

## September 14 – October 4, 2022 Grand Canyon Trip Update – September 7, 2022

August 31, 2022

Days until launch – 7

Tom Strauch's planning website: <https://tstrauch.axpr.net/GrandCanyon2022/>

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.

### LAST MINUTE UPDATE

- Vern had a bad case of COVID and although he has recovered, he feels that he is too weak to go. Melinda d'Ouille has jumped into the void, and is taking his place.

- We just received the following email from Canyon REO:

*There is just over a week until launch! As part of final preparations, **we need everyone to fill out a Participant Agreement, Release, and Assumption of Risk form.** Please forward the following link to your group members so they can fill it out. If anyone on the trip is younger than 18, a parent or guardian will need to complete the form on their behalf. When filling out the form, the launch date should be entered as **9/14/22** and the permit holder's name is **Bill Kinner**.*

<https://web.wherewolf.co.nz/yq3qmh>

*We look forward to seeing you soon!*

- The water temperature at Lees Ferry may be between 68-70 degrees. Normally it is 50 or less. When Alice asked me about the water temp, and I told her it was around 50 coming out of the dam, she said USGS had it a 70 and gave me the link. It was the same link that I had been using to monitor river levels. I never thought to check the temperature since it has been the same since Lake Powell has filled up. I called Canyon REO and talked to Laura, the logistics person. She was as surprised as I, and had not heard about it. It appears with Lake Powell at its lowest levels in decades, the water is coming out of the dam at 68-70 degrees. It looks to me that the water temperature for our whole trip will be around that or just a little warmer. This is good for our comfort, but not for keeping the beer cool.
- On the afternoon of September 7, we received the Rig Day Email. Please review that in detail. Everyone except Tom must be at the Aspen Hotel by 8:30 am on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Eleven of us are staying there. Holly, Michael, Sam, and Alice will need to leave Grand Canyon village a little earlier than they had planned.

### ACTION ITEMS from August 31:

- If you (Tim, Tom, Pete, Melinda, Bo, Mark and AJ) are having Canyon REO storage or shuttle your vehicle fill out the form whose link is:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rx1c99ioBod\\_kL1jnp11tnlUPaUTLvB\\_qsUbts4mEgo/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rx1c99ioBod_kL1jnp11tnlUPaUTLvB_qsUbts4mEgo/viewform?edit_requested=true)

- If you want to rent any personal item from Canyon REO their link is: <https://canyonreorentals.square.site/>
- If you want a beach umbrella for your raft, you should bring one. You can buy one from Canyon REO for \$50, but it is cheaper to buy it elsewhere.
- If you have not already, it is now time to watch the two set of videos from the Park Service and Canyon REO
- If you are one of the 11 people starting in Flagstaff, book a room in the Aspen Hotel (Holly, Michael, Sam, and Alice will drive from Grand Canyon Village to Flagstaff early Tuesday morning.)
- If there is any change to your ID (like a new address), let me know
- Please review the logistics for both yourself and your vehicles.
- Before the trip you are required to watch the following 11 orientation videos:

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

From Canyon REO here are 15 orientation videos, 12, 13 & 14 are somewhat new; some of the others are a bit dated and not that worthwhile (you can skip the ones on water and emergency, the kitchen is still good):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD1GCOolqeM&list=PL2zjO0WrnUejcuv076bl0tbW3B8q-I9\\_r](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD1GCOolqeM&list=PL2zjO0WrnUejcuv076bl0tbW3B8q-I9_r)

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

I have forwarded the emails from Canyon REO and the River Permit Office that have additional details.

Tom has done an excellent job on camp assignments and the menu. Let him know if you have any questions.

Louis Swanepoel has dropped off the trip due to his son getting married. Alice Clark, a college friend of Sam, is joining us.

## **Standard Verbiage**

Bill Kinner has won a permit for September 14, 2022! From the National Park Service's (NPS) perspective he is the trip leader and is legally responsible for all of our behavior. If Bill 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.

The last day for motorized craft is September 15. That means for the first two or three days we may have a few motorized commercial trips pass us, but after that none of the other groups will have motors, and therefore very few commercial trips.

We have selected Canyon REO as our outfitter. By reserving early, we have saved a significant amount of money. The last few times we have used Canyon REO and have been very pleased with them. I have paid the deposit and they have committed to rent us five 18' rafts.

Mark will be bringing an InReach. I will be bringing orange panels and a mirror. We can drop the Emergency Box (with the Satellite phone). If anyone else can bring an InReach, let me know.

