

THE VOYAGEUR



www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org

March 2006

THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

Spring is just around the corner. I am starting to receive email about trips in the near future. The excitement is building up after a 4-month layoff from boating. I look forward to seeing my old friends again. Hopefully we will all be making a few new friends on the river.

The BRV is looking for a new vice president. Our VP resigned at the Board of Directors Meeting. Anyone even showing a modest interest in the job will be quickly appointed. No campaigning for this job is necessary. Qualifications required are minimal to non-existent. Compensation is the love of all your fellow BRVers.

The Board of Directors meeting was not a total disaster. We did find a way to spend \$500 of your money as contributions to several river organizations. Clark Childers gave us an audit of the BRV finances. We still have a surplus of dollars despite our spendthrift ways.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 22nd. I have not arranged for a program at this time. No offers to do a show will be turned down. I hope to see you there and on the river.

Ernie

Trips for 2006

by Bob Maxey

The trip schedule for 2006 is listed on pages 6-7. There is a good variety of trips from old-fashioned (and fun) canoe campers to advanced trips on the Tygart and Upper Gauley. Also, Steve Ettinger (301-215-7564) leads, as he has for many years, trips every Thursday. Get in touch with the Trip Coordinator to make certain that your skills and equipment are up to the river before you go. Also, again this year we have assembled email lists of BRV members by interest category, i.e., N, I, A. I hope that the trip leaders will use these lists to inform interested BRVers of a trip ahead of time. Thank you to all who volunteered. If you are interested in adding trips of any type to the schedule, even on dates already covered, please contact myself or Frank Fico for publication in the May, July or September *Voyageur*.

Enjoy!

Lead a River Cleanup Site

Join the Potomac Conservancy in the 18th annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup! Volunteer to lead a cleanup site on **Saturday, April 8, 9 AM—noon**. Site leaders will be responsible for recruiting volunteers, picking up cleanup materials (trash bags, gloves) from Potomac Conservancy offices prior to the event, registering and leading volunteers at the cleanup, collecting data on the gathered trash, and delivering the collected trash to a suitable drop-off site. The Conservancy already has several sites identified, but is seeking to expand its reach in the watershed. If you have ideas for locations that need cleaning up, please contact us. Contact: Bryan Seipp, Director of Restoration, seipp@potomac.org.

The BRV Says "Thanks!" by Kathleen Sengstock

The BRV would like to thank the following conservation organizations for contributing memberships, prizes and other support for our 2005 Holiday Party.

American Rivers

Contact persons: Rebecca Wodder (President), Chelsea Lane-Miller (Staff) cmiller@americanrivers.org, Address: 1025 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 720, Washington, DC 20005, Phone: 202-347-7550, FAX: 202-347-9240, E-mail: amrivers@americanrivers.org, Web: www.americanrivers.org

The organization is dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy natural rivers and the variety of life they sustain for people, fish, and wildlife. It was founded in 1973 to increase the number of rivers protected by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to prevent construction of large new dams on our last wild rivers. They have worked to remove dams that no longer serve their intended purpose or where a dam's costs outweigh its current benefits. This work has been accomplished by providing technical assistance to groups involved in individual dam removal efforts and by internal projects. For example, in 1996, the group worked with the operators of the Glen Canyon Dam (Colorado River) to release millions of gallons of water to revive riverside habitat. The group has fought to protect the Columbia River's endangered salmon and steelhead. In 1998, in conjunction with Native American tribes, Washington State and the

Federal government, they established the first Habitat Conservation Plan that required dam owners to protect fish habitat. The Hanford Reach, the most scenic remaining spawning grounds, was designated as a National Monument. In the Mid-Atlantic region, the group is concerned about trout streams and the migratory fisheries (American shad, blueback herring, alewife, and striped bass) that are threatened by dams that impede whitewater and in the process degrade habitat and block access to historic spawning.

