

THE VOYAGEUR



www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org

July 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

The season continues to provide us with decent water with various thunderstorms hitting the mountains. The Cheat and Tygart basins have plenty of water as I write this column. Its July! Anyway, hope everyone gets a chance to take advantage of warm weather and warm water in between summer vacation trips.

Remember the BRV picnic is on August 13 this year. Get in contact with Mark Wray if you want to help. I will email a blast email as the time approaches as a reminder.

Finally, our thoughts and condolences go to Jim Pruitt and Star Mitchell who lost family members recently.

Rick



GREAT FALLS RACE, POTOMAC WHITEWATER FESTIVAL, June 25th

A boater competing in the race over the falls finds himself temporarily grounded beneath one of the footbridges on the Maryland side. Photo by Susan Sherrod.

2011 BRV Moonlight Picnic

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

DATE: **Saturday, August 13, 2011**

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 Mark Wray at 703-222-4842 by **Thursday, August 11th**.

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!

12th Annual MCC/BRV Smokey Mountains Trip, May 14 - 22, 2011

by Richard Hopley, His Kanubic Travesty

Participants:

David Bernard (VA), Dan Bertko (MA), trip leader Richard Hopley (NC), Sandy Snyder (TN), and David Vezzetti (GA): OC-1.

Lee Belknap (NC), Liz Belknap (NC), Karen Egbert (CO), David Hafera (MD), Jon Hitchings (CO), Marilyn Jones (DC), Ernie Katz (VA), Larry Parmer (VA), Mick Schlotfeldt (NC), and Mikel Wellman (DC): K-1.

Lois Bertko (MA): Shuttle driver and morale booster

This was the 12th year I have run the MCC (now MCC/BRV) Smokey Mountains Trip (aka "Southern Week of Rivers"). I schedule this trip for the nine days ending a week before Memorial Day weekend so that we can go wherever the gauges send us without running into campgrounds that are fully reserved for the holiday weekend. Some years we are lucky and catch infrequently-run small streams after a good rainfall, but there is standard set of rivers that are nearly always runnable in mid-May: the Nolichucky, French Broad, Pigeon, Chatooga, Ocoee, and Nantahala. Last year we caught Amicalola Creek and Warwoman Creek and the year before we caught Clear Creek, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland, Citico Creek, and the Top Tellico, but this year it looked like we were going to be restricted to those standard rivers until we caught a lucky rainfall and got onto Big Laurel Creek at a good level. This year, unlike most, it was very cold; as low as 40 degrees at night, and a high in the low 60s on three or four of the days, but most of us boated most days, nevertheless.

Saturday, 5/14: driving day.

This was the day for everyone coming from the north to drive down to the rendezvous at the Tellico Plains KOA in Tennessee, but David, Mick, and I, who were rid-

ing together, paddled Section 9 of the French Broad (2160 CFS) with Jennifer Plyler, a past president of the Canoe Cruisers' Ass'n, Paula Sorenson, and Larry Parmer, who are all southern transplants from the DC area. Jennifer and Paula live just 45 minutes from the FB9 put-in and the Nolichucky put-in! *En route* to Tellico Plains after boating we stopped for dinner at Bradley's Barbeque (rib joint) in Sweetwater, TN, and everyone had trickled into the Tellico Plains KOA by midnight. Normally I avoid KOA and other RV parks like the plague, but the one in Tellico Plains has a half-dozen tent sites and they have always given us a pretty good deal and allowed us to pack as many vehicles and tents per site as we could manage. This one and the KOA in Buena Vista, CO, are the only ones I will willingly revisit.

Sunday, 5/15: middle Tellico River, 1.23' (USGS Tellico Plains).

This is one of everyone's favorites and is usually runnable this time of year. This year I scheduled it for our first boating day because, absent a good rain, it was going to be too low to boat later in the week. As it was, it was very, very low. I have boated it as low as 1.1', but at 1.23' (about 150 CFS) it was loaded with pinning potential while there was still some force to the water, and we had two very bad

pins. The first was a two-point pin of a kayaker who had the presence of mind to refrain from pulling the skirt until we had a rope on the paddler to ensure a safe exit. It then took nearly an hour, with ropes on each end and the middle of the boat all pulling in slightly different directions to get each end out from under its respective rock, to recover the boat. There's a happy kayaker who had a recovered boat with which to finish out the week! The other pin was in a slot in the rocks only 5 or 6 feet above the known undercut (which has killed) known as Reeder's Rock, where the paddler climbed out onto a slippery rock in fast current before the canoe subbed out and then washed downstream. This is not a difficult rapid at higher levels, but I strongly recommend against running it this low. We had broken camp before boating, but spent a lot longer than planned on the river, so on the way to our next campground, Georgia's Tallulah Falls State Park, which closes its gates at 10:00 PM, we had a fast-food dinner at the Wendy's in Murphy, NC.

