



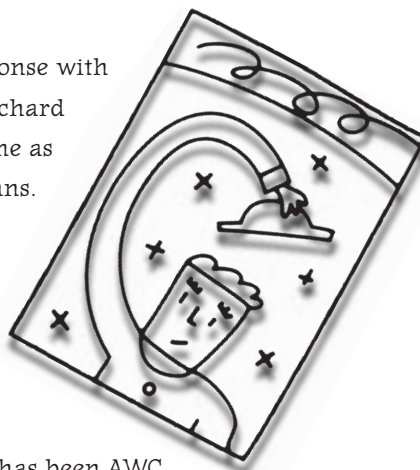
FLIP LINE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

Notes From the Prez -

A time of transitions. Some of us, and no doubt some of you, began the New Year with our boats in the water. A proper and encouraging start.

The December AWC election resulted in an increased response with some 55 ballots being cast. Cathy Ratcliff, Tom Robey, and Richard Stoops were elected to continue on the Board. And we welcome as new members Russ Gregory, Carol, Morgan, and Dave Yeamans. Thanks must be expressed to the following Board members whose labors will be remembered and appreciated: Laura Ulbarri and Wlad Senutovich, both of whom have chaired the annual Mothers Day Race. And Kristen Gunckel, who has been secretary for the past year.



Also moving on to different waters are Gayle Smart, who has been AWC treasurer for almost ten years, since serving in 1990 as the Club's first woman President. And Mary McArthur, who has been responsible for coordinating membership data, and has been invaluable in overseeing the Mothers Day Race computer and scoring. Next time you see them, you're obliged to say thanks.

Become involved. Stay connected. Thanks for a good year!

— Richard Stoops

Board Elections

Newly elected board members are Russ Gregory, Carol Morgan and Dave Yeamans.

Announcements

Congratulations to Susan Langsley and Bruce Adams on the birth of their daughter Jenny on Nov 1 1999.



AWC

OFFICERS

- President**
Richard Stoops.....265-8358
- Vice-President**
Peter Coha.....898-3746
- Treasurer**
Tom Robey255-8280
- Secretary**
Kristin Gunckel244-1532
- Alb. Chapter Pres.**
Ted Krings892-4852
- Northern Chapter Pres.**
Merlin Wheeler.....662-5413

COMMITTEES

- Clinics**
Cathy Ratcliff.....332-0701
- Conservation**
Wlad Senutovich455-2089
- Flip Line Coordinator**
Ted Krings892-4852
- Flip Line Designer**
Bob Widdicombe.....920-4001
- Membership Database**
Tom Robey.....255-8280
- Trips**
Cindy Terry.....262-0334

BOARD MEMBERS

- Glen Banks.....867-5089
- Peter Coha.....898-3746
- Bob Coltharp526-2668
- Russ Gregory821-0199
- Ted Krings892-4852
- Carol Morgan243-3582
- Cathy Ratcliff.....332-0701
- Tom Robey.....255-8280
- Richard Stoops.....265-8358
- Dave Yeamans662-7747

Visit the AWC website at
www.adobeww.org
(Webmaster Tom Robey)

Club Services

Hot Line recording
Flows & trips (ABQ) 281-1798
To place information
on the Hot Line:
Joe Butler (ABQ) 281-9882

Video library
Jerry Hesch
(H)299-1844 or (W)242-4440
Videos related to boating are available @ \$1/week plus postage.

AWC rescue kit
Tim Scofield (ABQ) 265-4853

Water filter
Joe Butler (ABQ) 281-9882 or
Bill Zwick (LA) 661-0115
Expedition water filter
available @ \$30/week.

River potty
Michael Lombardi (ABQ) 877-9502
River toilet system
available @ \$10/week.

Ground to Air Radio
Ted Krings 892-4852
Radio available @ \$15 / week.

