

Gorge Sketchbook

ONE OF THE REASONS I MOVED HERE WAS TO BE A WINDSURFING **DIRT-BAG.**



THE EQUIPMENT EVERYONE USED WAS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THE STUFF I WAS USED TO SAILING.



SO I CHECKED OUT A LOCAL "BOARD SWAP" AND BOUGHT SOME USED GEAR.



THE WIND WAS HONKIN' THAT DAY. I REMEMBER TAKING OFF LIKE A BULLET ONCE I LAUNCHED.



ONCE I WAS DOWN I JUST NEEDED TO WATERSTART TO GET GOING AGAIN. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW.



OKAY, IS IT RIGHT OR LEFT FOOT FIRST?

I COULDN'T DO IT. I WAS FLAILING. MY TEETH STARTED CHATTERING AND MY ARMS AND LEGS BEGAN TO CRAMP UP.



I THEN PROMPTLY WIPED OUT.

ALL KINDS OF NICE FOLKS TRIED TO RESCUE ME, BUT I WAS WAY TOO COOL TO ACCEPT ANY HELP.



DUSK WAS UPON ME, EVERYONE WAS OUT OF THE RIVER AND I WAS STILL STUCK IN THE MAIN CURRENT—DRIFTING OUT OF SIGHT.



SCREWED.

OUT OF NOWHERE SOME GUY SHOWED UP AND DEMANDED THAT HE COACH ME BACK TO SHORE.



ONCE I LEARNED TO WATERSTART, I WAS ABLE TO AVOID OBSTACLES LIKE:



HONK HONK HONK
HUGE BARGES



MASSIVE SWELLS



ICE BERGS (JUST KIDDING)

AS I WAS GETTING THE HANG OF IT AND LEARNING TO JIBE, I WAS APPROACHED BY A KAYAKER AT A LAUNCH SITE PARKING LOT.



WE'RE HEADED UP THE ROAD TO RUN THE WHITE SALMON RIVER! DO YOU WANT TO TAG ALONG?



WE "PUT IN" AT A CLASS II RAPID.



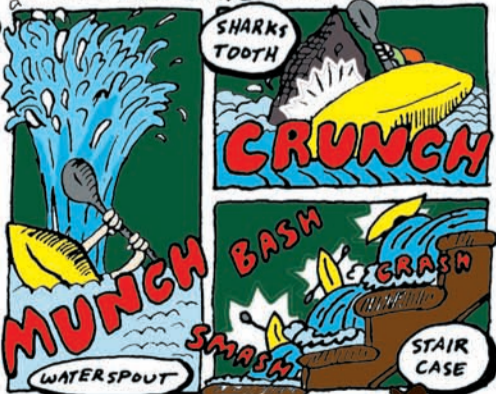
SO WHY DO THEY CALL THIS RAPID "MAYTAG"?

BEATS US?

IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO FIND OUT.



I RAN THE OTHER RAPIDS LIKE:



AND THEN WE REACHED HUSUM FALLS:



GRAB THE BOAT WHEN HE BAILS OUT AND WE'LL SELL IT AT THE LAUNCH SITE AGAIN!