I expect the trip to cost around \$1500 each for 21 days on the river. If we have fewer 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. Everyone who is on our list has sent a \$500 deposit and \$1000 final payment. Bill has paid the Park Service \$400 and then paid the \$1040 fees for our 16-person permit. Tim sent in the \$9600 50% deposit to Canyon REO and will send the final payment on August 31.

On May 25, Tim moved to Boulder, CO. This has changed some of our logistics.

#### **Time Line:**

March 2021 – Send \$500 deposit to Tim – everyone has made a deposit

March 2021 – Tim paid deposit to outfitter

April 30, 2022– All participants made their \$1000 final payment to Tim Strauch

June 1, 2022 – Tim completed the permit and Bill paid the \$1040 to the National Park

June 2, 2022 – Request final trip estimates from Outfitter (this will include add ons)

June 6, 2022 – 90 days until launch date – anyone added to our permit will be charged an additional \$100 (so \$190) by the National Park Service.

Early June, 2022 – The Park Service has issued our permit.

July 3, 2019 – Tim sent \$9600 - 50% of invoice to Canyon REO

August 14, 2022 Finalize shuttle plans

Thursday, September 1, 2022 – Tim will sent Canyon REO remaining balance - \$9517.88

Monday, September 12, 2022 – If you are flying into Flagstaff, you probably want to arrive Monday evening and stay at the Aspen Hotel.

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 – You will want to be at **Aspen Hotel by 8:30 am**. We load our gear in the Canyon REO's orientation, and travel by van to Lees Ferry – the put-in. Those (Tom) going directly to Lees Ferry should be there by noon. The orientation will take place at Lees Ferry.

Tuesday, September 13, midafternoon – We will rig the rafts. When this is complete the ranger will inspect our gear

Tuesday, September 13, dinner – for those who want to - we will eat at the Marble Canyon Lodge

Tuesday, September 13, 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 before the trip in a hotel you can make reservation at the Marble Canyon Lodge.

Wednesday, September 14 – morning – Ranger talk and the ranger inspection of each person's ID. (make sure you have a valid picture ID available) – LAUNCH!!

Wednesday, September 20, 2020 - Exchange at Phantom Ranch (currently not needed)

Saturday, October 1, 2022 – pass Diamond Creek (mile 226)

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 – 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 (\$90) must be paid for each individual whether you are on the river for 21 days or 1 day.

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

I expect the cost of our 21-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.

**Current Participants:**

**Tim Strauch**, Trip Leader (for the permit: the qualified boatman), thirteen Grand Canyon trips, brother of Tom, father of Sam and Holly, Boulder, CO  
**Tom Strauch**, boatman, Food Organizer, multiple Grand Trips, brother of Tim, Salem, OR  
**Bill Kinner**, permit holder, one Grand trip, many other rivers, friend of Tim, Richland, WA  
**Polk Burleson**, boatman, two Grand trips, Middle Fork Salmon, friend of Tim, Maple Grove, MN  
**Holly Strauch**, boatwoman, five Grand trips, daughter of Tim, Seattle WA  
**Michael Solwold**, first Grand trip, fiancé of Holly, Seattle WA  
**Sam Strauch**, three Grand trips, son of Tim, Queens, NY  
**Mark Sutton**, one Grand trip, friend of Tim and Tom, Oceanside, CA  
**Bob Jackson**, three Grand trips, Middle Fork of Salmon, other rivers, friend of Tim and Tom, Highland, IL  
**Ron Webb**, first Grand trip, friend of Tim and Bill, Richland, WA  
**Ray Galley**, four Grand trips, good kayaker, friend of Tim, Santa Fe, NM  
**AJ Fedoruk**, one Grand trip, friend of Tim, Cultus Lake, British Columbia  
**Pete Rysted**, one partial Grand trip, very experience rafter, Friend of Vern, Tim and Bill, Great Fall, MT  
**Alice Clark**, first Grand trip, friend of Sam, Freeport, Maine  
**Riley Kennedy**, first Grand trip, friend of AJ, Chilliwack, British Columbia  
**Melinda d'Ouille**, second Grand trip, many other rivers, friend of Tim and Bill, Richland, WA

**Wait List**

Judith Bamberger  
Bruce Napier

Dropped off trip:

Andy Gisler  
Mia Zutz  
Jane Wagner  
Louis Swanepoel  
Vern Francis

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.) This list will probably change many times before we launch.

