

# The BLUE RIDGE VOYAGEURS Newsletter

MAY 2019

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## CLUB BUSINESS AT THE PUT-IN

### The President Reports from the Canoe Saddle:

After some fitful starts, Summer is upon us. We need to flesh out our trip schedule. Don't be shy. Tom and Sandy Snyder, BRV paddlers who now live in Tennessee, will be bringing up some of their Southern friends for a week of boating in mid-June. They will be based at the Ohiopyle campground, but will be running a variety of rivers. On the weekend, they will be chasing the Stonycreek release. They would like BRV members to join them. See the website for details.

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!)

August is the time for the waterfall clinic at Valley Falls on the Tygart. We will pass on the details when we receive them.

Our vice-president, 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 has not yet been determined. Of note, Alf Cooley has been dutifully checking on the paddling status of the canal. After repairs, that area has been rewatered—so it is possible to do the loop without running a shuttle to Pennyfield Lock.

We have had an active program schedule. Extreme boater Risa Shimoda was the speaker at our May meeting. She shared how the ACA governance of competitive paddle sport—including free style (rodeo) boating is changing things. She also discussed the International Whitewater Hall of Fame and candidate sites. She even joined us for pizza. The meeting was rounded out with the re-emergence of Court Ogilvie's Whitewater Funhouse video.

The next meeting will be mid-July. Nature Conservancy staff will talk about their area preserves that would be of interest to paddlers, e.g., Sideling Hill and Nassawango Cypress Swamp. There also will be a whitewater video or a slide show based on a member trip to Okefenokee swamp. We may also hear about the newly available rapids on the Patapsco now that the Bloede Dam has been removed. The area is anticipated to reopen June 24. One of the Fall meetings will feature a very exciting paddling excursion in the Congo. Please be on time for the meetings (7 PM) and even come a little early to help set-up.

Mike Martin has resurrected an ancient article on Seneca Creek. Kay Fulcomer, a current BRV member, was a participant on that trip! He will provide an update on the strainer status and any works parties.

We welcome new members including John Finley and Jenny Jutkofski.

SYOTR.... *Rick Koller*

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## **MEETINGS**

### **May Meeting**

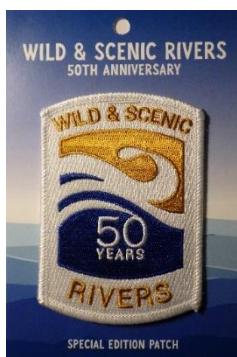
Risa Shimoda, an early extreme paddler and two time head of American Whitewater, was our guest speaker at the May meeting. She discussed the impact of the transfer of governance for all competitive paddlesport (from dragon boat racing, kayak polo, and sprints to slalom racing, wildwater racing, and free style kayaking (rodeo) to the American Canoe Association.

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/aca.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/bod\\_documents/ACA\\_structure\\_-\\_Board\\_-\\_Coun.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/aca.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/bod_documents/ACA_structure_-_Board_-_Coun.pdf)  
She serves on the ACA Competition Council Board and is heading up the freestyle activities. She is working on ways to facilitate participation in some of the smaller disciplines.

She talked about the International Whitewater Hall of Fame and the short list of locations (one very close to here) and showed us some of the draft building images for various sites.

She also talked about her work at River Management Society, which provides networking and support for river professionals including commercial guides and outfitters, academicians, fluvial scientists, environmental lawyers, and government staff such as rangers, scientists, and policy developers. She showed a video about the many unsung heroes who work on our public lands.

The evening included a Court Ogilvie production, a video featuring BRV members in both kayaks and open canoes. There were thrills and spills from a variety of river locations including the Cheat Canyon, the Gauley, La Rogue (Quebec) the New Gorge, Rios Tres Amigos (Costa Rica), and the Tygart (Arden Section).



Risa also brought patches to commemorate the Wild and Scenic River Act.

## Upcoming Meetings

In July, Deborah Landau from the Nature Conservancy-Maryland will talk about the various preserves that may be of interest to paddlers because of their proximity to boating runs, the availability of paddling opportunities, and/or they feature various bodies of water.

In September, Jeff McIntyre will talk about a paddling excursion in the Congo. You may know him from his podcast “In Between Swims”.

We plan to supplement the main speakers with slide shows from paddling trips and videos from the National Paddling Film Fest.



## PADDLING EVENTS

### Festivals

**June Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival (*Purcellville, VA*)** The 20<sup>th</sup> and *final event was held last year.*

<https://harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org/>

**June 28-30 Deerfield Festival (*Charlemont, MA*)**

[https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/aw:events\\_deerfield](https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/aw:events_deerfield)

**August 10 (10 AM-5 PM) Smith River Fest (*Smith River Sports Complex, Axton, VA and Martinsville, VA*)**

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

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

**August 17 Great Falls Race and Festival**

[https://www.americancanoe.org/events/event\\_list.asp?show=&group=&start=8%252F24%252F2011&end=&view=&cid=3911](https://www.americancanoe.org/events/event_list.asp?show=&group=&start=8%252F24%252F2011&end=&view=&cid=3911)

**August 23-25 Lehigh RiverFest (*Whitewater Challengers, Lehigh River Adventure Center, Weatherly, PA*)**

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

**September 19-22 Gauley Fest (*Summersville, WV*)**

[https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/view/id/aw%3Aevents\\_gauley/](https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/view/id/aw%3Aevents_gauley/)

### Releases

**Lehigh May 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\***

\*Pending availability

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

**New River Dries (Class 3+) June 29-30, July 6-7, 13-14, and 20 (Alterative dates: weekends July 21-August 31)**

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

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/34159/?fbclid=IwAR0vNqtriHsrx15G5rTTr38quiQMiSBQF6sGKnrk-9WIOFnIwZciAnMHA>

*The river flow must be between 3,800 and 12,500 cfs for a release between 2000 and 2500 cfs. A release is not needed at the upper flow levels because the dam is spilling. A release at lower levels is insufficient to cover enough rock.*

### **Savage June 2 and 7, September 28**

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

### **Stonycreek May 25, June 1-2, 15-16, 29-30, July 13-14, 27-28, August 10-11, 24-25, September 7-8, 21-22, October 5-6, 19-20**

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

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

*The salaries of staff who operate and repair the valves at Quemahoning Reservoir for the Stony releases are paid for by tax deductible donations to SQI Whitewater via the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Click on the web link.*

### **Trip Announcements**

**May 24-28 James River Camper (Gala Campground; Buchanan VA) Miki Komlosh** mkolosh [at] gmail.com. The trip is suitable for kids and newbies. There will be hiking, floating on the upper James, and a visit to the swinging bridge. There are possible Maury and safari park trips.

**May 24-28 Annual Camper at Teeter's Campground (Albright, WV) Courtney Caldwell & Mike Martin** will organize the camping. The location serves as a central location for trips to the Cheat Narrow, the Cheat Canyon, forks of the Cheat, Stonycreek, the Tygart and its forks, the Casselman, and the Yough basin.

**May 25-26 North Branch of the Potomac (Bloomington, MD) Zofia Kosim and Beth Koller** (240-506-0417) will coordinate trips. Limit 12. Since Zofia will be coming from Canaan Valley, contact Beth about the meeting time at the take-out. Call by Wednesday if you are interested. Please make a firm commitment by Thursday so planning can be done.

**June 1 Dealer's Choice (Class 2; nearby)** Fallback will be Antietam (likely lower run to Potomac) (Beth Koller 240-506-0417)

**June 1 Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race (Fredericksburg, VA)**. See the BRV website for the ACA contact person.

[https://www.americancanoe.org/m/event\\_details.asp?id=320924](https://www.americancanoe.org/m/event_details.asp?id=320924)

**June 8 Little Falls Run** Meet at Fletcher's Cove 9 AM. Need Class 3 skills. Level ~3.8 feet. No first timers. Zofia Kosim and Beth Koller (240-506-0417).

### **June 8 Potomac River Keeper Clean-up at Fort Washington**

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

[https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event=potomac-river-clean-up-2&event\\_date=2019-06-08](https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event=potomac-river-clean-up-2&event_date=2019-06-08)

### **June 14 Potomac River Keeper Women on the Water Paddle Day**

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event-category=prkn-event>

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event=riverpalooza-2019-women-on-the-water>

**June 15 Tour de Coal (Tornado and St. Albans, WV)** 11 mile float trip to help clean-up/preserve the Coal River. Must complete on-line registration by June 12.

<https://www.coalrivergroup.com/tour-de-coal.html>

**June 15-23 Stonycreek** on June 15 and/or 16 and the **Yough and other rivers** during the week.  
Tom and Sandy Snyder (423-453-9321; 423-453-0936)

**June 22 Potomac River Keeper Float Through History on the Antietam**

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event-category=prkn-event>

<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/?event=riverpalooza-2019-a-float-through-history-antietam>

**June 23 Dealer's Choice Class 2/3. Beth Koller** (240-506-0417)

**July 11 Potomac River Keeper Monuments Paddle**

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

**August 17 Annual BRV Moonlight Picnic**

**August 17 (possibly) Valley Falls Waterfall Clinic**

## **ACCESS ISSUES**

### **GAUGES**

#### **American Whitewater App**

American Whitewater is redeveloping its online National Whitewater Inventory with river descriptions (>5,500 runs) and gauge readings. One of the new capabilities that is being added is the inclusion of crowdsourced data on hazards, flow, photos, and other comments via mobile devices.

