

THE VOYAGEUR



www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org

May 2010

THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

I know a lot of you got out to enjoy the bountiful spring waters we've had this year. I've been out a few times, however nowhere near as much as I would prefer. So I have vicariously been experiencing the Webster Springs Elk Festival, the West Virginia week of rivers and the Merkel week of rivers. And from the reports I heard, they were all great times. Hopefully, we'll get some details in this newsletter. The May meeting is coming up on Wednesday the 26th so I hope to get first hand reports at the post meeting pizza rendezvous.

I'm looking forward to the summer season as well; the Cheat Canyon in warm weather is one of my favorite trips and I hope to organize a few outings in the coming months. Also, the Gauley in the summer is a fantastic trip. The Upper at low release is a different river, easier yet still challenging with some of the moderate rapids getting harder and some of the harder ones getting a bit easier (e.g. Lost Paddle). The Lower Gauley at a lower release becomes a daylong surf-fest if one chooses. Anyway, I will check the trip schedule and paddle more; it's very easy since its been online: <http://www.blueridgevoyageurs.org/Schedule.html>.

Our meeting program hopefully will feature photo award winner Beth Koller and a collection of her pictures, no doubt an interesting variety so come on out to see and hear the stories behind them. And VP Mark Wray will be organizing the moonlight picnic in August this year. See you at the meeting.

Rick

Where's the Water?

April 25—May 1, 2010; by Keith Merkel



Don't get me wrong. We had a great trip! But we did a lot more driving than I would have preferred.

Joining me on this adventure were 6 kayakers and one open boater, all but one boating the entire week. Len Rice, Ned Howenstine, and myself were the BRV representatives. Lee Belknap joined us from NC. The rest of the boaters were from New England: Anne Moseley, Marc Bleicher, and open boater Jim Michaud.

Ned Howenstine in Bull Sluice, Section 3, Chattooga

(Continued on page 6)

Elk River Festival, aka Webster Wildwater Weekend April 10-11, 2010; by Mike Martin, photos by Beth Koller

This year ten boaters were part of our annual multi-club Elk Festival trip (aka, the WVWA's Webster Wildwater Weekend) to Webster Springs, WV, which boasts nearby access to Elk basin, "Fruit basket" gems like the Williams, Cranberry, Cherry, Birch, Meadow and other LI to E runs in the upper Gauley and Tygart drainages.

We all stayed in a cabin at Camp Caesar, a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp now run by the 4H club, taking full advantage of the opportunity to have a roof, heat, hot showers, and hot breakfasts and dinner (including fresh-picked ramps) Saturday night in the mess hall. We were joined by about 400 other boaters from near and far

and had a chance to dither with old and new friends about which rivers to run. Camp Caesar is on the banks of the way upper Gauley, near its confluence with the Williams, about ten miles west and about a thousand feet up from Webster Springs, on WV route 20 near Cowen.

We arrived Friday night, having ditched plans to paddle that day due to a windy, cool and cloudy forecast. Well ensconced in our cabin, we had a few drinks and tucked it in early, anticipating the bell that signals breakfast is served; the gauges are posted; let the dithering begin.

Paddlers were Beth Koller, Daryl Hall and me; MCC members Merrill Person and Andrew Petrukov, Andy Reese and his buddy Joe Ault, and David Carrier from CCA. Coastals Dave Stockdill and Jackie Ireland made us a baker's dozen as we scraped through the first riffles on the Lower Cranberry on Saturday on a warm, clear spring day.

After we returned to Camp and had dinner, we opted for a drink and a boaters' bull session at the cabin instead of taking a hike up the hill for the indoor bonfire, the bluegrass band and the awards ceremony for those who participated in Saturday's downriver race on the Elk.

It's probably wise we skipped the party, because we'd made plans to be up and out early Sunday morning for a ten-mile trip on the Elk below Webster Springs, followed, of course, by the five to six-hour drive home.



