

CLUB BUSINESS AT THE PUT-IN

The President Reports from the Canoe Saddle:

We are moving into the paddling season with fits and starts: record high temperatures followed by frost, drought followed by pouring rain, and then snow...wind...and more snow.

The **next meeting** will be held on **Monday, March 26 at 7:15 PM** at the Clara Barton Recreation Center (7425 MacArthur Boulevard, Ste. 151, Cabin John, MD 20218 followed by beer and pizza at Ledo's Pizza (5245 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20816; 301-656-5336). We will have the opportunity to hear about risks to the Potomac watershed from one of its River Keepers, Dean Naujoks, featured in the film to be shown, and learn about the history of running Great Falls via a National Paddling Film Fest video. We also have already scheduled the May meeting for **Monday, May 21**. Roy Sewall will present his stunning photography from the Potomac River and Mather Gorge in particular. Who knew paddlers could be this organized?

We hope that you will take the time to **fill-up the 2018 BRV Activity Calendar**. We have compiled release dates and some festival dates, which are being posted on the web calendar and in the newsletter. At the March meeting, we will have a calendar for sign-up. We already have Charlie Duffy's safety training classes listed along with some warm-up trips and some southern trips (Richard Hopley and Matt Anderson) as well as a variety of family-oriented trips, but we do have co-ordinator openings for releases at Bloomington, the Lehigh, the Savage, and Stonycreek as well as for ElkFest (Webster Springs) and a possible tire-rodeo clean-up. If John McClanahan (new member featured in the member profile of the last newsletter) calls you to help fill out the trip roster, please help him out. Better yet give him a call (john.mcclanahan3@gmail.com; 703-582-0221). **Please note, the dates of some of the scheduled trips will change because of the crazy weather and water levels we have been having!!!** Trip co-ordinators should be contacting our webmaster, Mike Martin (imnostooge@yahoo.com) if there are changes. Participants should confirm trips with co-ordinators .

Please also support the trips that are posted—such as the **April clean-up on the Potomac** done in conjunction with the Alice Ferguson Foundation (<http://fergusonfoundation.org/>). Kathleen Sengstock does a great job of spearheading these efforts.

Mike Martin (webmaster) arranged for a **new club logo** and had some stickers for boats and cars printed up. There are still a few free giveaway stickers. The next batch will be available at a nominal cost. Be sure to thank Mike for his efforts.



There is a new set of trivia questions. Yes, Keith Merkel's point total has been zeroed out with the advent of the new year so you have a chance. Some of the trivia questions at the end of the newsletter will be based on photographs.

The location of the holiday party is getting pricy so if you have options that can be explored, please give them to Mark Wray (VP aka party master).

Do some spring cleaning, and list your underused paddling gear for sale in the newsletter.

Again, many thanks to newsletter contributors including Matt Anderson, Barb Brown, Charlie Duffy, Ed Evangelidi, Aaron Otte, and Jim Pruitt—Oh, and even me! (See the member profile.) The deadline for the next newsletter is May 15.

Rick Koller

<i>Club Business at Put-in: President's Report</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Meet Your Fellow BRV Member #1</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Festivals, Clean-ups, & Races</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Boating Trivia</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Releases Needing Co-ordinators</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Trip Report: French Broad</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Feature #1 Smokey Mt Adventure</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Trip Report: Little Tennessee</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Trip Announcements</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Historic-Folkloric: Mountain Trains</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Meeting Announcements</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Historic-Folkloric: Trap Pond</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Paddling Gear for Sale</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Feature #3 Float Plans</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Boating Gear-Special Order Maps</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Humor Division</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Special Trip Announcement</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Parting Shots at Take-out & Photo Trivia</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Conservation-Tire Rodeo & Other Updates</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Member Renewal Form</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Feature #2 Okefenokee Swamp</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Quick Trip Report Form</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Access Issues</i>	<i>16</i>		

PADDLING TRIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Festivals, Clean-ups, and Races

March 18 Vermillion River (OH) Clean-up. Contact: Jon Reising (mnmsguy@yahoo.com, 440-967-9507) Keel Haulers Club

March 24 Goshen Pass Cleanup and Paddle on the Maury in Goshen VA: Coastals event

March 25 Vermillion River (OH) 50th Annual Race. Contact: Jon Reising (mnmsguy@yahoo.com, 440-967-9507) Keel Haulers Club

April 14 and 15 Elk Fest in Webster Springs, WV. **Co-ordinator needed.**

April 21 Cuyahoga Falls Race (OH) Contact: Don Howdyshell (donh458@gmail.com, 330-671-0825) Keel Haulers Club

April 21 (April 28 in the event of high water) Grand River Canoe/Kayak Race (OH) Contact: Brian Davidson (440-358-7275) Keel Haulers Club

April 28 Lower Appomattox River Festival in Petersburg VA: <http://folar-va.org/events/>

May 4 and 5 Cheat Fest: <http://cheatfest.org>

May 5 Nelson River Race on the lower Tye in Nelson County, VA:

<https://www.virginia.org/Listings/EventsAndExhibits/NelsonDownriverCanoeandKayakRace/>;

<http://www.nelsoncounty-va.gov/Park%20Programs/nelson-downriver-race/>

May 18, 19, and 20 Dominion River Rock in Richmond, VA: <http://www.riverrockrva.com/>

May 18, 19, and 20 Stonycreek Rendezvous: <https://benscreekcanoecub.com/rendezvous/> **Co-ordinator needed.**

May 19 Cuyahoga River Day (OH) Contact: Nichole Vorisek (vorisekn@cuyahogariver.org; 216-241-2414 x307) Friends of the Crooked River

May 19 Pigg River Ramble in Rocky Mount, VA (see below):
<https://www.virginia.org/listings/Events/PiggRiverRamble/>

May 20 Breakfast on the Blackwater in Rocky Mount, VA (see above):
<https://www.virginia.org/listings/Events/BreakfastontheBlackwater/>

June 2 The 38th Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race in Fredericksburg, VA:
<http://www.americancanoe.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=320924>

June 2-3 Slippery Rock Clinic (PA) Contact: Joe Marks (joemarks@gmail.com 216-533-0604) Register by May 21. Must be a member of Keel Haulers or Three Rivers Paddle Club

June 23-24 Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival/Tim Gavin Memorial Downriver Race in Harpers Ferry, WV: <https://harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org/>. **Co-ordinator needed.**

Releases Needing Co-ordinators

Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8: Bloomington release

Saturday, May 5: Bloomington release

Saturday, May 19: Bloomington release

Saturday, June 2: Savage Release

Sunday, July 1: Savage Release

FEATURE ARTICLE #1

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park Paddling Adventure (February 16 – 19, 2018)—
Matt Anderson (BRV's Alabama-based reporter and southern trip organizer)**

With warm February temperatures, the ground saturated from a large amount of rain falling over the prior few weeks, and the potential for precipitation on the way, three of us headed to Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) to celebrate Presidents' Day Weekend by paddling as many new rivers as possible.



The mist and the hills...



A little wildlife

On Friday we arrived in GSMNP at about 1 PM, set up tents in Smokemont Campground, and headed across the park through Gatlinburg to the north east side of the park in Tennessee. We reached the Class 3-4 Greenbrier Section on the Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon at about 4 PM and were off the river before 5:30 PM. This excellent cocktail-time run is mostly road-side. The shuttle is easy—although the tendency of the more difficult rapids to be located where the road deviated from the river did require additional river scouting time.

