

# The BLUE RIDGE VOYAGEURS Newsletter

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## CLUB BUSINESS ISSUES

### **President's Put-in**

New Year's greetings to all. This year, the BRV will be undergoing change as will be seen in the newsletter.

One of the changes will be the meeting place. The next meeting will start at 7 pm on March 22 at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John, Maryland. It's the same location at which the CCA holds its meetings and is easily accessible with plenty of parking. Although we do have a number of videos that we are pre-viewing, the program hasn't been finalized yet, and the details will be announced via e-mail.

Beth Koller has been working extremely hard putting together a very comprehensive upcoming issue and has put a lot of effort into reviving interest in the club. This edition of the newsletter will be distributed electronically to as many e-mail addresses as we have on-hand.

After this initial issue, only those who have paid the club membership fee will receive new newsletters--**so get the check in the mail!**

Soon we will have the option to pay using PayPal. Mike Martin is working out the details. Some beta testing will be required. I will alert the membership as to when this is a functioning option.

Check out the club's website (<http://www.blueridgevoyageurs.org/>), Mike has also put an enormous amount work into updating it as well.

Also check out the new social media page "Friends of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs" (<http://www.blueridgevoyageurs.org/Facebook.html>). It is an alternative way of meeting fellow paddlers and organizing trips. Frank Fico has been instrumental in developing this.

Stay tuned for further developments. We will keep posting announcements via e-mail.

Hope to see new and old faces in March at Clara Barton.

*Rick*

## **CALENDAR**

### **Activity Dates**

These are the water release dates and festival dates available thus far. Consult the club website for more complete information through the Fall so that you can plan your padding and trip leading schedules.

Feb 17-Friday—**National Paddling Film Festival**-Frankfort, KY  
Feb 18-Saturday--**National Paddling Film Festival**-Frankfort, KY

March 18-Saturday--**Couch Potatoes' Spring Shakedown Cruise**  
March 19-Sunday--**Couch Potatoes' Spring Shakedown Cruise**

April 8-Saturday--North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington  
--**Potomac Watershed Cleanup**  
--Stonycreek-PA

April 9-Sunday—North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington  
--Stonycreek-PA

April 13-Thursday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

April 14-Friday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

April 15-Saturday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

April 16-Sunday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

April 19-Wednesday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

April 20-Thursday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

April 21-Friday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

--Upper Yough

--**WV Week of Rivers-Start**

April 22-Saturday--**Anacostia Watershed Society Earth Day Cleanup**

--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

--North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington

--Stonycreek-PA

April 23-Sunday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

--North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington

--Stonycreek-PA  
 April 26-Wednesday-- Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
 April 27-Thursday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
 April 28-Friday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     —Upper Yough  
 April 30-Sunday—**WV Week of Rivers-End**  
  
 May 1-Monday--Upper Yough  
 May 5—Friday--**Cheat Fest/Cheat Downriver Race**  
     --Upper Yough  
 May 6-Saturday--**Cheat Fest**  
     --Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     --North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington  
     --Stonycreek-PA  
     --Upper Yough  
 May 7-Sunday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     --North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington  
     --Stonycreek-PA  
 May 8-Monday—Upper Yough  
 May 12-Friday—Upper Yough  
 May 13-Saturday--**CCA Potomac Down River Race**  
     --Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     --Lehigh (boost release)  
     --**Smokey Mts Week of Rivers--Start**  
 May 14-Sunday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
 May 17-Wednesday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
 May 18-Thursday-- Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
 May 19-Friday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     --Stonycreek-PA/**Stonycreek Rendevous**  
     --Upper Yough  
 May 20-Saturday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     --Lehigh (boost release)  
     --North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington  
     --Stonycreek-PA/**Stonycreek Rendevous**  
 May 21-Sunday--Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     --North Branch of the Potomac-Bloomington  
     --**Smokey Mts Week of Rivers--End**  
     --Stonycreek-PA/**Stonycreek Rendevous**  
 May 24-Wednesday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
 May 25-Thursday—Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
 May 27-Saturday--**Camper at Teeters Campground**  
     --Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)  
     --Lehigh (boost release)  
     --Stonycreek-PA (Special release)  
 May 28-Sunday--**Camper at Teeters Campground**  
     --Deerfield-MA (Fife Brook)

--Lehigh (boost release)  
--Upper Yough  
May 29-Monday--**Camper at Teeters Campground**  
--Upper Yough

### **Additional Festival Information (chronological order)**

#### ***National Paddling Film Festival 2017***

This one-and-one half day event hosted by the Bluegrass Wildwater Association (BWA) (<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/>) is dedicated to the review of various categories of paddling related videos and single image photography. The former are reviewed by on-site judges. The latter are judged by the viewers. The submission date for video has passed (January 16), but “still” photos can be submitted until January 31 (<http://www.npff.org>). The event itself starts at 5 PM, February 17 at the bourbon distillery (113 Great Buffalo Trace, Frankfort, KY 40601; off of I-64 and just east of I-75) and closes out at 11 PM the following day. There will be special guest and host presentations on Friday at 8 PM and Saturday at 9:45 PM respectively. In between, in addition to the films and photos, there will be distillery tours, bourbon tastings, a chili cook-off and dining, and a silent auction to benefit American Whitewater and other conservation groups. Tickets are \$25 at the door and \$25 with advance purchases.

If you are driving out, bring your boat. Mid-day Saturday there will be a race on the nearby Class II Elkhorn River. Although this is not a NPFF event, it is timed so that the race is done before film pre-viewing resumes at 5 PM. In addition, club members often paddle the Elkhorn on Sunday and get off early enough for long-distance drivers to make it home in a timely way. An alternative, is to take a hike in the nearby very scenic Red River Gorge (just south of east-bound I-64).

#### ***Webster Springs Whitewater Festival (aka Elk Fest) 2017***

Usually in mid-April. Information pending. There was a significant amount of flooding in the area last June.

#### ***Cheat River Festival 2017***

Cheat Fest will open on Friday afternoon in Albright with a downriver race and musical acts.

The race fee has not yet been announced, but will include the mandatory ACA fee. (ACA members should provide their membership numbers.) At 4:40 PM on the river bank, there will be a mandatory safety talk and pre-race meeting. (Boaters should have arranged their shuttle prior to racing.) Paddlers will have 10 minutes to enter their water craft and assemble behind the historic railroad trestle. This will be followed by a warning horn blast one minute prior to the start of the race and then a prolonged horn signal that marks the *en masse* start. There will be a post-race party--with details to be announced later.

The festival itself will open at 5:30 PM and will feature two musical acts Friday evening. The cost of 2-day tickets prior to the event is \$25, while advance ticket costs for Friday and Saturday are \$10 and \$15 respectively. The cost of on-site tickets is an additional \$5 except for Friday only tickets which will remain at \$10. The ticket price does NOT include camping fees.

