

Clover Island Yacht Club

Anchor Buoys Project



The Clover Island Yacht Club has instigated a program of installing a series of anchor buoys along the Columbia and Snake Rivers for the use of the recreational boater. The cost of installing these anchor buoys was derived entirely from donations made by Individuals and companies along with a lot of volunteer labor to make it possible. When installed in June 2000, there were 30 of these anchor buoys installed. Several have been missing and may not be available.

Check for your favorite spot below

BUOY # 299A Hat Rock State Park, Oregon

GPS Latitude is 45° 55' .04. GPS Longitude is 119° 10' .42.

Water depth is 10 to 20 feet, depending on the swing around the buoy. This anchor buoy is located at the far end, or south end of the inlet at Hat Rock State Park, There is a launching ramp nearby and the Buoy is just beyond the launching ramp. The location protected from all but a strong north wind, which is seldom observed. This should be a rather pleasant location to spend a night or two. Commercial traffic and other boat wakes should be minimal at this location but not entirely absent.

Buoy # 299B McNary Yacht Club, Oregon

GPS Latitude is 45° 55' .24. GPS Longitude is 119° 10' 68.

Water depth 10 feet more or less, depending on swing around the buoy, shallower towards shore. This anchor buoy is located in the outer harbor just east from the entrance to the McNary Yacht Club harbor entrance. Another white ball float is located about 300 feet northeast from #299B. There are also two cylindrical "No Wake" buoys in the vicinity. An island is located to the north east with a rocky shore. Stay clear of the island's shoreline. The water depth approaching the anchor buoy is 20 feet or so out to the main part of the river. Out in main part of the river on the north side of the islands, please note the two U.S., Army Corps of Engineers markers cemented on rock outcroppings. The depth drops off rapidly to the north of these markers. Stay clear of these islands without local knowledge, There is only a little protection from commercial traffic or other boat wakes.

Buoy # 300A Cold Springs Junction beach (Warehouse Beach), Oregon

GPS Latitude is 45° 55' .28, GPS Longitude is 119° 08' .65.

Water depth is 20 feet decreasing towards the shore a hundred feet or so away and to the northwest where there are rocks underwater. The swing area around the buoy has about 20 feet of water. Approach the buoy from the main part of the river on a maximum compass heading of 210 Degrees, or less. There is a rock cliff about 20 feet high to the southeast where the youngsters like to leap off in to 15 feet of water along the base of the rock. The water is fairly deep all the way over to the 20-foot high cliffs. This anchorage provides some protection from wind driven waves from the prevailing southwest winds The offshore shallow areas should provide some protection from commercial traffic and other boat wake action going upriver.

Buoy # 300B Oregon Cold Springs Junction beach (Warehouse Beach), OR

GPS Latitude is 45° 55' .27. GPS Longitude is 119° 08' .31

Water depth is 21 feet. Located just southeast of a small island and several hundred feet from a marked swimming beach to the south. Approach can be made from either end of the island. Reasonable protection from prevailing winds and commercial traffic wave action. The depth decreases rapidly towards the sandy shoreline, but appears to be adequate for swing room around buoy. There should be fair protection from Commercial traffic and other boat wakes out in the river.

Buoy # 300C Oregon Cold Springs Junction beach (Warehouse Beach.), OR

GPS Latitude is 45° 55' .33. GPS Longitude is 119° 08' .05.

Water depth is 23 feet, but decreases rapidly towards the nearby shore and increases rapidly towards the main part of the river. Watch for a shallow area sticking out from a low rock outcropping to the south, A small island is located to the west several hundred feet away. The depth approaching from the main river is very good. Some protection is provided from wind driven waves coming up the river from the nearby island, but not commercial traffic or other boat wakes.

Buoy # 305B Refuge Island, Washington side, Benton County.

GPS Latitude is 45° 57' .84, GPS Longitude is 119° 03' .92.

