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

The weather has been hot, hot, hot and punctuated by intermittent, heavy rain storms--not that we were able to take advantage of any increases in stream flow given the continued social distancing needs. We also have had to cancel the annual Summer Picnic.

We are offering a virtual meeting. We have provided links to a variety of paddling flicks. In addition, to check out Eric Jackson's genes in the form of his son, Dane via these videos:
<https://www.facebook.com/RedBull/videos/vb.14226545351/2014291672047967/?type=2&theater>
<https://paddlingmag.com/videos/video-dane-jacksons-2019-green-race-winning-run-sets-new-course-record/>

Dave Brown, a BRVer who has taught many a novice how to paddle in either a canoe or a kayak and well as how to repair his/her craft, has made his way back from the COVID 19 infection. He would appreciate hearing from folks. His voice is weak from Parkinson's so keep talking. You can reach him at 240-660-8093.

We have been taking our time in drydock to update the roster and mailing list. Please make sure that you have renewed your membership (\$10 per calendar year, 1/1/2020-12/31/2020), that we have correct contact information (e-mail address, phone numbers, and addresses), and that you are paid up so that you are included on the River Runners parking list for the Needles run. Dues may be sent to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851).

We look forward to resuming trips. We do hope that folks will step up to fill out the trip calendar as restrictions are lifted. We will keep you apprised of the changes.

SYOTR....sometime, *Rick Koller*

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MEETINGS

Virtual Entertainment

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. We will work on providing something of interest for our diverse membership.

“Southern Fried Creekin” was produced by Wayne Gentry in 1992 before many of the sophisticated filming and processing techniques were available. It is still worth spending 46 minutes checking out paddling in the Southeast when boat were much longer, but folks were still doing awesome moves in them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeifV9novvU>

“Plunge” is another Gentry production that was released at Gauley Fest in 1993. The footage includes action on Bear Creek, the Cullasaja, the Horsepasture, and Little River Canyon. The last part of the film, also about 45 minutes long includes rodeo action on the Ocoee.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_woaiCfO_4

Dale Briggs, a long-time videographer, who is well known to the editor and who has run Ohiopyle Falls in a full sized open canoe, has posted both new and old material on YouTube. For female OC-1 paddlers who do not think that they get enough attention, here is **a video of five women canoeing the Nantahala**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TURIdnaCrU>

For open boaters who are bemoaning the summer heat, check out the Black Fly canoeists at the **Kibler Valley Winter 2020** paddling event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-k9UhoYlt0>

If you think that you know what a raft looks like, you would be wrong. Designs like these were used to run big, really big, rivers in eastern Russia. One even showed up at the Ohiopyle race several years ago. Watch the rafting the **Class 5 and 6 rapids of the Tumwater Canyon on the Wenatchee River** while in a Creature Craft!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QtTfCkVPw>

Want to learn something about free style paddling? Eight minutes of the **“Play Boating Bible”** will get you started.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrA1C8H6sYQ>

Dane Jackson is just back from a recent run on **El Rio Claro**. The run is a series of progressively more difficult drops in a narrow canyon. Some of the entry moves are very swirly with banking maneuvers on the canyon wall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXFehwLKO6I>

We will be rescheduling the programs that we had planned for March and May meetings.

TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Valley Falls Water Fall Clinic—Tentative

Looking for some social distanced boating without a shuttle? Why not consider the waterfall clinic at Valley Falls on the Tygart located between Fairmont and Grafton?

Jeff Prycl of Rocky Mountain Kayak (rockymountainkayak.com/ 724-925-9675/ 727 Arona Road, New Stanton, PA 15672) may be teaching this free clinic yet again. He will be firming

things up on August 10 or so for a clinic--likely on August 16. Check the website for information and updates.

In addition, Jeff is easing out of his retail kayak business, but he still has plenty of whitewater boats and gear. The pandemic has created some backordered equipment, but that will eventually arrive. For more information, check the website listed above.

While you are on the website, check out the pictures of Valley Falls including at least one with Jeff in his red/yellow flame boat as well as the site's link to paddling opportunities in the Keystone State of Pennsylvania.