Monday, 5/16: Chatooga River, Section III, 1.78' (USGS Clayton).

Section III is a long day's paddle. For years I used to use the short put in at Sandy Ford, until a few years ago I ran the stretch from Earl's Ford to Sandy Ford and realized

that (a) this was the most beautiful stretch of Section III, (b) this has the best concentration of whitewater on Section III, and (c) the shuttle to Earl's Ford is at least 10 minutes shorter than to Sandy Ford, saving a total of 40 minutes or more of shuttle time. Most of us walked Dick's Creek Ledge, though several followed Lee in a non-standard route. We had the expected number of flips at Second Ledge, but everyone ran all the other named rapids successfully, until Bull Sluice, where half the group walked and we had two swims amongst the other half. For dinner we went to the Asian Buffet in Clayton.

Tuesday, 5/17: Chatooga River, Section III 3/4. 1.79' (USGS Clayton).

This is my name for Chatooga Section IV, if you take out just above the Class IV+ Five Falls at the end. The put in is at the US-76 bridge and the take out is the Camp Creek access on the Georgia side of the river. Even without the Five Falls this stretch has a high concentration of Class III+ rapids and is stunningly beautiful. The carry out at Camp Creek is a little longer and noticeably steeper than the other Chatooga carries, but that is ameliorated somewhat by the fact that it is not necessary to make the 40-minute paddle across Tugaloo Reservoir to the next possible take-out. There was some flippage and some walkage, but no serious carnage, and we ate dinner at *la Cabana* Mexican restaurant in Clayton. We stayed a third night at Tallulah Falls SP CG because our next stop, the Pigeon River, is not convenient to any campground, and we try to avoid breaking/pitching camp too

often.

Wednesday, 5/18: Pigeon River. 1360 CFS (USGS Waterville).

We slept late because the Pigeon release was scheduled for 2:00 PM and the put-in was less than two hours from camp. By now we had lost Liz, Sandy, and Larry, and were down to eight vehicles. We stopped at the Clayton Walmart to buy a case of beer for the raft guides of the outfitter that allows us to park on their lot at the take-out, and we stopped at Racetrack to fuel up on cheap(er) Georgia gas before re-entering North Carolina. As it happened, the release started around 1:00, and we were ready to put on by 1:30. This was another carnage-free day, though one of our canoeists was out front and floated, all unaware, into the most difficult rapid (emerging upright and unscathed)! We had gone to leave take-out vehicles at our usual take-out at USA Raft, but they wanted \$5.00/vehicle to park, so we took out at Wildwater, Ltd., who offered us free parking, and so Wildwater got the 30-pack of beer for their guides. Back on the road again we stopped for dinner at the Sagebrush Steakhouse in Newport, TN, then headed for Hot Springs, NC. For years I have tried to avoid the Hot Springs Campground, sleeping in my truck up on the Appalachian Trail, high on the ridge above the French Broad, but this year there was someone new at the guard shack, a young man named Tommy who has married into the family that owns the place. Tommy is smart, helpful, and cooperative, and he worked his reservation system 'til he found us two sites available through Friday night, one a river-front site and one directly across

the road, on which he allowed us to park all eight vehicles and pitch six tents, at a total cost of \$3.67/person/night. What a deal!

Thursday, 5/19: Big Laurel Creek. 2" (painted gauge).

This was a rare bit of good fortune! It had rained the night before and so, instead of paddling the French Broad, we caught this mountain gem. There were a fair number of carries around the Stairstep, Suddy Hole, and Narrows rapids (there might have been more if our canoes were as lightweight as the kayaks) and a couple of swims, but everyone had a great time. When we reached the French Broad we split up for the two big remaining rapids; some of us ran Kayaker's Ledge, and fewer of us ran Frank Bell's Rapid, while the rest of us ran to the left of the respective islands. Because we were camped near the riverbank at Hot Springs Campground we took out at camp, and I and one other got a ride back to our vehicles at the put-in. We ate a good, slightly upscale, dinner at the Iron Horse Cafe in Hot Springs.

Friday, 5/20: French Broad River, Section 9. 1,900 CFS (USGS Marshall).