Dave Stockdill running lower Cranberry Split



Dave Stockdill, Kim Buttleman and Mike Martin jostling for play water



Frolicking on the Cranberry and Elk, April 10-11:
(clockwise from upper left) Kim Buttleman, Daryl Hall, Andrew (Buzzy) Petrukov, Dave Stockdill, Jackie Ireland and “flower girl” Jenny Thomas [photos by Beth Koller]



Late Winter — Spring Paddling Compendium by Mark Wray

March 14: Conway River from just upstream of Kinderhook downstream to the Route 230 bridge. We put on around 12:00 where the stream is right next to the road. We were not sure if this was an official put in but it was wide enough to park a car. The Conway is only about 15 to 20' across here but was running full. Between rain on Saturday and snowmelt we had plenty of water (cold too). The Conway is a tight stream with wave trains, cobble bars, and a few ledges of note. Mostly it's straight ahead run. It's not quite wide enough to eddy turn a 16' canoe. We had to pull around three trees and paddle under or around a few more. We got off around 4:00. It was a fast fun run. Paddlers were Mark Wray, Mark Barker, Henry Herrmann, David Williams.

April 10: Smokehole Canyon from Route 220 bridge to low water bridge. We camped the night before at the Big Bend Campground. We put on about 9:30 and paddled down the canyon. The level was a little low but we only had one tandem crew so scraping was minimal. Two boats ran the slot rapid and two pulled around. Go to You Tube "Wade Crash and Burn" to see the results of one run. The rest of the run was uneventful compared to the start. Most of the run was pick and choose but the chutes had enough water to keep it fun. We ended the morning at the low water bridge and had lunch. After lunch we set up for a second run. This time three boats ran the slot rapid. Go to You Tube "Mark Runs Smokehole Canyon Slot" to see my run. The second run was pretty much like the first. Pick and choose and avoid the fisherman. We headed into Petersburg for dinner and ate at Sue's Country Kitchen which I would highly recommend. Good food and plenty of it for reasonable prices.

April 11: Hopeville Canyon. We hopped over the ridge and got onto Route 55. Since none of us had ever done this run we drove up and down Route 55 a couple of times trying to find what looked like a put in. We finally decided to put in at Dollyland which looked right. While the South Fork had a reasonable level the North Fork was low. We scraped and drug on most what should have been rapids. We all agreed that this would be a fabulous run with another 6" to 1' of water. We took out at the cabins at Route 55 and headed home. Paddlers were Mark Wray, Mark Barker, Wade Turner, Lynn Short, Henry Herrmann.

BRV Conquers Southernmost Rapid in Continental US!

According to BRV adventurer Ed Evangelidi, this rapid on the Hillsborough River near Tampa, Florida is the farthest south. According to Ed, "Not much action at all, but I consider the rapids to be significant for their location." Ed paddled the Hillsborough as part of his trip last winter (see trip report in the March Voyageur). Anyone care to challenge this claim? [photo by Bob Kimmel]





Cheat Narrows, April 20th: (clockwise from upper left) Ocoee Chappelle, Sheila Chappelle (Ocoee's mother), Hans Haucke, Dave Bussey runs Calamity, Marilyn Jones at Calamity, Jean O'Steen [photos by Beth Koller]



WATER (Continued from page 1)

We started the trip with virtually no class 3-4 rivers running in WV even after the record snowfall and rains we had earlier this year. The group wanted to start boating on Sunday, the 25th, but I couldn't join them until that evening. They decided to run the lower Yough without me. The lower Yough was 1.86' then, low but fluid, on a gorgeous, warm, sunny day. They had lots and lots of play/surf at this level.

That night, Len, Ned, Lee and myself convened at the Stuart Recreation Area campground east of Elkins off of old Rt. 33 while Jim, Anne, and Marc stayed in a motel in Elkins. The plan was to run one of the Forks of the Cheat if the rains forecast for the area that Sunday and Monday brought those rivers up. We did get the rain, but it was much lighter than forecast, and the water levels remained dismally low. After breakfast Monday morning at the 301 Coffee Shop in downtown Elkins and checking river levels, we decided to head to the New River Gorge which was running at 3.8' at Fayette Station. After that, the plan was to head further south to run some rivers in the Smokies.

After driving almost 3 hours from Elkins, we arrived at the New River Gorge. The weather was dreary with sporadic drizzle all day. We quickly set up shuttle and were on the river after noon (which turned out to be a common starting time for this trip). We had no problems that I can recall except I neglected to tell anyone about my

preferred lunch spot at lower Keeney, so we wound up having lunch below the next drop. Luckily, it did not rain during our lunch. This run was a new one for Marc and Anne as were all the rivers this trip except for the lower Yough.