TRIP REPORTS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Spring paddling on Rappahannock Tribs--Bob Maxey Summer 2014

Covington River, March 30

Paddlers: Larry Lempert, Frank Fico, Bob Maxey, Matt Anderson, Matt Davidson (perfect size group for a small river)

Gauge: Rixeyville 8.0-8.5, Battle Run 200-250 cfs, put-in RC ~3"

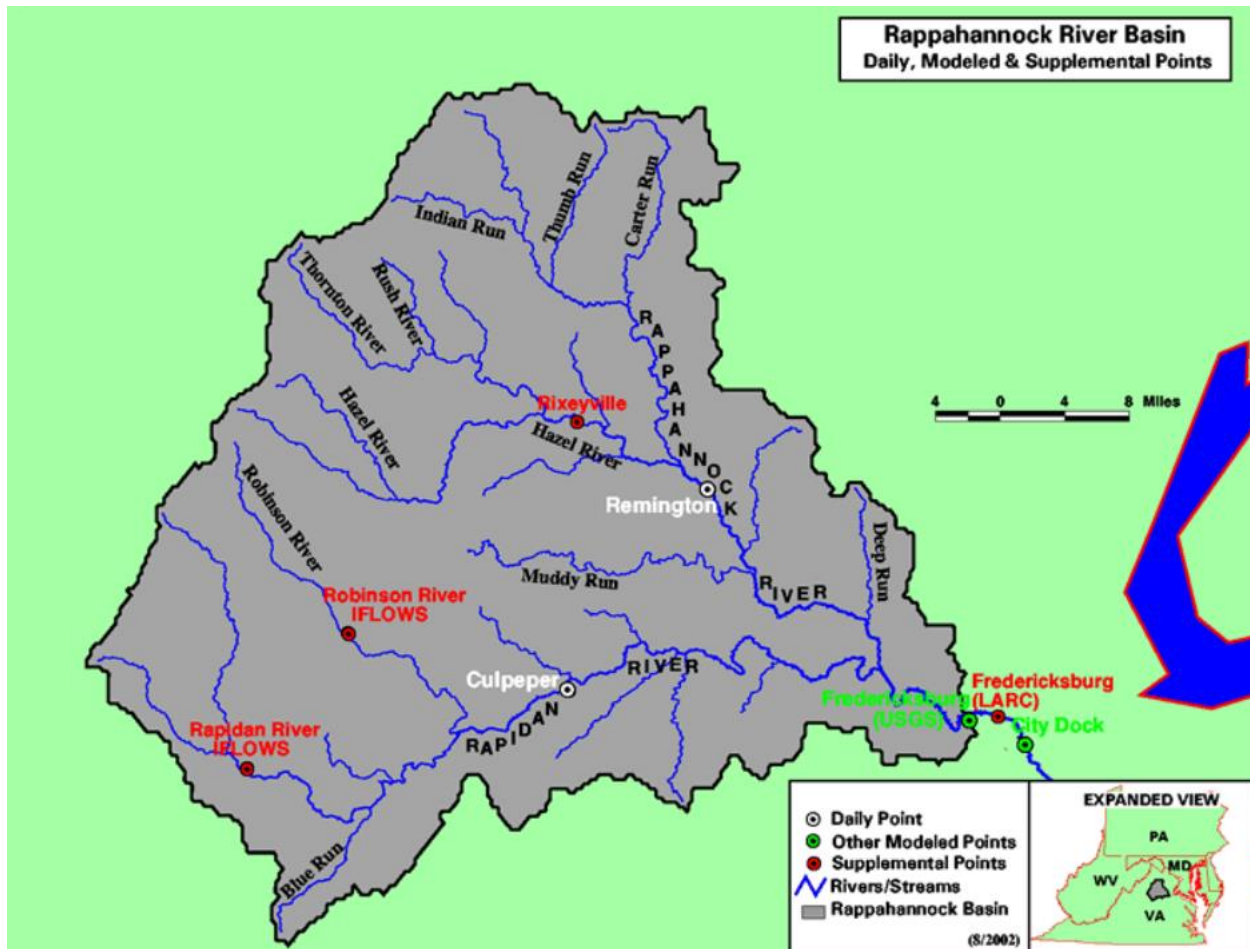
We had several days of rain prior to the weekend. Frank Fico suggested the Covington, and it was great. The rain stopped just before we started, and we stayed dry all day. Matt Davidson had to be rescued due to a tree across the river; other than that there were no problems. There were numerous logs to deal with, but we had to get out only twice more for them. Everyone did the S-turn Volkswagon Rock rapid just fine. The river was just above (as shown by the bridge gauge on Rt. 622, as it was a little scrappy. There are a lot of ledges in this 6-mile run, and it was a good warm-up for spring boating. We were only on the river for 2+ hours, and the temperature was 42—perfect drysuit weather. As soon as we got the boats loaded for the return shuttle, it started to sleet. I could not believe the snowstorm that was present from Manassas to Alexandria. We paddled during the only dry time of the day.

