

BEAVER CANOE CLUB GUIDE TO RIVERS WEEK

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Rivers Week is one of the longest traditions of the Beaver Canoe Club, and consistently one of the most popular. An overall map of the area covered by Rivers Week and a list of trip driving directions is attached. To ensure everyone gets the most out of Rivers Week, here are a few basic rules:

- **The White Board:** Trips and Trip Leaders will be posted each preceding evening on the white board with a basic description of difficulty;
- **Confirming Your Participation:** All participants must verbally confirm with the Trip Leader night before the trip, and are expected to stay committed to the trip. Last minute changes, indecision and 'shopping around' on the morning of the trip is unfair to the leaders, who need to have a confident idea of the numbers to expect;
- **Less Experienced Paddlers** are welcome and encouraged to talk to Trip Leaders, who will help you make a good selection of trip to match your skill level.
- **Trip Leader Decisions:** Trip leaders must be objective and prudent regarding participants, and if the leader advises you to select an easier trip based on the demands of the trip, your skills and the overall strength of the group, that decision is for your own safety and must be respected.
- **Be a Trip Leader!** New trip leaders are welcome and encouraged. Rivers week could not succeed without a good number of dedicated Trip Leaders, and volunteers are appreciated. If a Trip Leader asks you to take the lead or to co-lead a trip, we hope you will take that as a compliment on your abilities and help out.
- **Driving Etiquette:** Be ready to leave on time. Keep the convoy together on the way to the put-in. At any fork or intersection, every vehicle must wait for the next vehicle in line to ensure they know which direction to go.
- **Camping:** We camp on crown land at unserviced sites. Bring: 5 gallons of water, a table, stove and lawn chairs. Firewood is also appreciated.

TRIPS FROM THE N'KWALA CAMPSITE ON THE NICOLA RIVER ("A" ON MAP)

N'Kwala campground: 22 km west of Merritt on Hwy 8, turn left into dirt road entrance to campground.

NICOLA RIVER – MERRITT TO SUNSHINE VALLEY ROAD EAST - From N'Kwala camp, drive towards Merritt on Hwy 8. The take-out is a right turn on Sunshine Valley East Road at the bridge. The put-in is further along Hwy 8, at a picnic table rest stop on the right as you enter Merritt or turn right on Voight St. straight ahead for three blocks to the park opposite the RV campground. Easy Grade I paddle. Be alert for sweepers.

NICOLA RIVER – SUNSHINE VALLEY EAST TO CAMP - Put in at Sunshine Valley East bridge (or for slightly longer trip, at the pump house about 1 km upstream) and paddle to N'Kwala campsite. Grade 1 - 2.

NICOLA RIVER, CAMPSITE TO CHIEF JOE ANTHONY BRIDGE - Put-in at campsite. Take out at Chief Joe Anthony Bridge about 17.9 km west of N'Kwala campsite on Hwy 8. Grade I with Grade II little headwall and mini canyon. Hazards include Sweepers, tight corners and blind channels. Optional earlier takeout on River left at informal campsite after mini canyon, accessible by turning left on Dot Ranch Cut-off Road 11.8 km west of N'Kwala camp, then go 1.3 km and turn right on dirt road, then 0.9 km across bridge and park.

NICOLA RIVER, CANYON - Put in at Chief Joe Anthony Bridge, take out one bend after the canyon. Grade II - III, with several rapids including one shortly after the put in, headwall, long rapid leading to rock bluff lunch spot. After lunch, the run culminates in a Canyon with a short Grade III at its entrance. To scout, eddy right at the overhanging orange cones and walk river right to pump house. The canyon bends right, then the river bends left after the canyon. The take out is almost immediately on river right through the brush so watch carefully and don't miss it. Beware of poison ivy at the take out.

NICOLA RIVER, LOWER LOWER - Put in 27.2 km west of N'Kwala campsite on Hwy 8, in parking area left of Highway beside river. Take out about 1 km along Thompson River at first picnic site, river left. Solid and continuous Grade II+. Trickiest section is usually dodging the rocks and holes near the bridges, just before the confluence with Thompson River.

SPIUS CREEK - Head towards Merritt on Hwy. 8, turn right on Sunshine Valley West Road toward Spius fish hatchery. Bypass the hatchery and stay as right as you can on the increasingly rough road, keeping the river always on your right. Put in about 8km from Fish hatchery where you can see the "Little Box Canyon". Boats must be lowered down the steep bank by rope or driven down by 4x4. Grade II twisting river, with frequent sweeper hazards to watch. Biggest rapids are under the wood bridge, and at a large rock studded left bend. Spius flows into the Nicola, and the take out is at N'Kwala camp.

COLDWATER RIVER – JULIETTE CREEK TO LARSON HILL - Put in: 12.7K north of Hwy 5 Toll Boots. Take out: Larson Hill access. Go under the Hwy, turn right and follow gravel down to river. Distance: 12K. Grade 1, winding with sweepers likely. Four or five Coquihalla emergency accesses.

COLDWATER RIVER – LARSON HILL TO COLDWATER INTERCHANGE - Put in: Larson Hill access to Hwy. #5. Go under the Hwy, turn right and follow gravel down to river. Take out: Coldwater Interchange. Distance: 10.5K. Grade 2+, winding with possible sweepers. KVR railbed only emergency access for 6K then gravel road. Grade IV drop followed by a Grade II rapid with sweepers immediately after the bridge at 5.9K. Other access at 6.4K (water gauge), (described below).

