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The weather forecast has not included much rain so making use of those releases will be important. Runs on the Gauley, the Lehigh, the Savage, Stonycreek, and the Tohickon remain possibilities. The Russell Fork is a long drive, but it has two Class 3 sections and AW has worked to add Friday releases that could make the drive more worthwhile.

The canal has been rewatered from Violette's Lock to Great Falls. Additional work is being done near the canal in the vicinity of Great Falls. A failed retaining wall that supports the towpath needs repair that will require that the canal there be remain dewatered.

The Club joined with CCA to arrange for access to the Needles. The money was well worth it as there have been several trips. Mike Martin led one of the biggest trips of the season on that section of the Potomac.

The Club had a fantastic and unique Summer Picnic. Thank Mark Wray for organization, Daryl and Mike Martin for hosting, John and Sandy Duke for initiating the musical additional, and Mike Martin for his monetary contribution to the band. **If you did not pay your \$5 to Mark Wray (VP and party master), please contact him (redshoestwo [at] juno.com)** so that Clark Childers (our treasurer, kcchilders3 [at] gmail.com) can close out the books.

The Board voted to change the date of the Winter Holiday Party so as to not have it the same weekend as the CCA party. It will be held Saturday, December 14.

We had a multifaceted July program. Nature Conservancy scientist, Deborah Landau, talked about some of their area preserves that would be of interest to paddlers, e.g., Sideling Hill and Nassawango Cypress Swamp. She is looking forward to joining us on a Mallows Bay trip. New member, Cindy Rogers, gave a slide show on her Spring trip to Okefenokee Swamp. Beth Koller showed slides of the evolving rapids above the former Bloede Dam on the Patapsco.

The upcoming program at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 2 will feature the video "The Call of the River". Beth also has a video "Paddle Monster", whose goal is to get kids 4 to 14 into paddling safely and while having fun. If enough folks have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. and would like to spend part of an afternoon viewing it, a time could be arranged.

The newsletter has THREE feature articles: a Seneca Creek run from the Voyageur archives, how to use a new river app, and the 24 advantages of a canoe from the AW archives. A rebuttal to the last is expected. See the bonus pictorial trivia question "Paddling Gothic" for some laughter.

With sadness, we note the sudden passing of Sharon Hoback, the vivacious friend of Wes Mills. We report that Bob Maxey hopes to return to his myriad of outdoor activities after some surgery.

The club is looking for some trip co-ordinators, someone to wrangle trips, and someone to help with programs.

SYOTR.... *Rick Koller*

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## MEETINGS

### Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2 at the Clara Barton Recreation Center at 7 PM. The main entertainment will be "The Call of the River", which presents 80 years of whitewater history. It includes many early river explorations, the contributions that Iron Curtain defectors made to the sport, how material/products developed for the military were utilized in boats/boat building, how garage boat building spawned clubs, how river releases were obtained from dam keepers, and much more. In addition, if you have trip reports or announcements please feel free to bring them.

We have some tentative plans for programs for upcoming meetings including a Congo paddling trip, miscellaneous movies from the National Paddling Film Festival, Susan Eda's video clips from the Bad Idea Theater (pool toys on Nantahala Falls), and a slide show about the waterfall clinic at Valley Falls (Tygart River).

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

### July Meeting

The Summer meeting was held on Wednesday, July 24 at 7 PM and had multiple segments:

- Deborah Landau from the Maryland Chapter of the Nature Conservancy gave a fabulous presentation in which she talked about regional Conservancy preserves that might be of interest to paddlers. She started from the preserves in south eastern Maryland and worked her way west. She discussed the physical features, the plant/animal life, special conservation activities, specific challenges, the best seasons to visit, and access issues. She also discussed how preserves are sometimes transferred to other entities, e.g., the oxbow area near Laurel. Other areas she addressed included Sideling Hill Creek, which runs right along one of the preserves, Nassawango, which is a canoeable swamp with bald cypress and black gum trees, and Cranesville Swamp, which, with its unique frost pocket, is close to many of the rivers we paddle in the Cheat and Yough basins. She also talked about the ghost ships of Mallows Bay and the role that The Nature Conservancy played, along with others, in the conserving the

area. (Indeed she is anxious to paddle the area with us later this Fall.) She has provided us with a copy of her presentation, which includes many maps.

- New member, Cindy Rogers, talked about her most recent trip to Okefenokee Swamp. We had the opportunity to learn about how to plan a trip there--from logistics and permits to weather issues, navigation, and equipment requirements, e.g., portage gear. She put together many slides with spectacular scenery. We also learned about ALLIGATORS, a lot about ALLIGATORS!
- Beth Koller presented a brief slide show on rapids created by the removal of the Bloede Dam on the Patapsco River.
- Beth Koller also showed us the large, vinyl "River of Dreams" poster that she acquired by winning the raffle at the Carolina Week of Rivers. (See the last newsletter in the Parting Shots at the Take-out section at the end.) This poster was designed for the Carolina Canoe Club by the cartoonist William Nealy and featured a river with favorite drops from south eastern runs and continuous access provided by a shuttle train. If you have ideas for an equivalent poster of Mid-Atlantic runs, let Beth know. Perhaps we will be able to decorate those man-caves and she-sheds!

### Summer Picnic

The picnic was held on August 17 and was hosted by Mike and Daryl Martin at their Poolesville home, complete with a pool and lots of parking. There were 38 human attendees and three dogs. There was plenty of food and drink. As usual, fried chicken was the main entrée with members bringing appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts. This year there was a new addition, music! The Dukes (John and Sandy), club members, were the initial nidus. They were joined by some other musicians courtesy of Mike. The instruments included a banjo, a bass, a banjo, a fiddle, and a guitar. Many thanks to all who helped make the event a success.

## EVENTS

### Trips

**August 31-September 2: *New River Rendezvous*.** This event is sponsored by the Coastals (Ken Dubel; <https://www.coastals.org/index.html>). There will be camping and access to Class 2 to Class 4 runs. Charlie Duffy (703-407-0909, [charlie\\_duffy \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:charlie_duffy@yahoo.com)) is headed that way so give him a call if you are interested.

**September 1: *Needles (Potomac)*** Meet at the old Cindy Dee's off of US 340 at 9:30 AM. You must be a paid current member of BRV or CCA and be on the clubs' rosters to use the outfitter put-in. Also you must complete the outfitter's release requirements. The take-out will be at Harper's Ferry Adventure Center to which there is a shuttle up from the river. The Center has changing facilities and vehicle parking. Plan on BBQ and liquid refreshments afterwards. Contact Beth Koller (240-506-0417) prior to Friday evening with a commitment.

**September 5-15: *Michigan Rivers/Creeks*** An Edventure. Contact Ed Evangelidi ([eedevange \[at\] localnet.com](mailto:eedevange@localnet.com), [eedevangelidi6 \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:eedevangelidi6@gmail.com)).

**September 8: *Fort Washington/Mallows Bay*** Mark Wray ([redshoestwo \[at\] juno.com](mailto:redshoestwo@juno.com)) is planning a trip to Fort Washington Historic Site and Mallows Bay. He will go Mallows Bay in the morning and Fort Washington in the afternoon. That way, if folks want to do just the ship graveyard and not the Fort, they can head home after the float.

**September 14-15: North Branch of the Potomac** (Variable release may be OK for paddling). **Saturday only (Barnum to Bloomington)**. Contact Beth Koller prior to Thursday evening. **Saturday (Barnum to Bloomington) and Sunday (Westernport to Black Oak)** with camping at New Germany State Park. Contact Alf Cooley and/or John Snitzer.

**October 12-14 (Columbus Day Weekend): New Jersey Pine Barrens** An Annual Edventure. Contact Ed Evangelidi (edevange [at ] localnet.com, eevangelidi6 [at] gmail.com) and do so prior to October 8. No late inquiries, please.

### **Contacts for Potential Trips**

- Dave Cooke (410-461-0674, 410-948-8882, cookedb [at] gmail.com, sixcookess [at] gmail.com) runs the *Patapsco* frequently. Contact him about getting on an interest list.
- Craig Wolfe (301-461-7846/301-577-3075) is an aficionado of all things *Sideling Hill*. He has run various sections at various water levels. Contact him about being on an interest list.
- Beth Koller (240-506-0417) will run a *Mallows Bay* trip with the date dependent on interest, weather, and tide levels. Contact her if interested.

### **Festivals**

**Gauley Fest: September 19-22**, Gauley River

**Bridge Day: October 19**, New River Gorge

### **Releases Organizer(s) needed.**

**Gauley: September 6-9, 13-16, 20-23, 27-30, October 4-6, 12-13, 19-20**

<http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wm/?wwsched>

Gauley River/Summersville: 304-872-5809

**Stonycreek: September 21-22, October 5-6, 19-20**

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

**Savage: September 28**

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

**Russell Fork: October 4-5 (tentative), 12-13, 19-20, 25 (tentative), 26-27**

<http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wm/?wwsched>

Russell Fork River/John Flannagan: 276-835-9544 or dial 276-926-8977 and ask for ext. 8984

**Lehigh: October 12-13** (mega release), natural flow possible at other times

<https://www.poconowhitewater.com/lehigh-gorge-dam-release/>

**Tohickon: November 2-3 (pending)**

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GoodNatured/pages/Article.aspx?post=64>

### **Other**

**Racing at Dickerson:** Practice sessions the afternoons of October 3 and 4 (Thursday & Friday). Slalom race to select National Champs in canoe and kayak on October 5 (Saturday). Age group nationals on October 6 (Sunday) and on a different course. Beth (240-506-0417) may go to take photos.

