

## MAY 2019 PROGRAM



**SPEAKER: KELSEY HELFRICH**

**PROGRAM: EXPERIENCE THE WILD  
AND SCENIC RIVERS OF IDAHO  
AND OREGON**



Helfrich Outfitters is a fourth generation family owned and operated business in Oregon and Idaho. Getting started on the McKenzie River in 1925 and expanding out to explore other rivers from there, the family was among the first river outfitters in the west.

Helfrich covers the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, the Main Salmon in Idaho, the Wild and Scenic Rogue River in Oregon and the Owyhee River Canyonlands. Known for rowing classic wooden boats on the rivers, Helfrich also makes use of rafts during low water to enable great fishing adventures. <https://www.helfrichoutfitter.com/helfrich-history/>

Fourth generation partner in the business, Kelsey Helfrich, will be with us at the May meeting. Kelsey grew up along the banks of the McKenzie River in Oregon and has been in a boat since before she could walk. As she grew, so did her love of the river and the outdoor lifestyle. When Kelsey was 2 years old she went on her first trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon and at 5 went along on her first big commercial over-night trip on the Main Salmon. Growing up, Kelsey spent most of her summers, tagging along on McKenzie trips with her dad as a swamper on the pontoon. At the age of 12 she graduated to running her own raft down the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River followed soon after by the Main Salmon Canyon and the Middle Fork of the Salmon. Kelsey got her first Oregon guide's license at the age of 16 and started guiding paddle rafting trips on the Upper McKenzie. Being an outfitters kid, she was raised learning the whole business, both on the river and working in the office.

Following in the footsteps of her Granddad Dave, Kelsey studied at the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, graduating from in 2007 with degrees in Forestry Recreation and Resource Management.

In 2009 Kelsey met Kidd Youren and soon knew that he was the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with. Kidd started working on the Middle Fork with the Helfrich crew in 2011 and quickly proved himself as a great boatman, guide and leader on all of the rivers that they run. Kelsey and Kidd were married in September of 2013. In January of 2017 they welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world. Little Miss Fallon Elery Helfrich-Youren who has already been on the river!

Kelsey, husband Kidd and daughter Fallon live in Salmon Idaho near family and friends.

