

# THE VOYAGEUR



[www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org](http://www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org)

September 2009

## THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

It's been a pretty good year for boating compared to the past few seasons. I hope everyone has had lots of time on the water this year.

I would like to offer up a special thank you to Ron Knipling for stepping up at the last minute and making the Moonlight Picnic a success this year!

Looking forward to the September meeting, we will have Mark Wray showing us slides from his adventures on the Appalachian Trail this year. Please note, the meeting is Tuesday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and due to economic conditions the library now closes at 8pm so please do your best to get there early. For November we will have Bob Maxey with slides from the national parks in Nepal, New Zealand and Australia. Rumor has it we will be watching slides from Iceland at the January meeting — dress appropriately.

I hope many of you enjoy the New River Rendezvous this year and don't forget, Gauley Season is upon us!

Jim

### **Violette's Lock Early July 2009** by Beth Koller

The weekend after the 4th of July, Ron Knipling led a trip down Violette's Lock. The participants included Will Greene, Wes Mills (in an open boat, no less!), Ron's neighbor, and Beth Koller. It was pleasant. We surfed. We eddied. There was one episode of carnage during the entry back into the main channel. We were off the river and loaded up by 1 PM.



***BLAST FROM THE PAST!*** Wes Mills returns to his single blade roots

## Cheat Weekend, 8-9 August 2009

by Mike Martin; photos by Beth Koller

It could have been just another low-water summer weekend: chores around the house and perhaps a brief escape or two to Violette's Lock or Little Falls. But Wes Mills was scheduled to lead a weekend trip based at Teeter's, and Bob Bailey alerted Daryl and me that an actual slug of water was working its way from Parsons to Albright.

As it turned out, Wes had to abort the trip, but we knew that if there was enough water, some of the old cros would claim the pool. Sure enough, the next thing we knew, Kim Buttleman and Rick Koller filled the void and kindly offered to lead a trip.

For Daryl and me, a low-water trip on the Cheat Canyon presents a great opportunity to test our "A Game" while fighting off an occasional bout of the heebie-jeebies. She had a great maiden voyage there last year; I've run it a dozen or so times, but with diminishing results, having swum Coliseum from top to bottom on an installment plan during my



*Daryl Hall entering Tear Drop Rapid, Cheat Canyon.*

previous two trips. In any event, we both really wanted to run it again and jumped at the chance to paddle it with a good crew that included some more seasoned open boaters.

Beth Koller and Bob filled out the rest of our crew, and we put on Saturday around 11 a.m.; the Albright bridge gauge read about 1.5'. The weather was great, the run was fun, and Daryl and I provided the requisite entertainment at Teardrop and Beech Run, respectively.

Rick demonstrated an, um, novel way to run High Falls, which didn't really offer any clean, boat-friendly lines that day; Kim opted for boat preservation, and the rest of us decided that discretion is the better part of valor.

I'm pleased to report that Coliseum and I are now back on good terms, perhaps because I respectfully ran the left sneak, rather than challenging Cyclotron to a rematch.



*Kim Buttleman in Pete Morgan's Rapid, Cheat Canyon.*



*Beth Koller next to Calamity Rock, Cheat Narrows.*

At Pete Morgan's rapid, Daryl and I decided to chalk up a win while we were ahead of the game, but Bob Rick, Beth, and Kim each ran a clean line. After a great day on the water, Glen Miller and his cooler were a welcome sight, and we enjoyed the shuttle back to Teeter's.

Having a good dinner at Monroe's in Kingwood after paddling the Cheat seems to be becoming a tradition. We discovered that the restaurant now sells a great, can't-find-'em-anywhere-else assortment of West Virginia history books. Beth is reading one about the people who built the Hawk's Nest Tunnel on the New River, and I'm reading a fine work on the deforestation and general rape of West Virginia and most of Appalachia from the 1870s to the 1920s, and the social, political, and environmental consequences of those actions.



*Ed Evangelidi kicks it into high gear on the Cheat Narrows.*

Back at Teeter's, we hooked up with Ed Evangelidi, Hans Haucke, and some others for a round of beer before calling it a night. A sizable group of Ohio boaters was also at Teeter's for the weekend, accompanied by what seemed like a dozen or so adorable toddlers who were having a fine camping trip indeed.

On Sunday, Beth, Bob, Daryl, Ed, Zeth Zajak and I ran the Narrows in near 90-degree weather. We lollygagged and enjoyed the company of several other groups of boaters, including several private rafts full of young families with dogs and small kids.

We took out late and enjoyed a great sunset as we headed home over the mountains on I-68. The radio said that the heat index in DC that day was well over 100. Glad I wasn't mowing the lawn! That's what winter is for, isn't it?