On Saturday, because water levels in the park were on the low side and rain was forecast for the evening, we left the park and headed to Jonathan Creek, rated Class 2-3. This river had everything. It started with swift water flowing through cow pastures and farm fields, which progressed to Class 1 and 2 rapids behind RV parks, gas stations, Dollar General stores, and a sawmill, and which was followed by Class 3 rapids in a pretty gorge lined with mountain laurel. All of this culminated in a series of challenging rapids which require scouting or portaging. Our group walked around the last of these large rapids, which had two channels formed by a large boulder in the middle of the river and which involved a boof ledge. At higher levels, with the slope of the rock splitting the flow more evenly, we might have reached a different conclusion, but, at the level that day, the vast majority of the creek flowed into the left channel, which necked down to a thin channel formed by two undercut rocks. The combination of this formation, the necessity of a boof move, and a lot of water was pushing off the right bank, increased the difficulty of getting to the right slot below. Plus it was a very easy walk around the rapid on a graded surface. Along this run we saw every kind of North Carolina drainage ditch bank along the way: mud banks, piled rocks, gravel, gravel in chicken-wire baskets, poured concrete, and a car chassis. If there had been more chickens, it would have felt like Alabama!

After running Jonathan's Creek, the day was still young. We still wanted to paddle so we headed *further* away from the park into Pisgah National Forest to catch a low water run on the Class 2-3 East Fork of the Pigeon. This was a great run: beautiful scenery, clean water, high number of rapids (many of the boulder garden variety) that starts with a distinct lack of human signature followed by an increasing number of signs of civilization. Of note, there are a few low water bridges and strainers to portage along the way. Eventually the river bends back to the road where homes, campgrounds, and other retreats are present. Luckily the banks are high and keep much of this out of view.

We had a little excitement. Given the extensive number of gunshots continuously fired into the air as we paddled down a particular segment of the river, we concluded that some of the locals aren't too fond of paddlers. We decided to take out at a campground because, the sun was going down, the take-out car wasn't close, and the gunman was following us down the river firing into the air. This alternate plan was changed when volunteer fire department staff kindly gave our driver a four mile ride to the car.

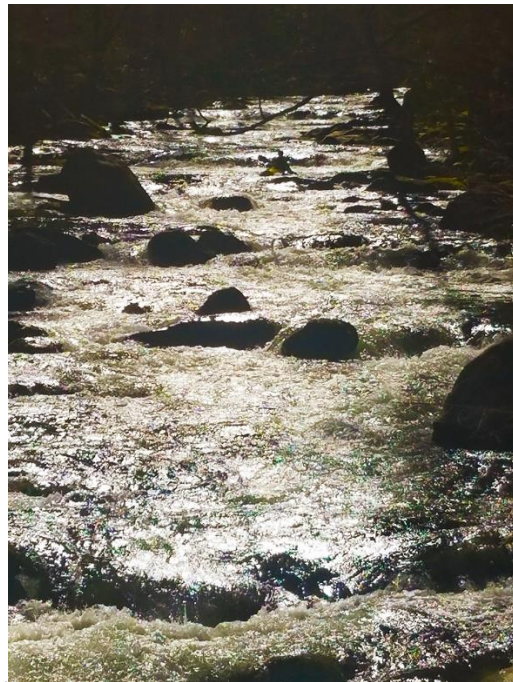
On Sunday, because rain had brought up some streams in the park, but we were unable to join up with any local paddlers, so we drove to the east side of the park near the Pigeon River and ran two laps on Big Creek. This Class 3-4 run is great and well worth doing again! The pictures are from the second run of this day.



Continuous fun



Big ledge



Busy, busy, busy...

All of the above rivers were personal first descents (PFDs) for each of us.

On Monday, the park water levels were low and we needed to drive home. We decided to head for the Tellico Ledges, where we saw some familiar faces from other paddling clubs, and then onto the Hiwassee Dries. The Tellico Ledges are well known, thoroughly documented, and frequently run so we won't discuss them further here except to say that one of us made a PFD!!! By contrast, the Hiwassee Dries section very rarely has enough water to paddle (hence, the "dries" part of the name), and thus is seldom run. First, we will address the shuttle. The AW reference emphatically suggests avoiding the straight-forward put-in at the Highway 68 Bridge because of miles of river flowing through stands of trees, the absence of rapids, and a longer shuttle. AW recommends driving along forest roads to lower boats down the slope and putting in near Wolf Creek. <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1752/>.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apalachia_Dam. There are, however, bigger issues! The take-out is the TVA's Apalachia Powerhouse. Although the powerhouse has a beautiful parking lot and boat ramp ideal for paddlers, the TVA does not permit their use by paddlers and others for security reasons. Fortunately, near the powerhouse, there is a creek that empties into the river. The mouth of the creek is a good place to get off the river, and it is not on TVA property. There is enough space to park two vehicles along this creek, which can be found after crossing the railroad tracks near the powerhouse.

Now, back to the white-water. In the southeast boating community, this river is considered to be a "big water" run. There are so few big water runs in the southeast that those who paddle the dries will compare and contrast it with the Gauley River or the Colorado River. The river starts out with a bang. The first rapid, Hollywood Bowl, is the biggest. Fortunately, it is easily scouted by walking along the railroad tracks at the put-in. From there on, the gradient slows with each mile, and the rapids become more spaced out and less challenging. There are a few spots in which the flooded river flows through stands of trees. The proper channel through these trees is the widest one. Use your ears to follow the sound of water to help determine which channel to go.

A few tips and comments:

Phone service at the campground was very limited (as in requiring a strong wind to blow from the south in order to receive an occasional text message) so I used the USGS Gauge Alert service to text me early each morning with the water level of particular gauges. I had created a reference chart to know the minimum levels (using American Whitewater's National River Database) for various sections of river that correlate to each gauge to determine what was runnable. This worked marginally well, but in reality, each morning, we ended up driving seven minutes to the Visitor Center for better phone service.

We mostly ate hearty dinners and protein-packed breakfasts in camp. Lunch was frequently on the fly, cooked at the take-out (leaving coolers and food items in camp is prohibited in GSMNP), or involved dining at a restaurant (once). With the rain, it was difficult to find dry wood for a fire. GSMNP prohibits bringing firewood into the park unless it is certified, heat-treated wood that is packaged and clearly marked with a State or Federal seal (USDA certified firewood is readily available at gas stations outside the park).

Other than the Hiwassee Dries, the shuttle routes for all of these runs were mostly road-side and straight-forward. Having two vehicles for the three of us was crucial because, other than at the Tellico, we didn't see any other paddlers on the river, at the put-in, or at the take-out!

Although we made various attempts to have a larger paddling group, no additional paddlers joined us. Because we did not have a leader who knew the routes, we had to work as a team and develop our own river-reading skills/abilities. There was one rapid on Jonathan Creek that we all portaged. We portaged a few strainers on Big Creek and the East Fork of the Pigeon) and some low water bridges on the East Fork of the Pigeon. We had a couple of flips which resulted in a bottom-brace-roll in shallow water and one roll. There was a double pin which resulted two of us getting out of our boats on Big Creek. There were no swims or injuries.

We still have a list of rivers that we didn't run for a variety of reasons: Cataloochee Creek, the Oconaluftee River, the Straight Fork, the main stem of the Little River, various sections of the Middle and West Prongs of the Little River, and various sections of the Middle and West Prongs of the Little Pigeon. These rivers plus the abundance of other runs in the park create reasons for more trips to the area. **I am definitely looking forward to taking more of you down these runs in future years!**

TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

March TBD: *Sideling Hill Creek* (Practiced novice). Bob Raab (301-874-6398). Consider this as a warm-up or pastoral type run. **This will be rescheduled from because of low water levels on March 10.**

March TBD: *Couch Potatoes' Spring Shakedown Cruise--Dealer's Choice* of Location. Mike Martin (202-549-3433)(or alternate). Date may be adjusted depending on weather and water. **This will be rescheduled because of low water levels March 17 and 18.**

March TBD: *Cedar Creek* (Practiced novice): Bob Whiting (member BRV, president MCC) (301-696-2024, 301-606-4909). This is a perfect warm-up creek in Virginia. It is small and scenic. It should be run before the trees are leafed out. It enters the Shenandoah system west of Front Royal. **This will be rescheduled from March 25 because of low water levels and uncertain snowmelt timing.**

Saturday, March 31: *Stonycreek-Dealer's Choice* (Class 3). Jim Pruitt (703-728-0816). This could be **extended to Sunday** (Easter) if there is interest. **This is a change from March 24.**

Saturday, March 31. *Lost River or Hopeville Canyon or Moorefield Canyon* (Class 2-3): Alf Cooley (703-442-7935).

