

WEEK OF RIVERS

This year TAK's week of rivers trip, which went to Idaho, had a significantly smaller turnout than in years past, (David Manning, Jared Dobson, Bryce Shaw, and Althea Shaw) but that didn't stop those who came from having a great trip, with phenomenal paddling, excellent weather, running, hiking, warm water, firecrackers, and dry ice.

We paddled the Lochsa, Payette, Salmon, and Clark Fork rivers. The rivers were all clear and clean looking, as well as being warm enough to go without dry tops. They contained great runs; everything we did was worth paddling. The play in the area was great, with many small features providing great enjoyment. If anyone is ever anywhere near the North Fork of the Payette, it is an amazing run. Unfortunately, some of the larger play waves that we visited weren't quite perfect, with

water levels being slightly too high or too low. Despite this, there were good moves done at many great spots.

On the last day of paddling, we went to the play park in Missoula, Montana, where we, purely by chance, met with Jordie McKenzie, Jen Spragg, Mark, and Michelle Basso in the parking lot. We played in the play park for a while and then headed out to the Play run on the Clark Fork river.

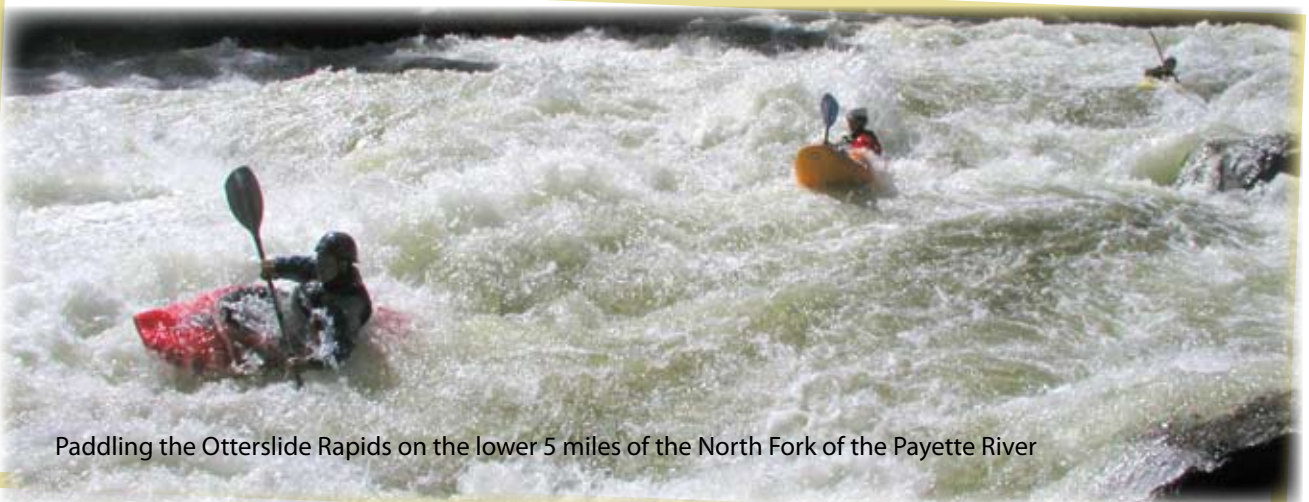
The weather on the trip was perfect, with blue skies and warm temperatures throughout the trip; just half an hour of rain seen in the whole week. These temperatures and the lack of biting insects allowed us to sleep on a tarp without a tent most nights, which helped keep the bill for accommodation to just \$15 for the whole week.

Off the water, there was plenty of stuff to do, especially

since we arrived on July 4th, the last day that fireworks can be legally sold in many parts of the US. We bought around 300 firecrackers and were delighted to find that they were waterproof. If anyone ever is unsure what to do with a firecracker, drop one in a Styrofoam cup- you will not be disappointed. Later on we bought 5lbs. of Dry Ice (frozen CO2), which has its own special uses, such as launching large bottles up around 100 feet into the air, or shooting them like a missile at spectators.

In future trips, it would be nice to have more than four people, but for those involved with this one, it was excellent. Many thanks to David Manning for coaching.

Written by: Bryce Shaw



Paddling the Otterslide Rapids on the lower 5 miles of the North Fork of the Payette River