It was still cool and cloudy, I had run French Broad Section 9 a week earlier (and the lower half the day before), and the French Broad is one of the rivers I boat most frequently, so I took the day off, as did Mick. Those who boated reported having had another good day on the river. Because I wasn't boating, Lois, Mick and I had ensured that all vehicles were at the take-out. We loaded up into three

(Continued on page 4)

SMOKIES (Continued from page 3)
vehicles and drove into the town of Weaverville to Blue Mountain Pizza, where we listened to live old-timey music (banjo, two guitars, and upright bass) while we ate.

Saturday, 5/21: Nolichucky Gorge. 1,200 CFS (USGS Embreeville).

Once again I didn't boat, and once again we got everyone to the put-in in my van and Dan's van. Those who ran the river reported having had another stellar day. At the take-out we said our good-byes, most of the group hit the highway to get partway back to DC. Mick, David,

and I went home by way of the Asiana Grand Buffet in Asheville.

Sunday, 5/22: driving day.

Those from up north all drove home on Sunday.

For the third year in a row we had timely rainfall that allowed us to catch a stream that some of us had never run (and which the rest of us love): Big Laurel Creek. The other six boating days we were on southern standards: Tellico, Chatooga, Pigeon, French Broad, and Nolichucky. Dan's wife Lois doesn't boat, but she hikes, bicycles, and takes pictures of us at the put-ins

and take-outs, and was a good travelling companion in camp and at dinner.

I'd like to thank all my northern friends for coming south to boat with me again this year. The week of this trip is one of the high points in my year, every year. This year I was fortunate to boat with some people I hadn't boated with in over a decade, as well as some I had never boated with, though I was sorry to miss some of the old regulars. Once again, despite the cold, it was another great week of southern Appalachian rivers.

Moorman's River, Reservoir to Millington Bridge, March 19 by Dick Pierce

Paddlers: Steve Ettinger, Dick Pierce, Terry Irani, Todd & Steve Garvis, Ken Cohen, Carter Hearn & Ursy Potter, and Alf Cooley – 10 boats (3 OC-1s, 1 C-1, 6 K-1s) – All of us making a first descent.

Travel: 130 miles from DC. left @ 8:30, put in @ 1:00, out @ 5:30,

Level: Moormans gauge (77 mi²) [ca 5 mi below our take-out] read 540 cfs (2 hr lag). This was two days after a major downpour, which increased the volume at the gauge from 250 cfs to 3,000 (a rise of almost 6 feet on the staff) in a mere 4 hours. The painted RC gauge on the Millington (Rt. 671) bridge was 1 foot, the same level as on the Rt. 610 bridge (into White Hall). This was perfect for our run – the rocks all well padded, and yet the water did not form too ferocious hydraulics – well, not for most in the group.

Weather: Sunny with high clouds, changing over to rain as we took out.

The Run: We got off to a late start and spent 4½ vigorous hours on the creek. Put into a fine pool; the action starts right away. That it is below a reservoir means it flows only occasionally, and so the streambed is festooned with saplings, which can make some of the rapids a little dicey. The gradient is on the steep side, so we were constantly paddling and steering. Also, the stream was so narrow, we were strung out most of the time, which sorely diminished our usual discussions of world problems, and hindered keeping track of where each of the sparrows was at any one time. Toward the end the gradient lets off, as the Doyles River arrives (we never saw it), doubling the volume. Sight lines were in general good, and we espied the two cross-stream logs in plenty of time to take out and walk.

Carnage: Interestingly, all six upsets were performed by the kayakers, I contributing two. My problem was first not leaning forward in a triple set of roller hydraulics, each of which slowed my boat until the last one grabbed the stern, and over I went. Then, right at the take-out Millington Bridge I misinterpreted friends' signals and plunged headfirst into the meat of a one-foot froth-hole just under the left side of the bridge and turned turtle. In each case fellow paddlers retrieved items (throw-rope, paddle) I'd thought terminally lost. Someone was trashed in a hydraulic roller after going over a 1-foot raised concrete ford. Several others, for their part, were driven into creekside brambles and emerged with lacerated hands and faces – Carter in particular looked like Jesus after the crown of thorns. Another kayaker lost his paddle, Todd forked over his and

Clear Shade Creek and Shade Creek, May 28

by Rick Koller

It was the Memorial Day weekend and the rain gods had been generous; many river choices were available, along with excellent weather. I was predestined to be a one-day-wonder paddler and decided to check out the Stonycreek River basin for potential amusement. As it happened, the area got a lot of rain Friday night and some creeks that I had not run in awhile or never had were up. The paddling triumvirate of Lou Campagna, Larry Lempert and myself convened at the crowded Myersville Mac's Saturday morning and decided to visit the Clear Shade Creek put-in for appraisal.