Pool Sessions

ABQ Highland Pool
Wed. 8:30-10 p.m.
Robert Southwick, 266-8518 or pool,
256-2096 \$5/person

LA Walkup Pool
Tues. 8-10 p.m.
Merlin Wheeler, 662-5413

SF Tino Griego Pool
Sun. 10 a.m. to noon
pool, 473-7270 \$2.50/person limit 12
boats

Abq Pool Session Update

The city of Albuquerque has changed the way they charge for the Highland Pool which we rent weekly for roll practice. In the past we paid a per head fee which was easy for us to manage. However they now require a flat hourly rate which complicates managing the session and raises the average cost significantly. In reaction to this the club Board has decided to raise the pool session fee to \$5. Please plan accordingly next time you head to the pool.



AWC 2000 Calendar

February

- 8 ABQ AWC Chapter meeting
7 pm @ ABQ Press Club
201 Highland Park Circle
Topic: Glen Canyon video and
discussion (part 2)
lead by Jim Brainard

March

Rio Grande trip - Bernallilo to
Corrales Details to come

April

Chama River restoration project
Help the Rio Grande Restoration
group with their cottonwood
planting work.

May

- 13-14 Annual Mothers Day
Races on the Rio Grande, Pilar
NM. Flatwater marathon, raft
challenge and Slalom races.

Summer

Canoe and kayak clinics

Late summer

River cleanup project
(Chama or Rio Grande)

August

San Juan cleanup project in
conjunction with Grand Canyon
Private Boaters Association.

Late August

AWC summer picnic - Pilar.

AWC Web Site Update

The Adobe Whitewater Club has recently updated and added to its Internet information and services. The website has moved to its own address at www.adobeww.org from www.thuntek.net/~trobey/awc.html. In addition to an easier URL (address), the maintenance of the site is now being handled by Ray Gulick (244-4119 or rgulick@flash.net). The website has information about member services (including clinics), river environmental issues, links to river gauges, member equipment for sale or wanted to buy, permit information, and vendors offering discounts to AWC members. If you have suggestions about the web page, contact Ray. This fall we also started an AWC listserver. A listserver allows e-mail to be sent to everyone that has subscribed to the e-mail list. Only those that are on the list can send e-mail to the list. The listserver will allow club events to be announced in a more timely fashion. Subscribing to the list is open to AWC members and must be approved by AWC (Tom Robey). Approval usually takes a day or two. There is a form for signing up for the AWC e-mail list at www.adobeww.org/Subscribe.html or you can look for it at the AWC website. Once you are on the e-mail list you can send e-mail by sending e-mail to list@adobeww.org.

By joining the mailing list, members are agreeing to the following usage policy.

- Misuse may result in a warning or removal of the member from the e-mail list.
- Commercial uses are not allowed. Members may advertise personal boating related equipment for sale.
- Advertising or spamming is not allowed. Notices about non-profit events that benefit AWC members are permitted.
- Profanity, pornography, or other objectionable material is not permitted.

Proper usage should be information that is of interest to paddlers and the river community. A suggestion for using the e-mail list is when sending an e-mail looking for people for paddling trips, include a telephone number or e-mail address so that all the replies do not have to go to the AWC e-mail list. Contact Tom Robey (255-8280 or trobey@thuntek.net) if you have questions about the appropriate use of the e-mail list.

Where is the Water ?

As any New Mexican who has stepped outside recently knows, wet winter weather has missed us this year. As the weather man predicted this has turned out to be a La Nina year with a warm, dry weather pattern impacting the Southwest.

The Pacific storms have been running well north of normal bringing better than average precipitation to Washington but leaving most of the West dryer than normal. The snowpack numbers (as of 12/13/99) below illustrate the point; the northern states have close to average snow water while the numbers drop the further south you look. Better hope for a very wet spring !!