Anacostia Watershed Society

Contact person: James Connolly (Executive Director) jim@anacostiaws.org, Address: The George Washington House, 4302 Baltimore Avenue, Bladensburg, MD 20710, Phone: 301-699-6204, FAX : (301) 699-3317, E-mail: info@anacostiaws.org, Web: www.anacostiaws.org

The organization was founded in 1989 with the goal of making the Anacostia River and its tributaries in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County safe for swimming, fishing, and other aspects of watershed recreation. The group wanted urban children to feel connected to nature and to have outdoor, if not wilderness, recreational opportunities. The group has recognized the importance of industrial pollution, stormwater run-off, streambed erosion, and loss of wetland and woodlands to regional environmental degradation. This organization works primarily through

volunteers to pressure polluters to stop and to persuade local governments to pass and implement good environmental policies. It shows the potential of the area by providing water tours of the area (ponton boat or canoe on the Kingfisher Canoe Trail) as well as paddling clinics. More than 400 people have attended their paddling clinics in the last 6 years. It provides education programs for both children and adults. Over 5,500 children have participated in their Watershed Explorer's River Habitat educational programs. The group organizes river clean-ups, removal of invasive plants, tree plantings, and wetland plant restoration activities.

Cacapon Institute

Contact person : Neil Gilles (Executive Director), Address: Route 1 Box 326, High View, WV 26808, Phone: 304-856-1385, FAX: 304-856-1386, E-mail: pcrel@mountain.net, Web: www.cacaponinstitute.org

In 1985, the Cacapon Institute, which was then the Pine Cabin Run Ecological Laboratory (PCREL), was established by George Constantz and Nancy Ailes. The institute's mission was the research and teaching of Appalachian natural history. A smokehouse was used for the first laboratory. The following year, water quality studies for the Cacapon River were initiated and school groups began visiting the laboratory. The institute published *Portrait of a River: The Ecological Baseline of the Cacapon River*. Later surveys included the Greenbrier River, Lost River,

North River, the South Branch of the Potomac, and tributaries of the Cacapon. Some of this work was captured in the publication *Greenbrier: a Scientific Portrait of a West Virginia River*. The Institute also initiated a cooperative project with local farmers, extension agencies, and regional businesses to raise eco-friendly beef (Headwaters Farm Petite Beef). The Institute has continued its educational activities with its *Making Science Real* and *Stream Scholars* summer camps. The institute has continued its scientific and outreach work with its Stream Flow Project in which the effects of 30 shallow, in-stream structures replicating the beaver dams that were so prevalent in the region in the past. Monitoring equipment will be installed in two headwater watersheds, using a paired-watershed design. Data on surface water flow and alluvial groundwater levels will be collected with the hopes of enhancing bank and alluvial water storage, increasing surface flow in local streams during base flow, and reducing sedimentation.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **"Save the Bay"**

Contact persons: Leslie Tinker (Member Relations) member@savethebay.cbf.org, Heather Tuckfield (Speaker's Bureau), Address: Philip Merrill Environmental Center, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403, Phone: 410.268.8816, E-mail: chesapeake@cbf.org, Web: www.cbf.org

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation was founded in 1967 and is dedicated to saving the Chesapeake Bay watershed and improving its fisheries through the reduction of

pollution in the Bay and its tributaries and by restoration of underwater grasses and surrounding wetlands and forests. CBF headquarters is in Annapolis, MD, and has state offices in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. CBF also operates 15 environmental education programs. The organization teaches watershed classes and field programs for children and adults and provides educational material for teachers. Many of the activities take place in the Merrill Center, which is made of recycled materials or materials created via processes that do not cause environmental damage. The Center shows how water use can be reduced in order to minimize the need to draw from groundwater wells and to minimize wastewater flow to local sewage treatment plants and subsequent discharge to the Bay. The Center uses waterless composting toilets, a rainwater catchment system captures rainwater for reuse, and natural landscaping that improves the soil absorbency and reduces watering requirements. In 2005, the organization worked to have the Virginia Assembly pass legislation and funding for nitrogen reduction from sewage plants and to restore funding for Maryland's land conservation programs. The organization issues period reports on the health of the Bay.