The water depth at the buoy is 16 feet, This anchor buoy is located just off the upstream and downwind end of Refuge Island. Refuge Island is the result of an old railroad cut along the river that was flooded when the McNary pool was raised. The present railroad grade is upland just along the shoreline, parallel to the old cut. The depth through the old cut is a flat 10 feet all the way. While the cut is not very wide in places, it is navigable by just about any vessel found in this area. The anchor buoy will provide protection from the worst of the wind driven waves that frequently occur in the Walulla Gap when the wind kicks up. Approach the anchor buoy either through the old railroad cut or directly from the main part of the river. Protection should be provided from the worst of the prevailing wind driven wave action, but not from passing commercial traffic and other boat wakes.

Buoy # 312A Walla Walla Yacht Club located at Port Kelly at the Walulla Gap.

GPS Latitude is 46° 01' .70. GPS Longitude is 118° 56' .10.

This anchor buoy is located in the bay just to the north of the Walla Walla Yacht Club in 13 feet of water. There is plenty of swing room all around this buoy. The land to the south towards the grain elevator and the trees at the C provides some protection from the prevailing winds coming up the gorge, but no protection from the wakes of passing commercial traffic or other boat wakes. The commercial traffic usually passes by far across the river on the Benton County side of the river and creates slow rollers rather than breaking waves at this location. The WWYC has a caretaker and telephone.

Buoy # 312B Walla Walla Yacht Club located at Port Kelly at the Walulla Gap.

G-PS Latitude is 46° 01' .74. GPS Longitude is 118° 56' .09.

Same as anchor buoy 312A above except for position and water depth which is 15 feet

Buoy # 317A Hover Park near floating green day marker buoy # 27 across the river from the Boise Cascade Pulp Mill.

GPS Latitude is 46° 06' 14. GPS Longitude is 118° 57' 89.

This anchor buoy is located adjacent to Hover Park, but is out in the main stem of the river and just out of the marked channel. There is no protection from the prevailing winds or the commercial traffic or other boat wakes. Swells will come up river from the Walulla Gap during windstorms. The water depth is 11 feet and decreases towards the shore. There is a launching ramp inshore, but use caution as to the depth of the water there. Strongly advise the use of your anchor light for overnight stays. There will be lots of light from the pulp mill all night. Floating milfoil weeds come down the river from the shallow areas around Agate Islands. Another anchor buoy is located just nearby.

Buoy # 317B Hover Park near floating green day marker Buoy # 27 across the river from the Boise Cascade Pulp Mill.

GPS Latitude is 46° 06' .2 1. GPS Longitude is 118° 57' .90

Same as anchor buoy 317A above except for position and water depth which is 9 feet.

Buoy 323A Shot Rock Islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 45 01' .94. GPS Longitude is 119° 01' .01

This anchor buoy is located at the extreme down river end of the Shot Rock Island chain and is just above the Kalen Rail Road Bridge. The water depth is 19 feet and the depth drops off fast away from the island, Protection from the prevailing winds is provided, but not from the passing commercial traffic wakes. Another anchor buoy is located nearby.

Buoy 323B Shot Rock Islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 46° 10' .98. GPS Longitude is 119° 00' .97.

Same as 323A above except for position and water depth which is 17 feet.

Buoy 324F Shot Rock Islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 46° 11' 3 1. GPS Longitude is 119° 01' ".3 1.

This anchor buoy is located in the small bay between the upstream and the middle Shot Rock Islands. Reasonably good protection is given from prevailing winds by the bluff on the island to the west and from the wakes from passing commercial traffic. There are several cables anchored on the island to the west to allow for tying off between the anchor buoy and the shore. The water depth is 17 feet all around the buoy. This is a nice place for overnight after the daytime water activities go home for the night. Another anchor buoy is located nearby.

Buoy 324E Shot Rock islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 46° 11' 33. GPS Longitude is 119° 01' ".28.

Same as anchor buoy 324F above except for position and water depth which is 13 feet.

Buoy 323D Shot Rock Islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 46° 11' .49, GPS Longitude is 119° 01' 01 47.