State / River	Snowpack (% normal)
Washington	94 - 132 %
Oregon	50 - 100%
California	13 - 72%
Clearwater basin(Selway)	126%
Salmon	95%
Utah	15 - 53%
Colorado	18 - 66%
Rio Chama	17%
Rio Grande	22%
Arizona	0 - 9%

New members:

Burleson, Nancy
Placitas, NM

Edwards, Wyman
Albuquerque, NM
Craft: kayak, canoe, raft

Grantham, William
Albuquerque, NM

Hare, Ann Parks, AZ
Craft: inflatable pad-
dleboat Level: III

Kayak Port Townsend,
Lon Smith Port
Townsend, WA
Craft: kayak Level:
III-IV Kayak Port
Townsend (360-385-
9240; fax 360-
385-6062) offers
numerous guided
tours in Washington
state and winter
tours in sunny Baja,
Mexico. toll free:
877-578-2252.
www.kayakpt.com

Steimle, Veronica
Tijeras, NM

Stoll, David Taos, NM
Craft: kayak , raft
Level: III

Stuever, Mary & Dan
Shaw, Seldom Seen
Expeditions, Inc.
Placitas, NM Craft:
canoe, Keowee Level:

Terry, Ralph, Linda &
Jason Albuquerque,
NM Craft: kayak

Wallick, William
Albuquerque, NM

Wingfield, Steve
Albuquerque, NM
Craft: kayak

AWC Membership

Send \$15 to:
Adobe
Whitewater Club
P.O. Box 3835
Albuquerque, NM
87190-3835

AN INTERVIEW WITH ERIC SOUTHWICK

by Rip Harwood

Rip: We're here to talk about the Upper Utz today.

Tanya: Where is it?

Eric: The Upper Utz is outside of Siltz, Austria.

Rip: When did you guys do this?

Eric: Uh, we did this in July of 1998.

Rip: What were you doing over there?

Eric: There's a prize money rodeo actually, it's totally killer. It's called "Under the Bridge".



Southwick

It's the hugest party, rodeo party that I've ever been to. There's about 5,000 people that showed up that weren't kayakers that came just to watch and have a good time. They've got this huge slide on the bridge that you start thirty feet above the river and you wing down the slide on your boat, and it airs you out like a ski jump until you throw flips and tricks off of it before you hit the river and then you paddle up into this huge man-made hole, and uh, the river is a glacier-fed river so in the morning it's like two feet lower than, no actually it's like eight feet lower than at night. So, the river totally fluctuates. So in the morning it's like this nasty ledge pour over, and at night it's this totally killer, big, fluffy hole. It's awesome! And they had wet t-shirt contests there, they had a huge disco bar that put the whole thing on, they had how many rolls you could do in a minute in this little pool that was set in the middle of the bar. Ha, Ha! Basically, they make you roll until you hurl, ha ha!

Rip: What was the record number of pre-hurl rolls?

Eric: After the first round they short-

ened it to 30 seconds because people couldn't breathe that long, so it was 38 in 30 seconds.

Rip: Wow!

Eric: For the actual hole riding competition, they drove a semi-truck uh, part of the way into the river on the beach, and the rolled up the side of the semi-truck and it had a place for all the Judges to sit and a huge techno-disco spin table for a DJ., and it had all these funky lights and the whole competition took place at 10:00 at night, so it's pitch black when you flew off the ski jump into the river except for the spotlight that was shining on you the whole time. It was killer.

Rip: Were there other events, or just the nighttime hole ride?

Eric: Yeah, they have this other competition, it's called King of the Way. And uh, you actually go upstream a mile in the pitch black and they drop you off in the dark, and they have this running start where everybody puts their kayak on the shore and then everybody has to start running from 100 feet away and you run and you get you kayak and you fly into the river and you have to paddle as hard as you can downstream, but when you get down to right about the big killer ledge hole, there's a hulla hoop that's hung above the bridge and you have to huck you paddle through the hulla hoop, catch it on the other side before you go into the hole, paddle out of the hole, then make this huge ferry all the way across this river which is like 200 yards wide, and get out of your boat then run across the bridge through all these, like 5,000 people with a boat, get back in on the other side of the river again paddle out to where the hole is they have this big huge banner hanging, and the first person to do all that AND rip down the banner, gets \$2,000.00. Sammy [Sam Drevol] actually won this. He came flying down the river, threw his paddle through, caught it, went on through the hole, made the ferry, it was totally bomber. The next person hit the

