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The heat! For relief, head out to paddle on the water and co-ordinate a trip while you are at it. We are looking for someone to help as a trip wrangler. There are a number of trip opportunities:

- Pennyfield Lock has been rewatered so that the Violette's Lock run can be completed as a loop. Alf Cooley has been monitoring this process over the past few months. Thank you, Alf!
- Bob Whiting has gone through the machinations to facilitate access to runs in the Harpers Ferry area. Thank you, Bob! (The club had to pony-up some funds and a current club roster for this so make sure that you are current with your dues, \$10 per calendar year starting January 1. Send your dues to Ginny DeSeau [1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851].)
- The Potomac River Keepers have a number of on-the-water Riverpalooza activities. Check the river activities section in the newsletter. (Dean Naujoks, the river keeper for the lower Potomac, is a club member and was a speaker at a meeting!)
- The Three Rivers Paddling Club will run a waterfall clinic at the Tygart's Valley Falls (in the State Park) on Sunday, August 18. It is open to all.

Our vice-president, Mark Wray, aka the party master, has set the date for the moonlight picnic: Saturday, August 17. Whether we will be paddling from Violette's Lock to a beach on the Virginia shore or whether we will be hanging out at Mike and Daryl's awesome Poolesville home--perhaps with an après party paddle has not yet been determined.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 24 at 7 PM sharp.

- Nature Conservancy scientist, Deborah Landau, will talk about some of their area preserves that would be of interest to paddlers, e.g., Sideling Hill and Nassawango Cypress Swamp.
- Cindy Rogers will have a short slide show on her Spring trip to Okefenokee swamp.
- Bloede Dam on the Patapsco has been removed, and we will see a slide of how the new rapids there are evolving.

Please be on time for the meeting and even come a little early to help set-up. For our new members, club meetings are held at the Clara Barton Recreation Center—located at 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, Ste. 151 in Cabin John, MD just off the beltway and are followed by beer and pizza at Ledo's in Bethesda.

There have been some milestones:

- With sadness, we note the passing of Brad Reardon, purveyor of paddling gear (including OC-1 gear) and owner of the SpringRiver shop in Rockville, and Steve Marchi, a Front Royal paddler with whom we spent much time on the Cheat and at Teeter's Campground.
- Dave Brown, long-time BRVer and mentor to many, had a fall and is looking for visitors while he is regaining some strength during residential rehab. Phone 240-660-8093.
- Rusty Dowling celebrated her birthday, 90+ years!

Take a stab at the trivia questions. Learn more about the International Whitewater Hall of Fame (<http://iwhof.org/>) and paddling history, which were discussed by Risa Shimoda in May.

SYOTR.... *Rick Koller*

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MEETINGS

July Meeting

The Summer meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 24 at 7 PM**. There will be several parts to the meeting:

- Deborah Landau from the Maryland Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will talk about regional Conservancy preserves that might be of interest to paddlers, e.g., Sideling Hill Creek runs right along one of the preserves, Nassawango is a canoeable swamp with bald cypress and black gum trees, and Cranesville Swamp with its unique frost pocket is close to many of the rivers we paddle in the Cheat and Yough basins.
- New member, Cindy Rogers, will talk about her recent trip to Okefenokee Swamp. Learn about how to plan a trip there--from logistics and permits to weather issues, navigation, and equipment requirements, e.g., portage gear. See beautiful scenery. Learn all about ALLIGATORS!
- We will also have a brief slide show on rapids created by the removal of the Bloede Dam on the Patapsco River.

Note Bene

- Craig Wolfe (301-461-7846/301-577-3075) is an aficionado of the all things Sideling Hill. He has run various sections at various water levels. Contact him about getting on an interest list.
- Dave Cooke (410-461-0674, 410-948-8882, sixcookess [at] gmail.com) lives in Ellicott City and runs the Patapsco frequently. Contact him about getting on an interest list.

Upcoming Meetings

We have some tentative plans for programs for upcoming meetings including a Congo paddling trip and movies from the National Paddling Film Festival.

In addition, we are always looking for good programs and can help you put your images into a format for display, e.g., PowerPoint or Proshow Gold. We also could use a program wrangler and/or a person to take charge of/serve as back-up for care of the AV equipment.

EVENTS

Annual Summer Moonlight Picnic

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 17. The exact time has yet to be determined.

- Alternative 1 is the traditional evening paddle from Violette's Lock to the GW Canal area with a return via the newly rewatered C&O canal.
- Alternative 2 is a get-together at Daryl and Mike Martin's house. This may be preceded by an ancillary paddle trip.

The availability of the river space in the security zone will be a consideration.

Mark Wray (703-675-9493) will send out a listing of items to bring based on the letter of your last name. Bring enough of that item to serve eight. Expect to pay \$5 to \$10 for the cutlery, cups, plates, drinks, and chicken. If there is a river crossing, bring a light source and something with which to attach it to your boat. Open boats are needed to carry coolers and other gear.

Trips/Festivals

July 20 Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM Paddling the Mattawoman Creek and Learning about the

Indigenous Peoples. The trip leader is Dean Najoks who is the lower Potomac River Keeper and a BRV member (336-809-604; dean [at] potomacriverkeeper.org). Members of the Piscataway Kanoi Tribe will give a cultural history talk, which will be followed by more information on the area's cultural resources during the paddle. The Mattawoman Creek Education Center will also be open for visitation. A trip waiver must be signed. If you bring your own boat, there is a \$35 fee along with a launch fee.

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/riverpalooza-2019/>

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event=riverpalooza-2019-piscataway-paddle>

July 21 Sunday morning Surfing and ferrying at the Virginia Chute. Gus Anderson (debbygus [at] aol.com) is willing to coordinate. Contact him for details.

July 21 Sunday 12 Noon to 6 PM RioPalooza: A celebration of the Shenandoah River and Latino Conservation Week.

The event will take place at Stonewall Riverside Park, Merck Pavilion, Ore Wash Rd, Elkton, VA 22827. There will be tubing, paddling snorkeling, fishing, music, food, and an opportunity to learn about "Buffalo Soldiers". The trip leader is Mark Frondorf (571-969-0746; mark [at] shenandoahriverkeeper.org). The suggested donation is \$20.