Friends of Blackwater Canyon

Contact person: Judy Rodd, Address: 501 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, WV 25311, Phone: 304-345-7663, E-mail: info@saveblackwater.org, web: www.saveblackwater.org

The core mission of the organiza-

tion is to protect the Blackwater Canyon, West Virginia's Crown Jewel. The organization was formed in 2000 in response to logging and development threats. In 1995, the public utility, Allegheny Power, decided to sell its land in the canyon. The land consisted of 2,900 acres of scenic vista, endangered species habitat (including Cheat Three-toothed Snails, the Cheat Mountain Salamanders, Virginia Northern Flying Squirrels, Indiana Bats, Virginia Big-eared Bats, and Running Buffalo Clover), and wild river. The corridor had been undisturbed since 1914. The ultimate sale of this land to Allegheny Wood Products was a direct threat to the 7,000 publicly owned acres in the Monongahela National Forest and Blackwater Falls State Park. In 1998, a coalition of groups banded together to create a National Park. In 11/2001, the Friends of Blackwater started their "Special Places" Campaign with a mass mailing, e-mail, and TV ads. This resulted in the delivery of 3,000 postcards to Governor Wise. In 1/2002, Governor Wise purchased an additional 500 acres from Allegheny Power for Blackwater Falls State Park. Later in the same year, the group initiated clean-up of acid mine drainage in the North Fork of the Blackwater River. Because of continued threats from logging roads, the group has requested and obtained environmental impact assessments from the Forest Service. They are currently encouraging citizens to write letters to Clyde Thompson, Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, regarding the impact that an Allegheny Wood Products Easement would have on the Blackwa-

(Continued on page 4)

THANKS (Continued from page 3)
ter Trail. (Comment period ends 2/6/2006.) The group has continued to lobby for a National Park. In 3/2005, State Senator John Yoder requested National Park feasibility study by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study (Senate Concurrent Resolution 38).

Potomac RiverKeeper, Inc.

Contact person: Michele Bowers
michele@potomacriverkeeper.org,
Address: 1717 Massachusetts Ave,
NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC
20036, Phone: 202-222-0707, E-mail:
keeper@potomacriverkeeper.org,
Web:
www.potomacriverkeeper.org

The RiverKeeper mission is to safeguard the ecological integrity of the Potomac River, its headwaters, its tributaries, and its watershed by citizen action, advocacy and enforcement of pollution regulations. Riverkeeper believes in the rights of citizens to enjoy clean water and our nation's water resources. They actively identify threats to the river systems including poultry waste, acid mine runoff, fertilizer runoff from agricultural fields, sewer plant failures, snakehead invasions, pipeline diversions, and new power plants. The Potomac Riverkeeper has a river monitoring program for which volunteers regularly report on possible water quality problems. If you would like to volunteer to help monitor part of your favorite river or tributary, please let them know.

River Network

Contact persons: Pat Munoz
(Organizational Development)

pmunoz@rivernetwork.org,
MichaelCurnes (Membership)
mcurnes@rivernetwork.org, Ad-
dress: 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite
1130, Portland, OR 97204, Phone:
503-241-3506, FAX: 503-241-
9256, E-mail:
info@rivernetwork.org, Web:
www.rivernetwork.org, DC re-
gional office address: 3814 Alber-
marle St., NW, Washington, DC
20016, DC regional phone:202-
364-2550, DC regional FAX: 202-
364-2520, DC regional E-mail:
dc@rivernetwork.org

River Network helps people understand the role that rivers and watershed play in their lives and how to take practical steps in organizing and fundraising so that they can protect their river or watershed. The group has prepared a workbook for fundraising by river and watershed advocacy groups. It has also prepared a directory of 200+ foundations that monetarily support such river conservation activities and instructions for grant applications. River Network further strengthens the watershed conservation community by facilitating communication and information sharing between river and watershed conservation organizations throughout the country. It has a directory of 6000 such groups. It maintains a calendar of activities that are germane to many of these groups. The River Network will sponsor *River Rally 2006*—to be held at the Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH, May 5-9, 2006.

