

THE VOYAGEUR



www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org

November 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

The whitewater shoulder season is upon us and I suspect the boats will be on a reduced usage diet for a while. Upcoming events will be a club meeting on Tuesday, November 13 at the Library featuring "The Canoe Movie II." I haven't previewed it yet but I would expect a high quality film based on the first movie's excellent presentation.

Also, the annual Holiday Party is on Saturday, December 1. Mark Wray is organizing again and no doubt will have pertinent information elsewhere in this newsletter. And he and I will email reminders and updates as the time approaches.

Come to the November meeting for the usual good company and cheer.

Hope everyone is well after "Sandy."

Rick

A Great Camping Buddy by Ed Evangelidi

Over the years we boaters have developed close contacts with non boaters who provide services. Some like the former Sleepy and Rusty at the New River were just "business transactions/service providers." Others like Ralph & Cathy Teter and Glen Miller at the Cheat River slowly become more than just service providers. I was recently camping at Teters Campground on a hiking weekend and he mentioned that he was closing the campground early this season as he was getting tired of the business and the river has been unusually low this year. Then he dropped the bomb – he was thinking of getting out of the business in 2 years and moving to Florida. It is not the same going to the Cheat without Glen and Tarzan; now it will be even less like home away from home. Seems that Ralph has a chronic spine problem (along with many other health issues) that will incapacitate him and Cathy has been fighting cancer and other complications for years too. Ralph was not in good health but still had time to chat as usual.

We often talk about the Vietnam war as we both served there. No one should ever have to go through what he experienced there. The stories that he mentions are always numerous and new and he doesn't talk about them lightly. He does enjoy telling camping stories. This time he mentioned the lady who was about to feed her family a pasta dinner – only the pasta and coffee was made with fresh water from Muddy Creek. When the lady assured Ralph that all of the water was boiled vigorously, he gently mentioned that boiling does not get rid of the heavy metals. Ralph then mentioned how the state is trying to get funds to acquire the entire Cheat Canyon. Ralph has never gone down the canyon but he is proud of the resource nonetheless. Ralph also does not have an armload of degrees but can spot anyone on his high horse dropping horse droppings when they

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TETERS (Continued from page 1)

start discussing their version of politics, the environment, etc. He then casually mentions that the Albright power plant – one of the big employers in the area, is closing for good.

Back to the coming end of the Teter/Cheat era – Ralph hints that the best scenario for boaters and the river is for Friends of the Cheat to buy the campground. What will it become if they do not?

Conservation Snippets by Ed Evangelidi

Guess it is better to know about this after the fact than to not know about this at all, but there is a draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan that was open for public review until September 14. The plan calls for increasing public access to the bay and its tributaries by adding 300 public access sites by 2025. It is noted that only 2% of the shoreline is now publicly owned. A mapping tool to view the access sites is at www.baygateways.net/AddPA/ Hopefully any access points that may have been missed can still be added.

Interested in keeping track of the growing "fracking" taking place? There is now a website: www.fractracker.org run by an independent organization that is accumulating data on all wells drilled in Pennsylvania — where most of the drilling is and is considering expanding to adjoining states. One might notice that a particular gauge or river is not flowing as bountiful as before and perhaps see where these wells are drawing millions of gallons from these streams.

Several federal agencies are pooling their resources to identify large river areas where tens of millions of dollars could be used to conserve "high priority sites". Four areas that would be included in this proposal are: lower (tidal) James River, tidal Rappahannock (mostly around the Rappahannock Valley National Wildlife Refuge), middle Potomac from D.C. to Douglas Point, and the tidal Nanticoke. While funding is not guaranteed, this concept proposal is trying to spend larger multi agency funds to replace more numerous smaller projects. Note too that Congress can "raid" these pools of funds in tight times.

Wet the Dries!

[Excerpt from an email exchange between Beth Koller and the new Executive Director of WVRC]

>> How will the WVRC be involved in potential access of the "Dries" Section of the New River?

-----Original Message-----

>From: Angie Rosser <arosser@wvrivers.org>

>Sent: Oct 2, 2012 3:23 PM

>To: Elizabeth Koller <ekoller2@earthlink.net>

>Subject: Re: (WVRC) Greetings from the WVRC Desk & Dining Out Media Coverage

>

>We have already met with the folks from WVPRO who are leading the "Wet the Dries" Campaign. I plan to do some more research and attend the meeting scheduled for Oct 18 to understand more about our role and involvement. I've heard from many boaters that this would be a very good thing. Good for the ecosystem, too. What do you think?>

Blue Ridge Voyageurs Membership Form

Whitewater paddling is a risky outdoor sport. BRV is not responsible for any individual's decision to participate in the sport, or for his or her decision to run any river or section of river.

Annual Dues: _____ **\$15.00 (newsletter sent via postal mail)**
 _____ **\$12.00 (newsletter emailed in .pdf format)**

Optional Contribution to BRV River

Conservation/Access Fund: \$5.00 or _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to BRV. Mail to BRV Membership, c/o Frank Fico,
 1609 Autumnwood Drive, Reston, VA 20194-1523.

Name: _____ **Phone w/area code: (h)** _____

Address: _____ **(work or cell)** _____

_____ **Email:** _____

Please check if interested in: **helping with moonlight picnic** **providing a meeting program**
 helping with holiday party **leading trips** **conservation/river maintenance**

2012 BRV Holiday Party

LOCATION: Dominion Hills Recreation Center — 6000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington

DATE: **Saturday, December 1, 2012**

TIME: 5:30-11 PM

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

A-E main meal side dish

F-J salad

K-R appetizer

S-Z dessert

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

COST: **FREE** for BRV members.

RSVP: BRV Board members will be contacting all DC-area members. RSVP to your caller or to Mark Wray by **Thursday, November 29.**

END OF YEAR BRV TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Level	Contact
Nov 10-12	Eastern Shore car camper	N/PN	Ed Evangelidi
Dec—Jan TBD	Central Florida trips	N	Ed Evangelidi

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 2012: January 24, March 13, May 8, August 4 (Moonlight Picnic), September 11, November 13, December 1 (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.

2012 BRV Officers: Rick Koller, President; Mark Wray, VP; Mike Martin & Daryl Hall, Trip Coordinators; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

2012 Board of Directors: 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 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 January *Voyageur*:

Friday, January 4th

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 13th

RENEW NOW for 2013: If your mailing label says 2012, use the membership form included on page 3.