### **Commercial Trips**

#### **Canoe Kayak and Paddle Company (CKAPCO)**

Mike Aronoff (703-850-1257; [www.ckapco.com](http://www.ckapco.com)), CKAPCO proprietor, BRV member, ACA Trainer Educator in canoe and kayak, and Trainer in River Rescue reports having another great



Salmon River trip with clients in canoes, inflatable kayaks, and shredder rafts. The water level was slightly higher than usual. The air temperature at nighttime was 50 degrees, during the day the high 70s. The water temperature was 68 degrees. He has provided a link to trip images “Main Salmon Mike Folder 2019”: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yojsa2stxtnu1yr/AADfO9-dN9t02Wh9rsrXZFbSa?dl=0>. He reports that the 2020 trip is scheduled for August 12 to 17.

### **Nantahala**

Mark Wray forwarded the following: My name is Charlie Ford with the Nantahala Outdoor Center. I wanted to take a moment to touch base with you to see if your group is considering an outdoor adventure with us in 2019. I am a Group and Custom Reservations specialist and will be able to assist you throughout the entire reservations process. If you need any information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via email or directly at 828-488-7209. I look forward to working with you.

## **BOATING TRIVIA: BONUS SECTION**



### **WHO & WHAT**

**1-3—Who are these people and what were they doing? 30 POINTS**



**Paddling Gothic**

For the remainder of trivia questions, see page 31.

## FEATURE ARTICLE #1

### A Blast from the Past: Seneca Creek Revisited—6 January, 1984

Mike Martin retrieved this article from *Adventure in Paddling-The Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs* and scanned it. It was then retyped and reformatted.

On a cool, sunny Sunday afternoon, a group of BRV paddlers returned to Great Seneca Creek to see firsthand the results of the June 1984 work trip. Bud Fakoury, Kay Fulcomer, Harry Lawson, Peggy Lawson, Jack Beall, Tom Gray, Sally Gray, Woody Eiche, and Roger Corbett were there. The Riffleford gauge read 0.7', which was about 2" below a comfortable canoeing zero.

By way of background, a trip in May 1984, led by Frank Moritz, resulted in a good estimate of the work necessary to clear this stream. His findings were:

Section	I	Clopper Road to Riffleford	8 portages
	II	Riffleford to Rte. 118	8 portages
	III	Rte. 118 to Black Rock	4 portages

Another recent trip on the sections below Black Rock indicated:

Section	IV	Black Rock to Rte. 28	11 portages
	V	Rte. 28 to Rileys Lock	4 portages

All totaled, 35 portages, not including sneaking under downed trees or sliding over downed trees. This 6 January 1984 trip resulted in many portages, 15 all total, in the following sections:

I	1 portage
II	4 portages
III	3 portages
IV	4 portages
V	3 portages

Three of the portages appeared to be the result of debris washing down from clearing operations upstream and jamming in narrow passages. Two portages appeared to be from trees that had fallen in the river during the last six months. One portage just below Black Rock involved new trees (plural) and massive amounts of debris. Note Section V was not cleared in June.

The number of portages was disheartening to the paddlers, but, when viewed in perspective, the work performed in June was really productive and informative. We were productive in that 70 per cent of portages had been eliminated. The work was informative in that we learned that several clearings will probably be needed on a stream that has never been cleared before. And we learned that the practice of clearing a small passage frequently results in debris jams in the passages.

Any future cleaning of Great Seneca Creek should be done in a series of smaller efforts rather than in one large effort. Priorities for cleaning, based on ease of access and ease of removal are:

- One portage just upstream of Riffleford
- One portage just below Riffleford
- Three portages just below Rte. 118
- Two portages just above Rte. 28

These places are easily reached by foot from the bridges. Two or three evenings after work during the summer will be enough for them. Then the other portages can be handled by regular trips to those remaining.

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **International Whitewater Hall of Fame—Risa Shimoda (recent BRV speaker)**

The Class of 2019 International Whitewater Hall of Fame (IWHoF) Induction will take place at PaddleExpo.com, the international paddlesports trade show on October 5 in Nuremberg, Germany. The ceremony will award the Class of 2019 Pioneer award to Hermann and Christa Kerckhoff, founders of Madawaska Kanu Center and to two Advocates. One Advocate is Chris Hawkesworth, an expedition filmmaker in the 1970s through the 1990s, the manufacturer of White Water helmets, and member of the innovative ‘buoyancy aid’ standards developers in Europe for many years. The second 2019 Advocate is Joe Pulliam, founder of Dagger Kayaks and a tremendous contributor to the successes of Perception, Inc. and Jackson Kayak.

As the event is taking place, the Class of 2019 IWHoF commemorative video honoring these individuals will debut at [www.iwhof.org](http://www.iwhof.org). IWHOF is seeking support to honor these outstanding folks today and additional whitewater legends in the future. Gifts help us produce the video and arrange for the awards ceremony. Check out our GoFundMe campaign, where even \$5 is appreciated: [https://www.gofundme.com/f/1r5reoe9hc?sharetype=teams&member=2885294&rcid=r01-156882048363-dce70b741387433c&pc=ot\\_co\\_campmgmt\\_w](https://www.gofundme.com/f/1r5reoe9hc?sharetype=teams&member=2885294&rcid=r01-156882048363-dce70b741387433c&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w). If you are more of a check-writer, please make your donation check payable to World River Center and mail it c/o Risa Shimoda, 601 Hudson Ave. #102, Takoma Park, MD 20912. You may be thanked with an MTI pfd, 3-day, 2-night paddling trip in Costa Rica with Rios Tropicales or a BicSUP adjustable fiberglass paddle.

### **Team River Runner**

It's Fall and time for the Annual Biathlon on October 6. Hopefully it will not be rained out. If you want to support participants, be a participant, or volunteer for various tasks including safety, follow the link: <https://teamriverrunner.myetap.org/fundraiser/dcbiathlon19/aboutEvent.do>.

## **CONSERVATION**

### **Riley's Lock Area Clean-Up**

The BRV and CCA ran a joint clean-up at Riley's Lock in mid-April in conjunction with the wider Alice Ferguson clean-up. This year's specific focus was on counting the single use and recyclable containers. Kay Fulcomer (mentioned in the Seneca Creek article), Ginny DeSeau, Star Mitchell, and Kathleen Sengstock organized and distributed the clean-up materials. Calleva staff provided canoes, paddles, and life jackets. Barb organized those going upstream on Seneca Creek. Others cleaned near the lock and along the nearby Potomac and at the abandoned mill. Attendance was down significantly from last year. The weather was predicted to be poor, but the weather turned from cool and gray to pleasant and sunny. The day was made even better by the



many wildflowers were making their debut. Many trash items were retrieved and separated into distinct bags or piles. Some ended the excursion with a late lunch.



Kay gives directions



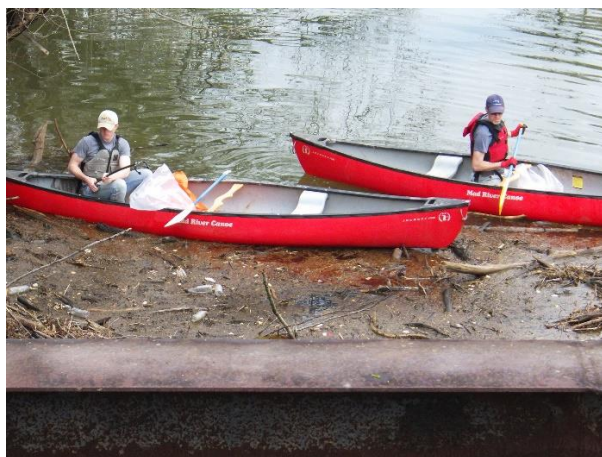
Calleva staff ready with boats



Gloves, grabbers, and various bag types



Loading boats for cleaning



Cleaning near the lock



Returning from upstream on Seneca Creek





Returning with “treasure”



Larry and paddling partner



A few more paddle strokes until the end



Getting ready to disembark & unload trash



Barb collecting single use & recyclable bottles



My favorite item





Bags for various trash types



Other miscellaneous trash



Grill likely displaced by 2018 high water



Ed, Kay, Star, Ginny, 2 volunteers, & trash

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Sand Run: A Personal First Descent and an Adventure with Ed**

Ed Evangelidi is always on the look-out for something new to explore. There was no exception to this during the West Virginia Week of Rivers. There is a reservoir in the gated community next to Timberline Resort. Sand Run comes out of that reservoir and eventually enters the Blackwater. It's that "eventually" that made the trip an Adventure in the usual and classic sense. The stream width at the put-in was about 10 feet. The water was gushing out of the pipe. During the shuttle, Barb and Beth carried the boats down and waited by the put-in. Ken practiced his roll in the reservoir. Aided by a gust of wind, Ed's canoe decided that it wanted to come down the ridge to be closer to the put-in. Beth and Barb put a stop to that and went back to waiting. Suddenly Barb said that a sandbar was emerging and the flow from the pipe was less audible. This was discussed when the others returned. It was thought that there was additional water inflow downstream.