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

Contact persons: Hugh Rogers

(President) 304-636-2662,
rogers@wvhighlands.org, Dave
Saville (Administrative Assistant)
304-284, 9548,
daves@labyrinth.net, Julian Martin
(Speakers Bureau) 304-342-8989
imagine mew@aol.com, Address:
PO Box 306, Charleston, WV
25321, Web:
www.wvhighlands.org

The Conservancy is West Virginia's oldest environmental advocacy group. It was formed in 1967 in response to a proposed 4-lane highway through forested areas, Corridor H, and seeks to preserve the State's natural beauty. To that end, the group has been active on a variety of fronts. They were instrumental in creation of the wilderness area in the Monongahela National Forest, the source of many of the streams we paddle. As a constant steward of the Forest, they partnered with the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition (www.wvwild.org) to produce a video (Vision for a Wild Mon) and to solicit more than 15,000 comments to Clyde Thompson, Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, regarding the pending Monongahela Forest Plan. Alternative 2 would increase logging and clear-cut size and reduce protection for areas such as Seneca Creek. Alternative 3 would increase the size and number of protected areas. The group also seeks responsible logging elsewhere in the State and has documented the increase in flooding after deforestation. The group also recognizes the destructive impact of mountaintop removal that is currently widespread in southern West Virginia. The resultant valley fills impair watersheds. The group has pursued liti-

gation against the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers for illegally issuing permits for such mining operations. Besides being an environmental group, the Conservancy wants people to enjoy West Virginia's forests. Its members lead hikes. A guidebook for such hikes is available in hardcopy or on CD.

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Contact persons: Liz Garland (Executive Director) lgarland@wvivers.org, Joe Peabody (Development Director) jpeabody@wvivers.org, Address: 801 North Randolph Avenue, Elkins, WV 26241, Phone: 304-637-7201, FAX-304-637-4084, Web: www.wvivers.org

The Coalition was formed by West Virginia and Washington, DC paddlers such as James Shumway and Mac Thornton to conserve and restore West Virginia's exceptional rivers and streams. Evan Hansen (304-291-8205, ehan-san@wvivers.org) is a staff scien-

tist whose expertise is water quality standards and parameters. He reviews water permits for adequacy and provides technical support to watershed groups. WVRC's Watershed Permit Assistance Program was established to achieving clean water by improving public participation in the water permitting process and by helping those municipal, industrial, mining, and other groups who discharge pollutants into West Virginia's rivers and lakes to achieve better permit compliance. The program also assesses coal mining operation permits because they affect the intensity of downstream flooding from surface mines and the probability of ecosystems damage from failed slurry impoundments. In addition, the program evaluates Clean Water Act 404 permits because they permit use of heavy machinery in rivers to remove debris and to reconfigure the banks. These permits have been used to bury hundreds of miles of West Virginia streams with waste from mountaintop removal coal mining operations. To dovetail with Evan's work, the

WVRC has prepared a 60-page technical wastewater manual to help local watershed groups in West Virginia correct the ongoing problem of inadequate wastewater treatment in West Virginia. The WVRC also pursues other activities to improve water quality. It has sought to prevent the Mettiki E-mine from damaging the North Fork of the Potomac River and the Blackwater River of the Cheat with acid drainage. It is also appealing a permit that would permit mercury discharge into the Ohio River in Marshall County by PPG Industries. The Coalition also works with citizens to obtain for Tier 2.5 protection for streams such as Watkins Run in Preston County. Because all work and no play is a bad thing, the WVRC also facilitated access to the Gauley River for the 2005 Whitewater Season and ran the shuttle service to help paddlers and reduce auto congestion in the canyon.

These organizations defend the rivers and wild places where we paddle. Look them up and support their work!

Newly Published: Medical Emergencies Guide for Paddlers

When a medical emergency occurs out in the wilderness, preemptive knowledge is of supreme importance. Physician and outdoor athlete Dr. Patrick Brighton presents critical information every paddler needs to effectively handle a medical crisis. The new Paddlers' Guide for Treating Medical Emergencies prepares participants to:

- Prevent illness and injury
- Recognize illness and injury when it occurs
- Remain calm and implement appropriate treatment when needed

By keeping descriptions and remedies for injury and illness simple, the book enables paddlers to be informed, stay calm, and appropriately treat themselves or fellow participants. Reading a book before initiating the activity also enhances awareness of potential problems and fosters prevention of accidents and disease. With a refreshing splash of humor, Paddlers' Guide for Treating Medical Emergencies is as entertaining as it is informative.

