

# March 9 – April 1, 2019 Grand Canyon Trip

Update – January 17, 2019

Days until launch – 51

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.

**Government Shutdown:** I talked with Canyon REO. So far the US government shutdown has not affected river trips. The State of Arizona has taken on the expense of keeping the Park open. There are a few things that are not working well, such as making payment for the permits, but we have paid all our fees and that should not affect us.

Alison has paid the Park Service for the permit. I have made a 50% down payment of \$9000 to Canyon REO. 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. We have one person on the waiting list.

Our Grand Canyon River trip will take place in less than two months. 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 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.

I am taking a second survey on personal boating equipment. Please answer the following questions:

**Lifejackets:** Do you have one for the trip? Do you have extra for other people on the trip? If you do not have one would you prefer to use an extra one that someone else has or would you prefer to rent one for \$25 from Canyon REO?

**Large Dry bag:** Do you have one for the trip? Do you have extra for other people on the trip? If you do not have one would you prefer to use an extra one that someone else has or would you prefer to rent one for \$25 from Canyon REO?

**Paco Pads:** Do you want to rent one from Canyon REO for \$25?

Have you watched the Park Service videos?

Have you watched the Canyon REO orientation videos?

## NEXT ACTION ITEMS:

- Answer and send your survey answers to Tim
- Watch required Park Service videos
- Watch Canyon REO orientation videos

- Please review your individual logistics below. Let me know if I need to make corrections or if you have questions

#### **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 has processed our permit.

January 3, 2019 – Tim sent \$9000 - 50% of invoice to Canyon REO

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

Friday, March 8 dinner – for those who want to - we will eat at the Marble Canyon Lodge

Friday, March 8 night – Most of us will camp at the boater camp near the put-in at Lees Ferry. If you would like to spend your last night in a hotel you can make reservation at the Marble Canyon Lodge. Ric and Melinda are planning to do this.

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 or book through a third party).** Although the rates at Aspen Suite did go since 2016, it is still reasonable and a convenient place to meet. 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](mailto:info@aspeninnsuites.com)

Cars can be parked here for \$50 for the duration for the trip. (I do not think anyone is using this option. Canyon REO has a third party that will store them for \$40)

#### **Tim's Address**

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. One person is on the waiting list. 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, currently Seattle area

**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'Ouille**, 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, Cultus Lake, British Columbia

**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), First Grand, 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**

**Riley Kennedy**, friend of AJ

#### **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 Burlison  
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):**

The eleven of us that will be in Flagstaff Thursday night will need to be at Canyon REO in Flagstaff by 9:00 am on Friday, 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 travel with him. Melinda and Rick will 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 AJ 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 Bo's and Mark's 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. The current plan is that they will hike the Bright Angel trail.

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

We will be taking out at Pearce Ferry. Alison, Mark, Brian and Dan will have their cars shuttled there. A friend is driving Melinda's car 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). The current plan is that we will have four cars shuttled and Dan will drive his car with Bo, AJ and anyone else who want to go back to Flagstaff. 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 Rick** – Drive with Melinda to Lees Ferry, leaving Tuesday March 5. AJ will caravan with them. Ric and Melinda will stay at Marble Canyon Lodge. Tim and AJ would continue on to Flagstaff. Melinda's car will be shuttled to Flagstaff. A friend will drive her car from Flagstaff to Pearce Ferry. After the trip Melinda would drop Ric, Kristi and Tim at McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas and they would fly back on April 1 or 2. Dan will take most of Tim's and Rick's gear and drop it off in the Tri-Cities sometime in April.

**Melinda** – Plans to drive from Richland, WA to Lees Ferry. She would leave Tuesday, March 5 or before. Rick and Tim will travel down with her. AJ is caravanning with us. 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 will

drop Tim, Kristi and Ric off at the airport. She will then spend two weeks in southern Utah. Jan 2 - My friends have agreed to pick up my car in Flagstaff and deposit it at Pearce Ferry before in time for our arrival April 1. They are quite flexible. So thats committed.

**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.

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

**Mark and Ted** – will drive together from southern California to Flagstaff. Ted and I will be arriving on Thursday in Flagstaff and will be staying at the Aspen Hotel. I will have Ted's hard kayak on the top of my Subaru Forester. All the car shuttle plans sound good to me. 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.

**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. After the trip will give a ride to Bill to Las Vegas.

**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** – Plans to drive to Pasco on March 4. She will caravan down to Marble Canyon with Melinda, Ric and Tim. AJ and Tim will continue on to Flagstaff and arrive on March 7. After the trip she will ride back to Flagstaff with Dan to pick up her car. AJ will also have a couple of weeks after the rafting trip before AJ starts back at my regular interpretive ranger position, so she will drive down herself and take her time visiting friends, etc. on the way back.

