

September 5 – September 25, 2013 Grand Canyon Trip

September 22, 2012 (Updated)
(by Tim Strauch)

Dates until launch - 349

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Since the last update on June 23, we have had Radha Adhar drop off the trip. Polk Burleson has moved from our waiting list to our trip list. On our waiting list Alison Van Dusen is first and Tim Long is second.

Everyone has sent in their deposit, so we are ready to talk with the outfitters.

National Park Pass:

If anyone has a National Park Pass (or Grand Canyon) that is valid for September 2013, please email the number to me. It is good for four of us and we will save \$10 per person (\$40). So far George and I have one and Bill and Mike plan to obtain one.

Logistic for the start of the trip

On September 5th, 2013 you will need to be in either Flagstaff by midmorning or Lees Ferry by early afternoon. If you fly, most like you will need to be in Flagstaff on the night of the 4th. Each of us has the option of having our outfitter shuttle a car from Lees Ferry to Flagstaff or Piece's Ferry (in 2011 the cost was \$285) or from Flagstaff to Peirce's Ferry. I expect that most people will use Flagstaff as a base and we would have the outfitter s drive us from Flagstaff to Lees Ferry to begin the trip and from Peirce's Ferry back Flagstaff to end it.

I would like to have everyone's best guess on what their current plans are to start the trip. I understand that plans do change, but it helps to have a rough idea of what each of our itinerary is when we negotiate with the outfitters. The options are:

1. Fly into to Flagstaff and use that as your before and after base
2. Drive to Flagstaff
3. Drive to Lees Ferry
4. Some other variation

Currently Tom, Holly and I plan to drive from the Northwest –arriving around noon on the 5th at Lees Ferry. We will have our vehicle shuttled to Piece's Ferry.

Time Line:

Now – begin negotiations with trip outfitters – the primary ones are Canyon REO and Pro – will consider others if anyone has suggestions. In the past we have received significant discounts if we secure an outfitter in the calendar year before the trip

December 15, 2012 – Bill French sends \$1500 retainer to our outfitter

May 1, 2013 – Confirm that Bob Jackson as permit holder is 100% committed to go and then drop our back up date of August 29, 2013.

May 5, 2013 – Bob Jackson sends in completed permit

May 6, 2013 – Bill French sends in National Park fees – estimated at about \$2000

May 10, 2013 – Request final trip estimates from Outfitter

May 29, 2013 – All participants have final payment to Bill French – I expect it to be an additional \$1000

June 8, 2013 – 90 days until launch date – anyone added to our permit will be charged an additional \$100 by the National Park service.

July 3, 2013 – Bill French sends 50% of invoice to outfitter (in the \$10,000 range)

Wednesday, September 4, 2013 – If you are flying into Flagstaff you probably want to arrive Wednesday evening

Thursday, September 5, 2013 – You will want to be in Flagstaff at the outfitters by mid morning or at the put in, at Lees Ferry by early afternoon

Thursday, September 5, 2013 mid afternoon – We will rig the rafts. When this is complete the ranger will inspect our gear

Friday, September 6, 2013 – morning – Ranger talk and the ranger inspection of each person's ID. (make sure you have a valid picture ID available) – LAUNCH!!

Monday, September 23, 2013 – pass Diamond Creek (mile 226)

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 – take out at Pearce Ferry

We currently are planning to rent five 18' rafts, although if one or two boatmen would prefer a smaller raft, we could accommodate that. I expect that that we would also have 3 or 4 tandem inflatable kayak, since they became very popular last trip. The permit allows 16 participants. Currently we have 18 people who are interested, so there are two people on the waiting list.

Current Participants and proposed "home" rafts :

Raft # 1 Boatman: Tim Strauch, Trip Leader

Sam Strauch

Holly Strauch

Raft #2 Boatman: Tom Strauch, Food Organizer

Bob Jackson, lottery winner and permit holder

Polk Burleson

Raft#3 Boatman: Bill French, Treasurer (won permit for August 29)

Chris French

Jordan French

Raft#4 Boatman: George Steigerwald, Will help negotiate with outfitters

Bob Schafer

Mike Murphy

Raft#5 Co-boatmen Nathan Wendt; Jason Marley

Greg Lambert

Matt Strauch

Waiting List:

Alison Van Dusen

Tim Long

Below this line, nothing has been updated since the June 23 update.

Daylight:

In September we will have 12-14 hours of daylight. We will want to take advantage of the daylight hours by getting up and starting early. Camp fires will probably be the norm at night.

Hiking:

On all river trips, there are those who like to hike and there are those who prefer to relax and hang out in camp. Grand Canyon trips can accommodate both and everything in between. Our group is very oriented toward hiking.

Camp Chairs:

I feel that one of the most important items to bring along on the trip is a camp chair. It represents your personal space at camp and around the camp fire. For some unknown reason, on the few trips that I have been on that had less chairs than people, there have been disagreements about chairs and space. Please bring your own camp chair.

Equipment:

The outfitter will supply almost all of the river equipment. Many of us have our own river gear, such as life jackets, dry bags and ammo cans and will want to use our own gear. For those that do not, there is no need purchase equipment because the outfitter will rent you what you need.

I strongly recommend Aquaphor, a skin ointment for your hand and feet. Your hand and feet will become cracked and dry as a result of being wet most of the time. Wearing gloves can also help your hands. It is recommended that you start using Aquaphor a week before the trip to moisturize your hands and feet.

Wet suits and dry suits are not included as part of the equipment. It is a good idea to bring one or the other if you have them. At this time of year they are good to have but not necessary. You will want clothing that will keep you warm when you are wet. The Outfitters may have used wetsuits that they will sell at discounted prices. It is likely that we will have some very hot days, but we could also have some cool ones.

Snack, drinks, beer and wine

Even though the outfitter will supply us with plenty of food you may still want to bring your own snacks. There is plenty of space so you can bring as much as you want of drinks. Do not bring any glass. Soda and beer should be in cans and wine in bags (a small glass container of hard liquor is OK). There will be plenty of filtered water and everyone is encouraged to drink plenty of water. If you prefer to bring your own drinks up to four or five cases is acceptable.

NPS Registration:

Although it is apparently not yet necessary for participating, I would recommend that everyone creates a profile at: <https://npspermits.us>. Most all of us have done that when we applied for the lottery.

NPS Regulations:

Can I change my passenger list or gear after sending you my trip application?

Participant names may be changed online before launch. Before going to Lees Ferry, ensure that each participant will have picture ID and the total number of participants (including the permittee) does not exceed 16 at any one time (8 for a small trip). The trip leader must be present the entire trip. You may change or add boats at Lees Ferry. Just be sure to show up with the required gear associated with the additions. Between 30 and 90 days before launch, the trip leader will be allowed to request that additional trip participants be added to the trip. For these late additions there will be the normal \$100 charge per added person plus an additional late fee of \$100 per added person. Trip participants may not be added within 30 days of launch.

Please review the Noncommercial River Trip Regulations. Tom has a link to it on his website.

Let me know if you have any questions or ideas.

Tim