The problem was the density of the overarching bushes—right in your face. More water would have been nice, but it would have shoved one into the bushes faster. When the stream became a bit more defined a wider, there were beaver dams and strainer piles. Then we encountered river-wide pipes about 1.5 feet in diameter and about two feet above the water surface. These



apparently were used by hunters to cross the river. Sometimes they have wooden cross-bars on top that serve as steps. There was a final pipeline under which the limbo could be done, but Beth still scraped her helmet and there was one spill. We finally reached finally reached the deeper and wider portions of the Blackwater. No more twirling around on shallow rocks. No more ducking under trees. No more portaging around strainers. A take-out never looked so good—especially when a generous fisherman stopped his fishing to help haul us onto the beach. Well, the run was a personal first descent for all, and, as Forrest Gump would say, ...”life is like a box full of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get”.



The reservoir wall and the launch site



Ken surfing the dwindling outflow



Barb ready to go



Ed in the lead on a beautiful Spring day





Fingers crossed for water



Raptors & raptor nests



The creek became less defined



John worked around bushes & a shallow rock



Branches hit you in the face on the only route



Barb made a braille run under the bridge





A left-right move was required here



John successfully navigated that move



A river wide obstruction required portaging



Ed contributed to the “beaver sign” there

### **Stonycreek and the Lower Yough: Long Time No See--Sandy Snyder**

What’s better than a paddling vacation? Not much I suspect. Tom and I have now “graduated” to paddling a shredder and still enjoy being on the water. This trip, created by Tom and Sandy Snyder, started when a small group from Knoxville, TN ventured north to paddle in western Pennsylvania between June 15 and June 21.

The preparation for the trip actually started much earlier. “Stephanie Marie” Johnson and Stuart Mckee started paddling during winter rolling sessions in the University of Tennessee pool. Tom worked with both of them on their rolls, and they are now amazing boaters with dynamite rolls and paddling skills way better than ours. They were game for the trip.

The intent was to paddle the Casselman, Stonycreek, the Yough, and whatever was within a reasonable distance of the campground at Ohiopyle. The rain gods were not with us. Our paddling options were limited, but the releases were good.

#### **Our Agenda**

Saturday: Lower Yough (partial group)



Sunday: Stonycreek River-Stony Canyon section (975 cfs)

Monday: Lower Yough (2.1 feet)

Tuesday: Lower Yough (2.4 feet)

Wednesday: Rest Day!

Thursday: Lower Yough (3.3 feet at put-in and 4.1 feet when we took off)

Friday: Chill! The trip was a success! “

Because some paddlers were still traveling on Saturday, June 15, a few folks sampled the Lower Yough.

We were at full strength on Sunday, June 16 when an inter-state group of paddlers tackled Stony Creek near Johnstown, PA. The river was running about 975 cfs, a standard level. Paddlers included Beth Koller, DC-area BRV member; Tom and Sandy Snyder, still BRV members, but now living in Knoxville; TN, Stephanie Johnson, Stuart McKee, and Doug Johnstone of Knoxville; plus Bud Chavez of Cincinnati, OH; Woody Davis of Coshocton, OH; Toni Hartley of Columbus, OH; and David Herron, also of Cincinnati, OH.

We then paddled the Yough repeatedly. We continued to camp in the rain, but as Stephanie noted “Though the daily/nightly rain kept the campground muddy, spirits weren’t dampened thanks to shared cups of coffee and more than a few packs of Oreos”.



Tom and Sandy at Cucumber





Bud at Swimmer's Hole



Stuart's usual point of view



From left to right: Tom, Sandy, Stephanie, Doug, Stuart, and Chris.

Stuart loved the lines on the Lower Yough. He noted that “My favorite part of paddling the Lower Yough, apart from spending a super fun week with close friends and some of my favorite South East paddling peeps, has to be our last day on the river. River jumped up to four feet, and for me, bigger water in my Antix equals more fun! I would say running Cucumber and doing enders and stern squirts at the bottom of it was my all-time favorite for the week. The whole river is an epic playground for playboaters so it's really hard to pick just one spot. If y'all ever find yourselves in East Tennessee or Western North Carolina look me up on Facebook if you



want to paddle. SYOTR!” Stuart also earned most valuable boater points by **voluntarily** helping to haul the shredder and Doug Johnstone’s horribly heavy canoe up the hill at the Yough takeout.

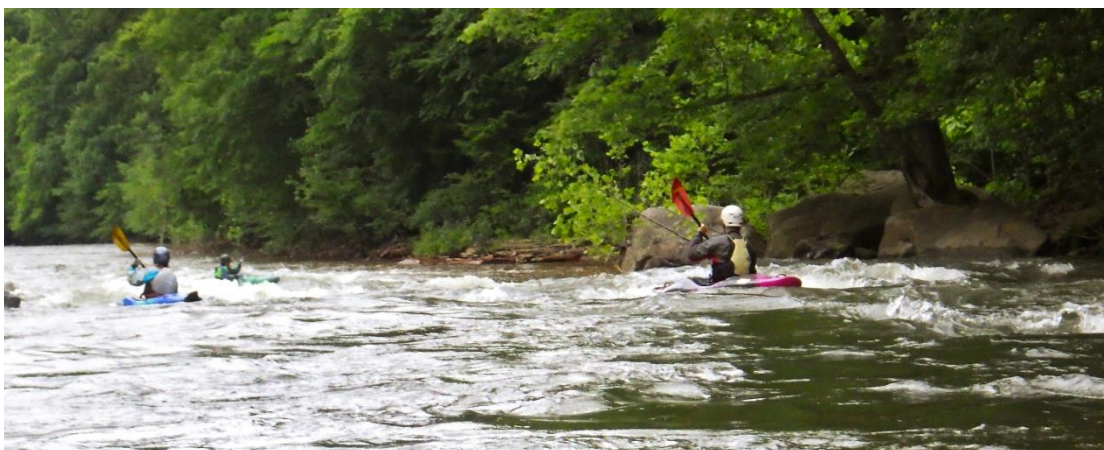
On the very last day on the Lower Yough, we met a fellow in the parking lot. He looked familiar, but it wasn’t until he paddled away from me and I had read the back of his PFD that I recognized Chris Brunjes, one of our old BRV paddling buddies.

### Stonycreek Reunion

Sandy and Tom Snyder are BRVers who now live and paddle in Tennessee. They came north in June to paddle in the Yough area and to attend Tom’s college reunion. The group of assorted Tennessee, Ohio, and Maryland paddlers gathered at the Foustwell bridge put-in on State Route 601 and about a quarter mile below the Showers Rapid. The river started out with a bang where Shade Creek enters, with Shade Creek Surf Waves and Split Stream (Road) Rapid. Fortunately, Ohio paddler, Bud Chavez, provided welcome guidance. Surf Lab Rapid gave folks a chance to experiment with the many play spots—although some of us were happy to watch the action from eddies (small, bouncy eddies). Below the railroad bridge (Railroad Rapid) were big waves and a wide ledge. The Wall is usually run best using the left channel. In quick succession were the surf waves of the Three Ugly Sisters, Roostertail (Landslide), the Scout Hole, Hydro Rock, and the complex hydrology and steepness of the Beast. There was boogie water that ended in the river-left portage at the dam. Three miles of fun! So far so good.

After the portage, the river again started out with a bang. Pipeline on river-left is known for its hydraulic. It is blind. We received words of guidance from Bud and watched the path of bouncing helmets as paddlers dropped into the rapid. The Hermit rock gardens marked the start of a decrease in gradient. No one had any problem at Decapitation, just fun playing. The rock gardens of Eddy Hop brought us to the take-out.

We rounded out the trip by eating at the Crow’s Nest and checking out the Greenhouse park and play water park.



Calm start, but not for long...as Bud, Toni, and Woody lead off





Stuart buried in the waves



Bud calm as ever



Tom and Sandy rounding the bend



Tom and Sandy high and dry



David focusing on the route





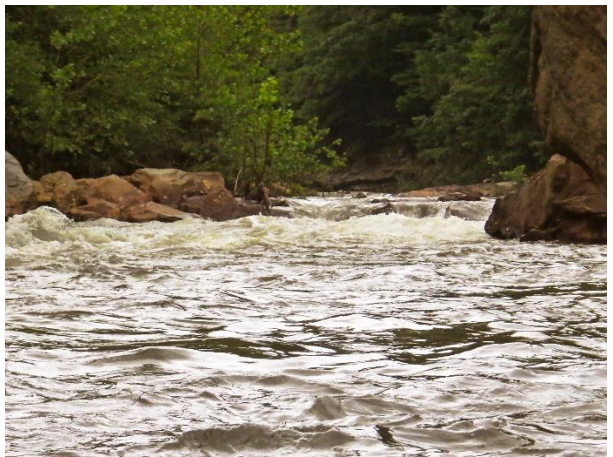
Doug takes a plunge



Stephanie zooms towards the eddy



Stuart looks at the next pitch



Many, many pitches...



