

THE VOYAGEUR



www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org

July 2007

THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

Summer time and the water is easy. Well, pretty easy paddling, but water enough to float your boat is not so easy to find. I had hoped our dry spell had ended, but apparently my rain dance has lost its sway with the rain gods. I just paddled on a dealer's choice trip, the dealer had little choice, we paddled the Lower Yough, putting on right in front of another scheduled BRV trip. Two club trips on the same river on the same day! That says a lot about the state of our water conditions.

Speaking of two club trips – in a twist of good fortune, the second group that day stopped at the same lunch spot we chose, some time after we had left. Good thing they noticed the dry bag left by one of our group and they checked the contents, bringing it to the takeout. That dry bag held the keys to the car I was riding in that day. The person who lost the bag had already hiked back to the lunch spot and found the bag missing so it made his day when we drove into town with the car! Needless to say some lessons were learned about keeping spare keys when paddling. May good karma treat those who found and returned the bag for many years!

There has been some increased activity on our message board in the last months, hopefully it is a trend which will continue to build. Our trip scheduler, Jenny, has been doing a great job of keeping people informed about trips and hopefully has increased trip participation as a result.

One final note: Some members have proposed that a dinner of gratitude be given to Brad Reardon, his wife and staff from Spring River for many years

(Continued on page 11)

2007 BRV Moonlight Picnic

LOCATION: The usual **Violette's Lock/Virginia Canal Loop**, off River Road, north of Potomac, MD.

DATE: **Saturday, July 14, 2007**

TIME: Meet at Violette's Lock parking lot at **5:00 PM**. Canoe/kayak departure at approximately 5:30 PM; return to Violette's Lock approximately 10:30 PM (or whenever you like).

BRING: Food (see below), blanket/chairs as desired, water, bug repellent, flashlight(s).

FOOD: Bring a dish to feed at least eight people, as follows:

A-G: salads, uncooked veggies, fruit dish

H-N: desserts, snacks

O-Z: pasta, casserole, cooked veggies, rice, etc.

Be sure to bring serving utensils for your dish, if needed. BRV will provide chicken, drinks (soda, wine and beer — approximately two per person).

COST: **\$5** for adults, **\$3** for children 2-12 years old, **free** for those under 2.

RSVP: BRV Board members will be contacting all DC-area members. RSVP to your caller or to Lou Campagna at 301-929-0136 by **Thursday, July 12th**.

CAMPING: It is permissible to camp at the picnic site, so if you would like to do so, bring your gear. There are usually some who camp, so you won't be alone.

PARKING: Parking at Violette's Lock is unrestricted, but there is little police surveillance. This has not been a high theft location in the past, but please do not leave valuables in your vehicles!

Smokehole Camper, Memorial Day Weekend (May 26th-28th)

by Kerry Fico

On Saturday, we met Bob Kimmel at Petersburg. Kathleen Sengstock was a little off schedule, so she met us at the put-in at Big Bend Campground. Bob started farther upstream. We dropped him off during the shuttle and he met us at camp around 8 PM.

There was a group of Czech people swimming at the put-in. We would have to get a move-on if we wanted to get our campsite! A little ways down the river, we passed some of them. They laughed and pointed at Abbie (our dog)! How rude! We passed on through. A little while later, we passed the rest of their group. Yes! Now we could get our campsite!

Soon we came to the Chimney Rock Slide rapid. It was fun! Abbie didn't run it. She stood at the side.

The group that has been doing this river for 25+ years told us that no one was at our campsite. Hooray! We sped around the corner and there it was — our annual campsite! We had made it!

We set up camp and played in the water. While we ate dinner, some of the Czech people started playing in the water in front of our campsite. Turns out they camped in the field behind us.

A little before they came, Bob got there. He came early. "I ate in the canoe," he told us.



Our riverside campsite opposite Blue Rock. ("Czech people" tents in far background.)

