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Hard to believe that Fall is upon us. This boating season has been pitiful: the pandemic, the horribly hot weather unrelieved by any precipitation except in scattered deluges that did not raise river levels, and now very brisk days. People have been running Violette’s Lock quite a bit because no shuttle is involved.

Speaking of Violette’s Lock, Mike Martin would like to give some recognition to Steve McKone of Calleva. He did a lot of work clearing a path through dead wood in the George Washington Canal area.

We note the passing of Kay Fulcomer, a stalwart member of the club at its inception and a long-time organizer of river clean-up activities at Riley’s Lock during April. A recent archival article noted her role in early Seneca Creek runs.

Another BRVer, Dave Brown, is ailing with Parkinson’s although he survived Covid 19. He taught many a novice how to paddle in either a canoe or a kayak and well as how to repair his/her craft. He could use some company. Give him a call or send cards c/o Manor Care, 12475 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA 22033 (703-345-2912/703-352-7122)

Although the deadline for submitting photos to American Whitewater’s annual calendar has passed, keep that project in mind for next year’s calendar. AW also received grant money from the Coast Guard for production of short safety films. We look forward the viewing them.

We have been taking our time in drydock to update the roster and mailing list. We have well over 120 members. If you have not renewed, you will be cut from the mailing list. If you are delinquent, send your membership dues (\$10 per calendar year, 1/1/2020-12/31/2020) along with correct contact information (e-mail address, phone numbers, and addresses) to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851). If you are not a listed member, you are not included on the River Runners parking list for the Needles run.

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. **We encourage you to join the virtual Gauley Fest on Wednesday, September 23.** We do not yet have information on the Tohickon, which is usually held the first weekend in November.

SYOTR....sometime *Rick Koller*

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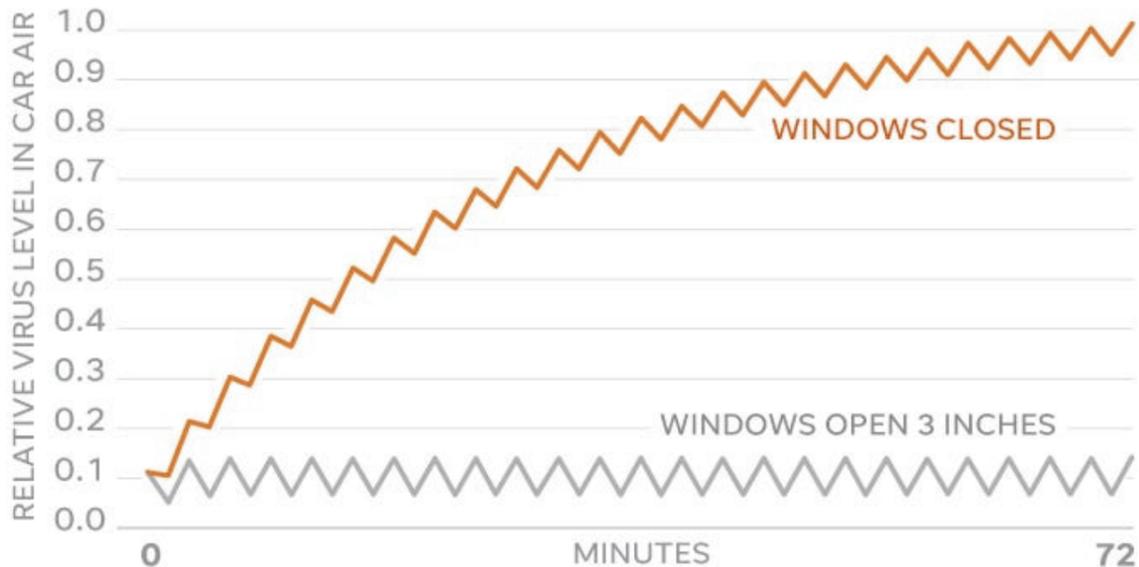
INFORMATION ON SAFE DISTANCING

