

STROKES FROM THE FOLKS-2010



"Wanted to let you know Erin and I had the adventure vacation of a lifetime at Otter Bar. Loved the lovely lodging, fabulous food, incredible instructors, camaraderie with our fellow kayaking companions. And, of course, your wonderful hospitality. WOW! It was all just amazing!
Jan Meyers, St.Paul, MN

"The instructors were literally, world class. All of them, obviously, strong kayakers, but dialed into effective teaching techniques, emphasizing proper and effective form. Their proficiency at rescue techniques and their vigilance, created an environment where I was comfortable pushing my limits."
Ray West, Hayward, CA

"I've worked in similar ski programs in Europe. The overall Otter Bar Experience knocks spots off any other similar operation I've seen. I will definitely recommend this to friends."
Nick Morley, London, England

"I can't imagine nicer or better instructors. They were always patient and inspired trust. Extremely skilled and competent. Fun, pleasant, easy."
Mary Lynne McLaughlin, Saratoga, NY

"Very nice & accommodating. Staff was excellent. The set-up lends itself to family type atmosphere with other guests."
Bill Deaton, Little Rock, Arkansas

"Fabulous, as always. The instructors were patient, amiable & funny. They never complained about working hard and pitching in. Real team players, all."
Nicole Hausman, Pacific Palisades, CA

"Tommy is a god! And Kendra a goddess! You know Otter Bar has become a serious addiction for me. I love it here!"
Caryl Hart, Sebastopol, CA

"RE: Lodge-Comfortable & homey. Not too fancy, not too rustic. Re: Instruction: Caring, competent & fun. All the instructors ROCK. Did I mention patient??"
Pen Kaczmarek, Siletz, OR



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

OTTER BAR LODGE 2011 Newsletter

THIRTY! BIG ONES!

Otter Bar is celebrating our 30th year in business! We offering a DEEP DISCOUNT this year (\$400 off our regular 2011 season prices) in order to encourage new folks and our faithful repeat customers to come and visit us this season. We have guests who return every year who began their love of kayaking with us in the early 1980's. Otter bar is considered to be the flagship of kayak schools. When we began our business in 1981 we were one of the few places to teach kayaking. Once we committed ourselves to this endeavor we decided to become the best instructional facility in the country. This approach will extend into our SUP/river classes which will begin this year in August.

We started out with an amazing palette in 1981. We purchased 40 acres (now 60 acres) with the lovely, undammed, Wild and Scenic California Salmon River flowing through our property. Deep within vast National forests we created a comfortable homey seven bedroom seven bath lodge with all the amenities. Spring fed ponds, hydroelectric power, massage therapists and gourmet chefs all compliment our desire to create a small, unpretentious, high end but very affordable sports oriented resort. Thirty years in the making the lists go on but our commitment to making Otter Bar the ultimate hideaway knows no bounds. It has been a steep climb with a ton of work but the end result is a joyous thing and the views are good. We are forever reinvigorated by the good feelings we see within our clients and within our family of staff that ultimately create the magic that is Otter bar. We invite you to join us this year!



2010 SEASON IN REVIEW

A solid snow pack with late season snow in May made for a fantastic water year! Our early weeks were well attended, and if you are interested, you can scroll back on our "Fans" page and see each and every week with group photos and dozens of other pics, as well. You can check out our Face Book Fan page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Otter-Bar-Lodge>. This is a great way to overview the 2010 season. We also do a more complete write up on our "Blog" every week.

The second half of our season was slower. But even with small groups, we continued to provide the highest quality of instruction, food service and attention to detail. The water levels were so good, that we spent most of our season on the Cal-Salmon. While it would have been nice to have larger groups, we really enjoyed the smaller ones. We had blue skies, warm weather and no fire activity during the 2010 Season.

2011 DATES

ADVANCED & INTERMEDIATE & PLAYBOATING

Classes run concurrently
May 1-7
May 8-14

INTERMEDIATE & BASIC INTERMED

Classes run concurrently
May 15-21
May 22-28
May 29-June 4

BASIC INTERMEDIATE

June 5-June 11
June 12-18
June 19-25
June 26-July 2

BASIC INTERMEDIATE & BEGINNING

Classes run concurrently
July 3-July 9
July 10-16
July 17-23
July 24-30
July 31-August 6
August 7-13
August 14-20
August 21-27

NOT FOR GROWN-UPS-KIDS CAMPS N.Q.G.U.

INTERMEDIATE CAMP
Ages 10-15
July 17-23

BEGINNING CAMP

Ages 10-14
July 24-30

GRAND CANYON COLORADO TRIP

September 15-29, 2011
\$3,750.00

30TH ANNIVERSARY PRICING!!

