

CLUB BUSINESS AT THE PUT-IN

After months of rain, snow, wind, and cold, we are inching our way into Spring. This means trips, especially warm-up trips to check out your gear and brush up on your skills. To that end, we need some trip organizers. We have website and newsletter listings for releases and festivals that provide opportunities for trips and trip co-ordinators. Kathleen Sengtock is the BRV point person for the April Riley's Lock area clean-up. Craig Wolfe is willing to be a point person for Sideling Hill trips. Dave Cooke, who lives near Ellicott City, is willing to do the same for the Patapsco. Both of these runs have ephemeral water levels—so get on Craig and Dave's interest group lists. Trip participants should make the co-ordinator's job easier by committing to a trip early, being on time at the meeting point, and not bailing at the last minute. It is difficult to plan shuttles and to assess group strength when the number/composition is always changing. Take the time to thank the co-ordinator and to cough up gas money if you are sharing a ride.

While you are preparing your gear for the new year, think about ordering BRV logo gear including boat stickers. Mike Martin (our webmaster) had paddler and cartoonist Paul Mason (son of the canoeist Bill Mason) develop a new logo. The design depicts two boaters hamming it up for the camera and perhaps oblivious to an impending collision of the sort not unknown to occur on BRV excursions! We have a few remaining stickers, but Mike arranged for members to be able to order the logo on-line through Café Press (<https://www.cafepress.com/+sticker,213027437>). The cost of the stickers is \$4.99 per sticker or \$24.99 for a pack of ten stickers. You can expand your BRV holdings by ordering travel mugs and T-shirts. Search for "BRV canoe-kayak" on the Café Press site or visit <https://tinyurl.com/yahcdfos>.

We had a busy meeting on Wednesday, March 6. The date and topic of the May meeting are pending. We also had a board meeting on Monday, March 18. Our finances are good. (See the treasurer's report in the "Parting Shots at the Take-out" section of the newsletter.) The roster will issue shortly. Dues (\$10) are to be paid by the calendar year (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019). Those who have not paid will be removed from the roster and the e-mail list. In addition to trips, the club does need some volunteers to step into some of the positions. A few have done so. David Newson and Craig Wolfe are helping with meeting set-up. Hendrick Van Oss will serve on the board. Come join the fun!

We note the passing of long-time BRVer, Dave Garrity, who has resided most recently in Mexico, Robert Dobrzynski, an area oncologist from northern Virginia, who hiked, skied, and whitewater paddled, and Nancy Kell from Mason-Dixon Canoe Club, who died during a trip on Red Creek. (See the Memorial Paddle information below.)

The March newsletter features the first half of Richard Hopley's two-month Summer vacation. The May issue will feature the second half. The current issue also has pictures from the elusive Horseshoe Run in West Virginia. Please forward articles for the May newsletter and photos for the web.

See you on the river, Rick Koller

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MEETINGS

March Meeting

The meeting was jam-packed.

a--David Newsom and new member, Craig Wolfe, helped with set-up, greeted participants, and collected dues.

b--Craig provided a short summary of his Summer trip out West with Richard Hopley. (See the Feature Articles.)

c--Jenny Thomas reported that American Whitewater had received a Coast Guard grant to do an update of their website and that constructive comments are requested. (BRV is an affiliate club of AW.) Note that the real-time flow data is not available on the interim website.

d--John Duke, a new member with an extensive history in the survey business, has started a business in map-making that is focused on paddler needs. He brought samples of his wares: flat maps and large spiral bound books that include maps addressing various recreational needs within specific regions/watersheds. For those who didn't get a map or those who need additional maps of the many other (semi-)local areas, contact John at dukejohn999 [at] comcast.net, www.dukesmaps.com, or check the website <https://www.globuya.com/US/Myersville/574753386043015/Duke%27s-Maps>. He currently accepts only cash or check payment.

e—We watched two National Paddling Film Fest movies. “Why” showed Nordic boating and waterfall running in particular. Such big drops, such small boats! “The Unseen Mountains” showed a whitewater run of the Carampangue as it descended from the Nahuelbuta (Great Jaguar) Mountains through the Chilean highland jungles down to the sea. The film called attention to specific areas in which there is silence because the birds have left. These areas have been clear-cut. Any new growth is for plantation lumber. Key biodiversity has been lost. The impairment of water quality through slope erosion was presented. But the locals, paddlers and non-paddlers, know what is at stake and are working to save the river and its watershed.



May Meeting

The date and topic are to be determined. If you can put together a program or have an idea for a program, please consider contacting a club officer. We have ProShow Gold which can be used (but is not required) for the preparation of digital slide shows.

EVENTS

Remaining Pool Sessions

Calleva Liquid Adventures—Sessions are Saturday afternoons through April at the Madeira School in Maclean, VA. Boats must be clean, and airbags must be removed. Sessions without instruction or equipment are \$20.

Canoe Cruisers Association—Sessions are on Tuesdays through April 3 (with the exception of March 19) at the Piney Branch Pool in Takoma Park. \$20/session.

Festivals/Clean-ups

April 13 Great Potomac Clean-up (Riley's Lock) Kathleen Sengstock (240-381-7189) will be the BRV point person.

Circa April 13 Elk Fest/Webster Wildwater Weekend (Webster Springs, WV)

<http://www.visitwebsterwv.com/event/webster-wildwater-weekend/>

May 3-4 Cheat Fest (Albright, WV)

<http://cheatfest.org/>

May 11 Canoe Cruisers Association-Potomac Downriver Race (Great Falls Park-MD)

Safety boaters needed!!!

hbmoreland@aol.com

https://www.canoeclub.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=394800&item_id=892369&sl=1106463973

May 17-19 Dominion Energy RiverRock (Richmond, VA) (No organizers yet)

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

May 17-19 Ramble Weekend (Franklin County, VA) (No organizers yet)

May 17 Blackwater Blackout (float trip in the dark)

May 18 Pig River Ramble (Rubber duck race, four and eight mile races)

May 19 Breakfast on the Blackwater (breakfast and float trip)

<https://www.visitfranklincountyva.org/rivers/>

<https://www.playfranklincounty.com/ramble-weekend>

May 17-19 Stonycreek Rendezvous (Hollisopple, PA) (No organizers yet)

<https://benscreekcanoecub.com/quemahoning-releases/>

<https://benscreekcanoecub.com/rendezvous/>

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Greenhouse+Park/@40.2768788,-78.9220717,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x245ed68c87dc9b9c!8m2!3d40.2768788!4d-78.9220717>

For a more complete listing, see the January newsletter.

Releases

Bloomington April 13-14 (No organizer yet) and 27-28, May 11-12 and 25-26

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

Lehigh May 11, 18, 25-26, June 8-9, 22-23, July 6-7, 20-21, 27-28, August 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25*, 31*, September 1*, October ~12-13* 20 (No organizers yet)

*Pending availability

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Francis-E-Walter-Dam/Flow-Management-Plan-Schedule/>

Stonycreek April 6-7, 20 (No organizers yet), May 4-5, 17-19 (Rendezvous), 25 (special), June 1-2, 15-16, 29-30, July 13-14, 27-28, August 10-11, 24-25, September 21-22, October 5-6, 19-20

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

<https://thestonycreek.com/whitewaterreleases.shtml>

For a more complete listing, see the January newsletter.

TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Kell Memorial Paddle

March 30 (Saturday) The Nancy Kell Memorial Paddle will be held on the Millville section of the Shenandoah in Harper's Ferry WV. A Celebration of Life will follow. Meet at Millville at noon. The local raft/gear company, River & Trail Outfitters, will provide a shuttle and parking. The location will change if the water is high. You can bring flowers to release on the river. Please RSVP for the paddle trip at the Mason-Dixon Canoe Club website. There is a memorial fund:

<http://masondixoncanooclub.org/.../MDCCPagefi.../donateBody.html>

<http://masondixoncanooclub.org/MDCC/NancyMemorial.html>

Exploratories

John Duke (dukejohn999 [at] comcast.net) has several trips in the works:

- a week near the end of March in the Southern Tennessee area doing day trips to various creeks,
- a week near the end of April doing New River tributaries each day, and
- a week near the end of May doing creeks in central Pennsylvania.

All three trips will emphasize on Class 2 creeks with a little Class 3 thrown in.

Elk Fest/Webster Wildwater Weekend

Circa April 13-14 (Friday evening-Sunday) (No organizers yet) Mike Martin can provide information about the festival. There is indoor bunkhouse type shelter as well as camping at the 4-H's Camp Caesar. Sections of the Elk, Cherry, Upper Gauley, and more are available.