Sunday morning when we all got out of our tents, Abbie saw something in the bushes. It was a baby beaver! Abbie bit it because of her true hunting dog instincts, but it didn't bleed. We pulled Abbie away from it quickly and she was punished by being tied up to a canoe while Jamie and I watched the beaver roll over to get Abbie's slobber off, then walk back into the tall grass. Poor beaver.

Later that morning the Czech people came back. Now they were invading our campsite. We put stuff in our tent while we went hiking. At the top of the mountain, we found lots of fossils. Most of them were brachiopods. We also took lots of pictures.

We went swimming when we got back. The water was so refreshing!

Later that day, Len, Daniel, Joseph and Mariana Rice

came. Also their friends Mike, John, James and Chris came too.

That night, we had smores and told stories around the fire. Abbie chased toads.

In the tent there were three ticks. One by Jamie, one on Abbie and one crawling around the tent. In the morning there was one on the outside of our tent. That was a little scary!

Monday morning after breakfast we had to pack up. One last chance to play in the water!

The end.



Group hike Sunday morning. L-R, front-back: Kathleen, Kerry, Abbie, Jamie, Frank, Bridget, Bob.



Potomac Watershed Clean-up Day, March 31st
photos by Beth Koller

Kathleen Sengstock led a BRV trip to Riley's Lock to participate in the Potomac Watershed Clean-up Day, an annual watershed-wide event sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Clockwise from top left: Kathleen demonstrates proper collection technique, Star and Lee unload their trash bags, the group surveys their collection: Lee Prouty, Kathleen (kneeling, L-R), Star Mitchell, Beth Koller, Barb Brown, Kit Farwell (standing, L-R), Kathleen strikes a "trash queen" pose.



The following article appeared in the Spartanburg, SC Herald-Journal, January 8, 2006.

For the Love of Water

by Teresa Killian

The waterfall pounded on the cap-sized kayak, pinning 43-year-old Slim Ray in the turbulent, rocky pool below. He couldn't move. He couldn't breathe. He was being squeezed like a man inside a crushing handshake, and thoughts of drowning seeped into his mind. But the grinding flow of the Green River loosened its grip. Ray's paddle floated free. His nearly 11-foot-long boat followed, and, finally, him.

The paddling instructor — a pioneer of swiftwater rescue — shouted for help as the water tugged him downstream. His companions threw ropes to him from the shore. He caught the second and was pulled to safety. Worse than his pain was the nothing he felt below his waist. Ray's friends helped him stay still in the relatively warm, July water as others ran up a steep trail for help. Three hours later, a helicopter landed in the narrow gorge. "The pilot probably shouldn't have brought the helicopter in, but I was sure glad to see him," Ray said.

They flew to a hospital in Asheville, NC, where he spent the next three weeks before seeking care at Thorn's Rehabilitation Hospital.

Ray co-wrote his own accident report: "The T-12 vertebra, the lowest of the chest vertebrae a little above the small of the back, was badly damaged. It is likely that he will not regain the use of his legs."

He had to cancel a "working" sea

kayak trip to Chile, since he no longer had the stability for kayaks — his livelihood.

His house in the wooded mountains near Bryson City, NC was not wheelchair friendly. He had to sell.

The typical 20-minute routine of getting dressed turned into hours. Gone was his easy-going, whitewater-chasing lifestyle.

"I just wanted to survive," said Ray, remembering the accident 14 years ago. "You are dealing with all this new stuff. You've got to learn to live your life over. Reinvent yourself."

And Slim Ray has, though he still loves the water and continues to kayak — with some help from his friends.

The Florida native grew up riding motorcycles from Suzukis to Kawasakis. He loved the speed, and let it rip on the racetrack. That's where he crashed at 130 mph and spent a week in a hospital. In the Army, Ray served active duty from 1968 to 1973, including two tours in Vietnam. "I was wounded once, but not seriously," he said.