## Lower Yough, 23 August 2009

by Lisa Fallon; photos by Beth Koller

It was a lovely day in Ohiopyle, PA. We met as strangers often do, in the parking lot of the put-in, looking for someone to run shuttle with. The day began with our canoeist, Lou Campagna, forgetting his bailer and finding a substitute in the form of a small coffee cup. Entrance rapid went off swimmingly, literally. I missed my roll after precisely repeating my flipping performance of the previous day. I was promptly saved by David (Cotton) Cottingham while my boat was left adrift.

Through the kindness of strangers and new friends, the stray orange boat was eventually unpinned from river center. The dozen or so witnesses both on the water and off had quite a show for perhaps 40 minutes. One rescuer from our party paddled downstream to where I had made my way, to make sure my



*Lou Campagna is ecstatic to get back on the river.*

car key was not in the boat, as he was unsure if the boat would ever be freed. When the boat was once again afloat with the keel in view, my heart sank, "My boat doesn't have a crease in the bottom like that! I've ruined my boat!"

Well, I was correct; my keel did not look like that. The keel of the orange Dagger that was unpinned was perfectly in order. My orange Jackson Super Fun had been promptly brought to shore by Daniel Mullins and was beached in the next eddy down from where I sat watching the show.

Once we had regrouped and resumed our trip, we were met by Beth Koller, photo maven extraordinaire, who demanded a trip report in exchange for trip images (grumble, grumble). We



*Lisa Fallon maneuvers into position above a drop.*



*Cotton on the hunt for a surf at Cucumber.*



continued downriver where we upgraded Lou's bailer to a large coffee cup and eventually to an actual pre-cut gallon sized bailer.

The rest of the river was well run with just a couple hiccups. First, Daniel swam at Double Hydraulic. Oddly, it was above the rapid where he flipped without noseplugs and missed his first roll. He did self rescue and was able to get to shore in order to go through the rapid in his boat. Our second hiccup was at Million Dollar Wave where I had the great honor of swimming again. Not while surfing the baby spot by the rock, but in the flat water after peeling out. No boat loss this time; I was able to self rescue. We finished up the day with Cotton, Daniel and myself in our kayaks and Lou in his canoe, threading the needle at Brunner's Run. Beth took the sensible route and skirted to the right of the Dragons Teeth.

I can't wait to head back up next week to defeat that little side curler at Entrance.

*Daniel Mullins "looking fine, mighty fine," according to the caption submitted by Beth Koller.*

**From Ed Evangelidi — Mike Surbaugh of Webster Springs passed away recently.** He was a prime mover of the Webster Springs Elk Fest. Mike Martin sent a flower arrangement on behalf of the BRV to the family. Many BRVers regularly attend the Elk Fest and the community out there will note our interest in their loss.

## Old Angler's to Carderock, 22 August 2009

by Ed Grove

Often the oldies are the goodies. At 10 am Saturday, August 22 a group of us met at Carderock for a joint CCA/BRV trip on the Potomac from Old Angler's Inn to Carderock. There were eight of us: John Stevens, his wife Brisa, Larry Heflin, his young tandem paddling partner Liam Bozman, Alan Dickerson, Bob Dobrzynski, Mark Wray and me. Thunderstorms were forecast later in the day.

The put in at Angler's Inn was a zoo with a herd of kayaking classes heading up to the Virginia, Center and Maryland Chutes upstream. However, once we launched the river became ours -- a large tan throughway at a level of 3.4 feet on the Little Falls gauge. The Offutt Island rapids on river left were first. Here we had a delightful time surfing, attaining and enjoying this mellow place. We did have one flip which occurred at the surfing wave/moderate hole at the top. There was a more mellow surfing spot near the bottom where I chilled out for a while.

As we worked our way over to Yellow Falls on river right, it was a pleasure not to scrape on the numerous rocks and mini ledges which are there at lower water. The classic right chute was well filled with some good waves and it was easy to miss the nearly covered rock on the bottom left. Several folks also ran a center route from right to left as they wove through a short rocky slalom.

Below Yellow Falls, we had a delightful stop at Scotts Run. Unlike usual summer days when the falls there is a trickle, the recent rain had created a vigorous, robust clean water shower opportunity which several of us enjoyed during our temporary respite from the muddy Potomac. There is a No Swimming sign on the right bank of Scotts Run which fortunately said nothing about showers.