From fractures to lacerations to backcountry evacuation, Paddlers' Guide for Treating Medical Emergencies is the go-to book when you need medical information fast. The guide (published by Menasha Ridge Press, distributed by The Globe Pequot Press) is available for \$9.95 in bookstores, outdoor stores, on the Web at www.menasharidge.com, or by calling 800-243-0495.

BRV Trip Schedule 2006

Date	Trip	Difficulty ¹	Coordinator	Phone Number	Email
March 11	Class 3 Creeks	I/A	Lou Campagna	301-929-0136	Campagna.Lou@dol.gov
March 18	North River/ Goshen Pass	I/A	Rick Koller	301-890-8368	rkoller@helix.nih.gov
March 18	Antietam Creek	N	Jim Finucane	301-365-3485 ²	Jim.Finucane@eia.doe.gov
March 19	Class 3 Creeks	I/A	Larry Lempert	Use email	larry.7313@verizon.net
March 24-25	Laurel Fork/Dry Fork	A	Gus Anderson	703-903-9738	boatngus@aol.com
April 1	Lehigh	N/I	Beth Koller	240-506-0417	ekoller2@earthlink.net
April 2	Tye River	I	Ron Knipling	703-533-2895	rknipling@aol.com
April 8-9	Laurel Fork/Kitzmilller	A	Bob Maxey	703-823-1439	maxey.bob@epa.gov
April 8	Upper Rappahannock	I	Phil DiModica	703-525-6907	
April 8	Potomac Cleanup	All	Kathleen Sengstock	301-617-2676	kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
April 15-16	Dealer's Choice	I/A	Jon Hitchings/Karen Egbert	301-649-5833	jon.karen@att.net
April 22	Bloomington	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
April 22	Anacostia Cleanup	All	Kathleen Sengstock	301-617-2676	kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
April 22-23	Stony Creek Rendevous	I/A	Joe Sullivan	703-759-7174	Sully_jl@yahoo.com
April 29	Rappahannock Raptor	N	Jim Finucane	301-365-3485 ²	Jim.Finucane@eia.doe.gov
May-Sept,	Local Paddling	N/I	Tom Prunier	703-527-3163	prunier@erols.com
May 6	Bloomington	I	Ginny DeSeau	301-251-2978	vd9t@nih.gov
May 6-7	Tygart	A	Keith Merkel	703-758-8523	
May 13	Lehigh	N/I	Beth Koller	240-506-0417	ekoller2@earthlink.net
May 13	Rappahannock	N/I	Doug White	540-347-7940	dowhite@fcps1.org
May 20	Dealers Choice	I	Lou Campagna	301-929-0136	Campagna.Lou@dol.gov
May 20	Bloomington	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
May 20-21	Lower Yough	I	Pete Dragon ⁴	703-255-3447	Dragon.pete@epa.gov
May 21	Potomac Downriver Race	All	Star Mitchell	301-530-3252	kayakingvstar@aol.com
May 27-29	Smokehole Camper	I	Frank Fico/Gus Anderson	703-318-7998 703-903-	Fico1@netzero.net
May 27-29	Dealers Choice	I/A	Mike Wevrick	202-249-1243	mwevrick@hotmail.com
May 27-29	See note 5 below	All	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
June 3	Local Dealers Choice	I	Clark Childers	703-821-1048	
June 3	Bloomington	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
June Evenings	Local Paddling	N/I	Tom Prunier	703-527-3163	prunier@erols.com
June 10	Lower Yough	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
June 10	Cheat	A	Beth Koller	240-506-0417	ekoller2@earthlink.net
June 11	Violettes Lock	N	Kathleen Sengstock	301-617-2676	kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
June 17-18	Lower Yough	I	Pete Dragon ⁴	703-255-3447	Dragon.pete@epa.gov
June 24	Dealer's choice	I	Mike Wellman/ Marilyn Jones	703-362-2504 202-686-	mwellman@usa.net