### **HAZARDS**

#### **Antietam Strainers**

The lowest section of Antietam Creek running from the Route 34 bridge to the Potomac River has minimal deadfall. There is a new fully leafed tree on river right near the end of the run, but it is easily avoidable.

At the final set of rapids before a bridge and the Potomac River, Furnace Rapids, there is a fresh tree on center left and three-quarters of the way through the rapids. It does not impair one's ability to run the river wide wave hole at the end of the rapids. The full extent of the strainer could not be estimated because the river was relatively high at 3.4 feet.

Below this is old deadfall piled up against the aqueduct. The portal on the far right is easily passable.

<http://ridethecanal.com/Antietam%20Aqueduct.aspx>

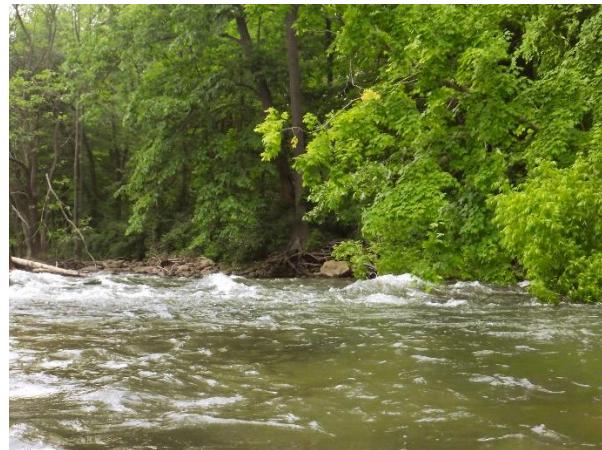
<https://www.canaltrust.org/pyv/antietam-creek-and-aqueduct/>

#### **Bloomington Strainers**

On river left over half way between Robin's Nest and Top-of-the-World, there is a branched log with submerged sections. It could present a hazard for a swimmer at the high water levels seen this Spring, i.e., 1400+ cfs.



At the rapids well below Top-of-the-World and just below a river right tributary sometimes notable for orange mine pollution, there is a new, downed, fully leafed tree on river left. This rapids normally has good eddies on either side of the wave train that provides good surfing. The majority of the current is now running directly towards the tree, and there is no substantive eddy on river left.



At the island near the end of the run, the smaller, more curvy channel has a river-right tree across at least three-quarters of the channel. The tree is visible from the upstream split and is about 50 feet into the channel.

### **Seneca Creek (Maryland) Strainer Update**

Here's some recent info on Seneca Creek strainers that Mike Martin has compiled.

- Riffle Ford to Black Rock Road: One massive strainer reported just above MD 118 bridge that has a short, easy drag-around on river-left. Easy egress and reentry points.
- Black Rock to Rt. 28: Mike Martin paddled this stretch with a park staffer a month or so ago and found the stretch to be clear, except for a massive, river-wide strainer pile about a mile down from Black Rock. Easy egress/reentry with a flat, rather long (perhaps 100 yards long) drag-around on river left.
- MD 28 to Berryville Rd: "We found one log pile that we chose to do a Class 3 hump-up-and-over instead of portaging. Not sure if I'd try that again over 160 cfs," he reports. "We did

not scout a portage route, but with steep, four to five foot banks on each side, I'd give it a Class 3 drag-around rating."

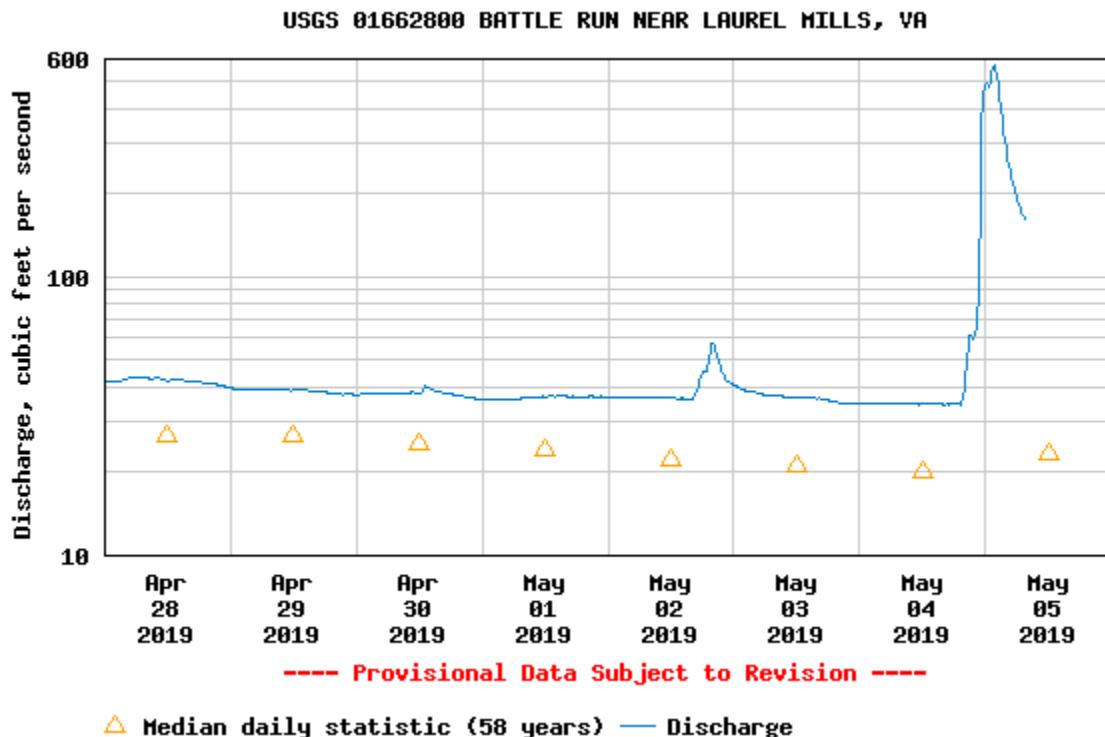
- Below Berryville: Presumed to be clear given that problematic obstructions are not typically seen there.

### **Smokehole Strainer—Information from Barb Brown**

There is a log in Landslide Rapids. The proximity of the log that is perpendicular to the current is unclear from the photos taken during an exploratory scout. Information from those who have boated the run since April and actually run the drop or portage the drop would be welcome.

### **Thornton Strainer—Information from Alf Cooley**

On an April run of the Thornton, Jim Long, the probe of our group of four paddlers came across a downed tree totally blocking the stream at about mile six of the seven mile section between Fletchers Mill and Rock Mills. The tree was about 18 inches in diameter and cleared the stream surface by only about six inches in swift current. The obstruction is not initially visible because of a curve, but there are some helpful markers: a gravel beach on river right and a hill on river left. The beach can serve as a take-out for a 75 yard portage. There is a possibility that the tree was moved by the large bolus of water that came through two weeks later



### **OTHER ACCESS ISSUES**

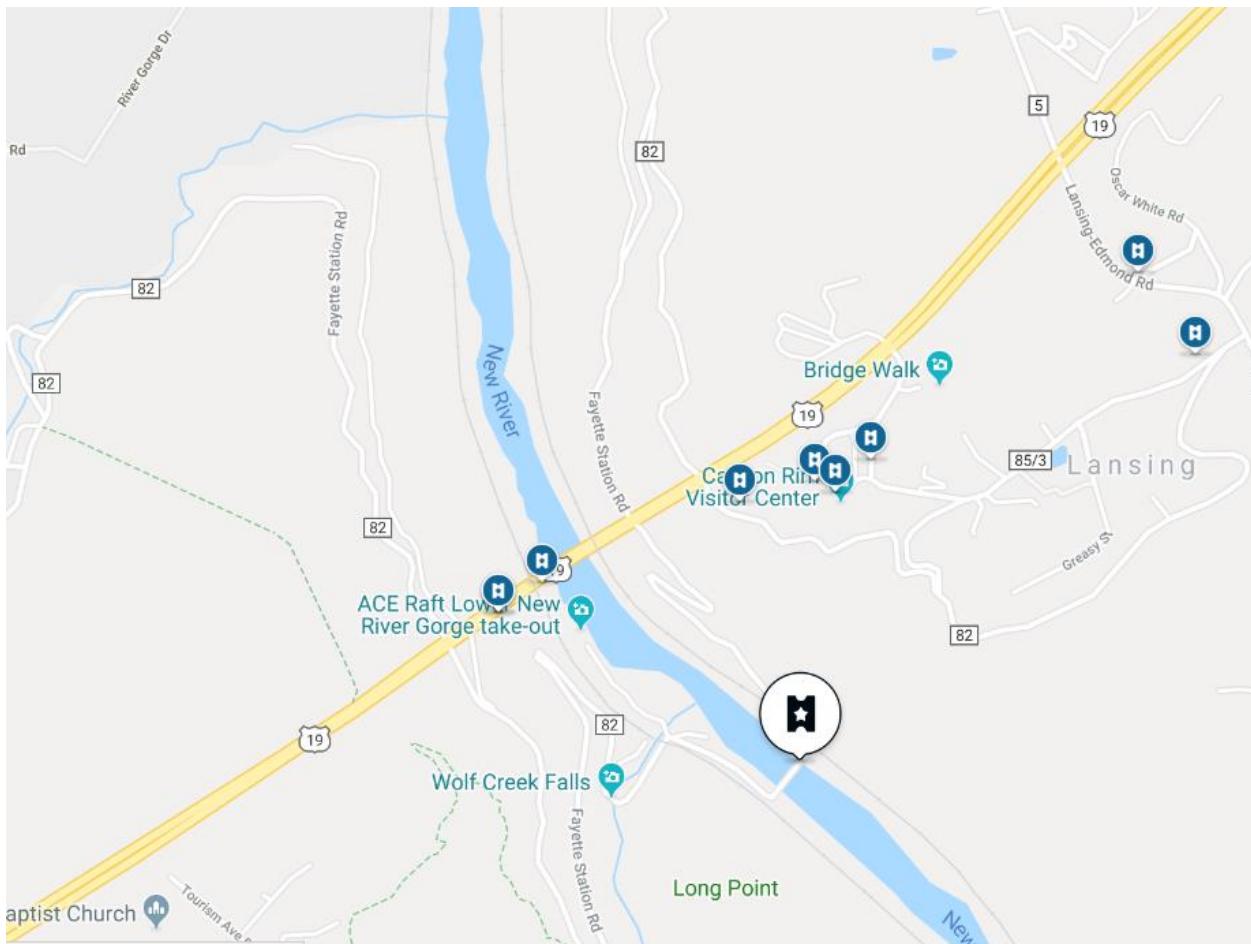
#### **Lower Youghiogheny Put-in—Information from Jim Pruitt**

