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CLUB BUSINESS AT THE PUT-IN: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have had a moderate amount of rain, and the Potomac is high. Although we have had some nippy nights, we have had some sunny days. We had quite a few trips on the trip roster thanks to the contributions of several club members, but now we have social distancing, and there is a lot of uncertainty about the trajectory of the COVID 19 infection. We will need to be flexible with our boating plans.

To spread out the activities provided by the newsletter and to keep it current in these changing circumstances, the regular March issue was split into two. This is part two.

We will be rescheduling the programs that we had planned for March and May meetings. One of the videos featured Glen Canyon. The trivia questions in the March newsletter focused on Glen Canyon. The links in that newsletter may provide some assistance. Remember that there will be prizes for those who reach 200 points.

Also in the last newsletter, Ed Evangelidi had a numismatic challenge that can be done indoors as you sort your change. Give it a go!

We are offering a virtual meeting of sorts. We have provided links to a variety of paddling flicks. Check out the exploding kayak!

For those of you needing a lockdown project, Immersion Research has provided step-by step instructions (complete with photos) for repairing your dry suit. Check out "Parting Shots at the Take-out" to find out what Immersion Research is manufacturing now!

American Whitewater is also asking paddlers to review and comment on the management plan for Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest.

Since we may be in a virtual world for a while, please make sure that you have renewed your membership (\$10 per calendar year, 1/1/2020-12/31/2020) and make sure that we have correct contact information (e-mail address, phone numbers, and addresses). Dues may be sent to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851).

Please consider sending articles now for the next newsletter.

When there is change in the area's stay-at-home orders, we will alert you.

SYOTR....sometime *Rick Koller*

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MEETINGS (VIRTUAL)

In lieu of club meetings at the Clara Barton Recreation Center in this time of social distancing, we have some virtual programming until we can get back to the previously scheduled videos.

The first, recommended by Rick Koller, is very short video from *Paddling Magazine* courtesy of Wade Harrison. You will have the chance to see a kayak explode as it goes over Avalanche Falls. Look for the stern in the air, look for the paddler rolling an abbreviated boat, look for the paddle, and look for the stern going over another pitch. And you think that you are having a bad day?

<https://paddlingmag.com/stories/news-events/kayak-explodes-in-the-middle-of-waterfall/>

The second features a group of Canadians including Willa Mason and Caleb Roberts, who frequently contribute to *Paddling Magazine*. They have a ten minute video about a trip down the Grand Canyon. What is unique is that they are paddling tandem canoes! They reported 11 spills, but they self-rescued. Some of the rescues included straddling the boat hull-side up, which is pretty entertaining to watch.

<https://paddlingmag.com/videos/insane-whitewater-canoeing-down-grand-canyon/>

The longest paddling video, “20 Seconds in Lava” by Christian Knight, is 30 minutes long and features a family trip down the Grand Canyon. The video shows many of the side canyons and hikes as well as how good meals taste on the river. But there is an undercurrent. The patriarch wants the trip to be fun and inspiring for his young children, who had previously been introduced to less intense whitewater. He knows that Lava will be big and that he will need them to follow directions in the raft and his 12 year-old daughter will be paddling her own kayak. Every part of initial trip is focused on the miles until Lava. The boat level footage is terrific. You will think that you are there.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXwDkjcoxso&feature=emb_rel_end
20 seconds in lava Christian Knight

The last film, “*The Devil We Know*”, shown at Sundance in 2018, addresses the pollution of wastewater (and ultimately rivers) near Parkersburg with C8/PFOA/Teflon related chemicals.

<https://thedevilweknow.com/>; <https://thedevilweknow.com/see-the-film/>

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Not Yet Definitive Word on the Top Ten Paddling Places to Which to Go—Ed Evangelidi.

You name almost anything, and someone has written about the “Top Ten” of them. I have to chuckle because most “Top Ten” paddling places articles are written by a reporter on assignment—not by someone who has sampled maybe 10,000 places worthy of comparison. I may have less than 9,000 to go to qualify for my suggested goal as an expert, but I'll comment on "the list" anyway. Some start with the “World’s Best”. I’ll have to duck this one as I haven't even paddled ten worthy rivers overseas or even the great Canadian rivers. I'll leave you to evaluate the Amazon, the Belize Barrier Reef, the Mekong, and the Zambezi overseas, or the Athabasca, Bowron Lakes, the Nahanni, etc. in Canada and whether they make the “Top Ten”. Still, just “Top Ten in the U.S.” brings out much discussion as the many writers do not come to a consensus. I'll analyze a few of their varied lists.