Next came the big shift to Tennessee. We caravanned down Rt. 19 and I-77 until the first exit on I-81 after I-77 joins it in Wytheville. At times we had fairly heavy rain during the drive, making me wonder about the wisdom of leaving WV (it turns out some rivers did eventually come up Tuesday morning). We had dinner at an Applebees in Wytheville. Following dinner, Marc, being an early riser, decided to motel it right there in Wytheville. The rest of us continued driving, finally stopping in Marion, VA with a goal of camping at Hungry Mother State Park which is just 3 miles outside of Marion. I had stayed at Hungry Mother before and remembered there being signs leading you there so I thought it would be no problem finding the place. Well, despite my diligent sign following, I missed a crucial turn and went a good 3 miles into the town of Marion proper before finally conceding I screwed up. Thanks to Jim's GPS, we took a bunch of back roads through the suburbs of Marion before finally getting on the road to the park that I initially missed (Rt. 16). By this time (11 PM?), Jim and Anne decided to go to a cheap motel in Marion.

All 3 groups, Marc, Jim-Anne, and the campers traveled separately to the Nolichucky Gorge campground takeout Tuesday morning, arriving at the appointed 10:30 meeting

time. (Actually, Marc had gotten there considerably earlier and had already checked out the drive to the put-in and back.) The Nolichucky was running 1600 cfs, a nice moderate level. We all had a good run even though the weather was still occasionally dreary. At least we had some sun for lunch.

Following the Nolichucky, we hit the road again, heading for the Chattooga by way of Asheville where we had dinner at a so-so Mexican restaurant, La Carreta. Following dinner we headed to different locations to camp. Jim, Anne, and Marc got a free camp at the house of someone Jim knew on the road to the Section 3 put-in. The rest of us camped at Black Rock Mountain campground in Mountain City, GA, 3 miles north of Clayton, GA. That night turned out being the coldest camp night of the trip. The camp is located at the top of Black Rock mountain, at about a 4,500 foot elevation. The temperature overnight went down into the upper 30s. We were really glad to get down the mountain in the morning where it was much warmer.

Everyone met Wednesday morning at the parking lot next to the Rt. 76 bridge over the Chattooga, which is the Section 3 takeout and the Section 4 put-in. The river level this morning was 1.95', a level I found scrapey at times, but nowhere near the minimum. This is a permit river, but we didn't fill out a permit at the takeout because Lee said we could fill one out at the put-in. So, after leaving vehicles at the takeout, we headed to the Section 3 put-in. As Ned and I got ready to head to the river, being the last to do so,



Lee Belknap taking correct line in First Ledge, Section 3, Chattooga. Anne Moseley trying to follow.

Ned asked if anyone had filled out the permit. We thought, surely someone had, so we carried our boats and gear down the .25 mile path to the put-in. When we got there we realized no one had filled out a permit. Ned was gracious enough to walk back up the trail to take care of it.

Wednesday was the first pleasant day we had on the river, weather

self. Jim said the rapid had changed in that Decapitation Rock had shifted to the right, opening up a slot on the left that could be run. A while before we got there, I said I'd follow Jim down the rapid. However, by the time we got to Bull Sluice, I had fallen behind a little bit and Marc asked to follow Jim. As I tried to catch Jim and Marc in the river left eddy above the drop, I saw them peel out to run

wise. No one had any major mishaps, although everyone except Lee had rather interesting lines at First Ledge, aka Dick's Creek Ledge. When we got to Bull Sluice at the end of the run, everyone got out to scout except Jim, Marc, and my-

self. I saw them peel out to run the drop (Jim is rather impatient). I tried to catch them, but realizing I couldn't, I then tried to catch the eddy. Well, by then, I wasn't in good position to catch that eddy and all my attempt to do so did was turn me around backward, still in the main current. Well, I wound up running Bull Sluice backward, missed the aforementioned slot, and actually bounced over Decapitation Rock. How I didn't pin or flip I have no idea. I was so annoyed with that effort, that I carried back up to run it again. This time I caught the eddy and the slot perfectly and had the best run of the group, all captured on film.

Following Section 3, we proceeded to a fine dinner at Mama G's Italian Restaurant which is now right on highway 441 in Clayton even though Marc's and Jim's GPS's were determined to take us to the old location which is now a Mexican restaurant in a strip mall off the highway. During the GPS misadventure, all Lee could think of as the GPS's took us toward the restaurant where part of Deliverance was filmed, was of an early scene in the movie where the local asked the city boys if they were lost. As Marc and Jim pondered why the restaurant wasn't where their GPS's said, Lee took control from the back of the caravan and led us to the new restaurant location. Guess Jim and Marc need to update their GPS's.