The planned construction at the put-in involves changing the location of a road to reduce accidents, removal and then replacement of the changing house facilities, and changes to the configuration of the consolidated parking lots.

The construction is no longer underway during the Summer. The parking lot has been paved. Jim thinks that the lot may ultimately have a larger footprint. There are no changing facilities currently.

### **New River Gorge Shuttle Road Closures**

The West Virginia Division of Highways has announced the closure of the Fayette Station Road (CR82) on the South side through July 28, 2019. More specifically the closure extends from approximately one mile north of the intersection of CR82 and U.S. 19 to the Tunny Hunsaker Bridge, (aka the Fayette Station Bridge), at milepost 4.61 over the New River. The closure is necessary for repair, widening, and paving. Access to boat launches will be available via two-way traffic on the road on the north side of the river.



<https://transportation.wv.gov/communications/PressRelease/Pages/Fayette-Station-Road-Closed-for-Widening-Project.aspx>  
<https://www.nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/fayette-station-road.htm>  
[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g59234-d5562790-Reviews-Fayette\\_Station\\_Road-Lansing\\_West\\_Virginia.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g59234-d5562790-Reviews-Fayette_Station_Road-Lansing_West_Virginia.html)

### **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.** Contact Barbara Brown (potomacb3 [at] gmail.com) for more information.

### **Stonycreek Releases—Information from Jim Pruitt**

The valve that permits the releases on the Stony had been stuck. The valve has been fixed and tested—so upcoming releases appear to be operative. These issues are all the more reason to contribute to the fund that makes these repairs possible.

### **Violette's Lock Loop/C&O Canal Rewatering--Information from Alf Cooley**

The C&O Canal Park staff have closed the Pennyfield Lock wickets. The Chief Engineer, Greg Kriesler, has indicated that the upstream part of the canal should be completely filled when the construction project at Great Falls Tavern is completed in early Fall. After two years of being dewatered, it is three-quarters full—and sufficient for paddling the traditional Violette's Lock Loop route. Alf will keep us apprised of the planned imminent repair of the partial washout of the transfer point at Blockhouse Point.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Team River Runner—Lisa Weed** (Chapter Coordinator, DC VAMC, Walter Reed-Bethesda and Southern Maryland)

- We are grateful to all our friends in the kayak community who have generously donated boats, gear, and funds to Team River Runner.
- We are expanding all over the U.S. and regionally, with a new chapter in Southern Maryland (coastal kayaking). At this time, we're looking for a tandem boat, 12 foot ideally, to fit in our trailer in southern Maryland. We have a number of veterans with children and find that tandems are very useful.
- The Walter Reed Chapter of TRR is seeking volunteer kayak instructors on the river: Wednesdays 6-8 PM at Lock 6 and Sundays 2-5 PM at Riley's Lock.
- The Walter Reed Chapter is also seeking volunteers, who are available on weekdays and who have base access (common access card, or retired military ID), to support pool kayak sessions for service members with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and PTSD. Volunteer kayak instructors must be qualified by experience and training; ACA certification is not required. Contact Lisa Weed lisa.weed [at] teamriverrunner.org or cell # 301-502-0896.
- Check out TRR's local Facebook pages: Walter Reed Chapter, SoMD Chapter, Fort Belvoir Chapter, and Shepherd Chapter for events, updates, and photos.

## **FEATURE ARTICLE #1**

### **My Summer Trip, Phase 5: Idaho and Washington—Richard Hopley**

8/4/2018, Saturday: Nez Perce National Historical Park. Chris Oberlin and I in my van, and my nephew Evan Hopley in his van, broke camp in Russell Gates Campground (CG) on Montana's Blackfoot River, and convoyed west on MT-200, stopping for a couple of hours in the Garnet Ghost Town. We provisioned up at the Missoula Walmart and then headed west on US-12 over Lolo Pass into Idaho. We followed the Lochsa River along US-12, passing a tractor-trailer rig, which had run off the road and fallen into the river, to Kooskia, where we took ID-13

south to southbound US-95, to Grangeville. We stopped on the way at several sights of the widely distributed Nez Perce National Historical Park (NHP). Just south of Grangeville, we camped at Bear's Den Recreational Vehicle (RV) Resort. RV resorts tend to be awful, but at least they have showers (For the next month, we'd usually camp in government campgrounds, often going days without a shower.), and the showers are usually clean, with plenty of hot water, because RVers tend to use their own showers in their land-yachts. Also, not unusual for an RV park, they had a large lounge with kitchen facilities, where Chris cooked his dinner.

**8/5/2018, Sunday: Nez Perce National Historical Park.** Continuing south on US-95, we stopped at the White Bird unit of Nez Perce NHP, then followed the Salmon River upstream. By early afternoon, we reached the home of my friends Gordo and Bonnie Henderson outside of Riggins. We visited for several hours, then, on Gordo's suggestion, drove up Seven Devils Road into the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (NF) to see the Seven Devils peaks. We continued beyond the Seven Devils and parked at the end of the road. Chris and Evan hiked up to the fire tower on Heaven's Gate peak and talked to the ranger named Bishop. Think about that: a Bishop at Heaven's Gate watching over the Seven Devils. Later that afternoon, I jammed with Gordo for a while in his basement studio, then Gordo and Bonnie gave us a wonderful dinner, and we got to sleep indoors in beds!



Garnet ghost town



View from Heaven's Gate



Palouse Falls



Ross Lake

8/6/2018, Monday: Palouse Falls State Park. We followed US-95 back north along the Salmon to rejoin US-12 westbound and crossed the Snake River into Washington – new turf for me; my first time in the Pacific Northwest since childhood! We saw the Canoe Wave, a sculpture of an ocean wave made from several dozen aluminum canoes welded together, in Lewiston, ID, as we crossed the Snake into Clarkston, WA. Lewiston and Clarkston – *groan!* Sixty miles into Washington, we turned north on WA-261 toward Palouse Falls State Park and crossed the Snake again at Lyons Ferry State Park. After a couple of hours at Palouse Falls, we resumed driving WA-261 northbound to I-90 westbound for 30 miles and then WA-17 northbound for 20 miles to Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park CG, where we ate dinner in camp. As we checked-in, I bought a \$30 Discover Pass, which would save us a lot of money in Washington State Parks. I recommend this pass if you will be tent camping in Washington for over a week.

8/7/2018, Tuesday: North Cascades National Park. First we went to the Overlook and Visitors' Center for Dry Falls, and from there it was only thirty miles to the Grand Coulee Dam via WA-155. After stopping to look at the dam and its museum and eating a rare restaurant lunch at the awful Pepper Jack Bar and Grill in the town of Grand Coulee, we drove a series of roads – WA-174, WA-17, US-97, and WA-20 into North Cascades National Park (NP). We stopped briefly at the Ross Lake Overlook while following the Skagit River, looking for a campground. The first several were full, but we found a vacant site at Newhalem National Park Service (NPS) CG and ate in camp.

8/8/2018, Wednesday: Seattle. We continued westward along WA-20, following the Skagit and Sauk Rivers, to I-5, southbound to Seattle. Evan's phone took us right to the home of his climbing mentor Andy. We left Evan's van and drove into town in mine, to meet my friend, Eric Princen, at the Space Needle. We parked on Thomas Street beside REI's home store and walked to the Museum of Pop Culture. We arrived there at 5 PM and were to meet Eric at 6 PM, so we didn't go in. Instead, we took a lovely walk around Seattle's downtown parks: Artists at Play Park, International Fountain, Seattle Center, and Space Needle Park. We took the monorail from the Space Needle to its other terminus at Westlake Center downtown, and walked from there through Pike Place to Waterfront Park, where we had a wonderful seafood dinner at Elliott's Oyster House: Dungeness crab for me and Evan! Eric walked us back to my van since he lived near there, and we drove back to Andy's house. Andy offered Chris a bed so he wouldn't have to pitch his tent in the yard, and Evan and I slept in our vans. It was a wonderful day walking a lot of miles around Seattle and visiting with Eric.