Stuart playing—as per usual



Stuart assuming his usual position

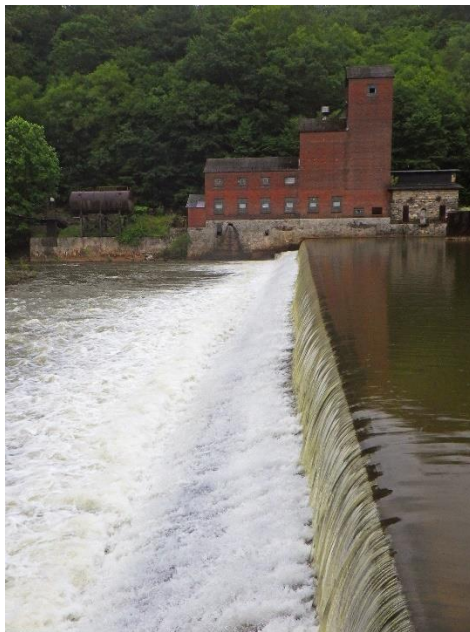




Doug drives into the eddy



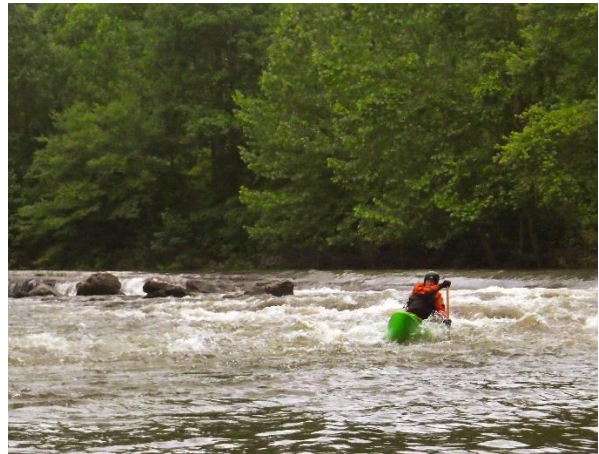
Bud, Toni, Woody & Tom in the branch eddy



The dam making a portage & lunch break



Shredding the Pipeline



Doug through the Pipeline hydraulics





Post Pipeline break



Bud did a great job finding the route



Stephanie in the home stretch



Only fun boogie water remained



One of several playpark wave holes



One of several playpark wave holes





The motley crew-minus the photographer:  
Stephanie, Dough, Stuart, Toni, Tom, Sandy, Woody, David, and Bud

### Antietam Creek

During the third week of June, BRV and CCA had a joint trip on the Antietam. There were six paddlers: Virginia del Rosario, Beth Koller, Susan Overstreet, Jon Pointer, Cindy Rogers, and Craig Wolfe. We put in at the Route 34 bridge on river left and took out on the Potomac River, just upstream of the Aqueduct. The level was 3.04 feet on the stick gauge above the weir. This five mile section at this level starts off with brisk current that flows under a canopy of trees.

Because a couple of folks had not been in boat for a while, the group practiced some ferry moves, peel-outs, and surfs. After the restored stone Burnside Bridge, there is a river-wide weir with chutes. The classic line is on river-left. At this level, long canoes sometime drop in sideways to prevent bottoming out. Deadfall creating strainers was at a minimum. We played out way down. Furnace Rapid at this water level was not a single curvy sluiceway. There were eddies that permitted boat scouting. The upright green tree that had been present just left of center and just above the final-wave hole was gone. The wave-hole was just a river-wide wave that could be run anywhere. The Aqueduct had large amounts of wood piled against it on the upstream side, but the far right portal was clean. After carrying our boats up the hill and across the canal, we took advantage of the boat loading circle alongside Harpers Ferry Road. After picking up the final cars at the put-in we did the final boat transfers at the Potomac Creamery parking lot (Boonesville) and, and of course, had cold treats at the ice cream parlor.





Cindy & Craig, new BRVers, at crowded put-in



Susan getting reacquainted with her boat



Checking out the restored Burnside Bridge



Virginia stroking on a ferry



Bill ready to run



Lower than a few weeks ago



Craig, glad to be on the river!





Virginia paddles the chute at the weir



Craig's clean run at the lowhead dam chute



Susan looking cool in her "Foster Grants"



Bill looking determined



Cindy showing some surfing action



Craig leisurely surfing





Susan zooming into an eddy



Decisive stroking



Virginia soaking up some sun



Cindy as a probe at the aqueduct

### [A Hidden Gem](#)

As previously noted, a trip with Ed Evangelidi is always an adventure, and often an “Adventure” with surprises. For the Carolina Canoe Club Week of Rivers, he had located a stream that ran right through the Asheville metropolitan area and at the edge of the Biltmore estate. It would be a good start for a week-plus of paddling after a long drive. A five-mile stretch was located for two sequential runs. The first bridge put-in showed how high the waters get. There was debris imbedded in the underside of the high bridge! The first rapids had been built up by students from the nearby Warren Wilson College. As we proceeded, signs of civilization passed away. The archway of trees shielded us from the sun. The rapids were not difficult, Class 1 and 2, but the river was always busy. There was continuous flow with many ledges.





The bridge area at the put-in had lots of debris from the hurricane rains in 2018



Nancy & John leave civilization behind



The rapid built up by the college



The crew with Ed in the lead followed by Doug, Tucker, Loretta, John, and Nancy

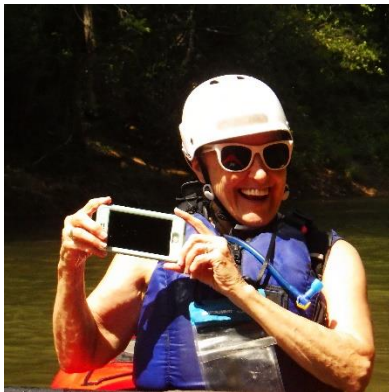




Nancy making waves



John brings up the rear



A Kodak moment



Doug cruising



Loretta making her move



Tucker ferries



Doug surfing

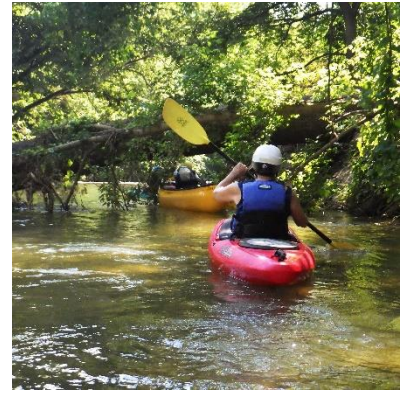




Tucker surfs



Loretta aims for the eddy



A few strainers near the end



One of the local paddlers strutting his stuff



The river provides much of the area's water



The power plant marked out take-out



Steep-takeout required teamwork

The following day we put-in below some deadfall, that in retrospect could have been run. The most complex rapids occurred very early in the run. There were numerous playing options at this site. As we learned, this location and other river-right sites within the first couple miles had easy take-outs and were easily accessible by road. The big obstacle on the trip was a dam/fish ladder. There was a take-out immediately above the dam on river-left. It could easily be negotiated by an



open-boater, who could then catch subsequent paddlers. The take-out higher upstream had a small beach and required an upward walk through a field. After checking out the dam, we put in at the rapids at the regional park below the dam. The river soon took on a different character. It became wider. The water was more turbid and warmer. There were fewer rapids and more signs of civilization. When we saw tubers, we knew that we were approaching the French Broad. There is a steep landing right at the mouth that would be difficult for closed boaters. The take-out on the French Broad that we used was immediately on river-left. It is a hike up to the parking lot and parking is a premium because this regional park is heavily used on the weekends. The park does provide restroom/changing facilities.



Rapid with multiple ledges; good road access



Lots of small rapids and cooling shade



The rather steep fish ladder



Ed confirmed that the chute was rocky





Ed in rapid below dam



Steve surfs and surfs and surfs...



Many small rapids which dissipated near the Biltmore Estate



Gauge near end



Industrial end



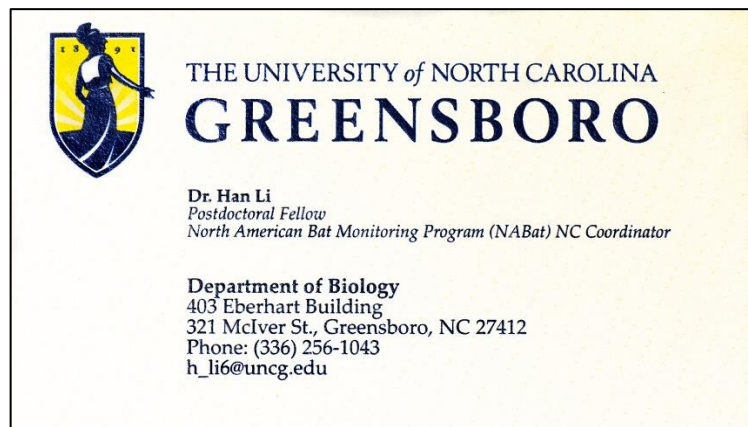
Merging with the French Broad



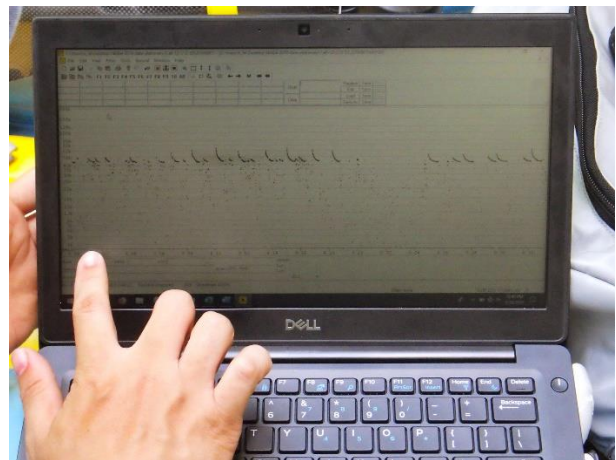
It was determined that the optimal run would include the upper stretch and about two miles of the lower stretch. So Ed scored some points with this find! We also went to the nearby Asiana buffet restaurant. Good food. Good price (~\$13). More points for Ed! The frosting on the cake for some of us was the bat lecture delivered while the shuttle was being done. Dr. Li, a post doc, pulled up to retrieve a microphone, recorder, and power supply from the stream bank. He proceeded to inform us that Asheville has the greatest diversity of bats in North Carolina (17 species) and that this location (very close to the overhead Blue Ridge Parkway) is the site of a gray bat roost! He brought out his computer and showed us the different signals emitted by different species. After telling us about the role that bats play in insect control and other part of the economy, Dr. Li left to visit one of the State ecologists, who does net trapping of bats to provide different types of information. She was located around the corner and across the field. Who knew what a great adventure this would be?



