

# THE VOYAGEUR



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

Winter 2017

## PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

Season's greetings to everyone. Hope everyone had a great time at the party this year; I will hear the particulars at the next meeting in January.

As most of you know Frank Fico is retiring as editor of the newsletter. Frank did a marvelous job over the past 20 years or more consistently putting an excellent newsletter together preceding the scheduled club meetings. Frank kept us up to date on members' adventures and various paddling issues local and national. Frank would add interesting stories from other boating sources that made for very entertaining reading. I think the newsletter really helped the club maintain an enjoyable camaraderie and I'm sure everyone agrees with how much Frank has contributed to our overall enjoyment of our sport.

I will be continuing as Pres at present (until I can persuade a suitable retiree to step up) and will be helping out with the roster. Beth Koller has generously volunteered to continue with the newsletter, which at this point will be electronically distributed. She has some changes in mind which will be explained after the new year after the annual board meeting and I'm sure she will do a great job. Clark will continue as treasurer and the club is lowering the dues to \$10/yr. Ginny DeSeau will be collecting the dues; the new membership form should be available in this newsletter [see page 3].

See you in January.

Rick

## What a Dry Fall!

*It's been a pretty dry summer into fall, and this photo epitomizes what our favorite rivers have looked like much of the time. Believe it or not, this is the class 3 rapid just upstream of the Milam bridge at the end of the Moorefield Canyon run on the South Fork, South Branch Potomac, looking upstream from the bottom. [Photo by Tom McCloud]*



## **BRV Newsletter info from Beth Koller**

Initially I will print the newsletter as a simple WORD document, possibly transformed into a PDF. If I can get other masthead information, or a scanned image of the logo, I may incorporate that later. The goal is to release a newsletter at least four times a year.

Any information that members can get to me 2-4 months in advance would be great so that we do not have stale-dated material in the newsletter. Announcements on releases or other activities (e.g., races, paddling programs such as the National Paddling Film Fest, conservation programs, safety classes, club parties/picnics) also will be delineated chronologically in a quick reference calendar section. This information will be forwarded to the webmaster to keep the site alive and interesting, given CCA's reported 35% membership increase with improvement of its website. Articles that are not time-sensitive may be saved as later filler.

Articles can be long or short. Article text can be written directly in an email or submitted as a WORD document. Article pictures should be submitted as a JPG in SRGB color format (if you are shooting in JPG this is the format it will be) with pixel dimensions 1024 x 786 at the highest quality available. If you are willing to have the pictures forwarded to the webmaster for display on the web to help keep it updated, please let me know. Some size adjustments may be needed, but these will not be necessary for you to do.

I am looking for folks to:

- Provide trip announcement information
- Provide trip report information, along with any available pictures (do members have any Week of River reports from WV or NC?)
- Provide a list of meeting dates and locations
- Provide information on meeting programs
- Provide information on the dues and to whom to send them (and if they can be paid via PayPal on the website)
- Provide information on a featured member
- Provide information on conservation activities or legal/access rights issues
- Provide officer reports (can be very short)
- Include gear for sale or gear wanted

This list may be expanded.

Please ask people to complete the EXCEL spreadsheet that will be the format for the enduring roster so that Rick and I can complete the document and Ginny can update the dues status category.

Beth

240-506-0417

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 (newsletter will be sent by e-mail only)

**Make checks payable to BRV. Mail to:** BRV Membership  
c/o Virginia DeSeau  
1105 Highwood Road  
Rockville, MD 20851

**Name: (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BRV Facebook Group Now Available  
by Frank Fico**

First of all, I want to express my gratitude to the club for the beautiful handmade card, kind words and appreciation gift presented to me at the holiday party. I've gotten a lot of satisfaction from doing the newsletter over the past 24 years, but it's time to move on and hand over the reins. Thanks to Beth Koller for taking on the newsletter, and to Ginny DeSeau for taking over the all-important membership duties.

What I'd like to focus on now is creating a user-friendly social media presence for those BRV members so inclined and other interested paddlers. For those of you who are on Facebook, I have initiated a BRV Facebook group. It is a closed group, with me as the moderator. From the Facebook website on a computer\*, go to the menu (should be the icon in the lower right of your window). There you should find a heading for Groups beneath your Friends. Select Groups, then use the Search Groups text entry window at the top to find "Friends of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs." I will accept your membership request, then you can access the site to view or post at any time. This is an easy way to add trip photos with captions (or even attach a full trip report file), check-in from rivers near and far, organize impromptu trips, post announcements, questions, etc. I don't expect many issues with posting inappropriate content since I control the membership. (Membership in the group is not tied to BRV club membership; any interested paddler can join.)

I have posted a few "vintage" BRV items to the group, including the first BRV newsletter Bridget and I edited in January 1993. Believe it or not, the incoming President that year was none other than current President Rick Koller — check out the group to see his inaugural Prez Put-in and a fun trip down memory lane.

\*The Facebook app on a mobile device may work slightly differently. For those not yet on Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the prompts to set up a free account. You can control your privacy settings to be as strict or open as desired.

## 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 Voyager*, 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 dates to be scheduled in the following months: January, March, May, September and November. 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. In addition to the regular meetings in 2016, there is a club Moonlight Picnic on July 16th and a Holiday Party on December 3rd.

**BRV Website:** The BRV website (<http://www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org>) provides information on trips, meetings, and other club events.

**2017 BRV Officers:** Rick Koller, President; Mark Wray, VP; Clark Childers, Treasurer

**2017 Board of Directors:** Ginny DeSeau, Ron Knipling, Wes Mills

Address changes: contact Ginny DeSeau

Membership applications/renewals: submit to Ginny DeSeau



### *The Voyager*

c/o Frank Fico  
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