Adult weeks: \$1890 (\$2190)

Kids Camps: \$850.00
Grand Canyon: \$3750.00

LETTER FROM ZA BARON

Early AM on January 31, happily ensconced in Michael & Julie Kennedy's cozy cabin @ 10,000 feet with snow falling and the prospect of another day of climbing/skiing here in the steep and immense Colorado Rockies. In my book, nothing could be better!

I'm pondering the 2011 season ahead, reflecting on the 30 years of running Otter Bar and feeling profoundly lucky to have such a huge extended family that makes this life all that it is. We are nothing without our friends, family and community. We need to keep that one front and center, as it sometimes slips to the back burner. If you look at the Otter Bar FB Fans Page, you may think you're on a Ski Mountaineering Site, not a kayak school site. Well, during winter months I am in the mountains, not the river. I won't mention any names (like Steve R.) but get off my case re: the skiing, I'm not that obsessed! Speaking of skiing, our local backcountry season began in October! Unheard of! We have had loads of rain & snow and the skiing has been the best in 20 years. This bodes well for the coming season.

When I'm not skiing I've been busy with projects such as building a shelter for our fuel; overhauling our main spring system, which tripled our volume of underground water; painting; fixing, tweaking, fiddling, repairing or replacing something is always in motion here. And I am not letting my guard down.....yet.

We'll see you soon,
Baron von Sturges

PICTURE YOURSELF . . .

In a boat on a river
But not just any river...a river that is clear as gin
A wild river in the middle of a forest
Just you and a small group of friends bouncing on the rapids, laughing with the joy of it all and Sighting that bald eagle in the tree or the family of otters having as much fun as you are.
Your body is tired at the end of the day
You've learned a lot, and have more to learn tomorrow
Better head back to your new home
Maybe you'll take a hot-tub or a swim at the at the beach's clear swimming hole
Grab an appetizer, beer, glass of wine, a book
And dive into the hammock
Take a bike ride down through post card scenery, and experience four star biking
You might see a car or two, but that's all
Maybe you have a massage scheduled
The Tibetan Gong vibrates around the lodge, and everyone begins to salivate.
The buffet is beyond belief tonight, and you want to experience each dish but save room for the homemade dessert
It's not easy, I know too well
But, if this sounds like a day in paradise, it is
It's a typical day at Otter Bar Lodge

Oh, I forgot the stars . . . oh well, you get the picture!



SCUTTLEBUTT '10

The 2010 Season was small but sweet. We had another awesome staff, amazing water, warm weather, lots of laughs and another perfect safety record. The only thing we were a little



slow on is the juicy gossip. Can't really come up with anything hot. Our 'senior' staff members were still hobbling around teaching kayaking. In fact, I just heard **Peter Kettering & Vicki** just won the 'Best Garden in Hokitika' Award. Yup, PK! **Creeky** has finally

nally hung up his paddle after close to 30 years with us. No, a gold paddle he will not get, but maybe we'll come up with something more substantial. Any ideas? He's being a wonderful Grandpa between Merlin's two kids and Tesilya's one. Although, I think he and **Betty Ann** are taking this retirement

thing a little too seriously. They've been gone since early January on a babysitting and road trip. Our stellar cooking staff was on their game in 2010. Year two for **Tommy** and first year for **Kendra**. We're sad to see Tommy move on to Seattle to continue his schooling up there. He has been a great employee and friend. Kendra has spent the winter in Argentina doing art, yoga, and



following her wonderful spirit around the country. The house & kitchen staff including: **Chloe Mesa, Holly Hanes, Katie Rienhart, Melinda Stearns, Violet Stearns Sharon Lieper and Susanne Cardiff** are the unsung heros who make sure each guest's expectations & needs are met. Thank you!! **Awna Z.** is still in Ashland being one of the most popular caterers in the town. A-Z Catering and Event Planning is sharing the limelight with the best of Ashland. Good Job Party Girl! **Nyomi** has spent the past year building a house on the Klamath River, where she has to take a boat to get to it! Now there's a mountain girl for

you! Good thing she kayaks! Speaking of previous cooks, **Daniel & Lynn Flattly** have opened a new restaurant in Ashland, Oregon, 'COQUINA' on A Street. It is beyond good, it's unbelievably Fantastic! GO THERE! Other oldies: **Paul & Zee McCarroll** have closed the Center Café in Moab and are now living in Boulder, CO. Paulie was putting together an upscale Pizzeria last I heard. That would be worth a visit as well. Even **Susanne Cardiff**, our first Otter Bar Cook, is back living in the Forks and helps us out now & then. **Bob & Judy Beaver** showed up each week to rub sore mussels and re-new bodies with their massage skills.