In the late 1970s, he discovered whitewater at the Nantahala River. He had stopped to find a warm place to sleep while solo backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and signed up for a rafting trip. The long-time canoeist wasn't accustomed to fingers of water suddenly turning upstream behind rocks and

spilling over others, re-circulating. He enjoyed being outside and the feeling of the water. "You sort of get hooked," Ray said.

On Fridays, he would leave a desk job in Florida and drive seven hours to take a paddling clinic or spend time on a river. He would get back about 2 AM, sleep for a few hours and show up for work.

A year later, he followed his passion for the water to a new job as a raft guide at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Ray wasn't scared by the money, or lack of it. Raft guides typically live hand-to-mouth lifestyles that breed jokes such as, "What do you call a raft guide without a girlfriend? Homeless."

He wasn't scared away by the risk. Ray was there when a friend a fellow raft guide, Rick Bernard, drowned on a kayaking trip to the Chattooga River. The often-underestimated power of moving water pushed Bernard under a rock in a rapid called Jawbone. "We tried very hard to rescue him and couldn't," Ray said. "We couldn't get to him, but I don't know that we could have saved his life."

The feeling of helplessness drove Ray to want to help develop rescue techniques — strategies for responding to different emergencies. He and other paddlers began testing the application of rope-handling and knot skills from mountaineering in simulated whitewater situations. It was that core group of paddlers that shaped the current

standard of whitewater safety protocol, says Mark Singleton, executive director of the non-profit American Whitewater organization.

The research resulted in a book River Rescue, which Ray co-authored with Les Bechdel. Copies still sell today. Charlie Walbridge, who has been the safety chair for both American Whitewater and the American Canoe Association, said one of the most important things the group accomplished was just getting people to think about rescue and safety. "Before that, when something happened, you got out to the spot where the problem was, scratched your head and tried to figure something out," Walbridge said.

Ray has helped Walbridge in the task of reviewing accidents nationwide and writing reports analyzing what happened and what could be improved in the rescue. He organized an international safety symposium in 1990 at the Nantahala Outdoor Center that drew people from all over the world.

He also was key to persuading US manufacturers to make life jackets specifically designed for rescues with features such as quick-release harnesses, Walbridge said. "Slim's river safety story is a very long one," Walbridge said. "He was one of the people who really started swiftwater rescue training in the paddling community in the late 1970s."

Ray and the other hard-core, safety-committed paddlers planned trips around swiftwater rescue clinics. "You went out West when the

water was up," Ray said. Sometimes the drills turned real, as paddlers in need of help crossed their paths. In one case, Ray swam nearly a half-mile to rescue a rafter who had been knocked unconscious. He took kayaks to countries from Costa Rica to Nepal, writing paddling articles and taking pictures for magazines.

Ray explored non-traditional tourist places such as Costa Rica's Poas Hotel, which was named for a volcano, though boaters crowned it "The Poas Hotel for po'ass paddlers." Rates were \$1.50 a night and \$3 for the best room in the house.

The hardest whitewater Ray has run so far is the Futalefu in Chile, he said. It was also the most clear, most beautiful. "I enjoyed the lifestyle, and the international traveling," Ray said. "It's too bad I got injured as kayaking really took off."

An hour north of Spartanburg through Henderson and Polk counties flows the Green, a river with a section some describe as the most popular stretch of consistent steep creeking in the eastern US. The 2.9-mile Narrows drops an average of 178 feet per mile with 11 expert-class rapids in close succession, including Scream Machine, Go Left or Die and Hammer Factory.

"The river was amazingly forgiving at high water and not forgiving at all at low water," said Risa Shimoda, a former Easley resident who was the first woman to run the entire Narrows. She knows where Ray got hurt — a rapid called Sunshine. She knows the line he was

taking. The path involved a drive with the right angle and speed into a blind drop — unable to see the bottom. "You don't have much space to build up speed or make a correction," Shimoda said.

On July 15, 1991, Ray was paddling the Green River for the first time. He was with a group of experienced, safety-cautious paddlers who took their time scouting rapid after rapid. Ray was cautious. He decided to walk around Gorilla.