Rush River, May 1

Paddlers: Glen Johnston, Kim Buttleman, Mike Martin, Bob Maxey

There were several days of rain earlier in the week, so many rivers were up for a few days following. We chose the Rush River, which I had never paddled before. The put-in along Rt. 211 is great: covered picnic tables, changing rooms, and fireplaces. But paddling along the Rt. 626 bridge is terrible: there are at least 3 bad strainers in this stretch. After several of us (not names above) had a bad brush with these logs, the group was reduced from 7 to 4. The rest of the trip was nice; there were only 2 more portages and lots of fine whitewater at a 1-foot level. The trip was quite a contrast with the wintry paddle in the Covington. There was a beautiful green hue on the trees; redbud and dogwood were out in perfusion. In summary: this is a nice winter paddle or after rains in the spring or summer, but do not put-in at the Rt. 211 bridge.

The following graphic and links have been added for this issue.



Virginia Watersheds https://www.cspdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Watershed_MASTER_FINAL_lr.pdf

<https://www.weather.gov/marfc/rivers>

https://www.weather.gov/images/marfc/River_maps/rappahannock.gif

https://riverfriends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Rapp_Overview_Map.pdf

Lower Shenandoah River Basin Tributaries—Ed Evangelidi

The Shenandoah River crosses from Virginia into Jefferson County West Virginia before emptying into the Potomac. The eastern side of the river is hemmed by the Blue Ridge Mountains, but the western side is mostly a broad plain stretching towards Opequon Creek on the west side of the county. The entire area is a karst area with substantial underground water including underground lakes and many springs. Unfortunately the surface area is well developed with many property fences. Major tributaries that should be included in any paddling summaries should include:

Flowing Springs Run

Most people who paddle the Shenandoah Staircase drive over this run just before putting in at Millville. It always has some flow from springs, but occasionally rises to paddlable levels. An upper section from Country Club Road (just off U.S. 340) to U.S. 340 in Halltown runs along a rail line. The lower section is prettier and also runs along the same rail line, but is not considered

a continuous paddle because of a recently built fence across the stream by a federal government agency that does not allow trespass. Therefore this section below the federal facility with duck, beavers, and lots of wood can only be reached by a long carry in from a battlefield hiking trail from a parking lot on bloomy road.

Evitts Run

From Rt. 51 to old U.S. 340 in Charles Town is a section that West Virginia uses to stock trout. Old U.S. 340 has a nasty pipe under the road that requires care. From there to Cave Run Road is a section that seems to have more water than the sections above and below it. There is a nice park and trail off Cave Run Road that one can use to scout the strainers. Below here is a section that is included in the *Capital Canoeing and Kayaking* guidebook.

Bullskin Run

From Rt 13/2 to the North Fork of Bullskin Run (the North Fork is unscouted) is another run that is trout stocked. This section with nice rapids is a bit narrow and required a lot of water to run. From the North Fork to the Shenandoah is a section much more likely to be paddleable.

Long Marsh Run

At Rt. 38 (Smith Road) the creek is quite narrow but holds water and wood. An alternate put in is on a tributary at the intersection of routes 38 and 25/6. Take out on Rt. 25/2 (Dutch Hill Road).

Notes:

1. Bullskin Run has its own USGS gauge, and I noted that, at 70-75 cfs, most of the runs were paddleable. Flowing springs run was at a nice low level with high water in Charles Town; Evitts Run was at an okay high level; Bullskin Run was okay on the high side below the North Fork and too low above; Long Marsh Run was at an okay level.
2. These runs would accompany the map on page 322 of the *Capital Canoeing and Kayaking* guidebook.
3. The West Virginia DNR has a fishing map of the river that shows the access points between the state line and Millville.

The following graphic and links have been added for this issue.


water as it is normally best before mid-August. I may end up paddling the upper section of the Main Salmon.



Ed with his trusty Cascade and double blade paddle

BOATING TRIVIA



The questions for this issue focus on nearby watersheds and the newsletter content. 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! Feel free to ask your fellow paddlers or Doctor Google .