Dr. Li, “the batman”



The microphone tripod, recorder, & battery



Different wave form for each species



## **BOATING TRIVIA (continued)**

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

The topic is the destination of an autumn trip, the Ghost Ships in Malloys Bay, and one of the locations of interest to paddlers presented by, Deborah Landau, a scientist with The Nature Conservancy-Maryland Chapter.

### **WHY**

4--Why were the ghost ships built? As merchant marine ships? Warships? Transport ships? **10 POINTS**

### **WHAT**

5--For what conflict were the ghost ships built? The Civil War? The Spanish American War? World War 1? World War 2? **10 POINTS**

6--Of what materials were the ghost ships constructed and why? **10 POINTS**

7--How many of the ships were sent overseas for their intended purpose? **10 POINTS**

8--How many carried cargo? **10 POINTS**

### **WHERE**

9--Where were the ships initially stored? **10 POINTS**

10--Where are they located now? **10 POINTS**

### **THINGS NEVER LEARNED IN SCHOOL**

11-12--What two companies were involved in the scrap process? **20 POINTS**

13--Did they ever make a significant profit? **10 POINTS**

14--Are there other than Emergency Fleet Corporation (EFC) boats to be found at Malloys Bay? **10 POINTS**

15--Did the Nature Conservancy contribute to the protection status recently afforded to the boats? If yes, how? **10 POINTS**

## **FEATURE ARTICLE #2**

### **Have River, Will Paddle: There's an App for That--Tucker and Doug Willenborg**

Let's say it rained overnight and you decide you want to go paddling. How do you decide which river to paddle? There are two common sites that most people use, AW (American Whitewater) and USGS. Now there is a new site available <https://rivers.run>, that we find is a better starting point, and provides links into AW and USGS for additional information.

So, what is rivers.run and why would you want to use it? Rivers.run is a fast, lightweight website for getting gauge readings. (Access it by typing "rivers.run" into your browser.)

**Perhaps the thing I like most about rivers.run is the color shading based on flow levels, and the ability to sort the list by flow.** Rivers show up as red if they are too low, and blue if they



are too high, but the rest are sorted and shaded based on their relative flow. *See Figure 1, example rivers.run view sorted by flow.* This way if a river is a little low, it shows up as yellow. If the river slightly high, it shows up as a blueish-green, etc. I prefer the visual color shading to AW's behavior of making everything between the minimum and maximum the same shade of green.



Too Low	Low Flow	Mid Flow	High Flow	Too High
Wilson Creek	Gorge	A	III-IV	★★★★★ 310cfs 2.44ft↑
Cheoah (ELF)	Santeetlah Dam	A		★★★★★ 91.9cfs 2.69ft – Dam
Toe	Gorge	LI	II(III)	★★★★★ 96.5cfs 0.96ft↓
Pigeon	Lower	N	II(III)	★★★★★ 1330cfs 6.19ft↓ Dam
Chattahoochee	Upper	N	II-III	★★★★★ 211cfs 1.78ft –
Tuckasegee	Whittier and Town	I	I-III	★★★★★ 1310cfs 2.63ft↑ Dam
Tuckasegee	Gorge	LI	II-III	★★★★★ 813cfs 4.29ft – Dam
Chattooga	3.5	HI		★★★★★ 298cfs 1.51ft –
Nolichucky	Gorge	HI	III-IV	★★★★★ 911cfs 1.77ft↓
Nantahala	Pattons to NOC	I	II+(III)	★★★★★ 694cfs 2.77ft – Dam
Nolichucky	Lower (Erwin to Embreeville)	LI	II+(III)	★★★★★ 911cfs 1.77ft↓
French Broad	9	I	III-IV	★★★★★ 1750cfs 1.99ft↑
French Broad	6.5	LI	I-II	★★★★★ 1380cfs 1.85ft –
Little Tennessee	Iotla	N	I-III	★★★★★ 567cfs 2.39ft↓
Chattooga	4	E	II-IV+	★★★★★ 298cfs 1.51ft –
French Broad	8	N		★★★★★ 1750cfs 1.99ft↑
Pigeon	Gorge	I	II-III+	★★★★★ 1330cfs 6.19ft↓ Dam

Figure 1: Example rivers.run view reverse sorted by flow (Dark mode)



Too Low	Low Flow	Mid Flow	High Flow	Too High
North Branch	Keyser to above Cumberland	B	I-II	★★★★★ 280cfs 1.62ft –
Potomac	Paw Paw camper	B	I	★★★★★ 742cfs 3.87ft↑
Shenandoah - South Fork	Rt 50 to Rt 7	B	I(II)	★★★★★ 526cfs 1.32ft –
Shenandoah - South Fork	Newport - Luray	B	I-II	★★★★★ 526cfs 1.32ft –
Shenandoah - South Fork	Luray - Bentonville	B	I-II	★★★★★ 526cfs 1.32ft –
Big Sandy	Upper, Upper (above Bruceton Mills)	N	I-II	★★★★★ 34.2cfs 3.52ft –
Blackwater	Blacktop - Valley to above Davis	N	I-II(III)	★★★★★ 22.6cfs 1.48ft –
Cacapon	Rt 50-Bloomery	N	II	★★★★★ 113cfs 1.52ft –
Cedar Creek	Upper, above Rt 55	N	II	★★★★★
Cedar Creek	Lower - Rt 55 to Rt 11	N	I-II	★★★★★
Lost River	Upper	N	I-II	★★★★★ 7.21cfs 2.24ft –
Loyalhanna Creek	Rector-Kingston	N	I-II	★★★★★ 43.8cfs 1.81ft –
Potomac, South Branch	Trough	N	I-II	★★★★★ 225cfs 1.31ft –
Potomac, South Branch	Lower Smokeholes - Big Bend to Petersburg	N	I-II(III)	★★★★★ 40.0cfs 1.68ft –
Robinson	4	N	II+	★★★★★ 56.3cfs 2.02ft –
Sideling Hill Creek	MD	N	I-II	★★★★★ 1.79cfs 0.32ft↓
Youghiogheny	Middle	N	I-II	★★★★★ 952cfs 1.93ft –
Blackwater	Blacktop - Above Davis to SP	LI	I-II(III)	★★★★★ 22.6cfs 1.48ft –
Cheat - Dry Fork	Snyder Rd to Jenningsston	LI	I-II	★★★★★ 84.7cfs 1.81ft –
Elk, Back Fork	Lower (Big Sycamore to Webster Springs)	LI	II+	★★★★★ 40.6cfs 3.26ft –
Glady Fork	Sully to Dry Fork	LI	I-III	★★★★★ 12.9cfs 4.16ft –
Glady Fork	Glady to 33 Bridge	LI	I-III	★★★★★ 12.9cfs 4.16ft –
Glady Fork	33 Bridge to Sully	LI	I-III	★★★★★ 12.9cfs 4.16ft –

Figure 2: rivers.run location search, centered on Davis, WV (sorted by skill)



Another rivers.run feature that I find particularly useful is getting geographically-based river lists that cross state boundaries. Since many of our favorite paddling areas encompass multiple states (NC/TN/GA, WV/VA/MD, etc), one cross-state list is easier than a state-based approach. Rivers.run advanced search includes a search on location. This feature allows you to find all the rivers within some distance of your current location (you can manually set the location too), which is a great way to find rivers near you, across states, wherever you are. See Figure 2, rivers.run location search, centered on Davis, WV, sorted by skill.

Each river in the list can be clicked on to see a graph of the flow data. A super paddler unique usability feature is how rivers.run displays both feet (height gauge) feet and cubic feet per second (volume) on the same graph, making the question "What's that in cfs?" easy to answer. See Figure 3, example river gauge with both cfs and feet.

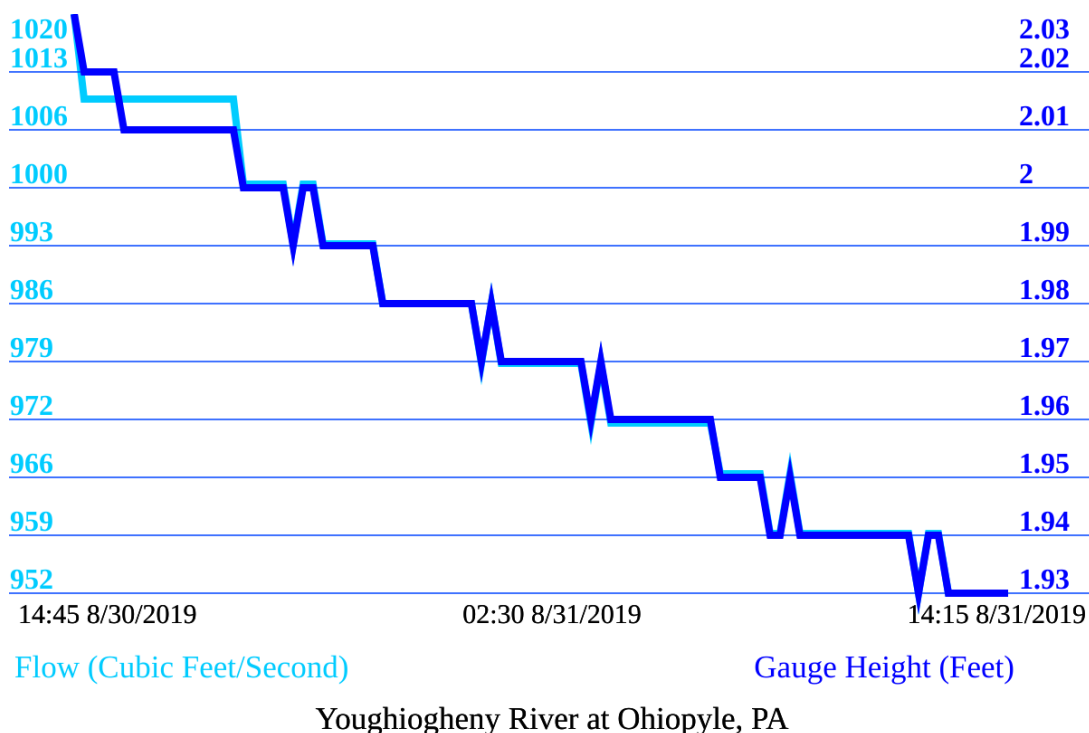


Figure 3, example river gauge with both cfs and feet.