This creek run starts in a state forest at an extremely convenient and beautifully forested put-in. We took a look and the stream was running clear and fast with about a foot of water in the bed. I thought it looked doable despite the AW recommendation that it wasn't, so what the heck we decided to go for it, a very short dither. As it turned out it was at the minimum level (Ferndale was 5.5 or 6 if my memory is correct), but was eminently runnable. The first 2 miles are fast and flat reminded me of the Thornton River. Clear Shade is very scenic through the state forest, most enjoyable. We saw several trout fishermen along the way and could have accessed the creek below the flatwater based on the presence of the anglers. Will have to check out a Pennsylvania gazetteer to look for the access road to this point.

We were using an old edition of Ed Gertler's guidebook to Pennsylvania that Larry had brought with him. Ed warns, in the description, of a dam 2 miles downstream from the put in. Update your old books, the dam is gone and couldn't see any sign of one for that matter. After the first couple miles of easy cruising the creek starts to descend and the rapids started forming up for us. They were mostly class II-III bouldery gardens but at the low water level we had to do a lot of maneuvering to miss the many boat busters. It

was a workout but a lot of fun.

More often than not, I experience something unusual on whitewater trips and this trip was no exception. As we neared the take out I noticed some commotion on the shore and spotted a guy with his dog waving his arms and shouting. I looked to where he was pointing and saw another dog getting swept downstream toward an ugly horizon line. This other dog also belonged to the excited guy it turned out. A kayaker tried to catch up to the frightened hound but couldn't get there in time and the poor animal went over the edge. From upstream it looked nasty but in fact it was not so gnarly a drop and the dog just got bumped a little and was rescued a little ways downstream no worse for wear, a happy ending.

This swimming event triggered a secondary dither among the BRV'ers. The day was absolutely beautiful and we had the opportunity to do a section of Shade Creek which Clear Shade was joining just downstream from our takeout. At first geezer fatigue was influencing our decision (at least mine) and I was leaning toward laziness and beer. Our dithering was observed by a pedestrian kayaker who had the bad luck to have dislocated his shoulder on the Shade and was waiting out the day when his companions could fetch him to his car at the takeout. His wise counsel decided the choice. He reminded us that you don't catch the Shade with lots of water and 80 degrees very often. This obvious truth and Larry's persistent lobbying got us back on the river. We got a second wind and ran the last 3.5 miles of the Shade into Stonycreek River and it was a blast. Lots of water and hole dodging ended a great day that was only slightly affected by Lou's inappropriate behavior at the toll booths on the Pennsylvania turnpike. A case of Easy Pass abuse, but that's another long winded tale.

ended the run with panache, using Steve's extra canoe paddle to propel his kayak. As usual, Terry did the whole descent just with hand paddles. Once off the river and with rain coming on, our departure was delayed by an automobile key malfunction. After several minutes of joshing the driver – a hiker parked just ahead came out of the woods, impelled possibly by the rain's onset, and kindly drove a couple of the more presentable of us back up to the put-in to obtain serviceable wheels.

Harper's Ferry Access — A Progress Report

[posted to www.AmericanWhitewater.org]

The "Needles" section of the Potomac and the Shenandoah "Staircase" are two of the most popular Class II-III summer runs for Mid-States paddlers. This narrow valley also contains several major railroad and highway crossings along with the historic town of Harper's Ferry. Beginning in the summer of 2010 paddlers began to see many of the best put-ins and take-outs around Harpers Ferry bought up, or blocked or severely restricted by The National Park Service and local law enforcement. That has made other access areas overcrowded and impacted local residents. Harpers Ferry is becoming a bigger magnet for tourists, fishermen, hikers, bicyclists, tubers and rafters in addition to paddlers. We're glad to share the fun, but we want our interests to be balanced with other users when decisions are made.

Eleven paddlers and leaders of the Mason Dixon and Monocacy clubs, and Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival, Inc. had a very productive meeting a few weeks ago with Rebecca Harriett, the superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, and Kevin Brandt, the superintendent of C&O Canal National Historic Park. We asked for the meeting to begin building a relationship with the park leadership so that paddlers can be "in the room" when decisions are made.

One of the challenges at Harpers Ferry is that jurisdictional authority is split many ways. There are two national parks (Harpers Ferry and C&O Canal), three states, plus county and town governments. However, in initial phone conversations and at last night's meeting we have been impressed that Superintendent Harriett makes it her business to keep tabs and exercise input on a very wide range of activity by the other jurisdictions. We take this as a positive signal that working closely with Harpers Ferry park will help even when issues technically might fall under one of the other jurisdictions.