Same as anchor buoy 324F above except for position and water depth which is 10 feet.

Buoy 323C Shot Rock Islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 46° 11' .55. GPS Longitude is 119° 01' 49.

Same as anchor buoy 324F above except for position and water depth which is 12 feet.

Buoy 323B Shot Rock Islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 46° 11' .63. GPS Longitude is 119° 01' 52

Same as anchor buoy 324F above except for position and water depth which is 11 feet.

Buoy 324A Shot Rock Islands (The Mud Hole at the mouth of the Snake River)

GPS Latitude is 46° 11' 69, GPS Longitude is 119° 01' .55.

Same as anchor buoy 324F above except for position and water depth which is 10 feet.

Buoy # 326B Indian Island, just upstream from Sacagawea Park on Pasco side of river.

GPS Latitude is 46° 12' .22. GPS Longitude is 119° 03' .25.

This anchor buoy is located just upstream from the green and red Junction Marker " S " at the mouth of the Snake River and along the north side of Indian Island. The Buoy is located in 19 feet of water with good swing room. A little protection is provided by Indian Island from the prevailing winds. There is only a little to no protection from passing commercial traffic wakes. Indian Island has a small sandy beach. Another anchor buoy is located nearby.

Buoy # 326A Indian Island, just upstream from Sacagawea Park on Pasco side of the river.

GPS Latitude is 46° 12' .28. GPS Longitude is 119° 03' .38.

This anchor buoy is located just upstream from the green and red Junction Marker " S " at the mouth of the Snake River and along the north side of Indian Island. The Buoy is located in 8 feet of water with good swing room. A little protection is provided by Indian Island from the prevailing winds. There is little protection from passing commercial traffic wakes. Indian Island has a small sandy beach. Another anchor buoy is located just downstream a few hundred feet.

Buoy # 229A Clover Island to the Blue Bridge

GPS Latitude is 46° 13' 09. GPS Longitude is 119° 07' 13.

This anchor buoy is one of five located in a curving line between the upstream end of Clover Island and the Blue Bridge between Kennewick and Pasco, This buoy is located in 11 feet of water with good swinging room. There is no protection from the prevailing wind or commercial traffic wakes.

Buoy # 229B Clover Island to the Blue Bridge

GPS Latitude is 46° 13" 10. GPS Longitude is 119° 07".24.

Same as anchor buoy 229A above except for position and water depth which is 18 feet.

Buoy # 229C Clover Island to the Blue Bridge

GPS Latitude is 46° 13" 11. GPS Longitude is 119° 07' .37,

Same as anchor buoy 229A above except for position and water depth which is 18 feet.

Buoy # 229D Clover Island to the Blue Bridge

GPS Latitude is 46° 13". 14. GPS Longitude is 119° 07" 51

Same as anchor buoy 312A above except for position and water depth which is 18 feet.

Buoy # 229E Clover Island to the Blue Bridge

GPS Latitude is 46° 13".20. GPS Longitude is 119° 07".64.

Same as anchor buoy 312A above except for position and water depth which is 18 feet.

Buoy # 331B Goat Island just downstream from the island.

GPS Latitude is 46° 14" .07. GPS Longitude is 119° 11" .52

This buoy is located in 17 feet of water just outside of the marked navigation channel right off the downstream tip of Goat Island which is just upstream from Hydro Island. There is good swing room. There is no protection from prevailing winds or wakes from commercial traffic. Good view up both sides of Goat Island.

Buoy # 331A Across from Goat Island just downstream along the Pasco shoreline.

GPS Latitude is 46° 14" .1 7. GPS Longitude is 119° 11 " .31

This buoy is located in 18 feet of water well outside of the marked navigation channel just upstream from Hydro Island. There is good swing room. There is no protection from prevailing winds or wakes from commercial traffic. There is shallow water extending upstream from the end of Hydro Island, but it is some distance away from the anchor buoy.

Buoy # 335 (no letter) Yakima River Delta.

GPS Latitude is 46° 15 " .3 5. GPS Longitude is 119° 14' .22.

