

CLUB BUSINESS AT THE PUT-IN

The President Reports from the Canoe Saddle:

This year has been unpredictable for paddling. First there was an early warm-up followed by an extended cold snap. Then it was rain and more rain and still more rain. This made it difficult to plan and execute trips—even for previously scheduled releases. Now we have entered a period of hot weather, punctuated by thunder, but only limited precipitation. Fortunately, we had a good Memorial Day camper organized by Mike Martin. The only incident was a bear running across the road, a 40 mile empty stretch of road, and into Virginia del Rosario's car—damaging the bumper. Bob Maxey has been the source of several outings, and he has several more planned for the end of the month. Phil Dawson led a Lehigh trip, and Alan Dickerson will be leading another with a camper at Hickory Run State Park. Larry Lempert and Ross Dence, both in OC-1s, will lead the way at Stonycreek—in case you do not get enough paddling in at the moonlight picnic. Wes Mills has provided information on the development of a new access point for the Rappahannock River. The Potomac River Keeper's (Dean Naujoks) RiverPalooza trips have rounded out some of the activities, but we do need some trips for the remainder of July, August, and September. The festivals and releases posted below may provide some ideas. Give our webmaster, Mike Martin, a head's up so that he can post them on the calendar and I can send out an update.

This is a reminder that the newsletter editor is always looking for material. Trip reports can be short or long. Pictures are welcome. Provide the biggest image files you can. If the file exceeds 10 MB, let the editor know in advance. Remember that those who lead announced trips and those who write a trip report will be eligible for prizes! So if you led an announced trip AND have written a trip report, it's a twofer--two drawing chances!

We also have had some new types of trivia questions in the last issue and in the current issue. Everyone who reaches the 200 point threshold will win a prize at the Holiday party. Once a question is answered successfully, it will be removed from competition. Take a chance! You might learn something unexpected.

Mark your calendar for the **mid-Summer meeting, Wednesday, July 18**. The program will feature thrills and spills on the Upper Ocoee as well as Arctic whitewater adventures.

Team River Runner is also looking for volunteers for their rescheduled **Community Family Event on Sunday, July 22**. Lisa Weed has provided flyers to be available at the meeting, or you can check their website.

Pencil in the **Annual Moonlight Club Picnic (Saturday, July 28)** onto your calendar. The party master, aka our club vice-president, Mark Wray, benefits from knowing early who will be coming and who can paddle the necessary gear. In addition, the location of the Winter Holiday Party is getting pricy so if you have options that can be explored, please give them to Mark Wray. It's not too early!

Also take time to remember that 50 years ago the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed. The preservation of undeveloped rivers via that law and the removal of dams under the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) have done much to facilitate paddling for us.

Rick Koller

<i>Club Business at Put-in: President's Report</i>	1	<i>Humor: Shuttle Mishaps</i>	9
<i>Meeting Announcement</i>	2	<i>Boating Trivia</i>	9
<i>Trip Announcements</i>	2	<i>Trip Report: Cacapon Redux</i>	11
<i>Festivals, Clean-ups, & Races</i>	3	<i>Trip Report: Tuckaseegee Round-up</i>	14
<i>Scheduled Releases</i>	4	<i>Trip Report: Dry Fork & Having a Ball</i>	18
<i>Gear: New Options</i>	4	<i>Member Profile: Carrie Singer</i>	22
<i>Gear: For Sale or Trade</i>	5	<i>Parting Shots at the Take-out</i>	24
<i>Feature Article: Rescue Priorities</i>	6	<i>Member Renewal Form</i>	26
<i>Conservation: Wild & Scenic Rivers</i>	7	<i>Quick Trip Report Form</i>	27
<i>Access Issues: Rappahannock & Other</i>	8		

PADDLING TRIP/EVENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Upcoming Meeting

Wednesday, July 18-7 P.M.—The program will be a double or triple feature. One video will feature a whitewater trip down Burnside River in the Canadian Arctic (Nunavut). The tundra landscape is austere, but the area is known for its wildlife including caribou, eagles, grizzly bears, hawks, muskox, and wolves. The remoteness of the area provides its own serenity and challenges. A second video will show thrills and spills on the upper Ocoee River carnage. How many kayaks can fit in a hole at anyone time? You'll find out. The video is narrated by the notorious Fast Fred, a professional river guide and videographer. Any extra time will be filled out with National Paddling Film Fest shorts. There will be something for everyone.