The August 28 Washington Post featured a grid that presented Covid risk based on whether a mask was used, the type of proximity, the amount of ventilation, the duration of proximity, and the forcefulness of any vocalization. (The chart is easier to understand than to describe.)
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/08/27/coronavirus-social-distancing-6-feet/>

Alf Cooley provided the following related chart:

Coronavirus accumulation in cars

Riding in a car for 72 minutes with an infected passenger, the SARS-CoV-2 virus, in fine aerosol particles, builds up if windows are closed. Keeping one window open just 3 inches can keep the accumulation at bay. The jagged nature of each curve corresponds to a cough every 3 minutes. Values are relative to the peak virus level when windows are closed.



SOURCE Joseph Allen, assistant professor and director of the Healthy Buildings program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and co-author of “Healthy Buildings: How Indoor Spaces Drive Performance and Productivity;” Jack Spengler, professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and director of the JPB Environmental Health Fellows Program; Richard Corsi, dean of Portland State University’s Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science

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.

Take a 45 minute tour of the **Canadian Canoe Museum**:

<https://canoemuseum.ca/CCM-from-Home/https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/800001/f7/800001-1048-e.mp3>

Watch a four minute video on paddling with a **sea kayak in tidal races**, i.e., rivers in the ocean. In a previous newsletter article, club members learned about the rapids in the Bay of Fundy. Wait until you see a long boat, a really long boat, being circulated in a whirlpool or being ended out: <https://paddlingmag.com/videos/video-rough-water-sea-kayaking/>

Watch a two minute video of **Dane Jackson 2019 highlights**. The feats are so amazing and scary you may find yourself covering your eyes and peeking through your fingers at 30 seconds into the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXjhSNvm-Wc>

Check out the history of **Dartmouth's Ledyard Canoe Club** in this seven minute video. The University of Wisconsin Hoofers and its Outing Club in particular were based on the Dartmouth clubs where beginners were called "Heelers". https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3p__5dBnJQ
<https://outdoors.dartmouth.edu/>
<http://www.ledyardcanoeclub.org/>

RELEASES

New River Dries

American Whitewater helped negotiate releases on the New River Dries, but this Fall will provide additional boating opportunities. The owners of Hawks Nest Dam are undertaking a thorough inspection of the Hawks Nest Tunnel for the first time since its completion 85 years ago. This work, which will start on September 8 and continue for 60 days, requires a draw-down of the reservoir. This will provide two months of boating on the Dries AND exploration of New River rapids in usually covered by the reservoir waters!

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/34483/>

Stony Creek (See "Festivals" below.)

VIRTUAL FESTIVALS

DeerField Fest

Boaters from the Northeast gathered virtually to support American Whitewater at the June 26 Deerfield Fest Membership Event. This event celebrated 25 years of whitewater boating on this river system in western Massachusetts. (Ask Mike Martin and BRV paddlers who have stopped there *en route* to paddling in Canada about the river.) The event featured great music, local legends, awesome shwag from industry partners, and updates on stewardship work in the region.

Check out the archived event for music and general fun!

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/34493/>

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/6cUoIbj5pzg3TNWQtgSDUP94W9TreKisgCdM86EOmRu9BXQFYIHwb7pHNuYCPALOrUyE_e31aLC0nY09?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=YIOh5tX7TjOSzbHMK2SjdQ.1596134113929.f53a48b439bcec2de94caa08c518d48d&_x_zm_rhtaid=95

Gore Fest

Over many decades this event has hosted one of Colorado's premiere downriver races. More recently, it has brought together a variety of river enthusiasts including kayakers, rafters, and stand-up paddle boarders. The event includes, films, photo competitions, prize drawings, and speakers. Because of Covid 19, the event was reformatted for a free virtual activity at 7 PM MST, Tuesday, September 1. Advance registration is encouraged. The event supports AW membership and access-river flow activities in the region.

