

March 9 – April 1, 2019 Grand Canyon Trip

Update – December 5, 2018

Days until launch – 94

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

Tim Strauch's email address: 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.

Alison has paid the Park Service for the permit. Our trip is now full. 14 people will do the whole trip. Two people will do the first part and two people will do the second part.

Our Grand Canyon River trip will take place in three months. We are very lucky that Alison won a launch date with her fifth choice: March 9, 2019. 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. We are renting five 18' raft from 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.

I am concerned that we will not have enough lifejackets and large dry bags. If you do not have either try to borrow either one or both from a boating friend. I have 5 extra dry bags, but our need is much greater than that. I find dry bag very useful for other purposes besides boating. If you were considering buying one, now might be a good time to do that. Both lifejackets and large dry bags can be rented from Canyon REO for \$25 for the whole trip.

NEXT ACTION ITEMS:

- Watch required Park Service videos
- Watch Canyon REO orientation videos
- 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.
- Tom will send out the food questionnaire by 12/16, please answer promptly

Time Line:

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.

December 10, 2018 – The Park Service will begin to process our permit.

December 15, 2018 – Request final trip estimates from Outfitter (this will include add ons)

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 and stay at the Aspen Hotel.

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.

Recommended Hotel for Flagstaff (per Canyon REO – use their name for best rate)

Although the rates at Aspen Suite did go since 2016, it is still reasonable and a convenient place to meet. The rates for two queens on Thursday 3/8/19 are 78.63 + tax and for one king is 75.46 + tax. They are the same rates for the Wednesday before but more expensive for Friday. This includes happy hour and breakfast. All the rooms are suite style and are recently remodeled. This hotel is located on Rt. 66, closer to downtown (about 2-3 miles from Canyon REO) Aspen Inn Suites Hotel 1008 E. Route 66 Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (928) 774-7356 info@aspeninnsuites.com

Cars can be parked here for \$50 for the duration for the trip.

Payment

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.

Normally, about a month after our trip, Canyon REO has inspected the equipment and we receive a refund for the damage deposit. At that point, I send a refund to everyone else. It is possible, but unlikely, that I could ask everyone for more money.

Open Slots

The trip is now full. Any additional people that would like to go will be placed on the waiting list.

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 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

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

Ben Mayer, rafted Nantahala, worked in wilderness therapy using nature as a therapeutic tool for troubled youth, numerous backcountry hiking trips, great 30th birthday present, friend of Brian, Hilo, HI

AJ Fedoruk, back country experience, first Grand trip, friend of Alison, Orleans, Ontario

Bill Barnes, Tatshenshini in Alaska/Yukon and then a guided trip down the Grand Canyon, couple of long Alaskan river trips by folding kayak and quite a bit of ocean paddling in Southcentral Alaska, friend of Alison, Anchorage, AK

Rick Raymond, one Grand trip as a boatman, very experienced boater, father of Josh, brother of Dan, Richland, WA

Josh Raymond (first part), First Grand, Lt. Commander, US Navy, son of Rick, southern Virginia

Dan Raymond (second part) First Grand, brother of Rick, Phoenix, AZ

Kristi Moen (second part), ironman races for the past 8 years or more, friend of Alison, Burien, WA

DA Warren, (first part) experienced backpacker, first Grand, friend of Tom, Santa Rosa, CA

Wait List

None

Dropped off trip:

None

If any of you have life events that will prevent you doing this trip, please let me know immediately.

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
Brian Daily
Ben Mayer

Raft #2 Boatman: Tom Strauch, Food Organizer
Bill Barnes
DA Warren (first part)
Kristi Moen (second part)
Ted Caragozian (plans to be in a kayak most of the trip)

Raft#3 Boatman: Polk Burleson
Bob Jackson
Melinda d'Ouille

Raft#4 Boatman: Ross Mckenzie
Alison Van Dusen, permit holder
AJ Fedoruk

Raft#5 Boatman: Mark Sutton
Rick Raymond
Josh Raymond (first part)
Dan Raymond (Second part)

Car Shuttle

The car shuttle by Canyon REO from Flagstaff to the Pierce Ferry take-out is \$185. The shuttle cost from Lees Ferry to Flagstaff is \$150. The storage fee (third party from Canyon REO) is \$40.

Logistic for the start of the trip (subject to frequent changes):

Most of us that are starting the trip will need to be at Canyon REO in Flagstaff by 9:00 am on March 8 for Canyon REO's orientation to their equipment. Their orientation is very worthwhile. Tom Strauch, who has attended this orientation multiple times, prefers to drive directly to the put-in at Lees Ferry, and then have his car shuttled to Pearce Ferry. Alison and Ross will mostly likely travel with him. Melinda and Rick may also go directly to Lees Ferry. Most of us will be at the Aspen Hotel on Thursday, March 7. It is a good base and people can consider arriving even earlier and staying extra days in Flagstaff. It is helpful to all of us to know each other individual plans. If you are flying, and someone is already in Flagstaff they might be able to pick you up at the airport. If you are driving, you might car pool with other people that are driving. If you have questions about the put-in, Flagstaff or take-out, please ask. I have had much experience with many different options. After the Canyon REO orientation we will drive to Lees Ferry. In our March 2016 trip, spouses drove from Flagstaff to Lees Ferry, camped with us the night before launching and saved us quite a bit of money.

Currently Mark, DA, Bo, Brian and Melinda will have cars in Flagstaff. There will be 11 of us there. The Canyon REO equipment truck can take 3 or 4 people at no additional charge. The rest can travel in two of our cars to Lees Ferry. These cars will be shuttled back to Flagstaff. All of our personal equipment may be placed in the equipment truck.