Raft # 1 Boatman: Tim Strauch, Trip Leader  
Ray Galley  
Ron Webb

Raft #2 Boatman: Tom Strauch, Food Organizer  
Mark Sutton

Raft #3 Boatman: Polk Burleson  
Bob Jackson  
AJ Fedoruk  
Riley Kennedy

Raft #4 Boatwoman: Holly Strauch  
Michael Solwold  
Sam Strauch  
Alice Clark

Raft #5 Boatman: Pete Rysted  
Bill Kinner, permit holder  
Melinda d'Ouille

### **Car Shuttle**

Current car shuttle prices by Canyon REO are: from Flagstaff to the Pearce Ferry take-out is \$185. The shuttle cost from Lees Ferry to Flagstaff is \$150. The storage fee (third party from Canyon REO) is \$2/day or \$42. Lees Ferry to Pearce is \$375. The van to Lees Ferry from Flag is \$650. The van from Pearce Ferry to Flag is \$775. If we shuttle 5 or more vehicles, we must also pay for chase vehicle. Chase for Flag to Pearce Ferry is \$400.

### **Logistic – Update**

On January 14, 2022 I talked with Ben Dove at Canyon REO. He sent a follow up email and invoice to summarize our conversations:

*It was good to talk with you today. Attached is an updated invoice showing the vehicle shuttles as they stand now. We fully expect this to change as we get closer to your trip.*

*To recap our conversation, our policies around shuttles, client, and employee safety have changed due to COVID and uncertainty about the future. Some of the changes include only allowing four people to ride with the truck driver in REO equipment trucks, shuttle drivers no longer riding back to Flagstaff from take-out in client vehicles, and requiring chase vehicles to pick up client vehicles from Lee's Ferry. Because your quote is from before this policy went into place, we will not charge you for a chase vehicle to Lee's Ferry and will instead cover that cost ourselves.*

Canyon REO has always been good to work with on shuttles and has been flexible with last minute changes. I am sure they will still be flexible, but with COVID they have more restrictions. I would like everyone to finalize their plans by August 14, one month before our launch date.

We will use a van at the beginning of the trip, but not the end.

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

You can either start the trip Monday evening in Flagstaff, or be at Lees Ferry by noon on Tuesday.

Those that are flying in or those driving from the east and returning to the east are probably best-off being in Flagstaff Monday evening.

Those driving from the northwest and returning to the northwest could go directly to Lees Ferry.

For those that are doing additional travel before or after the Grand, we can look at those logistics individually.

Those that will be in Flagstaff Monday night will need to be at Aspen Hotel in Flagstaff by 8:30 am on Tuesday, September 13. Their orientation will be Lees Ferry. Tom Strauch drives directly to the put-in at Lees Ferry, and then have his car shuttled to Pearce Ferry. Most of us will be at the Aspen Hotel on Monday, September 12. 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 the equipment truck and REO van will drive to Lees Ferry.

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)**

Currently we have no exchanges. If we do, it will likely be on Wednesday, September 20.

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

We will be taking out at Pearce Ferry. Those heading west will have their cars shuttled there. This is far more convenient for everyone 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 four passengers in the equipment truck. If we shuttle four cars there would be no room for any of us to go back to Flagstaff (the four shuttle drivers would need a ride back). Currently, only Ray and Tim need to return to Flagstaff, and Canyon REO has told us that there will be room in the chase vehicle for us. If you are flying, you should plan to fly out of Las Vegas. It should be safe to catch a flight on Tuesday, October 4 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 Idaho, Oregon and Washington will be going through Vegas and could drop you off at the airport.

**Tom** – Will drive to Lees Ferry. Car shuttled to Pearce. From Pearce Ferry he will drop Sam, Holly and Michael in Las Vegas and continue his 17-hour drive back to Salem in time to go to work on Wednesday, October 5.

**Holly and Michael** – Plan to fly to Phoenix on Saturday, September 10. They will rent a car and drive to Grand Canyon Village and spent two nights there. They will drive to the Aspen Hotel in Flagstaff early Monday. Sam and Alice will meet them in Phoenix. From Pearce, Tom will drive them to Las Vegas to fly back.

**Bill, Melinda, and Ron** – Will leave Tri-Cities Sunday morning and drive to Flagstaff. They will meet Pete just north of Salt Lake City and one of them will ride with Pete. Vehicle will be shuttled from Flagstaff to

Pearce. One person will ride with Pete to Idaho and there will be three in Melinda's car from Idaho to the Tri-Cities.