At Sunshine, four paddlers in his group decided to do the same. Four ran it successfully. "I didn't think Sunshine was beyond my abilities or I would not have run it," Ray said. As he went over the drop the boat lost its angle and went straight down, hitting the rock with terrific force. After pinning momentarily, the boat pitched forward and disappeared into the spray of the falls. Paddlers describe his accident as a terrible piece of bad luck, a tragic accident and sobering. Walbridge says paddling has the same risk or less than there is in many other activities such as scuba diving, high school football or driving a car. Very few people who paddle actually get hurt or killed whitewater paddling. "You train to reduce the risk, but that never eliminates it," Walbridge said. "Slim knows it. I know it. Everyone on the river knows it."

"Mistakes in Class V and VI rapids carry a serious risk of injury or death. The free-fall element found in steep rapids must be respected; this is not the first instance of severe back injury from running high

(Continued on page 6)

RAY (Continued from page 5)

waterfalls. Those who make these runs must be ready to accept the risks," Ray wrote.

"I don't dwell on these things," says Ray, 57, who has long preached personal responsibility. Since the accident, he accepts that everything in his life requires more planning and takes longer to do. "Your life feels like it's in kind of slow motion," he said. The 6-foot-7-inch man in a wheelchair no longer towers over friends, no longer looks down on the tops of their heads. His Honda Odyssey has hand controls and lacks middle seats so he can reach back and pull his wheelchair inside his mini-van. "It's great," Ray said. "I love it."

He works as a writer and publisher from his house in Asheville, not far from the eclectic restaurants of Biltmore Village and close enough to lift weights at wheelchair-accessible machines at Thorn's Rehabilitation Center.

His latest book, Shock Troops of the Confederacy, began as a family history project in which he discovered a relative who was a Confederate sharpshooter. Ray marveled in the stories, including one of a Yankee who married a Southern woman and fought for the Confederacy. Instead of penning the book as Slim Ray, as he has with his rescue texts, he used his given name, Fred L. Ray.

He's still involved in swiftwater safety and rescue. He works primarily with the fire and rescue community. "He's really a key person nationally in terms of advancing this training," Walbridge

said. Ray knows the importance, knows stories of firefighters trying to save someone on a flooded creek only to get swept downstream.

"Just by the grace of God, nobody drowned," Ray said. Battalion Chief Tim Rogers of the Charlotte Fire Department introduces Ray at their trainings as "the guy who literally wrote the book, and he literally did."

"The flood response system in North Carolina has Slim Ray's fingerprints all over it — the design, the equipment, the training process," Rogers says. "He influenced all of that." Rogers, who first met Ray when they worked at Nantahala Outdoor Center, said he's the kind of person you can call anytime to get advice. "His gift lies in taking a lot of information and compressing it into the essentials," Rogers said. Ray helped them develop response to such occurrences as a vehicle caught in a flooding stream or creek. "We didn't have to reinvent the wheel because Slim brought so much knowledge and experience to the table," Rogers said. "Here's a guy who got back up and made an impact on a lot of people's lives when he didn't have to."

Ray keeps track of whitewater issues, such as plans to try to open the Upper Chattooga River to paddling. "I don't see why it shouldn't happen," Ray said. "It's not as difficult as the Green, but it's pretty hard."

As often as he can, too, he goes to the river with

a different kind of boat, an inflatable ducky that offers more back support. In 1994, he paddled through the Grand Canyon. He later advocated for the development of handicapped accessible ramps at the Ocoee River in Georgia, where he tries to paddle at least once a year. "The actual paddling is not that much different," Ray said. "It's the planning — logistics. It takes a lot of the spontaneity out of it."

The rigid, inflatable boat he uses has handles on the sides so friends can help lift him into and out of the water. He packs two wheelchairs. One helps him get to the river. The other is driven to where the boaters will get out of the water several miles away. He wears miniature personal flotation devices on his ankles and a waist-belt to help with balance. When he adventures down the French Broad River not far from his Asheville home, he takes a camera. He asks people in his group to paddle single file quietly in an area where he has seen bear, deer, turkey and wild hogs. He pulls into surfing waves, easing his boat back and forth.