Totem and Space Needle



International Fountain

**8/9/2018, Thursday: Port Townsend, Dungeness, Olympic National Forest.** Evan left to get back for work as a guide the next week in Flagstaff. It was now down to just me and Chris in one vehicle. We drove around Puget Sound: down I-5 to Tacoma, across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and north up WA-16 and WA-3 to Port Gamble where we turned west onto WA-104 and crossed the Hood Canal Bridge. We turned north onto WA-19 to Port Townsend, where we walked around taking pictures for a couple of hours (and I got ice cream). Port Townsend is very picturesque and the tourist industry knows it. From there, we took WA-20 back southwestward to “the 101” (US-101), which would be our main road for the next few days. We took “the 101” west to the town of Sequim (pronounced “skwim”) and then north on a local road to Dungeness, where we got out and walked around, looking across the Salish Sea to Vancouver Island, Canada. We found a couple of campgrounds full, then wandered a circuitous gravel road into the Olympic NF, and eventually reached the Dungeness Forks U.S. Forest Service (USFS) CG, where we ate dinner and slept. (Pro tip: use Google Maps to view the National Forest on your phone before you lose cellphone service, and the map will remain loaded. Otherwise, the GPS will pinpoint your location on a blank screen. Without my cellphone map, we would never have found the place; our state highway map and my DeLorme Gazetteer were not good enough.)

**8/10/2018, Friday: Olympic National Park.** I had Google Maps chart our way back to US-101, and, *voila*, leaving the campground in the opposite direction, it was less than a mile to a paved road, and we were passing through Sequim again within twenty minutes! We drove through Port Angeles and got onto the Hurricane Ridge road into the National Park. Construction delayed us an hour, and, at the Hurricane Ridge Visitors’ Center, smoke from fires in British Columbia rendered visibility minimal. We’d endure degraded visibility from forest fires until nearly the end of our trip. We took a short hike along the trail from the Visitors’ Center parking lot and then drove back to US-101. We headed west through Snug Harbor and along Lake Crescent, finding full campgrounds – we had started looking early because it was a Friday evening and

only a short drive from Seattle/Tacoma. Finally, around 5 PM, at Bear Creek State Park (SP) CG, well west toward Cape Flattery, we found two handicap designated sites, which would be available for us to use if they were not occupied by 6 PM. We took a drive through Sapho and up WA-112 and WA-113 to the little fishing village of Sekiu on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and an ugly place it was, filled with beat-up RVs and powerboats on trailer; certainly no good place to camp. So we went back to Bear Creek SP CG, arriving right at 6 PM and claimed a site, but because it was a handicap site, we could only claim it for one night, when we had hoped to settle in for the weekend. Once again we ate from the stores we had with us. My Discover Pass gave us a good discount on the campground fee.

8/11/2018, Saturday: Olympic National Park. In the morning, Chris walked around the campground and found that a site just behind ours had been vacated, so we moved his tent and checked in again. We backtracked eastward on US-101 to CR-2918 and drove southward along the Sol Duc River to the Sol Duc Trailhead, seeing nothing interesting at the Sol Duc Hot Springs. We hiked in the only rain I saw during my entire trip on a two-mile round trip to Sol Duc Falls, one of many, many waterfalls we would see in the next few weeks. Next we drove farther east on US-101, past Crescent Lake again, to the Elwha entrance of the park and then south along Olympic Hot Springs Road, to see what the Elwha River looked like after the removal of the dam. We stopped and walked a quarter-mile to Madison Falls. The road was closed beyond the falls because the dam removal had allowed high-water events to cut new channels, undercutting the road. We walked across a temporary bridge and through the ruined campground. We saw a couple of deer, but not much else beyond a meandering, cobble-barred river with lots of downed trees in it. Chris returned to the van on a trail on the hill on river right which gave him a good view of the Elwha valley. We went farther east into Port Angeles for fuel and then back west to Bear Creek CG.

8/12/2018, Sunday: Olympic National Park. We were past Saturday night, so we gave up our campsite and forged on, westward and then southward on US-101, through Forks, WA, and then took Hoh River Road east into the Park again. From the Hoh Rain Forest Visitors' Center, we spent several hours walking the easy Hall of Mosses Trail and the Spruce Nature Trail, through old-growth stands of towering Western Hemlock and Sitka Spruce. These totaled only about two-and-a-half miles, but we moseyed, taking lots of pictures.

Back on southbound US-101, we stopped at several beaches on our way to Kalaloch Campground, but despite our expectations, both Kalaloch CG and South Beach CG were full on a Sunday night. The South Beach host told us that wild camping was permitted along Clearwater River Road, another ten miles south on US-101, but Google found several campgrounds along that road. The nearest, Coppermine Bottom Washington Department of Natural Resources CG, turned out to be almost a half-hour drive off US-101, through heavily logged state lands, but it had many vacancies, and it was free with my Discover Pass (though it had no potable water).



Dungeness beach



Chris at the Sol Duc River



Sol Duc Falls



View from Bear Creek SPCG



Hall of Mosses, Hoh Forest



Hall of Mosses, Hoh Rain Forest



Pacific coastline on the Olympic Peninsula

8/13/2018, Monday: Mount Rainier National Park. This was a highway day. We drove back to US-101 and then south again to Aberdeen, where we turned east onto good ol' US-12, and

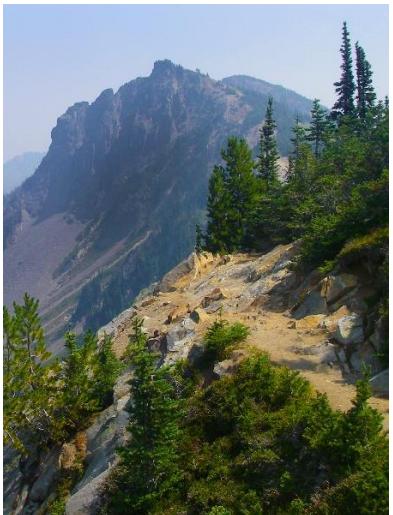
then WA-8 and the eastern loop of US-101\* to I-5, back through Olympia to Tacoma, where we got onto WA-512 to WA-410. We stopped in Enumclaw for fuel and groceries, then continued to the northeast entrance of the National Park, and were lucky to get one of the last open sites in the White River CG, where we registered for two nights.

*\* The Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) is confusing. In California, it is designated CA-1, and US-101 remains inland. Just south of the Oregon line, CA-1 ends at US-101 near the coast and US-101 becomes known as the PCH, largely following the coastline all the way to the tip of the Olympic peninsula, where it turns east for 80 miles, and then turns south for 90 miles along the west side of Puget Sound, forming a big hook around the three coasts of the Olympic peninsula.*

8/14/2018, Tuesday: Mount Rainier National Park. We drove to the Sunrise Visitors' Center, just a few miles from the campground, where we would normally have had beautiful views of Mount Rainier, but alas, the haze from the forest fire was still very thick. We split up here; Chris walked the Sourdough Trail to the Burroughs Mountain Trail; I walked a loop of the Sourdough Trail, the Wonderland Trail, and the Sunrise Trail back to the Visitors' Center. We stayed a second night at White River CG and ate dinner in camp.

8/15/2018, Wednesday: Mount Rainier National Park. We broke camp and drove back to WA-410 and WA-123 and re-entered the Park by the Paradise Road. Soon after entering the Park, we stopped to walk about a mile and a quarter on the Grove of Patriarchs Trail (as if we hadn't seen enough enormous old-growth trees yet!) Along Paradise Road, we stopped and scrambled down a steep hillside to look at Cougar Falls of Nickel Creek, and we stopped to see the box canyon of the Cowlitz River, Stevens Creek, and Reflection Lakes. The wide views were disappointing because of the smoky haze, but we spent most of the morning looking at waterfalls, where limited visibility was not a problem. At Paradise Park, we hiked the Skyline Trail. I went as far as Glacier Vista (650 feet of elevation change; three miles round trip) and Chris went almost to Paradise Point (1,300 feet of elevation change; four miles round trip). Leaving the park, we stopped at the Upper Falls and Narada Falls of the Paradise River, at the Nisqually River, and at Christine Falls of Van Trump Creek. After leaving, we took WA-706 westbound to Elbe and continued five miles out of our way to Alder Lake Campground, maintained by Tacoma Power.

8/16/2018, Thursday: Mount St. Helens National Park. We backtracked on WA-7 and followed it south, stopping for coffee in the picturesque logging town of Morton. We turned east on good ol' US-12, and south again on WA-131, which became Gifford Pinchot National Forest road, NF-25. We turned west onto NF-99 to the Windy Ridge Viewpoint and Trailhead, overlooking Spirit Lake. I walked a mile and a half (each way) from the overlook onto the cone of the volcano, and Chris about two miles (each way) to Loowit Falls. We drove back to NF-25 and south to NF-80. We drove a mile or less east on NF-80 to the very nice commercial Eagle Cliff CG.