Friday, March 30-Sunday, April 1 (Easter weekend): ***Smokehole Camper*** (Class 2-3): Tom McCloud (301 473 4546, tommccld@gmail.com [preferred]) will co-ordinate a fun filled weekend. Rivers further to the west are run first, e.g., Hopeville Canyon. The lower Smokehole with the take-out in Petersburg is run on Sunday. Destinations are dependent on water levels/locations. These are day trips and not "camping gear in boat" trips.

Late April or May: Exact date to be determined: *Family Fun Trip* on the ***upper Rapp*** (12 miles west of Warrenton) (Class 1+). Phil Troutman (703-764-9106). This is a great trip for families. It is very secluded with no on-river traffic to get in the way of shore stops to cook hot dogs and smores and to let children (and adults) run some gentle rapids in life jackets over and over. Get on the call list because when the weather and water are right, Phil will give a four or five day notice.

Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8: *Western Virginia* rivers near Staunton, e.g., North, Bullpasture, Maury or Irish Creek (Class 3). Bob Maxey (703-823-1439). Many of these gems are rain dependent so the agenda will vary.

Saturday, April 14: Potomac River Cleanup. Kathleen Sengstock (202-225-1461). In conjunction with the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Watershed Clean-up Day, paddlers from the BRV and CCA annually clean-up the Potomac segment on the Maryland side near Riley's Lock. Cleanup supplies will be provided, but bring water and lunch. River level permitting, bring your boat for island and/or GW canal clean-up. Expect to get dirty.

Saturday, April 14: Dry Fork of the Cheat in West Virginia or a nearby run (Class 2+ to 3). Charlie Duffy (703-938-3949). This will be the first on-river segment of the "**Intermediate Clinic**". There will be camping at Teeters Campground (Albright).

Sunday, April 15: Arden section of the Tygart or the canyon section of the Cheat (Class 3-3+). Charlie Duffy (703-938-3949). This will be an on-river **follow-up to the "Intermediate Clinic"**.

Saturday, April 21: Blue Bells Outing on the Monocacy (Practiced novice): Dean Geis (443-250-0864). If water levels are higher, tributaries of the Monocacy will be run. Bring your cameras for the flowers.

Saturday, April 21: Bloomington release (Class 2-3). Phil Troutman (703-764-9106). There will be camping at the Army Corps of Engineers Robert W Craig campground.
<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/robert-w-craig/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73371>

Saturday, April 21: Smokehole River or Cheat Narrows (Class 2-3): Mark Wray (703-222-4842, 703-395-6061). The plan is to camp there overnight on April 20 to permit an early start in the morning.

Sunday, April 22: Bloomington release (Class 2-3). Mark Wray (703-222-4842, 703-395-6061).

Sunday, April 22: Bloomington release (Class 2-3). Phil Troutman (703-764-9106). There will be camping at the Army Corps of Engineers Robert W Craig campground.
<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/robert-w-craig/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73371>

Saturday, April 20 through Sunday, April 29. WV Week of Rivers in Canaan Valley area (Class 1-4): Ron Ray.

Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28: Pine Creek Gorge and tributaries (Class 2+): Craig Wolfe (301-461-7846). The plan is to drive up to the Cedar Run, PA area on Thursday, April 26 and to camp or stay in lodging and then paddle the next two days. Cedar Inn is often booked on weekends. There is camping at Petticoat Junction. There may be other lodging in Slate Run. The canyon is scenic. The canyon section, also known as the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania", is about 50 miles long and 1500 feet below the rim. There are hiking and biking opportunities with wild-life viewing. In the Fall, the foliage is spectacular.
<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?01548500>
<http://visitpa.com/pa-bird-wildlife-watching/pine-creek-gorge>

<https://uncoveringpa.com/biking-pine-creek-rail-trail-pennsylvania>
<https://www.traillink.com/trail/pine-creek-rail-trail/>

Saturday, April 28: *Swiftwater Rescue (SWR) Refresher Class* at Little Falls. Charlie Duffy (703-938-3949). Participants must have completed a full SWR class prior to taking this refresher course. The majority of the class will be hands-on. Little of it will be on-land. Standard boating gear is required.

Saturday, April 28: *Gunpowder watershed* (Practiced novice to Class 2). Phil Dawson (443-875-4182).

Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6: *Trap Pond Family Camper* in Laurel, Delaware (Novice and practiced novice). Miki Komlosh (240-620-9440). The campground in one of Delaware's first state parks will serve as a jumping off point for paddling in the area. The pond is notable for the northernmost natural stand of bald cypress trees.
Park information: 302-875-5153; <http://www.destateparks.com/park/trap-pond/>

Sunday, May 6: *Bloomington*. Skills development. Limited to six. Beth Koller (240-506-0417).

Saturday, May 12: *CCA Downriver Race*. Howard Moreland (703-525-1429). **Safety boaters are needed.**

Saturday, May 12 through Sunday, May 20. *Smokey Mountains Paddling Week* (Class 3-4). Richard Hopley (rhopley@earthlink.net). This is in Richard's current backyard—so you are in good hands.

Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20: *Potomac River (from Brunswick to Noland's Ferry)* and *Antietam Creek* the next day (Novice or practiced novice). Karen Trump (717-689-2251).

Sunday, May 20: *Introduction to Paddling for Families at Seneca Landing-Riley's Lock* (Novice). Miki Komlosh (240-620-9440) and the CCA. Canoes and kayaks will be provided by Calleva. No experience is required. Participants should bring water, snacks, and a change of clothes because you may get wet. Experienced volunteers are needed to assist.

Sunday, May 20: *Bloomington*. Skills development. Limited to six. Beth Koller (240-506-0417).

Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28: *Annual Memorial Day Weekend Camper at Teeter's Campground* (Albright, WV). (Class 2-4). Mike Martin (202-549-3433) and Courtney Caldwell (703-802-0155, 703-980-1079). The campground will serve as a jumping off point for trips in the area and will provide the setting for good company in the evenings.

Saturday, May 26 through Monday, May 28 (exact dates pending): Child-friendly trip to *Cass Railroad and Greenbrier River* area in West Virginia. Miki Komlosh (240-620-9440).

Sunday, June 3: *Forks of the Cheat / Dealer's Choice* (Class 3-4). Jenny Thomas (703-907-9771).

Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10: *Lehigh Release* (Class 2-3). Phil Dawson (443-875-4182).

MEETINGS

Monday, March 26: Double Feature on the Potomac

The BRV will have TWO film presentations at 7:15 PM, Monday, March 26 meeting in the Clara Barton Recreation Center (7425 MacArthur Blvd #151, Cabin John, MD 20818).

- Dean Naujoks, the recipient of the River Network's 2009 National River Heroes Award and one of the Potomac Riverkeepers featured in the American University documentary film about challenges to water quality and the impact on fishing and boating in three segments of the Potomac-including near the Bloomington section, will be there to field questions about the organization and the river issues (<http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/staff/dean-naujoks/>; <http://www.american.edu/soc/news/the-politics-of-water-potomac-grad-spotlight.cfm>; <http://www.mpt.org/stationrelations/keeping-the-potomac/>).
- The other entertainment is a National Paddling Film Fest movie about the geology of the Potomac and the how Great Falls came to be run, The Fall Line.