The meeting will be at the usual place, the Clara Barton Recreation Center (7425 MacArthur Boulevard, Ste. 151, Cabin John, MD 20218). Pizza at Ledo's in Bethesda (5245 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20816; 301-656-5336) will follow.

Please be there at 7 P.M. to help set up because of the Summer time constraints at the recreation center.

Upcoming Trips/Events

Saturday, July 21--Potomac River Keeper *snorkel trip* on the South Fork of the Shenandoah.

Part of River Palooza: <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/staff/dean-naujoks/>
<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/riverpalooza-2018/>

Saturday, July 21--Potomac River Keeper *women's trip* from Edwards Ferry to Seneca Creek.

Saturday-Sunday, July 21-22--Lehigh Release (Class 2-3) with camping on Friday and Saturday. Alan Dickerson (dickerson_alan@yahoo.com).

Sunday, July 22--The Team River Runner Paddling Community Family Event, co-hosted by the ACA, the CCA, Calleva, the Great Falls Foundation, and TRR, has been rescheduled to July 22. The event will be held at Riley's Lock. Check the TRR website for details. **As per Lisa**

Weed, additional volunteers will be needed!

Sunday, July 22--Potomac River Keeper activities on the Shenandoah near the Low-Water Bridge Campground, Bentonville VA. Advance registration and fees are required.

Sunday, July 22--ACA Swift Water Rescue Training (CCA), Level 4. Part 2. Contact Charlie Duffy (703-938-3949).

Thursday-Friday, July 26-27--Lower Yough and possibly the Cheat with Bob Maxey (703-823-1439).

Friday, July 27--Potomac River Keeper paddle around Columbia Island to *view the DC monuments*.

Saturday, July 28--The Annual Picnic on the river. Party master (actually VP) Mark Wray will need a number count for food planning. Call him (703-395-6061) or respond to his e-mail invite by Thursday, July 26. If the canal is dewatered, a shuttle to Pennyfield Lock may be required. Canoes for carrying food will be needed. The group will assemble at 5 P.M. at Violet's Lock, which is off River Road. (Watch carefully because the sign has fallen down.)

- ✓ Bring your money: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children ages 2-12 for the main dish and drinks.
- ✓ Bring food for eight. The food category is designated by the first letter of your last name.
 - A-G: fruit dishes, salads, and uncooked vegetables
 - H-N: desserts and snacks
 - O-Z: casseroles, cooked vegetables, pasta, rice dishes, and the like
- ✓ Bring serving utensils for your dish, if needed.
- ✓ Bring camp chairs/cushions, bug repellent, glowsticks/flashlights (and tape for affixing lights) for boats, and camping gear (if you wish).
- ✓ Camping is permitted, but a permit for overnight parking at Violet's Lock is required. Parking there is unrestricted, but there is little police surveillance. **Do not leave valuables in your cars.**

Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29--Lower Yough or Cheat followed by Stonycreek (depending on group interest) with Bob Maxey (703-823-1439).

Sunday, July 29--Stonycreek with Ross Dence and Larry Lempert.

Saturday, September 8--Tire Rodeo at Brunswick Landing. The CCA co-ordinator is Susan Sherrod (703-725-4278). **A BRV co-ordinator for this multi-pronged event would be welcome.**

August TBD--Valley Falls training and race event.

TBD--Family Fun Trip on the upper Rapp (12 miles west of Warrenton) (Class 1+). Phil Troutman (703-764-9106). This is a great trip for families because it is secluded with no on-river traffic to get in the way of shore stops for hot dogs and s'mores and to let children (and adults) repeatedly run rapids in life jackets. Get on the call list because when the weather and water are right, Phil will give a four or five day notice.

Late Summer--Ocoee Multi-day. Contact Matt Anderson (mattaboater@gmail.com).

Festivals/Related Events

Saturday-Sunday, August 3-4--Flood City Music Festival. Combine this with nearby camping and paddling, including possibly Stonycreek.

<https://www.floodcitymusic.com/>

Saturday, August 11--Dragon Boat races in Richmond, VA on the James River

<http://www.gwndragonboat.com/default.asp?id=richmond&l=1>

Saturday, August 11—*Smith River Fest* (Henry County, VA). Twenty of the 45 miles of river are part of a river trail system. There will be opportunities for kayaking, paddle boarding, and fly fishing along with more touristy activities.