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/riverpalooza-2019/>

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event=riopalooza-2019-english>

July 27 Saturday Dealer's Choice-Class 2/low 3. Likely lower Antietam or Needles unless there is rain. Make inquiries by Wednesday and finalize by Thursday evening. Beth 240-506-0417.

August 3-4 Saturday-Sunday 8 AM to 5 PM Swift water rescue class. Need to bring all personal boating equipment and a throw rope. Bring lunch. Meet at Lock 5. Sponsored by CCA. Nominal fees. Contact Ron Ray (410-884-6719; instruction [at] canoecruisers.org).

August 10 Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM Smith River Fest. This is a community event on and near the river in Axton, VA. There are boat races by class. There are boat shuttles.

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

<https://www.visitmartinsville.com/smith-river-boat-race>

<https://www.facebook.com/SmithRiverFest>

<https://www.everfest.com/e/smith-river-fest-axton-va>

August 16 Friday 9 AM Monuments Paddle with Potomac River Keepers. This is part of

River Palooza. This is rescheduled rain date. The meeting place is the Columbia Island Marina.

The trip leader is Dean Najoks who is the lower Potomac River Keeper and a BRV member (336-809-604; dean [at] potomacriverkeeper.org). You must bring the signed REI and National Park Service waivers. Forms can be obtained at the website. The limit is 24 people.

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/riverpalooza-2019/>

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event=riverpalooza-2019-monuments-memorial>

August 18 Sunday Waterfall Clinic at Valley Falls. Sponsored by the Three Rivers Paddling Club, but open to all. Instruction will begin between 8 and 9 AM. There will be a land talk along with

scouting of the various drops. Paddlers are expected to serve as safety boaters for others. Beth will be there to photograph.

August 24 Saturday Bloomington Run (Dependent on a variable release). Joint club trip. Alf Cooley (703-442-7935) and Zofia Kosim.

August 25 Sunday North Branch of the Potomac (Keyser to Pinto). Joint Club Trip. Alf Cooley (703-442-7935) and Katherine Mull.

Releases

Lehigh: July 20-21, 27-28, August 3-4, 10-11, 24-25, 31

New River Dries (Class 3+) July 20

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/id/34159/>

North Branch of the Potomac: August 24-25 (Variable release may be OK for paddling)

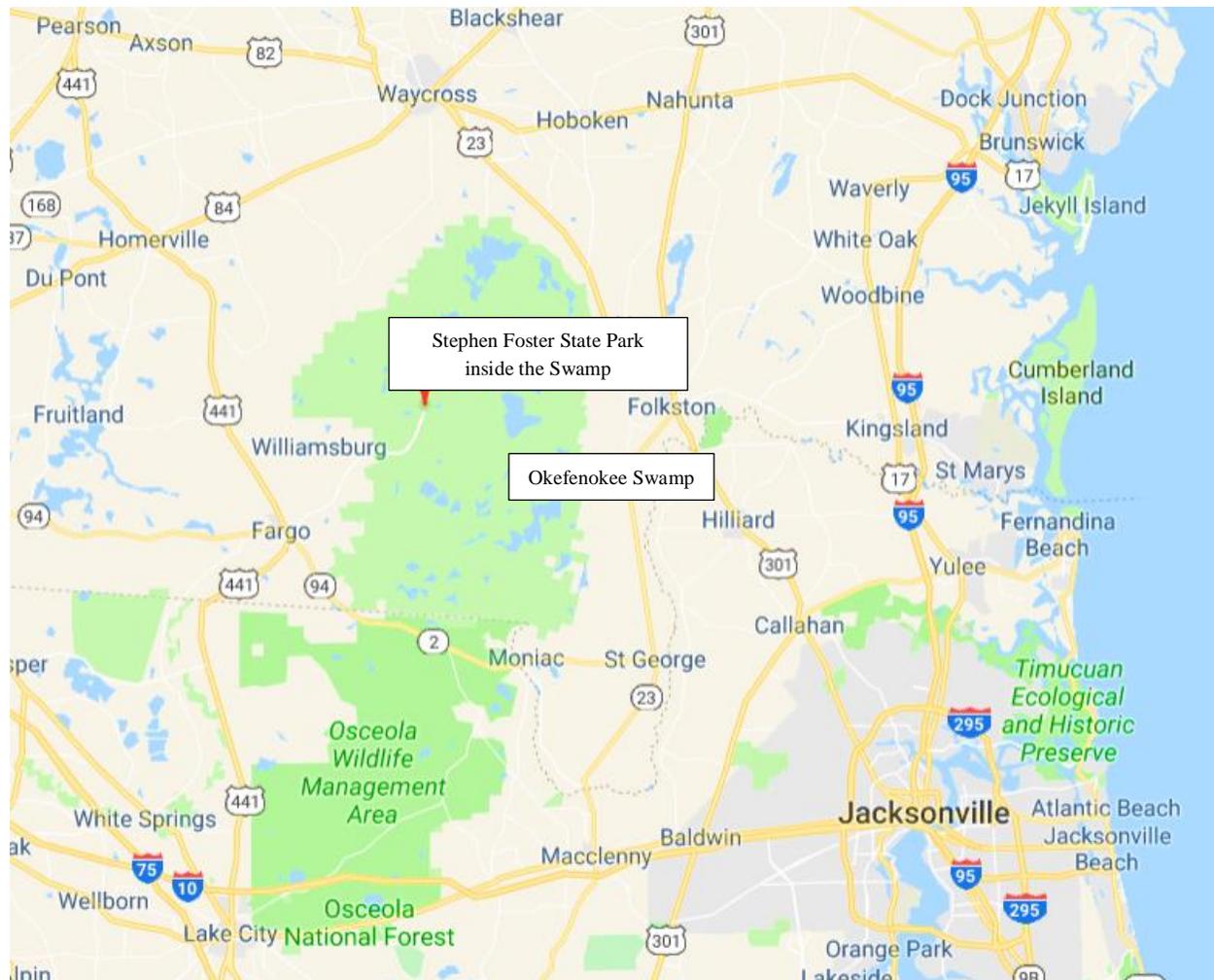
<http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/northBranch.html>

Stonycreek July 27-28, August 10-11, 24-25

FEATURE ARTICLE

Multi-day Spring Adventure in Okefenokee Swamp—Cindy Rogers (new member)

Dick, Gail, Terry, and Cindy headed south mid-April to paddle the Okefenokee swamp in southern Georgia.