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-aw?campaign=gorefest>

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LagrjvHiRqGc-XsFolca4g

Gauley Fest on Wednesday, September 23

For decades, Gauley Fest has hosted the largest whitewater event in the country. It brings the entire river community together. It celebrates AW's stewardship success on the Gauley and is just plain fun!

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event has been restructured and will occur in an online format. It will not be as rowdy, but **Gauley Fest 2020 is still happening this year!**

The Festival organized by AW and other will have BIG prize drawings, films, speakers, and fun to keep the Gauley spirit alive. **The event will take place at 7:30 pm EST on Wednesday, September 23. Attendance is free and registering is easy => http://bit.ly/GauleyFest_2020.**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5WU-fnb9TVum3J0cQb0bGA

Join or renew your AW membership to be registered for cool shwag from our partners. Members joining or renewing in September will be entered into drawings for a brand-new kayak at the festival.

If you usually renew your membership at Gauley Fest, this is the time to renew again with our Gauley Fest 2020 membership form => <https://bit.ly/GauleyJoinAW2020>, and, as described above, you'll be entered to win new boats from Liquidlogic and Pyranha plus gear from AIRE, Hala Gear, Kokatat, Jackson Kayak, NRS, Rocky Mountain Rafts, Yakima Rack, and more.

Drawing Rules

There will be two different drawings where we will be giving away these amazing prizes. Here are the drawing rules.

- **Prizes:**
 - Participant Drawing: AW branded items such as hoodies, hats, mugs, thermoses, and pin kits.

- Membership Drawing: Big prizes such as hundreds of dollars in gift cards, SUP boards, kayaks, drytops, and more.
- Rules:
 - Participant Drawing: All event attendees will receive one entry into the Participant Drawing with no purchase necessary!
 - Join our Virtual Gauley Fest to win some awesome shwag listed above. **Must be present at the event to participate.** http://bit.ly/GauleyFest_2020
 - Membership Drawing:
 - Renew or join American Whitewater before Virtual Gauley Fest 2020 to be entered to win the prizes listed above. The number of entries is determined by membership level as follows:
 - Standard Membership = 1 entry
 - Family Membership = 2 entries
 - Ender Club = 3 entries
 - Platinum Paddler = 4 entries
 - Explorer Club = 5 entries
 - Lifetime = 6 entries
 - **You do not need to be present at Virtual Gauley Fest 2020 to win, but you do need to be a member!** ==> <https://bit.ly/GauleyJoinAW2020>

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/34506/>

UPDATES FROM OTHER CLUBS

Benscreek Canoe Club

The Rendezvous on Stony Creek was cancelled. Social distancing restrictions were not be lifted in time to hold the event. Greenhouse Park and the Whitewater Park have been closed and gated, and take-out at Greenhouse Park was not permitted. These closures are subject to change. The rivers themselves are open to paddling, but multiple releases were cancelled due to the pandemic and others due to low water. Some of the Fall releases may take place with recent rain. The Club encourages social distancing.

Please note that the Rendezvous generates money that pays for the whitewater releases from the Quemahoning Reservoir. **See the club website for making donations that will make up this revenue shortfall.**

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

https://cfalleghenies.org/search-results/?search_query=sqi&wpas_id=my-form&wpas_submit=1

Keel Haulers

Jacki Zevenbergen provided an update on Cuyahoga River. Although most of us know it as a river that caught on fire, the watershed has a variety of runs, and water quality and access have improved over the years. Both the Canal Diversion and the Pinery Narrows dams have been removed. This stretch of river will remain open for paddling until pump station installation begins. Paddlers from Friends of the Crooked River did find some rebar that the contractor subsequently removed. More may become apparent--so be alert.

The last dam to be removed is the Gorge Dam. This project may become part of the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Management Plan and funded via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Support Summit Metroparks for the job that they are doing. Also pay attention to the work that Akron and Cleveland have done with their sewage and stormwater management. They have worked to avoid sewage spillage into the river at high flows (*something seen here in the Anacostia River*). Higher flows may mean more fun on the river, but it should be safe water as well—so the fun lasts after the take-out....