The river writeups also provide links into AW for quick access to more details of the river, and USGS for any additional gauge data you might want.

Rivers.run caches USGS gauge readings, which allows the website to be accessible offline, with no internet connection, even if the device is restarted. This feature allows you to grab the river data when you have a connection, and still have it when you are making plans at a campsite in the middle of nowhere. Rivers.run will warn you if you are using old data.

This all sounds great if you knew it rained last night, but what about that time that you missed a great run on the Little Sandy because rain came through there, but it missed you? **Rivers.run can help here with notifications - allowing you to set alerts on rivers**, and get notified when a

river is in a certain flow range - all with no usernames or passwords required. *See Figure 4, an example of setting notifications for the Little Sandy when the water level is between 6.5 and 7.5 feet (you choose the range for notification).*

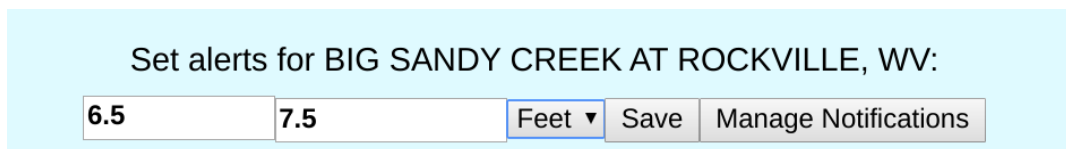
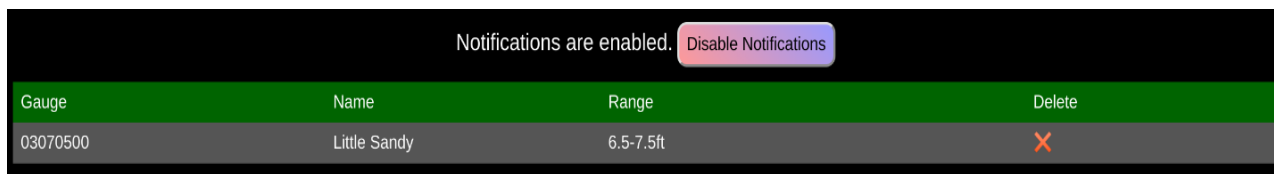


Figure 4: Sample of setting notifications for Little Sandy (which uses Big Sandy gauge)

*See Figure 5 to see the page to enable, disable, and delete notifications.*



Gauge	Name	Range	Delete
03070500	Little Sandy	6.5-7.5ft	✗

Figure 5: manage notifications page (dark mode)

*See Figure 6 for an example of the notification that will pop up when a river is running. An added bonus feature updates the flow levels for any notifications you leave open!*

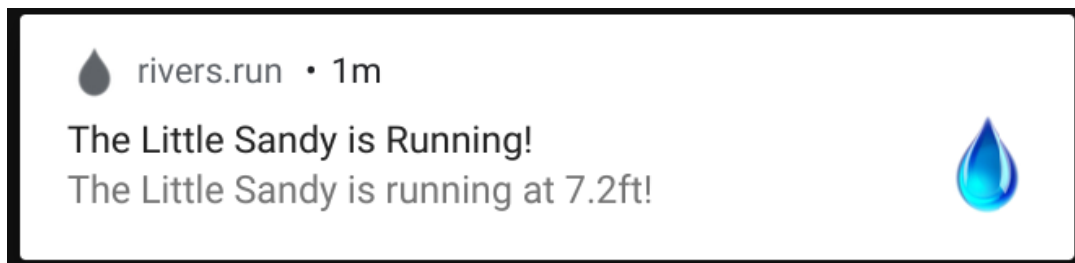


Figure 6: A Notification.

If your favorite river is not already on the site, please see the FAQs at <https://rivers.run/FAQ.html> for directions on how to add that river so you'll always know when it is running. The more local knowledge we can add to the site - the better for everyone. We have found rivers.run very helpful where we have areas that we paddle year after year, and hope that you will try it out and contribute some of your river knowledge - after all, we can't notify you about a river we don't have!

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please email us at [support@rivers.run](mailto:support@rivers.run).

Editor's note: Tucker, Doug's son, developed this site. Give him a hand! 👍👍👍

## **HISTORIC AND FOLKLORIC** **Somerset County Memorial: Flight 93**

Lincoln Highway (US 30) between Somerset on Bedford is on the route to/from the Stony. The detour to the U.S. Park Service Memorial just outside of Shanksville, PA (814-893-6322; PO



Box 911, Shanksville, PA 15560) is a couple of miles. United Airlines Flight 93 was hijacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. During the struggle for control by the passengers and crew, the aircraft crashed at the memorial site. All perished. The memorial is stunning both for what it is and what it is not. It is dominated by open space. There are chime towers that give voice to the crew and passengers. (Eight have been installed and more are planned.) The ample wind facilitates the chimes. The simple visitors center has a platform that overlooks prairies with wildflowers, wetland, a grove of trees planted in memory, a small ceremonial site, a simple long memorial wall, and the crash site. There are trails with boardwalks and many benches. These all facilitate reflection. <https://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm>



Tower of Voices



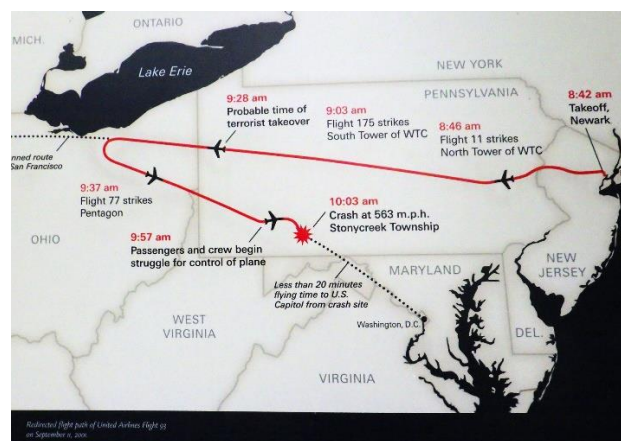
Flight members



The Visitors' Center



Another view of the Visitors' Center



The path of Flight 93

### **FEATURE ARTICLE #3**

#### **24 Advantages of Canoes in Whitewater by Don Iverson. A 2011 Article Rises Again.**

Mike Martin came across this article from the January/February 2011 issue of the American Whitewater magazine. He laughed when he first read it and laughed again on the reread. He took the trouble to contact Bethany Overfield, the AW membership director, who forwarded the request to Ambrose Tuscano, the AW editor. Mike received a PDF of the article and was granted

BRV the rights to republish the article as long as we provided the publication site and date. We were able to convert the PDF into five JPEGs, one for each page. This preserved the actual page layout and photography. Now certainly there should be a rebuttal from kayakers. Let the sparing begin.....

# RIVER VOICES

## 24 ADVANTAGES OF OPEN CANOES IN WHITEWATER

BY DON IVERSON

**K**AYAKERS VS. CANOEISTS.  
Snowboarders vs. Skiers. Celtics vs. Lakers. Ironworkers vs. Teamsters.  
Aussies vs. Kiwis.

These types of rivalries that occur between human breeds are a vestige of the tribal mentality that was once critical for survival. Within individuals, the intensity of the rivalry varies, depending on the relative contributions of healthy passion, innate hostility, self-affirmation through group identity, and egotism.

Our friendly rivalry is properly characterized as "kayakers vs. canoeists" because kayakers have largely instigated and perpetuated it. The late William Nealy fired the first written salvo in his 1985 book *Kayak*, where he characterizes canoeists as "[thought to be] obnoxious and demented by most kayakers...insecure about the capabilities of their chosen river craft" and states that "it is the sacred duty of all kayakers to tease canoeists."

With their marching orders and rules of engagement in hand, legions of kayakers waged battle around campfires all over North America. A typical scenario: a lone canoeist is innocently minding his own business, charitably darning socks for the homeless. A pack of kayakers, some disguised as friends, begin to circle him. He offers a few ingratiating remarks, which seem only to infuriate the mob. He then claims Federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, but to no avail, as the kayakers have already had several sips of their Chardonnay spritzers. Their heads spin; their lips loosen. But, mercifully, the advantages conferred by their greater manpower and bloodlust are neutralized by their predictable battle strategy and the availability of only three weapons in their lexicographic arsenal: "get a real boat," "yeah, get a real boat," and simply "yeah."



