

THE VOYAGEUR



www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org

Winter 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

Well another year has zipped by and I still didn't do enough paddling, but that's always the case every year for the typical boating geezer. Overall it was a pretty good year on the river. The trip reports in last year's newsletters had some great adventures. Thanks again to Mike Martin for engineering club scheduled trips. Now the inevitable shoulder season is here and the occasional temperate day will be a good break from the couch.

The Holiday party will have already come and gone before this newsletter reaches the membership so I will thank VP Mark Wray belatedly for undoubtedly a good party and all who will have helped him. And again thank him for the summer moonlight picnic.

Kudos go to Frank Fico once again for his generous efforts in keeping our newsletter going. Hope we see him and his family at the party this year.

I will continue on for another year as Pres and hopefully the board will also; I will know this January at the annual board meeting and if there are any changes we will report to the membership.

Hope all have great Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Rick

Colorado River, Moab to Spanish Bottom, 9-15 September 2013 by Jo Cox and Bob Maxey

I have paddled the Green River to its junction with the Colorado at Spanish Bottom three times. This is an easy access to the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park if you have four or more days. Plus there are many beautiful hikes and explorations along the way. So, it was easy to talk Wes Mills, Glen Johnston and Jo Cox into paddling the Colorado to the same junction, just above Cataract Canyon. Ron Spadin, Bill and Kerry Money and Ron Knipling rounded out our group. Jo and I have written the following description of our trip.

It rained the entire night before the trip, so the drive to the Potash put-in had many red waterfalls: the first of the flashfloods. We had hoped for sun-drenched days on the river, but it was to be a trip of rain on most days — not the sunny desert of the travel posters. We made our way along the first 14 miles in intermittent rain showers past Dead Horse Point. Our first campsite was good — plenty of room on the sandbar. Jo named this first camp "blue beetle camp" for the tiny iridescent blue beetles that covered just about every bit of vegetation. Glen pulled out the tarp — soon enough we made a shelter from it, canoe paddles and Bill's Boy

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Upper North River, WV *Don't fear the turtle!!!* by Ron Knipling

Steve Ettinger's new book *Capital Canoeing and Kayaking* describes the Class 2-3 upper North River WV above Rio as "well-known if seldom paddled." We need to change that and make it well-known and frequently paddled! As frequently as water levels would permit, that is. You need a lot of rain and water to catch this terrific stretch of whitewater. On Friday, May 10 I was planning to just paddle a Class 1-2 section below Rio by myself with a bike shuttle. But I heard from Pete and Sheila Chapelle expressing an interest, which gave me the "assault team" needed to do something a little more exciting. I thought that we might have a chance at catching the thrilling upper North, which I had paddled twice, many years past. There had been a lot of rain in previous days and area gauges were up: Cootes Store = 4.9'/900cfs; Great Cacapon = 6.8'/4,000cfs; Brandywine = 3.5'/700cfs; Cedar Creek = 3.6'/430cfs, and Waites Run = 4.2'/70cfs.



We met downstream on Rt. 50 at Hanging Rock, and drove up the North River valley through Delray and toward Rio. If you have been properly acculturated as an honorary West Virginian, you know that Rio is pronounced "Rye-O," not "Ree-O." I didn't really think the stream would have water above Rio, but I wanted to show Pete and Sheila "something interesting" located upstream of the village. As we drove through Rio and upstream, we could see that the stream was running at a beautiful level. That "something interesting" is a rare Yellow-Striped Giant Green Creek Turtle which makes its permanent home

in the middle of the creek about two miles above Rio. As soon as we got there, we knew that we had to paddle out and kiss the turtle. Besides, the water was irresistible. That would be the put-in.

The upper North was running at about 3" above minimum, though many rapids seemed higher. We ran about 3 miles to the bridge below Rio, and this was probably the best 3 miles of paddling I've experienced in recent years. The gradient, per Ettinger, is 48'/mile. Most rapids were Class 2+ boulder gardens,

spaced evenly throughout the run. There would be 50-100 yards of engaging rapids followed by 50 yards or so of easy water to set up for the next one. There were *no strainers* on this 3-mile run; I don't even recall dodging a tree branch. The run was not without risk, though, because it had three ledges with dangerous reversal hydraulics.

The first was a paved ford, the second a natural ledge, and the third a paved ford beneath a footbridge. We carried or sneaked all three of these; I think that the last one could have been safely runnable but the first two were dangerous, each featuring a wide band of hungry, back-flowing water below the drop.

