

September 5 – September 25, 2013 Grand Canyon Trip

March 17, 2013 - Update
(by Tim Strauch)

Dates until launch - 173

Tom Strauch's planning website: <http://tstrauch.home.comcast.net/~tstrauch/GrandCanyon2013/>
Tim Strauch's email address: tims.janett@comcast.net Cell: 920 285-9750

Since the last update on December 2, 2012:

Matt Strauch, Nathan Wendt and Jason Marley are only doing the first part of the trip and will hike out on the September 13th from Phantom Ranch. Alison Van Dusen, Allie Savage and Pascal Haeny will be hiking in and joining our trip. Tim Long has decided that he is unable to go and has dropped off the waiting list.

Expenses: **The final payment is due to Bill French by May 29.** We now have a little clearer idea of our expected expenses. George has been doing a good job at reducing our expenses. The payment for the whole trip is now **\$1400.** (This is down from \$1500.) If all goes well and there is no major damage done to our equipment or surprise expenses everyone should receive a \$200-\$300 refund. The refund usually occurs over a month after the end of the trip and after the outfitter refunded our damage deposit.

For most of you going on the full trip you need to send an addition \$900.

For those of you going on the first part (hiking out on the 13th) your estimated expenses are \$620. So subtract your deposit and send the different.

For those of you going on the second part (hiking in on the 13th) your estimated expenses are \$945. So subtract your deposit and send the different.

Bill's Address:
Bill French
189 Trask Side Road
Alton, NH 03810

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, Sam and me (Tim) plan drive to the put in and have our car shuttled to the take out. (Sam would fly from Philadelphia to Seattle.)

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.

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 19 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:

- Fly into to Flagstaff and use that as your before and after base
- Drive to Flagstaff
- Drive to Lees Ferry
- 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.

For the full trip:

Tim Strauch – Will leave Tuesday, September 3 and drive with Holly and Sam from Bellevue, WA to Tom's house in Salem, OR. The four of them will leave Wednesday morning and drive to the put in (Lees Ferry) and should arrive mid-day 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 or before she will drive from Olympia to Bellevue and join her dad (or her mom and dad will drive to Olympia, and her mom will drive her car back to Bellevue).

Tom Strauch – on Wednesday will drive to the put in (Lees Ferry). See Tim.

Sam Strauch – on around Saturday, August 31 will fly from Philadelphia to Seattle and join the rest of his family. At the end of the trip he will drive with his dad to Las Vegas and fly to Philadelphia.

George Steigerwald & Bob Schafer – My schedule will be the same as what happened in the last few Grand trips. I will leave Ramah (120 miles west of ABQ) about noon on the 4th and drive to Flag (about 230 miles) and spend the night in a cheap motel. There will be room for three other people in the room and that will make it way cheap. Anyone coming to ABQ, flying or driving, could get a ride from Mike's

house (this is the first that Mike has heard of this offer) to either Bob's or my house for the trip to and from the canyon.

Bob and I will drive to the PRO outfitter's store when they open, 9AM. Checking the equipment and loading our trucks will take several hours. We will arrive at Lee's early in the afternoon of the 5th. Rigging of the boats will start shortly after we arrive.

On Sept. 25th, day 20, we will take out at Pearce Ferry early in the morning and de-rig our boats and load the trucks. After lunch (leftovers) Bob and I and whoever wants to go to Flag will drive back to Flag and deliver the rental gear back to PRO. We will be back in Flag about 4PM. If all goes smoothly we should be back in Ramah late that night, 10 - 12 pm.

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

Bill French – from Alton Bay, New Hampshire - We will be flying into Flagstaff as far as we know.

Chris French – from Highland Beach, Florida –We will be flying into Flagstaff as far as we know.

Jordan French – from St. Louis, Missouri - We will be flying into Flagstaff as far as we know.

Bob Jackson – from Highland, Illinois

Polk Burleson – from Watertown, Wisconsin - my tentative plans are to fly into Flagstaff on Wednesday

Greg Lambert – from Helena, Montana

For the first part only:

The logistics are the same at the beginning of the trip as those doing the full trip. They will need a car on the South Rim once they hike out. They will need to make arrangement for any gear that they do not want to hike out with. They should determine what personal gear they are willing to share with the people hiking in. Tents, camp chairs and life jackets are the most obvious and sleeping bags and river gear should be considered.

I would suggest that Jason coordinate with Allison, Allie and Pascal to drive his car from Flagstaff to the South Rim.

Jason Marley – Tentatively the plan is to pick up Matt in Albuquerque, head out to the GC, then hike back out at phantom ranch and drive back to Santa Fe for a few days before he heads back to Chicago.

Matt Strauch – See Jason.

Nathan Wendt – from D.C.

For the second part only:

The logistics are the same for the end of the trip as those doing the full trip. They will need to arrive on the South Rim early morning on the 13th to begin the hike down to Phantom Ranch (They could spend the night of the 12th there). Any gear that you do not want to hike down with you need to arrange for someone to take with them who is starting the trip. It is normal to give someone one large river bag. You

should work with the people who are only doing the first part of the trip to see what they are willing to share.

I would suggest that Allison, Allie and Pascal coordinate with Jason to drive his car from Flagstaff to the South Rim.

Alison van Dusen – from Indialantic, FL.

Allie Savage – from Helena, MT

Pascal Haeny – from Cudrefin, Switzerland

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 this is an additional \$900

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 PRO 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!!

Friday, September 13, 2013 Matt, Jason and Nate hike out from Phantom Ranch; Alison, Allie and Pascal hike in from the South Rim

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 2 tandem inflatable kayak, since they became very popular last trip. The permit allows 16 participants at any one time. Currently we have 13 people for the whole, three for the first part and three for the second.

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: Will assist Tom with organizing the food

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)

Raft#5 Co-boatmen Nathan Wendt (until the 13th); Jason Marley (until the 13th)
Greg Lambert
Matt Strauch (until the 13th)
Allie Savage (from the 13th) (boatwoman)
Pascal Haeny (from the 13th)

Waiting List:

Alison Van Dusen – is on the second part of the trip, but if a slot opens for the whole trip she will plan to take it.

Evan Kolberg (boatman) – Evan and Sydney would only go if two slots opened up and they could do the whole trip

Sydney Craig (boatwoman) -.

Life Jacket and River bags:

I am assuming everyone is bringing their own life jacket (for those starting the trip only) and river bags. If you are not, let me know and they can be rented from PRO. If you have extra let me know and they can be shared with those who do not have them.

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