<http://www.visitwebsterwv.com/event/webster-wildwater-weekend/>

<http://www.campcaesar.info/>

Easter Weekend Smoke Hole Trip

April 19-21 (Friday-Sunday) Tom McCloud will be able to include a few BRV'ers on his annual Spring trip. He will run three different sections of rivers on three days. He always plans for a run on the South Branch of the Potomac from Big Bend to Petersburg on Sunday. The level difficulty is Class 2/3—so the river runs may change with water levels. He plans to car camp at Seneca Shadows if it is open. Please contact him via e-mail: tommcld [at] gmail.com

Annual Bluebells Trip

April 20 (Saturday) Dean Geis (443-250-0864) will run a section of the Monocacy or one of its tributaries. The exact run will depend on water levels. The difficulty level will be fast moving water and Class 1.

Scenic Springtime Pennsylvania Runs through Canyons

April 25-27/28 (Thursday-Saturday/Sunday) Dean Geis (443-250-0864) and Craig Wolfe (301-

656-8773/301-577-3075) will run rivers in the Pine Creek section of Pennsylvania. The exact run will depend on water levels. The difficulty level will require practiced novice to intermediate skills. There are opportunities for biking. Lodging must be reserved early.

<http://pawilds.com/landscape/pine-creek-valley-pa-grand-canyon/>

April Bloomington Runs

John Snitzer will co-ordinate a trip on the North Branch of the Potomac on Saturday, April 27. Beth Koller will co-ordinate a trip on the North Branch on Sunday, April 28. The latter will focus on skills development in a small group. No late add-on as she will be coming directly from WV WOR.

Late Spring Smokies Trip

May 11-19 (Saturday-second Sunday) Richard Hopley (rhopley [at] earthlink.net) will co-ordinate a week of paddling in Southern mountains. Expect to camp. Be ready for Class 3 water. Limited to 12 participants—so contact him early.

Annual Memorial Day Weekend Camper on the Cheat

May 24-28 (Friday-Monday) Mike Martin and Courtney Caldwell will organize the camping event at Teeter's Campground in Albright, WV. Various trip co-ordinators will depart for sections on the Casselman, Cheat, Stonycreek, Tygart, Youghiogeny, etc.

RIVER TRIP INTEREST GROUPS

Patapsco Interest Group

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. With the removal a dam, the run may be extended another mile. The rapids below the former dam are changing. The runs are also water dependent. Dave Cooke (410-461-0674, 410-948-8882, sixcookess [at] gmail.com) lives in Ellicott City and could serve as a point person for water and trips. Potentially these could be weekend day trips and semi-regular mid-week evening trips. There may also be some walking trips to check the status of the rapids below the dam—since the first one may be challenging. Get on the list if you are interested.

Sideling Hill Interest Group

Craig Wolfe (301-656-8773/301-577-3075) 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.

PADDLING HUMOR

Musings from Brain of Ed Evangelidi

Trip Report from April 1

I was scratching my head trying to figure out where to take a novice group while also doing something that I wanted to do for years--follow a fish migration. It finally occurred to me--I could take the group upstream on the Potomac. It turns out that no one in the group (including me) had done this trip as an upstream paddle before. The beginning and end were easy water with a few rapids in between. We put in at Fletcher's Boathouse after shuttling cars to Violette's Lock.

In a short while, I had netted a large shad. I explained to the group that I didn't have the money or resources to buy the fancy schmancy electronic tags that other researchers put on fish to track them with expensive remote receivers--so I would attach a loud (waterproof) radio to the fish using Gorilla Glue. Others were skeptical, but I released the fish, and you could hear the loud music whenever the fish was swimming near the surface. We were so lucky that the fish were running on this fine April 1. We continued upstream to Little Falls, and I could still hear the music ahead of me. Most of the group could not attain Little Falls so they opted to turn around and head back to Fletcher's. I had to quickly attain Little Falls to keep up with this determined fish. I was getting tired as I approached Brookmont Dam and dreaded the carry around the dam--it is illegal to boat near dams on the Potomac, and I wasn't going to start April getting arrested. This fish didn't have to portage--so he was getting ahead of me. At this time, the one remaining boater decided to head back while muttering about never going on one of my trips again.

Even though I was even more tired after the portage, I was able to catch up with this fish by the time we got to Stubblefield Rapid. Don't know what the fish was doing for fun to slow him down in the flats, but I had to slow down and take a surf break before attaining Stubblefield. I briefly lost sight, or should I say hearing, of the fish as we approached the many islands upstream. I was afraid that we would take different channels and that I'd lose him. I attained Yellow Falls and asked some yakers if they had seen or heard a fish with a radio attached swimming around. They looked at me funny and didn't say a thing, so I continued upstream as I knew that that was the fish's objective. Just before "the chutes", I caught up with the slimy rascal, and we both kept pace as we went up Wet Bottom Rapid, but I was falling behind again through Fish Ladder and O Deck rapids.

I was now faced with the toughest rapid, Great Falls. I once considered doing this rapid going downstream on another April 1 trip, but I never had considered this as an upstream trip until now. I knew that attaining the rapid was complicated by having to do it on the first attempt or risk sliding back down into a nasty hydraulic. As luck would have it, I still had enough strength to get upstream and was continuing up to the next dam and nasty %\$#& portage when I realized that I hadn't heard the musical fish for a while. I decided to walk up and down the towpath a bit during my portage to see if I could hear anything. I heard some very loud music coming from one spot near the river, but quickly figured out that it was some lounging tourists. Then I saw some commotion nearby as some guy had netted my fish with the radio and was showing it to a park ranger. The ranger didn't look very happy and was calling in some Fish and Wildlife people on his radio. I figured that it was time to get out of there and make myself scarce. Hard to do that with my boating outfit on while not near my boat.

Guess I'll never figure out where the fish would have ended up as I'll probably have to do a different trip next *April 1*.

FEATURE ARTICLE #1

My Summer Vacation (Part 1)--Richard Hopley

Introduction

In January, 2018, I began recruiting friends for another Northern Rockies trip. Since I am now retired, I planned on doing two weeks of Rockies boating (because most of my boating buddies can take only two weeks for a boating vacation) between my own exploration of the upper

Midwest and a month or more on the West Coast. I recruited a dozen paddlers from Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Texas, and to boat from July 22 through August 3.

My friends Bill and Sally (Resnick) Blauvelt (Keyser's Ridge), were returning from a 'round the U.S. tour and would be eastbound in Minnesota when I would be there heading west. We arranged to meet and to paddle for four days in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Sally recruited our friend Julie (Keller) Fitzpatrick (Reston) to be my tandem partner and her nephew Jeff Resnick and his wife Lauren (San Diego).

In addition, my friend Chris Oberlin, who has participated in six or seven of my annual May Smoky Mountains Weeks of Paddling (Smoky-WOP), thought he might like to visit the Pacific Northwest.

I tacked all this onto the end of the Carolina Canoe Club's annual Week of Rivers, which occurs over the week of the 4th of July and is based in Bryson City, NC.

So I wound up doing this 65-day trip in seven phases:

- (1) ~1 week paddling in the Smoky Mountains,
- (2) ~1 week driving north and paddling the Boundary Waters,
- (3) ~1 week touring the Northern Great Plains and hiking in Theodore Roosevelt National Park,
- (4) ~2 weeks Wyoming and Montana paddling,
- (5) ~2 weeks touring and hiking in Idaho and Washington,
- (6) ~2 weeks touring and hiking in Oregon, and
- (7) ~1 week touring and hiking *en route* home.

Phase 1: Smoky Mountains

7/1/2018 Sunday: **Driving.** I was going to be too late to paddle, so I took my time driving to Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground in Bryson City, NC for the CCC's WOR.

7/2/2018 Monday: **Tuckasegee Gorge**, 1,030 cfs at Barker's Creek. The trip was led by Ron Ray and included two New Yorkers: Steve Ferder and Loretta Brady.

7/3/2018 Tuesday: **Lower Nolichucky River**, 1,500 cfs at Embreeville, with Lee Belknap, Michelle Riddle, Liz Bergen, Beth Koller, Linda Delery, Steve Ferder, and Loretta Brady.

7/4/2018 Wednesday: **Toe Gorge**, 91 cfs at Celo, with Doug Willenborg, Tucker Willenborg, Kim Buttleman, Jenny Thomas, Barb Franko, Lee Keller, Lee Belknap, Michelle Riddle, Liz Bergen, Beth Koller, and Steve Ferder.

7/5/2018 Thursday: **Lower Pigeon River**, 1,500 cfs at Waterville, with Lee Belknap, Michelle Riddle, and Liz Bergen.

7/6/2018 Friday: **Tuckasegee Gorge**, 660 cfs at Barker's Creek, with a large group I didn't know.

Phase 2a: Driving North

7/7/2018 Saturday: **Driving.** I should have just headed north and west from Bryson City, but since I needed to be back in Winston-Salem on Monday, I scheduled one last band practice for Sunday before leaving for two months. I drove back to Winston-Salem on Saturday.