"I just enjoyed being on the water — the feel of the water on your boat," Ray said. "I still do."

For more information on Ray's books, visit www.cfspress.com.

Mystery River answer:

*Hordes of boaters I attract
For water released twice yearly
You must take a number to surf each wave
But the merchants of Point Pleasant love you dearly!*

Answer: Tohickon Creek, PA

Cacapon River, April 29th photos by Beth Koller

Clockwise from right: Gus Anderson (stern) and Dave Brown (bow), Ashley Anderson practices a rodeo move with her sit-on-top, friend of Gus's running Chapel Rock Ledge, Ashley enters Chapel Rock Ledge, the group at Fairy Falls



WV Poised to De-list Protected Rivers by Beth Koller

West Virginia has protected many of its rivers with Tier 2.5 status. This includes waterways that support wild trout populations, flow through state parks and national forests, or have other unique scenic, recreational, or ecological values. This is not a Federally recognized designation. It is not the same as Wild and Scenic, but it did confer some added protections — albeit without permanent status.

During the last legislative session, there was a proposal to reduce the number of rivers. The session closed without a determinative vote. As such, there is a proposal from one of the WV executive branch agencies (Department of Environmental Protection — DEP) to reduce the list from 309 Tier 2.5 rivers to 156. Many of these are in the eastern part of the state, where we paddle: Blackwater River in Tucker County; Cranberry, Williams, and Elk rivers in Webster and Pocahontas counties; Seneca Creek in Pendleton County; Loop Creek in Fayette County; and Elkhorn Creek in McDowell County.

Please send a letter to Governor Joe Manchin III (1900 Kanawha Boulevard, E., Charleston, WV 25305; Toll-Free: 1-888-438-2731; Email: Governor@WVGov.org) to express your opinion. Explain why you go to West Virginia and what you expect to see and that you spend money in various localities — many of them small. Please send a copy to WV Rivers Coalition (329 Davis Avenue, Suite 7 Elkins, WV 26241; Fax: (304) 637-4084; wvrivers@wvrivers.org).

Bloomington Release, May 26th-27th photos by Beth Koller

Angie Sigmund caught the wave at Top of the World very nicely (left), and Ed Evangelidi ended up with a bonus third paddle blade there (right). The only real “car”-nage occurred following the trip at the take-out, when Ed’s starter died (inset).



Cheat Narrows, Memorial Day photos by Beth Koller

Court Caldwell on the approach to Calamity Rock (right), Star Mitchell (below left) and Darryl Hall (below right) successfully run past Calamity Rock, but Chris Essewein strays a bit too close to the rock (bottom left) and performs a classic air brace (bottom right).



Mike Gilchrist's Quebec Trip, Early August

Following is an excerpt of Mike Gilchrist's proposed itinerary for his paddling trip to Quebec. For details, see the email Jenny Thomas forwarded, or contact Mike directly.

DATE	Morning or day Drive	DIST	RIVER	Difficulty
2 Aug	DC- Watertown NY	470	nothing	
3 Aug	NY-Cobden ON	190	nothing (or Black R)	III-IV medium *
4 Aug	to put in on Ottawa	10	Ottawa	III-IV big *
5 Aug	Gatineau shuttle	20	Gatineau	III-IV big *
6 Aug	shuttle on GDT	50	Gens De Terre	III-IV+ small?, remote **
7 Aug	Verendrye To Rouge	150	Rouge 7 sisters	III-IV medium *
8 Aug	Lavaltrie to R. Mattawin	100	Middle (or Lower) Mattawin	III-IV+ medium *
9 Aug	To Tourilli & shuttle	20	Tourilli	IV+ small **
10 Aug	Stoneham To Tewks	10	Jacques Cartier Tewksbury	III-IV medium *
11 Aug	Malbaie Put in	120	Metal Bridge Section Malb	IV-(V) small **
12 Aug	Metabetchuane or Shipshaw	90	Metabechuane/Shipshaw	III+ medium *
13 Aug	Mistassibi or Chute A Michel	100	Mistassibi or C. Michelle	IV/V big* or III/IV big*
14 Aug	Lower Mattawin	40	Lower Mattawin	III medium *
15 Aug	Watertown	150	Option on Black	
	home	470		