Come early to help set up chairs and to fill in the BRV activity calendar. And after the movies, adjourn to Ledo's for pizza and boating stories (5245 River Road Bethesda, MD 20816).

Monday, May 21: Potomac Redux

The BRV will host Roy Sewell (<https://www.facebook.com/roysewall/>) at the Monday, May 21 meeting at 7:15 PM in the Clara Barton Recreation Center. Mr. Sewall was a director at Orbital Sciences, but in recent years has married his technical skills with artistry as a professional photographer and current president of the North Bethesda Camera Club. He turned his camera lenses onto his own backyard, the Potomac River. He has captured broad riverscapes, flora and fauna on the river, and human activity on and around the river including paddling and the C&O canal structures. Through his photos, he will help us see parts of the river we may miss. And as a past board member of the C&O Canal Trust, he can answer questions about those buildings we pass on the shuttle or on the way to the put-ins/take-outs.

SPRING CLEANING: MEMBER EQUIPMENT FOR SWAP OR SALE

- CANOE: Mohawk "12II" solo whitewater/play boat OC-1 with two airbags. ABS/Royalex. Pedestal saddle with quick-release thigh straps. Stored in shade. No major incidents. Light for carrying. \$795 firm. Ron Knipling.
- CANOE: Caption tandem with wood gunwales. More sporty than the workhorse Dimension. Stored indoors. \$1000 (or call). Dean Geis.
- KAYAK: Red BlissStick RAD 185 playboat. In good condition. \$350. Gus Anderson

- KAYAK: Slate River tandem Nyami Nyami kayak with bags/pillars. Limited use. Protected from UV light. \$600. Beth Koller.
- PADDLE: Lightning Gradient. Right fix. 197 cm. Used 10 days. \$80. Jim Pruitt.

BOATING GEAR

GPS-Not the End-all and Be-all for Boaters--Aaron Otte

I am having a professional map maker put four states, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, on a single, 3 foot by 4 foot, map. The map will feature only state lines, highways, towns, and rivers. I am focusing on rivers the size of “Passage Creek” and larger. The professional who will create and print the map will emphasize rivers—especially those suitable for paddling, float trips, and fishing. As such, this is not intended for extreme creekers. The cost for a single map will be \$230. The cost per map for 10 buyers will be \$100. I am up to seven so far—so if you are interested, contact me at aaronreston@comcast.net (preferred route to keep track of requests) or 703-796-6060.

SPECIAL TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Ocoee Opportunity: An Offer Too Good to Refuse—Matt Anderson

Matt Anderson, another BRV paddler now located outside of the region (Alabama), has proposed leading a trip on the Ocoee. He will take a day off of work for a three day weekend to make it worthwhile for mid-Atlantic paddlers to make the drive down. He plans to focus on the middle Ocoee. This would require proficiency on the Lower Yough and preferably some experience on the Cheat Canyon or equivalent. He is willing to take first-timers to the river. He is flexible about the number as long as he knows in advance—so that he can rope in more paddlers from his area. If folks are up for it, the upper Ocoee can be run as well. He also notes that paddlers who come down could extend their trip by another day on the Ocoee River or the nearby Hiwassee River.

The potential dates that he is proposing are the weekends of **May 5, May 12, May 19, June 2, or August 25.**

So don't dither and wait for the last minute. Send Matt an e-mail at mattaboater@gmail.com or give him a call at 703-586-5822.

CONSERVATION

Tire Rodeo—Barb Brown (BRV member and CCA Chairperson)

The CCA conducted a tire rodeo between Lock 8 and Lock 10 last Summer. Over 200 tires were removed. CCA is looking for partners in a late Summer 2018 rodeo. They are also looking for clean-up sites. Recommendations are welcome. Brunswick on the Potomac has been identified as a potential site because of the mother-lode of tires right at the boat take-out ramp.

Last year NRG Global Giving provided the CCA with a grant to cover the cost of a dumpster and the price of hauling the tires away. There were sufficient funds to provide for lunch and T-shirts for 50 volunteers. **But applying for a grant requires an advance commitment--so don't delay in indicating interest in participation or on-site organization and getting it on the BRV calendar.**

(See Lisa Fallon's BRV newsletter write-up on the 2017 event.)

[Logging in WV State Parks](#)

Legislation (West Virginia Senate Bill 270 and House Bill 483) to permit logging in state parks was introduced at the request of Governor Justice. The bills faced public opposition from a broad variety of citizens. As such, neither bill had been voted on by the “cross-over day” deadline and so cannot be acted on by the opposite legislative chamber during the current session.

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/legislative_session/wv-legislature-axes-state-parks-logging-bill/article_b8815320-16c0-55b4-9421-da41329817ba.html

[Mine Run-off and the Blackwater](#)

The Friends of Blackwater received a state grant to develop a watershed plan for Beaver Creek, a tributary to the Blackwater, because of the problematic acid mine run-off from the Coketon Mine Pool and the associated aluminum and iron. The mitigation will use bicarbonate to neutralize the acid and facilitate precipitation of metals. Because of the volume of daily acid discharge, 2.5 million gallons, and the large amount of acreage required for a passive system, an active treatment program will be instituted.

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/4313/>

<http://saveblackwater.org/documents/Stateoftheriversmall2.pdf>

<http://saveblackwater.org/newsletter.html> (March 2018 issue)

[FEATURE ARTICLE #2](#)

[Winter Run in Okefenokee Swamp—Barb Brown](#)

Under the leadership of Jimmy and Donna Holcombe, 12 of us explored the swamp for 60 miles. We would eat and sleep on platforms called “chickies”. Chickies had a partial roof, a table for cooking, and a port-a-potty. After eating, the platform would be covered with our tents. I usually chose to sleep underneath the stars. The sunsets were spectacular. We used resealable food buckets to fend off any potential marauding raccoons. We used the same buckets to make a gift tree on Christmas morning. We saw flora and fauna. We paddled through Cypress groves including some burned areas. There were waterlilies and reflections that made great patterns. Masses of pitcher plants were an ongoing delight. Given the temperature, the alligator sightings were rare, but as shown in the photo below, this little fellow was out anyway. There were birds. Indeed, the sandhill cranes became more numerous when the weather turned bad.



Approaching a chickie platform



Bundled up



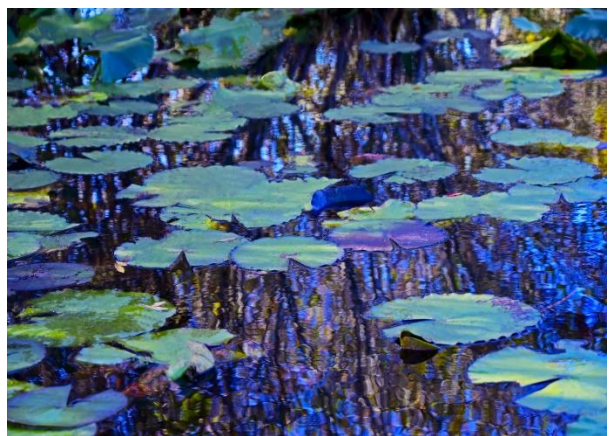
Randy in the groves



An archway of trees



Lilly pads...



Lilly pads & reflections



Sunset views



Burned sections

The weather, ah the weather... Day one was idyllic Florida-southern Georgia, with sandals and shorts. The front came through that night, turning Christmas into a “winter” paddling experience. The last two days could be described as “character building” with rain and cold, but the beauty made it all worthwhile. The trip is highly recommended. For canoe information and reservations call 912-496-3331. See the enclosed map at the end of the article.



Great blue heron and snowy egret



Cranes... and more cranes...



