

## March 9 – April 1, 2019 Grand Canyon Trip

Update – October 7, 2018

Days until launch – 153

Tom Strauch's planning website: <https://tstrauch.axpr.net/GrandCanyon2019/>

Tim Strauch's email address: [timstrauch49@gmail.com](mailto:timstrauch49@gmail.com) Cell: 920 285-9750

Tom S will keep his website up to date, so you can reference it often. This has worked well in the past.

We are planning for our Grand Canyon River trip that will take place in five months. We are very lucky that Alison won a launch date with her fifth choice: March 9, 2019. We plan to rent five 18' raft from Canyon REO. I expect all 16 slots to be filled. I will periodically send out updates and we will use Tom's website to stay up to date. I expect the trip to cost around \$1500 each for 24 days on the river. If we have fewer than 16 people or we do major damage to the equipment the cost could be a little more. So far every other trip that we have organized has been less than \$1500. I have received quotes from outfitters and we have chosen Canyon REO. I have paid the deposit. By reserving early we saved a significant amount of money. The last few times we have used Canyon REO and have been very pleased with them.

Priority will be given to people who will commit for the full trip. We are now considering people who would like to do partials.

### NEXT ACTION ITEMS:

- Send final payment to Tim.
- If you know your logistics to get to Flagstaff or Lees Ferry let me know. If you just know whether you are driving or flying that is helpful. If you are coordinating travel with someone else, let me know that.

### Time Line:

Now – Send final payment to Tim; for those that have paid \$500, send \$1000; for those who have not paid - \$1500; first part - \$700; second part \$1100.

October 31, 2018– All participants have final payment to Tim Strauch

November 9, 2018 – Tim sends in completed permit and pays National Park fees – estimated at about \$1000

November 20, 2018 – Request final trip estimates from Outfitter (this will include add ons)

December 10, 2018 – 90 days until launch date – anyone added to our permit will be charged an additional \$100 (so \$210) by the National Park service.

January 3, 2019 – Tim sends 50% of invoice to Canyon REO (in the \$9,000 range)

Thursday, March 7, 2019 – If you are flying into Flagstaff you probably want to arrive Thursday evening

Friday, March 8, 2019 – You will want to be in Flagstaff at the outfitters by 9:00 am. After Canyon REO's orientation, we will travel to Lees Ferry – the put in

Friday, March 8, 2019 – Pay Canyon REO remaining balance (\$9000 range)

Friday, March 8, 2019 mid afternoon – We will rig the rafts. When this is complete the ranger will inspect our gear

Saturday, March 9, 2019 – morning – Ranger talk and the ranger inspection of each person's ID. (make sure you have a valid picture ID available) – LAUNCH!!

Saturday, March 16, 2019 - Exchange at Phantom Ranch  
Friday, March 29, 2019 – pass Diamond Creek (mile 226)  
Monday, April 1, 2019 – take out at Pearce Ferry (mile 280)

The permit allows 16 participants on the river at any one time. Exchanges are allowed, but park fees (\$110) must be paid for each individual whether you are on the river for 24 days or 1 day.

Before the trip you are required to watch the following orientation videos:

<http://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/photosmultimedia/riv-or01.htm>

From Canyon REO here are 13 orientation videos:

<http://tinyurl.com/bfbelyu>

Check out Tom's website for more Canyon REO documents and information.

NEXT ACTION ITEM: Send final payment and personal permit information (see next item) to Tim:  
6626 Chapel Hill Blvd D207  
Pasco, WA 99301

Please keep me informed if any of the information below changes on your photo id:

Legal Name (including middle initial) – your ID will be checked on Launch day

Date of Birth

Address (that will be on the ID that the ranger will inspect)

Phone Number

For those that have an America the Beautiful National Park pass (senior or otherwise) please send me your number. It saves \$20 a piece for up to four people.

#### **Total Cost of Trip:**

I expect the cost of our 24 day trip to be about \$1500 each; for just the first part about \$700; for just the second part about \$1100. This includes all communal equipment, food, shuttle to and from Flagstaff, and park registration fees. It does not include snacks, beer, wine and transportation to Flagstaff. If we end up with just 9 people, the cost could be as high as \$1900. As more people join the trip, the cost goes down. I do expect at minimum that we will have at least 13 people and will keep the cost under \$1500.

#### **Trip Structure:**

Alison is the permit holder. From the National Park Service's (NPS) perspective she is the trip leader and is legally responsible for all of our behavior. If Alison does not go, none of us can go. I am the "qualified boat-operator" (NPS term) and I am responsible for knowing the river, the equipment and assuring that we have the experience as a group to be on the river. From a practical perspective, I am the coordinator and leader of the group as a whole with a lot of help from Tom Strauch. Tom Strauch is coordinating the food. We will have only one food group.

#### **Current Participants:**

Tim Strauch, Trip Leader (for the permit: the qualified boatman), twelve Grand Canyon trips, brother of Tom, Pasco, WA

Tom Strauch, boatman, Food Organizer, multiple Grand Trips, brother of Tim, Salem, OR

Alison Van Dusen, permit holder, one Grand Trip, friend of Tim and Tom, Nomadic

Polk Burleson, boatman, one Grand Trip, Middle Fork Salmon, friend of Tim, Watertown, WI

Ross McKenzie, boatman, experienced kayaker, first Grand trip, friend of Alison, Seattle, WA

Melinda d'Ouville, experienced boater, first Grand, friend of Tim, Richland, WA

DA Warren, experienced backpacker, first Grand, friend of Tom, Santa Rosa, CA  
Mark Sutton, boatman, experienced backpacker, first Grand, friend of Tom, Oceanside, CA  
Bob Jackson, two Grand trips, Middle Fork of Salmon, other rivers, friend of Tim and Tom, Highland, IL  
Brian Daily, one Grand trip (2018), friend of Tim, Hilo, HI  
Ted Caragozian, one Grand Trip (2008), friend of Tim and Tom, Ranchita, CA

**People planning on going, but who have not yet committed:**

Ben Mayer (waiting approval from work)  
Kristi Moen (second part) – check in the mail

**Wait List**

None

**Dropped off trip:**

None

**Current Participants and proposed “home” rafts: (The home raft is where your gear will be for the whole trip – individuals can move around to different rafts anytime or paddle the IKs.)**

Raft # 1 Boatman: Tim Strauch, Trip Leader  
Melinda d’Ouille

Raft #2 Boatman: Tom Strauch, Food Organizer  
DA Warren

Raft#3 Boatman: Polk Burleson  
Bob Jackson

Raft#4 Boatman: Ross Mckenzie  
Alison Van Dusen

Raft#5 Boatman: Mark Sutton  
Brian Daily  
Ted Caragozian (plans to be in a kayak most of the trip)

**Guides and maps:**

Guide to the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon Lees Ferry to South Cove Sixth Edition by Tom Martin and Duwain Whitis  
Day Hikes from the River Fourth Edition, A Guide to 100 Hikes by Tom Martin

**Recommended Reading:**

The Emerald Mile by Kevin Fedarko (published in 2013 with a focus on the huge release in 1983; great book; gives a great history of the river, culture, dam and dories – somewhat dory centric)  
Big Water Little Boats by Tom Martin (Enjoyable history of early dory boaters)

(For those in the Tri-cities, I have these books and can lend them to you.)

**Daylight:**

In March we will have 11-13 hours of daylight. We will want to take advantage of the daylight hours by getting up and starting early.

**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. For the most part you should be able to get your personal gear in one large dry bag, or two medium ones. This does not include tents or chairs.

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 \$110 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