We then debated what to do about Stubblefield Falls and the long carry back on river left to the Carderock parking lot for paddlers running it. Alan solved our problem by showing us a new way to run the great bouncy wave train of Stubblefield at 3.4 feet. Instead of running the full falls and runout (finally eddying out on the left), Alan had us run the meat of its main wave train and then eddying out on the right just above (or below) the first rock as the wave train diminished. We then paddled river right and pulled our boats over a couple of stony walls to get back to the main river. After this we had a vigorous ferry (somewhat upstream but manageable at this level) to the rocky point which is the classic takeout above Stubblefield Falls to reach the lower Carderock parking lot from where we started our trip.

We reversed the shuttle, loaded our boats and left just after 2 PM -- well before the heavy thunderstorms that pounded the area later in the afternoon. It was truly a wonderful trip with great companions.

### ***Consternation at Calamity***

*There was more than one trip made to the Cheat Narrows this summer. The photo at right from a trip in early July shows Daryl Hall in a face-off with Calamity Rock. She emerged from the rapid unscathed after "boinking" the rock. Compare this view of Calamity with the photo on page 3, with Calamity Rock totally submerged. [Photo by Beth Koller]*



### Slide Show about the Potomac: Explore with Roy Sewell

Roy Sewell is a man with many hats. Many in the photographic community know him as a competition judge, but he is also an engineer and aficionado of the C&O Canal and Potomac River. To that end, he is the Chair of the C&O Canal Trust as well as the author of two coffee table photo books on the Potomac River (*Our Potomac* and *Great Falls & Mather Gorge*). Although Roy's images focus on the lower sections of the Potomac watershed [such as the one of *Great Falls at right* — Ed.], he knows that West Virginia is the source of the headwaters for most of the rivers in the East and that they all flow downhill along with their beauty and problems.



To help address the latter, he will give a slide presentation at Potomac Paddle Sports (just off of Randolph Road, near the entry to the Giant grocery at the corner of Randolph & Rockville Pike in Rockville, MD) on 13 September, tentatively 6-8+ PM, as a fundraiser for the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. The show will be accompanied by a brief presentation of the history, mission, and current projects of the WVRC, including a pharmaceutical take-back program to reduce endocrine disruptor entry into the watershed. Light refreshments will be served. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, purchase books, and have books signed. Suggested donation levels start at \$15. Reservations are recommended. Call Beth Koller at 240-506-0417 for details, or consult the WVRC website.

### ROSTER UPDATES

Harry Patch  
Room 206  
Vincent Hall  
6251 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA 22101

Steve Resz  
1531-2 Northgate Square  
Reston, VA 20190  
703-471-3972 (H)  
steveresz@mac.com

Gary Shinnors  
3542 N. Delaware Street  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-536-8957 (H)  
shinnerones5@comcast.net

### UPCOMING TRIPS

Sep 5/6/7	New River Rendezvous	A	Ernie Katz	703 356-7105	erniekatz3@verizon.net
Sep 12-13	Lower Gauley/Upper	A/E	Court Ogilvie	703-528-5185	courtogilvie@yahoo.com
Sep 19-20	Lower Gauley	A	Paul Podgorski	704-287-7285	ppodgorski@yahoo.com
Sep 19	Dealer's Choice	HI	Jennifer Plyler*	301 445-4815	pls98@verizon.net
Oct 9-12	New Jersey Pine Barrens	N	Ed Evangelidi	304 262-8924	edevange@localnet.com
Oct 31	Needles to Brunswick	I	Star Mitchell	301 530-3252	starmitchell@verizon.net
Nov 7-8	Tohickon	I	Courtney Caldwell	703-802-0155	Courtney.Caldwell@LFG.com

Notes:

\*please call before 8 PM

Difficulty Level: Novice (N), Practiced Novice (PN), Intermediate (I), High Intermediate (HI), Advanced (A)

## 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 2009: January 28, March 10, May 20, August 1 (Moonlight Picnic), September 8, November TBD, December 5 (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.

**2009 BRV Officers:** Jim Pruitt, President; Lou Campagna, VP; Jenny Thomas, Trip Coordinator; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

**2009 Board of Directors:** Gus Anderson, Bill Collier, Ed Grove, Ron Knipling, Rick Koller, Wes Mills

### ***The Voyageur: Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs***

*The Voyageur* publishes information on club events, conservation and safety news, the club trip schedule, and other news of interest to BRV'ers. Publishing **trip reports** is a particularly important newsletter function. Trip Coordinators are requested to write up all club trips - particularly trips to unusual or especially interesting rivers. Trip reports and other articles are accepted in any form: via electronic mail (preferred; send to [fico1@netzero.com](mailto:fico1@netzero.com)), 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.com](mailto:fico1@netzero.com). 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 November *Voyageur*:**  
Friday, October 30th

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 8th**