* familiar run ** exploratory or new
 big: deep river with waves and eddy lines 5000+ cfs
 medium: river of about 1500 cfs
 small: stream with ledges and boulder gardens 300-500 cfs

Of exploratory runs, Tourilli has shortest shuttle, is shortest run, and Joe Bryson says it is not too hard. Malbaie Metal Bridge section is short (6km) with a long-ish dirt road shuttle. Gens De Terre would probably be the most difficult exploratory run in terms of logistics and time-on-river

Steps to make trip easier:

1. Omit some exploratory runs, as follows
 - a. Skip Gens De Terre (saves 1.5 days)
 - b. Run Montmorency B or Tewks twice instead of Tourilli (easier and closer to Quebec City) (We should try Tourilli — one can walk shuttle)
 - c. Do an easier new river such as Bostonnais on the way to La Tuque, instead of second day on Mattawin.
 - d. Do chute a Michel instead of Mistassibi (much easier and less out of the way)
2. After night at Lac HA HA, explore by car Saguenay Fjord area, Riviere Eternitie, St. Felix D.otis (no boating) then eat at Le Barillet. Break day

Steps to make trip more interesting:

1. Look at the Du Gouffre on the way north via Baie St. Paul and St. Urbain, to Malbaie area.
2. Run the Ecorces (when camped at Kenogami). Adds a day but it is a familiar run.
3. Spend a second day on the Malbaie.

PUT-IN (Continued from page 1)
of great service to the boating community. If you would like to be involved in this event, contact Mike Gilchrist

I hope everyone is finding time to get out and enjoy some time on the water this summer.

Jim Pruitt

ROSTER UPDATES

Lou Campagna
campagnal@verizon.net

Bruce Labaw
blabaw1@gmail.com

Louis Matacia
605 W. Maple Ave.
Sterling, VA 20164
703-444-1203 H/W

Keith Merkel
13108 Tall Shadows Lane, Apt. D
Fairfax, VA 22033

Bob Spohn
13520 Litza Way
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-491-9261 H
bspohn@comcast.net

Doug White
dowhite@comcast.net

UPCOMING TRIPS

Date	Trip	Level	Coordinator	Phone	Email
July 14	BRV Picnic	All	Club Officers		
July 14	Dealer's Choice	LI	Jennifer Plyler	301 445-4815*	pls98@verizon.net
July 15	Violette's Lock	PN	Kathleen Sengstock	301 649-3917	kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
July 21	Mather Gorge or Little Falls	I/A	Ed Grove	703 533-8334	eddyout@erols.com
July 29	Violette's Lock	PN	Kathleen Sengstock	301 649-3917	kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
Early August	Quebec (2 weeks)	A	Mike Gilchrist	703 931-2430	mgilchri@leo.gov
August 4	Nat'l Champ. (Garrett County)	-	Need leader		
August 4	Lower Yough	I	Jennifer Plyler	301 445-4815*	pls98@verizon.net
August 11	Dealer's Choice (perhaps ASCI in Garrett County)	I	Jo Cox Glen Johnston	301-424-4413	glencojo@comcast.net
August 11	Dealer's Choice	LI	Jennifer Plyler	301 445-4815*	pls98@verizon.net
August 18	Lower Yough	I	Jennifer Plyler	301 445-4815*	pls98@verizon.net
Sept. 1-3	New River Rendezvous	A	Dick Pierce	703-524-2087	rpierce@law.gwu.edu
Sept. 3	Little Falls	I	Ron Knipling	703-533-2895	rkniping@aol.com
Sept. 8-9	Upper/Lower Gauley	A	Court Ogilvie	703-528-5185	courtogilvie@yahoo.com

Notes:

*please call before 8 PM

1 Difficulty Level: Novice (N), Practiced Novice (PN), Lower Intermediate (LI), Intermediate (I), Advanced (A)

2 For all Yough trips, please contact the trip leader no later than Wednesday preceding the scheduled weekend trip.

This should allow sufficient time to reserve boat permits.