Judy was here for Yoga Classes as well and Silas Beaver for teaching kayaking. A Beaver Affair! Just because we're in the middle of no-where doesn't mean we don't have it all. AND a big piece of news is **JASON ARBETTER is getting married.** He and Rachel are getting ready for a very small ceremony this September! I think Jason has been waiting for this day since we met him a million years ago.

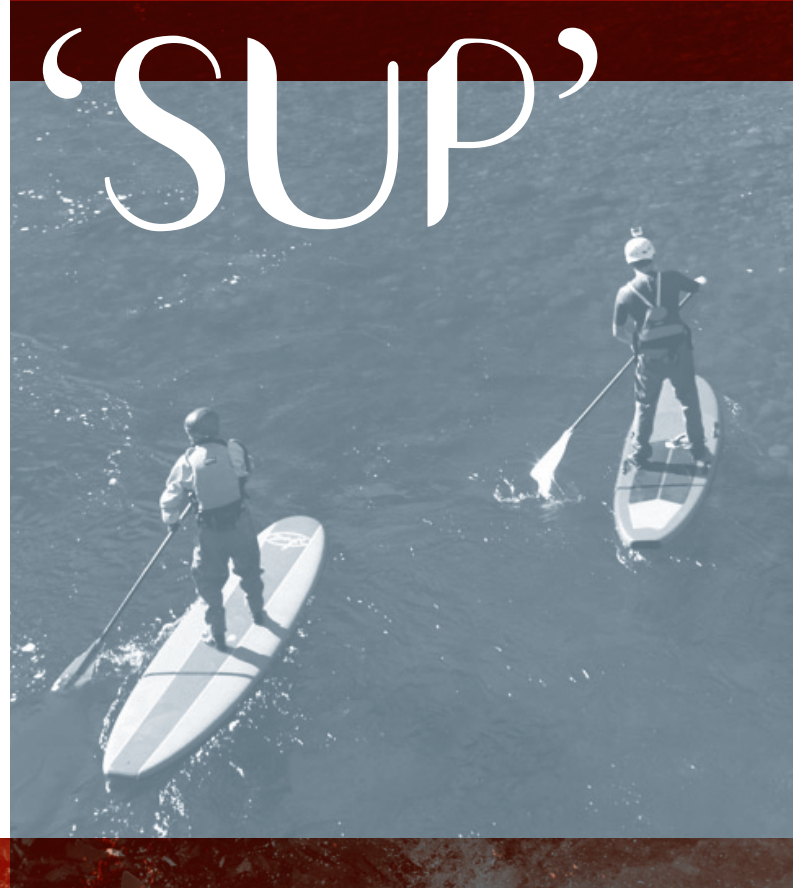
Otter Bar is the real deal on every level. We take care of your body, kayaking skills, culinary delights, comfort and give you time to take in the environment and enable you have a week like no other. In a Good Way.



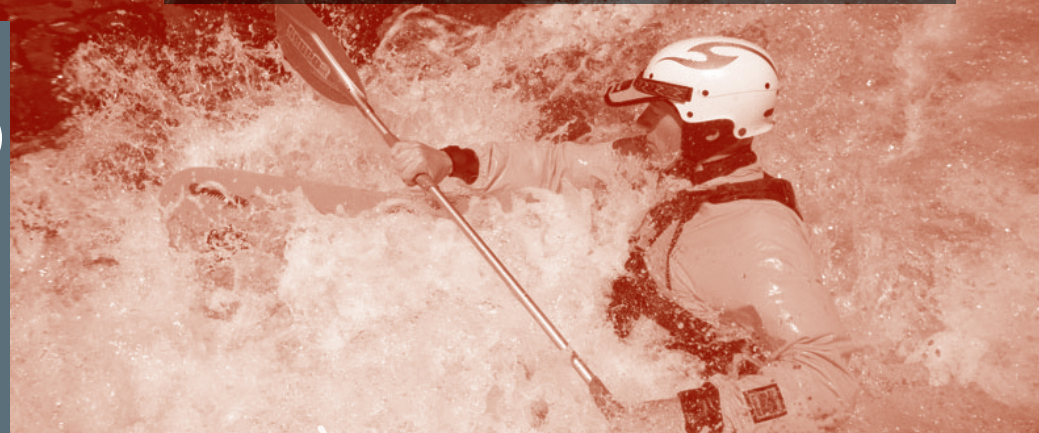
SOMETHING NEW FOR OTTER BAR 2011: STAND-UP-PADDLING

Wha'Sup? Stand Up Paddling is. This is one of the fastest growing sports ever. True. Almost any body of water you find these days, you'll also find Stand Up Paddlers by the dozens. They are on flat-water lakes, big & small ocean waves, calm bays and RIVERS! That's where we come in. This August we will be offering SUP weeks along with our kayaking classes.