Our new BFF



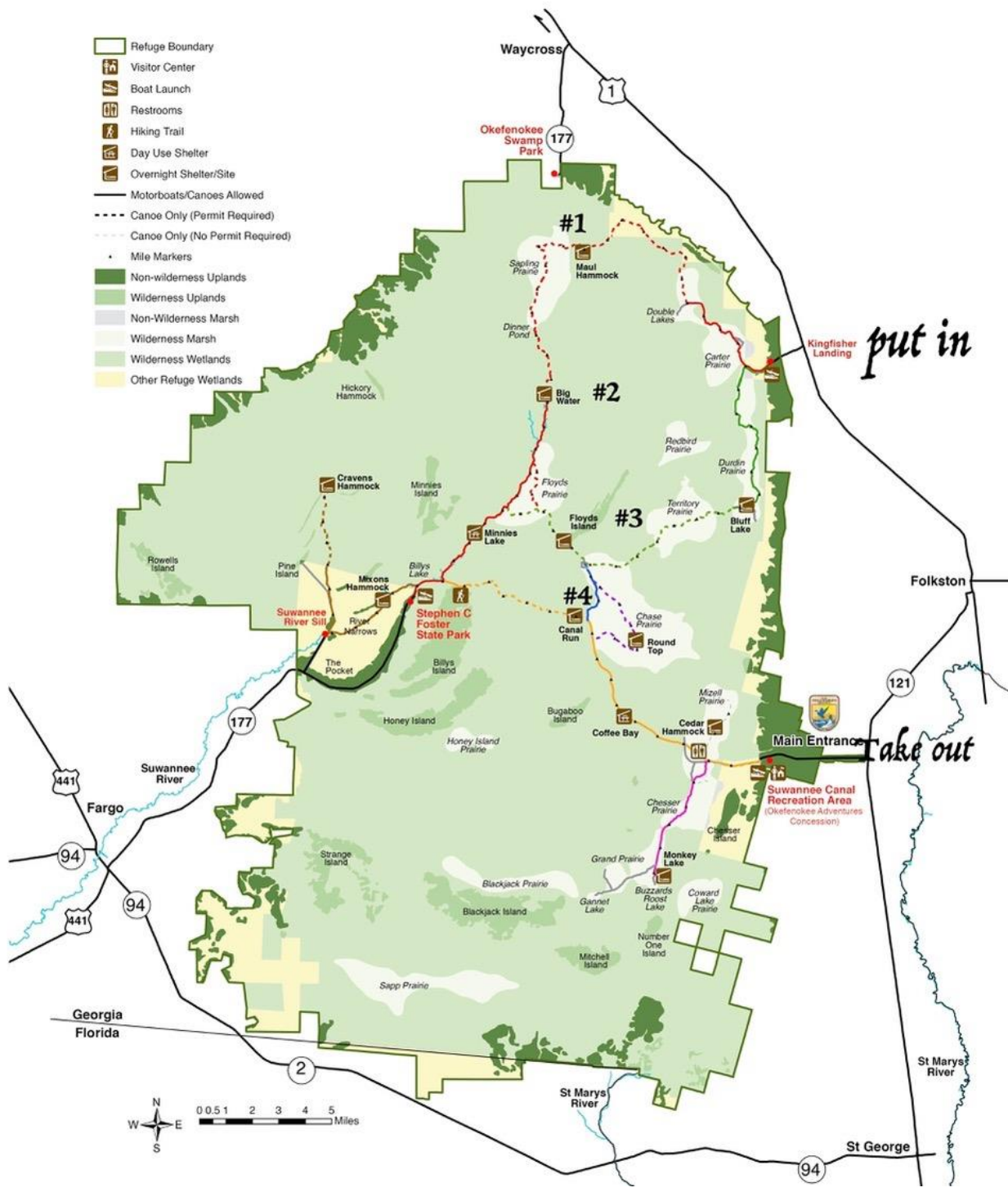
Our X-mas gift bucket tree



Holiday colors with holly



Hungry pitcher plants



ACCESS ISSUES

Changes at Ohiopyle—Information forwarded by Jim Pruitt (our roving reporter)

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDoT) is planning changes to Ohiopyle. This park is somewhat unique in that it has a major thoroughfare running through it.

Enclosed are notes from Jim Sollosi which were obtained at a pre-meeting to the planned February 27 community meeting.

The purpose of the proposed changes is to reduce points of conflict between bikers, boaters, pedestrians, and motorized traffic. There have been multiple single vehicle accidents near the junction of Sugarloaf Road and Highway 381. In the past five years, there has been one reportable vehicular-pedestrian accident with hospitalization and vehicular damage.

PennDoT is interested in making this project work and to be a showcase as to how similar projects in other parks might work. The level of this importance has been demonstrated by the site visit to Ohiopyle made by the Executive Secretary of Transportation. The department has sought public feedback—including a 2016 on-line survey. There was a Negley Avenue meeting with business owners to discuss the relocation of Sugarloaf Road. There were meetings to obtain feedback from business owners, the fire department, and outfitters. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) also supports the project and will be contributing to its development. See below.

The funds allocated for this project can be used only for this project and not shifted to other District 12 projects. No private property needs to be acquired.

Parts of the project:

- Sugarloaf Road will be moved to come down in front of Whitewater Adventurers. This will permit the construction of a single large permeable (asphalt-like) parking lot by the Boaters' Changing House. (This will replace the two, bisected, gravel parking lots.) This same area will be reconfigured to provide and an additional grassy staging area for boaters and will add roadside parking and sidewalks along Highway 381. The number of parking spots in the current three lots at the Boaters' Changing House will be increased from 82 slots to 122 slots.
- The number of parking slots at Ferncliff (above Ohiopyle Falls) will be increased by 100.
- The Boaters' Changing House will be rebuilt and will include a kiosk for launch permits.
- When the bridge section of Highway 381 in front of Wilderness Voyageurs is re-decked, a 10 foot dual bike-pedestrian lane will be added to the downstream side of the road.
- The pre-cast box culvert area under Highway 381 will be accessed by an 8% grade ADA accessible sidewalk. The culvert tunnel will be 10'H x 16'W x 53' long. This will be sufficient to accommodate two outfitter rafts when transported side-by-side.
- The DCNR will maintain the culvert, walkway, and drainage points post completion.
- The DCNR will add bathroom facilities to the Ferncliff lot and the Mitchell lot (take-out).
- The borough is including development of a hotel above Grant Street as part of its master plan.

The timing of the project is from November 2018 through Memorial Day 2019 and with resumption of the project after Labor Day in 2019.

Dawn Schilling, P.E., A.I.C.P. (Project Manager, Environmental Services) provided follow-up information via a PowerPoint presentation from the February 27, 2018 OhioPyle Multimodal Gateway Project Public meeting:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10155897987180225.1073741856.108891490224&type=1&l=0d0759fdc3>

The presentation can be accessed even without a Facebook account. When one clicks on the first slide, it will ask you to log in. Just click “Not Now”, and then re-click the first slide.

[Antietam Creek Obstruction](#)

The Rose’s Mill stone bridge over Antietam Creek at Garis Shop Road (in Funkstown and west of Alt Route 40) is under renovation. The bridge is obstructed by scaffolding and the road is closed. During the repairs, traffic will be detoured through Poffenburger Road. The renovations are due to be completed in late Winter or early Spring. Paddling this stretch requires a portage.

[Shenandoah Staircase Run and Weaverton Access](#)

Access at this location (which is two miles downstream of Sandy Hook) appears to be in flux. The operator that owns the rails, CSX, is no longer using warning horns on approach. In addition to being important to paddlers as an alternative take-out to Sandy Hook, the location is important to the National Park Service because of the C&O Canal and the Appalachian Trail crossing. The public has not been expressly prohibited. But potential for Weaverton to be have less safety in place and/or to considered to be a private crossing has raised concerns. Contact Barb Brown for more information updates.

[MEET YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBER](#)

[Rick Koller \(BRV El Presidente\)](#)

1--When and how did you first get into paddling? Did you or Lou start first?