For more information, call 304-329-3621 or check the web: <http://cheatfest.org/> and <http://www.cheat.org/events/cheat-river-festival/festival-faqs/>

### ***Gauley Fest 2017***

Gauley Fest will again be held September 14-17, 2017 at the Nicholas County Veterans' Memorial Park in Summersville, WV. Thursday and Friday are set-up days with the marketplace opening at 5 PM and music starting at 9 PM on Friday. Music and other live entertainment, silent auctions, and boat raffles will occur on Saturday. Breakfast will be available at the dining hall on Saturday and Sunday morning. Camping is available Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

Fees for Thursday through Saturday are \$40, for Friday and Saturday are \$30, and for Saturday alone are \$20. There are extra fees for dogs.

For more information, check the web:

[https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/aw:events\\_gauley](https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/aw:events_gauley)

### ***Lehigh RiverFest 2017***

Hopefully, this event will be held October 6-8 at the "Adventure Center" of a local outfitter, Whitewater Challengers (288 North Stagecoach Road, Weatherly, PA 18255). Last year it was cancelled due to low water. General admission and parking is free. There will be entertainment and vendor displays.

There is a camping package/paddler package (\$20 advance registration; \$30 on-site) that includes two nights of camping and Saturday breakfast. The camping fee alone is \$7.50/person/night. To take advantage of the included shuttle service, you must obtain a wristband. The shuttle will take you to White Haven and pick you up at Rockport. The shuttle service also will pick up drivers who have dropped their cars at Glen Onoko (the lower run take-out) early in the morning. It will not do an afternoon shuttle from this location, which is 25 miles downstream from White Haven. The last shuttle leaves Whitewater Challengers at noon. For those of you who want to participate in other activities such as biking or paintball, separate charges apply.

For more information, check the web: <http://www.whitewaterchallengers.com/festival/> or e-mail Sarah at [whitewaterchallengers.com](mailto:whitewaterchallengers.com)

### **Missing Calendar Information *HELP!***

We are missing information on a number of dam releases and festival dates including ElkFest, the Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival, the MooseFest Whitewater Festival, the Potomac River Festival/Falls Run, the Over the Falls Race/Party-Ohio, and the Russell Fork release.

Please forward information to the newsletter editor and web guru AND the Facebook manager.

### **POOL ROLLING SESSIONS**

Below are a few of the local choices for boning up on your paddling skills and roll:

The CCA offers 2-hour long evening paddling and rolling practice sessions at the Piney Branch Pool at 7510 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park, MD. Sessions are scheduled to run every Tuesday through March 28-with potential inclement weather make-up dates in early April. Sessions start at 8 PM. You must bring your own gear (cleaned of-course). The cost for each session is \$15. A season pass is \$120. Informal peer instruction is available. Coordinators are Jeff Fox (202-686-4155/202-549-4016c jeffandf@aol.com), Jerry Odhner, and Ron Ray.

[http://www.ccadc.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=87&club\\_id=394800&item\\_id=593599](http://www.ccadc.org/content.aspx?page_id=87&club_id=394800&item_id=593599)

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association has offered 2-hour evening practice sessions at the Fairland Aquatic Center (13950 Old Gunpowder Rd. Laurel, MD 20707) on intermittent Saturdays. Back-to-back sessions start at 4 PM and 6 PM. The cost for each session is \$7. You must bring your own gear, which must be clean. For more information, contact Paul Diggins (pool\_sessions@cpakayaker.com) or consult the pool manager (301-362-6060).

The Greater Baltimore Canoe& Kayak Club offers 2-hour long evening practice sessions at Goucher College) Building 19c) in Towson, MD through March 5 with the exception of Superbowl Sunday, February 5. Sessions start at 6:30 PM. You must bring your own gear. Helmets must be worn. The cost for each session is \$10. In addition, if you are not a GBCC member OR an American Canoe Association (ACA) member, you must also pay the \$10 ACA insurance fee for the session series.

<http://www.baltimorecanoecub.org/index.php/en/>

The Mason-Dixon club offers 2-hour morning sessions at the Hagerstown YMCA (1100 Eastern Blvd N., Hagerstown, MD, 21742). Sessions are scheduled on Sundays: March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26. Sessions start at 9 AM. The cost for each session is \$15 (plus any transaction fees if a credit card is used. You must bring your own gear. You must be a club member (\$10/family/year). For more information contact Nancy Kell, nancykell@outlook.com, 240-329-8995 (cell).

Potomac PaddleSport offers three 2-hour sessions with instruction at the Audrey Moore Recreation Center at Wakefield Park in Annandale, VA. The dates are February 4, March 4, and April 1 (fooled yah, no it is true!) with sessions starting at 7:30 PM. You must bring your own gear (cleaned of-course). The cost for each session is \$45.

<https://www.potomacpaddlesports.com/canoe-kayak-paddling-clubs/indoor-roll-in-near-md-dc-va-pa-practice2.aspx>

Potomac River Outfitters offers Saturday evening 2-hour sessions at the Chinqaupin Recreation Center in Alexandria, VA through March 11. Sessions start at 6 PM. For more information contact Nathan 703-338-9790

<http://potomacriverriverkayakschool.com/calendar/2017-03/>

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **General Information**

To facilitate trip reports for the newsletter, we have enclosed a half-page cheat sheet to collect the basics from your trip so that it can be formatted into a report. This is included **in the back of the newsletter and will be available on the web as well**. If requested, we could provide 3x5 post cards that could be mailed in to the editor.

### **Tennessee Week of Rivers--Court Caldwell**

Last spring, from April 3-9, Mike and Daryl Martin and I, as newcomers, enjoyed a 27 year old tradition of paddling in the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the Obed Wild & Scenic Rivers system with the legendary Juanita Guinn. The other paddlers included Vicki Austin, Chuck Clonninger, Daniel Craft, Anne Halverson, Lucien and Ramona Hill, Michael Metzbowert, Jeff Shryer, and Lesley Symmington.

This is a really user friendly vacation, with lodging, three meals a day, transportation and guides all included. The base of operations was the Grey Gables Bed & Breakfast, Rugby, TN run by Linda Jones, who provided comfortable lodging and plenty of delicious food. The B & B does not have a liquor license, so it's BYOB, which suits me just fine. The two trip coordinators, Juanita Guinn and Kirk Eddlemon, are both excellent paddlers. Juanita and her husband were two of the founders of Dagger. Kirk has published a couple of terrific guide books on the rivers and creeks of that area. Because of the vagaries of the infrastructure and local customs, we were happy to have knowledgeable folks from the region handling logistics.

The rivers were relatively remote in beautiful canyons. The spring green up and wildflowers were spectacular. Rivers were Class II-III, within my comfort zone. A couple of days there were two options, one easier and the other more challenging. Some of the rivers we paddled were: White Oak Creek; White Oak Creek into the Clear Fork River; Clear Creek, Barnett to Lilly & Lilly to Nemo; and the West Fork Obey near Alpine, TN.