As I said, we all had a great dinner at Mama G's. One of the waitresses there is a kayaker familiar with all the runs we were doing. We enjoyed chatting with her a bit during our dinner. Following dinner, Jim and Anne went to camp at his friend's house while the rest of us retired to Black Rock Mountain campground again.

(Continued on page 8)



Anne taking alternate route in First Ledge, Section 3, Chattooga.

WATER (Continued from page 7)

The next day, Thursday, had us meeting at the Chattooga again at 9 AM to run Section 4. We planned an earlier start than usual for our group so that Len could leave after the run and have a shot at getting to Richmond, VA by midnight to pick up his daughter from college. We finished the run before 3 and he was on his way shortly after. As for the run, it was fairly typical. The level was 1.8'. We ran the far right side at Woodall Shoals to avoid the nasty hydraulic there on the left. Other than my going down the first drop sideways, we had no difficulty there. I led everyone cleanly through 7-Foot Falls and we had a few interesting missed turns at Raven's Chute. That set us up for the main excitement of the run: Five Falls. I ran all but Jawbone without any problem. At Jawbone, I started out fine, but got it in my head that I wanted to make the river right eddy above Hydroelectric Rock, not remembering that I usually don't do that. Well, instead of catching the eddy high, I went sideways into a strong hole in the main current, managed to back out of it towards river left, and, still trying to make that dang eddy, struggled mightily to ferry above Hydroelectric Rock, which is undercut. While I did manage to make the eddy, everyone, especially me, was concerned that I wouldn't. A smarter move would have been to forget the stupid eddy and continued down the left side of Hydroelectric Rock after I backed out of that hole. Oh well....

We had a couple of other incidents in Five Falls: Anne and Ned flipped at the bottom of the first falls, Entrance, and Len got caught

in the hydraulic below Right Crack in Crack in the Rock. Anne and Ned rolled with no problem while Len bailed from his boat after several successful rolls still left him in the hole. It

took about another 20 minutes before we could get Len's boat out of that hole. For future reference, run as far right as you can in Right Crack. Also, a vertical log is still in the center of Right Crack, but it is submerged at 1.8', making Right Crack runnable at that level. Everyone ran Corkscrew with no problems except Lee and Marc who carried it. Many of the group carried Jawbone, and Anne and I were the only ones to run Sock 'Em Dog. As for Sock 'Em Dog, the right side hydraulic looked nasty and the launching pad was not very obvious. Plus, another group told us there was a log in the hydraulic



Jim Michaud taking the correct line down Raven's Chute, Section 4, Chattooga

below the Launching Pad. This group all boofed off the left side of the drop which, after scouting, is what Anne and I did with no problems.

Following Section 4, we decided to boat the Big South Fork of the Cumberland in Northern Tennessee in the Obed - Emory area of the Cumberland Plateau. This required us to once again get in our vehicles



Marc Bleicher missing the chute in Raven's Chute, Section 4, Chattooga



Len Rice in Corkscrew, Section 4, Chattooga

and drive for hours. Our destination that night was the Frozen Head State Park near Wartburg, TN where we all camped for the night. To get there, Lee led us on a scenic, but slow, journey along Rt. 441 through Great Smokey Mountains National Park. We stopped at the high point so that the northerners could take pictures. We then agreed to have dinner at a steak house in touristy Pigeon Forge which turned out to be quite expen-

met at the Frozen Head campground around 10 that night. They've fixed up that campground quite a bit since I was last there and it is very nice (just ignore the state penitentiary down the road).