Once at Lees Ferry we will rig the rafts. The ranger will inspect our gear. We will have dinner at Marble Canyon Lodge and then spend the night at the boater's camp near the put in.

Logistic for the exchange at Phantom Ranch (subject to frequent changes)

DA and Josh will be hiking out and Kristi and Dan will be hiking in on the morning of March 16. Kristi will give DA's car keys to her and Dan will give his car keys to Josh.

Logistic for the end of the trip (subject to frequent changes)

We will be taking out at Pearce Ferry. Tom, Mark, Brian and Melinda will have their cars shuttled there. This is far more convenient for all of us heading west and north rather than returning to Flagstaff. The equipment truck expects to show up around 11:00 am. By that time we should have all the boats derigged. It should take us less than two hours to load the truck and be on our way. Canyon REO does not need us to help unload the equipment in Flagstaff. Please let me know if you will need a ride back to Flagstaff. Canyon REO has room for up to five passengers in the equipment truck. If we shuttle four cars there would be room for one of us to go back to Flagstaff (the four shuttle drivers would need a ride back). Right now I think it would just be Bo who would go back with the equipment truck. If you are flying, you should plan to fly out of Las Vegas. It should be safe to catch a flight on Monday, April 1 at 7:00 pm or later. (It is about 2 ½ hours to Las Vegas and the first of our cars should be driving through Vegas by mid-afternoon, however there can be traffic jams in Vegas and shit does happen on the river.) Any one driving directly back to Oregon and Washington will be going through Vegas and could drop you off at the airport.

Tim and Ric – Drive with Melinda to Lees Ferry, leaving Tuesday March 5. Ric and Melinda would stay at Marble Canyon Lodge and Tim would take Melinda's car to Flagstaff. After the trip Melinda would drop Ric and Tim at McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas and they would fly back on April 1.

Tom, Alison and Ross – Alison and Ross will drive in Alison's car to Salem to pick up Tom. They will then drive to Lees Ferry. Kristi may be coming back with them.

Bo – Plans to drive from Highland, IL (near St Louis). He will drive to Flagstaff and stay at the Aspen Hotel Thursday. He will get a ride back to Flagstaff in the equipment truck.

Mark and Ted – will drive together from southern California to Flagstaff. Probably leaving Thursday, March 7. (10/23) I plan to drive to Flagstaff and stay at a motel. I haven't heard from Ted yet if he wants to carpool. I guess I'll have to see what he's thinking. Mark has a 2015 Subaru Forrester. If needed, at the end of the trip they can take two more people to the Las Vegas airport on his way home.

Polk – Right now my plan is to fly into Phoenix, stay overnight with Elizabeth's cousin and take the shuttle up to Flagstaff to meet up with the rest of the crew. This is the same as my travel for the last canyon trip I was on. It worked well and minimized the time I had to take off from work. That will mean that I need to ride with someone else to and from the put-in & take-out and Flagstaff.

Melinda – Plans to drive from Richland, WA to Flagstaff. She would leave Tuesday, March 5 or before. Ric and Tim will travel down with her. Her car will be shuttled to Pearce Ferry. She will not come back immediately to Richland after the trip. She plans to drive to Las Vegas and then spend two weeks in southern Utah.

Brian – will be in Eugene, Oregon. Plans to drive to Las Vegas and meet Ben; drives a Subaru sedan. I do have extra camp tents, pads and sleeping bags.

Ben – I am planning flying into Vegas on March 4. Brian is most likely going to meet me there between March 4 and March 6. He will be coming from Oregon. So if for any reason along that path someone on the trip needs a ride he said he is available. Brian and I plan to be in Flagstaff the night of the 7th. We will be there for the orientation.

AJ - So I have had a change in my situation that will affect the logistics of getting to Flagstaff. I've been offered a temporary acting position for January and February, so rather than driving back to Ontario, I'll be flying back to spend the holidays with my family and then flying back to BC in early January. This means I can either 1) carpool with some of the folks leaving from the WA/OR area or 2) drive to AZ myself, but without all my belongings in my car. It's not clear yet whether I'll be ending work on Mar. 1st or a little earlier. I will also have a couple of weeks after the rafting trip before I start back at my regular interpretive ranger position, so I may want to drive down myself and take my time visiting friends, etc. on the way back.

Bill - I am not sure how I will get to Flagstaff or where I will be coming from. If from LA I will probably drive, otherwise I will fly.

DA – doing the first part. I will plan on meeting group in flagstaff Thursday night. I have Prius which seats driver + 3 others. Not sure if it will fit 4 people + their gear. Another piece of my plan is to spend Saturday night, March 16, at the el Tovar at south rim before driving back to Santa Rosa Sunday morning.

Josh – doing the first part. Assume he will be flying to Flagstaff or Phoenix. After he hikes out he will drive Dan's car back to either Flagstaff or Phoenix.

Kristi – doing the second part. Plans to fly to Phoenix or Flagstaff. She will drive DA's car from Flagstaff to the South Rim. May come back with Alison, Ross and Tom.

Dan – doing the second part. Plans to drive from Phoenix to the South Rim. If needed he could give a ride to Kristi from Phoenix to Flagstaff. On the hike down he will meet Josh on the way up and give him his car keys.

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, including an ammo can for each of us. Unlike 2016, Canyon REO will not supply extra dry bags and life jackets. Most of us have our own river gear. Please let me know if you do not or if you have extra that you can share. I have about 5 large dry bags that I can share. Canyon REO will rent both life jacket and a large dry bag for \$25 each for the whole trip. 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