More specifically:

- White Oak Creek into Clear Fork – The first day we all did this, a beautiful small creek into a larger stream.
- Barnett to Jett on Clear Creek – The morning of the second day, everyone paddled it, a great Class II.
- Jett to Lilly on Clear Creek – The afternoon of day 2, a little step-up from the morning paddle, with some Class II+.
- Clear Creek Canyon - Mike, Daryl, and some others paddled it. It has several Class III-III+ rapids in a big canyon. I did something easier with Juanita.
- Big South Fork Narrows – Fourth day everyone paddled except Daniel, who hiked out from the put-in after a bad swim. This is a great Class II-III with epic canyon scenery.
- Big South Fork Gorge – Viki, Michael, and Lesley did this with Kirk early in the morning and then joined the rest of us in the afternoon at the Big South Fork Narrows.

I'm signed up to go again this year, for the first of two weeks, March 26<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>. Joining me will be Ron Knipling and Ed Evangelidi. Last I heard there are a couple of slots left. If interested check this out: <http://www.wwsouthernapps.com/week-of-rivers>.



Kirk Eddelmon (865-385-3204; kirk.eddlemon@gmail.com) notes that, although they target the statistically wettest time of the year, water levels are inherently unpredictable on the plateau. The Obed/Big South Fork region is a whitewater heaven, but contains mostly Class II-III whitewater. Class III+ through IV and higher options are numerous, but are available typically only right after heavy rains.

The cost of the 2017 trip will be \$899, which is all-inclusive. The cost for a non-paddling companion who just wants to enjoy the area is \$749. Preference will be based on date/time stamp of response emails.

Mike Martin has assembled a series of photographs from the trip. The links are:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/140207943@N07/albums/72157667046174866/page1>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/140207943@N07/albums/72157667046174866/page2>

A sample photo showing a drop on the Clear Creek to Obed (Lilly Bridge to Nemo) run is shown below.



**This just in from Patagonia!** John Snitzer is on the Futaleufu. A complete report is expected.



## TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS



**I'm looking for trips and more trips from YOU!  
You have the dam release schedules and the festival dates.  
Now do your patriotic duty and lead a trip!**

### **Couch Potatoes' Spring Shakedown Cruise**

Rick Koller (brvkoller@gmail.com; 301-496-8414) has marked Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19 on his calendar for a lower intermediate to intermediate set of runs. The exact destination will be water and weather dependent.

### **Smokey Mountains Whitewater Warm-up**

Richard Hopley aka Oci-One Kanubi (rhopley@earthlink.net; 301-755-0471) will lead his annual BRV/MCC week of paddling throughout the Smokeys from Saturday, May 13 through Sunday, May 21. There will be two or three base camps with day trips emanating for these. A Class III or III+ stream or creek will be paddled each day. The itinerary is not fixed so that the group can follow the best water levels throughout northern Georgia, western North Carolina, and eastern Tennessee. Paddlers are responsible for bringing their own camping and paddling gear. Both the water and the air may be cold. Paddlers should be up early enough to prepare their own breakfasts and lunches in camp prior to each day's departure. Supper will be eaten on the road at mid-scale restaurants.

### **Camper at Teeters Campground, Albright, WV**

Daryl and Mike Martin (imnostooge@yahoo.com; daryl\_54@yahoo.com) along with Courtney Caldwell (courtney.caldwell@lfg.com) will organize a Memorial Day Weekend Rendezvous in the Cheat watershed. Groups will run river trips from lower intermediate levels to advanced levels.

### **Eastern Shore Car Camper**

Ed Evangelidi will lead a trip to Veterans' Day weekend Nov. 10-12 to the eastern Shore. This is a scenic trip. The skills of a practiced novice are all that are needed.

### **Whisperings**

Reliable sources suggest that Court Caldwell is considering a Lehigh trip on a release weekend and will lead a Fall trip to the Tohickon if there is water.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### **The Virtues of Shredding --Marilyn Jones**

My idea of hell is a paddle raft! Not having control is bad enough, but not having control with three or five people all doing something different, and usually wrong?! The worst!!

I've travelled hundreds of miles as a passenger on an oar rig – sitting idle can get pretty boring – and rowing one well takes practice, but there aren't many opportunities to practice.

Paddling heaven can be found in a two-person Shredder. ☺ For those of you unfamiliar with a shredder: a Shredder is a nimble, little, two-person, inflatable craft. The two paddlers sit side-by-side (adjusting for weight), and use a single-bladed paddle.

That side-by-side thing is great, offering **two** important benefits:

- ✓ You both can see the same things, unobstructed by the other's body.  
Because you are sitting closely, pointing at obstacles and routes makes sense – you have the same visual perspective.
- ✓ You can speak to each other in a reasonable voice – no yelling (unless your partner is a jerk).

Talk about seeing things – you can see forever in a Shredder!

- ✓ My eyes are at least 18 inches higher than when I'm in my kayak.  
Someone who knows geometry could quantify the increased distance, but barring that, I'll just say, I can see pretty much forever!
- ✓ Plus, you can stand up, really increasing visibility.

All that visibility gives the Shredder partners **time**. I can see just how big those holes are, and if they are too big, my partner and I have time to get around them.... *usually*.

What I like best about the Shredder is the collaboration between partners. Because the visibility gives you time, you and your partner have time to talk and negotiate a line. It's just you and your partner talking things over. In a rapid, you can coach each other. Beth Koller and I would sneak up to ledges, with Beth saying "slowly, slowly, slowly... NOW!" My friend Susan, would say "you steer", "I'll steer" all through rapids, and that was fun. It's easy and fun to trade-off on control, sharing the responsibility for a complicated line. Sometimes you'll find someone who has the same paddling style and not much talking is needed, but even so, you are working together. At the end of the trip, it's a good feeling to have a shared accomplishment.

The combination of increased visibility, more time, communication and collaboration with a partner can give you an opportunity to run rivers that you might not want to canoe or kayak that day.

If you want to try Shredding, you can easily rent them in Ohiopyle, but you need to know about some downsides. ☹

- ✓ First, you could get a bossy or cranky partner with whom you are stuck all day... or one who talks too much. Unlike kayak or canoe, you won't be able to paddle away. (For past partners reading this, *none of you* fall in that category!)

- ✓ Second, plan on your feet being cold. A Shredder is pretty wet, and nothing breaks the wind, so overall you can get cold. But even if your upper body warms up, those feet stay cold because they are sitting in water ♠ ♠ ♠ the whole trip.
- ✓ Third, watch out for your face! I've gotten a fist or two in my face and had a couple of near misses with the end of the paddle.
- ✓ Last, how exactly do you tie an extra paddle onto a Shredder?



Sheila Chapelle and Marilyn Jones at the New River Rendezvous

### **Shredder Selection and Maintenance—Jim Pruitt**

Most of you have seen them on the river, those black catamaran-style inflatables--typically a two-person craft. Tom Love, the designer and manufacturer of these boats has his shop, Airtight Inflatables, in Ohiopyle PA (208 Bell Grove Rd; 724-329-8668; <http://www.ohiopyle.com/>).

#### ***What kind of shredder should you consider?***

Tom makes different models to suit different needs. Tom makes small tube, big tube, straight hull, rockered hull, and even four person designs. All shredders are made to order.

I personally prefer the Big Rocker model (rockered hull with big tubes). This model turns on dime, and rides a little higher and drier than the small tube model. The straight tube model is a little faster and still turns well. To help decide which model is right for you, try to get in a couple of different models and paddle them. You can also call Tom and tell him what you are looking for in a Shredder.