Okefenokee is the largest black water swamp in North America and is known as one of the seven natural wonders of Georgia. The swamp starts below Waycross, GA and continues into northern Florida. The swamp is 438,000 acres of peat-filled wetlands straddling the Georgia-Florida line.

A little history of the swamp. The name "Okefenokee" was likely derived from the Hitchiti (Creek Native American) word for "trembling earth" or "bubbling water". These peat deposits shake and send up bubbles when one walks on them. The vegetation decay resembles black tea or coffee.

For about 25 years, beginning in 1910, the swamp was logged for its very old cypress, redbay, and pine trees. The U.S. government then purchased the swamp in 1937. By executive order, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Okefenokee swamp as a wildlife refuge. The swamp was designated as a national landmark in 1974.

Our group arrived a day before launching our boats. We rented a cabin at Stephen Foster State Park. It's located within a national wildlife refuge in Fargo, GA to the west. Terry and Cindy drove down to the Sill Canal and walked about one-half mile to the bridge where some women were fishing. They said that sometimes the gators snatch their fish. This area is home to some of the biggest gators in the southeast!

The following morning, we signed-in and launched our canoes by the required 10 AM time. We had to paddle about nine miles reach Floyd's Island for our first night at camp. We were facing strong winds heading up the Suwannee Canal (Suwanee Canel), but still able to get some good pictures of gators. It was mating season for everything, and you could hear the gators. They make this loud grunting noise. There are lots of gators on this stretch. A mile or two up, we reached our turn to Minnie's Lake. It very narrow with lots of lilies and Spanish moss flowing from cypress trees and turtles lined up on logs. Many people think the next ten miles stretch is the most beautiful part of the swamp. We paddled three more miles to reach our lunch spot at Minnie's Lake. We enjoyed our lunch while visiting with other boaters who were day trippers.

Terry and I then paddled ahead and ran into some other boaters. As we were chatting away, we passed our turn to Floyd's Island. We were heading towards Big Water! We went about a mile out of our way before we realized that we needed to turn around. In the meantime, Dick and Gail had turned onto the narrow canal to Floyd's Island with its beautiful canopy. About three miles in, they encountered a huge gator, 11 to 12 feet in length, on a sandy bank. The gator acted very aggressively by raising himself up on his front legs, licking his chops, and staring at Gail as if she was prey. After about three minutes of screaming, splashing water, and banging the canoe, he finally began exhibiting more normal alligator behavior and slid into the water. It was a very terrifying experiences for two very seasoned paddlers with more than 80 combined years of paddling in the swamp. About 45 minutes later, Terry and I turned into the narrow canal. Terry experienced some of the same gator activity and needed to splash and hit his canoe to move the gator along.

We finally arrived at Floyd's Island. We were all beat, but still needed to portage our boats and gear to the cabin and set up camp. The cabin had been hit hard by a storm, and a tree had taken down one of the back rooms. We set our tents up on the front and side porches.



A sign of things to come...



Some very open channels



Others with more vegetation



I've been waiting for you....



Paddling through the vegetation to the shelter



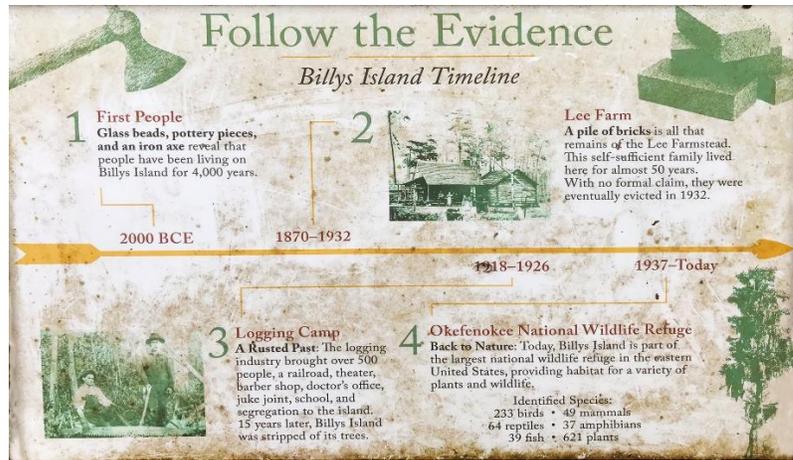
What's a portage amongst friends?



Beautiful scenery; open skies



Water transit & boardwalk transit



The history of the Lee family and Billy's Island



Early warning...



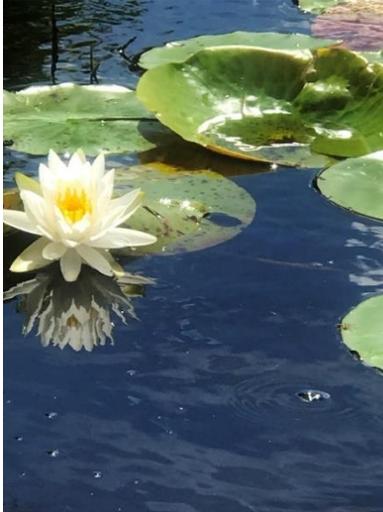
The infamous pit stop



Roadsigns yes, stoplights no



Parking zone



Fantastic flora



Sunset at your tent door

THE LITERATE PADDLER

The Life of a Grand Canyon Explorer—Gus Anderson

This first book review is about a relatively recent book that I was able to find at my local library, *“The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John Wesley Powell’s Perilous Journey and his Vision for the American West”* by John F. Ross. The book is not just about his trip through the Grand Canyon. He also had a perilous journey through life beginning with growing up on a dirt poor midwestern farm, educating himself, and dealing with the perilous politics of Washington, D.C. in Congress, the Geographic Survey and the Smithsonian Museum.

Powell realized after his trip down the Colorado and from his surveys of the American West that the area did not have enough water to support much of a population or agriculture. He also believed that the area should be organized by watershed with the control of the water in public hands. He fought for this vision all his life with little success, but he was more successful in promoting the preservation of native culture and artifacts, which he worked hard to do at the Smithsonian.