The canoeist mentally formulates a cogent counterattack, but then recognizes that it would likely stupefy them as much as repeated explanations of how babies are made. He re-strategizes. A two-word retort should not overload their collectively delicate brain circuitry, he reckons, as long as the second word is "you." Predictably, the discussion then degenerates into the same sort of increasingly loud, interruptive diatribe that is broadcast on news talk shows.

Screaming will not resolve this debate. Instead, a definitive resolution will require an objective, formal analysis; a concatenation of inductive logic, case-based reasoning from real world examples, basic Newtonian physics, human anatomy, and psychology. And, in order to sell more copies of *American Whitewater*, it should include some gratuitous SEX! and KAYAKER JOSHING!, which will be clearly labeled for the sake of the sensitive reader.

Before we get to that, a few conciliatory remarks. The company and support of kayakers has enabled me to pull off some of my most difficult runs. Across the continent, they have been generally friendly, treating me with appropriate amounts of curiosity, respect, and forgiveness. In fact, I probably owe my life to a kayaker—a big

*Don Iverson probes the depths of Hell Hole, Trinity River, CA.*

**Photo by James King/  
Rapid Replay Photography**

ol' Appalachian stud whom I absolutely piledrove, accidentally, while he was surfing on the Ocoee. He rolled up and, before I could begin groveling for my life, he laughed and let out a Rebel yell: "whooooo-wee, you really got me good!" (See reasons #18 and 19—your craft as an offensive or defensive weapon).

Furthermore, we must acknowledge that canoeists and kayakers have many more similarities than differences. We both share many facets of the paddling experience—the drive to the put-in, jamming to Jimi, Bob, Sly, Duke, or Bach, as fits to mood; the camaraderie and synergy of shared experience; the reverence for the splendor of the canyon; the ascendance into a state of flow, or "the zone;" the thrilling stoke of a clean run; the wisdom gained from understanding our motivations and limits; and the post-run afterglow.

But let's not get too lovey-dovey here—this is a macho whitewater magazine, not "Oprah." Although we have much in common, our differences, not our similarities, are what stratify us in animal hierarchy. And, with 24 evolutionary



advantages of open canoeing, there can be no doubt as to which subspecies of paddler, although outnumbered, is truly the most highly evolved and dominant.

### **Reasons #1 & #2 Less risk of vertical pinning or leg entrapment**

No joking here. A canoe's bow has a much larger cross-section area than even the stubbiest creek boat, making it less likely to wedge into a crack or pothole. Secondly, open canoes do not have a deck that can collapse onto paddlers' legs and entrap them. Enough said.

### **Reason #3 Don't be a head banging kayaker**

My kayaking buddies are better boaters than I am, but they still flip a couple of times per run, because their boats are tippler. Sure, they roll up, but only after their heads have been trawling awhile for rocks, logs, rebar, culvert, and other river detritus.

Canoes are more stable and flip less; if they flip, the pilot can get his or her head above the waterline, beneath the gunwales, until it is time to roll.

**CAUTION, Gratuitous Kayaker Joke:** Not just boaters, but society as a whole should take an active role in preventing head injury to kayakers. Kayakers are the ideal donors for brain transplantation, as their brains are essentially unused.

### **Reason #4 Shoulder the load**

Canoeists principally rely on the low brace, which transmits force to their powerful chest muscles. Kayakers, however, dislocate their shoulders by high bracing, which transmits force to the much smaller muscles of the rotator cuff. A dislocated shoulder on a wilderness run is a major

problem; unfortunately, dislocations tend to recur.

### **Reason #5 More comfort**

Does anybody sit flat on their butt, with their legs out stretched, for any reason other than kayaking? The kneeling canoeist, on the other hand, has inspired the design of the computer chair, which combines sitting and kneeling.

But we don't just kneel—we can sit, stand, or recline onto our float bags. For a vision of heaven, form a canoe trimaran by draping your legs into the neighboring canoe, lie back on your airbag cushions, and float effortlessly as you gaze upward at the canyon walls.

### **Reason #6 Stay warmer**

Because kayaks ride lower in the water, their pilots spend more time immersed than do canoeists. When the water is cold, you can get cold, which is a drag. Hypothermia, though, is serious. Numb hands drop paddles, cold muscles lose power, and cold brains have impaired reaction times, coordination, and decision-making capabilities. (For more on the

deleterious effects of cold on cognition, see also "Minnesotan").

### **Reason #7 See where you are going**

Canoeists sit about two feet higher than kayakers, giving them better visibility. My kayaking buddies invoke this as a reason for me to go first when the river starts getting loud. But what if 24 inches aren't enough? Picture this scenario....

You are approaching the horizon line of "High Colonic," a reputedly gnarly drop. It's getting late, and scouting would be undesirably time-consuming. If only you could see the drop.... Just then, your canoeing colleague sits up, and then stands. Yes, she is standing in her boat! She peeks over the precipice, finds the line, and guides everyone to safety. Dang!

### **Reasons #8, 9, and 10 Go longer, go in better style, rescue a friend**

Canoeists spawn in rivers or Northwoods lakes. So heroic is the Old Norse saga that its power only grows with each recital. A newly hatched canoe fry is with his father and grandfather, fishing from the damp bottom of a frigid aluminum canoe in the



*Don Iverson probes the depths of Bloomer Falls, Salmon River, CA.  
Photo by Tom Rydz*

# RIVER VOICES



Tom Rydz on the East Fork of the North Fork Trinity River, CA.  
Photo by Don Iverson

last November rain before freeze-up. The wind begins to howl, spraying whitecaps into the boat and piercing his soaked jeans and kapok life jacket. Not yet ready to enter Valhalla, the patriarch and his son paddle furiously into the blackening offshore gale, alternately imploring the grandson to bail, and taking Thors' name in vain. Well after dark they reach shore, where they gorge upon muskie, walleye, and beer, comfort themselves with their Amazonian women, vanquish marauding hordes, etc.

After so many of these epics, the fingerling canoeist begins to contemplate the advantages of gravity for marine propulsion. Slowly, over the years, he or she works their way up from multi-day wilderness Class I and II runs to Class III, or higher.

Kayakers, on the other hand, spawn in swimming pools at the Tuesday night roll session. The combination of chronic chlorine exposure and genetic predisposition can result in questionable behavior. With a tenuous pool roll, they head for a Class III river. Here, their more experienced colleagues have conglomerated upon a single wave, comparing each others' "twisting upenders," or whatever.

The canoeists' heritage leads him or her away from these crowds and into the wilderness, where our souls breathe freely. A trip of 3 or 4 days refreshes; a trip of 3 or 4 weeks is a complete restoration. A trip of this length is out of the range of kayakers, unless they are willing to make the Faustian sacrifice of bringing a raft.

As for shorter trips—why not go in style? If you spare us the sanctimony of the Alpine "fast and light" ethic while you eat your Ramen and bivy in the rain, we may share our steak, beer, or tent with you.

Now, what if you lose a boat on one of these long trips, where hiking out is impossible? Unless you are a genetically engineered human/salmon hybrid, you had better hope that there is a canoe around to give you a lift to the take-out. Don't laugh, it has happened.

**Reasons #11, 12, and 13**  
**Get more chicks/get a real man, and consummate in your boat**  
CAUTION, Erotic Interlude and Kayaker Joshing

Her hands deftly untie the last truckers' hitch and she slides the battered canoe

off of her 1957 International flatbed. As she readies her vessel for the day's dance with the Earth Mother, the tranquility is momentarily perturbed by kayakers swarming around her. She remains grounded in her self-reliant goddessness as the little boaters attempt, in vain, to commence their primitive mating ritual with a fusillade of desperate pickup lines: "Uh, this is a whitewater run, babe;" "Dude, wanna check out my ink?" "Like, want some of my free-range tofu?" and so forth. A tight-lipped smile, and the boys are dismissed.

But, within a heartbeat, her gaze warms. She is transfixed by a large form resembling Michelangelo's *David*, version 10.0. He sets down his canoe and says, softly, "I'm by myself, may I join you?" Her eyes meet his, but then avert, for her feelings are suddenly too intense. She catches her breath to say, "I'm overnighing at the hot springs." He smiles and nods. They take their boats and levitate down the riverbank.

Few words are spoken that day, nor need be. Together, they resonate with the rhythm of the river; their laughter and smiles reflect their Zen-like state of tranquil invigoration.

The decision to camp together goes unsaid. They feast, then bask in the glow of the day's gift and the evening's fire. She sings, her voice a mélange of Bonnie Raitt and Nina Simone. He rubs her shoulders and riffs on Shelly and Goethe.

In her eyes, he sees what is on his mind. They board her craft, which rocks sensuously in the moonlit eddy of the susurrating stream. From the confluence of their chakras' wellsprings, the flowing ecstasy of their day is reincarnated, then

*Opposite: The author on Section III of the Chattooga (GA).*



transcended. As they evaporate into the night air all is bliss, all is bliss.

#### Reasons #14, 15, and 16 Get in, get out, get back in

Swimming is an eventuality for all boaters. The kayaker/swimmer has to sidestroke his boat to shore, while trying to overcome the sea-anchor effect of his spray skirt. Hopefully for him, the "shore" is not a mossy, undercut cliff.

In the unlikely event of a canoeist swimming, however, he or she can just hop back in the boat via the wet entry, an impossible maneuver for a kayaker. It's just that simple.