I'm surprised that not all lists include the Grand Canyon or the Middle Fork of the Salmon. One vote was noted for the Colorado outside the Canyon and one vote for the Main Salmon. I'm sticking with the Grand and the River of No Return on a “National Top Ten”. In the same general area is the Green River in Utah. This gets enough votes to realistically get into the “Top Ten”, but it’s funny how different segments of the Green are noted. The Klamath and Rogue come up frequently on the “Best List”. Moving out of the Rockies, the Buffalo River seems to come up most often--although many Ozark rivers bump it on some lists. Similarly many Michigan rivers split votes, and I can't honestly come up with any one superior choice there. Eastern waters such as the Boundary Waters, the Missouri River, the North Forest Canoe Trail, and Okefenokee Swamp seem to make a lot of lists. They are just outside my “Top Ten”, but I yield to pressure to say that they are worth paddling if you must see great rivers. For example, there are many places that are less well known than the Okefenokee that display that same type of scenery, and I’ll easily take tributaries of the Missouri over the main river. There are sections of the North Forest Canoe Trail that rate superlatives and other sections that rate a portage. The Rio Grande gets many votes, but I puzzle over how many view the Big Bend section as their choice when the Lower Canyons section is so much better in every way. Then there are the Pecos and Devils Rivers, which even top that. Guess Big Bend is where the writers were taken.

Closer to home, the New River Gorge, the Gauley River, and the Youghiogheny River get occasional votes. While I've greatly enjoyed these rivers for many decades, I'd only include the New in the rarefied top partly because of the scenery and partly for all of the other recreation opportunities available there.

Since I moved to Florida, I've noticed that the top rivers noted there can also be topped by less commercialized rivers. The Everglades, Suwannee, Loxahatchee, and Juniper Springs get the most votes, but particular rivers within the 'Glades are superior to the whole enchilada; same with a few Suwannee tributaries. The Loxahatchee has a so-so lower section and a beautiful upper part, but nearby Fisheating Creek has it all. Similarly, rivers in the Wekiva basin, particularly the lower Blackwater, have preferred scenery, but much less paddler attention than the crowded Juniper Creek.

To wrap this up, I often say that my favorite river is the next new river that I'm going to paddle. As to my real favorites, they are tiny streams that don't get the attention of major writers. Other folks will pick their own favorites based on their biases for preferring whitewater, great camping rivers, wildlife, remoteness, and even open-water areas. The answer is to become your own expert and make your own list. We have a list of ranked rivers by difficulty based on a worthy study by Ron Knipling. Maybe we need a national or world-wide (more scientific) survey of thousands of paddlers. Ron, are you ready to come out of retirement?

CONSERVATION AND ACCESS

American Whitewater Trip to the "Bucket List" Rogue River June 18-21

AW is running a trip on the Rogue in Oregon in conjunction with the Northwest Rafting Company (www.nwrafting.com/rogue). The price is \$1045, and one must be an AW member. Paddlers can be in the rafts, bring a boat, or rent a boat.

AW Forest Plan Update

AW reports that the Draft Forest Plan for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest was issued, but that the period for comments and public meetings has been delayed because of the pandemic. This plan is important because it covers 1.1 million acres of land that is important to paddlers and others enjoying the out-of-doors.

It includes eligibility for Wild and Scenic protection for ten streams including Santeetlah Creek, Thompson Creek, and the West Fork of the Pigeon—rivers about which one hears during the Carolina Week of Rivers. At this point, however, boating prohibitions on the upper Chattooga River remain in place without reconsideration. More prescribed fires and timber harvest have been proposed.

AW is hoping to add some additional rivers to Wild and Scenic status and will be assessing the proposed "management areas" for each of the whitewater rivers. AW will try to keep us (as an affiliate club) posted. To read the plan, look at the maps, and/or or submit a comment, visit the website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsnc/nprevision.