### *What options should you consider in a shredder?*

- ✓ I consider carry handles a must. They really make a BIG difference when carrying your boat UP the hill at the takeout.
- ✓ Cargo racks. When these are added to the back, it makes carrying additional gear such as spare paddles and pumps easier.
- ✓ A dry-bag specifically made for the boat comes highly recommended. It is important to have it designed to fit smoothly across the back tube and out of the way. Tom makes a nice one with metal zippers like those found in dry-suits.

### *What kinds of accessories are needed?*

- ✓ Of course you will need a means to inflate the boat. Electric pumps are nice at the put-in but manual pumps will get the job done. It's good to have a small pump in your dry-bag for topping off as the tubes will contract a bit when they hit the cold water (just ask George Castanza). I myself prefer the K-Pump for on the river top-offs.
- ✓ Although paddle length is personal, a paddle that is a few inches longer than what you would use in your canoe will ease the strain on your back. (You are sitting a good bit higher than in an OC-1, much less a C-1). I use 61" paddles but I think 63" would be better. I'm just too cheap to buy another. Canoe paddles are the only practical choice here (although Ed E. might just try to find a 350 cm kayak paddle to use ☺).

### *What kinds of maintenance issues are there?*

- ✓ Consider inflating your shredder to be a serial two-step process. I was taught to first inflate the boat, and then to sit on the tubes. The tube should sag under your rear a bit, but it should not crease. If it creases, it is too soft. Don't forget to check it again after you get on the water! (Refer to George Castanza above.)
- ✓ If you stop for lunch while on the river, do not pull the Shredder out of the water and let it bake in the sun. This could result in a lunch time surprise when a tube expands beyond the material's ability to stretch and BOOM, you are walking home! Either tether it to a tree and leave it floating or pull it into the shade. This procedure also applies those times when you are awaiting your shuttle at the put-in and take-out. Also be aware that while sitting in the sun, the black material itself can get hot. So before burning your bottom, check the tube temperature with your hand. If it's too hot, splash the tubes with water.
- ✓ Replacing the valve covers after deflation will help to keep sand out of the valves. Sand in the valves will result in a slow leak. This can be corrected by cleaning with a Q-tip or, if necessary, by removing the valve using a special tool available from NRS.
- ✓ Storage is best done by keeping the boat softly inflated. If however, if you must roll it up due to space concerns, a thorough drying before storing will keep your shredder going strong for many years.
- ✓ The most common way to put a hole in the tubes is by dropping a rolled-up boat. This is particularly true if the valve covers are not screwed on tight because the covers will pinch the tubes. Aqua-seal will work to apply a temporary patch, but is not very flexible, so ask Tom as to the best adhesive to use.

[http://www.nrs.com/inflatables/raft\\_care.asp](http://www.nrs.com/inflatables/raft_care.asp)

[http://www.nrs.com/boating\\_tips/valve\\_know\\_how.asp](http://www.nrs.com/boating_tips/valve_know_how.asp)

## **KNOW YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBER**

Sometimes in the rush to get on the river or to start cooking back in camp, we don't take enough time to get to know our fellow paddlers. Here's your chance!

### ***Gus Anderson:***

1--How long have you been paddling?

***Using a canoe, 56 years, using a kayak 42 years, and via a raft 40 years.***

2--How did you get into paddling?

***I started canoeing in the Boy Scouts in the Carolinas. I started my kayaking career in a class in the San Francisco Bay Area. Two years later, I rafted down the Middle Fork of the Salmon.***

3--What kinds of watercraft do you paddle?

***Canoe (decked and open), kayak (closed and sit-on-top), raft, sea kayak, and paddleboard.***

4--How does rowing a raft compare with kayaking?

***A raft is good for extended trips with lots of gear. The river techniques are somewhat different. One avoids obstacles by rowing away at an upstream angle. The difference is kind of like driving a camper van compared to a sports car.***

5--In how many States have you paddled? ***13 States***

Have you ever paddled outside of the U.S.? ***Canada and Honduras.***

6--You have run rivers that have required a permit. Can you describe that process?

***Yes. I have run the Colorado (Grand Canyon) seven times, the Middle Fork of the Salmon three times, and the Main Salmon two times.***

***One needs to apply at Grand Canyon River Permit Office and Recreation.gov.***

***<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/weightedlottery.htm>***

***There is the initial non-commercial lottery that occurs over a year prior to launch.***

***There are subsequent follow-up lotteries to fill-in leftover or cancelled dates.***

***<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/cancelled-dates.htm>***

7--You took your daughter out paddling at an early age. Can you describe that?

***She went with Debby (Crouse) and me in a sea kayak trip when she was 2 or 3 years old. More specifically we were on the west coast of Vancouver Island: Port Alberni and the Broken Group Islands. She sat or slept in my lap in the open cockpit of the sea kayak. Debby paddled a separate kayak, and we camped out in designated camp sites in the Broken Group Islands, part of the Pacific Rim National Park on Vancouver Island.***

8--What is the hardest thing that you have paddled and why?

***I consider Crystal Rapid to be the hardest thing that I have paddled because I flipped on two out of my seven trips down the Grand Canyon.***

9--What are the aspects of paddling that you most enjoy?

***I enjoy attaining (traveling upstream) and surfing waves. I also enjoy going on extended paddle trips.***



**Debby Crouse:**

1—What kind of rafting have you done?

*I have done both paddle rafting and oar rig trips.*

2—Where have you rafted?

*I have rafted on the New and the Gauley Rivers in the East, on the Colorado, Yampa, and Green Rivers in the Southwest, and in Alaska.*

3--Did any rafting trips involve overnight stays? Did any trips involve particular planning or precautions?

*Yes, I have gone on overnight/extended trips. The specific planning required depended on length and location of trip, which determined the hazards. Precautions included proper gear including a good fitting helmet and life jacket and waterproof gear bags. Having an experienced crew was also important for the more rigorous trips.*

4—What kinds of family boating have you done?

*The Anderson-Crouse family boating has included canoe camping, rafting, and sea kayaking.*

5--Did any family boating trips involve particular planning or precautions?

*The planning involved gear lists, food planning, sun screen, research, and obtaining the advice of people who had done the trip before.*

6--What are the aspects of paddling that you most enjoy and why?

*I enjoy seeing birds and other wildlife that you can sneak up on because they can't hear you coming. (Debby is a professional biologist!) I also enjoy being able to spend multiple days outdoors without driving or carrying your gear.*

**Frank and Bridget Fico:**

1—How long have each of you been paddling?

*Bridget reports that she has been paddling a mere 28 years, while Frank has been at it for 32 years.*

2--How did you each get into paddling? Separately or together?

*Frank started out by taking flatwater and whitewater for phy-ed credit during the first year of college. Bridget followed Frank into paddling.*

3—How did you come to join the BRV?

*We joined at the recommendation of some CCA members who were also in the BRV.*

4--How long have you been in the BRV?

*About 30 years.*

5--Are you a member of other clubs?