7/8/2018 Sunday: **Band practice**, then I loaded my van with all the road-trip and canoe-camping gear that I had not taken to WOR.

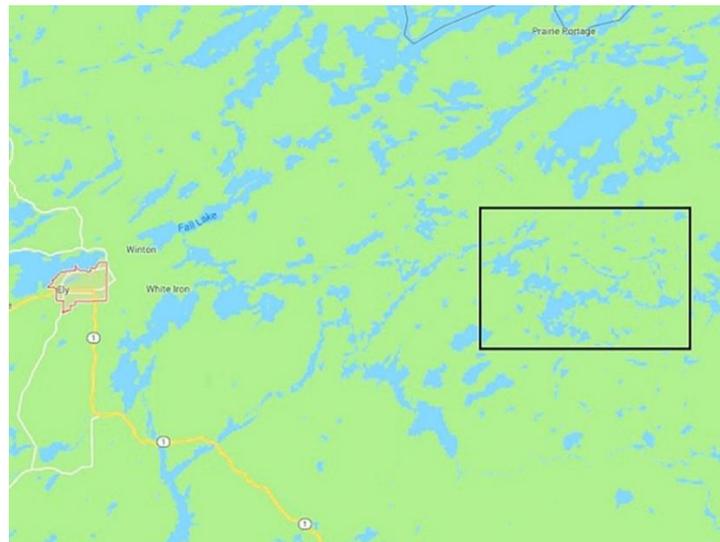
7/9/2018 Monday: **Driving.** I picked up a prescription, had the 80K-mile service performed on my van, and drove to the Wisconsin Welcome Center on I-90, where I slept in my van.

7/10/2018 Tuesday: **Driving.** I roamed around the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the south shore of Lake Superior, and reached Julie Keller's family home in Iron River, WI at 11 PM, where I slept in my van.

7/11/2018 Wednesday: **Driving.** Julie and I drove US-2 to Superior, WI, where we crossed the St. Louis River into Duluth, MN. We took MN-61 along the north shore of Lake Superior, and then MN-1 to Ely, the gateway to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, where we had lunch at the Insula Restaurant, did some shopping at the Piragis Northwoods Company, and then drove 20 miles east to the Kawishiwi Lodge, located right at entry Point 30 to the Boundary Waters. At Kawishiwi, we met Bill and Sally, and Sally's nephew, Jeff, and his wife, Lauren. We unloaded and checked our gear, and, again, I slept in my van.

Phase 2b: Boundary Waters

7/12/2018 Thursday, we collected two rental 17-foot Kevlar canoes from Frank at the Kawishiwi Lodge (Sally and Bill had brought their own touring canoe) and set out upon our three-boat expedition. I paddled bow and Julie drove; fortunately, Julie is a leftie and I am a rightie, so we were a good tandem team. We paddled southwest and then southeast across Lake One to a two-stage portage onto Lake Two, and found a lovely campsite at the eastern end of Lake Two. The site was up a cove that split into two smaller coves, and the campsite was on the peninsula between the two small coves, so we had water on three sides. We would camp there for all three nights.



Our location

7/13/2018 Friday, we set out early for a long ten hours of paddling! I had been very uncomfortable squeezed into the bow, so now and for the rest of the trip, I drove and Julie paddled bow. First, we went south on Lake Two until we could turn east to cross the top of Lake Three and all

of Lake Four, then north on Lake Four with two portages, east on Fire Lake, and then portaged again to an un-named channel that took us south to Hudson Lake. On Hudson Lake, we headed back west, where three more portages brought us to Lake Four so we could backtrack to camp.



View from camp on Lake 2



Jeff considers swimming the falls



Things don't go quite as planned



Jeff survived swimming the falls



A rest break at our last (and easiest) portage

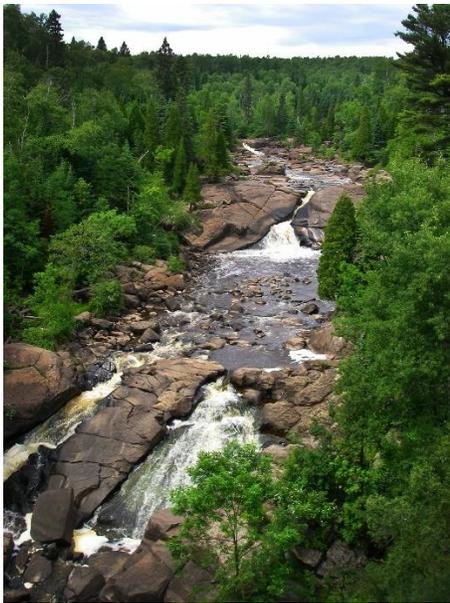


Sally & Bill running the only rapid we paddled

All of the portages were around little rapids on two forks of the Kawishiwi River (one eastbound, upstream, and the other westbound). We actually ran one rapid, but found that it led to a cove with a rocky outlet which would have been hard on our Kevlar canoes, so we portaged back up it. Back on the correct route, the actual portage was just a little lift-over, and the rapid was swimmable. We took a swimming break here.

7/14/2018 Saturday, we decided upon an easier day. We went south on Lake Two again, but this time we continued south across Lake Three. We walked the portage to Horseshoe Lake, but the banks had been badly burned in a recent fire so it was not attractive enough to portage the boats; instead we meandered in and out around a beautiful island archipelago at the south end of Lake Three before returning fairly early (around 4 PM) to camp.

7/15/2018 Sunday, Sally was worried about predicted thunderstorms so we broke camp early and paddled back across Lake Two and Lake One, to return our boats, get a shower, and hit the road. I can't say enough about Frank's Kawishiwi Lodge. If you plan a Boundary Waters trip, he can provide you with all the advice, maps, and any supplies or equipment you need. A cautionary word though: if he provides your commissary, you will have a *lot* to portage; he *really* loaded Jeff and Lauren up with a full-service kitchen and enough food for four. (Bill, Sally, Julie, and I had brought our own food and cook-kits, so we only had to make two trips each on portages!)



Beaver Falls on the North Shore



Gooseberry Falls State Park

We went into Ely and had lunch together at the Insula Restaurant, and went our separate ways. I drove Julie back along the North Shore of Lake Superior, stopping for short hikes at Beaver Falls, the Split Rock Lighthouse (which protected shipping from 1910 until 1969), and Gooseberry Falls State Park. I dropped Julie at Iron River, WI, and booked south via US-53 and I-94 to the I-90 rest area just north of Madison, where I slept in my van. Except for a night in a friend's house in Idaho and an emergency stop in Oregon, I would sleep in my van for the rest of the trip.

Phase 3a: Northern Great Plains

7/16/2018 Monday, I continued south and then east around Chicago, and got to Valparaiso,

IN shortly after noon. There I picked up Chris Oberlin, who would ride with me for the next seven weeks. We got Chris' gear loaded and his boat lashed to the roof with my canoe and the kayak I had brought as my nephew's birthday present, and we were on the road by mid-afternoon. We took Interstate highways looping around Chicago again and north through Madison to Mauston, WI, and camped at the Castle Rock [Juneau] County Park Campground. As we would usually do throughout the trip, we ate in camp, stopping for groceries every two or three days.

7/17/2018 Tuesday, we got off to an early start and got back onto I-94. We paused for a one-mile walk to the Black River State Forest overlook from an I-94 rest area, and, then, at Eau Claire, we left the Interstate Highway system for most of the next 7,000 miles. We took US-52 through Superior, WI and across the bridge into Duluth, MN, where we got onto US-2 for the next 600 miles. *En route* we stopped to walk around the picturesque small towns of Floodwood, on the St. Louis River, and Grand Rapids, on the Mississippi. About halfway across Minnesota, we stopped at Federal Dam to camp at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACoE) Campground at Leech Lake, near the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in the Chippewa National Forest.



The Mississippi, flowing out of Lake Itaska Chris crossing the Mississippi at Lake Itaska

7/18/2018 Wednesday, we got off US-2 in Bemidji to walk around the town and visit the Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox statues. Then we drove a bit south to visit Lake Itaska, the source of the Mississippi, where it is possible to walk across the Mighty Miss, and watch kids Huck Finning (in tubes). Then we got back onto US-2 and continued into, and halfway across, North Dakota, to where we camped in Towner Town Park. We had driven into the night, and one of my headlight low beams had burned out.

Phase 3b: Theodore Roosevelt National Park

7/19/2018 Thursday, we got off US-2 at Stanley and took ND-8 south to westbound ND-23. We took a slight detour to visit the Van Hook State WMA, on an impounded section of the Missouri River, and stopped at Native American-owned JC Java Coffeehouse in New Town on the Fort Berthold Reservation. At Watford City, we turned south onto US-85 to the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TR NP). There were ample numbers of open sites in the

Juniper Campground, within a bend of the Little Missouri River. Chris pitched his tent to claim our site, then we drove two miles to the Caprock Coulee Trailhead.



