and suggestions. Good comments and suggestions. We'll implement the suggestions – give us a little time.

The following two questions were received:

Q. "Why are there no people of color on the Board? And why is it mostly composed of older white men?"

A. As President, I share the writer's concern that the Board is not very diverse. We don't have statistics on this, but I imagine that it is reflective of our membership. This raises a larger issue of the boating community's overall demographics. At this time, this is an issue which is beyond the Board's capacity to address. Should the member who posed this question be willing to help us consider ways we might be more proactive, we invite that person to follow-up by contacting us at gcpbemail@gmail.com.

Q. How are the extra 75 trips being let out?

A. Via the lottery for the months of March and October

Composition of the Board for the next term

Given your vote of confidence, the following current members have committed to continue serving on the Board:

John Vrymoed, President

Rich Turner, Vice President

Blakely LaCroix, Secretary

David Levine, Treasurer

Helen Howard, Member at Large

Solicitation for additional Board members

There were several inquiries. We were fortunate to have 2 individuals follow thru on their inquiry. As a result, Howard Robinson and Samantha Rist have been appointed to the Board as a "member at large" for one year. The following were provided by Howard and Samantha in response to our solicitation:

Howard Robinson: *"I've been a private boater for many years; long enough to remember the annual postcard system for confirming your spot on the Colorado waiting list. Since those days, I've been lucky enough to go on 4 canyon trips, but of course, it's never enough. I have long been a student of Western water issues and politics. I served for 12 years on the board of Friends of the River, California's statewide river conservation organization. I recently retired from a long career as a land use consultant. My work involved representing real estate development clients to local government agencies in Southern California, including the California Coastal Commission. I understand what it takes to successfully work with large and often impersonal governmental regulatory agencies. Not that it will make a difference, but I happen to live within 20 miles of the Army Corps' Los Angeles office."*

Samantha Rist: “ I was privileged to go on my first private river trip in 2004, which changed my life in the course of 3 weeks. Suffice it to say, the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River, and the ability to support and advocate for private boaters are areas in which I am quite passionate. Alongside fellow board members, I hope to continue the legacy of the GCPBA, and aim to make a positive impact for private boaters who want to access and conserve the Canyon.”

Sept 25-26 Board Meeting

We were fortunate that the Park’s Superintendent, Ed Keable was able to meet with us on short notice. Instead of touching elbows, his method of connecting with folks is to stick out one’s shoe to tap. Since he is new in the job, a ppt presentation had been prepared to explain who we are, what our mission is and what we do. We let him know that we’re well aware that GCPBA is one of many interest groups and that private boaters total 0.1% of the Park’s annual number of visitors.



L to R: David Levine, Rich Turner, Helen Howard, Ed Keable, Blakely LaCroix, John Vrymoed

He has made a couple of GC trips (admin), and shared with us a picture of him, inside his tent, holding on to the cross brace as the wind was about to lift him airborne. The month: March. In addition to talking about the allocation of private boaters under the Colorado River Management plan, we reviewed and discussed the following topics of concern and action taken by GCPBA: Escalade proposal, dams on the Little Colorado River, proposed docks by the Navajo,

Hualapai and Havasupai charging fees, PATL and the Long Term Experimental Management Plan or LTEMP, which concerns the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. We also discussed surveying trip leaders of their experience re crowding/wilderness experience, availability of campsites, etc. He also mentioned identifying GCPBA as resource on the NPS website. Items to follow up on.

Heads Up

Reclamation has announced a 66% chance that Lake Powell will be too low to generate power in 2023. This means that the river outlet will be used to release inflows, which equated to 5200 cfs for this water year. It’s possible that you’ll see this level as early as next year – but it’ll be steady and you can leave your tide tables at home. I’ll discuss LTEMP and this potential scenario in detail in Part 2 of the newsletter. LTEMP has been a source of aggravation for me since it was finalized 5 yrs ago. Time to vent a little.

The outfitters mentioned that their inventory of boats to rent is being fully utilized. They’re busy.

Know the regs. The rangers exceed their authority when they add additional requirements not stated in the regs. In this case, for those stowing motors, the only requirement re fire extinguishers is that they be either a Type I or II. No evidence needs to be provided that they’re not more than 6 months old, tested, etc.

We do get complaints. Know that ~6800 private boaters travel the river corridor every year - the vast majority of whom are not members and may not schooled in river etiquette. So, to pass it on: be courteous to all on the river; no shouting to commercials and other privates declaring that your taking camp XYZ and select camps, as best you can, according to your group’s size. You’re all familiar with the proper etiquette in this regard.

Make sure that everyone has a photo ID. Yes, it did happen on one of my trips. My friend called his wife back home. She took a very high quality picture of his DL and faxed to the ranger’s office at Lee’s. Brian Bloom, the ranger at that time, accepted it. Phew!

That’s it for now – I’ll do a follow up as these newsletters get a little long. As always, you contact us at gcpbamaail@gmail.com. To be continued.....

John Vrymoed
President
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association