Green River Release Schedule

The last newsletter described one of the sections of the Green in North Carolina run by four BRVrs and two paddlers from Washington state. Formerly Duke Energy controlled the Tuxedo Hydropower Project that controlled the flows for the three whitewater sections (Upper Class 3+, Narrows Class 5, and Lower Class 2). The project was sold to Northbrook Energy in 2019. AW was part of the group that work to assure recreational releases. The 2020 release schedule has been confirmed.

TRIP REPORTS

The Second Club Needles Trip in 2019

A group of nine paddlers from BRV and CCA made a Labor Day weekend trip down the Needles Section of the Potomac to below the confluence with the Shenandoah. We took advantage of the access points and \$5 shuttle made possible by Bob Whiting in early 2019. BRV has budgeted for the same access in 2020. The trip was at a lower water level than that on the Mike Martin extravaganza. The slots on the river left tended to have more water. A third of the way into the run, there was plenty of water. The day was warm so it was good to get splashed. The sunny skies soon became ever more overcast, but we were off the river and done with the shuttle before any rain. The shuttle was quickened by the easy boat unloading from Paul Englehart's truck. See the Gear section of the newsletter. Several of us also checked out the Beans in the Belfry restaurant in Brunswick, MD for a late lunch. See the Boaters' Dining Guide section of the newsletter.



Courtney showing his form



Mike finding the current



Deborah navigating in the IK



Taking one of those side channels



Paul doing some side surfing



More side surfing and a ferry



Temmy et al. relax at our first break



Paul in one of the bigger lower rapids



Bouncy wave train



Traveling in and out of the wave train



Hendrik peels out to go downstream



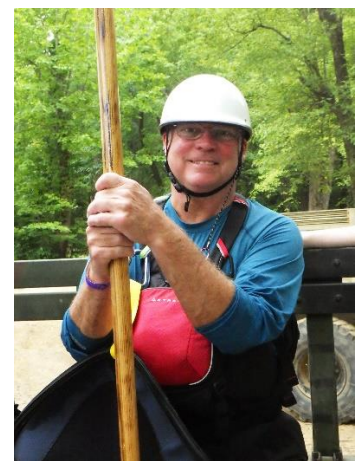
Deborah still going strong



Into the home stretch



Boarded for our Uber shuttle



We are so happy that we are not crawling up Wayside!!!

August 18th Waterfall Clinic at Valley Falls (West Virginia)

This fabulous clinic is taught by Jeff Prycl (<http://rockymountainkayak.com/>), who helps people progress through a series of waterfall drops. If you search for Jeff Prycl and Valley Falls, you will come up with a video by Steven Blades (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdySgZFnlBg>) that shows the layout of the falls and the water levels during the 2019 clinic. Beth Koller will show some of her photos at a club program. Mark your calendar for the August 2020 clinic.



The maestro (Photo by Koller)

U.S. Nationals at the Dickerson Power Plant

The Whitewater Nationals were held on October 5 and 6 at the artificial race course in western Montgomery County. The course was designed for paddlers training for the Olympics in Spain (1992) and used a pre-existing channel. The flow can be controlled and the water is heated! NRG Energy owns the course. <http://www.potomacwhitewater.org/nrgdickerson/> Because the route down to race course traverses through the plant, cars must be escorted in and out. The power plant owners were friendly and made entry easy as long as you had identification and had signed the necessary paperwork. Several BRVrs were in attendance including Kim Buttleman, Beth Koller, John Snitzer, and Jenny Thomas. There was plenty of action and a few swims with very quick rescues. The mixed doubles in C-2 was a new category to watch. The sky alternated between being overcast and somewhat contrastly, but there were good pictures to be had at multiple locations along the course. Saturday evening was topped off with an awards ceremony and a BBQ. Images from the Saturday race will be presented at a club program.



On my way to the next gate! (Photo by Koller)

April 1, 2020 Trip Report—Ed Evangelidi

It was a Thursday before a great upcoming river trip, and I just had a few more things to get together for the weekend paddling trip.

I unfortunately was stuck behind a slow school bus. I needed to get to the bank before they closed, cash a check, and get some cash, but this school bus was in my way. Eventually I got my cash and went to Target for some clothes and toiletries. Toilet paper was on sale.