*No.*

6--What kinds of watercraft do you paddle? Which is your favorite and why?

**Frank reports that he paddles open canoe “because I'm a dinosaur”. Bridget favors an inflatable kayak (IK) “because I don't have to roll”.**

7--Any advice for couples who want to paddle tandem and stay together?  
**Keep it to class 2 or lower!**

8--How does boating with a raft or inflatable compare with open C-boating (solo or tandem)?  
**Rowing a raft gives me the same feeling of control in big Western water that I have in my OC-1 in small technical creeks.**

**Megan O'Reilly:**

1--How long have you been paddling?  
**I have been paddling since...the mid 70's.**

2--How did you get into paddling?  
**I first paddled at Valley Mill Camp with Tom McEwan, but was scared of kayaks. So I learned to love paddling in canoes at Camp Rim Rock. Then I went back to Valley Mill Camp and learned to kayak.**

3—How did you come to join the BRV? How long have you been in the BRV? Are you a member of other clubs?  
**I joined BRV because I paddled with several members who were posting great trips! I've been a member about two years, I think. Maybe three. I need to pay dues for this year. LOL. I also belong to Keelhaulers and have belonged to CCA.**

4--What kinds of watercraft do you paddle? Which is your favorite and why?  
**I will paddle just about anything that floats. My main craft these days is kayak, but I have done lots of lots of canoeing as I used to lead canoe trips for a living!**

5--In how many states have you paddled? Have you ever paddled outside of the U.S.?  
**Regarding paddling in the US, it's hard to keep track: Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. That's whitewater. If I include flatwater and sea kayaking, then add Florida, New Jersey, and Washington State. Outside of the U.S., I have kayaked in Ecuador, Mexico, and Costa Rica**

6--What is the hardest thing that you have paddled? Why was it so difficult?  
**Hardest thing I have paddled: Probably the Upper Yough. The day I went out to paddle it, I was prepared to not return home. That's how scared I was. But I survived and had a dry hair run on about my 7th run. Yeeha!**

7—Have you ever had any close calls?  
**Close calls. Yes, a bunch. Probably the worst was getting sucked under a rock on the West River in New York. Happily, I flushed out on the downstream side.**

8—You have paddled during the WV Week of Rivers. Can you describe any particularly memorable runs?

***West Virginia Week of Rivers, heck yes! First day there, I joined a crew on the Top Yough, and we had a super day with lots of snow on the banks.***

9—What are the aspects of paddling that you most enjoy and why?

***What I most enjoy about paddling... It's not easy to put all of it in words, I love being in remote places, seeing rivers at different levels, having a sense of a journey from start to finish, camaraderie with a good group. I think the key is the combination of the mental challenge of solving the puzzles of reading the river and handling the physical challenges of utilizing my body, my equipment, and the water to achieve my goals.***

10—What do you do when you are not paddling?

***Anyone who knows me on Facebook knows that horses have won me over, and I've been spending more time on farms than on rivers this past year.***

***Mark Wray (Vice-President):***

1--How long have you been paddling? ***I have been paddling over 50 years.***

2--How did you get into paddling? ***My dad bought a canoe from Lou Matacia (an author of "An Illustrated Canoe Log of the Shenandoah River-Blue Ridge Voyages, Vol. 4; 1974) and my family did lake paddling trips.***

3—How did you come to join the BRV? Are you a member of other clubs? ***Mel Herrmann was my scout leader and a member of the BRV. (For more about Mel Herrmann, see [https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2002/05/16/alexandria-arlington-honors-38/3a41dc80-7830-4957-a904-2080bac1593c/?utm\\_term=.9c32b2b87cb8](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2002/05/16/alexandria-arlington-honors-38/3a41dc80-7830-4957-a904-2080bac1593c/?utm_term=.9c32b2b87cb8). For more about Troop 167, see [www.blueridgevoyageurs.org/brv\\_jan07.pdf](http://www.blueridgevoyageurs.org/brv_jan07.pdf)) I'm also a member of the CCA.***

4--What kinds of watercraft do you paddle? ***I paddle both tandem and solo open canoes. My favorite boat is a Dagger Genesis that I bought from Rick Koller.***

5--In how many states have you paddled? ***I have paddled in four States: PA, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.***

6—How much canoe camping/extended paddling tripping have you done? ***I have done weeklong canoe trips on the New River, but not loaded with gear. We base-camp in one spot and go out on day trips from there.***

7—What kind of paddling have you done with your family and/or the Boy Scouts? ***Everything from the C&O Canal to the New River at flood stage.***

8--What is the hardest thing that you have paddled? Why was it so difficult? ***Lower Yough and the James River section in Richmond. These were not so much the most difficult rivers as the rivers with the biggest rapids I have run.***

9—How hard is your job a BRV vice president? *Not hard at all. Planning two events where the club gets together is a lot of fun to organize and attend.*

10--What are the aspects of paddling that you most enjoy and why? *Summer paddle trips with great friends, no matter how difficult or easy the river, is what I enjoy the most.*

## **CONSERVATION ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Anacostia Watershed Society-Emily Castelli**

The Anacostia Watershed Society Earth Day Cleanup will be take place on Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. This will be followed by a celebration at Bladensburg Waterfront Park from noon to 2 PM. <http://www.anacostiaws.org/earthday2017#FAQ>.

Starting in the spring, the AWS hosts opportunities to get out on the river. These include paddle nights (kayaking or canoeing), canoe tours, and pontoon boat trips. The AWS will also have more volunteer events starting in the Spring. All events will be shown on our online public calendar as they are planned. <http://www.anacostiaws.org/calendar>.

For more information on the location of streams that you probably did not realize were in the Anacostia Watershed and might be in your backyard, see <http://www.anacostiaws.org/explore/maps>

### **Dam Removal**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was given the authority to regulate non-federal hydropower dams via the licensing process. (The underlying law was the Federal Power Act [FPA].) An expiring license can be renewed by a new or existing licensee for an additional 30 to 50 years, BUT ONLY after FERC has conducted an assessment to determine whether the dam remains the best PUBLIC use of waterway resources. This resulted from a 1986 amendment to the FPA called the Electric Consumers Protection Act (ECPA). The resulting process considers a variety of factors including hydroelectric potential, interstate/foreign commerce benefits, protection of fish and other wildlife along with their habitat, water supply, irrigation, flood control, and recreation.

Some of the early dam removal/mitigation projects were in Wisconsin. Now there is attention to the Northeast, home to dams from the Industrial Revolution. The Connecticut River Basin has over 2,700 dams. With dams every 10 miles or so, the rivers and tributaries were not free flowing for fish (or boaters). Fish habitats became truncated, slow river flows raised water temperatures and lowered oxygen level, and migratory sea-run fish could not enter/navigate the watershed. This area is now undertaking removal of many dams or constructing fish bypasses. The removal of dams is complicated by the need to control/remove toxic sediment in dam reservoirs, construct coffer dams and temporary bypass pipes, relocated aquatic life trapped in the receding dam reservoir, and reconstruct a natural river channel.