<https://www.virginia.org/listings/Events/TheSmithRiverFest/>

<http://www.visitmartinsville.com/smith-river-fest>

Friday-Sunday, August 24-26—*Lehigh Fest* at Whitewater Challengers

<http://whitewaterchallengers.com/festival/>

Saturday-Sunday, August 25-26—*Potomac River Festival & Races*. **Safety Volunteers may be needed**

<http://potomacfestival.org/>

September DTBD—*Wild Blue River Fest* (Halifax) is a river clean-up activity

<https://festivalnet.com/73175/Halifax-Virginia/Festivals/Wild-Blue-River-Festival>

Releases

Lehigh <https://www.discoverlehighvalley.com/event/dam-release-whitewater-on-the-lehigh-river/50858/>

Saturday-Sunday, July 21-22

Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29

Saturday-Sunday, August 4-5,

Saturday-Sunday, August 11-12

Saturday-Sunday, August 18-19

Saturday-Sunday, August 25-26

Saturday-Sunday, September 1-2

Savage www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/northBranch.html

Saturday, September 29

Stonycreek <https://benscreekcanooclub.com/quemahoning-releases/>

Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29

Saturday-Sunday, August 11-12

Saturday-Sunday, August 25-26

Saturday-Sunday, September 8-9

GEAR

For Those Who Have Everything: An Origami Kayak!

The founders of Oru Kayak crowdsourced the development of a folding kayak made of corrugated plastic. It became the Oru Bay Sport Touring (ST) Model, which was recently updated. The 12 foot craft comes in a package that is about the size of a couch cushion and can be put-together approximately 20,000 times. It can be assembled in five minutes after some practice with the integrated zipper/clip system. The load capacity is 300 pounds. It weighs about 27 pounds without other rigging. The boat has an integrated bulkhead, an adjustable foot rest, an adjustable back rest, and a cockpit that fits medium size spray skirts. Cost ~\$1600. The boats are carried by the regional REI stores.

<https://www.orukayak.com/collections/kayaks>

<https://www.orukayak.com/pages/dealer-locator>

[Boating Maps; GPS Isn't Everything: Part 1](#)

John Duke is a long-time open boater and local with an extensive history in the survey business. He has started a business in map-making that is focused on paddler needs. He has a master map for Virginia (west of I-95) and West Virginia for all public lakes, all streams that drain at least 30 square miles of territory, and select, small “steep creeks. The 24” by 36” map is printed on heavy duty paper and costs \$17 with shipping. He currently accepts only cash or check payment. Contact: dukejohn999@comcast.net.

www.dukesmaps.com

<https://www.globuya.com/US/Myersville/574753386043015/Duke%27s-Maps>

[Boating Maps; GPS Isn't Everything: Part 2--Aaron Otte](#)

Aaron Otter (aaronreston@comcast.net [preferred route to keep track of requests] or 703-796-6060), club member, paddler and fisherman, is having a professional map maker, Kyle Bower, put four states, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, on a single, 3' by 4' map. The map will feature only state lines, highways, towns, and rivers. The focus is rivers the size of “Passage Creek” and larger and will emphasize river--especially those suitable for paddling, float trips, and fishing. As such, this is not intended for extreme creekers. The cost for a single map will be \$230. The cost per map for 10 buyers will be \$110. He has nine takers so far—**so if you are interested, contact him. Of note, he will be paddling much of July.**

For more information on Kyle Bower (10 First Street, Wellsboro, PA 6901; 570-724-7355; FAX 570-724-7394) and his work, see:

www.MarketMAPS.com

www.mapsales.com

[Guidebooks](#)

Ed Gertler has three regional guidebooks for sale: Delaware and Maryland Canoe Trails, Garden State Canoeing, and Keystone Canoeing. To remain a credible author, Ed paddles every river in his book! Expect to pay about \$20—depending on the route of purchase.

<https://paddlersguides.wordpress.com/seneca-press/>

<https://paddlersguides.wordpress.com/purchase-locally/>

<https://paddlersguides.wordpress.com/purchase-online/>

[HOUSE CLEANING: MEMBER EQUIPMENT FOR SWAP OR SALE](#)

- MISCELLANEOUS: Rick and Wendy are moving. If you think, Rick might have some gear you might want, give him a call (brvkoller@gmail.com) ASAP.
- KAYAK: Wave Sport X playboat. Fair to Good condition. \$300. Virginia del Rosario (ginydelr@yahoo.com)
- KAYAK: Red BlissStick RAD 185 playboat. Good condition. \$350. Gus Anderson
- KAYAK: Slate River tandem Nyami Nyami kayak with bags/pillars. Limited use. Protected from UV light. \$600. Beth Koller.