Experts Taylor Robertson, Dan Gavere and Jimmy Blakney have lent their support to our program. They are as excited as we are to offer a new river sport to our season. If you are into ocean surfing or just wish to learn more advanced SUP paddling techniques, these courses are for you. These weeks are run on the warm waters of the deep and friendly Klamath River. We will focus on paddling techniques, balance and river safety. Many expert kayakers are getting into this sport as you can turn class 2 into class 4 and the full body work-out is amazing for conditioning. We supply the boards, instruction, food and lodging in full on 'Otter Bar' style. For more information and photos, look on our website: www.otterbar.com



NEWS FLASH



THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME OF KAYAKING

Rodeo may be dead, but there's a something new and BOLD happening in the whitewater world, THE 2011 WHITEWATER GRAND PRIX. This is a different animal than the 'WORLDS' Championships, which has dominated whitewater competitions in the past. The WWGP is held in Ottawa, Canada beginning April 30, 2011 and goes for 2 weeks. The contestants have been voted into the event by the invitees. While the Worlds is only one event, hole or wave riding, the WWGP has SIX events. (Eight, if you want to count the opening and closing Party and Film premieres, which can be the most dangerous event of them all.)

The Whitewater Grand Prix Events are: Freestyle Showdown; Giant Slalom; Time Trial; Big Wave Challenge; Best Trick Contest; Head to Head. The world wide competitor list is unbelievable, and is definitely the 'CRÈME DE LA CRÈME' of kayakers. For more info, check out: www.whitewatergrandprix.com

WHAT'S UP WITH RUSH? (Thought you'd never ask!)

Our in-house professional kayaker & filmmaker, Rush Sturges, is still busy kayaking around the world, filming death defying drops and writing and performing his kayaking hip-hop. His next film out of the can is FRONTIER. This film takes us to: China, Norway, Iceland, Canada, Northwest USA and Mexico. His new theme song for the movie is sung and written by Rush and produced by Steve Berlin, 7X Grammy Winner.

Rush's film from 2010, DREAM RESULT, was entered at the X-Dance Film Festival, 2011 in Salt Lake City, UT and won the Best Musical Score category.

Frontier will be out in March 2011. Don't watch for it in your local Video Store, but you can order it and view the trailer at: www.river-roots.com

FORKS OF SALMON FIRE & RESCUE NEEDS HELP!

People frequently ask us "What happens when there is a medical emergency in Forks?" We have no facilities around us. Well, good question. Our call for help has been answered by our local FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTERS for years, the same ones, and there aren't many of them left these days. The team has been volunteering their time AND trying to fund this operation forever. They are the only ones who raise the money to pay insurance, maintain the ambulance and pay for anything a rescue operation may need. Funding is drying up. These people are the ones who get up in the middle of the night, drive the ambulance 2.5 hours to the local hospital or arrange a helicopter. Or are out looking for someone in the mountains, in the river or pulling them out of a car over the cliff. They are always on call. They have to pay for their own education and maintain their certificates and never get a cent of payment for anything they do. This is too much for our tiny community to keep going. We Need Help. Anything you could donate to our Fire & Rescue team would be a boost for our community of Forks of Salmon. **Send anything to: Forks of Salmon Fire & Rescue, C/O Jim Bennett, 12527 Salmon River Road, Forks of Salmon, CA 96031**

GRAND CANYON TRIP 2011

Each year we have an annual 15 day Grand Canyon Trip. This year the dates are: September 5-19. We can accommodate kayakers and a number of rafters. This is a trip of a lifetime, and one that's worth learning to kayak just to be able to go down the Colorado in a kayak. Give us a call and check out our website for more information about it.

People who live in urban areas take these services for granted, but our community consider it a luxury to have a few people who are willing to be on call 24/7 to save someone's life, find someone lost and help those in trouble. They shouldn't have to put on the bake sales & bingo games as well to get money to run the ambulance. HELP US?

HENRI COETZEE was pulled under the water in his kayak on the Lukuga River, in the Republic of the Congo, by a large crocodile and never seen again. Henri was a larger than life figure in the world he lived in. Explorer, World Class Kayaker, Expedition Leader, as well as a person with a passionate appetite and craving for the unknown. Henri was an icon in the adventure world and there will never be anyone like him again.

IN MEMORIUM November, 2010