Then I dropped in on my buddies at a greasy spoon to chat. They were at a long buffet table sharing some green beans and talking about the good old days. They then invited me to the ball game Saturday, but I mentioned that I already had plans.

Friday came and went slowly as I had no interactions with my buddies all day.

Saturday morning came, and I met my pals at the remote put-in, and it was CLOSED! Who would close a little ol' put-in? What is this world coming to when I can't paddle a river with a dozen or so of my buddies and go for some well-deserved beers afterwards. Boy has this world changed!

(Editor's note: Read that title again.)

The Boaters' Dining Guide

A Church Reincarnated: Beans in the Belfry

On club trips we have visited a number of restaurants in the Brunswick area. After the second Needles trip, several of us stopped in at the Beans in the Belfry establishment. Of course, there is good coffee. The menu also includes many sandwiches, salads, and quiches with a variety of vegetarian options. There are fresh baked good for those with a sweet tooth. There was entertainment as musicians streamed in over time to play Blue Grass and related genres. The original three musicians soon became about 15.



Stringed musicians at work

- +++ Menu choices are limited, but more than sufficient for lunch or a snack. The entrées are tasty.
- +++ Menu prices are far less than one would expect.
- ++ Entertainment is free, but limits conversation.
 - + Seating is limited so send an advance party. Seating locations are unusual—with some in the upstairs choir section.
 - + Parking is very limited. We had to park on the street and up the hill several block away.

Beans in the Belfry: 301-834-7178; 122 West Potomac Street, Brunswick, MD 21716;
<http://www.beansinthebelfry.com/about/>; <http://www.beansinthebelfry.com/menus/>

GEAR

Step Tailgate—Paul Englehart

As we progress into the new age, it is nice that we get pampered by innovations. Our vehicles are being loaded with features that make life easier. The feature that makes loading and unloading craft easier on my 2014 F-150 truck is the step built into the tailgate.

The tailgate step came with my previously owned truck. It is an option or packaged with trim levels. Mine came with an XLT premium trim.

So the step works like this. Open the tailgate, and pull the lower edge of the top of the tailgate to unlock the step. Then pull out the step assembly from the tailgate and lower. The step drops

down, and you open up the folding step. Next you raise the handle that becomes the safety bar to hold onto as you scale the step onto the tailgate.

Now you can get to the inside of the bed or to the top of the cap where I carry my boats on cross bars. It saves having to mount the tires to get to the back straps. Shorter people can help with boat loading as easily as myself. So it helps make loading and unloading on a big truck that much easier. **So next time we're out there please feel free to take the step and help load and unload the boats.**

Later models of the Ford tailgate now incorporate the grab bar into the step assembly. That makes it more streamlined when stowed. Chevy has a tailgate assembly option that operates like a Transformer. It has multiple configurations besides being a step. Pretty fancy stuff there.



Temmy shows how easy it is to get to the tailgate

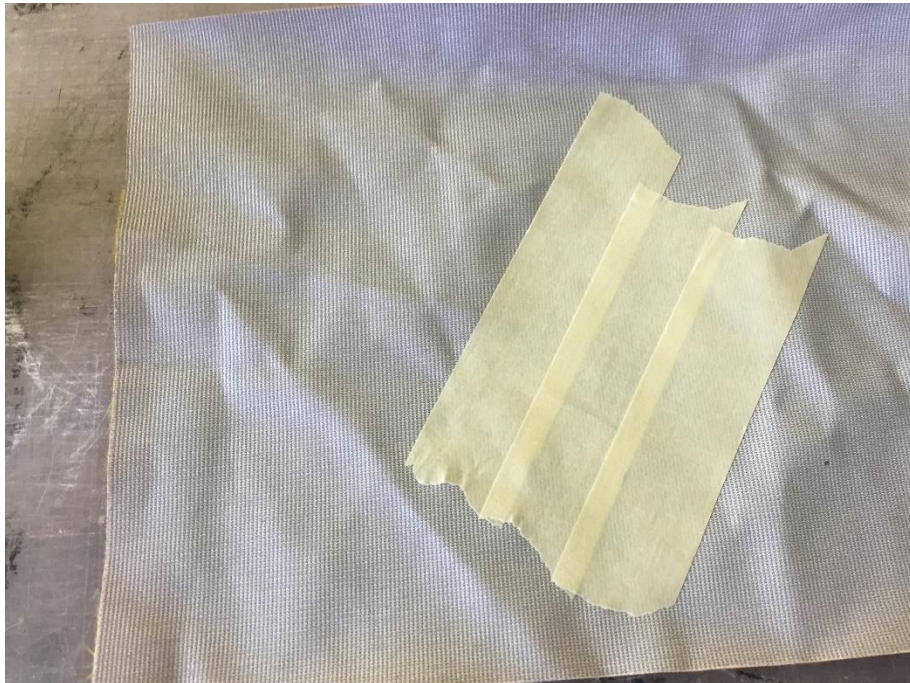
Easy DIY Dry Wear Repair—Max Blackburn (*Immersion Research*)