Sourdough Trail, Mt. Rainer



Ohanapekosh River



Christine Falls



Mount Rainier



Mount St. Helen



Natural bridge from a lava tube



Trout Lake Creek

8/17/2018, Friday: Gifford Pinchot National Forest. We took a series of forest roads east: NF-80, Curly Creek Road, Meadow Creek Road, and NF-30. Along NF-30 in Long Butte Meadows,

we stopped for Chris to pick huckleberries. There we had a good view of Mt. Adams and took a slight detour to take a walk around a set of natural bridges (the few remaining arches of a largely collapsed lava tube). We turned onto NF-24, which trended east and south, and spent a couple of hours at the Guler Ice Caves. Zig-zagging and crossing the lovely Trout Lake Creek, we got onto Sunnyside Road/TROUT Lake Highway eastbound and then Glenwood Highway east and south to the Klickitat River. We stopped at an overlook several hundred feet above where Outlet Creek joins the river. Seven or eight miles farther, we took a detour up Trout Creek Road, a dirt and gravel road at the bottom of the gorge, and followed the Klickitat River upstream as far as the mouth of Outlet Creek. Continuing southeast, we turned southwest onto WA-142, which brought us down into the Columbia River gorge at Lyle. We turned east on WA-14 and drove about 15 miles to Horsethief Lake State Park and secured a spot for Chris to pitch his tent in their overflow area. I drove off to fill the fuel tank while Chris battled the gorge winds to get his tent up, losing his pole bag in the process. We crossed the river to eat at Montira's Thai Cuisine, before crossing back into Washington to sleep.

(Continued in the second Feature Article.)

## **MEMBER PROFILE**

### **Paul Englehart**

#### **1--How long have you been paddling?**

My first paddling was when I was a Boy Scout at twelve. Math tells me that's fifty years ago.

#### **2--What got you into paddling?**

Boy Scouting and sense of adventure. I did earn a Canoe merit badge.

#### **3--What kinds of water do you like to paddle? Types? Degree of difficulty?**

I love being on the water so I paddle anywhere. I prefer to limit my Class 4 runs so I prefer Class 3 runs for excitement.

#### **4--How many types of water craft do you paddle? Is any one in particular your favorite?**

Our fleet at home includes a recreation kayak, three whitewater kayaks, and a tandem canoe. My favorite is my trusty Dagger Animas kayak.

#### **5--In how many states or countries have you paddled?**

All of my paddling has been local, and more broadly the East Coast—stretching from Delaware to North Carolina and west to West Virginia.

#### **6--Do you have any favorite rivers? Why are they your favorites? I think my favorite is the Lower Yough. It's fun to see so many people experiencing whitewater.**

#### **7--Are there rivers on your bucket list?**

I hope to paddle on the Rogue and American Rivers someday.

#### **8--Are you a warm-water paddler or do you paddle in the winter?**

I do like to paddle year-round though my fondness for downhill skiing gets in the way.

#### **9--How long have you been a member of BRV? How did you learn about BRV?**

I think it was three years ago I joined. Bob Maxey told me about the club.

#### **10--Are you a member of other paddling clubs?**

CCA.

#### **11--Is there anything you would like to get from BRV?**

More chances to enjoy the socializing.

#### **12--Is there anything you can contribute to BRV?**

When I retire in three years, I hope to have time to lead trips.

**13--Is there anything else that you would like members to know about you?**

My paddling experiences have been interrupted by years of sailing on the Chesapeake. I like to think there are transferable skills.

**TRIP REPORTS**

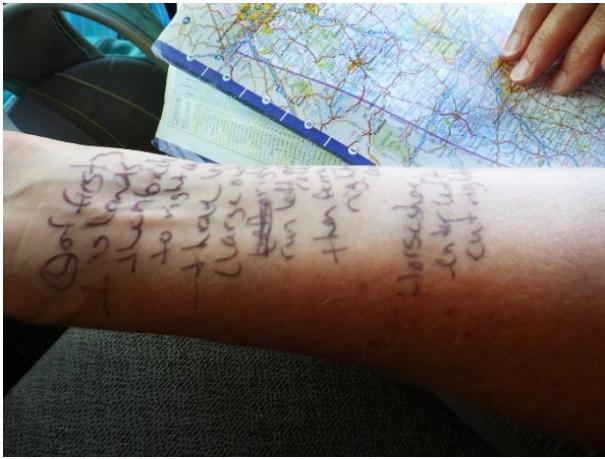
**A Hoot on the Hootch--Sabine Iben, Beth Koller, and Terry Markoff**

There had been a lot of rain just prior to the Carolina Week of Rivers over the Fourth of July. So much rain that water had flowed through the bath houses and the camping fields were squishy. The water opened up some new possibilities, but, as the week progressed and the water dropped, we were searching for something new. We had heard something about a run called the Chattahoochee in Georgia. If nothing else, the name sounded pretty interesting. Several of us had been hoping that someone would step up and co-ordinate a trip. No takers. Finally after a few days, Beth agreed to take on the challenge if we could get some logistical information. Soon thereafter Terry (from Keelhaulers) said that he was going to the exact same thing when Beth announced a trip. As can be seen, we implemented a new version of the "Palm Pilot". No need for paper when you have an arm. So "armed" with directions, we headed south. Only Terri Bsullak and Ronnie Tucker from the Coastals had run the river. We made our way to the put-in and arranged for a shuttle with Wildwood Outfitters, who were located at the take-out.  
<http://wildwoodoutfitters.com/more/upper-chattahoochee-river-water-trail/>.

It was sunny and hot when we put on so we were anxious to get on this Class 2-3 run. The run like many in the South is primarily a series of ledges-some of which traverse the entire width of the river; others which go only part way across. This required some quick boat scouting because there could be multiple routes or only a single route in any given rapids, and one might need to run the subsequent ledge on the opposite side of the river.

By the time we took a brief lunch and surfing break and did some boat switching near Buck Shoals State Park, the clouds were moving in. At first there was intermittent rain. We were already wet so we played our way down the run. Then we started hearing a droning noise. It sounded like traffic. It was actually distant thunder. Soon the skies opened up. As we approached the take-out and the very elevated highway bridge, we could see water streaming out of the run-off drains a hundred plus feet above. Lisa was brave enough to let herself be pelted by the rain and run-off. The next challenge was the take-out. The steps were made from railroad ties, but water was cascading down the steps as if they were rapids. We needed to get Terri out of her inflatable and up those stairs. A straight carry was not possible with the treacherous footing. So we transferred her to a hard boat and pulled her up. We loaded the boats in the rain. Just as we finished, the rain stopped.

The next task was dinner. Barbeque and Mexican were high on people's wish lists. Sabine had checked out a number of possibilities. Ah, the virtues of a smart phone! The nearest opportunities were disappeared-being closed or hard to find. By the time we were driving past Mountain Man Barbeque, north of Dillard, there was a chorus to stop. Finally we arrived at the highly rated Lupita's. It did have a wide range of entrees-including mole sauce items, mmmm! It did, however, lack a liquor license. Sabine was so sad that a margarita was not in her future that evening. Nonetheless, the run on the Upper Chattahoochee was fun, and the trip was worth the drive.



The extended “Palm Pilot”, the Arm Pilot!



Terry focused on the next pitch



Terri making waves in her inflatable kayak



Ronnie relaxed in his IK



Sabine leading her daughter down



Lisa in complete control, no problem!



Some of the flowing pools between rapids



Terry in a wave train



Some play action at lunch



Precision boating by a physicist



Surf city for Sabine



Switching an IK for Terry's C-1



Terri licking her chops as she picks a line



Bill goes boldly



Pelted by the rain as we near the take-out



Water from the bridge cascades onto Lisa



Water cascading down the railroad tie stairs



Water everywhere; treacherous footing



Terri being pulled up the the stairs



Alas, no margaritas!!!!

### **The French Broad: A Fun Plan B—Beth Koller with input from Steve Ingalls**

The plan was to do another run of the Toe, which had been run earlier in the week. After passing through Ashville, we made a stop at the local grocery store chain, Ingles, for gas, snacks, etc. During a final river level check, it was found that the Toe gauge was going up-straight up!!!. Time for plan B. Lisa Haskell (Atlanta) and Lee Belknap (Ashville) put their heads together and determined that a less commonly run section on the French Broad, Section 6 (put-in at Woodfin; Ledges Whitewater Park), was the best option for the group and circumstances. The river was wide and had plenty of ledges with varying routes and lots of water. There was some debris on the river—especially near midstream rock islands/rock piles. There were cables and plastic webbing and even a seating for what might have been a blind. We took a lunch break near some ruins. Some folks switched boats. Of course, there was more rain—especially as we approached the very high volume drop on river left as one went under a high bridge. We topped off the day with dinner at Kostas Family Restaurant in Dillsboro, NC.



Anne (Keelhauers) heads to an eddy



The queen of eddy moves & surfs



Zig-zagging wave trains



Just another ledge



Michelle hits a big wave



Lee (CCC) in his trusty Dancer



Follow the leader: 1, 2, 3,...



One of many surfs



Virginia (BRV) documents the action



Time-out at one of the rock islands



Group eddy out before the next drops



Steve (Keelhaulers) cross-strokes



Lee et al. take a break before the real rain



Virginia assesses the skies



Lisa (Atlanta) leads us rain or shine



A river right ruins



Time for river chatter



Kim & Michelle switching boats in the rain



More boat swapping. Why not? Short run.



We're already wet; let's boat!



Raindrops keep falling on my head...