- CANOE: Mohawk “12II” solo whitewater/play boat OC-1 with two airbags. ABS/Royalex. Pedestal saddle with quick-release thigh straps. Stored in shade. No major incidents. Light for carrying. \$795 firm. Ron Knipling.
- CANOE: Caption tandem with wood gunwales. More sporty than the workhorse Dimension. Stored indoors. \$1000 (or call). Dean Geis.
- RUBBER MAT with rim for the back of a Subaru Outback. \$25. Beth Koller
- PADDLE: Lightning Gradient. Right fix. 197 cm. Used 10 days. \$80. Jim Pruitt.

FEATURE ARTICLE Rescue Priorities—Charlie Duffy

Introduction

Much has changed in rescue techniques over the years from the old Boy Scout “RETHROG” protocol. For those unfamiliar with “RETHROG”, it’s a clever acronym for rescue priorities:

- **RE** – Reach
- **TH** – Throw
- **RO** – Row (or Paddle)
- **GO** – Go, make contact

Current thinking emphasizes hands-on-contact and greatly reduced time-to-contact (RO & GO). Although physically going to the victim may increase risk for the rescuer, it opens up a world of capabilities and sure does give the victim a greater sense of security. Paddling skills and equipment have improved tremendously over the years, and training classes are frequently offered by both commercial and paddling groups. Whitewater paddlers are very comfortable gaining access via their boats, but it’s the last couple of yards that may be a tad challenging.

Comfort with Moving Water

If you haven’t taken a Swift Water Rescue class recently, I strongly encourage you to do so. A major part of these courses is developing water comfort skills so you can confidently **paddle, swim, or wade to a victim--the final few yards.**

Once contact is made, you can:

- Communicate and build their confidence--help has arrived!
- Stabilize the victim, and, most important, ensure an adequate airway
- Develop a more refined plan for rescue--you have eyes on the situation
- Contingency planning--What if the original plan fails in some way? Perhaps a tag line on the boat may minimize a shifting load.
- Request additional assistance if warranted
- Extraction

All of these options are possible if you are able to get someone out to the victim. Doing that requires being able to navigate comfortably in fast-moving water. The confidence only comes through training and practice.

Continuous Monitoring

Rescue situations are stressful and often full of surprises. I like the acronym (TPA):

- **Think** (Assess)
- **Plan**
- **Act**

You need to do this on a continuous basis as conditions change during rescues.

For example, →unstable victims may become heads down

→swimmers may get stuck in holes

(flush drowning is a top cause of fatalities for experienced boaters), and

→access and what's required may look very different when you make contact

Some rescue life-cycle events for which we go through the above steps are:

- Initiation (on land or water)
- Point of contact
- Stabilization
- Extraction
- First Aid (how current is your training?)
- Assisted Transport if necessary

Conclusion

Yes, your personal safety as well as the safety of your party are the first and second priorities.

As a rescuer, **you need to know your skills and comfort level.**

Training and practice greatly increase your options in a rescue situation.

Boxing out (site preparation) helps reduce additional issues and puts your team in a position to better respond to changing conditions.

Having the right tools available --preferably on-person greatly reduces Time-to-Recovery.

Hands-on rescues, where possible, save lives.

CONSERVATION

Happy Birthday to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

This is the 50th birthday of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which protects undammed rivers along with their canyon corridors or their key valley land. The effort was started by Frank and John Craighead, wildlife biologists, in response to a proposed Spruce Park Dam that would impact Montana's Flathead water system, one of the wildest rivers in the state. The brothers were troubled by the degradation that they had observed while paddling and rafting rivers in the east--including the Potomac.

The twin brothers were able convince Secretary Udall of the merit of such river protection despite the wave of dam construction and Udall's own prior support of dam construction while a

Congressperson from Arizona. The proposal received almost unanimous congressional support-- with no dissenting votes in the Senate and only seven dissenting votes in the House. President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the bill (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) into law on October 2, 1968.

“It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.”

The designated river systems initially included the Clearwater (Lochsa and Selway), Eleven Point, Feather, Rio Grande, Rogue, Saint Croix, Salmon, and Wolf Rivers. (The Flathead system was not included until many years later.) Currently, there are over 200 rivers with “wild” or “scenic” designations.