Chris on the Caprock Coulee Trail



This big guy ambushed us

This was a wonderful short trail of a little over four miles, which we hiked counter-clockwise, first a gradual \pm one-mile ascent up along the coulee, then a steep \pm one-mile climb to the ridge, an easy \pm one-mile along the ridge, and then a steep \pm one-mile back down, with wonderful views of the Little Mo. At the end of the ridgeline section, the trail crosses the park road, and, as we approached the road, a huge shaggy bison walked up on us from behind a stand of brush. If you had been there, you would have seen two grown men suddenly walking backward! Once we were fifty yards away, we bushwhacked around him and back to the trail. The Caprock Coulee Trail is a must if you visit the North Unit of TR NP.



Painted Canyon Trail



Bison herd in Theodore Roosevelt NP

7/20/2018 Friday, we drove out to the end of the Scenic Drive of the North Unit and, on our way out of the Park, took a fairly level two-mile hike to a huge prairie dog town, where we watched a large herd of bison moving slowly up the valley. We took US-85 southward and then drove 20 miles west on I-94 to the Little Missouri National Grassland, four miles west of the entrance to the South Unit of TR NP, where again we grabbed a campsite early in the day. This campground, Buffalo Gap, was only \$6/night and included showers! We drove back to the Painted Canyon Visitors' Center, which didn't really give access to the Park; it was just an overlook and

a trailhead. From here we took another four-mile hike, this time on the Painted Canyon Trail, which was a steep descent at the beginning and a steep climb at the end, but generally less demanding than the Caprock Coulee Trail.

7/21/2018 Saturday, we went into the town of Medora for gas, walked around town, had ice cream, and avoided all the tourist traps. Then we entered the South Unit and drove the main loop road counter-clockwise. We stopped at several overlooks, walked the mile-long Coal Vein Nature Trail, and took a spur road to Buck Hill, from the top of which were wonderful views.

Continuing around the loop, we saw the Little Missouri again at the west end of the park, and took another spur road to the Paddock Creek Trailhead. About a quarter-mile up the trail was a huge prairie dog village, and, ahead of us, was another herd of bison scattered across the trail. We waited for three-quarters of an hour, but a couple of bulls just wouldn't move off the trail, so we got back into the van, left the park, and headed west on I-94, about 150 miles to Miles City, MT.

We took MT-59, WY-59, and US-14 south to Gillette, WY, and then I-90 west 60 miles to Buffalo, where we got onto US-16 westward, climbing up into the Bighorn National Forest. There we camped at Circle Park Campground, just east of the Powder River Pass. As we climbed up the pass into the forest in the growing darkness, my other low beam went out.



Meadowlark Lake, source of Tensleep Creek



Rex Hale campground on NF Shoshone River

7/22/2018 Sunday, we continued west on US-20, drove down the river-left, dirt-road side of the wonderful Tensleep Canyon, and cut up WY-31 along the Nowood River to US-20, taking US-20 into Cody. We got to our rendezvous at Rex Hale (U.S. Forest Service Campground [USFS CG]) early and grabbed a couple of sites. Most of the group trickled in that afternoon and evening, though. The total group consisted of: me and Chris Oberlin (Bethesda), Lee Belknap and Michelle Riddle (Hendersonville, NC), Lee's daughter, Liz Bergen (NYC), Dan Bertko and Lois Carra (Boston), Donna Grimes (Houston), Craig Wolfe (Hyattsville), and, arriving a few days later, Chris Kelly and Nanette Laughery (Salida, CO), David Bernard (Panama City Beach, FL), and my nephew Evan Hopley (Flagstaff, AZ).

Continued in Feature #2.

CONSERVATION AND ACCESS

Potomac River Access

The Administration altered its rule for the 2-mile security zone near the Trump National Golf Club (Virginia). There is a revised interim rule which reduces the length of the zone, provides access to boat launch sites, provides access to other important waterways, creates a transit zone near the Maryland shoreline, and requires the Coast Guard to provide notification as to when the security zone is in effect via a website and a dedicated phone line. **The comment period (to the Coast Guard) runs from March 21 to June 19, 2019.** See Barbara Brown (potomacb3 [at] gmail.com) for more information.

Big Run Pump Storage in Canaan Valley

FreedomWorks, LLC has proposed a pump storage project in Tucker County. The project may impact the Big Run Bog in the Monongahela Forest. Several routes with varying degrees of invasiveness are possible. In January, the USDA-Forest Service commented to Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) that the existing project was not consistent with the goals, objectives, and standards in the Forest Plan for Management Prescriptions 4.1 and 8.2. As such, it was unlikely that a special use permit would be issued. The dialog between the Forest Service and FERC can be followed via the public comments.

<http://tuckercountycommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/FERC-P14889-000-Revised.pdf>
www.frackcheckwv.net/2019/01/06/public-meeting-parsons-tucker-co-regarding-big-run-hydro-pumped-storage-project/
<http://www.theintermountain.com/news/local-news/2019/03/hydropower-project-request-rejected/>

EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Clean Water Act

“Dredge and fill” is a mountaintop removal practice that excavates wetlands and surface waters and fills them with discard rock and other materials. For such activities, the Clean Water Act (Section 404) requires a permit from the Corps of Engineers (COE). The EPA has the authority to review and deny approval for such permits. This denial authority has been used and stopped permits only 13 times. This authority has been upheld by the Supreme Court. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to limit the circumstances when it may review such COE actions in a regulation (not statutory law). **As such, it is subject to public comment during specified time periods.**

<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/section-404-permit-program>
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/factsheet_-_economic_analysis_12.10.pdf

Land and Water Conservation Fund: Update on Ed Evangelidi’s Initial Information

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided monies for national parks, wildlife preserves, and other recreational opportunities such as baseball diamonds and basketball courts. The revenue was obtained from offshore drilling royalties. The fund began in 1965, but required periodic reauthorization by Congress. Its funding lapsed during the September 2018 government shutdown. The House and Senate just provided permanent authorization for the LWCF under the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act. Of note, authorization is not the same as mandatory funding.

This fund has already provided monies for things familiar to members: the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, the Monongahela National Forest, and the New River Gorge National River.

The bill, as it stands, adds more than 367 miles of river to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers program as well as creating new national monuments (three of which are Civil War or civil rights related), adding over 2600 miles of trails to the National Trails system, and adding over 42,000 acres to the National Parks.

Mining and Public Health

In 2016, the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining commissioned the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to study to assess the health impacts of strip mining and to identify research gaps. In 2017, NASEM was instructed to stop the study. NASEM was unable to secure private funding and formally disbanded the study in 2018.

To keep up with these events, review the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition's (OVEC) list of studies (<http://ohvec.org/mountaintop-removal-articles/health/>) and check the activities of the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Natural Resources.

TRIP REPORTS

The North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac: April 2018

Previously we had run the Potomac's North Fork of the South Branch section from the Judy Gap or Riverton area down to Seneca Rocks. With the abundant water, a Week of Rivers group (Barb Brown, Ken Kloppenborg, Beth Koller, Jon Shavor, Carrie Singer, and Doug Willenborg) ventured further upstream. After some road scouting, we settled on a put-in at a river crossing on a road just off the main thoroughfare, route 28. The put-in bridge was two miles upstream of Circleville. The take-out was in Riverton, just below the bridge there. Sounds good so far. But then, while the shuttle was being run, Doug hit his head on one of the I-bars underneath the bridge. After observation and the absence of neurologic symptoms, he was declared fit to run. The day was nippy and very overcast—so the fitness of the group determining that we should run could be called into question.

The river was very narrow, often 30 feet or less, on the first two miles. There were continuous wave trains and few substantive eddies, but limited technical maneuvering was required. The rapids just above the Circleville bridge marked a change. There was debris under the right side of the bridge, and the flow was compressed into the river left channel. To reach that channel required some zigging and zagging through the upper section of the rapid.

Downstream the river continued to have wave trains, but also contained more complex drops with serial, offset ledges. The required maneuvering was enough to keep one warm! There were opportunities for surfing on the run in some of the bigger wave trains. As upstream, there were precious few eddies. We found one that permitted a lunch stop, and then another after a very busy ledge series. Despite a fun river run, we were happy to see the take-out bridge.

Another kind of “fun”, however, was just beginning. Barb and Doug departed to run the shuttle. The rest of us hauled up all of the boats, arranged gear, switched to dry clothes, and waited. And waited some more as the upstream saga unfolded. And we were in the dark because cell coverage in the area is minimal at best.

