

# September 5 – September 25, 2013 Grand Canyon Trip

August 17, 2013 - Update  
(by Tim Strauch)

Days until launch - 20

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

## ACTION ITEMS FOR EACH OF YOU

1. If the address (or name) changes on your ID, let me know immediately. The ranger at the put in makes sure that our participant list matches our individual ID. (You could be left at Lees Ferry.)
2. **Before the trip view the National Park Service Orientation videos** (if any one does not view it, we may all have to watch it in the ranger's trailer on launch day (wasting valuable river time))  
[http://www.nps.gov/grca/photosmultimedia/riv-or01.htm#CP\\_JUMP\\_318936](http://www.nps.gov/grca/photosmultimedia/riv-or01.htm#CP_JUMP_318936)

## Since the last update on June 30, 2013:

The projected release for our trip is between 7,000 and 13,000 cfs. This is a bit on the low side. On our last trip it was a steady 25k cfs (which was very high – but not extreme). Some of the rapids may be more challenging than usual. We will also have “tides” and will need to be careful that our rafts are not beached in the morning. The average daily high for September at Phantom Ranch for September is 96° and the average low is 68°. On or next to the river it is a bit cooler.

The launch calendar is out for September you may view it at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/upload/LaunchCalendarSep13.pdf>

We are the only private launching on September 6. Three commercial trips will be launching that day, so we will need to share the launching area.

Two privates are launching on September 5. Both will probably be ahead of us the whole trip. Two privates are launching on September 7. They should both pass us before Phantom Ranch. One will be taking out at Pearce Ferry the same day we are. On September 8 there is one private launching. They are planning on stopping at Phantom Ranch the same day we are. The challenge here is that between Grapevine (mile 81) and Cremation (mile 87) there are few good campsites.

## From George on 6/27:

Hi RR's. I have reserved five rooms in Flag for the night of Sept. 4th (called the Steigerwald/PRO group) at a rate of \$72 w/breakfast for two people and \$82 for four people/room. They will allow cars to be left in their parking lot while you are on the river. These rooms are being held by my credit card for the next 10 days, after that they will be canceled. So please make your reservations by then.

Aspen Inn  
1008 East Route 66  
Flagstaff  
866-539-0036

I am planning on being at the motel around four and hope we can have dinner together that night. I think there is one or two of our group that will be flying into Flag and would like someone to pick them up at the airport. So if you need a ride post your cell number in this email with your planned arrival time and we will try to get you. The airport is 7 miles out of town.

George

**National Park Pass:**

We now have five National Park Passes. This saved us \$180.

**Logistic for the start of the trip**

The eleven people starting in Flagstaff plan to be there the evening of Wednesday, September 4 and are staying in the Aspen Hotel. George and Bob S are driving their trucks and trailers. Bill, Chris and Jordan plan to fly in Flagstaff. Bob J is driving from Illinois. Greg (with some of Allie's and Pascal's gear) is driving from Montana. Nate and Matt are flying into Albuquerque and then driving with Jason from New Mexico. Polk is staying with friends in Phoenix and taking the shuttle to Flagstaff.

Sam is flying to Seattle. Tim, Holly, Sam and Alison are driving to Salem, OR to pick up Tom and then driving to the put in (Lees Ferry). They plan to arrive there mid-day on Thursday, September 5.

**Individual Logistics:**

Plans are subject to frequent changes.

**For the full trip:**

**Tim Strauch** – Will leave Tuesday, September 3 and drive with Alison, Holly and Sam from Bellevue, WA to Tom's house in Salem, OR. The five of them will leave Tuesday after dinner and drive to Cedar City, Utah. They will spend Wednesday night in a hotel. Thursday morning they will 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, Alison and Sam will continue on to Oregon and Washington.

**Holly Strauch** – on Tuesday, September 3 Janet, Alison, Sam and Tim will drive to Olympia and pick her up on the way to Salem. Janet will drive the Prius back to Bellevue.