The following is a partial list of recently removed dams in Connecticut:

- Ed Bills Pond Dam (East Branch of Eightmile River)
- Griswold Rubber Dam (Moosup River tributary to the Quinebaug River basin which empties into the Connecticut River)

- Hyde Pond Dam (Whitford Brook, a tributary of the Mystic River)
- Pond Lily Dam (West River/Long Island Sound)
- Straight Pond Dam (Poquetanuck River, a tributary of the Thames River)
- Talbot Wildlife Management Area Dam (Merrick Brook)
- White Rock Dam (Pawcatuck River-between Connecticut and Rhode Island)

## Potomac Clean-up—TBD

### River Keepers—This just in from Nathan Ackerman

#### *Rise and Shine for Riverkeeper Documentary Film on MPT*

If you aren't familiar with what Potomac Riverkeeper Network does, the twenty-six minute overview "*Keeping the Potomac: The Politics of Water*" is worth a look. Graduate students at American University's Documentary Center followed all three Riverkeepers around last fall and captured the essence of their work through the prism of their top issues: pollution from livestock, a paper mill, and leaking coal ash storage site owned by Dominion Power. The program airs this Saturday, January 28th at **5:30 AM**. You might want to set the DVR for this one! To locate which Maryland Public Television channel airs in your area, use the following link:

<http://www.mpt.org/about/channels/>

#### *RiverPalooza: A Series of Clean Water Events to Benefit Potomac Riverkeeper Network*

Potomac Riverkeeper Network's annual series of river events has a new name for 2017 — **RiverPalooza**. Along with the new name comes a more ambitious programming schedule that includes 15 events in the Upper Potomac, the Potomac, and the Shenandoah throughout the Summer. These events support and demonstrate the work that the Riverkeeper Network does to protect the river and access to it. The trips are planned for a variety of skill levels and activities to appeal to a wide range of paddlers and friends of the river. While some trips involve overnight camping and whitewater, others are more relaxed excursions which are led by National Park Service staff and which highlight the history of the river, including sections of the Captain John Smith National Water Trail. "We believe the more people experience the river, the more people will appreciate it" says Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Mark Frondorf (571-969-0746; [mark@shenandoahriverkeeper.org](mailto:mark@shenandoahriverkeeper.org).)

RiverPalooza will kickoff Saturday, June 3rd in Harper's Ferry. It will wrap-up Sunday, September 24th with a celebration of World Rivers Day. The Potomac Riverkeeper Network will announce the full schedule by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Details and registration links for each trip will be able to be found at [potomacriverkeepernetwork.org](http://potomacriverkeepernetwork.org)

### Stream Protection Rule

The Office of Surface Mining released regulations on surface coal mining 33 years ago. The initial regulations included the Stream Buffer Rule that prohibited mining within 100 feet of a stream. Large scale mountaintop removal with mining in/near streams and valley fill with mining debris would appear to violate the Stream Buffer Rule. Judge Haden came to this conclusion in a 1999 ruling. On appeal, the ruling was found to have a procedural error. This precluded the ruling from being binding. The Haden opinion was available as a guidance. There were no subsequent cases that clarified the "merits" (facts) of the Haden interpretation.



The Office of Surface Mining has just issued an updated final rule which eliminated the Stream Buffer Rule and permits mining through streams. Although it requires stream and buffer zone restoration after destruction, questions regarding successful implementation remain.

For more information on the regulation and the history, see the WVHC-Highlands Voice (August and December 2015 via [www.wvhighlands.org/2016/02/2015](http://www.wvhighlands.org/2016/02/2015))

## **ACCESS ISSUES**

### **Casselman River Permit—Jim Pruitt**

Be aware that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat commission has stepped up enforcement of the requirement to purchase a sticker to launch at their boat ramps. This applies to the launch site at Markleton in Pennsylvania. Tickets are being handed out at the princely sum of \$120 for failure to comply. Stickers cost \$10 for one year or \$18 for two years and are applicable in all Pennsylvania state parks. (This sticker should cover you for the Tohickon!)

The following is a quote from the Fish and Boat commission website:

*“Unpowered boats used at Commission lakes or access areas, PA state parks or PA state forests must be:*

- *properly registered, or*
- *display an official and valid Commission use permit, or*
- *display an official and valid watercraft launch or mooring permit issued by DCNR.*

### **Permits are available:**

- *online at The Outdoor Shop*
- *from Commission region offices*
- *from authorized issuing agents*
- *from many state park offices (Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources)”*

This law has been in place for many years but was not heavily enforced. It used to be that out-of-State boaters were not required to comply, but I am not certain that this is still the case.

For those who do not wish to purchase a launch permit, the options include carrying your boat across the bridge and launching from river right by the post office, or carrying downstream across the small stream which enters on the downstream end of the parking area.

### **Ohioyle Falls Rules**

Boating runs over the falls are permitted April first through the weekend prior to Thanksgiving.

To facilitate continued access to the falls, paddlers should abide by the Private Boater Guidelines. (<http://www.fallsrace.com/>) The rules include the following:

- The water level cannot exceed 1.8 feet.
- There must be a minimum of three boaters in a paddling party. All paddlers do not need to run the falls.
- All paddlers must be registered for a river run. During those times when a permit is required, all paddlers must have such a permit.

- Paddlers are permitted to run the falls up to 45 minutes prior to the end of the posted office hours. These hours may vary with the season. Call 724-329-8591 or check the main office in the Visitors Center.
- The put-in for the falls run in on river right (Ferncliff).
- The take-out is at the Loop takeout or further downstream at Bruner Run.

**Don't forget to thank Barry Adams**, whose late father was a BRV member and who did so much to facilitate access to the falls and who continues to serve as the Over-the-Falls Festival coordinator (<http://www.fallsrace.com/>). His contact information is 412-242-4562/  
Bj2adams@juno.com

### **Financially Support Stoneycreek Releases**

The Quemahoning Reservoir is upstream of the usual Stoneycreek run <http://thestoneycreek.com/canyonmap.shtml>. It costs money to pay personnel to operate and maintain the valves involved in the releases. (Whitewater releases typically involve a one hour ramp-up, a four hour full release, and a one hour ramp-down with a 7 AM start time.

The Benscreek Canoe Club <http://benscreekcanoecub.com/> has made financial commitments on behalf of their members (and the paddling community at large). Consider donating to maintain the costs of these releases through this program as administered by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies [https://cfalleghenies.org/search-results/?search\\_query=sqi&wpas\\_id=my-form&wpas\\_submit=1](https://cfalleghenies.org/search-results/?search_query=sqi&wpas_id=my-form&wpas_submit=1). Use the notation SQI Whitewater <http://thestoneycreek.com/contact.shtml> on your checks. Donations are tax deductible.

Please note, these donations do NOT cover camping. There is no camping at the Hollsopple ball-field put-in. Greenhouse Park is open for camping only under special events. The Quemahoning Reservoir Recreation <http://www.quefamilyrec.com/> does have year-round camping. (Between Dec 1- and May 15, on-line reservations are not accepted. During this interval, Ken Dranzik should be contacted directly at (814) 233-9512.)

