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Club Business at the Put-in: President's Report

This year has been a dormant one for the club. The covid-19 pandemic created havoc for scheduling trips because of social distancing being the antithesis of shuttling. BRV had no official trips. We had hoped to initiate a series of trips to the Lehigh to offer an alternative to the Yough. For the same covid-related reasons, we had no in-person meetings. We did, however, continue to have newsletters with trip reports, trivia questions, and video selections for home viewing. Additional video selections were supplied in the Blast announcements.

We had previously scheduled a small increase in our very minimal dues. This will be reassessed. We have worked hard to update our membership list (with more than 100 members and many new members!) and our e-mail Blast list. So if you are not getting the newsletter and/or the Blast your dues are in arrears.

We are developing a new website and will be reviewing the mock-up. The website format will be viewable on a smartphone. Dues will be payable on-line (or the old way). It will be possible to complete membership applications on-line or to download the membership application. There will be a membership only section. Archival materials will be migrated later or maintained separately.

Obviously, the trips calendar is in flux, but we hope to have a trip wrangler to help with the trip schedule and trip organizers to volunteer for trips as the situation permits. We will try to identify water releases and other events of interest.

Please take a look at the videos we have located for you, and check out photos from the socially distanced 2020 Valley Falls waterfall clinic.

We will still accept answers to the trivia questions from the 2020 newsletter through January 31, 2021. Paid members who answer enough questions (not already answered by another) to reach 200 points will receive a prize.

We are also looking for folks to consider officer and board positions. And no, I will not be president-for-life!

SYOTR...hopefully soon... *Rick Koller*

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VIDEO SELECTIONS

Backcountry Beatdown: A Grueling Late Season Trip on a Forgotten River

35 and 38 minutes: Jonathan Kelly (Backcountry Angling Ontario) explore the Little Pic on a multi-day solo trip. The river had last been reported having been run in 1994. Moose and even a bear make their appearance. Fishing was good--sometimes. It is doubtful that Ron Knipling and Craig Wolfe, both of whom are known for the saws they carry, have seen this much wood on a portage! There was snowfall sans drysuit!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ9cshlYZ_Y

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj4i7aeU8j8>

Kavak Session 2018 Short Film Awards Reel

14 minutes: This video features three films. Some of it is such extreme boating that you will be averting your eyes and peeking through your fingers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qh1iICwoB6k>

Making of the Whitewater Self Defense Video (with Kent Ford)

3 minutes: <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=whitewater+kayaking+videos+and+kent+ford&docid=608025657187240558&mid=20898DB752A7C7746B5A20898DB752A7C7746B5A&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Rivering: An Ode to Whitewater Obsession (Full Movie)

100 minutes: This video covers the spectrum of paddling. It is not all extreme paddling. It includes some of the history of whitewater paddling. Do any of the rapids look familiar?

<https://vimeo.com/170380151>

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

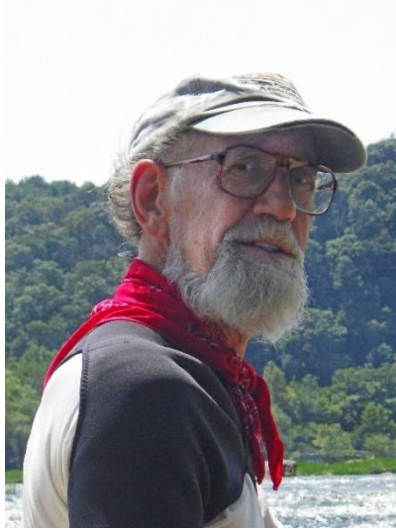
Tandem Whitewater Canoe Surfing on the Kootenay River

1 minute: This video features instructors from the University of Calgary Outdoors Center having way too much fun. Headstands anyone?

TOM MCCLOUD—IN MEMORIAM

Long-time area paddler, Tom McCloud, known for his Eastertime paddle trips to the Smokehole area passed away suddenly October 3, 2020. He was a scientist who graduated from Ohio State, North Carolina State, and Purdue University. He worked at Walter Reed Medical Center and later at NIH's National Cancer Institute--Natural Products Laboratory. He worked to collect and extract naturally occurring compounds with pharmaceutical potential.

He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, exploration by canoe, and antique canoe restoration. He co-authored "*A Paddler's Guide to Eastern North Carolina*" with Bob Benner in 1987. He planned unbelievable trips, e.g., the Mecatina River (Quebec) accessed by float plane and ferry and the Notokwanon River (Labrador) accessed by a two-day motored trip across a lake after several aerial attempts were thwarted by low clouds! Although he was known by many for a long history of trip organization, newer members were able to meet Tom on Mike Martin's giant and epic Needles trip in the Summer of 2019. Tom's family asks that any donations be made to the *Wooden Canoe Heritage Association* in his name.



ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

American Whitewater Association

- **AW worked with many partners to help the Great American Outdoors Act** become law with extensive bipartisan support. The law provides for complete and guaranteed funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund—instead of being subject to transient funding. The fund provides monies for parks, public lands, public waters, river access, and trails.
- **AW mobilized people to provide comments to the Forest Service (San Isabel National Forest) about a planned goldmine on the famed Arkansas River in Colorado.** The Arkansas has numerous boatable sections with the most difficult being Pine Creek Canyon (Class 4-5) and the Numbers (Class 3-4). Small riverside mining operations have frequently appeared there with the changes in prices of precious ores. Placer mining can result in the release of heavy metals and acids used in the mining process as well as the physical destruction of the streambank and increased stream sediment deposition. The Oro Vista project, however, was to be very different. It would be large, would be a dredge mine, and would be located right near the access point for the Numbers (in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area). In addition to providing easy action forms for boaters and others to provide comments, AW prepared official comments and had multiple meetings with the Forest Service. Over 600 river community comments were received. The project sponsor withdrew its proposal request.
- **AW has worked to (re-)schedule river releases and ensure stream inflows.**
 - Black Canyon of the Bear River (ID)--rescheduled
 - New River (WV)—provided information on the rarely seen rapids beneath the Hawks Nest Reservoir that became visible during drawdown.
 - New River Dries (WV)—found bonus paddling days with the unexpected 60 days of natural flow in Fall
 - South Fork American River below Chili Bar (CA)—saved from indefinite cancellation
 - Upper Nantahala (NC)--rescheduled
 - West Fork of the Tuckaseegee (NC)--rescheduled
- **AW has worked with Duke Energy and the USGS over several years to get a new gauge on Wilson Creek (NC).** Wilson Creek is a spectacular, free-flowing Wild and Scenic River. At low water, it provides fishing, picnicking, and swimming opportunities. At high water, it

is a well-known advanced whitewater run. Because the rainfall can rapidly change water levels, it is important to have adequate water level information for paddlers, area residents, emergency personnel, and government officials.

OTHER CLUBS

Announcements via Keelhaulers:

Zoning Change on Slippery Rock

There is an important upcoming special zoning meeting regarding an asphalt (cold mix) plant by Heilman Pavement Specialties, Inc. (490 Stoughton Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057). This plant on 14.5 acres borders Slippery Rock Creek. On June 8, 2020, it was quietly rezoned from RC-1 Rural Conservation to IL-1 Light Industrial. A reversal is being sought. The plant is likely to store and use chemicals detrimental to stream health and trout habitat.

In addition to being important to trout, the stream is the site of an easy race, offers early season warm-ups, and is a good training ground for newer paddlers.

Jim Pruitt is familiar with the run and the area.

What can you do?

→ Send comments to: Karen Connell, Permits /Zoning Officer; PO Box 207, 155 Branchton Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057; 724-794-2369; SRTWP@SRTWP.com.

→ Attend the zoning board hearing: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6 PM at the Slippery Rock Township Committee Building, 155 Branchton Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

Zoning Changes on the Casselman River

Heritage Coal and Natural Resources has a complex at 1117 Shaw Mines Road, Meyersdale, PA 15552. They plan to construct a coal refuse site, which would include coal ash. The site would be at least 100 acres and would be situated along the upper sections of the Casselman River.

There are two relevant permits: one for the related mining activity and the actual refuse permit and a second one, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, regarding pollution discharges. The Mountain Watershed Association (MWA) was granted a hearing on the NPDES permit for the proposed site. The 30-day notice for the exact date should be posted shortly. The mining activity cannot be discussed by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff at the meeting, but the DEP will hold a small informal meeting with the MWA. There was a fishkill in the area in the 90s. Troy Williams, the chief permitter at the California, PA Division of Mining Operations has indicated that they have little information on the history and the risks. The MWA is looking for people with historical information about this event and technical knowledge about these types of risks to better educate State officials.

What can you do?

→ You can access the permit documents:

<https://drive.google.com/.../1FX8TnDXX0PRXIFNcsaHslYeS5oy>

→ You can contact *Melissa Marshall, Esq., Community Advocate, Mountain Watershed Association* at 724-455-4200x7 (phone), 724-455-4201 (FAX), www.mtwatershed.org.

Keelhaulers—50 Years Document

The Ohio Club put together an awesome document with stories and photos that showed the folks and events that shaped the club. *Some thing for BRV to consider?*

Updating AW Data

Some of the data on the AW river website is outdated. Keelhaulers want to update these data.

What can you do?

→If you are interested in helping with this, contact Domenic.Bentz@gmail.com.

→If you have pictures of area rapids from various angles including those taken via a drone, they would be appreciated.

→If you have a waterproof drone, it would be appreciated.

TRIP REPORT

Valley Falls on the Tygart: Waterfall Clinic

Three Rivers Paddling Club has an August waterfall clinic open to all. Jeff Prycl makes the arrangements with the park rangers of the West Virginia Valley Falls State Park, which is located between Fairmont and Grafton. He also makes arrangements for the water release. *And* he also provides much of the instruction. There are two tiers of falls with three sets of rapids on each tier. Instruction starts on the upper tier and moves from the far river left and moves to the right.



Steve Anderson shows how to hit the slot on the upper river left drop.



Chad & Deborah Hudson slide down the center sluice after a tricky entry turn



Steve Anderson trying to keep his angle





Jeff Prycl demonstrates the approach angle of the far right drop



More difficult than it looks



Redemption!



Straighter entry



Justin Westbrook stays away from the rock in his very long boat



Deborah Hudson goes further right & drops over the ledge



Justin Westbrook just below the ledge



Jeff Prycl make the turn into the final holes and turbulence



Chad Hudson riding high and dry



Deborah getting a face wash



Oliver Marron almost home free, but the swirly current just below flips many

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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