Our last river day as a group was on the Big South Fork of the Cumberland, a very scenic class 3-4 run. The level was 1,300 cfs, much more manageable than the 40,000 cfs it got to following the rains and



Ned eddying out while Anne runs a nice drop on the Big South Fork

sive, but very good. Half the group decided to stay and eat there while the other half went to a barbeque joint just down the road. We believe the steak diners had the better meal. All of us

Fork River that forms the Big South Fork to Leatherwood Ford. The takeout at Leatherwood Ford is on Rt. 297 where it crosses the Big South Fork northwest of Oneida, TN. The put-in we used on this trip is off of Airport Road that goes past the Scott County Municipal Airport. There are signs for the airport off Rts. 27 & 29, south of Oneida. Coming south from Oneida, take a right at the airport sign. Cross the railroad and take a left on Detour Rd. Go 1 mile and make a right on Airport Road. You'll then go 1 mile where John Long Road will veer left by some oil tanks. Stay on John Long Road till it ends at the Confluence put-in parking lot. This road is 4.8 miles in length. At the end of the gravel road there is a parking lot with room for about 8 vehicles. See page 58 in DeLormes' Tennessee mapbook. There is a jeep trail you have to walk from the parking lot down to the river which we felt was slightly longer than the .25 mile carry in to Section 3 of the Chattooga. This cuts about 8 miles off of the New River put-in mentioned in the guide books as well as the shorter Clear Fork River put-in.

I believe Marc is starting a tradition of getting lost on these Spring Trips. Last year he missed a turn on the shuttle back to the Upper Meadow put-in and wandered around for at least an hour on the back roads in that area, getting a flat tire in the process. This year, he went to the wrong takeout for the Big South Fork of the Cumberland. He had a good excuse, though. He was traveling by himself and using GPS put-in and takeout waypoints that he got from Jim.

(Continued on page 10)

WATER (Continued from page 9)

We told him to meet us at the Big South Fork takeout, thinking there was only one. Well, that turned out to be false. There is an earlier takeout 2 miles upstream of Leatherwood Ford which is apparently the takeout Jim used the last time he was there and that is what he had in his GPS. Fortunately, after some cell phone calls, Lee figured out the discrepancy as we were driving to our Leatherwood Ford takeout. We sent Jim to fetch Marc while the rest of us set up shuttle at Leatherwood Ford. After leaving enough vehicles at Leatherwood Ford, we met Jim and Marc on the way to the put-in and proceeded with the trip.

At this shorter put-in, you reach the 3 hardest rapids on the run almost instantly. There is Double Drop, Washing Machine, and The Ell. Marc had 2 rolls in Double Drop, one for each drop. And, OMG, expert boater Jim had a flip and swim at The Ell! There are several more interesting drops in the run. And when you're not busy running the rapids, the scenery is extraordinary with huge boulders in the river and beautiful cliffs above. All in all, a great last run for our group.

After the Big South Fork, the group split into several factions: Marc started a 15 hour drive home, Jim and Anne headed north to boat the Upper Yough on Saturday before continuing home, Lee visited a friend with a hot tub in Knoxville and boated locally that weekend, while Ned and I traveled to the New for another run down the New River Gorge.

Ned and I had a quick, but fun run down the New which was still at 3.8' at Fayette Station. We followed that up with a delicious Mexican dinner at Diogi's in Fayetteville, one of the best Mexican restaurants I've ever eaten at. It's located at the old Exxon Station just off of Rt. 19 as you head toward downtown Fayetteville.

For Jim and Anne, the Upper Yough was running at a very nice level of 2.3 feet and it was a beautiful day. While paddling the flat water towards the start of the rapids, Anne met an old friend of hers that asked if she could paddle with them. The gal swam from the top of both Bastard and Triple Drop rapids which are both very nasty swims. The river was very crowded due to it being a Saturday and the Cheat Fest weekend but this actually turned out to be good

because there were lots of people to help recover the gal and her equipment. After her second swim she did just fine and everyone had a great run. After the run Jim and Anne drove straight home, getting there in the wee hours of the morning.

Lee reports that he paddled the Pigeon river on Saturday and on Sunday he paddled section 9 of the French Broad. The Pigeon is much cleaner than it was on his first run in 1983 when he could smell the rapids through his nose plugs BEFORE he got to them! Somewhere in the first class 2 rapids on Saturday he realized that the river was just plain tiring him out. It was then that he realized it wasn't at a normal level. It was running 7.2 feet, a full foot higher than normal. They had no troubles and witnessed no epics either. As for the French Broad, the level had finally come down from it's spring levels enough to expose lots of rocks and their slots, eddies, and secret channels. They played hard and got off the relatively short river late. While the Big South Fork and Nashville were being flooded, Lee got sunburn on the back of his hands. With the great weather, it was a nice end to a great trip.