hulla hoop which the hulla hoop swings back and forth, he missed his paddle and landed in the hole, the killer ledge hole without a paddle, and he's side surfing. Then about 30 other people missed the hulla hoop and landed on top of him. I've never seen anything so twisted? The hole; this totally nasty ledge hole, has about 12 feet of backwash pouring back into it, and it's about 14 feet wide. The hole, all of that area, was filled with boats and people trying to get their paddle, people swimming out trying to get their boats, trying to grab anything! We lost about 6 boats that night. They went down the river, and we never did see them again. All this while the disco was blaring and the spotlights were shining. It was awesome! They had fireworks that would go off, big huge ones, they would go up into the air and spray, make this big light fan, and uh, those big fans then would light up the area so as you were paddling down the river, you could see where the bridge was way off in the distance by the fireworks,

Rip: Sounds really cool!

Eric: It was totally killer. Then, let's see. The Upper Utz was a river that we went and we would run sections of it.

Rip: Is this in the same area?

Eric: Yea. This area has so much white water. The Utz is only about like 30 to 40 minutes away from Siltz. And you would go up to Utz Valley, uh, which was near the Inn, the Inn River. Uh, you go up the Utz Valley and you have the lower Utz, this middle Utz, uh, the Upper Utz, and the Upper, Upper, Upper Utz, the Upper Upper Upper Upper Utz, ha ha! ... and uh, all these different sections, some of the sections were pretty much unrunable and some of the sections were only runable at really lower water. It's a glacier fed river and the river would vary like, in the mornings, it would probably be running like 2,000 cfs and in the evening it would be running about 10,000. It was just unbelievable. So what we would do is we'd find a section of the river that we could run, and we

would run it, and then if the water came up we would go look at the other section of the river that wasn't necessarily run-able before cause there was too many rocks in it and those rocks would be buried and so you could go run it.

Rip: Did anybody ever run these sections before?

Eric: Oh yea. They had been run, but they change so much because the mountains in Europe, like on the East Coast, most of the mountains are old, really old, and uh, so you have like a pool drop, big pool drop, big pool drop, with really like smooth rocks and things. But in Europe, everything just like comes straight down at an even angle, like it never lets up. And all of the rocks are fairly new since they are always breaking and falling down all the time. All the rocks are really brittle and their mean. And the water has tons of silt in it so the water feels a lot heavier. It's not as nice. Not to mention it's freezing cold. So, to me it feels like it has a lot more mass in it. It pushes you harder. When a hole hits you it knocks the wind out of you instead of this big fluffy pile. It's a whole different ball game. And uh, so we would run a section, and we would film it, then we would go up to another section then we would film it, we ran the river backwards for a while. Then we met up with some our German friends, Ollie and Manuel and Olav, and the took us to like five Upper Utz, which I think was actually called the Venter Ach. Then it was a six mile section that we did in about 15 to 20 minutes.

Rip: Six miles in 20 minutes? Was it straight down, or what?

Eric: It was just pumping. To give you an idea I went with Kerry Tupolino, but he accidentally dropped his boat getting out and it was gone just like that. You never saw it again. We found it four hours later 36 miles down stream, pushed up against a village river bankwall, pretty much destroyed and crushed. The ends were twisted off it, the seats were totally bent, the bulkhead looked like a horseshoe, it was unbelievable what it looked like. But anyway, so you know we put in that day and everybody has to put it right away, and the Germans were on it, you know it's

not one of those things that you look at for very long because if you look at for very long you're going to be horrified.

Rip: Could you even scout it?