The run ended too soon. We wanted to add a few mellow miles of Class 1-2 below Rio, but, after a search, it appeared that the only legal take-out access would add 5-6 miles to the run. An intense thunderstorm further convinced us to call it a day – a rare and memorable day.

Great Cacapon Can Provide an Almost-Perfect Prediction of the Lost River RC Level

by Ron Knipling

I have always strived for perfection in all of my life's activities. However, rarely have I even come close! This includes predicting water levels on rivers. River water level predictions are never perfect unless the predicting gauge is located on the same river at the actual site of the paddling. The closer the gauge, the better the prediction, generally. Even a gauge located on the same river is suspect if it is too far away.

Predicting the water level for the Lost River Dry Gorge has always seemed particularly problematic. There is an accurate Randy Carter (RC) gauge on the river-left bridge abutment just above the put-in, but what has been lacking is a reliable prediction of that level based on online gauge readings. How many collective hours have paddlers wasted driving out to the Lost only to find it unrunnable, either too low or too high?

The Great Cacapon gauge is located on the same river as the Lost (the river has two different names) but it is located at the mouth of the Cacapon about 40 linear miles and 88 river miles from the Lost put-in. The watershed drainage area of the Lost (177 mi²) is just 26% of that of the entire river at Great Cacapon. Great Cacapon has never *seemed* like a good choice as a predictor of the Lost, and thus has often been discounted by paddlers. *American Whitewater* uses Brandywine on the Moorefield River (also called the South Fork of the South

Branch) as its predictor for the Lost, and states the minimum requirement at 2.5' or about 260cfs. Brandywine is ~50 linear miles from the Lost put-in and has a drainage area of 103mi².

Over the past year, several inveterate BRV "gaugeaholics" have recorded on-site observations of the Lost RC level (usually when putting in on the river) and later obtained corresponding gauge readings for the same day and time. We have seven sets of observations, with Lost RC levels spanning 48" from -12" to +36". Co-conspirators in this nefarious pursuit have included Alf Cooley, Pete and Sheila Chapelle, and our departed mentor, Steve Ettinger. All of our readings have been at times when rivers were steady or falling, not when they were rapidly rising after a rain. We have recorded readings at Great Cacapon, Brandywine, Cedar Creek at Winchester (~30 miles away; 102mi²), the North Fork Shenandoah at Cootes Store (~35 miles away; 210mi²); and Waites Run (~4 miles away; 13mi²).

You could make an argument for the predictive validity of any of these gauges. Brandywine, Winchester, and Cootes Store are all located in adjacent watersheds (west, east, and south, respectively) and have drainage areas roughly like the Lost. Waites Run is in the same valley, just 4 linear miles from the Lost put-in. On the negative side, the Waites Run drainage

area is just 7% of the Lost drainage.

I've entered the data onto an *Excel* spreadsheet and calculated correlations and other statistics. I have used CFS values for the online gauges and the visually observed linear RC reading for the Lost. All of the river gauges examined show good correlations with the Lost RC, but Great Cacapon has been far-and-away the most accurate. A correlation coefficient of +1.00 would represent perfect prediction. The Great Cacapon-Lost RC correlation for our seven observations has been +0.98. That high a correlation is rarely seen for any kind of real-world data. The *square* of the correlation coefficient (R²) represents the proportion of the variation of the predicted measure (Lost RC) that is "explained" by the predicting measure (Great Cacapon CFS). For this data, 0.98² or 96.8% of the Lost RC variation is "explained" by Great Cacapon. The figure on the next page shows the seven data points, the derived equation for predicting the Lost RC from Great Cacapon, and the R². In the equation, x is the Great Cacapon CFS and y is the Lost RC level.

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First camp under the tarp.

COLORADO (Continued from page 1)

Scout knots holding the shelter together. It was the first of many tarp shelters, which served as booze hole, diner and lounge.

It rained more on our island camp and the river rose, 1.5 feet, judging by the sticks we placed in the sand, so we decided to stay put rather than paddle on in the rain. Wes and then Ron and Jo canoed up-river to explore a couple of side canyons. The sun finally came out as dozens of swallows flew around us, and as the evening set in, bats replaced the swallows.

