

September 5 – September 25, 2013 Grand Canyon Trip

December 2, 2012 (Updated)
(by Tim Strauch)

Dates until launch - 278

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Since the last update on September 22:

Matt Strauch is only doing the first part of the trip and will hike out on the September 13th from Phantom Ranch. Alison Van Dusen has moved from our waiting list to our trip list. She is busy with the clean up from Hurricane Sandy and has not yet had time to commit. She would hike into Phantom Ranch and replace Matt on our trip. If a full slot opens up Alison would be first in line for it. Tim Long is now the only person on our waiting list.

George has negotiated with the outfitters and has chosen PRO (Professional River Outfitters, Inc). George and Bob Schafer plan to use their trucks and trailers to haul all of our gear from Flagstaff to the put in (Lees Ferry) and then from the take out (Pearce Ferry) back to Flagstaff. This should reduce the cost of the trip. The deposit has been paid to PRO. Because of our early deposit we should be locked into newer equipment and cheaper rates.

Besides the gear, George and Bob can transport up to 12 of us (including the two of them), from Flagstaff to the put in and then from the take out back to Flagstaff. That means that at least four of us must find other means to arrive at the put in and then leave from the take out. Tentatively, Tom, Holly and me (Tim) plan drive to Salt Lake City and pick up Matt and Sam who plan to fly in Wednesday evening. The five of us would then drive to the put in and have our car shuttled to the take out.

Jason has agreed to put together the four minor first aid kits and the one major kit. This should be another cost saving and we would have the kits for future use. We will consider Jason our Chief Medical Officer.

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, Bill and I have one and Mike plans to obtain one. Now that we have 17 participants (only 16 on the river at any one time), it would be helpful to have a fifth pass.

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 likely 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 Pearce's Ferry (George has a quote of \$250) or from Flagstaff to Pearce's Ferry. I expect that most people will use Flagstaff as a base and George and Bob will drive us from Flagstaff to Lees Ferry to begin the trip and from Pearce'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. George and Bob can transport up to 12 people from Flagstaff, but it will probably be more comfortable if there were only 10. 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

Individual Logistics:

The purpose of having everyone logistics is first to assure that we know where everyone will be to begin the trip; shuttles are arranged when appropriate; there is room in George's and Bob's truck and we can when feasible coordinate transportation with each other. Plans are subject to frequent changes.

Tim Strauch – Will leave early morning on Wednesday, September 4 and drive with Holly from Bellevue, WA to meet Tom at Hermiston, OR. From there the three of them will drive to Salt Lake City to pick up Sam and Matt late Wednesday evening. They will drive to the put in (Lees Ferry) and should arrive early afternoon on Thursday. The van will be shuttled to the take out (Pearce Ferry). From the take out Tim, Holly, Tom and Sam will drive to Las Vegas and drop off Sam. Tim, Holly and Tom will continue on to Oregon and Washington.

Holly Strauch – on Tuesday, September 3 she will drive from Olympia to Bellevue and join her dad.

Tom Strauch – on Wednesday will drive to Hermiston, OR, leave his car there and join his brother.

Sam Strauch – on Wednesday will fly from Philadelphia to Salt Lake City and be picked up by his dad and uncle. At the end of the trip he will drive with his dad to Las Vegas and fly to Philadelphia.

Matt Strauch – on Wednesday will fly from Chicago to Salt Lake City and be picked up by his dad and uncle. On September 13 he will hike out from Phantom Ranch to the South Rim. He will most likely fly out of Flagstaff to Chicago. His gear will continue down river and be taken care of by his dad.

George Steigerwald & Bob Schafer – Mostly likely will leave Ramah, NM on Wednesday, September 4 and drive to Flagstaff with their two trucks and trailers. They will pick up the gear from PRO Thursday morning, and drive with up to 12 people to the put in (Lees Ferry) arriving early afternoon. Their trucks will be shuttled to Pearce Ferry. At the end of the trip they haul the gear and take up to 12 people back to Flagstaff. From there they will drive back to Ramah.

Mike Murphy – lives in Albuquerque, NM – I assume will coordinate with George and Bob.

Jason Marley – lives in Santa Fe, NM – I assume will coordinate with George and Bob.

Bill French – from Alton Bay, New Hampshire

Chris French – from Highland Beach, Florida

Jordan French – from St. Louis, Missouri

Bob Jackson – from Highland, Illinois

Polk Burleson – from Watertown, Wisconsin

Greg Lambert – from Helena, Montana

Nathan Wendt – from D.C.

Alison van Dusen – has not yet confirmed. Currently would need to arrange to have someone take her gear to the put in. She would hike in from the South Rim to Phantom Range and meet us on the river on September 13. She could also use Matt's gear and just hike in with whatever she needed.

Time Line:

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, although George has done a good job of reducing cost, so it may be less (or at least our refund after the trip will be more)

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 at Lees Ferry – 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 2 tandem inflatable kayak, since they became very popular last trip. The permit allows 16 participants at any one time. Currently we have 15 people for the whole, one for the first part and one for the second. There is one person 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, Has negotiated with outfitters
Bob Schafer
Mike Murphy
Alison Van Dusen (Joining the trip on the 13th or 14th)

Raft#5 Co-boatmen Nathan Wendt; Jason Marley (Chief Medical Officer for our trip)
Greg Lambert
Matt Strauch (until the 13th or 14th)

Waiting List:
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