Eric: Not really, because most of the river — you could see one major, major sick drop in it you could scout, but you had to scout it from like 400 feet above it. Where you look down into the gorge from the winding road. But the rest of it is just a solid gorge, with cliff walls almost the whole way and it, there's not really a way to get out or swim out of it or do anything. There's pretty much cliff walls almost the entire way. There's a couple of little rock beaches that you see. There are some trees that are hanging from the shore down into it. It's pumping. Part of the reason you don't want to wait too long is cause the water level is coming up, you want to get on it, and we were already a little late.. So all these Germans, who know this run, go running down to get into the river, Sammy and I walk across the bridge, and go UH, UH, do we really want to run this, UH, UH? It looks pretty big! Uh, well we're going, we're coming, we're coming, we're coming, so we're getting our skirts on and they all like peel off the rocks because there's no real eddies. I think we caught two eddies the whole way down, and uh, you peel out, you just peel right out in this into this huge class 5 river that pours over a huge ledge pour over and you just have to decide, you just have to decide right there and then which way to go and most people went left and they looked like they made it so, cool. You just go ricocheting around the corner. And the first eddy that we caught, the eddies aren't definitely big enough to hold six, there were six of us boating that day, so it's definitely not big enough to hold all six people, so you know, you're basically, doing a team slalom run where, you know, two people go into the eddy, they talk about what's happening down stream, then one person peels out while the next person comes in and you do that the whole way down, anytime you touch an eddy, and so you know, you've played the "talk down the line game"? Where you tell some person something and they tell the next person and then by the time it comes down to the last person at the other end, like ten people heard a whole

other sentence, that's pretty much how it works with boaters talking about a rapid too. They'll say: "It's a big huge _____, we dropped down _____, you really got to stay _____ (left??), to go between the _____ (humps??), and I think you break left.. Is what it kind of comes out to be. So we peel into this first eddy, rip in there, Sammy's coming down and there's this little hole but its not really little, but it's just not one of the huge, big ones that you're paying real attention to, and we go peeling out of the eddy. Sammy gets a little to close to the hole, and the eddy circs out into the hole, so he gets sucked right into it, out of the eddie into the hole, while all these people in the eddy meantime are recycling directions for the next section, and Sammy's still not out of the hole, he's stuck, but we've gotta hear what the Germans are saying so I'm yelling directions at him for the next set of rapids while he's doing cartwheels in the hole. He finally gets out of it, comes through, give a little shrug, and we go sprinting down river to try to catch the rest of the crew. The next eddy that we get in is like at a 458 angle, sloping back into itself, then into a pour over, so you do a peel out, then you come back up to the top of the eddy and you smash against the side walls and the you drop back down and it goes into a pour over, so you got to paddle out of it into the current again and then paddle back up on the topside of the eddy.. So the water is rushing up against the rock, and it's really powerful. To give you and idea of how powerful it is, I started to hear a sound like I had a water bottle loose and banging around in the back of boat. It was an obnoxious sound, uh, and I was trying to get rid of it when I realized that I didn't even have a water bottle - I was hearing boulders and rocks rolling down the bottom of the river! Sometimes they'd get stuck or jammed up together under there, any you'd see waves start to appear that weren't there before, and you'd be like, no way!

Rip: What was the gradient of this heinous thing?

Eric: I really don't know the gradient. It was just down. It's really consistent, I don't know, like, the Green's rate it 720

Please see page 7

Dreams do come true!