### **Tohickon Permit Requirement?**

Rumor has it that permits will be required for Tohickon runs. The original plan was to implement this in 2016, but low water and the absence of a Fall release tabled that.

## **SAFETY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **CCA Potomac Downriver Race-Call for Safety Boaters**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Potomac Downriver Race will be run on Saturday, May 13. It is organized by the CCA and co-sponsored by Sycamore Island Club and the Potomac Whitewater Center. The event starts at Rocky Island just above Wet Bottom Rapid and continues for the next 7.5 miles down to Sycamore Island. (The start is altered if the river is over 5 feet; the race is postponed if the river is over 6 feet.) The race is part of the Maryland Canoe & Kayak Racing Series and qualifies as a USA Wildwater Ranking Race. BRV club members may participate as racers, safety boaters, or in other volunteer positions. Sign-in is between 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at Great Falls Tavern/C&O National Park in Potomac, Maryland and is followed by a **mandatory meeting** for all racers. Advance registration is \$20; on-site fees are \$25 (and include the \$5 ACA insurance fees) (See <http://www.canoecruisers.org/>).

For additional information about serving as a safety boater, please contact **Howard Morland** at 703-525-1429 or e-mail hbmorland@aol.com. He and the CCA would be grateful for the involvement and the safety expertise of BRV club members. Many thanks to Howard for forwarding information on this activity.

### **Safety Training**

Charlie Duffy will be including BRV in his safety training sessions.

### ***February 25 -- Trip Leader Presentation***

This program covers a wide variety of information and tips for running successful outings predominantly for whitewater trips, but is applicable to other types of outings. The program is approximately 90 minutes. No specific prior experience is required. There is no charge. The presentation will be held inside. The exact location had not yet been finalized. Charlie is trying to find a location in the DC Metro area—perhaps at a local outfitter. The backup plan is again hold the program at Fort Belvoir, the site of last year’s presentation.

### ***April 15-16--American Canoe Association (ACA) Level 4 (Class 3) Intermediate Kayaking class.***

This program covers all of the skills necessary to confidently paddle solid Class 3 whitewater. The skill set includes ferries, jet ferries, eddy turns, hole running, hole surfing, wave surfing, and scouting from both the boat and shoreline. The day 1 session will be held on the Dry Fork of the Cheat (WV). The day 2 session will be held on the Arden section of the Tygart. The “big water” aspect of the skills will be reinforced there. Participants must be comfortable paddling Class 2 whitewater. Participants also must provide their own gear—which will include that which is needed for cold weather/water. There is no fee.

### ***April 29--SWR Level 4 Refresher/Practice Session***

This program provides a full day of hands-on rescue exercises and scenarios. Participants must be comfortable paddling Class 2+ whitewater and previously have taken a Level 4 SWR course. (See below.) Participants also must provide their own gear—which will include that which is needed for cold weather/water. There is no fee.

### ***May 12 - 14, 20-21-- American Canoe Association (ACA) Swiftwater Rescue (SWR) Level 4 SWR Instructor Certification***

This program provides the initial Instructor Certification or Instructor Re-certification in swiftwater rescue. An extensive amount of material is covered over the two multi-day sessions. There is a lot of hands-on training including five scenarios. Certification is a significant achievement and serves the paddling community well. Candidates for certification must be ACA members and should have taken the pre-requisite skills class. (See below.) There is a \$50 fee.

### ***July 15 - 16-- ACA Level 4 SWR Skills Class***

(\$25) - This program provides 2 full days of SWR skills training. There will be hands-on training and practice during 2 rescue scenarios. Participants should be comfortable paddling in Class 2+ whitewater. No prior training experience is required. There is a \$25 fee.

All questions should be directed to Charlie Duffy: 703-938-3949 h; 703-407-0909 c; charlie\_duffy@yahoo.com

### **Knotty Situation**

The Bowline knot makes a secure loop that will not jam. It is easy to tie and untie.



From <http://www.birkenheadseascouts.org.uk/training/knots.html>

*Sensei Ryan:* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EocwRnBZAtQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EocwRnBZAtQ)

### **GEAR UPDATE**

#### **Cold Weather Gear: What's New from Immersion Research--Max Blackburn**

It's drysuit season! Don't let the weather limit your time on the water. Especially during cold winter months, having the proper gear can be the difference between suffering through a miserable outing or having the time of your life. If you're paddling more than just a few days a year during the winter and cold shoulder seasons, a drysuit and the appropriate base layer(s) can be a complete game changer.

So let's start inside out. Here at Immersion Research (814-395-9191; 808 Oden Street Confluence, PA 15424; [www.immersionresearch.com](http://www.immersionresearch.com)) we have been making layering products to suit paddlers' needs for almost 20 years. Not only are our zipperless, buttonless, one-piece Union Suits super stylish and able to serve as a great party outfit, they are an essential piece of the year round paddler's base layer collection. We offer a thick, soft fleece version (*Thick Skin*) for those super cold days, a thinner waffle-grid fleece version (*K2*) for when the thick fleece might be overkill and a women's specific version equipped with both a drop seat and front relief option. Union Suits are not only perfect for under your drysuit, but great for wearing under your snow gear as well.

Let's move to the outer layer. Immersion Research has made drysuits and tops for over a decade now, but in recent years has been pouring significantly more energy into setting a new standard for durable, comfortable, and functional drysuits. The type of drysuit that will work best for you depends on what features you want. We offer suits that come standard with either a) front or rear zip entry, b) nylon or recycled polyester shell fabric, c) lightweight or expedition weight fabric, d) latex (*Archrival series*) or fabric socks (no ankle gaskets), and e) Men's or Women's specific models. All our drysuits and tops have the same durable proprietary waterproof/breathable mid layer, are pressure tested straight off the production line, and are backed by our 100% customer

satisfaction guarantee. Research over time has resulted in suits that last longer. New in unisex sizes is the *Devils Club* suit, which, with its Taslan fabric, is designed as an expeditionary suit capable of being worn for multiple days in a row and able to withstand portages. The Women's specific *Shawty* was designed after testing women with a wide variety of body types). If none of these options work, customer service may be able to address your specific needs. Custom alterations are available and include, but are not limited to - adding or taking out length in the arms and legs, swapping out fabric or latex booties, and attaching drytops to skirts to make drydecks.

Just like your car or your mountain bike, drysuits and most other kayaking gear will eventually need to be serviced. We have a full time repair staff and machine set dedicated to making your gear last as long as possible.

Details on returns, repairs and custom work can be found on our website along with all kinds of other information such as why some women prefer front relief drysuits, details on different fabrics, how to send gear back to us, how to choose the right gear for you, our warranty, and so much more. If you can't find the info you're looking for on the website? Give us a call! Since we are staffed by kayakers, you can count on getting someone on the phone who is familiar with your gear and has probably experienced whatever issue for which you are calling. We love kayaking and our goal is to make gear that makes it easy for you to love it too.

### **SkirtworkS Spray Skirts**

The folks from SkirtworkS, who had roots in the old Mountain Surf facility in Friendsville, have sold their business to a couple from North Carolina. We are awaiting an update.