Tex, our outfitter, told us of Anasazi Indian ruins on river left, opposite Lathrop Canyon. Ron S. found an opening in the tamarisk so we hiked along a trail to the base of a rock shelf. A little exploration revealed some pictographs and several granaries, which were used provide a rodent-free storage of corn. It is easy to imagine why the

Anasazis chose the spot to live, since it had a wide plain down to the river and protection from floods, animals and neighbors. The pictographs were shadow images of hands, similar to those at Cave of the Hands in Patagonia. It is a source of endless speculation of how the Anasazi lived and why they left. Did they have more free time than we do now? Was their life hard?

We paddled several more miles downriver to a good camp on a

sand bar, opposite a rock window at Monument Creek. At some point during the night we were all woken up by a loud voice proclaiming something about “a**hole Republicans” followed by a song. It turns out that Bob was talking/singing in his dreams. All of us heard snippets of the song but could not remember the exact tune. This event proved to be one of the talking points of the trip and the quote “a**hole Republicans” became a mantra for the group.

Early the next day Tex showed up in the jetboat — 1 day early with our steaks and replacement beer. Glory be!! There is a distinct advantage in paddling the Colorado, the route of the jetboats: resupply. This day was a long and varied one. Four miles below our camp we pulled over to river left to explore the gooseneck at “The Loop.” Here the river passes through a deeply entrenched meander; in four river miles it ends up at a point a quarter of a land mile across a gooseneck from where it started. The hike to the saddle gains 400 feet at a reasonable grade. There were great views and we saw Tex’s jetboat take 10 minutes to make its way from one side of the meander to the other.



Sunset at “blue beetle camp.”



Ron Knipling at the saddle of The Loop.

It took us a lot longer than 10 minutes to get around the meander and the weather rolled in on us with heavy rain and pea-sized hail. Not fun; we took cover as best we could under the tamarisk on the banks of the river. The sun eventually came out and stayed fine for the rest of the afternoon. We ran the “exciting” class I slide rapid, a rare narrow section of the river caused by massive fallen boulders. Shortly after that we came to the confluence of the Colorado and Green — it was definitely not green but the same muddy brown color as the Colorado. Bob has seen just the opposite on previous trips.

Since the river was already pretty high, we were looking for a campsite that was safe from rising waters. There was scant choice as most campsites were occupied. So we settled for a marginal campsite on river’s edge about 50 feet long by 15 feet wide hemmed in by the tama-

risk. Our tents fit cozily end-to-end on this spit of sand.



Glen and Jo on the river.



Spanish Bottom camp.

We camped at Spanish Bottom for 3 nights. There are numerous opportunities for hiking here: Needles, Confluence Overlook, Cataract Canyon, the Doll’s House and beyond into the Maze. The next day was a fine one, so we decided to hike to the Doll’s House. We walked to the “lower” Spanish Bottom campsites across huge mud pans and cave-ins from storm damage and the resulting flash floods. It was a hell of a hike up — 1500 feet on narrow but very well built and maintained trails zig-zagging up the canyon side. The top of the canyon was breathtaking with amazing rock formations, thus the name Doll’s House bestowed on the area by cowboys in the 1890s. We reached a fine overlook of the Needles and

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View from the Doll House.

COLORADO (Continued from page 5)

the La Sal Mountains at about the same time that an-

Our last full day at Spanish Bottom dawned still gloomy but we all decided that it was a day to do some local hiking. Jo, Bob and Kerry paddled to the other side of the river and hiked up Red Creek Canyon. We crossed the creek four times wading through water about calf deep. We could see a big storm coming in and decided to turn around after we'd stopped for a quick lunch.



Ron and Wes got caught in the worst part of the storm near the top of the Doll's House and had sheltered under a small overhang on the leeward side of the canyon wall. The rain was pouring down around them and across Spanish Bottom. They witnessed Red Creek flooding and blowing out with huge waves, sediment and debris eventually blocking

Storm over Canyonlands.

other storm started in from the Needles towards us. We had a quick snack and grabbed a few photos before we started our trek back to camp.

That night we had a humdinger of a storm with huge lightning bolts and thunderclaps reverberating around the canyon walls. Jo's commentary: I was counting in between the lightning bolts and thunderclaps as the storms moved away and new ones headed our way. In the short spaces where I drifted off to sleep, I was dreaming of floating down Cataract Canyon in my tent or on the blow-up beds we were sleeping on. Not much sleep that night worrying about the river rising around us.