- <https://www.rivers.gov/wsr-act.php>
- <https://www.rivers.gov/designation.php>
- <https://www.rivers.gov/national-system.php>
- <https://www.rivers.gov/map.php>
- <https://www.rivers.gov/act.php>

[ACCESS](#)

[American Whitewater at Work for Us](#)

The National Stewardship Director of American Whitewater, Kevin Colburn, has submitted a letter to the National Park Service in response to an Executive Order asking for ideas on how to expand access to Park Service lands and waters. AW highlighted the Harpers Ferry Parklands.

Access issues for paddlers have been on the rise. American Whitewater is one of your best advocates. **When your paddling club is an affiliate member of American Whitewater** (at the cost of \$100 or more (<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Affiliate/view/>), **you can purchase an AW membership at a discount.** The standard individual membership price is \$35, but the affiliate individual member price is \$25. (<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-aw/>)

[Remington Section of the Rappahannock](#)

The eagle eyes of Wes Mills caught the following notice regarding Rappahanock access: http://www.fauquiernow.com/index.php/fauquier_news/article/fauquier-rappahannock-river-public-access-plan-moves-forward-2018

Fauquier County could get another public boat access point for the Rappahannock River. Currently there is access just south of Kelly’s Ford Bridge. The new access would be about five miles upstream and would provide a put-in for the Remington section. It would be located just south of Business Route 29. There would be parking for about 10 to 12 vehicles. It would serve

paddlers and those using the trailhead and planned park (adjoining the Rappahannock Station Battlefield). Improvements would include a small building.

The access would involve a convoluted purchase plan. The County and the American Battlefield Trust will set aside monies for the acquisition of the Marshall home and land (0.7 acre) (\$455,000 with additional monies set aside for capital improvements). The Trust will purchase the land and transfer it to the County, where it will be placed under a conservation easement.

A similar plan will be employed to acquire the Helflin property (2.8 acres), which is on the north side of the road.

The County owns property on the south side of the road. The right-of-way will create a link to Willis Avenue and River Road (off of Business Route 15 in town). The Virginia Department of Transportation has right of way for direct river access. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will develop the parcels and launch site. **Supervisor Chris Butler, whose Lee District includes Remington, may seek donations from paddlers.**

Seneca Creek Tree Removal

Rumor has it that there are four trees down on this creek and that, with the low water flow, a crew went in to remove the offending deadfall with chainsaws on Sunday, July 15. Kudos!!!

BOATING TRIVIA

1-4--Name the States/Districts in the mid-Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV) with Wild and/or Scenic Rivers. **40 POINTS**

5-8--Name the Wild and/or Scenic Rivers in Pennsylvania. **40 POINTS**

9--Name the Wild and/or Scenic River that Pennsylvania shares with another State. **10 POINTS**

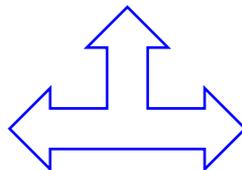
10—Provide the date when the Flathead Rivers were designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers. **10 POINTS**

HUMOR

Top Five Ways to Screw Up a Shuttle

Of note, four of these were occurred during the most recent week of rivers. The other occurred in the same watershed area some years ago.

#5--Delivering a take-out car to the take-out for another (albeit nearby) river.



#4—Not recognizing the marsh loving plants in the location where the newly detailed vehicle was parked and having the vehicle sink into the mud up to the hubcaps as the other shuttle vehicles sped off towards the take-out.



#3—Missing the turn for U.S. 219 South in Thomas and being so far ahead of the other vehicle that the driver of the other vehicle did not know if the lead driver had made the turn to Parsons or not.



#2—Failing to wait at key intersections for the driver of the slowest vehicle (and the vehicle loaded with most of the boats).



#1—Having only two vehicles (fully packed for efficiency) on a remote run and having the side walls of two tires on the put-in vehicle slashed. Having a way to load all the boats on one vehicle in a way that defied physics, but not having room for paddlers and gear.



Loading six boats with string & chewing gum



Arriving safely after going over the mountain

Thankfully for #4 and #1, we received terrific help from the locals. (It helps when the tire you need is for an F-150 and when the son of the landowner at the take-out hauls four paddlers and gear back to the put-in.)

For the other mishaps, they become subject of stories told and lessons learned. We will be sporting T-shirts that say “**Remember to wait for John!**”.