His life story is emblematic of the struggles on the American frontier to get an education and find success and of the struggles in American politics to promote good ideas in the face of greed and corruption. The book provides good insight into the history and politics of post-Civil War America as well as an exciting story about an historic river trip.

Unbelievable Runs of the Grand Canyon—Gus Anderson

The second review is of a 500 page book that took me months to read, but it was worth every minute of reading *“Powell to Power”* by Dock Marston as edited by Tom Martin. Each chapter of the book is about a separate trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

The first chapter is about a guy who started down the river with a friend on a log raft after being attacked by natives along the San Juan River. They had very few supplies and lost what they had on the river along with one of the two friends. The remaining person somehow made it to a

Mormon camp at Callville, downstream of the Grand Canyon, with a bad sunburn and not much else.

The second chapter is about Powell's trip titled "1869, The First, the Worst". This was a trip with so many mishaps that it is a wonder that they all did not die, but actually no one did. They tried hard to do so, however, by not wearing life jackets, wearing heavy boots, not knowing how to row a boat, and not knowing how to read the river. These missteps were compounded by the loss of most of their food and gear. *Does this sound like your first river trip?*

After this, there are 23 more chapters of different river trips. The early ones were mostly conducted as government geographic surveys. Later surveys were for railroads or dams. One such chapter titled "1928, Hyde and Go Seek" is about Bessie and Glen Hyde, who decided to take a honeymoon trip down through the Grand Canyon on a self-made sweep boat. This is a square boat with sweep oars at the front and back to move the boat left or right. They did not have life jackets, and their upright and intact boat was found gently floating in an eddy below Diamond Creek, the usual take-out for "modern" trips. No bodies were ever recovered, and the cause of their disappearance remains a mystery to this day.

Another chapter is titled "1937, The Man Who Went Alone" about a 28 year-old man from Oregon, Buzz Holmstrom, who decided to build his own boat out of planks cut from a cedar log and to run the Colorado River. He thought he had two companions, but they backed out at the last minute so he went alone. *Does that sound familiar?* He turned out to be an excellent boatman, and he was probably was the first to run all the rapids in the river without lining. He also led several other trips down the river.

One of the best chapters is titled "1938 to 1949, Petticoats". It is about the first women to participate in Grand Canyon river trips. These chapters are interesting because the women brought more sense and less bluster to the process of running the river, and they imposed more order and discipline to improve the functioning of the river groups.

These chapters are based on the newspaper accounts as well as various diaries and articles written by the participants. These took Dock Marston almost forty years to collect and Tom Martin and others years to edit. They did a wonderful job, and the final product is well worth reading.

GEAR **For Sale or Swap**

CANOE: Mohawk Probe 12 II (2003) for sale. Mohawk outfitting included. Boat stored inside. \$600. Jack Findling: cell: 703-628-8289, e-mail: jwfindling [at] msn.com.

CONDO: Studio unit that sleeps one to four persons and is at the base of Snowshoe Mountain Ski Resort (Slatyfork, WV). Has a full kitchen and bathroom. Renovations include new stainless kitchen appliances, new kitchen-dining area lighting, new living area carpeting, and a new TV. Perfect for skiers/snowboarders, white water kayakers, mountain bikers, and hikers. Close to the Greenbrier River and Trail, Scenic Route 150, the Williams, Cranberry and Cherry Rivers, and many hiking trails. Close to the Green Bank Observatory. Not a rental. Zofia Kosim: zkosim [at] verizon.net.

TRIP REPORTS

Anticipation of the Rapids behind Bloede Dam

The Patapsco has a number of paddling opportunities. The South branch is Class 1-2. The more reliable main stem that runs through Ellicott City is Class 2/low 3 at usual water levels. Bloede Dam was removed to facilitate upstream passage of American eels, herring, and shad. With the 2018-2019 removal of the dam (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8vUVG1KOzk>) and related debris, the main stem run can be extended a mile or more.

On an overcast Spring day, a hike by the river revealed previously submerged rapids. It is anticipated that the rocks will continue to move. Beaches will change as the valley sides are restored. River right is very steep and has significant gulches from erosion. River left is more open and has the flat Grist Mill Trail suitable for biking and hiking (and scouting). (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/fishpassage/bloede.aspx>)



The first rapid was channelized by the bridge



Big waves in the run-out of the last major drop

The Patapsco runs are rain dependent. Ellicott City-based Dave Cooke (410-461-0674/410-948-8882, [sixcookess \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:sixcookess@gmail.com)) could serve as a point person for water and trips. Potentially these could be weekend day trips and semi-regular mid-week evening trips. Get on the list if you are interested.

The Other Tuckasegee Runs

When you are boating for a week-plus, some down-time is in order. This could mean biking or hiking or playing Scrabble in camp. Another alternative during the Carolina Week of Rivers is to run an upper section of the Tuckasegee. Indeed there are two stretches (2.1 miles and 3.2 miles) above the standard put-in. These are close-by and with only the occasional paddler or angler. There are good put-in and take-out spots (Locust Creek, Webster, and C.J. Harris access points). And they are different than the old standby, the Town Tuck in Bryson City. Both these sections have continuous small ledges and chutes—with the more upstream section being somewhat easier. These sections also offer the potential for paddlers with novice skills to get some playing practice.

Events such as Week of Rivers offer advanced paddlers the opportunity to run challenging runs with local paddlers, but they also offer something else. A segment of participants come from far away and currently live in locations with limited whitewater opportunities. This group is anxious to see anything new and is often receptive to some skills development. A short, nearby run does not take up an entire day and permits the trip co-ordinator to pay-it-forward in the spirit of Week of Rivers.



A family affair, dad surfs



Granddad paddles



Granddaughter catches a wave



Approaching the Webster access for lunch



Zooming into the eddy!