Despite being in an open area and across from an occupied farmhouse, Doug’s vehicle had been vandalized. Two tires had been punctured/slashed. Doug had one spare. Barb, ever resourceful, went to the river left gas station on the south end of Circleville and made some inquiries. What resulted was a testament to the kindness of most of the people in West Virginia. Someone indicated that he could help get a tire. Later someone else indicated that he could get the tire mounted on the rim. The farmer also provided assistance. (It certainly helped that Doug’s vehicle was a truck, and one common in West Virginia!) While the tire replacement was going on, Barb made the trip to the take-out. The dilemma: two open boats, four kayakers, five people, gear, and one shuttle car. Again, the kindness of West Virginia residents emerged. The owners of the property near the take-out brought out extra tie-downs. In defiance of all the laws of physics, the boats were loaded. Jared Flynn, the owner’s son and an emerging chef, squeezed the rest of us into a vehicle and delivered us to the put-in. Many locals apologized for what happened to us. We learned that residents from the nearby Big Run area sometimes leave that area to create trouble elsewhere. Something to consider on future trips.

The final decision to be made was whether we should reload the boats. In further defiance to the laws of gravity, Barb’s car made it over the mountain back to Canaan Valley without reloading or incident. (Barb’s car not only thinks that it is amphibious; it thinks that it is a big rig!)



Doug at the put-in



Mini-surf by Doug



Continuous gradient



Ken in a wave train



Beth just cruising



The "look" on a Barb B. surf



Carrie on a ferry



Jon above the Circleville bridge



Ken and more gradient



Barb on a bigger wave



Lunch, oh boy!



Jon flows downstream



Relief on reaching a rare eddy



Ken takes a breather after upstream ledges



Carrie surfing until the end



Jon in mid-air getting ready to lean on the outer boats as Ken rigs Barb's wonder car

[Lucky on Horseshoe: April 2018](#)

Horseshoe Run is an ephemeral whitewater run. It was a favorite of Steve Ettiginger. It has been on the bucket list of many paddlers. Barb Brown was such a paddler. If there is a lot of water in nearby streams, it may be running. There is no gauge. One needs to go to the river and guesstimate. In a prior year, as a large group stood around a possible put-in, Barb was all in. After a bony run on another river, some were not not looking forward to a repeat. Barb was pulled back from the brink.

This day, however, was a different story. We found a take-out with more parking and a better view of the water and its gradient. It had been raining, and the rock coverage looked OK. To top it off, Ed Evangelidi would be running shuttle! We hopped on.

This narrow, zesty, Class 2/3 run was full of some squirrely rapids. At first glance, the initial rapids looked innocuous, but required a precise angle. Two swims--but with a quick recovery. The gradient was continuous. As we moved away from the road, there were fewer signs of civilization. Ledges became more frequent and often in sequence. One was particularly deep—with only the head of the paddlers being visible. There was deadfall. In one case, the tree extended across the river except for a narrow aperture on river right. Most of us portaged on river left. After paddling about nine miles, Ed identified some issues with the planned take-out at the bridge on route 7 so we paddled another two miles on the Cheat and took out near St. George (originally Fort Minear and then Westernford). On the way back, we passed the historic St. George Academy.



A tricky start—not easily seen from the put-in (1st photo Barb B.)



Lee takes a plunge—followed by Jon



Taking a good look



Lisa—all smiles



Jon realizing the left route was a no go



Barb surfs



Carrie surfs



Jon braces for the plunge



Beth buried (Photo from Barb B.)



La-de-da (Photo from Barb B.)



Waiting for Lisa to hit the wave hole



Jon bridging the wave hole



Carrie in the pines-her arms properly in the box



Lee & Jon in the pines



Daniel stroking hard



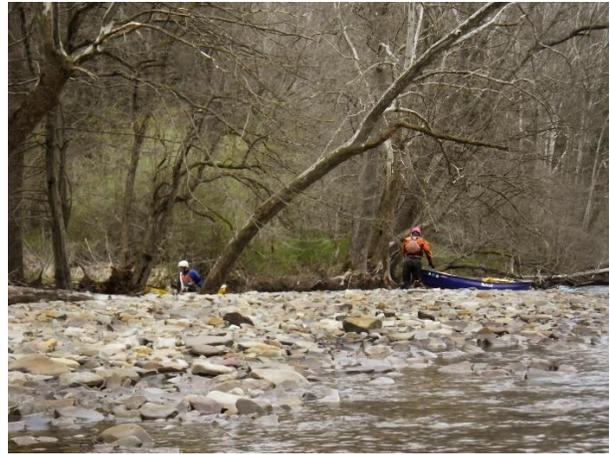
Barb & Carrie find a way around the deadfall



John takes the opportunity to stretch



More deadfall



The portage around



Doug-still smiling



Getting back in the saddle for more fun



Daniel takes a dip



Lisa bounces through



John S. being directive



Approaching the end



Where's the beef?



Open House Today!

[South Branch of the Potomac: Seneca Rocks to Hopeville Canyon: April 2018](#)

After a series of dreary days, we were happy to paddle under clear skies—even if the temperature was brisk. The Potomac run below Seneca Rocks is Class 2+. The generous water levels meant that few rocks were to be found and sometimes water was running through the trees. The river passes under many bridges.

The biggest surprise was a collapsed bridge early in the run. There was a sneak route that Barb took. Because the slot most easily visible from downstream, most others portaged on river right. The portage was not easy because the eddy was small and deep and the adjacent slope significantly steep. We learned later that the collapse of this temporary bridge was very recent and that we were likely the first paddling group to encounter it. (To check the status, look for the signs to the Yokum Stables on the main highway.) In this same area, we were also able to view the enlarged cut-away for repair/replacement of an existing energy pipeline on river right.

We bounced down wave trains and found surfing spots. The river picked up more volume—so we floated with speed in the flatter sections. We reptiled in the sun at the usual river right lunch spot. Ron Fisher took the opportunity to successfully run one of the newly available slot runs to

the right of the main channel. Later he found one of the river right eddies to be less forgiving. The temperature at the end of the run was higher and evidenced by blooming trees. A good day!



The put-in at the Seneca Rocks bridge was not in bloom; the takeout was.



This road to an an energy access project collapsed about a week before our run.



Ron getting splashed



Zofia aiming for the eddy



Zofia along one of the many wave trains



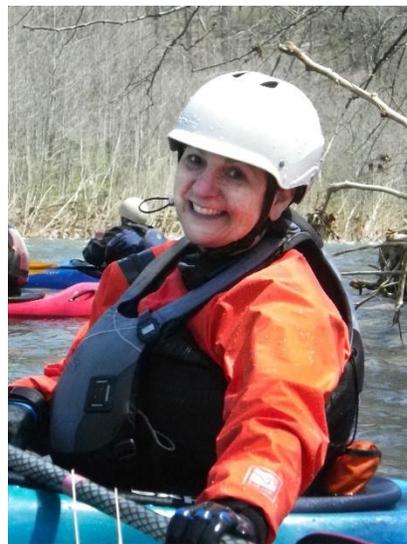
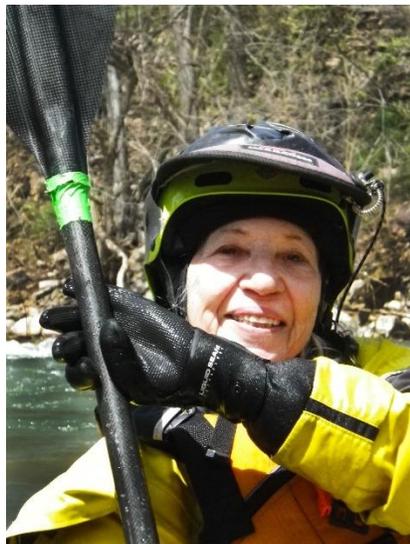
Ron R. takes a breather



Ron F. stroking hard



Bob Maxey soaking in the sun



Carrie & Lisa W. eddy-out



Basking in the sun at lunch



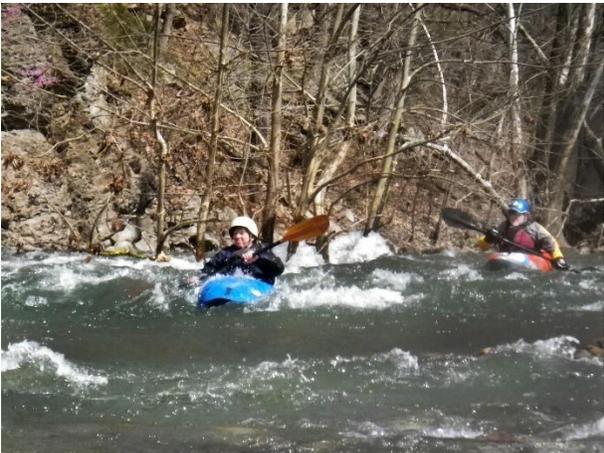
Barb looking for a surfing wave



Bob goes surfing



Lisa W. follows



Barb finds a route next to flooded trees



Ron R. paddles through an ever wider river



Ron F. not happy with a swirly eddy at the end

Toast to All



Jon S. pours



A (in)temperate April day on the deck



Growlers & specialty beers



Tequila jello shots complete with salt

There are several group gatherings during the West Virginia Week of Rivers event. Margarita night, often with Wendy Schmidt as the barkeep, is one such gathering. This year Bonnie Wisdom added to the offerings with tequila jello shots. Left-over night on the final Saturday is another event. 2018 brought a new addition: specialty beer night. The masterminds for this were Jon Shavor and Doug Willenborg (from North Carolina), who are well known for their various growlers of beer. Cheers!