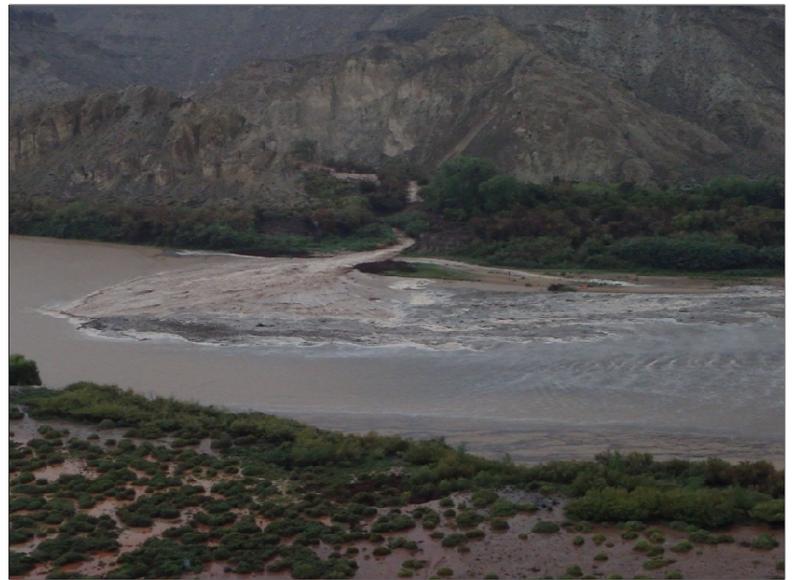
Storm over the Doll House.



Red Canyon flash flood waterfall.

2/3rds of the river. This was in the canyon where we were hiking only an hour previously.

Four ladies on the spit of sand below Red Creek were one minute fearing for their lives as the river flooded around both sides of their island and the next “saved” because the sediment and debris dammed the river and hence re-created their island and blocked the right channel so that they could at least wade to river right to “safe” ground. While all this was happening, the Tag-A-Long outfitter had come down river later than anticipated (an engine failed) with a crew of folks they had



picked up. Because of the river status and the women’s situation they had to camp at Spanish Bottom overnight rather than head back to Potash.

At this point, all of us excepting Ron and Wes were sitting under the tarp and chatting when Ron S. suddenly announced that the water was rising and rapidly approaching our tent! We all sprang into action and pulled out tent pegs and dragged our tent and others as far back as we could, which was just a few feet because of the tamarisk and sand bank. Anyhow, this gave us just enough room to yank out our sleeping bags and other essential gear and stuff them in the dry bags. All of us were salvaging what we could of our own and

Red Canyon flash flood...

common gear and shoving everything into the canoes so that we could move everything to higher ground. Bob went up river and asked the occupants (Sally and John) if we could join them. They did not have much choice really, but we kept filling up the canoes and moved up river with all our gear. We slowly set up camp with encouraging smiles and help from Sally and John, our new neighbors.

We later realized that the Red Canyon flash flood had created the island and caused the river level to rise. This is what had caused

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...creating new island in Colorado River.



ade and lemonade cocktails until the night settled in.

Next day, of course just as we're ready to head back to Moab, the sun shone brightly and we could dry out some of our gear. We all drove back to Grand Junction and ate a final dinner together and toasted ourselves with a few local brews down at the Rock Slide Brewery in the old town.

Bob's commentary: This was my sixth trip to the Maze using Tex's Riverways jetboat shuttle service: 3 on the Green, 1 on the Colorado and 2 backpacking trips into the Maze. The scenery is magnificent, the river camping generally easy and the storms more frequent

than one would think. May is a great month for backpacking; September is good for float trips. We will be back.

Jo and Bob moving a tent from our flooded campsite.

COLORADO (Continued from page 7)

