

## **Boat Crash on Columbia River Severely Injures Two**

Friday, 24 June 2016 09:33 - Last Updated Friday, 24 June 2016 09:40

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On Saturday, June 18, 2016 at approximately 0908 hrs., the Columbia Co. Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol was dispatched to a two-boat, head-on collision on the Multnomah Channel approximately 1/2 mile south of the mouth of the Scappoose Bay. As a result of the collision Sang Hyun Kim, 61, Beaverton, and Jung Suk Lee, 57, Beaverton, were transported from the scene to Emanuel Hospital, Portland with life threatening injuries.

Kim and Lee were angling in their 16-foot Skokercraft riveted aluminum boat when a larger boat struck them, the investigation shows. The larger boat is believed to have been underway at a speed between 20 and 30 miles per hour when the collision occurred.

The larger boat is a 1999 23-foot Alumaweld Stryker Sled made of welded aluminum. The operator of the larger boat was Paul Woebkenberg Jr., 64, Wilsonville. Woebkenberg is a guide/outfitter licensed by the State Marine Board.

Investigators believe the Woebkenberg boat struck the boat occupied by Kim and Lee while the latter boat was trolling in the current, down river at a speed estimated at between 3-5 MPH. The collision was nearly head-on with the Woebkenberg boat striking the second boat just to the port side of the bow. The Woebkenberg boat traversed up and over the second boat, striking both Kim and Lee.

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Following the collision, Woebkenberg returned to the damaged second boat (which was taking on water and already partially submerged) Woebkenberg left his boat and entered into sinking boat to rescue Kim and Lee, who were not wearing life jackets, appeared unconscious, and in substantial peril. Woebkenberg removed each of the injured as the boat sunk beneath him and capsized. Woebkenberg was able to re-board his own boat and immediately transported the injured to the Scappoose Bay Marina where they were treated by Columbia River Fire and Rescue personnel and transported to Emanuel Hospital in Portland by Life Flight Helicopter and Ambulance. Both Lee and Kim remain hospitalized with serious injuries.

The two boats were identified as follows:

Boat #1                    1999 23 foot Alumaweld Stryker Sled w/200 HP Mercury Engine

Construction/Welded Aluminum

Oregon Registration # OR 016 ZD

Hull ID #AWB15178L899

Occupied by five (5) – One Guide/Outfitter and four (4) adult male clients

Operator/Paul Victor WOEBKENBERG Jr.

Guide/Outfitter

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Boat #2                    2000 16 foot Smokercraft w/50 HP Mercury Engine and Tohatsu trolling motor

Construction/Riveted Aluminum

Oregon Registration # OR 678 ZW

Hull ID #SMK99092J900

Operator/Sang Hyum KIM

Deputies were able to recover the second boat, and both boats are in custody of the Sheriff's Office, as the investigation is continuing. The Oregon State Marine Board has authorized a reconstruction team to review the boating crash.