Big ferry from the huge river left waves

## CONSERVATION

### C&O Canal Trust and the Towpath

The C&O Canal Trust reminded us of the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the C&O Canal National Historical Park in 2021. The Trust appreciates those who signed their petition for Maryland funding of the towpath. The towpath requires constant repair, maintenance, and resurfacing to permit adequate access. Maryland provided \$2.25 million in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding to the C&O Canal National Historical Park for FY18 and FY19 to rehabilitate 35 miles of the towpath, which will significantly improve sections in Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington Counties. The Trust is seeking additional funding for FY20 to repair and resurface an additional eight miles of towpath from Seneca Creek Aqueduct to Edwards Ferry. When this is combined with the four miles between Whites Ferry and Lock 26, there will be continuous, high-quality cycling/hiking grade trail for almost 50 miles.

## GEAR

### FOR SALE/SWAP

**House near Boating:** Six bedroom, three bath house for sale in Kensington MD near Rock Creek Park, 10 minutes from NIH, 20 minutes from Angler's Inn. Boater's special: \$10,000 discount from listed price!

Listing: <https://www.redfin.com/MD/Kensington/4000-Wexford-Dr-20895/home/11028899>

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

**Canoe:** 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 of its owners. Stored in the shade. Never significantly damaged. \$425 firm. Ron Knipling: 703-304-3887, e-mail: rknippling [at] aol.com.

**Kayak:** Wave Sport Lazer. Very fast. Stored indoors. \$375. Beth Koller: 240-506-0417

**Kayak:** Red BlissStick RAD 185 playboat. Good condition. \$350. Gus Anderson debbygus [at] aol.com, gusanderson [at] aol.com

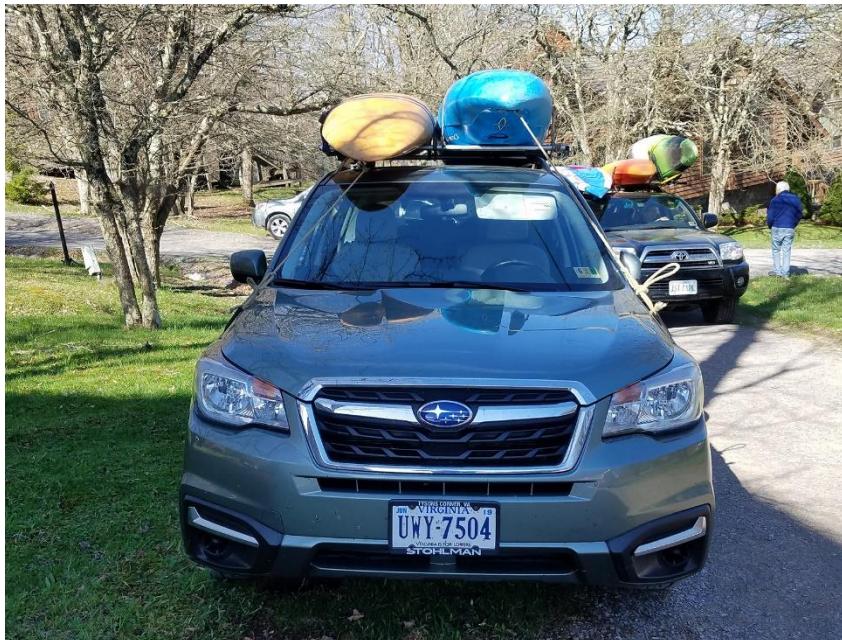
**Base Camp Tarp:** Kelty. Peaked like a roof. Two taller center side poles; four shorter corner poles. Provided rain and sun protection. Includes guy ropes and stakes. Used once. Originally \$130. Asking \$60. Beth Koller: 240-506-0417.

**Car Racks:** Yakima with cross bars. For a vehicle with gutters. Free with pick-up. Beth Koller: 240-506-0417

## **EQUIPMENT ASSESSMENT**

### **Bow Loops—Information from Keith Merkel**

Keith reported that the bow loops that attach to the car frame under the front hood are not as secure as bow ropes tied to the front bumper/undercarriage, but are more secure than tying bowlines from grab loops back to the car rack.



Loops in action



Very simple

## **REPAIR SERVICES**

### **Paddle Refinishing**

Phil Coleman will revarnish wooden paddles for under \$50. The price does not include other services such as stripping and replacing fiberglass. He is located in Friendsville, MD and can be reached at 301-501-2253.

## **BOATING TRIVIA**

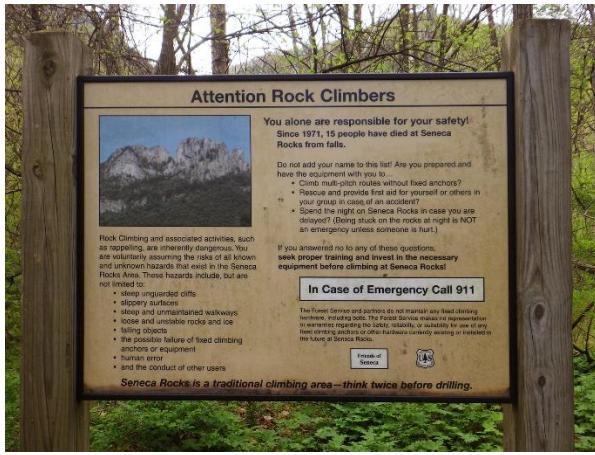


If Doctor Google 📱 does not provide a remedy, you can even “phone a friend” ☎!

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.

### **Put-ins and Take-outs**

1—This sign can be found on which whitewater river? **10 POINTS**



2-4 These trees are in bloom in April at the put-in for the extended version of this classic whitewater run in West Virginia? **10 POINTS** for the run; **20 POINTS** for the types of trees



### Gear-related

5--Who sports these drysuit foot protectors during shuttles? **10 POINTS**



6—Who has this unique sponge? **10 POINTS**



*Who's Who and Where's Where?*

7-10—Who are these three local paddlers and what is the name of the rapids they are paddling?  
**40 POINTS**





11—On what classic West Virginia run with whitewater would this type of paddler be seen? **40 POINTS**



12—Champe Rocks can be seen from what river? **10 POINTS**

13—Which is true? **10 POINTS**

- A-- The Dry Fork is a tributary of the Black Fork. OR
- B--The Dry Fork is a tributary if the Cheat.

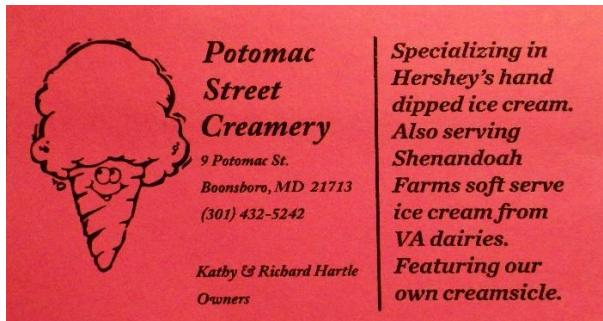
14-15—Which two rivers join in Parsons, WV? **10 POINTS**  
What river do they form? **10 POINTS**

### **THE BOATER'S DINING GUIDE**

#### **Ice Cream in Boonesboro**

The put-in and the take-out for the lowest section of Antietam Creek have limited parking. This means it can be quite difficult to put boats back onto the cars of the individual drivers. This problem can be solved with a cherry on top by going to Boonesboro. There one can get ice cream at the Potomac Street Creamery, and there is a huge Creamery parking lot for boat transfer right

across the street. For Virginia boaters, it is only eight miles out-of-the-way roundtrip. Hendrick van Oss was the source of this tip!

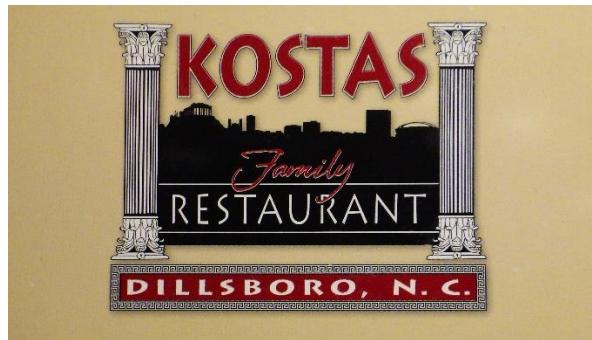


### River Treats in Flintstone

The Amish/Mennonite bakery, deli, and bulk grocery store in Flintstone, on the north side of I-68, has changed hands and is now called Redbud. It opens at 8 AM on weekdays and 9 AM on Saturday. (It is closed on Sundays.)

**Kostas** (49 Haywood Road, Dillsboro, NC 28779; 828-631-0777)

This restaurant is near the Tuckasegee. It serves many Greek entrees, but also has burgers, steaks, in-house barbequed ribs, stir fry, and Italian pasta dishes. Beer and wine by the glass, the pitcher, and the bottle is available. Expect to spend \$10-15 without alcohol. Parking is available, but somewhat limited for the dining room size.