TRIP REPORTS

The Cacapon: A Return in May

The return to the Cacapon over the Memorial Day weekend brought more greenery than the trip a month earlier. Despite the absorptive plant life, water cascaded off the hillsides—perhaps because of the persistent and repeated periods of rainfall that month. Water levels exceeded 1000 cfs. (See the correction factors in the prior issue.)



Water cascading everywhere!!!

There were many places to eddy out, float sideways, and surf in the first half of the run. There were four substantive ledges in the last half at this water level. The river was a PFD for some-- and fun because there was plenty of water without the frigid cold of early Spring or late Fall.



Barb marks the route with a surf



Virginia happy to be on the river



Barb and Ken peel out downstream



Ken surfs



Roots bared by the recent flooding



Prime real estate



Ken does a roll



Virginia does a roll



In one of many wave trains



Carrie picking her route



High noon eddy gathering



Playing at the weeping rock



Virginia getting pelted with cascading spring water (Barb B. photo)



Not a mystery move. Just the last ledge.



Barb gets in yet one more surf

[The “Tuck” Tuckaseegee Gorge](#)

The Tuck is a river located about 15 to 30 minutes away from the Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground, which is where the Carolina Canoe Club holds its annual week of rivers. The Town Tuck section passes through Bryson City and is the closest. The Gorge is in Dillsboro. There is a standard put-in right in town. The removal of a dam just upstream recently added a Class 3 drop immediately after a new put-in. There are also easier sections above and below the gorge.

The Tuck is often the first trip for many participants during the week of rivers. It is close and relatively short--key factors after a long drive. The water is mercifully warmer than the also nearby Nantahala. It also is a good way to meet folks and size up other paddlers for future trips.

For this late June run in 2017, the club had a formal trip leader for a huge flock of paddlers. The first rapids was called “Motel Rapids”, aptly named for the motel on river right. The river is relatively broad at this point, but there are numerous low ledges that are very typical of the geology here. Much bow surfing is done in the ledges, and many ferries are done in the wave trains between lateral ledges. The trip organizers initially make many stops to provide “river tips”.

The river starts to neck down and become steeper about the time you are ready to pose for the TuckShots.com photographer (C-1 paddler Barry Kennon). The double-pitched drop can be run on the river left side of the hole. At higher water levels, there is also a tricky route to the left of the large rock and to right of the hole. There is a sneak route to the right of the big rock as well.

The next three miles provide longer waves trains with more gradient and eddies in the stepped gradient. Some river right channels are less well traveled and provide a technical work-out. About a mile from the Barker take-out, as you go around a bend, there is a wide surfing wave that provides great entertainment—especially for skilled tandem boaters.

Smoky Mountain River Adventures(<https://smokymountainriveradventures.com/2017/05/5-things-know-tuckaseege-river/>) is particularly helpful if you need them to run a shuttle.

Ice cream is available several hundred yards east on US 74 at the Sweet Spot. Mmmmmm.....



The pack, led by the “tipster”, heads down



I’m ready!!!



Riverside tips



Lee Belknap and daughter Elizabeth



Lean downstream



Remain focused



More tips. More time to stretch. How far down is the next tips session?



Texas smile



Still smiling



Dave dancing on the waves



Flowerchild of the river



Eliot, CCC WOR swagmeister, surfs



Eliot now ready to leave the hole



Take the plunge



Elizabeth in a wave train



Busting through the waves



Entering the wave trains on the lower half



Exploring side channels



Closing it out with a surf

We Had a Ball on the Dry Fork—Literally

We had a two-pronged paddle plan. If the Gladys had enough water, we would run there. The fall back would be a Dry Fork run. If there was a split decision, the shuttle could be run so as to leave one or more vehicles at the common take-out. Barb Brown was hot to paddle the Gladys. Beth Koller looked at the river stones above the put-in bridge and thought they should be completely covered for a non-molar grinding run. Barb managed to cajole Lisa Weed and Gus Anderson into joining her. The rest of us opted for the Dry Fork. As we waved them off, John Snitzer called out “It’s the most water you are going to see all day”. And so we proceeded to the Dry Fork put-in at the Laurel Fork take-out. There were numerous play spots that kept us busy. Then we came upon “the ball”, a slightly deflated blue yoga ball. It provided additional entertainment for several miles until the end of the run.