55th Potomac Downriver Race, May 22nd

The pre-registration fee is only \$20 if received by May 17th! Obtain a registration form from www.sycamoreisland.org or www.canoecruisers.org. Follow the instructions for mailing. On race day the entrance fee will increase to \$25. The race begins at Rocky Island on the Potomac River just above Wet Bottom Rapid and continues for 7.5 miles to Sycamore Island. At the end of the race, a free T-shirt and a free lunch will be given to all workers and racers, and there will be a ceremony with awards and prizes for the winners. If you plan to paddle the race, **please pre-register** to help with registration and planning. **Volunteer** helpers are needed for **safety boats** and for helping at the registration at Great Falls and at the finish at Sycamore Island. Volunteers will receive the gratitude of the racers, a sense of participating in an important annual river event, a race T-shirt, and lunch. Anyone interested in helping out with this year's race should **contact Star Mitchell** at 301-530-3252 or e-mail starmitchell@verizon.net.

2010 BRV TRIP SCHEDULE**(mid-May to mid-July)**

Date	Location	Level	Contact
May 15-23	Southern Appalachians Week of Rivers	HI/A	Richard Hopley
May 15	Cheat Canyon or reasonable facsimile	HI/A	Rick Koller
May 22-23	Bloomington	LI	Beth Koller
May 22	55th Annual Potomac Downriver Race	I	Star Mitchell
May 28-31	Car Camper at Teeter's	LI-A	Martin, Hall and Caldwell
May 29-31	Smoke Hole Camper	LI/I	Frank Fico
Jun 12	Dealer's Choice	TBA	Wellman & Jones
Jun 13 or 20	Cheat Headwaters Rain Chaser	I/HI	Rick Koller
Jun 19	Anglers to Carderock	PN/LI	Ed Grove
Jun 26	Dealer's Choice	TBA	Lou Campagna
Jul 3-11	Western NC Week of Rivers	I-HI	Ed Evangelidi
Jul 3-5	Multi-day trip	TBA	TBA
Jul 4	4th of July Pot-Luck & Fireworks Paddle	N	Star Mitchell
Jul 10	Middle Yough	N/PN	Margie Pruitt

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.

Bloomington: Saturday, April 24th
by Beth Koller

The flow was well over 1000 cfs — or as Betty Conte noted "beefy, very beefy" after just a few rapids. After a week of no rain and limited water for Week of Rivers, it rained and the temperature dropped into the 40s on the way to Bloomington. We made a short run, a very short run. No lunch stop! Robin's Nest had the usual lines on the left, but the run on the far right was truncated. One paddler experienced that giant sucking sound of the hole. Just as Beth Koller was entering the drop to the left of the rock, she noted a boat being surfed across the hole and on top of her deck. The paddler effectively self rescued, but the boat rescue took longer. Jay Herbig needed to execute a roll during the rescue. We all enjoyed the waves at Top of the World. There is some deadfall in the right channel around the island. Some of it can be seen and some is a foot or so beneath the surface. It is downstream of the location of the strainer that was cut out last year by ~50 yards.

ROSTER UPDATES

Michael A. Ciccone
5822 Vandegrift Avenue
Rockville, MD 20851
724-584-8045 C
cicconemike@hotmail.com

Frederic Dalauero
8307 Mountain Laurel Road
Boonsboro, MD 21713
301-393-8661 H
301-992-1973 C
fsdasd@gmail.com

Linda Erbe
lindaerbe@gmail.com

Steve Ettinger
3801 Taylor Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4117
301-215-7564 H
301-452-4385 C
ettingersj@aol.com

Peggy Pastore
6052 Dunnbrook Terrace
Haymarket, VA 20169
571-248-6754 H
peggypastore@gmail.com

Tom & Sandy Snyder
P.O. Box 1118
Tellico Plains, TN 37385
423-253-3102 H
alisandrasnyder@hotmail.com

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 2010: January 13, March 24, May 26, August 21 (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.

2010 BRV Officers: Rick Koller, President; Mark Wray, VP; Mike Martin & Daryl Hall, Trip Coordinators; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

2010 Board of Directors: Bill Collier, Ginny DeSeau, Ed Grove, Ron Knipling, 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:
Keith's Week of Rivers (p. 1)
Elk & Cranberry (p. 2-3)
Conway/Smokehole/Hopeville
(p. 4)
Cheat Narrows (p. 5)
Bloomington (p. 11)
- Potomac Downriver Race (p. 10)

Deadline for July *Voyageur*:

Friday, July 9th

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, May 26th