*If you are really in a pinch, Gorilla Tape or Tenacious Tape will do the trick.

1--Here's what you'll need: Aquaseal, masking tape, and a popsicle stick or a small paint brush.



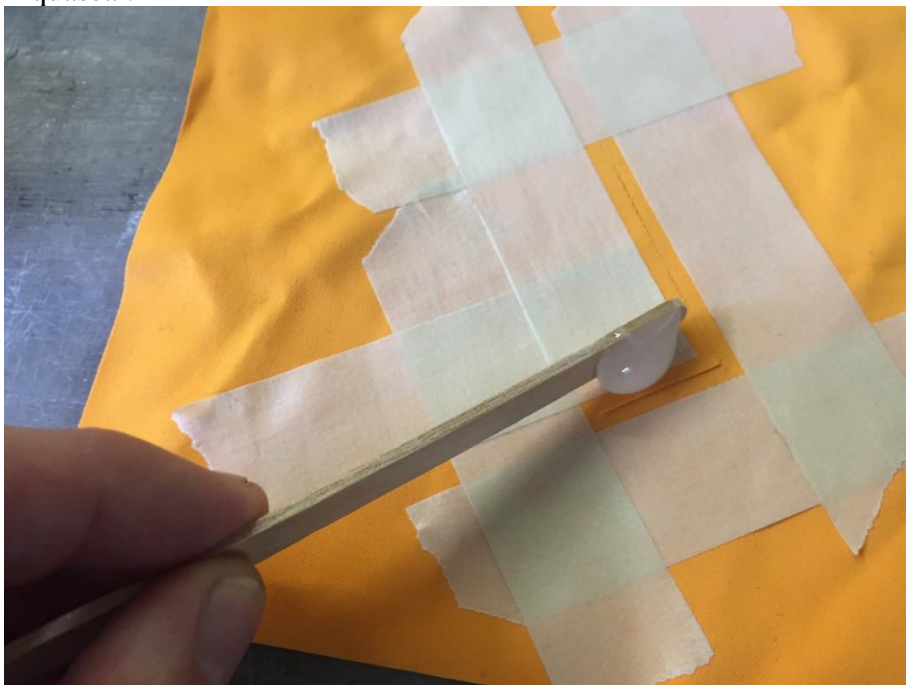
2--Tape off the interior of the tear so the Aquaseal doesn't get on the inside of the garment--making a mess.



3--Mask off the area you'll be applying the Aquaseal to. Don't use too much and be neat about it so we'll have an easy time fixing it later on for you.



4--Apply the Aquaseal.



5--Boom. Now peel the tape off while the Aquaseal is still wet.



6--Look how nice it is! Let it dry for a few hours, and then repeat the process on the inside of the tear.



<https://immersionresearch.com>

PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT
What Immersion Research is Making Now: Surgical Gowns



Read about “Gowntown” and how the gowns are made, donated, and distributed in the Hood River, Oregon area. <https://immersionresearch.com/blogs/news/a-family-affair>

BRV MEMBERSHIP/ROSTER INFORMATION

Name/Spouse Name:

Address:

Phone: home: work: cell:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUICK TRIP REPORT

Trip date(s): _____

Trip destination(s): _____

Trip participants: _____

Water levels/gauge readings: _____

Any access or safety issues: _____

Notable aspects on or off the river: _____

Photos available: _____

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

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



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.

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