Getting a face wash



High and dry here



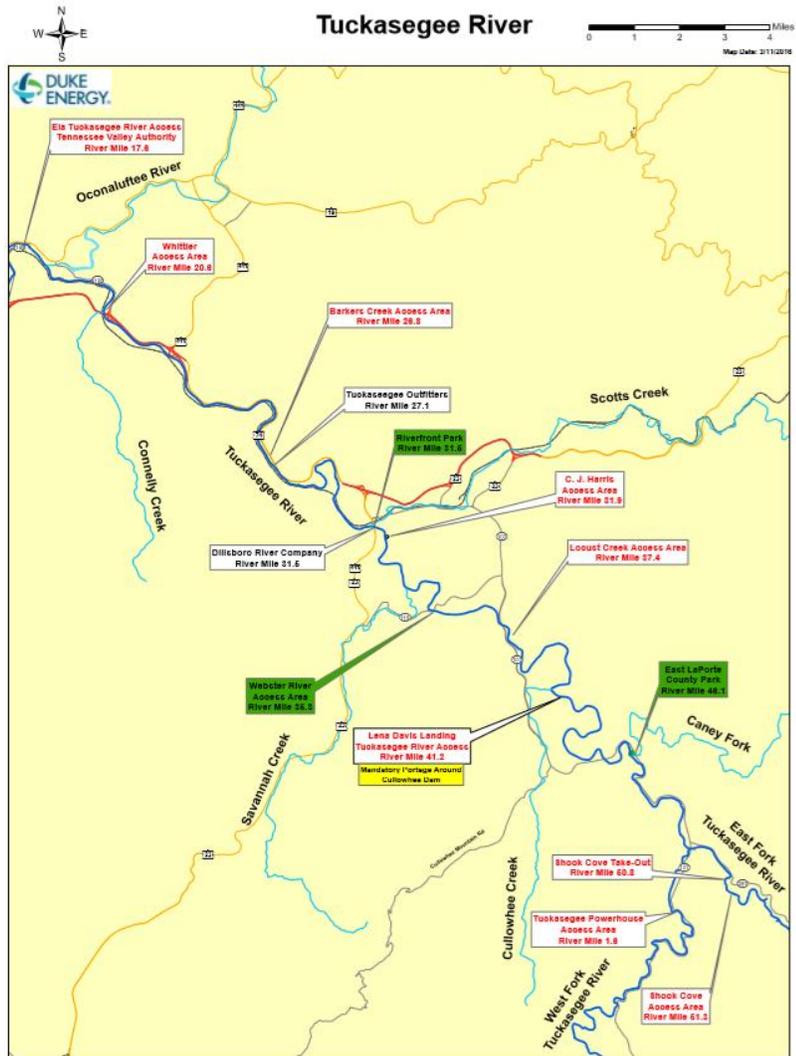
Make that ferry



Another surf near the end



Family bonding



Memorial Day Weekend on the North Branch of the Potomac

Mike Aronoff, Debbie Dolan, Beth Koller, Zofia Kosim, and Hendrick van Oss met early on Saturday, May 24 for a Bloomington run with a tandem IK, hard shell kayaks, and an open canoe. The river level was higher than usual—just below the 1200 cfs mark on the bridge. Everything was well padded. Some of the upper ledges had been transformed into chutes and waves. Indeed the downstream lunch spot was very limited in area because of the overgrowth (machetes needed!) and the high water level. Robin’s Nest offered a variety of routes, but did not yet have the exploding waves seen with another 300 cfs. Everyone took a different route. The far left channel required some quick maneuvering by the IK paddlers after a brief hang-up. Top-of-the-World was very bouncy with an extended wave train. There were some strainers downstream as described in the last newsletter. The new tree across three quarters of the wave train just below a ledge and a river right tributary presented the greatest hazard, but could be negotiated by the tandem IK paddlers. The day was made complete by an otter sighting at Blue Hole.



Painted gauge level just below 1200 cfs



On the way to Blue Hole



Zofia ready for lunch



Debbie capturing the fun on her 1st tandem trip



No room to sit at the play hole lunch stop beach



We are either undercover or need machetes



Mike getting positioned in the IK



Debbie falling into place



Zooming into the eddy below Top of the World



Going big in the huge wave train



Hendrick negotiating upper Top of the World



No, I will not take on water here!



Approaching the surf ledge; avoiding the tree



Zofia making a big splash

Memorial Day Weekend—Plan B

On Sunday, May 25, there was extended, pounding rain on the way to the Bloomington take-out whether one was coming from the west or the east. On arrival, we found the North Branch to be running at 1400 cfs. We were uncertain as to whether there would be additional water released and whether there would be significant run-off from side streams. After extensive discussions, five elected to return home. The remaining group was split into two. Zofia Kosim took John Finley and his son, JC, down the Bloomington run. Beth Koller, Dave Cooke, and Bob Maxey went to the Trough (Clover Lane put-in to the Trough General Store road take-out). (A closer alternative might have been the North Branch run from Bloomington down to Keyser, but there was uncertainty about the ease of portaging around the dam on river right at the Luke paper mill at this water level. The maintenance of the dam and the surrounding area is also uncertain given the announced closure of the mill.)



Bob prepared for a sunny day



Dave behind his Foster-Grants



Leafed out trees; very different in Spring



Into the Trough itself



Great reflections



Terrific geologic features



Even man's best friend...

The aforementioned rain had been heavy, but spotty. None of it was at the Trough. The water levels were at what we considered to the near minimum for running. The water features,

especially the big ledge near the start of the run, were much more defined than during the 2018 WV Week of Rivers Spring run. (See the prior newsletter.) The run this time took four hours as opposed to two.But, it was a sunny day, there were no headwinds, and we had plenty of time to look at the stratified geologic features, geoclines, that make this run unique. We did not see any notable wildlife except humanoids and their canine friends--all quite friendly. An alternative plan, but a good day.