**Bill** - Is flying into Flagstaff on March 7 and out of Las Vegas probably on April 2. Will ride with Brian from Pearce Ferry to Las Vegas.

**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. He will be flying to and from Flagstaff. After he hikes out he will drive Dan’s car back to Flagstaff and fly out the evening of March 16.

**Kristi** – doing the second part. Plans to fly to Phoenix and ride up with Dan to Flagstaff. She will drive DA’s car from Flagstaff to the South Rim. Will catch a ride with Melinda to Las Vegas and fly out on April 2.

**Dan** – doing the second part. Plans to drive from Phoenix to the South Rim. He plans to 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. His car will be shuttled to Pearce Ferry and he will drive back to Flagstaff with Bo, AJ and anyone else that needs a ride back to Flagstaff.

**Logistics by Car:**

**Melinda's:** Ric and Tim will drive with her from the Tri-Cities to Marble Canyon. Ric and Melinda will stay at the Marble Canyon Lodge for two nights (March 7-9). Melinda's car will be shuttled to Flagstaff. Her friend will pick up her car in Flagstaff and meet us at Pearce Ferry on April 1. Melinda will drive Tim, Ric and Kristi to a hotel near the Las Vegas airport. (Needs: to shuttle Lees Ferry to Flagstaff, store car in Flagstaff)

**Melinda's friends':** Will pick up Melinda's car in Flagstaff and drive it to Pearce Ferry. (Needs: none)

**AJ's:** will drive to Pasco by March 4. Will caravan with Melinda, Ric and Tim to Marble Canyon Lodge. AJ and Tim will continue on to Flagstaff and stay in the Aspen Hotel. After the trip she will get a ride from Pearce Ferry to Flagstaff from Dan. (Needs: store car in Flagstaff)

**Alison's:** Alison and Ross will drive to Tom's after Ross gets off work on Wednesday, March 6 (Tom also plans to work Wednesday). They will drive to Lees Ferry. The car will be shuttled to Pearce Ferry. (Needs: store care in Flagstaff, shuttle from Lees Ferry to Pearce Ferry)

**Brian's:** Will drive to Las Vegas to meet Ben. They will drive on to Flagstaff. The car will be shuttled to Pearce Ferry. They will give a ride to Bill to Las Vegas. (Needs: store car in Flagstaff, shuttle from Flagstaff to Pearce Ferry.)

**Mark's:** Will drive with Ted to Flagstaff. Will stay in the Aspen Hotel. He will drive to Lees Ferry with Tim, AJ and Ted. The car will be shuttled from Lees Ferry to Pearce Ferry. (Needs: store car in Flagstaff, shuttle from Lees Ferry to Pearce Ferry.)

**Bo's:** Will drive to Flagstaff and stay at the Aspen Hotel on March 6-8. He will drive to Lees Ferry with DA, Bill and Polk. The car will be shuttled to Flagstaff. Bo will ride with Dan from Pearce Ferry to Flagstaff. (Needs: store car in Flagstaff, shuttle from Lees Ferry to Flagstaff)

**Canyon REO equipment Truck:** Josh, Brian and Ben will ride from Flagstaff to Lees Ferry.

**Dan's:** (second part of trip) will pick Kristi up at the Phoenix airport and drive to Flagstaff. Kristi will pick up DA's car and they will both drive to the South Rim. DA will hike out and pick up her car. Josh will pick up Dan's car and drive it to the Flagstaff airport. Josh has an evening flight out. The car will be shuttled to Pearce Ferry. Dan will drive back to Flagstaff with AJ and Bo. (Needs: shuttle from Flagstaff to Pearce Ferry, -the car will be parked at the Flagstaff airport for free)

**DA's:** Will drive to Flagstaff and stay at the Aspen Hotel. Not sure where she will leave her car. Kristi will pick up her car in Flagstaff and drive it to the South Rim. (Not sure she has any needs)

**Polk** – not sure if he needs a ride to Flagstaff or Las Vegas.

**Summary of needs (for which we will pay Canyon REO):** 6 cars stored in Flagstaff (does not include Dan's or DA's), 2 shuttled from Lees Ferry to Flagstaff; 2 shuttled from Lees Ferry to Pearce Ferry; 2 shuttled from Flagstaff to Pearce Ferry)

**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)

River Master by Cecil Kuhne (John Wesley Powell's first adventure)

(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