[www.kostasdillsboro.com/](http://www.kostasdillsboro.com/)  
<http://www.kostasdillsboro.com/Our-Menu.aspx>

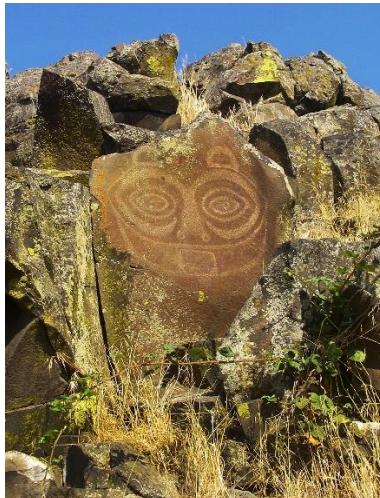
### FEATURE ARTICLE #2

#### My Summer Trip, Phase 6: Oregon—Richard Hopley

8/18/2018, Saturday: **Mount Hood National Park.** In the morning, we took a guided petroglyph tour in Columbia Hills Historical State Park and then crossed into Oregon. We walked around The Dalles and took US-30 westward along the Columbia River gorge, pausing at Mayer State Park, overlooking the gorge. We walked around downtown Hood River for a couple of hours (and I got ice cream) and then drove south on Mount Hood Highway (OR-35) to Mount Hood. There was space in Nottingham CG, the second one we checked. After securing a site, we drove around the southeast side of the mountain to Timberline Lodge and walked a half

mile or so up the mountain. Intrigued by the name, we drove to the town of Government Camp and visited a wholly unsatisfactory Visitors' Center before returning to camp.

**8/19/2018, Sunday: Mount Hood National Park.** We got off to a late start after moving to a nicer site right on the East Fork Hood River and failing to find a ranger station for trail maps. We stopped arbitrarily at the Tamanawas Falls Trailhead and walked the mile-and-three-quarters (each way), 450 foot elevation change trail, first along the East Fork Hood River and then along Cold Spring Creek to Tamanawas Falls. After the turnaround at the Falls, Chris forked off to walk part of the Elk Meadows Trail while I went back to the van to read my book and wait. We spent a second night at Nottingham CG



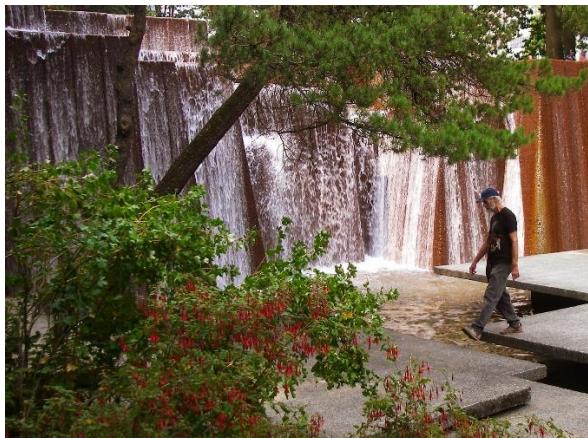
Petroglyph



Mt. Hood behind Timberline



Tamanawas Falls



Keller Park Fountains



Oregon coastline

**8/20/2018, Monday: Portland, Astoria, Fort Stevens State Park.** We took US-26 into Portland, and I dropped Chris outside the Apple Store to get his phone fixed. I circled and luckily found a parking space just a block from the store. I walked back, and the advisor took my number to call us when a tech dude was available, in an hour or so. We walked several blocks to Pioneer Courthouse Square, where a live band was playing, and got lunch from an Asian fusion food stall (I had a delicious pork-stuffed rice ball). We wandered back indirectly

and were nearly at the Apple store when the call came. Once the tech guy had fixed Chris' phone, we detoured another dozen blocks through parks at the Terry Schrunk Plaza, Chapman Square, and Lownsdown Square on the way back to the van. We drove US-30 to Astoria, where we spent an hour or more walking around town and ate dinner at Mo's Restaurant (evidently a popular Oregon chain). I got ice cream at Frite and Scoop while Chris walked along the wharves to the Buoy Beer Company for a brew. We took US-101 out of town to Fort Stevens State Park, got the last campsite, and then drove to the remnants of the wreck of the Peter Iredale on the beach within the park. From there, we drove first to the Battery Russell of the WWII coastal defenses, then to the northern tip of Clatsop Spit, the peninsula on which Fort Stevens sits, and finally to Trestle Bay on the Columbia River Estuary.

8/21/2018, Tuesday: Fort Stevens and Ecola State Parks. We went to the original Fort Stevens, the site of Civil War and WWII Columbia River Estuary defense installations. We spent several hours exploring the gun batteries and museum. From there, we drove south down the coast on US-101 to Ecola State Park. There we first went to Ecola Point and then to Indian Beach, where Chris went for a swim. Then it was south on the 101 again to Sand Beach USFS CG at Sandlake, OR. After Chris set up his tent to mark our site, we drove ten miles south to Pacific City and had dinner at Pelican Brewing.

8/22/2018, Wednesday: Philomath, OR. We continued south on US-101, stopping at Siletz River and Depoe Bay. In Newport, we ate at The Chowder Bowl and walked around Nye Beach, and then we drove to the Yaquina Bay side of town to walk along the wharves looking at the fishing boats and listening to the seals bark. From Newport, we took US-20 to Philomath, near Corvallis, and drove up into the hills to the home of Chris's cousin Gregg. We spent a couple of hours visiting with Gregg and his wife, then Gregg drove us in his Tesla into Corvallis for dinner. I made the bad mistake of sitting in the back so Chris could sit up front with his cousin. That Tesla was so smooth! I became severely motion sick. I just sat while Chris and Gregg ate dinner at Sky High Brewing and Pub. I couldn't ride back in that vehicle, though Gregg offered to let me drive, so I spent the night in a Rodeway Inn overlooking the Willamette River while Chris stayed with Gregg.



Siletz River



Newport lighthouse

8/23/2018, Thursday: Willamette National Forest. In the morning, Chris and Gregg came for me in my van, and I drove Gregg home. Then we drove 90 miles east on US-20, following the South Santian River for most of the way, and then three or four miles south on OR-126 to the Coldwater Cove CG on Clear Lake in the National Forest. Once Chris had his tent set up, we drove two or three miles to the parking area for Sahalie Falls of the McKenzie River. We walked down to the falls and then walked the trail a half-mile downstream to Koosah Falls.



McKenzie River



Sahalie Falls



Koosah Falls

8/24/2018, Friday: Tomolitch Blue Pool, McKenzie Pass. We drove two miles to the Koosah Falls parking area and hiked a little over three-and one-half miles (450 foot elevation loss) downstream along the McKenzie River, though after the first mile most of the water was siphoned off by Eugene Water and Electric. Soon the river disappeared underground only to emerge at our destination, the beautiful Tomolitch Blue Pool. We walked the three plus miles back upstream and got back on southbound OR-126, the McKenzie Highway. We turned left

following the highway (now designated OR-242) eastward. This was a very narrow road, and passing timid RVs which had ignored the vehicle-size restriction was nerve-wracking. After numerous switchbacks through dense forest, it suddenly opened into a lava field at McKenzie Pass, and we stopped at the Dee Wright Observatory where the road crosses the Pacific Crest Trail. From the top of the observatory, we could see Mount Washington to the north and the Three Sisters to the south, but it was too hazy to see Mount Jefferson, 25 miles north. Driving to the vacation-home town of Sisters, OR, we turned east on US-20 into Bend. After fueling up in Bend, we drove west out of town on SW Century Drive, which became the Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway. After passing Mt. Bachelor and the Sparks Lake CG (which was full), the highway curved south, and we followed the washboard FS road NF-4625 to the USFS Little Fawn CG on the east bank of Elk Lake in the Deschutes NF.



McKenzie River Trail



Tomolitch Blue Pool



Mount Washington

8/25/2018, Saturday: Glass Butte. We drove 120 miles back through Bend and east on US-20, to Glass Butte on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. We spent three hours driving the dirt roads, walking through the sage, and gathering chunks of the obsidian for which Glass Butte

is named. It was 85 miles back to Bend and to a pretty good rib dinner at Baldy's Barbeque; then it was 35 miles back to camp for an early evening. In Bend, I was struck by the landscaping and statuary in the center of each of the many traffic circles.



Eastern Oregon

8/26/2018, Sunday: Newbury National Volcanic Monument. We took the slightly longer route from the Cascade Lakes. (We'd already driven the road between the CG and Bend three times.) We went south on the Cascade Lakes Byway, east on NF-40 to the town of Sunriver, and then north on US-97 to the Monument. First, we went to Lava River Cave, which Chris explored and I did not. I do not find lava caves nearly as interesting as limestone caverns. We stopped at the Monument's Visitors' Center and then took US-97 south to Paulina Lake Road, also part of the Monument. We hiked around Paulina Falls and the Big Obsidian Flow trail, drove to the shore of Paulina Lake, and then turned around and got back onto US-97 southbound again for 35 miles. We turned right (northwest) onto OR-58 and, after some exploring, found a spot for wild camping beside the Little Deschutes River in the National Forest.



Into Lava River Cave



Paulina Falls

8/27/2018, Monday: Crater Lake National Park. Back on US-97, we drove south to OR-138 westbound to the north entrance of Crater Lake. We spent nearly all day circling the lake on the Rim Drive, making numerous stops for short walks. We took the eight-mile spur road to The

Pinnacles, stopping along the way, and walked the mile and a half (each way) along Sand Creek from the Pinnacles parking area to the Park boundary. We finished circling the lake and exited where we had entered. After weeks of horrid visibility, hearing that Crater Lake was completely socked in, we had arrived for the first smokeless day of our entire trip! We took OR-138 eastward to southbound US-97 for ten miles and then turned east onto OR-76 through the Klamath Falls National Wildlife Refuge. At Silver Lake, we did a little zig-zag onto Christmas Valley Road, which we took east to US-385. US-385 took us north to US-20 at Riley, OR, which we took west about five miles to a BLM campground at Chickahominy Reservoir.