Early rapids and cliff formations



Ron Fisher dives into a hydraulic



Ron side surfs in said hydraulic



John gets in some warm up strokes



Ron bows surfs



Brenda Benner look'in good in purple



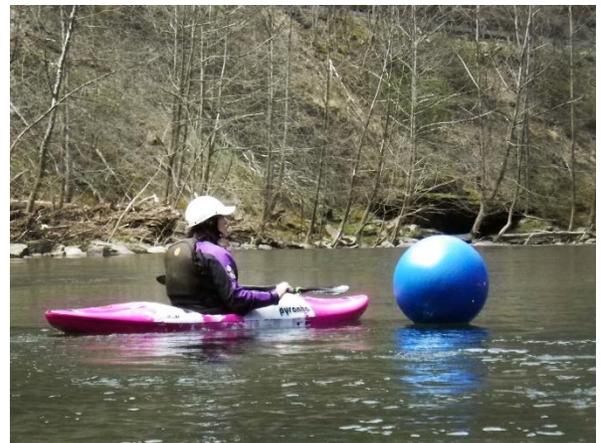
Carrie Singer in her Axiom



Carrie in one of the longer wave trains



We dribbled and pushed the ball



Aren't we river partners?



No, you belong to me



Follow me; this way...



I can surf by myself, see...



Zen: Ron at one with ball



Almost at the finish



At the Gladly/Dry Fork confluence



John ready for an apres boating cocktail

MEET YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBER

Carrie Singer



1--How long ago did you start paddling?

I started 35 years ago.

2--What got you into paddling?

An article in an American Airlines magazine discussed kayaking the Salmon River. I was hooked.

3—What kinds of boats do you paddle?

I started out in a fiberglass “Slipper” and then paddled in a “Corsica S”, a “Pirouette”, and a “Whip-it”. Currently I paddle an Axiom and a Diesel 60.

I have canoed. I have also sea kayaked in the San Juan Islands (U.S.) and in the Pacific Rim National Park (Canada), which is off Vancouver Island, to the west. A trawler drops you off at a dock on the eastern most island and comes back every few days to pick you up at same spot at 10 A.M. Better not miss it, or you will wait another two days. The area is patrolled by park police in zodiacs. No motor boats are otherwise allowed. Once the drop-off and returning crowds disperse or load up, you pretty much have the place to yourself. The drop-off island is mostly leeward. There are 13 islands so you can eventually make it to open ocean. You must bring your own supplies. You can fish for dinner, beach comb, and paddle—so idyllic.

4—In how many states and countries have you paddled?

I have paddled in usual East Coast states. Outside of the U.S., I have paddled in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Mexico.

5—What is your favorite river and why?

I like the Lower Yough because you can use it to step up your game. You can practice Class 4 moves on a Class 3 river. I also really have come to appreciate the Shenandoah. It is always changing. It offers great surfing opportunities.

6--Tell us about Wilson Creek, which you ran in 2017.

It was a three hour adrenaline rush. The trip was conducted under the tutelage of two instructors from the Charlotte Whitewater Center. The goal was to use rocks to get you places on the river. "Rocks are your friends". (See the map in <http://explorecaldwell.com/kayaking>.)

7--Tell us about your 2017 trips to Valley Falls.

There was no organized teaching by the clubs of which I was a member (Three Rivers does do formal teaching there.), but there were many clubs/club members there, who handled safety and set up ropes at the bottom. There was a lot of learning by watching the person ahead of you.

Of the variety of falls there, I ran the first two on the left.

I learned to keep the nose of my boat up and to go straight off the lip of the drop with enough speed to avoid being pulled back into the curtain. I also learned the importance of being ready to brace on landing.

The park maintenance person asked me if I had seen that white-haired, old lady running the falls. Of course, it was me. Hmmm...

8-Any epic swims?

I love waterfalls, but I had a challenging run at Valley Falls and was underwater for a while. Some Team River Runner folks helped me out and stayed with me until I could catch my breath and get back in my boat. The experience is making me think twice about returning.

9--Are there any trips on your bucket list?

Although, I have rafted the Grand Canyon, I would like to paddle it. I would also like to kayak the Salmon, the river that started it all for me.

10—To how many clubs do you belong?

The GBCKC, the BRV, the CCA, and the MDCC

11--How long have you been a member of the BRV?

Thirty five years with a few gaps.

12--What do you like most about paddling?

I like being outside in nature, watching the little ducklings surf the waves, coming around a bend and startling a blue heron that takes off in flight just in front of you, and other types of nature-based encounters. I call the river my temple. I like being with the paddling community, which is so supportive and provides friendship and is totally non-judgmental as to who you are or what your station in life is. Everyone is equally important on the river.



PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT

Trip Reports in the Pipeline

We are looking forward to some interesting trip reports. Court Ogilvie has promised us a report on the fun and excitement of a recent Conway River trip as well as comments on a new type of paddle craft that he is testing in anticipation of use for some of his expeditions. There will be a report on the excitement at Radio Tower Rapids on the lower Nolichucky as well as a description of a run on Chattahoochee (yup, the same river that was the subject of the song sung by Jeannie C. Riley, Harper Valley PTA [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOZPBuU7Fro>]). Last year, Ed Evangelidi scouted out Section 6 of the French Broad. We will have a report of a recent run there when the water levels exceeded 2000 cfs. We are also expecting some Lehigh write-ups.

If you have idea for a story or article, take a stab at it. The editor will work with you. *Please have submissions for the next newsletter ready in the next three weeks.*

Programs in Progress

Mac Thornton is working on a program on paddling in Alaska. We are in the process of getting a video entitled “Bad Idea Theater”. You will need to wait and see! We are also looking at some of the videos developed for the anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

If you know someone who would be a good speaker, consider inviting them. The meeting dates can be adjusted to accommodate them.

New Logo

Mike Martin (webmaster) did a lot of legwork and arranged for the design of a **new club logo**. He also had some stickers for boats and cars printed up. There are still a few free giveaway stickers. The next batch will be available at a nominal cost. Be sure to thank Mike for his efforts and to use your logo stickers on your vehicles and equipment to tout the BRV.



Dues

The dues for 2018 are \$10. They may be sent directly to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851) or paid directly at the meeting. Please complete your member roster information regardless of the payment route used. **We would like to have a more complete set of renewal memberships before we finish and distribute the roster.**

Webpage

Mike Martin is looking for photos for the webpage. Help him make us look good.

Facebook

Frank Fico is looking for participation on the Facebook page. He has structured it so that it is a good way of communicating between club members in setting up activities and reporting on trips.

Trips

Consider what kind of trip/event you might be able co-ordinate. There are some great upcoming family trips that combine several activities and trips that involve paddling in swamps/marshes. There have been requests for easy cold weather trips, warm-up early season events, relaxed scenery trips, and trips for families (which may involve water soakers). Check out the dates of the festivals and releases. Consider putting together a meeting program or organizing a mini-film festival.

The club is about fun and camaraderie.

It can't happen without YOU!!!

BRV MEMBERSHIP/ROSTER INFORMATION

Name/Spouse Name:

Address:

Phone: home: work: cell:

E-mail address(es) (in order of preference or marked by location work vs personal):

Preferred Boat: K-1 C-1 OC-1 K-2 C-2 OC-2 Inflatable kayak Shredder Raft
Other(s):

Other boat types used: K-1 C-1 OC-1 K-2 C-2 OC-2 Inflatable kayak Shredder Raft
Sea kayak Stand-up paddleboard Sit-atop kayak Other(s):

Preferred boating difficulty level(s) WW grade range: (perhaps by boat type): Flatwater (under what circumstances):

Other types of boating aspects: Cold weather paddling Canoe camping trips Extended trips
Family boating Play boating Racing Removal of safety hazards-gauge painting River
conservation activities Safety clinics Boating for service activities (e.g., safety support for
races/ triathlons, teaching) Other(s):

Availability for weekday paddling: Yes No If yes, times/days:

Other activities that you might participate in during longer trips or with low water or cold
conditions: Biking Hiking Skiing (DH) Skiing (XC) Other(s):

Willingness to lead a trip or clinic (can include limits as to type or location of trip): Other ways
in which you are helping BRV (or another club): Officer/Board member Newsletter
contributor Photos for web Program presentation Social activities Trip solicitation
Other(s):

Ways in which you could help BRV: Officer/Board member Newsletter contributor Photos
for web Program presentation Social activities Trip solicitation Other(s):

Membership in other clubs Benscreek CCA Conowingo Carolina Coastals Greater
Baltimore Mason-Dixon Keelhaulers Monocacy TSRA 3-Rivers Other(s):

QUICK TRIP REPORT

Trip date(s): _____

Trip destination(s): _____

Trip participants: _____

Water levels/gauge readings: _____

Any access or safety issues: _____

Notable aspects on or off the river: _____

Photos available: _____

Can be submitted to newsletter editor electronically (brvnewsletter [at] earthlink.net) or via mail PO Box 9513 Silver Spring, MD 20916

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