HISTORIC AND FOLKLORIC **Glass-Blowing: A West Virginia Tradition**

The weather and water during West Virginia Week of Rivers in April is always chancy. It's a good idea to bring board games (e.g., Scrabble and Settlers of Catan--and expect Marilyn Jones to beat you at the former and the Garvis crew to whip you in the latter), books, boots and rain coats for hiking, mountain bikes, and an openness for exploring the area. Last year, after a couple of days of good boating, the weather turned rainy and cold. An excursion to nearby Buckhannon seemed to be in order; we could check the water levels on the Buckhannon near its intersection with the Tygart, scope out the antique stores, visit one or more of the local glass-blowing establishments, and sample the local eateries. ✓✓✓✓ We did it all.

We found our way to Ron Hinkle's business (211 LibbyLu Lane, Buckhannon WV 26201; 304-472-7963; ronhinkleglass [at] yahoo.com; <https://www.ronhinkleglass.com>). Mr. Hinkle provided us with a custom tour. He started with the long history of glass production in West Virginia—something that was possible because of the availability of inexpensive natural gas. He described the various methods of glasswork production including free-form and mold production. He discussed how various metals and other chemicals could be added to molten glass to provide color. He talked about how the business has changed. Because of the rise in natural gas prices, many glass producers went out of business. He runs a very lean operation with very efficient furnaces. He does have some more easily produced items at lower prices points, e.g., shot glasses and simple vases, but his specialty is custom or one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Of course, we visited the gift shop and did some damage to our credit cards. The gallery made it easier by shipping items to arrive at home after the WOR trip and eliminating any worries about being packed in with wet boating gear and being broken.



When you see the sign, you are already there.



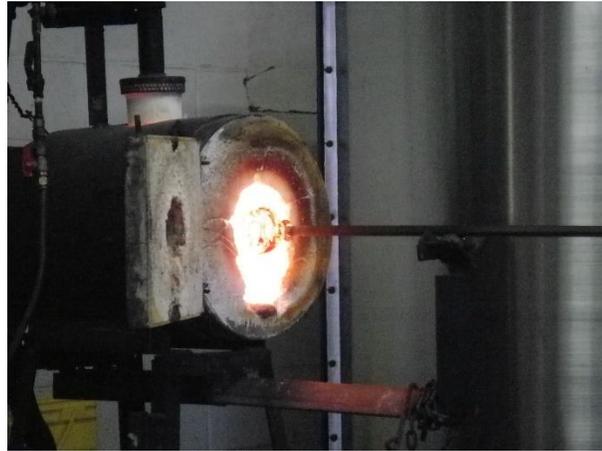
Equipment including a gas furnace



Metals and other chemicals added to silica to provide color



Adding the color beads



Heating and blowing the silica mass



Shaping the glass with tools



A red rim was added



Barb and Beth bought lampshades

[Search for the Covered Bridge](#)

We searched for “the covered bridge”. No GPS was going to help us. We made one detour to another bridge. Ultimately we traveled along the Buckhannon River on an unpaved, often single-lane road. Traveled is not the word. Barb thinks that her car is amphibious. The river was brown and had big waves. It was out of its banks in some places. In other places, there were HUGE puddles—for which we did not know the depth. One of the worst was in a tunnel under a concrete railway bridge. Maybe her car is amphibious. We did finally arrive at our destination: the Carrollton Bridge in Barbour County.

We actually smelled the destination first: a very smoky aroma. We were shocked to find that the beautiful bridge had been partially burned down the prior August. Arson is suspected. The bridge, which can be seen from downstream as one makes the long walk out from the Tygart take-out used to be a beautiful and welcome site. It is the second longest covered bridge at 140’9” in length and 16’ in width. It was built with burr/kingpost trusses by Daniel and Emmet J. O’Brien in 1856.



Our first view from upstream



Looking upstream—lots of water

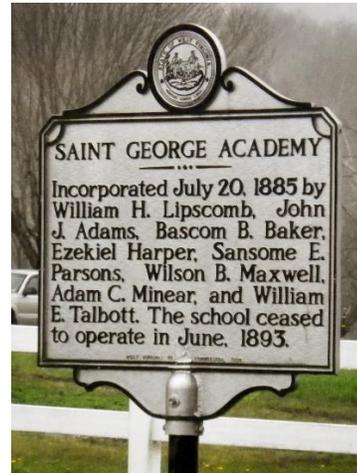


Bolts and charred support timbers



Looking towards the Tygart take-out road

[Cultural Landmark on the Horseshoe Run Shuttle](#)



The unique clapboard building has a projected bay front & a square vented tower with a finial.

The Saint George Academy was a Tucker County school, for which construction began in 1885 and was completed the following year. The school was replaced in 1975-76 by a building constructed behind the academy building. The academy building was condemned by the fire marshal in 1981. Subsequently, it was moved by the local historical society to its current location. It houses a local history museum.

[THE BOATER'S DINING GUIDE](#)

[CJ-Maggies: A West Virginia Original](#)

After visiting the antique shops in downtown Buckhannon during the WOR, we found ourselves at CJ-Maggies. CJ-Maggies is a West Virginia original, in existence since 1992. It has two locations, one in Elkins (Davis Avenue, Elkins, WV 26241; 304-636-1730) and the other in Buckhannon (16 East Main Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201; 304-472-2490). The menu features something for everyone: specialty salads, sandwiches, sliders, pasta, a variety of pizzas cooked in a wood fired oven, Tex-Mex entrees, steaks, and other Americana entrees. (<http://www.cj-maggies.com/menu/>) Portion sizes are large—especially for the price (\$8-\$14). Sandwiches will hold you until dinner and longer. Alcoholic libations (beer, specialty cocktails, and wine) are

available. Booth seating can accommodate parties of four. Tables can seat large groups. Parking is on-street.

BOATING TRIVIA

Please see the last issue for the second set of trivia question for 2019. You may find that the January program and the speaker's book will be of assistance. 200 points results in a prize!

GEAR

Canoes/Kayaks/Other Gear: New and Used

Used OC-1

Ron Knipling has an open canoe for sale, specifically a Mohawk Probe "12II" solo whitewater canoe/playboat (OC-1). 12'2". Bright red. ABS/Royalex. Pedestal saddle with quick-release thigh straps. Includes two airbags. Paddled only lightly by both its owners. Stored in the shade. Never broached or significantly damaged. Easy to carry. One of the most popular OC-1s ever made, yet Mohawk boats are no longer in production. \$425 firm. Ron Knipling (703-304-3887; rknipling [at] aol.com).

StarrkMoon

Brad Nelson, the proprietor of the Starrk-Moon Kayak Shop (497 Cold Cabin Road, Delta, PA 17314; Phone: 717-456-7720) on Muddy Creek and near the Susquehanna River, is a club member as well. He is open seven days a week! He has long been a purveyor of Pyranha boats, but has plenty of other brands and gear as well. And if you need a shuttle for a Muddy Creek run, he can help you too!

http://www.starrkmoon.com/about_starrk_moon.asp

http://www.starrkmoon.com/muddy_creek_shuttle.asp

FEATURE ARTICLE #2

My Summer Vacation (Part 2)--Richard Hopley

Phase 4: Wyoming and Montana Paddling

The participants for this part of my trip were: me (Winston-Salem, NC), Chris Oberlin (Bethesda), Lee Belknap and Michelle Riddle (Hendersonville, NC), Lee's daughter, Liz Bergen (NYC), Dan Bertko and Lois Carra (Boston), Donna Grimes (Houston), Craig Wolfe (Hyattsville), Chris Kelly and Nanette Laughery (Salida, CO), David Bernard (Panama City Beach, FL), and my nephew Evan Hopley (Flagstaff, AZ).