Phantom Ship



Crater Lake Reflections



Crater Lake rim

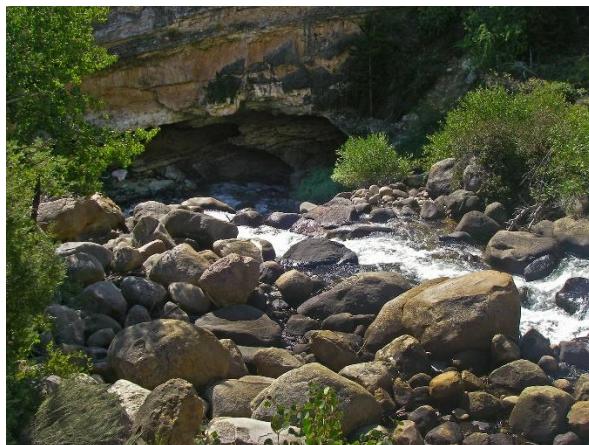
### **My Summer Trip, Phase 7: The Road Home**

8/28/2018, Tuesday: Craters of the Moon National Monument. This was purely a driving day. In the morning driving around Chickahominy Reservoir, we saw a mountain lion, the second I've seen in the wild. Then we hit the highway and took US-20 390 miles eastward to Craters of the Moon, where we camped in the National Monument CG.

8/29/2018, Wednesday: Craters of the Moon National Monument. We spent the morning touring the lava field; Chris is more enamored of lavascapes than I; and then got back onto US-20 eastward to Idaho Falls. We got onto US-26 eastward, following the Snake upstream to Alpine, WY, then took US-89 north to Hoback Junction where we got onto US-191 following the Hoback upstream and the Green downstream, south through Pinedale to Farson, hoping to get there before Farson Mercantile closed. We didn't get there 'til within a minute or two of 7 PM. Surprisingly, the Farson Mercantile was going to be open until 8! We ordered sandwiches for dinner, then, the whole point of the visit, got *huge* dishes of ice cream from their vast selection of flavors. After eight, as dusk approached, we got back onto the road, WY-28 heading northeast. It was fully dark by the time we found NF-300 leading up into the Shoshone National Forest, where we found a site at Louis Lake CG.



Devil's Orchard Trail in Craters of the Moon



Popo Agie Sinks



Lake Marie Falls in Medicine Bow NF

8/30/2019, Thursday: Popo Agie Sinks, Snowy Mountain Scenic Byway. In the morning, we continued climbing north on NF-300 until descending the switchbacks below Fossil Hill into the Sinks Canyon State Park. We visited the Sinks (where the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River

disappears into a limestone cave), and then I drove down to the Rise (where the river emerges again) while Chris walked the short trail. From there, we drove into Lander, WY, and walked a few blocks around downtown, then followed US-287 south to I-80 at Rawlins (Donna Grimes's birthplace!) We took I-80 20 or 25 miles east to WY-130, which took us south and then east through the Medicine Bow National Forest on the Snowy Mountain Scenic Byway. My van needed an oil change, and I had an appointment the next morning with VDR Foreign Auto Repair (highly recommended), so we stopped early for the night at the abysmal Laramie KOA Journey. At least it had hot showers. After securing a site, we drove through town, looked at the University of Wyoming campus, and had a pan-Asian dinner at No. 1 Buffet.

**8/31/2018, Friday: Red Canyon, Black Hills National Forest.** Bob at VDR had us on the road by 11 AM. We took I-80 east, I-25 north, and then US-26 east to Guernsey, WY. There, by the North Platte River, ten miles west of Fort Laramie, we visited the Oregon Trail Ruts State Historic Site and the Register Cliff Monument, which is a collection of graffiti dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. We got back onto US-26 eastward, then US-85 northward, and finally US-18 eastward to Edgemont, SD. At Edgemont, we took county roads due north and eventually followed a series of switchbacks down into a canyon to meet up with CR-12, so I could revisit a place I found in 1998 when I had slept in my van in a corner of the national forest. We turned from CR-12 onto Red Canyon Road, which follows the historic Deadwood-to-Laramie stage route. In 1998, there were state historical-society signs identifying stage-stops and massacre sites, but they are gone, a sad loss. We got back onto US-18 northward, SD-89 northward, and US-385 northward until we turned eastward on US-16. We took US-16 into Rapid City, where we picked up SD-44 eastward to the town of Scenic, where we turned north onto Sage Creek Road, which is the southwest back-entrance to Badlands National Park. Not far into the Park is Sage Creek CG, which had been virtually deserted when last I drove through. This time we got the last unoccupied site. Not much later a young couple drove through, and I flagged them down and told them we had bagged the last site, but they were welcome to share. They are on a yearslong road trip, working online, and outfitting their camper van as they go.

**9/1/2018, Saturday: Badlands National Park.** We spent the morning in Badlands NP, but we didn't take any hikes, other than wandering around the campground looking at prairie dogs and one lonely bison. We drove through a bison herd *en route* to the Park Loop Road and stopped at numerous overlooks as we drove the loop from Sage Creek Road to the Visitors' Center at the northeast entrance. Then we exited via the southeast entrance, through Interior, SD. Here we got onto SD-44 again heading eastward as far as White River, where we stopped to eat at White River Drive-In before heading south on US-83 into Nebraska. In Valentine, Nebraska, we got onto our old friend US-20 eastbound and took a slight detour to view an old bridge across the Niobrara River. We tried to camp in the Plainview, NE, city park, but it had only two sites, both occupied by huge RVs, so we wound up camping at Willow Creek recreation area, near Pierce, NE, a significant detour south on NE-13.



Badlands & bighorn sheep



Niobrara River, a classic canoe run

9/2/1018, Sunday: Homebound. We continued south on NE-13, then to US-81 southbound and then to US-275 east and southbound. We turned due east, and immediately after crossing the Missouri River, we briefly got onto I-29 southbound before we hit the I-680 spur, which fed us into I-80 homeward. We stayed on I-80 across Iowa and Illinois into Indiana, where Chris's car was parked at his sister's house just south of I-80, off IN-49 in Valparaiso. After getting Chris unloaded, I got back onto IN-49 southbound, zig-zagging through picturesque small towns on local roads and US-231 and ultimately taking I-65 south. I took I-65 into Indy where I caught I-70 east to Ohio, planning to sleep in the Ohio Welcome Center. It was under construction, so I drove I-70 on into the night, went six or seven miles south on I-75 through Dayton to US-35 southbound. I love Google maps on my phone, and I have a Garmin system in the van, but it was my National Geographic Road Atlas that showed me a rest area on I-71 just off US-35, where I slept for the night.

9/3/2018, Monday: Homebound. I got back onto US-35 southbound, but took the business route a couple of times, to see the downtown Washington Court House and downtown Chillicothe. At Point Pleasant, I crossed the Ohio River into West Virginia and followed the Kanawha River to I-64, which I took through Charleston to Beckley and picked up I-77 south. I-77 took me through southwest Virginia into North Carolina, where I got onto US-52 which brought me home to Winston-Salem.

## **BOATING HUMOR**

### **Musings from Ed's Brain**

Your boat reflects your status in life. What can we say about the shabby state of your boat? "I use only the *finest* duct tape."

They say money can't buy happiness. Don't they know that with only another \$500 I can buy the boat of my dreams?

I decided to quit what I was doing and take whatever time it takes to write a book of all of my great paddling experiences. [5 minutes later:] Guess I'm done ... it's a short story ... a very short story.

How do you know that he is open-minded? He is so open-minded that he does not wear a helmet in case he hits his head. He wears a helmet in case something falls out when he is upside down.

It was time for Sunday services at the paddle-in church. It was a beautiful, but simple place: a large roof over water with a preacher at a lectern on land. The preacher loved to preach against sin. Soon the flatwater boaters were jealous as they had to sit through the entire sermon while the whitewater boaters did roll practice whenever a sin they did not want to hear about came up.

## **PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT**

### **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 Bloede dam removal, the run can be a mile or two longer. The rapids below the former dam are changing. This section will open in late June. The runs are rain dependent. Ellicott City-based Dave Cooke (410-461-0674, 410-948-8882, sixcookess [at] 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. Already, there have been walking trips to check the status of the new rapids—since the first 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.

### **AW Updates**

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

*Always wanted to run the Rogue River in southern Oregon? 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](http://www.nwrafting.com/rogue).



### **Stay-tuned**

Learn about dragon boating in an upcoming newsletter edition.

### **Facebook**

Help Frank Fico increase participation on the Facebook page. He has structured it so that it is a good way of communicating between club members in setting up activities and reporting on trips. He has grown the Facebook membership group to over 100!

### **Webpage**

Mike Martin is looking for photos for the webpage. Dig out those digital files.

## Meetings

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. Meetings start at 7 PM and, after adjournment, members head to Ledo's in Bethesda for beer and pizza and tall tales.

## Membership

Dues are \$10 per calendar starting January 1. Send your dues and roster information to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851). See the form below.

## **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 Coasts 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

***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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