COLDWATER RIVER – WATER GAUGE TO COLDWATER INTERCHANGE - Put in: Hwy. #5 – Coldwater Interchange, go towards Brookmere 3K. Take out: Coldwater Interchange or continue on to Patchet Rd. Distance: 4K. Grade 2. Gravel road nearby.

COLDWATER RIVER – COLDWATER INTERCHANGE TO PATCHET RD. - Put in: Hwy. #5 – Coldwater Interchange. Take out: Go north on Coldwater road through Kingsvale, past Anderson Cut-off (2) to Patchet Rd. Drive down Patchet Rd. to the river. Distance: 4K. Grade 1 - 2. Sweepers and log jams are likely. Only practical intermediate access is Kingsvale (3.3K). Distance: 14K

COLDWATER RIVER – PATCHET RD. TO MERRITT - Put in: Patchet Rd. From Merritt go towards the Kelowna Connector and turn south on coldwater Rd. (Well before the interchange). Take out: In Merritt go south past the Hotel on Voight to the public park just across from the RV camping. Distance: 4K. Grade 1+. Sweepers are likely. Only practical intermediate access is at the Blue First Nations Church (12K). This could be an alternate put in. Distance: 26K

TRIPS FROM THE GRANITE CITY CAMPSITE ON THE TULAMEEN (“B” ON MAP)

Directions to Granite City Campground: Travelling east on Highway 3, turn left through Princeton City Centre, just before bridge over the Similkameen River. Cross single lane bridge and turn left (west) toward Coalmont. 18.2 km turn left into Coalmont, then left on Hope Street in Coalmont, then right over bridge; turn left after bridge onto Blakeburn Road. 19.4 km, continue straight onto Rice Road. 19.7 km, cross over bridge, and into Granite City campground.

TULAMEEN RIVER, TOWN OF TULAMEEN TO CAMP - From Coalmont Hotel, turn left on Main Street to town of Tulameen. 7.6 km turn left from Otter onto Second St. 8.0 km turn left onto Tulameen River Road. 11.1 km, turn left on short spur road and park at put in. Other access points can be found along Tulameen River Road. Take out is at camp. Grade I – I+.

TULAMEEN RIVER, CANYON RUN - Reach the put in by continuing up river along Tulameen River Road (described above) about 7 km above the town of Tulameen. Access is on the river side, just before the concrete bridge - only 3 or 4 cars can park and turn around on the put in road at a time, and no low clearance vehicles. The first rapid, visible from the put in, is a II+ with rocks, large waves and holes. 200 yards later, the Grade II+ Canyon begins at a 90 degree left turn - big rock centre-right followed by a small pour-over and large wave below. Then mostly Grade I until just after the short wood bridge, where the river forks and has mature trees between the forks. The right fork leads to the grade II+ Mystery Drop - a 2 foot high, constricted pour-over with a hydraulic at the bottom. Scout for wood and water conditions before running. The rest is Grade I or I+ floating to camp, or to earlier take out at one of the Tulameen access points.

LOWER TULAMEEN – CAMP TO PRINCETON - Put in at Granite City camp. Take out is along the Coalmont-Princeton Road, right turn past a bowling alley as you come into the residential area of Princeton. Head toward the river to take out trail across a grass vacant lot. Several solid Grade II rapids, culminating in optional Grade III "house rocks" after river bends hard right. Stop on river left and walk the rail grade to scout. Those not wanting to run it can portage along the rail grade. All paddlers must portage from end of house rocks through rail tunnel to steep bank requiring boats to be lowered on ropes to put in again past Tulameenie Falls (Grade IV+ if runnable at all). Remainder of run is a float with nothing exceeding Grade II and little beyond Grade I. An alternative take out is on a 4x4 road access to the rail bed at the house rocks, via an access road near the fixed weather station on the paved road that runs from Coalmont to Princeton.

SIMILKAMEEN RIVER, BROMLEY TO STEMWINDER - Put in at Bromley Rock on the Hope-Princeton Highway. For the take out, cross the concrete bridge on the same highway about 11 km east of the put-in and turn right on a small dirt road through the field, which goes to the Stemwinder forestry camp. The run has 3 or 4 mild grade II rapids, and one short but famous Grade II+ rapid called Golden Dawn (for the Restaurant once located beside it, now named the River House).

SIMILKAMEEN RIVER, PRINCETON TO BROMLEY - Put in at the blue bridge in Princeton which crosses the Similkameen. Take out: Either at the Bromley provincial park, or, to avoid 100 yards of class 2 rapids just before Bromley, take out at the forestry campsite on river left, which is accessible via the Old Hedley Road. Grade I except last bit.

SIMILKAMEEN, ELK RIDGE CAMP TO PRINCETON - From Elk Ridge Outdoors private campsite, on river side of Hope Princeton Hwy 14.9 km south of Princeton bridge, to the Princeton Bridge. Solid Grade II. Owners request a modest parking fee if you don't camp there.

PASAYTON RIVER - Heading from Princeton toward Manning Park on Highway 3, turn left on Wooden Bridge with Pasayton River sign. It is 18.3 km from Manning Park Lodge. Travel 2.9 km then veer right. Travel 6.3 km, staying right. Travel 11.5 km, stop at bridge and park at the put-in. The take out is on the Similkameen River, 2.5 km downriver from the Pasayton river access bridge, at a wide spot in the road. Mandatory takeout, as Similkameen Falls is just around the corner! Grade II, and very challenging with few eddies in high water.

Rivers Week Camping Locations