7/23/2018 Monday: North Fork of the Shoshone River from Eagle Creek Group Campground (CG) to Rex Hale CG, 1,690 cfs at Wapiti. I skipped paddling that day, and Lois rode with me into town, where I bought a couple of new headlight bulbs, which Lee would install for me a day or so later. The others reported that this was a solid Class 3 run at this level. For dinner, we went to Bill Cody Ranch where Donna's grand-daughter was working for the summer.



Donna & Craig on the NF of the Shoshone



Dan B. et al. eddy sitting



Lee in the drop



Michelle buried in the water

7/24/2018 Tuesday: **North Fork of the Shoshone River** from Rex Hale CG to a fishing access one mile downstream from Bill Cody Ranch (1/4-mile below Lost Creek), 1,560 cfs at Wapiti. This was mostly Class 2, but we did manage to have a couple of swimmers at the rapid named The Devil's Elbow. That evening Chris and I, Craig, Lee, Michelle, and Liz went into Cody for dinner at Zapata's Restaurant. Craig was unwilling to put up with the lousy service and left. The service did not improve.

7/25/2018 Wednesday: **Chief Joseph Scenic Highway, Beartooth Highway.** I had hoped to go into Montana to paddle the Stillwater River next, but it was too high for a Class 2/3 trip, so this was a driving day. Most of the group drove west through Yellowstone National Park, then south through Grand Teton NP to our next campground, the Gros Ventre USFS CG, eight or 10 miles north of Jackson, WY. Chris, Lee, Michelle, Liz, and I took a much longer scenic route. We went east into Cody, then north on the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway, WY-296, stopping to scramble around the rim looking down into the canyon of the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone.



Beartooth Highway (US-212)

This is a spectacular drive in itself, but our goal was the Beartooth Highway, US-212. Just over a mile east of the WY-296/US-212 junction is the beautiful Lake Creek Falls, we all got out and walked the trail to the old CCC-era bridge just up the creek from the new highway bridge. Then, after another three or four miles east on US-212, we were able to leave Lee's and Liz's vehicles at the fire tower road, CR-142, so we could all ride the Beartooth Highway together in my van. Unfortunately, the fire tower road itself was closed--so we could not drive up to the tower. We stopped at Beartooth Lake and a dozen more scenic pullouts along this spectacular stretch of road, until we entered Montana and reached the overlook above the set of switchbacks that leads down into the Rock Creek valley and into Red Lodge. We got back to Lee's and Liz's cars shortly before dark and had a harrowing drive through Yellowstone in the dark, sometimes dodging, sometimes pausing, for bison on the road, and got into camp around 1 AM. Fortunately, Dan and Lois had arrived early and secured enough campsites for the whole group.

7/26/2018 Thursday: Hoback River, from Granite Creek to Hoback Junction. There is no gauge for this Class 2 stretch, but we had more than adequate flow and several entertaining rapids. Some of us ate at the upscale Gunbarrel Steakhouse, and others ate across the street at Sidewinders Tavern.



Lee & Chris O. on a harder Hoback rapid



Dan B. & David B. round the same bend



Donna, Chris, and Dan chat at lunch



Chris K. and Craig canoe the Gros Ventre



David B. on the smoky Gros Ventre



Checking out falls with smoke overhead



Chris K. & Nanette tandem "IKing" 8002



Evan in his new boat

7/27/2018 Friday: Gros Ventre River, Warden Bridge to Red Cliff CG, 650 cfs at Kelly. Some spent the day touring Yellowstone NP, some hung out in Jackson, and five of us ran the gorge section of the Gros Ventre. Chaos ensued, in the form of two swims. At this level, it was boring

in the flats along Upper Slide Lake, had very challenging Class 3+ rapids in the gorge section (where I had no photo opportunities), and was Class 2 and very beautiful for the rest of the run. I've run the gorge at 300 cfs and found it charming, and at 2,000 CFS and found it challenging, but not as challenging as this time. Several of us ate at a nice little Mexican restaurant on Pearl Avenue in Jackson, and, that evening, Evan arrived in camp to complete the roster.

7/28/2018 Saturday: Gros Ventre River, Crystal Creek to Slide Lake, 640 cfs at Kelly. This was a very easy stretch of Class 2 whitewater, but we fought serious headwinds for the last mile-and-a-half across Lower Slide Lake. This was a nice easy stretch for Evan's first day in his new birthday-present kayak. About half of us went to Dornan's Chuckwagon for dinner, but were very disappointed. Dornan's has changed its format from "order an entrée and select your salad and sides buffet style" to simply "order your entrée and choose two sides." A big letdown, and probably the last time I'll go to Dornan's. Well, maybe the last time; the ribs were pretty darned good...

7/29/2018 Sunday: Greys River, Murphy Creek to Little Greys River, 620 cfs at Alpine. We broke camp at the Gros Ventre CG and drove south to Alpine, then up along the Greys River Road. This stretch was much more challenging than I remembered, with one very long solid Class 3 rapid, and, I am sorry I chose it, for this had been billed as a Class 2/3 trip. Several in the group were quite uncomfortable, and two swam. From Alpine, we took US-26 west into Idaho, then ID-31, ID-33, and ID-32 to northbound US-20 and camped at the Riverside USFS CG of the Caribou-Targhee NF, beside US-20 on the Henry's Fork River. Chris and Nanette stayed in West Yellowstone, and Lee, Michelle, and Liz spent the night with a friend of Lee's in Driggs, so there were only eight of us for a group dinner in camp.



Donna on the Greys; carnage upstream



Rainbow at Mesa Falls

7/30/2018 Monday: Madison River, MT-87 fishing access to Lyons Bridge, 1,300 cfs below Hebgen Lake. Lee and company rejoined us, and we drove north to take the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway southward. We stopped at both the Upper Mesa Falls and Lower Mesa Falls overlooks before backtracking north to rejoin eastbound US-20, continue north to MT-87, and then to the take-out at the intersection of US-287. This was a good time for me to take a rest day, because I don't find this a very interesting stretch of river, so I just snoozed and read my book at the take-out. The others reported an uneventful trip, and felt that it was a bit too low to be interesting. There was, however, one swim due to inattention. After paddling, we drove east on US-287 to the Madison Slide/Quake Lake USFS historical interpretive center. Then it was a few more

miles east, and then north on US-191 to the Red Cliff USFS CG in the Gallatin NF near Big Sky, MT. Most of us had an unimpressive dinner at Buck's T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.



Lee at House Rock on the Gallatin



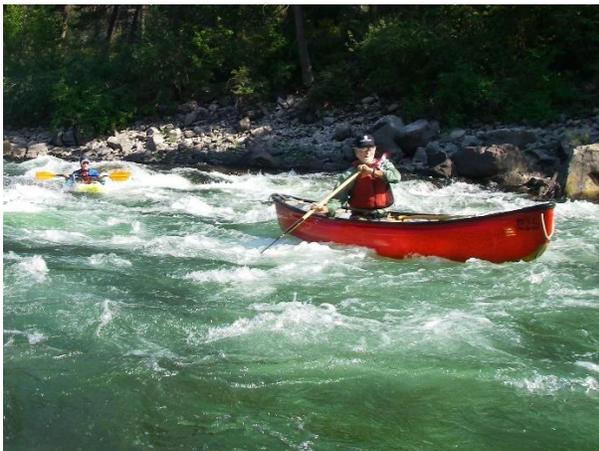
Chris O. & Dave B. at House Rock



Michelle photographing Dave B. & Craig



Trailhead bridge on Rock Creek



Craig & Evan on the Blackfoot



Chris O. closes out the Blackfoot River

7/31/2018 Tuesday: Gallatin River, Moose Creek Flat CG to Lava Lake Trailhead or Storm Castle, 740 cfs at Gallatin Gateway. Donna and Evan each took the day off; Evan went into Bozeman to hang out at the University's climbing gym. The rest of us all put on together, but Michelle and I took out at Lava Lake Trailhead. The worst swim of the trip occurred in the technical water just below House Rock, when the boat got away and wasn't recovered until a half-mile downstream. I roped the swimmer across to the highway side of the river and gave him a ride down to his boat. Chris K. and Nanette headed home to Colorado from the take-out. Lee, Michelle, Liz, Chris O., and I went into Bozeman to meet Evan at the very nice Rice Fine Thai Cuisine for dinner. We stayed a second night at Red Cliff CG.

8/1/2018 Wednesday: Rock Creek, Harry's Flat to Sawmill fishing access, 490 cfs. David did not want to travel any farther west, so he headed back to spend a few days in Cody, which he had missed because of car trouble, before driving home to Florida. The remaining ten of us left early for the three-and-a-half hour drive via US-191 and I-94 to Ekstrom's Stage Stop, just off I-94 about twenty miles east of Missoula. After claiming campsites at Ekstrom's, we paddled Rock Creek. Rock Creek is rather tame, but the quarter-mile long Dalles section is nice, technical Class 2, and we saw a black bear running from us along the bank. That night we ate in Ekstrom's wonderful restaurant, where we celebrated Craig's birthday with a pie the rest of us all chipped in for.