**Tom Strauch** – on Tuesday night will begin drive to the put in (Lees Ferry). See Tim.

**Sam Strauch** – on Tuesday, September 3 will fly from Philadelphia to Seattle arriving at 10:35 am. He will be picked up at the airport by Janet, Alison and Tim and they will drive south to Olympia. At the end of the trip he will drive back to Seattle and fly back to Philadelphia on October 3.

**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.

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.

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

**Chris French** – from San Francisco, CA – will be flying to Flagstaff on Sept 4. (But Bill believes he is driving to Flagstaff.)

**Jordan French** – from San Francisco, CA - will be flying to Flagstaff on Sept 4.

**Bob Jackson** – from Highland, Illinois will be drive to Flagstaff and plans to arrive Tuesday, September 3 and has booked a hotel room at the Aspen for 9/3 & 4 and 9/25 and 26. If people need a ride from the Flagstaff airport, contact Bob. He may be able to pick you up. Sharon, his spouse, plans to fly into Flagstaff on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Polk Burleson** – from Watertown, Wisconsin – will fly into Phoenix and stay with friends. On Wednesday he will take the shuttle to Flagstaff and share a room with Bob Jackson at the Aspen.

**Greg Lambert** – from Helena, Montana – will drive to Flagstaff. Plans to arrive Wednesday evening and leave his car at the Aspen for the trip. Greg plans to bring some of Allie's and Pascal's gear. He will travel with George and Bob to the put in and from the take out. Greg has booked a room for the 4<sup>th</sup> and plans to share with Nate.

**Alison van Dusen** – from Seattle, WA - She will drive down and back with Tim.

**For the first part only:**

Jason plans to leave his car at the Aspen. Allie and Pascal will pick up his car and drive from Flagstaff to the South Rim.

**Jason Marley** –The current plan is to pick up Matt and Nate in Albuquerque on Wednesday and drive to Flagstaff. They will spend the night in the Aspen motel and go with George and Bob S to the put in. The three of them will hike back out at Phantom Ranch and pick up their car on the South Rim. They will drive back to Santa Fe. Matt and Jason are sharing a room at the Aspen.

**Matt Strauch** – Arlington Heights, IL – plans to fly into Albuquerque on Wednesday - see Jason

**Nathan Wendt** – from D.C. – per Matt, Nate is also planning to fly into Albuquerque – see Jason

**For the second part only:**

Allie and Pascal - We are staying at the Grand Canyon International Hostel in Flagstaff on September 11th. We plan to pick up the car in the morning on the 12th and drive to the South Rim. We are staying at the Bright Angel Lodge this night and will leave the car for you at the trailhead.

**Allie Savage** – from Helena, MT – flying into Phoenix to meet Pascal. They will take a bus to Flagstaff and pick up Jason car. They will drive to the South Rim, hike down the Bright Angel trail and give Jason his car keys as Matt, Nate and Jason hike up. They will return to Flagstaff with George and Bob S and take a bus back to Phoenix.

**Pascal Haeny** – from Cudrefin, Switzerland – flying into Phoenix to meet Allie. Will fly out at the end of the trip. See Allie.

**Time Line:**

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

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 9:00 AM or at the put in, at Lees Ferry by mid-day.

Thursday, September 5, 2013 mid day 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; 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 are planning to rent five 18' rafts and George is bring 2 inflatable kayak. The kayaks became very popular last trip. The permit allows 16 participants at any one time. Currently we have 13 people for the whole, three for just the first part and two just 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 PRO, Flagstaff point person  
Bob Schafer  
Alison Van Dusen

Raft#5 Co-boatmen Nathan Wendt (until the 13<sup>th</sup>); Jason Marley (until the 13<sup>th</sup>);  
Boatwoman: Allie Savage (after the 13<sup>th</sup>)  
Greg Lambert  
Matt Strauch (until the 13<sup>th</sup>)  
Pascal Haeny (from the 13<sup>th</sup>)

**Waiting List:**

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 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