1-2--What rivers form the Rappahannock? **20 POINTS**

3--What is the length of the Rappahannock? **10 POINTS**

4--What is the meaning of “Rappahannock”? **10 POINTS**

5—Name another one of the tributaries of the Rappahannock. **10 POINTS**

6—Name one of the three Civil War battles fought in the Rappahannock watershed. **10 POINTS**

7--Where do the north and south branches of the Shenandoah meet? **10 POINTS**

8--One might be tempted to paddle in the “buff” on what creek in the Shenandoah watershed? **10 POINTS**

9—What popular Class 2-3 run starts at Elizabeth Furnace and ends at the North Branch of the Shenandoah? **10 POINTS**

10--Where is the location of El Rio Claro, the river just run by Dane Jackson? **10 POINTS**

ACCESS

American Whitewater and the Concept of “Boatable Days”

In 2008 Nathan Fey represented American Whitewater at the first meeting of the Upper Colorado (Gore Canyon to Glenwood Springs) Wild and Scenic Stakeholders Group. This was a challenging task because this western water is already allocated for various uses so the Federal template for Wild and Scenic River designation was unlikely. Evan Stafford had just come to AW with graduate research on determining recreational in-stream flows, more specifically “boatable days”. These boatable days could provide various flows that could dovetail with

ecological, agricultural, mining, and community needs. There was collaboration with Colorado University, The Nature Conservancy, and other recreational groups. Communities such as Fort Collins have a stake because of its whitewater park. AW is now working on collaborating in Colorado's Water Plan in which those in the various water basins across the state develop water management plans that protect environmental and recreational use. It will have a friend in government because Nathan Fey has assumed the directorship of Colorado's Office of Outdoor Recreation.

National Rivers Project—Risa Shimoda

You may have seen the National Rivers Project (www.nationalriversproject.com) and, if so, have surely noticed how bare the State of Maryland is. The National Rivers Project Explorer site <http://www.nationalriversproject.com/explorer> contains interactive maps, paddling and access information, and lists of the local managers for thousands of unique sections of river in the United States. Here's a tour of the site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVh-buVNYl8&feature=emb_logo.

You can search this resource for rivers by state or federal management agency and see featured rivers which shine a light on some of the nearly fifty data partners--agencies, water trail groups, and paddling organizations. You can search an area by grabbing a geographical area with a mouse, look for a river by its difficulty, or search in general for wild and scenic rivers, water trails or whitewater rivers.

Maryland's rivers on the state directory are pretty non-existent because we have not found a partner to help us collect the information. The process involves setting up an informal agreement with each partner, who assures us about the current data accuracy and that they will be able to will be confirm data from time to time in the future. If there's interest in putting this together (data exists, but not in one place), we may have a volunteer willing to coordinate the effort this Fall. **If you are interested in starting a BRV group to add Maryland's rivers to the National Rivers Project, e-mail Risa Shimoda (risashimoda@msn.com), and she will share what is entailed with her colleague, who knows how this all works.**

Blackwater Loop Trail

Friends of Blackwater (FOB) received a grant to prepare a biking/hiking trail to link the towns of Davis and Thomas in Canaan Valley. The route will include Blackwater Falls, Pase Point overlooking the Blackwater Canyon, Pendleton Lake, the historic coke ovens, the suspension bridge over the North Fork, and Douglas Falls.

Friends of Blackwater is also working to clean up the acid mine drainage in the North Fork. Aluminum and iron have stained the rock blue and orange respectively. Initially a passive treatment method was reconstructed by FOB. Now an active treatment facility will be built to further reduce metal contamination and facilitate the return of fish and other aquatic life.

Nearby Beaver Creek will benefit from a passive treatment system to reduce 50 year old mine waste.

CONSERVATION

Atlantic Coast Pipeline

There was a legal challenge to the passage of the 600 mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline under the Appalachian Trail. Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the energy companies, Dominion Power and Duke Energy have decided to not proceed with the project because of other regulatory uncertainties and rising costs.

<https://news.dominionenergy.com/2020-07-05-Dominion-Energy-and-Duke-Energy-Cancel-the-Atlantic-Coast-Pipeline>

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition and Trout Unlimited have a report on the status of the hundreds of proposed pipeline stream crossings in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

<https://wvivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/streamcrossingreport.pdf>.