UPDATES FROM AMERICAN WHITEWATER NEW SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION

Piney Creek and Tribs

The Cumberland Plateau is a great place for river running as several BRVvers can attest. The steep canyons provide recreation options for paddlers, anglers, and hikers. The Piney River and two tributaries, Duskin Creek and the Little Piney Creek became Tennessee's newest Scenic Rivers on June 22, 2020. American Whitewater and other paddling groups actively supported this protection

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/34482/>

NEW ACCESS

Watauga Gorge

The Watauga River Gore is an awesome Class 4+ run in Tennessee. Access to the Gorge has long been a challenge. Furthermore, in the past, you never knew what the water level would be until you counted the brick level on the bridge. There is now a new access point (put-in) at Guy Ford. This complements the Sherwood Horine take-out that AW already owns and manages. This could not have been accomplished without numerous donations and sweat equity by many volunteers. A special shout-out should go to volunteer Edgar Peck, a professor at Appalachian State and a kayaker, who was instrumental in spearheading this project!

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/34488/>

<https://onthewatauga.com/news/construction-of-lower-gorge-river-access-at-guy-ford-complete/>

ACCESS ACTION ITEMS

Protection for New Whitewater Park in Fort Collins

Fort Collins opened a new whitewater park in 2019, and hundreds of people daily enjoy the paddling opportunities and the streamside green space. The park is dependent on water flowing through the Poudre River. These inflows are regulated via a 1041 permit for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). The permit would remove peak flows from the Poudre Canyon mouth for 20 to 30 years. This would imperil the water park as well as ecological resources. The Larimer County Commissioners are reviewing this permit. **Please send your comments to the Commissioners NOW.**

<https://www.larimer.org/bocc>

[National Defense Authorization Act for Wild and Scenic Rivers](#)

This involves a package of important public lands and river protection. Over 1000 miles of rivers could receive Wild and Scenic designation. There will be extra protections for the Delores River in Colorado, the Grand Canyon, the Olympics in Washington, and select landscapes in California.

What you need to do: Contact your Congresspersons. A form letter helps, but a personalized letter—even if it is short provides more impact. AW has brought this to third base. It is up to you to bring it home.

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/34507/>

[GEAR](#)

[Vehicle racks](#)

Check out what Rack Attack has to offer: <https://www.rackattack.com/water-sport-racks/>

[Sea Kayaks](#)

Jeff Prycl of Rocky Mountain Kayaks (rockymountainkayak.com, 724-925-9675) in New Stanton, PA (south of Pittsburgh) is reducing his retail gear inventory. He will make you a good deal on a sea kayak. He has five remaining in stock. He has plenty of whitewater gear and managed to get Beth into a helmet that might force her to retire her Toptex.

[TRIP REPORTS](#)

[Valley Falls Waterfall Clinic: August 2020](#)

Jeff Prycl has conducted waterfall clinics at Valley Falls State Park on the Tygart River between Fairmont and Grafton, West Virginia for many years. He works with the Park Ranger, who enjoys flying his drone during the clinic, and arranges for adequate water releases. Typically the clinic occurs in mid-August. Many of the participants are from his home club, Three Rivers



Jeff on the rock providing guidance

(Pittsburgh), but many folks come from out-of-state including Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia. The site offers unique features for training. There are two tiers of falls with three distinct rapids, falls, or chutes on each tier.

The day starts with at least an hour of on-land training. Then paddlers first inspect the drops in the upper tier. Newbies have the chance to watch other people run the drops and to learn from commentary provided by Jeff and others. Safety is a key consideration. All participants are expected to assist with rescues. There are some swims and, occasionally, a boat will recirculate in the middle falls on the lower tier.

The following pictures depict Jeff at the far right rapid on the upper tier. Use of the various curlers will assist or hamper one's run. Care must be taken to avoid cheese grater-type rocks below the surface.



Jeff setting his approach angle



Building up some speed



Setting the angle in the curlers



Staying loose over the cheese grater rocks before the final curler

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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