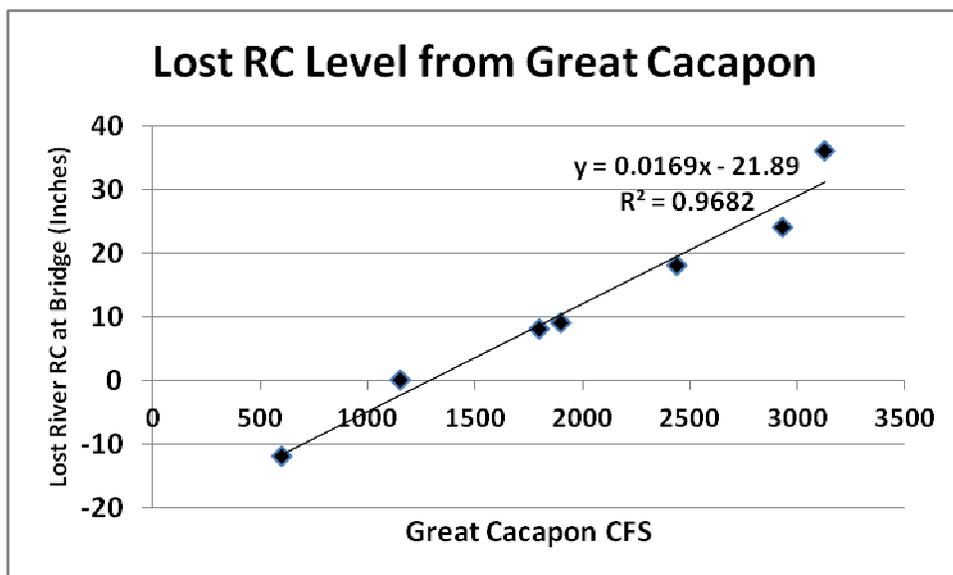
our camp to flood.

At some point we heard Ron K. and Wes shouting

and asking for our whereabouts and they soon turned up at the upper campsite with tales of their adventure. While we were setting up our new camp, a big crew of rafters came into view upriver. John, our new neighbor, shouted that this was the group that they had been waiting to join them. We all groaned at the thought that we'd have to consolidate our camp further to accommodate this large group. HaHa, John was only kidding, nice one! John and Sally joined us and we drank Gator-



Group at Spanish Bottom camp.



GAUGE CORRELATION (continued from page 3)

The table shows eight different statistics for each of the five river gauges based on the observations. Great Cacapon was best, with Brandywine second, Winchester third, and Cootes Store and Waites tied for fourth. The Brandywine statistics are based on six observations rather than seven. One “outlier” (when the Lost was at +18” with Brandywine = 26cfs) was omitted in the calculations; when it was included, the Brandywine stats were confounded and obviously wrong. Omitting data points may be frowned upon in science, but I’d rather cheat and be right than not cheat and be wrong. I did the same thing with my doctoral dissertation (just kidding!).

Statistic:	River Gauge:	Great Caca- pon	Brandywine (Moorefield)*	Winchester (Cedar Cr)	Cootes Store (NF Shen)	Waites Run
Correlation (R) w Lost RC:		+0.98	+0.92	+0.86	+0.74	+0.74
Percent of Lost River RC Variance “Explained” (R squared):		97%	85%	75%	54%	55%
Formula Lost RC in Inches (y) from Gauge CFS (x):		0.017x- 21.89	0.083x- 10.46	0.139x- 22.56	0.048x-8.169	0.655x- 11.64
CFS to Predict Lost RC = 0:		1,295	126	162	169	18
CFS to Predict Lost RC = +12”:		2,005	270	249	418	36
CFS to Predict Lost RC = +24”:		2,715	414	335	667	54
CFS to Predict Lost RC = +36”:		3,425	558	422	916	73

In addition to the correlations and R² statistics, the table shows the formula you would use to predict the Lost RC reading based on that gauge, and gauge CFS readings that would be required to predict RC levels of Zero (0”), +12”, +24”, and +36”. Of course, you can look at all of these readings and discern the “consensus” prediction.

A few caveats. First, I have used volume measures to predict a linear measure; maybe using the linear gauge readings would be better, but I don’t have all those numbers. As mentioned, all readings were at times when

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Book Review: *Capital Canoeing and Kayaking*

by Alford Cooley

[published in the *American Whitewater Journal*, Nov/Dec 2013]

For those paddlers living in and around Washington, DC and Baltimore, Steve Ettinger's long awaited whitewater guidebook is already proving indispensable. Over the years, members of this area's strong local paddling community have incessantly written about the plethora of free flowing local rivers and creeks, so this guide has ample competition and amplification.

This book is different, however, in its focus on the little brooks as well as the larger rivers. Right up front it trumpets the 372 streams (in 521 sections) it describes — which cover a four-state (MD, VA, PA, WV) area from the Chesapeake Bay fall line over to the Blue Ridge, down from the Susquehanna to the Rappahannock and out back to West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. The self-imposed two-hour driving radius from DC means, sadly, that the upper Potomac and upper Shenandoah are beyond the purview of this book.