June 24	Dealers choice	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
June 25	Staircase	I	Kathleen Sengstock	301-617-2676	kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
July Evenings	Local Paddling	N/I	Tom Prunier	703-527-3163	prunier@erols.com
July 1-9	Smokies with Carolina Canoe Club	I	Ed Evangelidi	304-262-8924	edevange@localnet.com
July 4	DC Fireworks	N	Star Mitchell	301-530-3252	starmitchell@verizon.net
July 8	Staircase	I	Larry Gladieux	703-406-2423	lglad@adelphia.net
July 8	BRV Picnic	All	Club officers		See July newsletter.
July 15	Dealers Choice	I	Ed Grove	703-533-8334	eddyout@erols.com
July 15-16	Lower Yough	I	Pete Dragon ⁴	703-255-3447	Dragon.pete@epa.gov
July 20-23	Cheat/Yough	I/A	Wes Mills	703-866-9815	Wesmills1@cox.net
July 22	Lower Yough	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
July 24	Little Falls or Mather Gorge	I/A	Ed Grove	703-533-8334	eddyout@erols.com
July 29	Dealers choice	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
Aug Evenings	Local Paddling	N/I	Tom Prunier	703-527-3163	prunier@erols.com
Aug 5	Lower Yough	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
Aug 19	S. Fork Shenan.	N	Bob Maxey	703-823-1439	Maxey.bob@epa.gov
Aug 19	Lower Yough	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
Aug 20-26	Ontario Rivers	I/A	Mike Wevrick	202-249-1243	mwevrick@hotmail.com
Aug 26-27	Lower Yough	I	Pete Dragon ⁴	703-255-3447	Dragon.pete@epa.gov
Sept. 2-4	New	A	Ernie Katz	703-356-7105	erniekatz@webtv.net
Sept Evenings	Local Paddling	N/I	Tom Prunier	703-527-3163	prunier@erols.com
Sept 9-10	Upper & Lower Gauley	A	Court Olgivie	703-528-5185	courtogilvie@yahoo.com
Sept 16	Lower Yough	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
Oct 7-9	New Jersey Pine Barrens	N/I	Ed Evangelidi	304-262-8924	edevange@localnet.com
Oct 28	Nantahala	I	Jennifer Plyler	301-445-4815 ³	Pls98@erols.com
Oct 28	Russell Fork – Class 3 section	I	Beth Koller	240-506-0417	ekoller2@earthlink.net
Nov 4-5	Tohickon	I	Courtney Caldwell	703-802-0155	ccaldwell@aol.com
Nov 11-12	New Jersey Pine Barrens	N/I	Ed Evangelidi	304-262-8924	edevange@localnet.com
Nov 24-Dec 3	Eastern VA NC area	N/I	Ed Evangelidi	304-262-8924	edevange@localnet.com

Notes from trip leaders:

1. Difficulty: Novice (N), Intermediate (I), Advanced (A)
2. Do not make phone calls to Jim after 9:00 pm
3. Do not make phone calls to Jennifer after 8:00 pm.
4. Call Pete no later than the Wednesday preceding the scheduled weekend trip. This should allow sufficient time to reserve boat permits during the busy summer months.
5. Southern rivers and hiking or whatever your pleasure Memorial Day weekend. Base camp camping between the Nolichucky and French Broad Rivers. Lots of rivers and activities to choose from. Great for non-paddlers also.

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 2006: January 24, March 22, May 16, July 8 (Moonlight Picnic), September 12, November 14, December 9 (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 North exit and go about 0.6 miles north 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.

2006 BRV Officers: Ernie Katz, President; [vacant], VP; Bob Maxey, Trip Coordinator; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation Chairman.

2006 Board of Directors: Lou Campagna, Ed Grove, Ron Knipling, Wes Mills, Court Ogilvie, Joe Sullivan

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 editors.

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 May *Voyageur*:

Friday, April 28, 2006

MARCH MEETING
Wednesday, March 22