[An Antidote for the Heat: Antietam Creek and Ice Cream](#)

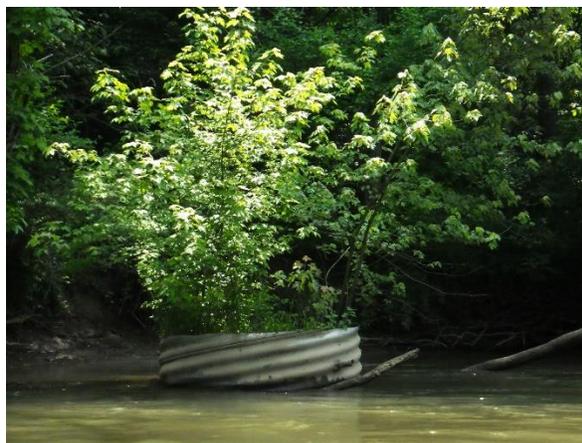
On Saturday, June 1, Beth Koller, David Newson, and Henrick van Oss made an early three hour run on the lowest segment of Antietam Creek (from the route 34 bridge south of Keedysville to the Potomac accessed by Harpers Ferry Road.) The put-in has very limited parking. The dirt steps down to the river are irregular and not in the best of shape. The take-out has somewhat more parking, but the short climb out of the Potomac River is steep.

The level was 3.4 feet—well above minimum (2.6 feet). There were no rocks and no unavoidable deadfall for anyone with boat control skills. The shaded creek beat back the heat of the day. The restored Burnside bridge was beautiful. The weir was easily runnable on river left, the usual route, but there was also a nice chute on river right. The final set of rapids, Furnace Rapids, had a circuitous path. There were lots of options for eddying. There was a fresh tree on center left and three-quarters of the way through the rapids. There is a river-wide wave hole below this strainer, but the strainer would not impair one’s ability to run the hydraulic if the paddler had boat control skills. There was no deadfall on the bridge below. The aqueduct, further downstream, had logs piled up against it. The portal on the far right was easily passable. Time-check: three hours!

After the boats were loaded onto Henrick’s vehicle, we picked up the other vehicles at the put-in. We bypassed the ice cream shop, Nutter’s, in Sharpsburg (with limited parking) and proceeded to the Potomac Street Creamery in Boonesboro. We swapped out boats in the shop’s expansive parking lot and got our fill of ice cream. Mmmmm!



Steep, crowded put-in



Culvert planter—how did it get here?



Beautiful bridges



No rocks anywhere at 3.4!



Lots of water at the weir



David running a ledge drop



Strainers at aqueduct—passable on the right



Strainers close-up

Post script: The maps in Ed Gertler's guidebook and those provided by Antietam Canoe provide the best information on the put-in and take-out options.

Little Falls Run--Saturday, June 8

A Little Falls run at a level above three feet fit the bill of something close and something challenging. The shuttle also presents its issues. One needs to be mindful of the thefts that have occurred at Lock 6. Keep valuables hidden! One also needs to consider the inability to directly turn into and out of Fletcher's Cove. That means turning around near the old Exxon station near Georgetown and going up MacArthur Boulevard and coming back down to Canal Road on Arizona Avenue. At Fletcher's, parking may be limited to the upper lot because of the height limitations of the tunnel. That means hauling boats up from the take-out. Oh, and Saturdays are congested because there are ParkRun events—at 9 AM—the designated meet-up time!

Beth Koller and Zofia Kosim dealt with the logistics and put on with a level of 3.7 feet and a tide that would be approaching high tide by the time that they reached the Little Falls Rapids proper. They did a brief warm up at the feeder canal course. Many of the gates were dragging in the water at that level. Then they went down the Z-Channel which still had defined eddies and no deadfall impeding the final drop. The absence of rocks made the traverse to river right easier. The upper rapids were wave trains with a big water feel. There was one substantive wave for surfing for the adventuresome. After scrambling up the rocks to scout, they watched another group that had two paddlers who ran the far river right slots on the Virginia side without difficulty. Beth actually put on her nose clips. They stuck with their original plan: running the left side of the upper Little Falls Rapid and eddying out. They skirted the five-foot wave that traversed most of the main chute. The Maryland chute started out with a four-foot wave which was followed by regular roller-coaster waves. The trick was to avoid the squirrely water on the sides and at the very end.

The two were off the river by 1 PM. The boathouse was a source of much wanted liquid refreshment. Volunteer staff for the C&O Canal Trust (<https://www.canaltrust.org/category/news/>) provided information on rewatering and dredging plans for the canal. The day was topped off by a meal at the DC Boathouse (www.dcboathouserestaurant.com, 5441 MacArthur Blvd. NW20016 Washington, DC). The seafood kabob salads were terrific, and the portions were sufficient to tide one over for both lunch and supper.

The Staircase of the Shenandoah on June 30, 2019—Hendrick van Oss

Earlier in the week, Mark Wray had announced that he would lead a trip on the Shenandoah Staircase on Sunday, June 30. In all, five paddlers (all in solo canoes) took part: Mark Wray (Dagger Genesis), Mark Barker (OT Appalachian), Hendrik van Oss (Novacraft Supernova), and Gary and Ginny Quam (Mohawk Probes 12 and 11). The weather was sunny and in the high 80s, with relatively untroublesome (if occasionally somewhat shifty) wind. The Millville gauge was approximately 2.6 feet and dropping slowly.

At the rendezvous at the Guide House Grill (former Cindy Dee's) restaurant at 9 AM, it was decided that, instead of setting up a shuttle for a take-out at Brunswick, MD, we would instead take advantage of the Bob Whiting-negotiated deal with the Harpers Ferry Adventure Center which charges \$5 per person, but allows for:

1--a take-out at their access on river right a quarter mile or so downstream of the U.S. 340 bridge,

- 2--haulage of person and boat by an M939 6x6 ex-military truck and trailer up the very steep and bumpy road to the Center on a ridge,
- 3—use of the Center’s facilities--including a large, clean, air-conditioned changing room and bathroom) up on the ridge, and
- 4--free put-in parking at the Center’s access at Millville, immediately downstream of the long-established campground put-in.

The Center seems much more used to this “shuttle” deal than last year--with a more streamlined registration and smiling employees everywhere. The choice to use the Center proved wise, as the normal driving route to Brunswick (via to the Route 478/Knoxville--West Potomac Street) is not currently available due to road closure.

We were surprised to find few other paddlers, i.e., no rafts or duckies, on the river. As such, we had to provide our own carnage at Bull Falls—specifically, the Probe 12 cut right too soon after passing the rooster tail and hit a rock that would likely have been at least somewhat padded at higher water levels. After the swimmer self-rescued, and we had all gathered at the lunch rock below the rapid, examination of the canoe revealed a deep hole in the bow, possibly extending clear through the Royalex hull, with shattered Kevlar skid plate extending several inches fore and aft of the hole. Nothing, mind you, that a large dollop of Shoe Goo could not fix once the canoe had dried thoroughly, but needing something more immediate, a roll of duct tape was conjured out of a dry bag, and a patch was duly affixed.