I first became interested in paddling when my Dad bought a 17 foot Grumman that he used on camping trips with the family. I commandeered it in the summer of 1970 and took it down the Patuxent River starting in Laurel, MD--thinking that I could reach the Chesapeake Bay later that day. I calculated this laughable timing of the trip based on the mileage and the probable speed of the rivers flow. I believe we got about five miles. This river was a nightmare of downed trees every 50 yards or so and was at an extremely low water level. After such a disaster, a normal person would have given up the sport in short order. As is well known though, boaters are not normal. In retrospect, the laughs we had were well worth the aggravation.

After that trip, the Grumman became very familiar with the Blue Ridge under the tutelage provided by the classic Corbett and Matacia guide books. I was paddling with a very good friend during these early years, and together he and I started exploring interesting and an ever larger numbers of rivers. The defining whitewater classic, Burrell and Davidson’s “Wild Water West Virginia”, put me on the path of no return for whitewater canoeing.

We succeeded in the indoctrination of Lou, my childhood friend, into the sport after his return to the DC area in the late 1970's. He then also adopted the strange and obsessive-compulsive disorder of paddling.

2--What kinds of watercraft do you paddle? Have you ever been in a kayak or decked canoe? Do you ever paddle tandem?

In the early years, I paddled tandem canoe. Later I switched to solo open canoe, which I prefer, and now I rarely paddle tandem. It would be extremely risky for someone to paddle tandem with me.

I have had brief experiences experimenting with the fringe sport of kayaking, but have not become enamored of this peculiar hobby and have never been on a river in a covered canoe.

I have enjoyed paddling shredders.

3--Are there any particular features you look for in your open canoes? Do you favor any particular outfitting?

The main features I look for in a solo boat is its resistance to flipping and its ability to self-right. These are the most important characteristics one must consider before purchasing a boat.

4--When do you shred?

When the water is warm and the sun is shining.

5--You have a long history of paddling whitewater, do you ever paddle quiet water or go on canoe campers?

I have occasionally paddled quiet water and enjoy this as well as whitewater.

I have not gone on a canoe camper, but look forward to doing this in my contemplative years. (which are fast approaching). I have gone on a self-supported, duckie trip on the Selway River in Idaho, which was most satisfying.

6--What is the hardest thing that you have paddled? Why was it so difficult?

The most technically challenging and yet satisfying river that I have paddled is the Upper Yough. This river gives me the most bang for my buck. It was only after paddling it approximately nine times while guided that finally I knew the river well enough to guide someone else.

This river is extremely challenging for an open canoe with its numerous long and steep Class 3 and 4 rapids. The rapids are rendered even more difficult by the often "blind" nature of their locations and the very short distances separating them. It is my recommendation that one have the skill to roll one's boat. It is not a pleasant experience to swim here.

7--Tell us about a(n) epic swim(s).

I have had several "epic" swims over the years, but the most memorable of the epics occurred on my most favorite stretch of whitewater, the Upper Yough, of course.

That day arrived in mid-Spring. The skies were clear and the temperature warm... I was in a most confident frame of mind. Cocky, in fact, even though I had only run the river a few times.

Be wary of this type of attitude and the false pride engendered, for the river gods can be easily offended and will smite the presumptuous. (Enter lightning and thunderclaps.) And smite me they did that day! (I have been “smited”, or is it “smote”?, several times for repeatedly committing this same sin.)

The river was running at a normal release flow, and there had been no incidents on the section I refer to as the “Gap Falls” zone. There is a lot of “boogie” water and blind, Class 3 rapids that go on for an extended distancegenerally, an excellent warm-up zone.

*The next zone jumps up a class in difficulty and gradient. This is where my over-confidence met with the reality that one should **never, ever underestimate the river**. First, I flipped at Bastard Falls at the Gumdrop and failed to roll. ...And swim I did. Fortunately for me, the group was strong, and I got roped out after a short swim and retrieved my boat.*

Charlie’s Choice was next, and with a newfound respect I approached this very difficult drop. (At least for me, it is one of the most challenging.) Again, I found myself hanging onto a rescue line and getting dragged to shore. This was getting a bit tiresome.

*Triple Drop was the next series of horizon lines. At this point I was thoroughly cowed and tentatively edged-up to the beginning of the drops. **Never “edge” on the Upper Yough!** The lack of commitment to engage the river was my downfall, and over I went again, floundering and spluttering towards National Falls! My comrades were, by now, anticipating extended action with the throw-rope.*

As I was safely hauled into shore, I observed my boat getting flung down National Falls. At that point, I had to decide whether to continue this brutal and humiliating punishment. There is a trail on river right at National Falls, and I seriously considered this path of shame. The more I thought about this potentially horrendous and long carry, the more I realized how essentially lazy I was and that I would gladly get trashed again and again to avoid a backbreaking canoe hike.

So after a calming lunch break, I determined that I would to continue to paddle my way down the river. This was the right decision--because I had no more untoward incidents and finished the day upright and managed to navigate the likes of Heinzerling and Meat Cleaver without the help of the throw-ropes.

Editorial comment: For future reference and wallopings, *smited* is an alternative past-tense form, which is less common than *smote*.

8--What was one of your most fun trips?

There are countless fun trips over the years to be remembered.

I think one of the most memorably fun days was my first descent of the Upper Gauley. I was a terrified piece of sxxx (doo-doo) as I readied myself at the put-in with the dam release tubes roaring in the background. I had heard many stories of this portion of the Gauley, but was unprepared for the power of the rapids. Fortunately, I had had a decent warm-up the previous

day on the Upper Yough (only two swims), and I had an expert guide in Cahil Converse. He is an absolute wizard on the Upper Gauley. It was predicted by the only other open boater in our group (an arrogant fellow known “affectionately” as “Open-Boat-Jim”) that I was doomed to a severe trashing that day.

With this in mind and as we approached the first significant drop, Initiation, I observed a squirt boat sticking vertically from the boulder sieve that inhabits this first rapid. No sign of the hapless paddler. This was a most unnerving scene for an Upper Gauley newbie! I was to be further impressed by the river after this macabre vision.

The next terror I was to face was famous Pillow Rapid. Here I scouted very carefully and patiently. The late and great paddler, Bob Opachko, had described the “line” to me before my trip, and I managed to pick this pathway out of the whitewater chaos present before me and successfully maneuvered through melee. This buoyed my confidence for the rest of the day, and I ran the rest of the rapids upright except for rolling at the Class 4 Iron Ring Rapid.

9--In how many states and countries have you paddled?

I have paddled out-of-country in Costa Rica and Canada.

I have paddled in all the eastern states except for Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

I have paddled in Arizona, Colorado, and Idaho out West.

10--How did you come to join the BRV? Were/are you a member of other clubs?

I joined the BRV in 1989 after being recruited on the North River (near Bridgewater, VA) by the venerable Ron Knipling. Lou Campagna and I were paddling the river just in front of a BRV trip, and Ron spied us on the shore--drinking beer and smoking during our lunch stop.

He approached us warily, but soon discovered our cheerful demeanor out-weighed our suspicious lunch-time behavior. He supplied the pertinent phone numbers, and I joined soon thereafter. It was sometime, however, before Lou joined. There had been kayakers on that BRV trip, and he was initially philosophically opposed to mixing with those whitewater pretenders. He has since changed this bigoted attitude having been rescued innumerable times by sympathetic kayakers. (Oh, and now he paddles with two blades and in a kayak. See the incriminating photo in the newsletter article about the 2017 Summer Picnic.)

I have not been a member of any other clubs.

11--How many positions have you held in the club?

I have been and am president. I have also served as a board member several times.

12—How many VW Vanagons do you have? How did come to favor these vehicles as your shuttle vehicle of choice?

I have two Vanagons at the moment. I like the way they drive, and the camper version is perfect for extended whitewater trips. This particular model has a stove, sink, fridge, and two beds... and is weather proof. And it is 4-WD; West Virginia shuttle roads are fun!