by Tanya Shuman

While on a rafting trip about fifteen years ago, Eric Southwick jumped into a kayak for the first time. Little did he know from that moment on, whitewater kayaking would dominate his life. Two years after this trip, he saved up enough money from mowing lawns to buy his first kayak, a blue Lazer. At the age of fourteen, inspired by Olympic hopefuls such as John Brennan and Nancy Wiley, he began competing in slalom kayaking. Eric's rapid progression soon caught the eye of U.S. Junior Team Coach, Fritz Haller, who saw the potential and determination in this talented youngster. With his sights on making the U.S. Olympic Junior Team, and with the support and encouragement of his parents, Eric left home at the age of 15 to train with Fritz Haller in Bryson City, North Carolina. Within two years of intense training, including frequent trips to Washington, D.C. to train with some of the best in the world like Kathy Hearn (U.S. Slalom Team member since 1976), Eric found himself on the podium as a silver medal winner in the 1992 Junior World Slalom Championships. During the next couple of years, Eric would climb the ranks in the U.S. National Slalom rankings. Unfortunately, slalom lacked the sponsorship support Eric needed in order to continue to train and to go to college, so in 1996 he made the painful decision not to pursue his talents as a slalom boater.

A year later, while teaching kayaking on the Potomac River, Eric's best friend and former slalom teammate, Sam Drevo, introduced him to freestyle kayaking. The two friends developed an intense passion for freestyle kayaking. After working as teachers on the river each day, they would race to the local play spot to work on exciting new moves like cartwheels in the "hot" boat of the day, the Wave Sport Frankenstein. The following summer Sam and Eric joined the Freestyle Kayaking Tour. This was possible because of the generous support of their long-time sponsor, Wave Sport, which had provided boats to the boys since they were fourteen. Sam and Eric both did very well on the tour. In 1997, Sam ranked second in the national standings and Eric was first.

This set the stand for the future.



Fueled by his passion for kayaking, Eric set his sights on the World Championships in 1999. He wanted to pursue his long-time dream of becoming World Champion. He understood that such a goal meant a lot of training and dedication. Not only would he have to compete against legendary boaters like Dan Gavere, Clay Wright, and Shane Benedict to name but a few, to make the U.S. Team, but even if he did make the team he would still face formidable paddlers like former World Champion Ken Whiting, Simon Westgrath, Arnd Schafflen, and Corran Addison. It seemed an impossible dream! Inside though, Eric knew he had the strength, ability, and determination to win. Over the next two years, Eric trained hard and competed in various events around the world to get as much competition experience as possible. Along the way, he won the U.S. National Championship in 1997 and 1998, was a silver medalist in the Japan Open in 1998, and won a silver medal in the European Cup in 1999. Wick also earned a coveted spot on the 1999 U.S. Men's K-1 Team. This was an enormous achievement because of the sheer level and scope of talent and experience of the competitors at this level. Many of the men who did not make the team were themselves talented

enough to be the next World Champion. So Eric felt truly honored to have been chosen from amongst this field of super talented boaters and friends to represent the United States and to compete at the World Championship in New Zealand in December, 1999.

Eric's strategy was to arrive in New Zealand a month ahead of the competition to practice and train on-site. The generous and enthusiastic support and encouragement from his principal sponsors, Wave Sport, and NET-tel Communications, made this possible. Once competition began, Wick was pitted against the top paddlers in the world, legendary boaters who are household names in the world of freestyle kayaking. Ever since he was a little kid practicing his moves at Ben's Hole, Wick had dreamed of this moment, and of the chance to compete in such an event. Though he didn't share it with many people, Wick had also dared to dream of the possibility that on a good day, with everything working right for him, and with all his training and hard work brought to bear, he might, just might, be able to come out on top, at the top, amidst a field of world class boaters and friends!

On December 6th, 1999, Wick made that dream come true. In his cool, low-key, friendly but focused way, Wick brought all that training, determination, and skill to bear. While friends and family anxiously followed the heats on the net, Wick advanced steadily through the pack. The initial field of 150 boaters narrowed to the top 40. Already, that group was an international who's who of freestyle kayakers! The next elimination round dropped the field to 10. The news flashed back to New Mexico - Wick was still in the running! You could feel the excitement level rise a notch as friend called friend with the news, and as e-mails crossed through the ether! And then they were 5! Wick was still in there! The tension was unbearable! It was Wick, Rusty Sage from California, Corran Addison and Steve Fisher, both from South Africa, and Alex Nicks from Great Britain. Now it was sudden death: one thirty-second ride each, and then cringe

in the eddy while the judges tallied the scores. If you heard your name announced, it meant you were out - dead and gone. You could cut the tension and fear in that eddy with a knife. Slowly, agonizingly, those whose rides were just not quite totally perfect were eliminated - Steve Fisher, Alex Nicks, and young, up-and-coming Rusty Sage; until finally only Wick and Corran Addison were left in the eddy.