8/2/2018, Thursday: Blackfoot River, Ninemile access to Johnsrud Park, 1,140 cfs at Bonner. Donna left us in the morning to meet a friend in Missoula and begin the next phase of her trip, to Oregon; Dan and Lois left us for a separate Oregon trip; and Liz headed back to the East Coast. The remaining six of us drove to Russell Gates CG on MT-200 to claim sites and then drove the washboard roads to unload at Ninemile access. I made the mistake of doing the shuttle on river-right dirt roads. (On our return, we used MT-200, and it was faster and much more comfortable.) This was a lot of river miles, but a beautiful Class 1 float, except for a few hundred yards of the Class 2+ Thibodeau rapids. Afterwards, we all went into Missoula and met Donna at Tamarack Brewing, right next to Caras Park and the downtown playboat hole on the Clark Fork River.

8/3/2018, Friday: Blackfoot River, Russell Gates CG to Roundup access, 1,100 cfs at Bonner. This was our last day of boating. We set up the easy shuttle along MT-200 and had a lovely day of Class 2+ whitewater. Lee and Michelle and Craig all hit the highway from the takeout, getting a start on the long road back to the East Coast and work on Monday. Evan, Chris, and I went into town and wandered around downtown Missoula, eating at a Brazilian restaurant named "Five on Black", and then stayed a second night at Russell Gates CG.

PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT

More Musings from the Brain of Ed Evangelidi

The ballplayer announcing the day's run so far: "Bottom of the ninth rapid; Strainers 5, Boaters 4."

Scientists have discovered the gene that causes severe pins on the river. The gene is closely linked to the gene that causes boating addiction; but in the abnormal person, the gene is pinned up against the boating addiction gene.

"I see you have written a long list of boaters listed here under the title 'hydrogenated'. What does

that mean?” “Those are the people who are buttering me up since I won the Grand Canyon permit lottery.”

[Protecting Canaan Valley Wilderness with Photography](#)

In January, local photographer, Kent Mason, presented images from his book: “West Virginia’s Allegheny Mountains: A Photographic Journey. Kent spends over six months a year in the Alleghenies from the expanses of Bear Rocks and Dolly Sods to the Cheat River from its headwaters through the Gorge. Kent is also knowledgeable about the conservation efforts that have been necessary to protect the areas. The Nature Conservancy is putting together land parcels for the Allegheny Front Preserve. All profits from the book go to benefit the Nature Conservancy and this particular project. The book be purchased directly (<http://wvphotographs.com/>; \$40). Alternatively, Beth Koller has four books (two signed; two unsigned).



[American Whitewater Updates](#)

American Whitewater works for river access, conservation, and safety. BRV is an affiliate club member of AW. As such, BRV members are eligible to join for \$25.

Thanks to AW you can add a new stretch of river (Class 3 to 4) to your quiver. Consider running the New River Dries (near Gauley Bridge, WV) in late June (29 and 30) and in July (6, 7, 13, 14, and 20) with alternate dates on the weekends between July 21 and August 31). The releases range from 2,200 to 2,500 cfs, but water will only be released if in-flows to the dam are between 3,800 and 12,500 cfs. The dam owner is improving the put-in (Cotton Hill) and developing a new take-out. AW will provide updated information on parking.

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

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/2419/>

<https://newrivergorgecvb.com/event/dates-scheduled-for-first-new-river-dries-releases-wv-4/>

Always wanted to run the Rogue River in southern Oregon? Now you have the chance to go with AW (board members and staff) on a four day float (June 20-23). You can bring a boat, rent a boat, or hop on a raft. The price is \$1045. Reservations should be made directly through the outfitter, Northwest Rafting Company (www.nwrafting.com/rogue).

In their March/April magazine issue, AW also detailed the events that led to the **receipt of the Carnegie Hero Award to Eric Martin (owner of Wilderness Voyageurs) and Patrick McCarty (manager of river operations for Laurel Highlands) for their role in rescuing two individuals** who had run the Middle Yough in an inflated rental craft, but who had capsized in the last rapids and been held against the old rail road trestle converted into the bike/hike bridge. Time was of the essence, especially given the river level (six feet) and the proximity of Ohioptyle

Falls. Bystanders had called 911. The Park dispatched an emergency response vehicle. The volunteer fire department siren summoned volunteers. Eric and Patrick jumped into boats sans spray skirts. One of the victims tried to grab Eric’s cockpit rim and climb on the deck despite initial instructions. Later he was able to tow her to an eddy where he exited the kayak (that he had commandeered from a passerby) and help her to a low ledge 40 feet from shore. After the pinned craft moved when the first victim starting floating downstream, Patrick used his boat like a tugboat to ferry the craft and the second victim towards the shore where other rescuers were waiting. Multiple other people participated to make the rescue successful, but these two paddlers knowingly put themselves at risk. **The article is a thrilling read.**

Dues

Dues (\$10/calendar year) and roster information may be sent to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851).

BRV Board Meeting and Financial Documents

- Clark Childers (treasurer) provided an accounting of the club’s monies. He noted that membership had gone up, that there were multiple new members, and that, for this time of the year, the club had received more dues than usual. (Historical note: club dues were recently reduced to \$10 from a prior level of \$20 when the club decided to send newsletters electronically and to not print the newsletter and to not use postal delivery.)

	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Budget 2019
Cash Balance 1/1	\$1,464	\$2,212	\$2,321
Receipts			
Memberships	\$1,310	\$900	\$900
Disbursements			
Meeting Fees	\$185	\$125	\$150
Holiday Party/Picnic	\$377	\$420	\$450
Board Meetings		\$133	\$130
Website		\$113	\$120
Digital Storage			\$200
Logo			\$400
Programs			\$200
Total	\$562	\$791	\$1,650
Cash Balance 12/31	\$2,212	\$2,321	\$1,571
Members	90	90	90
Other/Conservation			
Cash Balance 1/1	\$161	\$256	\$321
Receipts			
Conservation	\$95	\$65	\$50
Flood Relief			
Transfer			
Disbursements			
American Whitewater			\$100
Team River Runner			\$100
Cash Balance 12/31	\$256	\$321	\$171

- The Board noted the efforts made by Mike Martin (webmaster), who arranged for a new club logo. The role of the logo and the boat stickers with the logo in advertising the club was discussed. Although Mike had not requested any reimbursement, the Board voted to provide some reimbursement. Mike accepted on the condition that he would purchase more stickers for distribution. The availability to purchase logo items via Café Press was discussed. This availability will be included in the newsletter as well as on the website.
- The Board also approved reapproval of the AW affiliate club status. BRV members often use the gauge data. The affiliate status is a source of advertising because the club is listed in their magazine issues. The address is listed as Rockville and needs to be corrected. Whether the magazine is being sent to that address and whether members can view an electronic version needs to be determined.
- Prices for NPFV paddling videos were discussed. Monies were set aside for meeting room rental and programs for meetings.

- Several possible conservation projects in which BRVers could participate were discussed. No need for funds was immediately identified, but a small amount of money would likely be available.
- Because Team River Runner is local and a member is very active in acting as an intermediary, the club will donate money to TRR.
- The club no longer owns a computer. The editor's computer that has programs/devices that are useful to the club, e.g., image processing, a media player, a slide show program, a video converter, a DVD/CD player, etc. is now full of club material. The club will pay for primary and back-up digital storage.
- The challenges of having people sending dues to Ginny or handing them to Beth (or the new folks helping) during meetings/programs and then needing to forward information to the treasurer and to make deposits was discussed. The success of CCA's dues collection via their website was discussed. Issues with Pay Pal were discussed.
- The website was discussed. Any version should not require an extensive programming background, high maintenance, high build fees, or high maintenance fees. Its platform should be viewable on a phone. The calendar should be highly functional. A way to view photos or have adequate links to photos would be desirable. Several options were discussed. More information will be sought. Mike would like input. A mock-up would be helpful. Transfer of current website materials with a possible interim archive link was discussed.
- Requests for trips co-ordinated by Board members were made.
- The possibility of a trip to the River Ramble was discussed. Mark has listings of Virginia events.
- No final decision was made on the date of the picnic and whether it would be a land picnic or a paddling picnic.
- Candidates for office, board service, and other club service will be sought.



***The club is about fun and camaraderie.
It can't happen without YOU!!!***

Try having as much fun as this paddler. Co-ordinate a BRV contingent to gatherings such as waterfall workshops at Valley Falls, New River round-ups, and river festivals. If you want to do it, it is likely that someone else would like to do it as well.

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



Get your club sticker from Mike Martin (Webmaster) or via the website link

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