The Probe probed: Bull Falls aftermath (safely in Vienna). Photos: Gary Quam

The Bull’s Tail Rapid was successfully negotiated by all with at least two of us taking the Round the Mountain route on the right. Lunch was at the shady waterfall on river right a couple of hundred yards downstream (immediately upstream of the old rubble and masonry dam). Four of us had never before had lunch at this spot or had even known of the waterfall’s existence, which was a surprise to the fifth, as we had all paddled the Staircase on many prior occasions. It is a wonderful spot on a hot day!

We took the right channel through the old dam and arrived at the beginning of the Staircase itself. I think we all entered about midway across. I afterwards headed right, and most of the others stayed further left. I can’t speak for their choices, but mine is best described by the

comment in the map by Wally Foster, Al Webb, and Louis Mataria (Blue Ridge Voyages vol. 4): “*the route you choose is not the best*”. I did not have to get out and drag, but I did leave some paint behind. On the lower part (below the bridge) of the Staircase, I took a center of right and then head left route, which experience has shown works well even at modest water levels. The others went left the entire way. One of them experienced a minor swim and self-rescue, when, during a cross bow draw in shallow water, the paddle found and jammed against a rock and shoved the paddler overboard.

Our group had no further carnage. On joining the Potomac, we discovered myriad tubers and duckies, but passed most of them on our way to White Horse Rapid. White Horse was at a fun level, and we all got through without excitement, as did the sundry inflatables of the moment. At the takeout, we had scarcely taken our boats out at the ramp when the first shuttle truck arrived and took us aboard.

A nice, productive Sunday: good company, good weather, good scenery, decent rapids at a decent level, and easy access. Being retired, I mowed my lawn on Monday.

BOATING TRIVIA



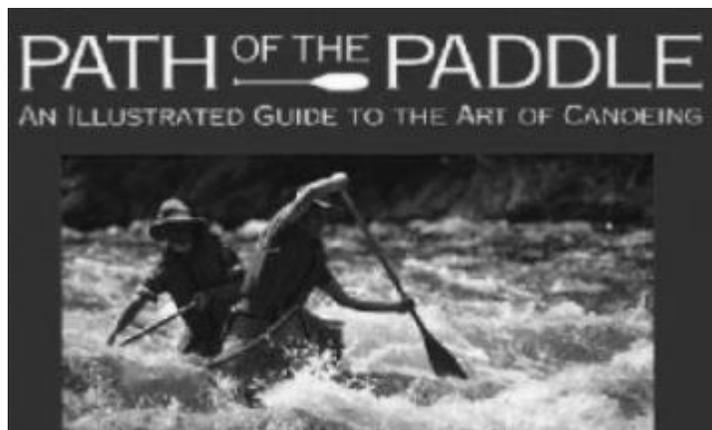
If Doctor Google 📱🔍 does not provide a remedy, you can even “phone a friend” 📞!

Once a question has been correctly answered, it will be pulled from competition—so enter early to reach that 200 point total and earn a prize! Be like Keith Merkel, who nabbed a prize for the 2017 season and David Newsom, who received a Pennsylvania Gazetteer for the 2018 questions.

The topic is “**Inductees in the International Whitewater Hall of Fame**”. The IWHOF and its pending permanent location were some of the topics presented by Risa Shimoda at our last BRV meeting.

WHO

1—Who is considered to be a Canadian Canoeing legend for his work in conservation and contributions to paddling especially in award-winning filmmaking? **10 POINTS**



2--Who was a paddler and cartoonist who wrote humorous books such as “Whitewater Tales of Terror” and “Whitewater Home and Companion: Southeastern Rivers Volume 1” and who developed entertaining maps of river runs in the U.S.? **10 POINTS**

3—Who developed an important eddy technique for kayak paddlers? **10 POINTS**



4--Which champion paddler was on the Wheaties cereal box? **10 POINTS**



5--Who has actively worked to promote river safety in multiple ways including development of safety equipment (lifejackets [include hi-flotation designs], swift water rescue harnesses, and

throw line rescue bags.), the updating of the “Wild Water West Virginia” guidebook, and the compilation/analysis of safety reports for various organizations including American Whitewater?
10 POINTS



6--Who was a whitewater paddler who paddled in a variety of boats, developed teaching programs at NOC, did a first descent of Section 4 of the Chattooga as part of an open canoe mixed team, and medaled (gold) multiple times in the open-canoe nationals? **10 POINTS**



7--Who was an engineer and champion paddler who started in the folding boat class and who later became known for his boat and designs and the use of new materials including epoxy resins, Kevlar, and carbon fibers? His Mark IV and V models were hot designs. (Indeed the Perception mirage was based on his boat designs.) **10 POINTS**

8-9--Who developed the first plastic kayaks, River Chasers? In what country or state was this based? **10 POINTS each**

10—Who along with Jessie Whittemore is considered a key player in the development of squirt boating and who pushed for shorter boats and moved to zero feather in his paddle designs? (He can often be seen playing on the Cheat Narrows—in his own backyard.) **10 POINTS**

BOATING HUMOR

Musings from Ed’s Brain

Act I

Confessions of a gator: I'm a gator--a dude on top of the food chain. You think I can eat anything, anytime, but I'm a critter millions of years old--much older than you guys a bit further down on the food chain (although I've heard rumors you might like gator tails).

With millions of years under our belts, we've built many traditions. One tradition is our celebration of holidays--just like you. We fast during holidays. That's why you might see us on a log, face-to-face with a yummy turtle. Turtles, being our distant cousins, know our holidays and know when we are fasting and can come right up to us on certain days.

You guys though can't even guess when we are eating or fasting. You might dangle a leg overboard that looks like a fast food lure to us, but we are fasting that day. Another day I'm circling your boat because I'm hungry after fasting.

I'll give you a tip. Since the last ice age, we schedule many of our fasting holidays in winter because we lost many dudes in the big chill. However, we also expend much energy during our mating season. Therefore, we get pretty hungry then. So when I get the urge, I might forget about some ancient holiday and grab a quick snack off a passing boat getting too close!