Corran went first and had an awesome, flawless, perfectly timed ride, while Wick sat in the eddy praying for that special mental calm and discipline, and rehearsing in his head the moves he would make and how he would time them to squeeze everything into that precious, infinitely narrow, thirty second window of opportunity. Now it was his turn. Wicks' ride was just as perfect as Corran's. To top it off, Wick managed a perfect splitwheel just before the buzzer. As he went past vertical and over, with the sound of the buzzer in his ears, Wick knew in his heart that it just could be enough, just enough!

And he was right! The name the judges called next was Corran Addison's! On that day, and in that instant, Eric Southwick, that little boy from Ben's Hole, became Freestyle Kayaking champion of the world! He had made the dream come true! And with characteristic generosity, he also shared it with us. In his victory speech, Wick thanked me for being there over the years, though I could imagine nowhere else I could ever want to be. He thanked all his friends for their support and encouragement over the years. And last but not least came the biggest thanks of all - Wick thanked his family, Bob and Celia Southwick, and his grandma, Marcia Southwick, for their love, support, patience, encouragement and the many, many river trips that had helped make his dream come true. He asked me to write this article in part to also thank his club for the support of a truly terrific group of tight-knit boaters and friends. Each contributed in their own special way to the victory he won for all of us in New Zealand that day. He is as proud to call this home as we are that he is one of ours!

January, 2000

Continued from page 5

feet per mile, but there is lots of big vertical drops in there. The Venter Ach didn't have very large verticals in terms of drops, uhm, but it's just like straight down the whole time. And there is no way to really get out, and uh, uhm, this one rapid that you go into it uh, it's two holes, well it's one big hole that covers about two-thirds of the river, and uh, it's a big mean hole. What you want to do, on the other side of the river it takes a real sharp right hand bend right there, so the river hits this cliff wall and it folds back on itself and feed you, feeds you into the other part of the hole that takes up two-thirds of the river. So what you have to do is you have to come down about one-third of the way over, you have to come down and catch this pillow, and go up against the pillow of the cliff, kind of like slide the cliff and banking off of it so that you miss the big holes. And it's mean, it's big, really big, there's lots of waves that are like six to eight feet tall probably. And so the silt is so, there is so much silt in the water that when like a wave hits you and then it goes away, there's like pebbles that are left running down your face. It's like amazing how much silt, like you'd be like sitting at the beach, is how much sand would land on you after a while, that's how like every wave is. After we got done there was a couple of reporters that had seen us put in and they met us down below to see if they were going to get any shots of carnage. They were ecstatic that we were alive and they were shooting all kinds of pictures. It was soooo much fun! It was really neat.

Rip: Were there any waterfall runs over there?

Eric: That was another river. There's one that most people don't run just because there's only like two or three waterfalls. There's not really a reason to go and run it, but we were there for filming. So we were finding anything and everything that we could find to run. So there was this waterfall, it's kind of neat. There a quaint really nice little café, that was set right beside the waterfall, and you know, they were all having a nice brunch, and like -

Rip: A hangout for the local BergerMeister's?