13--What do you enjoy most about paddling? (Besides watching Scott Gravatt getting trashed.)

I enjoy the feeling of accomplishment negotiating hair-raising rapids. Adrenaline feels good!

And since the environment is usually hyper-scenic, the bonus of wilderness is relished.

Last, but not least, I enjoy the camaraderie shared with my fellow individualistic, nutty boaters.

(Oh, and of course, watching Gravatt getting trashed.)

BOATING TRIVIA



Keith Merkel earned 200+ points and a prize for his trivia responses in 2017. The slate is now clean. Here is your chance to learn something about the origins and trivia of paddling and to share that information with your comrades.

WHAT

1-2--What was the first American-designed kayak? Was it a race boat or a cruise boat? 10 POINTS each

3-5--What was the Warsaw Rocket? What company produced it and where? 10 POINTS each; 30 POINTS total

6--What was the first thermoplastic canoe for whitewater? 10 POINTS

WHO

7-14--Who were the founders of Blue Hole (10 POINTS each; 40 POINTS total), and what were their occupations (10 POINTS each; 40 POINTS total)?

15-17--Who were the first to run Great Falls (spout 22 feet; total drop 65 feet)? 10 POINTS each; 30 POINTS total

THINGS NEVER LEARNED IN SCHOOL

18--What is a “blast”? HINT: Dynamite not necessary. 10 POINTS

19--What is a “mystery move”? 10 POINTS

Continue the fun at Parting Shots at the Take-out.

TRIP REPORTS

French Broad

Susan Eda, long-time paddler from Texas, led a motley crew down a lazy section of the French Broad on a very sunny day. Section 8 starts at the base of Remon Dam and flows north to the Barnard take-out. This stretch of river, below a dam, is very wide with intermittent ledges. There was time for surfing.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Broad_River



You mean I need to paddle?



Our leader, ready for the mid-day sun



Remon Dam



Ed at the put-in



Ready for action



Surf city



Not to busy to smile for the camera



Barca-lounger boating. Where's the cupholder?



Terry strokes along



and takes a dip at the take-out

[Little Tennessee "Little T"](#)

The Little Tennessee travels 135 miles on its way to the junction with the Tennessee River at Lenoir City. It starts in Georgia in the Chattahoochee National Forest. It flows north past Dillard into North Carolina where it joins the Cullasaja River in Franklin. Then it flows into the Nantahala National Forest. The river flows through six impoundments. One of these is minor, Porters Bend Dam. Five are major dams: Fontana, Cheoah, Calderwood, Chilhowee, and Tellico.

The Little T is an excellent run early or late in the season when the weather is chilly because one can drive along the road and select the put-in and take-out. The only problem is marking the take-out so that the group does not miss it.

The Little T is also a great run when you need a rest day, but really want to paddle a little something. It is just around the corner from the campground outside of Bryson City. No real driving. Variable length runs. Plenty of time to clean-up and do laundry before drinks and appetizers in camp before the evening program,....

Ed Evangelidi led the group, which included a large number of Coastal Canoeists members and folks from Texas. Every kind of personal watercraft was on the river: open canoes, whitewater

kayaks, recreational kayaks, sit-on-top kayaks, and inflatable kayaks. The river is composed of a series of ledges. Unlike the Hiwassee, the river had 1000+ cfs and essentially no rocks. The scenery on the river was nice, and we found some fixer-upper real estate.



Plenty of water



Follow the leader



From Texas to the Little T



Sunshine + Surfing = Smiles



On the look-out



Bumper boats



Nancy surfs



Others relax



Enjoying the breeze on a warm Summer day



Still upright and pretty dry



The marked take-out



Prime real estate along the shuttle road

HISTORIC-FOLKLORIC

Cass and Greenbrier Mountain Trains

The company town of Cass was built by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company in 1901 to house lumberjacks who worked in the nearby mountains and the workers employed at the saw mill. The railroad line was later extended from Whitaker to the summit of Bald Knob. Geared steam locomotives were used to handle the grades found in mountainous terrain.

The Virginia Central Railroad, which became the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, extended westward into West Virginia. Later the desire to access the timber in the Greenbrier area resulted in a branch that ran from Ronceverte along the Greenbrier River to Durbin. Johnson Camden, Henry Davis, Stephen Elkins, and John McGraw were instrumental in this. Eventually there was a connector between Durbin and Cass operated by the Coal & Iron Railway, which became the Western Maryland Railway.

The Depression and World War II marked the decline of lumbering and millwork in the Greenbrier area. The last of the mills closed in the 1960s. Chessie, which had acquired the C&O railways abandoned the Greenbrier line in the 1970s. Similarly, during World War II, WV Pulp and Paper was sold to the Mower Company, which remained in operation until 1960. The State of West Virginia acquired the Cass train for its park system. Sixteen years later, the town itself also became part of the park system.

Today both the Cass Scenic Railroad and the Greenbrier Line are managed by the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad (304-636-9477, 315 Railroad Avenue, Elkins, WV 26241). There is a railroad museum in Cass with the mighty Shay locomotives (304-456-4300; 242 Main St, Cass, WV 24927). From Cass, there are two-hour roundtrip tours to Whittaker Station with its logging camp and 4.5-hour roundtrip tours to Bald Knob. From Durbin (4759 Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike, Durbin, WV 26264), there is a two hour trip along the Greenbrier River as it flows through the Monongahela National Forest. The Heisler No. 6 engine pulls 1920s coaches and vintage wooden cabooses.

Additional information on these park areas and tours can be obtained from:
<https://wvstateparks.com/park/cass-scenic-railroad-state-park/>

<http://mountainrailwv.com/tour/cass-scenic-railroad-whittaker-trip/>
<http://mountainrailwv.com/tour/cass-scenic-railroad-bald-knob-trip/ss> Scenic Railroad State Park
<http://mountainrailwv.com/tour/the-durbin-rocket/http://greenbrierriver.com/river-trips/><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qef8wblIhe0>

Additional information for paddling the nearby Greenbrier can be obtained via the following link: <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/3401/>

Trap Pond

Southwestern Sussex County in Delaware once was home to an extensive wetland as well as groves of bald cypress trees. The wood of the cypress trees was desirable because of its resistance to moisture and the associated rot. As a result, the area was timbered in the 1700s. The wetland was dammed to support a sawmill. The name of the milling operations, Trap Mills, was later extended to the backwaters of the dam, Trap Pond. The area was further changed by farmers, who used drainage tiles to further de-water the wetland. The pond was used as a drainage sump after much of the timber had been harvested.

(More information can be found in a publication by Robert Coxe “Historical Analysis and Map of Vegetarian Communities, Land Covers, and Habitats of Trap Pond State Park [University of Delaware press].)

During the Depression, the Federal government purchased the land, and the Civilian Conservation Corps developed the area for recreation. The State of Delaware assumed ownership and designated it as one of its first State parks in 1951.

The range of this second growth cypress and bald cypress extends into Redden State Forest, near Georgetown, DE, but Trap Pond is the northernmost park that includes these types of trees, which favor calm, shallow, standing water. The State Tree, the American Holly, can be found in the bottom lands. The area is home to great blue herons, owls, pileated woodpeckers, and a variety of warblers as well as transient bald eagles and hummingbirds. Bass, bluegill, crappie, and pickerel may be found in the waters and fished.

The park has a nature center with displays, programs, and guided tours. The campground, which is open from March through November, has 10 primitive, walk-in tent sites, two yurts, eight cabins, and 140 sites with hook-ups for water and electric power.