But inside these generous boundaries, there seems to be hardly a ditch or rivulet that the author has not essayed. Some of these micro-runs have catchment areas of under five square miles, meaning they can be devilishly hard to catch. Over the course of nearly 20 years, Ettinger has paddled almost all — the ones he wished he had (but that you are encouraged to try out) are written up as "explorer's specials," usually being the tippy-top headwaters of the most interesting runs.

Most importantly, Ettinger has

written a new kind of guide that takes advantage of the Internet — specifically on-line weather and river gauges — and of GPS mapping devices. He is a strong and convincing advocate of the use of volume (in cfs) as a universal measure, rather than the confusing array of idiosyncratic stage readings (in feet) for individual streams. With that measure, stream comparisons become meaningful and comprehensible to other than hardened local river rats. He shows how to use the USGS, NWS and AFWS to a paddler's best advantage (that's the US Geological Survey, the National Weather Service and the Automated Flood Warning System for the uninitiated). With information gleaned from these applied to the 41 dense but worthwhile charts at the top of each chapter (arrayed by basin), the errant boater can be practically assured of putting in on the stream of his choice at a level that will delight his whole paddling group.

As befits a World Bank economist, Mr. Ettinger has a keen sense for numbers, which comes to the fore as he describes how to extrapolate the USGS gauge reading of X cfs at a point on one stream with Y square miles of catchment to determine the flow on a target stream at a point with Z square miles of catchment. Even US government rain gauges are not overlooked, a data source I have yet to see in any other guidebook.

The GPS suggestion — letting the author dispense with lengthy prose

descriptions of how to reach and set shuttle on each river — came from his young sons, who told him to ride the wave of modernity and minimize the heft of this already considerable guide.

If there be a criticism of this fine guide, it might be that very few of the users will be interested in repeating the author's many micro-stream exploits, which misadventures he describes with gusto. But what fine reading they make! Also, aside from the fine cover photo of Mr. Ettinger on a swollen Rock Creek (his home stream, and the District of Columbia's second major waterway), the book is devoid of the usual photographic eye-candy. For that, and in motion, we have AmericanWhitewater.org, YouTube, and the rest. Too, the dwindling community of GPS Ludites who insist on trying to locate new streams with DeLorme state atlases may be frustrated to once again be reminded of their dinosaur status.

A review of the guide would not be complete without mention of Ettinger's many warm qualities, among which are humor and leadership. Over the years of restless river roaming he has come to lead a loyal if ever-changing band of fellow paddlers from across this broad area, called the Thursday Group, who support him in his madness, and who have been able to supply him with descriptions of the few (generally hair) runs that he has not done himself. His humor is lurking

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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**

GAUGE CORRELATION (Continued from page 9)

rivers were steady or falling; these values would be much less predictive immediately after a big rain. This is especially true for Great Cacapon, located ~88 river miles downstream. An exception might be Waites Run, which responds quickest to a rain and is probably the best leading indicator. The formulas are probably much less accurate for higher water levels; if CFS readings predicted the Lost to be more than 3', I'd be looking to paddle someplace else (like maybe the nearby upper North, Tearcoat Creek, or Trout Run). Also, remember to extrapolate your cfs "readings" forward to your expected time on the river, especially if you are checking gauges the night before, which would likely be 12-18 hours before putting on the river. Finally, the Lost RC gauge may slightly underestimate the actual water available for paddling. I paddled the river on the day of the second data point shown on the graph. The Lost RC was Zero, while my subjective judgment on the river was +1".

We'll be adding new observations to these calculations, and certainly they will change. If you are at the Lost this winter or next spring, please send me the RC reading and day/time. I'll be publishing an update to this article next summer. But my money is on Great Cacapon!

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BOOK REVIEW (Continued from page 10)

in every page, where wry asides about national politics are studded like raisins, along with text boxes featuring doggerel verses about his riverine adventures. Truly a guide for nearly everyone in or traveling to the DC region!

[Sadly, Steve Ettinger passed away this past July — see the Autumn Voyageur for BRV memories — Ed.]

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 4 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 2014: January TBD, March TBD, May TBD, July/August TBD (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.

2013 BRV Officers: Rick Koller, President; Mark Wray, VP; Mike Martin & Daryl Hall, Trip Coordinators; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

2013 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
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Deadline for Spring Voyageur:
Friday, March 7th

RENEW NOW! If your mailing label says 2013, this is your final issue. Use the membership form on page 11.