3 Gus Anderson and Beth Koller will lead a float trip down the Potomac sometime in June or July. It will be a black tie affair with a multi-course dinner. They would welcome help planning the meal.

About the Blue Ridge Voyageurs (BRV)

The **BRV** is a voluntary association of experienced paddlers from the Washington, DC area. Club benefits include: trips for all skill levels (most at intermediate and advanced levels); BRV website and hotline for information and pick-up trips; *The Voyageur*, published 6 times a year; club roster, published yearly in March; holiday party; conservation projects; moonlight paddles & picnics; big trips to the Smokies, Canada, Europe, and Western rivers.

Meetings: BRV will hold meetings from 7-9 pm on the following dates in 2007: January 10, March 19, May 15, July 14 (Moonlight Picnic), September 12, November TBD, December 8 (Holiday Party). Meetings are followed by beer and pizza at a nearby pub. Location: Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library on Leesburg Pike (Rt. 7) in Falls Church, VA. The library is on the east side of Rt. 7 about 0.6 miles south of I-495. Or, from I-66, take the Rt. 7 West exit and go about 0.6 miles west on Rt. 7. It's on the right.

BRV Website: The BRV website (<http://www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org>) provides information on trips, meetings, and other club events.

2007 BRV Officers: Jim Pruitt, President; Lou Campagna, VP; Jenny Thomas, Trip Coordinator; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

2007 Board of Directors: Gus Anderson, Bill Collier, Ed Grove, Ron Knipling, Rick Koller, Wes Mills

The Voyageur: Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs

The Voyageur publishes information on club events, conservation and safety news, the club trip schedule, and other news of interest to BRV'ers. Publishing **trip reports** is a particularly important newsletter function. Trip Coordinators are requested to write up all club trips - particularly trips to unusual or especially interesting rivers. Trip reports and other articles are accepted in any form: via electronic mail (preferred; send to fico1@netzero.net), on disk, typed, handwritten, faxed or over the phone. For trip reports, try to include the following information (if applicable): names of participants, relevant NWS gauge readings of nearby rivers, description of the water level on the river (e.g., minimum, moderate, maximum, or number of inches above or below "zero"), weather conditions, hazards, difficult rapids, info on put-ins or takeouts, distinctive scenery, and overall difficulty in relation to rivers well known to BRV'ers. New information about the river (e.g., new hazards) is particularly important. **Photos** are also published. Send prints to the webmaster or e-mail digital photos to the newsletter editor.

Address changes: contact Frank Fico, 1609 Autumnwood Dr., Reston, VA 20194-1523, (703) 318-7998, fico1@netzero.net. The annual roster will be kept current via updates published in each issue of *The Voyageur*.

Membership applications/renewals: submit to Frank Fico. Must renew by February 15 each year to be listed on club roster and continue receiving *The Voyageur*.



The Voyageur

c/o Frank Fico
1609 Autumnwood Drive
Reston, VA 20194-1523

In this issue...

- Trip reports (or photos):
 - Smokehole Canyon (p. 2)
 - Watershed Clean-up (p. 3)
 - Cacapon (p. 7)
 - Bloomington (p. 8)
 - Cheat Narrows (p. 9)
- Slim Ray's story (p. 4)

Deadline for September *Voyageur*:
Friday, August 31

NEXT MEETING
Moonlight Picnic!

THE BRV MOONLIGHT PICNIC WILL BE HELD
SATURDAY, JULY 14TH. SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 1
FOR DETAILS.