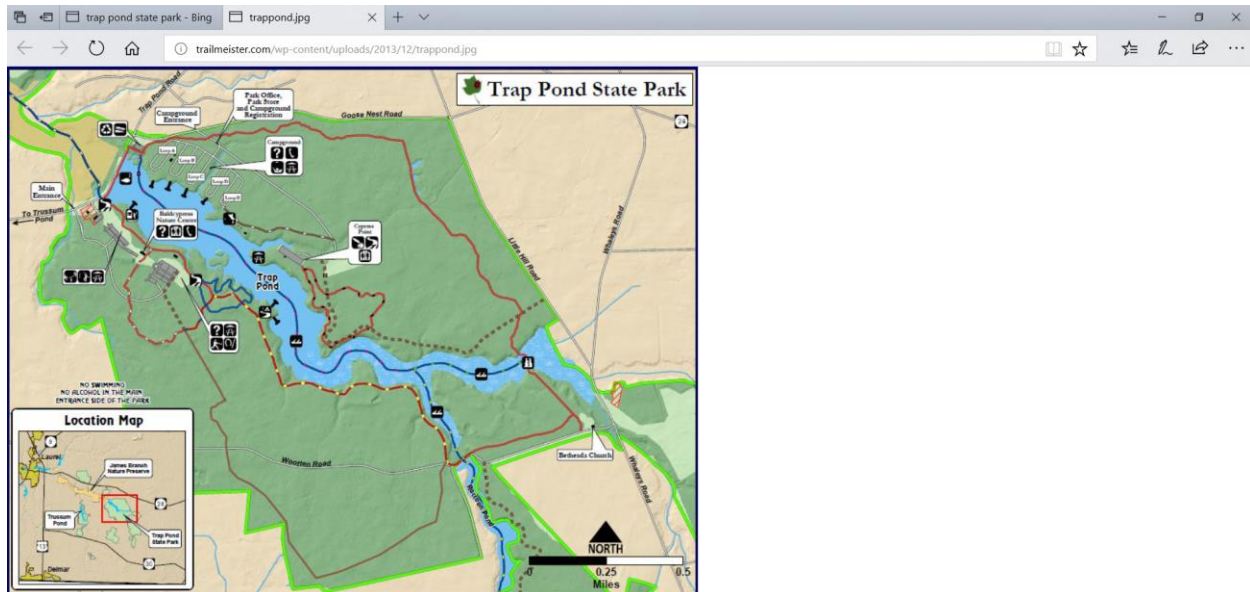
The park is located near Laurel, DE.

Find additional contact information for the park via:

302-875-5153

<http://www.destateparks.com/park/trap-pond/>

<http://www.destateparks.com/park/trap-pond/maps/index.asp>



[FEATURE ARTICLE #3](#)

[Float Plans—Charlie Duffy](#)

[Reasons for a Float Plan](#)

A great safety and risk management practice is preparing a Float Plan. Float plans don't take all that long to prepare and pay huge dividends in preventing accidents and mitigation should one occur.

Here are some suggested items to include:

- **Weather Forecast** – Great for ensuring you are properly dressed, not too hot or too cold.
- **Water Level** – Avoids having to walk out if the river is too high and may lead you to a far better choice.
- **Stage Forecast** – Rivers aren't static. Fortunately, NOAA provides some good forecasting a week out on our more popular and larger rivers.
- **Water Temperature** – Helps determine the level of thermal protection needed.
- **Venue Description** – This is optional if you've done the run many times in the past. On the other hand, if this is a new run – researching information from guidebooks and American Whitewater can make the trip much more enjoyable. Knowing the location for the put-in and take-out is important.
- **Evacuation Possibilities** – What if someone on your trip needs to be evacuated? Do you know the nearest trail or road?
- **Hospital and its Phone Number** – This is usually combined with the evacuation route. Many of our streams are close other states. Calling 911 may get you the wrong EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and delay care for hours. Great to know your options.
- **Gear Requirements** – Is a pin rescue kit needed? Using a checklist for personal gear is reduces omissions, and it's easy to forget something important when you haven't paddled in a while.

[Float Plan Template](#)

Trip/Event Title _____

Event Date(s) _____

Weather Forecast (<https://www.wunderground.com/>) _____

Water Level (<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/search-limited/>) _____

Stage Forecast (<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=brkm2&wfo=lwx>) _____

NOTE: Estimate a week in advance and monitor. Consider upstream gauges if necessary.

Water Temperature (http://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?site_no=01646500) _____

Venue Description (<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/search-limited/>) _____

Evacuation Access (<https://maps.google.com/>) _____

Hospital(s) (<https://www.google.com/>) _____

Contact List (Phone#/e-mail) _____

Group Gear (Query just prior to setting shuttle; take only what's necessary):

- First Aid Kit _____
- Pin Kit _____
- Spare Paddle _____
- Full-size Throw Ropes (70/75' x 3/8") _____
- Repair Kit _____

HUMOR DIVISION--Ed Evangelidi

This boater wanted to open up an outfitting place on this exciting whitewater river. The only problem was a keeper hydraulic that everyone had to negotiate. Thinking of how to play up the fact that most people were going to be recirculating on this otherwise great run; he decided to call the run "mouthwatering".

Some obfuscated terminology for common boating happenings:

- Ambidextrous: Able to use both sides of an air brace.
- Bottom feeder: Told you that you should have stayed in your boat.
- Clothing refresher: *Finally* getting to wash the old polypro that's been in an unbreathable gear bag for months.
- Collateral casualties: Taking out another boat when you screw up your move.
- Effectuate: To actually get out of your comfortable eddy and make the hard move.
- Gravitational pull: Why you are being sucked back into the keeper hole.
- Implementation: Using what you previously learned when Plan A didn't work to make Plan B.
- Non-goal oriented: Not motivated to getting off the river before dark or before your favorite restaurant closes.

- Politically correct: When the day is a total fiasco, saying that you voted for the “other” river at the morning dither.
- Thermal therapy: Pulling over to zip your now flooded unzipped drysuit.
- Underachiever: Using a take-out just above the best part of the river.

Why did Ed join the Army? He said he thought the sergeant said: “Sign here and I'll send you right to *boat* camp.”

PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT
More Boating Trivia



WHO

20-22--Name the paddlers in this photo.
 10 POINTS for all 3

WHO

23-25--Name the paddlers in this photo.
 10 POINTS for all 3

WHERE

26--Name the river on which this was taken.
 10 POINTS



Dues

Dues for 2018 are a mere \$10 and should be sent to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851) unless you pay directly at the meeting. We are working on the website installation of PayPal. The first set of beta testing has been done. Please complete your member roster information regardless of the payment route used. **We would like to have a more complete set of renewal memberships before we finish and distribute the roster.**

Webpage

Mike Martin is looking for photos for the webpage.

Facebook

Frank Fico is looking for participation on the Facebook page.

American Whitewater and Club Benefits

When your paddling club is an affiliate member of American Whitewater (at the cost of \$100 or more (<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Affiliate/view/>), **you can purchase an AW membership at a discount.** (Such a deal!) The standard individual membership price is \$35, and the affiliate individual member price is \$25. (<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-aw/>) Just think about all those times you have consulted the “free” AW gauge dataset!

Trips

Consider what kind of trip/event you might be able co-ordinate. Check out the dates of the festivals and releases. There are some great upcoming family trips that combine several activities and trips that involve paddling in swamps/marshes. There have been requests for easy cold weather trips, warm-up early season events, relaxed scenery trips, and trips for families (which may involve water soakers). Consider putting together a meeting program or organizing a mini-film festival.

The club is about fun and camaraderie. It can't happen without YOU!!!

QUICK TRIP REPORT

Trip date(s): _____

Trip destination(s): _____

Trip participants: _____

_____ Water
levels/gauge readings: _____

Any access or safety issues: _____ Notable

aspects on or off the river: _____

Photos available: _____

Can be submitted to newsletter editor electronically (brvnewsletter [at] earthlink.net) or via mail PO Box 9513 Silver Spring, MD 20916

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