Act II

The “No child left behind” program got me thinking, and I decided to come up with a “No paddler left behind”. I was not successful until I tried the program in Florida with the release of alligators behind the last paddler. THAT worked.

Act III

The radical politician gave up his boating classes when he found out he would have to spend time in the mainstream.

PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT

Over the Falls at Ohiopyle—Accidentally in an Unguided Raft

<https://paddlingmag.com/stories/news-events/the-scary-rafting-video-everyone-is-talking-about/>

American Whitewater and Website Update

AW has been updating its website via a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard and volunteers. These goals included making a website compatible with mobile devices (both iOS and Android based), the addition of maps that show river access points, and functionality that permits sorting of rivers by class and runnability status.

It is aware of certain deficiencies and is working to remedy them. YOU can help!!!

- If you can program, contact evan [at] americanwhitewater.org.

- If you want to improve the National Whitewater Inventory sections, you can make edits and additions. Log-in via the upper right corner box on the website screen. Proceed to any river page to click onto the three-dot menu. Select “Edit Flows” or “Edit This River” and edit river descriptions, add safety reports, submit accident reports, and/or submit photos.



Reminder: BRV is an affiliate club member of the American Whitewater Association. As such, BRV members are eligible to join for \$25.

[More Memorial Day Weekend Shots from Bloomington—courtesy of Debbie Dolan](#)



Beth & Mike



Beth & Zofia

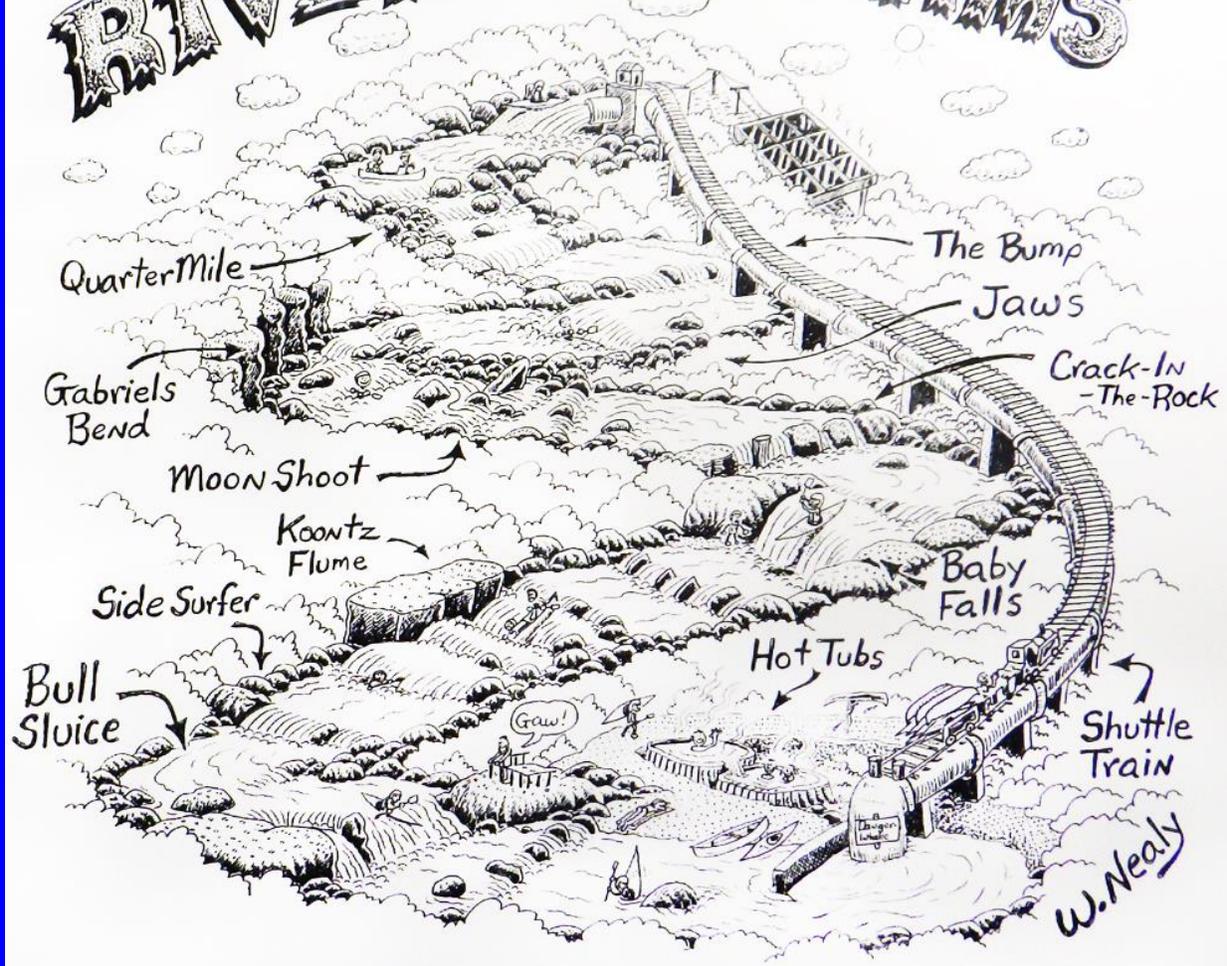


Zofia near the end

[River of Dreams](#)

The Carolina Canoe Club has a fantasy river poster designed by William Nealy. It is a composite of rapids from various rivers and other desired elements. Although William Nealy is no longer with us, it might be fun to have a similar poster for the mid-Atlantic designed. What rapids and elements do you think should be included? See Beth (240-506-0417).

Carolina Canoe Club's RIVER OF DREAMS



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

The club is about fun and camaraderie.

It can't happen without YOU!!!

If you can organize a trip or a conservation activity, please consider adding it to the web calendar and the newsletter. If you want to do it, it is likely that someone would like to do it as well.

If you can put together a program or have an idea for a program, please consider contacting a club officer. We have ProShow Gold for the preparation of digital slide shows.



Get your club sticker from Mike Martin (Webmaster)
OR go to the website for directions about ordering items with the logo.

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