Eric: Yeah! I mean definitely you classic like high finance European restaurant set high up in the Alps. So you know, we're kind of like sneaking around, checking out the rapids and seeing what's happening, we come down and as soon as we come over the first drop the whole restaurant gets up, comes out of the restaurant and comes over the bridge to watch these crazy yucks, pounding down this waterfall above this like drop that's like 2,000 feet and so, we paddle up over these waterfalls and drop, they're all cheering, having fun and yelling at us, there's a big drop down below, so they're screaming at us in a foreign language, they got smiles on their face so we figure, oh good. The next drop down below which is right above the terminal 2000 footer, we thought was pretty mellow, but it goes like eight to ten feet and then into this really narrow chute, and it wants to make you do a mystery or melt the drop, but if you melt it you end up on the wrong end of the pool, the downstream end near the lip of the last pool before the 2000 footer. You just did not want to melt the last drop! I came down, and I melted the last drop and it was like, ahh!, I don't want to go, I don't want to go!, so I'm started back paddling, frantically backpaddling under water, and it's like, I'm starting to get back under the waterfall, I was like, "No, No, No, go forward, go forward!" So I ended up surfacing in the pool and everything worked out, but that last drop is definitely one that's too close for comfort. It gets your attention!

This interview as conducted in mid-1998, and is the basis for an article that Paddler Magazine tells us is likely to appear in one of its spring, 2000 editions. Watch for it! Of course, since that time, our intrepid Eric Southwick has gone on to place on the National Freestyle Kayaking team and then to win the title of World Freestyle Kayaking Champion in the December, 1999 competition in New Zealand! Readers are advised not to try any of the rivers or maneuvers described in this interview. Out of compassion for his parents, this interview was withheld from publication for as long as possible!

BOATYARD

MOHAWK XL 13 - solo WW canoe , new flotation, cargo saddle , good for trips or play - \$575, Christina or Chuck, 345-9747 or sandhill@swcp.com

HURRICANE KAYAK - Blue, 97 model, excellent shape, \$275 OBO - Deb Hartvigsen, 719-852-2662 debhart@monte.k12.co.us

PERCEPTION WHIPLASH - \$450 Werner all graphite paddle, 200 cm, RHC, 80 degree offset, \$125 Both in excellent condition, Steve 345-2011

DAGGER ATOM C-1, almost new with spray skirt, \$550

DAGGER DIMENSION tandem whitewater canoe, fully rigged, \$400

MAD RIVER COURIER solo tripping canoe, \$250

MAD RIVER EXPLORER tandem tripping canoe, \$150

KID'S FIBERGLASS KAYAK, \$25

Call Bruce Matthews at 505-662-2679

PADDLES: One new black graphite Lettmann kayak paddle from Germany, was \$200, will sell for \$75. One new wooden Kober paddle, was \$100, will sell for \$50. One very little used, extra long, single-blade Norse paddle for rafting, \$20. Call Rita Tessmann, (505) 881-4696.

RIOT BOATS: Used yellow 007, \$450. Used gray Glide, \$550. New Show Biz, \$600. In Abq. Can demo at any time. Contact Naomi, 831-5478 or naomie@unm.edu.

Help Wanted Flip Line Editors

We have made progress in our search for some new blood in some key club positions. Tom Robey (old blood ?) has agreed to take over the Treasurer and Membership Database Coordinator jobs and Ted Krings has picked up the FlipLine Coordinator role. We still are in search of people to help with the monthly editing chores. The editors job is to plan and organize content for an issue and work with our Flip Line designer, Bob Widdicombe to get the newsletter generated and delivered to the printer. Members interested in signing up to edit an issue in 2000 can call Ted Krings at 892-4852.

Flip Line

The *Flip Line* is the official publication of the Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico, a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of whitewater sports and the conservation of rivers. To join, send \$15 to the Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico, Inc., P.O.Box 3835, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3835. All AWC members are invited to submit articles that pertain to the club or its activities.

This months *Flip Line* was edited by Ted Krings, 892-4852 or tkrings@aol.com and designed by Bob Widdicombe, 920-4001 or rwiddicombe@netscape.net Next months editor will be Merlin Wheeler, 662-5413 or nmrivers@aol.com. The deadline to submit materials for next months *Flip Line* is the 12th of February.



ADOBE WHITEWATER CLUB OF NEW MEXICO, INC.
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