This mooring buoy is located upstream of the mouth of the Yakima River several hundred feet north of a small island with a big tree on it, relatively speaking that is. The buoy is located in a water depth of 10 feet and has very good swing room around it. There is an old U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dock floating to the southwest that usually has a bunch of Cormorant birds sunning themselves on it. All the water to the south beyond the island and to the east towards the Yakima River channel is shoal water with a mud bottom with occasional trees or tree branches imbedded in the mud. Some protection from the prevailing southwest wind induced waves is provided, but no protection from passing boat wake action. Generally a quiet pleasant place to spend a night or two.

Buoy # 7 Leavy Landing, Snake River

GPS Latitude is 46° 16" .89. GPS Longitude is 118° 50" .04.

This mooring buoy is located in a small bay just upstream from Leavy Landing Park on the Ice Harbor Dam pool. The buoy is located about 500 feet from the park's launching ramp. The anchorage is fairly well protected from the prevailing wind and waves. There is no protection from the commercial or other traffic wakes. The water depth is 18 feet with good swing room around the buoy, The water depth is about 10 feet towards the south shore. There is a mud bottom all around the buoy along the shore.

Buoy # 8 Dalton Lake, Snake River Mile 15.25

GPS Latitude is 46° 17' .70. GPS Longitude is 118° 48' .20

This buoy is located in a small bay that leads to the causeway that separates Dalton Lake from the Snake River proper. The buoy is located in 10 feet of water with good swing room all around the buoy. The depth quickly gets less towards the shore, which is all mud. There is no protection from the prevailing wind driven waves or passing commercial traffic and other wakes, but the anchorage is quite some distance from the passing traffic. There is a mud bottom all around the buoy but no alligators reported.

Rules for the use of these buoys posted on the sides of the buoys. Basically they are a first-come, first to use, with no reservations. There is no cost for using these buoys. There is a time limit of 72 consecutive hours for using an anchor buoy. Long term moorage to an anchor buoy is not permitted. The rules for the use of the anchor buoys are enforced by local law enforcement agencies.

The numbering of the anchor buoys is related to their location according to the river mile they are located at. When there are several anchor buoys located near each other, then in addition to the river mile number, there is a letter designator starting with the downstream buoy being called "A" the next upriver being "B" and so on.

All the anchor buoys are set in such a way as to allow the boat to swing around the buoy without going aground. Many of the anchor buoys are set in locations that will be protection from the prevailing wind driven wave action. Appropriate locations provide protection from the prevailing wind driven wave action. Appropriate locations that would allow protection from all wave action and wind are few and far between, so some compromises had to be made in the placement of some of the anchor buoys.

Each anchor buoy has an anchor consisting of approximately 4000 pounds of concrete attached to 45 feet of heavy hot dipped galvanized chain. Please use a length of nylon line to attach your boat to the anchor buoy. The nylon is necessary to reduce the shock load when the line comes tight so you do not rip out your deck cleats or other fittings. While these anchor buoys do not have radar reflectors, there is a sufficient amount of metal in them so they will show up on the radar screen at several hundred yards or so.

If you have any questions about these anchor buoys, or if you want to donate towards the cost of installing additional anchor buoys, please contact the Clover Island Yacht Club in Kennewick Washington for further information. A list of the buoys and their locations along with some description of the location follows. The depth readings were taken with a depth finder transducer located 2 1/2 feet below the water line so the actual depths may be greater than indicated. If the river level is lowered, then the depth may actually be less. Use caution in any case, as you alone are responsible for safely navigating your vessel.

Disclaimer

The accuracy of the data and observations was compiled by Russ Hughes of the Columbia Point Yacht Club. The data is not guaranteed to any specific accuracy. The data is as taken from the boats GPS unit and the depth finder as it way presented. Normal care was taken to insure reasonable accuracy ,of the reading. Uncharted, or unknown objects, could exist underwater in the vicinity of the anchor buoys. Any use of this data and the attached observations are entirely at your own risk!