We received commitments to look into better utilization of the public road between Bakerton, now a private put-in, and Dam 3 (Needles run); and improved access at the upper 340 bridge by possibly allowing paddlers to unload, then park at the nearby visitor center and catch a shuttle bus back to the put-in (Shenandoah bridge-to-bridge run). There seems like some possibility of allowing playboaters to put-in at the upper bridge, then take out at the confluence and walk back; the park's policy has been that river users walking through town erodes the character of the historic town. Finally, we discussed an additional put-in location on the Maryland side of Needles, upriver from Lock 34, although it does not appear to be usable in its current condition. We also discussed further collaboration between paddling organizations and the parks to educate the public and reduce littering.

We have started an open forum on the Mason Dixon message board so paddlers can "sound off" on issues that impact Harpers Ferry river access. Please check it out and make your voice heard:

www.masondixoncanoecclub.com/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=421 There is a simple registration step but the board is open to members and non-members. Let us know what you think is the most important issue, or just write a note about what makes Harpers Ferry special to you. Maybe you know about a river access situation elsewhere that was successfully resolved. Whether you paddle the waters near Harpers Ferry frequently or only occasionally, your input is welcome and will help us keep up the momentum for solutions.

Potomac River Cleanup Trip

Saturday, July 16 from 10 am to 3 pm, Riley's Lock to Pennyfield Lock

Please join us for this combination summer float trip, picnic on an island, and river cleanup trip as we pick up trash from eddies and islands along the GW Canal on the Potomac, including the island where the BRV holds our annual picnic in August. A shuttle will be set up between Riley's, where we put in, and Pennyfield, where we will leave the trash. Bring your own boat, paddling gear, cold drink, and lunch snack. We will provide trash bags, gloves, and long-handled grabbers. We plan to take a short lunch break on one of the shady islands. Contact Kay Fulcomer at kayfulcomer@comcast.net or Kathleen Sengstock at kathleen456@verizon.net.

Please, please join us! Bring as many paddlers and other friends as you can. We need all the help we can get. Non-paddlers are more than welcome to come and help with shuttles and picking up trash near Pennyfield Lock.

Doyles River

A group of BRV'ers recently targeted the Moormans River for a midweek paddle. This stream is one of the closest Rivanna/James paddlable tribs. to our area. A recent study found that 36% of the Rivanna basin is categorized as either healthy or exceptionally healthy. This is better than almost any basin in Virginia. For example, 7% of the Shenandoah basin is considered to be healthy. A short paddlable tributary (Doyles River) was rated healthy and a nonpaddlable trib. of the Doyles was rated as exceptional. Good to know if you splash water on you that it is so healthy. Now, when these waters near Charlottesville...or even the James at Richmond – I keep my mouth shut when paddling.

— Ed Evangelidi

ROSTER UPDATES

Wesley Bryden 534 Black Twig Road Linden, VA 22642 571-722-6893 H wbryden@brydenmarketing.com	Keith Merkel 14300 Summer Tree Rd., Apt. A Centreville, VA 20121 703-222-6210 C krm108@juno.com	Mike Weiss 12 Parkway Road, Apt. K Greenbelt, MD 20770 410-562-3661 H michaelthomasweiss@yahoo.com
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2011 BRV TRIP SCHEDULE

(mid-July to mid-Sept)

Date	Location	Level	Contact
Jul 16-17	Dealer's Choice	HI	David Kogut
Jul 16-17	ACA Level 4 Swiftwater Rescue Class		Charlie Duffy/Ron Ray
Jul 23-24	Lehigh Release	LI	Alan Dickerson
Jul 30-31	ACA Trip Leader Assessment		Charlie Duffy
Aug 5-7	Flood City Music Festival (Johnstown, PA)	PN/HI	Caldwell/Evangelidi
Aug 13	BRV Moonlight Picnic	N/PN	Club Officers
Aug 20-21	Lehigh Release	LI	Alan Dickerson
Sep 3-5	New River Rendezvous	A	

Thanks to those who've posted trips! We've still got some holes to fill this summer — please contact Mike Martin (imnostooge@yahoo.com) if you can help out.

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 2011: January 26, March 22, May 10, August 13 (Moonlight Picnic), September TBD, November TBD, December TBD (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.

2011 BRV Officers: Rick Koller, President; Mark Wray, VP; Mike Martin & Daryl Hall, Trip Coordinators; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

2011 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 BRVers. 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 BRVers. 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

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Deadline for September *Voyageur*:
Friday, September 2nd

MOONLIGHT PICNIC
Saturday, August 13th