Now, say, a kayaker is approaching the horizon line of "Tenesmus," a wicked, congested drop. He tries to attain the flushing shoreline eddy, pilons a guard rock, and flips. Now upside down and heading for doom, he begins to pray. He prays that his canoe buddy has successfully performed the maneuver that he has admired so many times before, but could never emulate. It is a dynamic move in which the canoeist simultaneously beaches his craft and leaps onto a rock, then grabs his boat, and anybody else's who comes floating by. And

this time the kayaker is in luck—saved by a canoeist!

Now rescued, the kayaker and his savior have to re-enter their boats from their meta-stable location. No problem for the canoeist. He just hops back in and snickers as the kayaker performs a well-choreographed medley of the slippery rock moonwalk, the kayak-reentry limbo, and the spray skirt/paddle hand jive, all the while again drifting towards doom.

#### Reason #17 Keep on truckin'

Because they are larger and more stable crafts, canoes, like monster trucks, can roll over river features that may trip up a smaller kayak. Ski-jumping pourovers and hole-punching in particular can be easier for canoes, especially with the additional inertia provided by any accumulated aquatic ballast. (While there may be theoretical disadvantages of said ballast, time and space do not permit a discussion of this abstract implausibility.)

Now, if the river feature in question is a kayak, then we are on to a whole other thing...

#### Reason #18 Your craft as an offensive weapon

Picture yourself quickly approaching a kayaker cluelessly surfing downstream. You have no exit strategy. A collision is imminent. If you, too, are in a kayak, your odds of survival are about 50/50. But, if you're packin' 13 feet of Royalex and 800 pounds of water, spearheaded with jagged, chipped skid plates, then that kayaker is road kill!!

We canoeists call this a "flick," as in: "How'd you get that pink scuff on your hull Don?" "Well, Tom, I guess I must have flicked that kayaker off of that last wave, har, har, hee."

CAUTION: Non-gratuitous kayaker bashing and strong language.

While the intentional usage of a boat as a weapon is strongly discouraged, there is a rare breed of boater for whom it *might* be justifiably considered: Genus *Paddlerii*, Species *kayakerus*, Subspecies *ass*. Habitat: Northeastern or Western US; hunted to near extinction in Western Canada, Great Lakes and Southeast regions of the US. Subsists on trust funds, inheritances, corporate sponsorships, or a series of employed girlfriends. Paddles 100-200 days per year; views with contempt anybody who doesn't brag about doing Class V. Identifying features: Speaks in self-aggrandizing monologues; typically downgrades river ratings by I-II Classes to make himself look good, while remaining indifferent to the consequences suffered by trusting beginners. Will rescue said beginners with a condescending laugh and a snide remark, often reflecting their own repressed memory of when they were just learning to paddle.

If there are canoeists like this, they should not receive preferential treatment. Any boater with these attitudes should be banished from our ranks and be forced to

*Continued on page 50*



# RIVER VOICES

Continued from page 45

have a scarlet "A" emblazoned on their low-flotation life jacket.

## Reason #19 Your craft as a defensive weapon

Ok, back to the superiority of canoes. Now picture a kayak and a canoe surfing in the sterile mining effluent of an overcrowded Southeastern river. Upstream, careening out of control, is a swamped Army surplus raft filled with 10 plastered Ole Miss dropouts and two tons of water. A collision is, again, imminent. Who is your money on? The canoeist has a two-foot high guardrail of Royalex six feet in front of him, and a drivers' side airbag. The kayaker's sloped bow will serve only to ski jump the raft into his face and thorax. Some would call it natural selection.

## Reasons #20-23 Tandem canoes—double your pleasure, achieve perfection, share the love, save thousands on marriage counseling

While tandem kayaks never really caught on, tandem canoes are the standard, original river craft. With two experienced paddlers aboard, the thrill of adventure is amplified by the satisfaction of teamwork. Tandem paddlers, as individuals, can achieve perfection, because any navigational

error is automatically attributable to the other paddler.

Tandem canoes are also the safest way for an experienced paddler to bring along a beginning boater or a child and share your passion for rivers. Now, some have referred to tandem canoes as "divorce boats," as if that is necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes life has its sad realities—the thrill is gone, and it's time to move on.

With the proper strategizing, a few hours of captivity in a tandem boat can cut the ties that bind even the most ensnared paddler. For the fellas: just let fly with a little destructive criticism like: "What is your problem????!! I said reverse sculling cross-bow diagonal draw/pryl!" If necessary, get her downstream of the boat for a few long, rocky swims. And ladies: no need for hurtful words. Just feign ignorance, grab the gunwales, cry, and refuse to go any further. If necessary, threaten to start kayaking. Congratulations—you are gonna wash that man right out of your hair.

## Reason #24 Broaden your skill set

The frontiers of kayaking have entered the third dimension—the vertical axis—as paddlers run ever-higher and/or more congested waterfalls and slides. The Class V

kayaker looking to explore V+ would do well to first look inwards, strip away distraction, ego, and any need for approval, and then ask himself: Is this really the path I want to take? Where will my quest for ever-greater thrills end?

Maybe it's time to try something different, learn a new skill, get a different perspective. Now you have 24 reasons to move up. It's not too late. We need to repopulate our herd. We'll be nice to you. We promise.

## Conclusion

Here, for the first time in history, we have codified 24 variably important but nonetheless distinct advantages of paddling an open canoe in whitewater. This treatise qualifies as the definitive academic reference by which the superiority of canoes is established and any claims to the contrary are refuted. Some kayakers may disagree, but have not published a convincing counterargument. We can expostulate the entirety of their case: canoes are harder to carry, occasionally retain moisture, are possibly harder to master, and are less maneuverable, making them less-suited for extremely difficult whitewater. Points taken.

Final score: 24 reasons for canoeing, 4 reasons for kayaking. A rout by any standard.

*Quod erat demonstrandum.*

*This work is dedicated to the people who have helped me learn the sport I love: Grandpa Don, my Dad, Kent Ford, my best friend Dr. Tom Rydz, the late Humboldt kayaking legend Dr. Jerome Lengyel, and those of his ilk, who catalyzed the writing of this thesis with their incessant ribbing; and, of course, my beloved wife and bow woman Terry Bean Iverson, the inspiration for reasons #11 and 13, but not #23.*

Don Iverson, South Fork Falls, South Fork Smith River, CA.  
Photo by Tom Rydz



50 **AW** AMERICAN WHITewater

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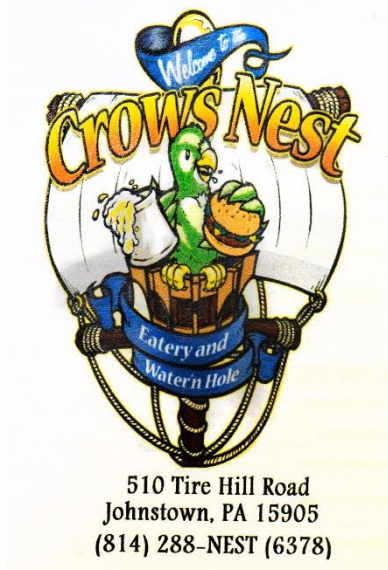
## THE BOATER'S DINING GUIDE

### Crowing about the Crow's Nest

The Crow's Nest is just outside of Johnstown (814-288-6378; 510 Tire Hill Road, Johnstown, PA 15905) and very close to the take-out of the Stony. It serves a wide variety of food from



specialty salads to pasta, but they are known best for their barbeque, burgers, and other pub sandwiches. A variety of beers is available. Large groups can be accommodated by combining tables. Parking is adequate and the location is easy to find. Expect to spend \$10-\$15 for food without beverages. <https://places.singleplatform.com/crows-nest-27/menu>



### **The Asiana Grand Buffet: Very Grand & An Awesome Recommendation by Ed Evangelidi**

The buffet is on outskirts of Asheville (828-654-8879; 1968 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, NC 28803; [www.asianagb.com](http://www.asianagb.com)) and is very close to the Swannanoa and close to the return route from places like the French Broad and the Toe. The menu is very extensive. Some of us ate there three times during the Week of Rivers and were able to have something different each time. There were the expected Chinese entrees, sushi, teriyaki items, various noodle dishes, seafood items from octopus, crawfish, and mussels to shrimp and types of whitefish, and lots of fresh vegetables. Large groups can be accommodated by combining tables. Parking is adequate and the location is easy to find. The cost of the buffet including dessert is \$13. Tucker provided the entertainment by spreading copious amounts of wasabi over his sushi as we gasped. With aplomb, he consumed the sushi. It turns out that he grew up eating spicy items.



A place not to miss



Lots of wasabi

## **BOATING HUMOR**

### **Musings from the Mind of Ed**

It is estimated that there are almost 1.2 million miles of water main pipes in the U.S. and it is estimated that there are well over 1/4 million water main breaks in the U.S. annually. I see the potential for first descents here!

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 bought the patch to stop air bracing. It gives me an electric shock if both arms go higher than my head. I just have to remember to take the patch off when I try to carry my boat to my car.

Last night in camp I had a fine bottle of wine. But this rapid was not like a fine glass of wine. The rock had an undertone of bouldery grabbieness and the hole had an overtone of deep drowning water.

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

### **River of Dreams**

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

### **American Whitewater and Website Update**

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

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

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



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

### **Waterfall Fun**

An upcoming program will feature slides from the waterfall workshop held at Valley Falls. There are multiple chutes with varying degrees of difficulty. Consider it for next season.





Follow me, and me, and me, and me...



John McClanahan takes a plunge

## **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

***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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