Photos for Conservation

John Canan is a photographer out of Brunswick, MD, who uses his photography to serve conservation efforts through visual story telling. To see his work check the following website:

<https://www.mountainsandrivers.co/>

Horseshoe Run

Friends of Blackwater, Friends of the Cheat, fishermen, and other local citizens attended a meeting to discuss a proposed permit for an injection well of fracking waste near Horseshoe Run, a fun series of rapids several of us were lucky enough to run a few years ago.

Tygart River Watershed Threats

The **Whitetail Mine** (near Newburg in Preston County; previously owned by now bankrupt Alpha Resources; now owned by Lexington Coal) started to fill with water in 2009 and has contaminated the local water supply. The company lowered water levels by drilling a borehole without permits and has not yet provided a permanent solution to the water supply and Racoon and Three Fork creeks.

The underground **Leer Mine** (Grafton; owned by Arch Coal) is to undergo extension, but first the mine is to be drained using boreholes. High levels of iron, sulfates, and other contaminants will be discharged into Three Forks Creek. A permit revision would remove protections for Little Sandy Creek.

The **Martinka Mine** (Marion County; previously owned by American Electric Power and Eastern Associated Coal; now owned by ERP Environmental Fund, which is in receivership) has been filling with water and contaminating Grassy Run and Guyes Run since 1997. The financial capability of the company to carry out the required remediation (approximately \$900,000/year) is questionable.

All of these problems stem from insufficient bonding to ensure remediation.

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy "Voice", June 2020 issue, page 8

<https://www.wvpublic.org/post/wva-regulators-sue-coal-operator-erp-here-s-why-it-matters#stream/0>

GEAR

Packrafting: Serious Craft for Wilderness Exploration

Court Ogilvie first introduced us to packrafting. He and his wife do a lot of expeditionary trips. The packraft is one of several types of watercraft he has used when he is not in his whitewater sole or tandem canoe. BRV also showed several videos of packrafters paddling in Scandinavia and eastern Europe.

The article authored by Tom Diegel (in the July/August 2020 AW issue) is the third in a series. It focused on how packrafts could be used to get to difficult put-ins and/or take-outs—either by hiking or having a craft that could fit in a small plane. The author discussed various trips on the minimally accessible South Fork and Middle Fork of the Flathead and the Alaskan Brooks Range.

The article also discussed the utility of the craft in low water levels because of their low draft depth.

The last part of the article discussed the increased primary stability of packrafts which facilitates learning by less experienced paddlers. Packrafts are somewhat more difficult to roll, but easier to self-rescue.

TRIP REPORTS

Stick Your Toe into the Water of the Toe (River)

During Carolina Week of Rivers, one has nine days to paddle various rivers of varying degrees of difficulty. Some are real gems. The Toe is one of these. But as Forrest Gump and his mother would say “Life is like a box full of chocolates. You never know what you are gonna get.” And so it is with the Toe. There are no gauges for this section of the river so information from the South Toe and its distinct drainage can be misleading. And the run is about two hours from Byson City, and there are no back-up runs. Fortunately the river can be run at a variety of levels and is beautiful and fun, fun, and more fun.

On Monday, July 1, 2019, a group of seven led by Doug Willenborg, a North Carolina paddler and frequent West Virginia Week of Rivers participant, headed to the Toe. There was sufficient water so the drive was not in vain. There was no competition for the limited put-in parking because it was a Monday and there was no rail-line repair work taking place. During the shuttle, we inspected awesome shelf fungi on a tree at the put-in. The five-mile run starts out at a relatively broad section of the river with river-wide ledges for surfing. Soon, however, the river narrows and frequently changes direction. The Class 2 to low 3 rapids are continuous. Eddying-out to boat scout becomes important. The action was enough to keep everyone busy. Doug’s son, Tucker, showed how much his boating skills have progressed. We topped off the day with a trip to the Asiana Grand Buffet on the outskirts of Asheville



Cool fungus



Ed on an early surf wave



Steve on a cross-bow move



Doug eddy-hopping



Ed beckoning Beth to take a picture



Tucker surfing on a wave-hole



So happy to be here!



Me too!!!



Steve on a wave train



Look, Ma! No need for a paddle.



Ho-hum, another surfing wave



Checking the wave entry point



Watching the squirt move



Making some spray



Fast and furious play at the end

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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