**Pete** – Driving to Flagstaff. Melinda with Ron and Bill will meet Pete north of Salt Lake City and either Bill or Ron will ride with him. He will have his car shuttled from Flagstaff to Lees Ferry. From Pearce Ferry he will drive back with the Tri-Cities group to Idaho.

**Sam** - Plans to fly to Phoenix on Saturday, September 10. Will join Holly and Michael. From Pearce, Tom or Bo will drive him to Las Vegas to fly back.

**Bo** – will drive out to Flagstaff with Polk. They plan to leave Highland on September 11 After the trip he will drive to go to Las Vegas to meet Sharon. Alice (and maybe Sam) would ride with him to Las Vegas.

**Polk** – Per Bo, he will fly to St Louis and travel with Bo to Flagstaff. At the end of the trip, he will travel with Bo to Las Vegas.

**Mark**– *"I plan to drive up to Flagstaff Sep 12th and stay at the Aspen. And I would like my car shuttled to Pearce Ferry on take out day--like our last trip. That worked out well."* I can drive to Lee's Ferry if needed. My Subaru Forester can take 5 people including myself. 11/15/21 Our current plan will not need Mark to drive himself and four others from Flagstaff to Lees Our current plan is to leave his car in Flag and then shuttle it to Pearce Ferry.

**Ray** – Tim will meet him in Santa Fe and they will drive to Flagstaff on Monday. They will ride back in the Canyon REO chase vehicle to Flagstaff and then drive back to Santa Fe.

**Tim** – will drive to Santa Fe on Sunday, September 11, spend the night there. He will drive with Ray to Flagstaff on Monday.

**AJ and Riley** –AJ and Riley plan to drive to Flagstaff have their car shuttled to Pearce Ferry.

**Alice** – Plans to fly to Phoenix on Saturday, September 10. Will join Holly and Michael. From Pearce, Bo will drive her to Las Vegas. She will fly back to Maine.

#### **Logistics by Car:**

**Tom's** Will drive to Lees Ferry. Car shuttled to Pearce. He will drive Sam (maybe), Holly and Michael to the airport in Las Vegas and then continue on his 17-hour drive back to Salem in time to go to work on Wednesday, October 5. (Needs: store car in Flagstaff, shuttle from Lees Ferry to Pearce Ferry)

**Bo's** Will drive to Flagstaff and have his car shuttled to Pearce Ferry. (Needs: storage in Flagstaff, shuttle from Flag to Pearce.) Will drive Polk, Alice and maybe Sam to Vegas.

**Mark's** Will drive to Flagstaff. Will need car shuttle to Pearce. (Needs: storage in Flagstaff, shuttle from Flag to Pearce.)

**AJ's** Will drive to Flagstaff. Will need car shuttle to Pearce. (Needs: storage in Flagstaff, shuttle from Flag to Pearce.)

**Melinda's.** Will drive to Flagstaff. Car shuttled to Pearce Ferry. (Needs: storage in Flagstaff, shuttle from Flagstaff to Pearce Ferry)

**Pete's** - Will drive to Flagstaff and have his car shuttled to Pearce Ferry. (Needs: storage in Flagstaff, shuttle from Flagstaff to Pearce.)

**Tim's** Will drive to Flagstaff. Tim and Ray will ride back in the chase vehicle to Flagstaff. (Needs: storage in Flagstaff)

**Summary of needs (for which we will pay Canyon REO):** 7 cars stored in Flagstaff. 1 car shuttled from Lees to Pearce. Five cars shuttled from Flag to Pearce. Because we are over four vehicles, we will need a chase vehicle. Tim and Ray plan to ride back to Flagstaff in the chase vehicle.

### **Joining our trip**

Send \$1500 deposit and personal permit information (see next item) to Tim:  
4860 Meredith Way Apt 304  
Boulder, CO 80303

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

Note: This information must match what is on the id that you will be presenting to the ranger. It may or may not be your current address.

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.

### **Guides and maps:**

Guide to the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon Lees Ferry to South Cove **Eighth** 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)

### **Daylight:**

In September we will have 11-12 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. 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.

In September at Phantom Ranch the average lows are 68 degrees and the average high are 95. It will mostly be sunny and warm, but be prepared for anything. Wet suits and dry suits are not included as part of the equipment. At this time of year, they are not really needed unless you plan to spend a lot of time in the water. You will want clothing that will keep you warm when you are wet. 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 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