## **VANITY, VANITY BOATER IS THY NAME**

### **Body/Boat Cameras—Beth Koller**

Waterproof point-and-shoot (film) 35 mm cameras made their debut in the later 1980s, with the Nikon Action Touch being one of the first. These cameras had a fixed focal length, i.e., no zoom and were slightly wide angle, i.e., had a field of view slightly wider than the normal visual field provided by a 50 mm lens.

The waterproof point-and-shoot digital cameras that followed in the 2000s had smaller sensor size than a 35 mm piece of film (usually APS) and a short-range zoom inside the camera body (so no external telescoping lenses and the inherent waterproofing issues). These have improved over time-with fits and starts. For example, the earliest Pentax (now Ricoh) cameras used non-proprietary batteries available everywhere—a reason Court Caldwell hung onto his so long. A later Pentax version used a proprietary battery-with limited battery life (never a problem with a film camera even if one kept the camera on during an entire run). For that reason, the camera was programmed to time-out. This meant that the camera had to be turned on again--not so easy in the middle of a rapids.

Furthermore, the defaulting of the ISO light sensitivity (aka film speed) to an automatic or an ISO requiring a lot of light was really a problem when you wanted to capture action without a blur and needed a higher ISO. To address this, one would need to turn on the camera and scroll down through a menu. What were those engineers thinking? That I'm going to let go of my



paddle in a pulsating eddy to use two hands to operate a camera?!! Finally, the image quality could be good at an ISO of 400 and in good light, but not so good at ISOs of 1600 in poor light (How often is it raining or cloudy when we paddle?) Print film (ISO 400 and 800) was still better!

GoPro came onto the scene to capture sports action in the moment. Their first camera issued in 2004 was, in fact, a 35 mm film camera. This was followed two years later by the first digital GoPro, which had 10 second video capability, but lacked a memory card. Still footage could not be taken. N.B. video requires less resolution because the brain intercalates between rapid sequences of visual images.

The next improvement was a 3 megapixel GoPro camera with an SD memory card slot! ...Then the 170 degree wide angle lens and the mounting systems that permitted attachment to helmets, paddles, bows, ... The initial cameras (through Hero 3) were waterproofed by an external housing.

The more recent models use waterproofing techniques similar to those on the Ricoh, Canon, Fuji, Nikon, and Olympus point-and-shoot cameras. They also can be easily activated by the user. Below is a comparison chart of specifications. N.B. Because the lens is a very wide angle lens (and there is no zoom), the size of most objects will be only a small part of the entire image. To make the subject bigger, the camera essentially removes part of the image. The pixel count (resolution) of the remaining image is much smaller than the pixel count of the sensor ☹.

	<b>Hero 4 Silver</b>	<b>Hero Session</b>	<b>Hero 5 Session</b>	<b>Hero 5 Black</b>
	Older	Newer	Newer	Newer
<b>Waterproof</b>	Yes 131 ft Via housing	Yes-33 ft	Yes-33 ft	Yes-33 ft
<b>View</b>	Wide angle	Wide angle	Wide angle	Wide angle
<b>Still Images</b>	12 MP/30 FPS	10 MP/10 FPS burst	10 MP/30 FPS burst	12 MP/30 FPS burst
	JPG w modifications	JPG	JPG	RAW (if wide) + JPG
<b>Photo ISO Limit</b>	800	400	800	1600
<b>Video</b>	4K/1080(P60)	1440(P30)/1080(P60)	4K/1080 (P90)	4K/1080(P120)
<b>1 Button Control</b>	Yes-Diff system	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Voice Control</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Image Stabilization</b>	No	No	Yes-Video	Yes-Video

<http://newatlas.com/compare-gopro-hero-5-black-session/45826/>

## **GUIDEBOOKS**

**Steve Ettinger**—*Capital Canoeing and Kayaking. Self-published. 2013. \$20.00 locally through Alf Cooley (alfcooley@gmail.com) and Amazon.*

### **Ed Gertler**

--*Garden State Canoeing: A Paddler's Guide to New Jersey. Seneca Press. 2002. \$15.95.*

—*Keystone canoeing: A Guide to Canoeable Waters of Eastern Pennsylvania. Seneca Press. 2015. \$21.95*

**--Maryland and Delaware Canoe Trails: A Paddler's Guide to Rivers of the Old Line and First States. Seneca Press 2002. \$15.95.**

*These can be purchased directly from the author (Seneca Press, 530 Ashford Road Silver Spring, MD 20910 for the cost plus 6% Maryland tax plus \$5 shipping if in a guidebook State) when he is off the river, directly on-line (<https://paddlersguides.wordpress.com/>), or at select paddling shops in Delaware, the District, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The books are also marketed at Barnes & Noble.com, but not Amazon. Keystone Canoeing was just revised and a revision of Garden State Canoeing is planned.*

**Ed Grove--Classic Virginia Rivers: A Paddler's Guide to Premier Whitewater and Scenic Flatwater Trips in the Old Dominion. Howling Wolf Publications. 1992 or 1994. \$16.95**

## **BOATING HISTORY/TRIVIA**

### **Trivia**

The first member to accumulate 200 points will be awarded a prize from the shameless division of BRV commerce. The questions will be open for response until the week prior to the publication of the next newsletter. The questions are arranged by category-as in the game show "Jeopardy".

### **WHAT**

1--What is a voyageur canoe? 10 points

### **THINGS YOU NEVER LEARNED IN SCHOOL**

2a--With bark canoe, which was laid down first, the bark covering or the supportive framework? 10 points

2b—With a wood canoe, which is laid down first, the wood covering or the supportive framework? 10 points

2c—With a canvas canoe, which was laid down first, the canvas covering or the supportive framework? 10 points

3--How did poling a canoe originate? 10 points

### **WHAT**

4—On what river and when did Frank Bell first paddle from Brevard to Ashville? 10 points

### **WHO**

5--Who made the first attempt to run the Green River in North Carolina and what were the results? 20 points

## **BOATERS' DINING GUIDE**

### **Ramps (aka wild leeks)**

Spring boating in West Virginia means ramps (botanical name: *Allium tricoccum*). This vegetable is a member of the wild onion family and has an onion taste and pungent garlic aroma. They can be used in a variety of ways. Typically, the bulbs and stems are used as foodstuffs while the leaves provide garnish appeal. At Elkfest (Webster Springs-April), the dining hall staff adds them to the hash browns. At Week of Rivers (Canaan Valley-April), various cooks have added them to fresh salads. Near the Twin Giants-Tygart put-in during April, the small breakfast-lunch take-out combo ice cream shop features ramps in many items-including milk shakes! (Caveat: you need to get off the river in a timely way because the ice cream shop closes about 2 PM.) The nearby town of Elkins also celebrates them during their Ramps and Rails festival

(April). Ramps can now be purchased in-season along the roadside or from the Shop-n-Save (Davis, WV). They can also be found in a variety of places-including the Bloomington put-in.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIecy\\_IMXn8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIecy_IMXn8)

<http://www.richwoodchamberofcommerce.org/FeastOfTheRamson/RampFestivals.html>

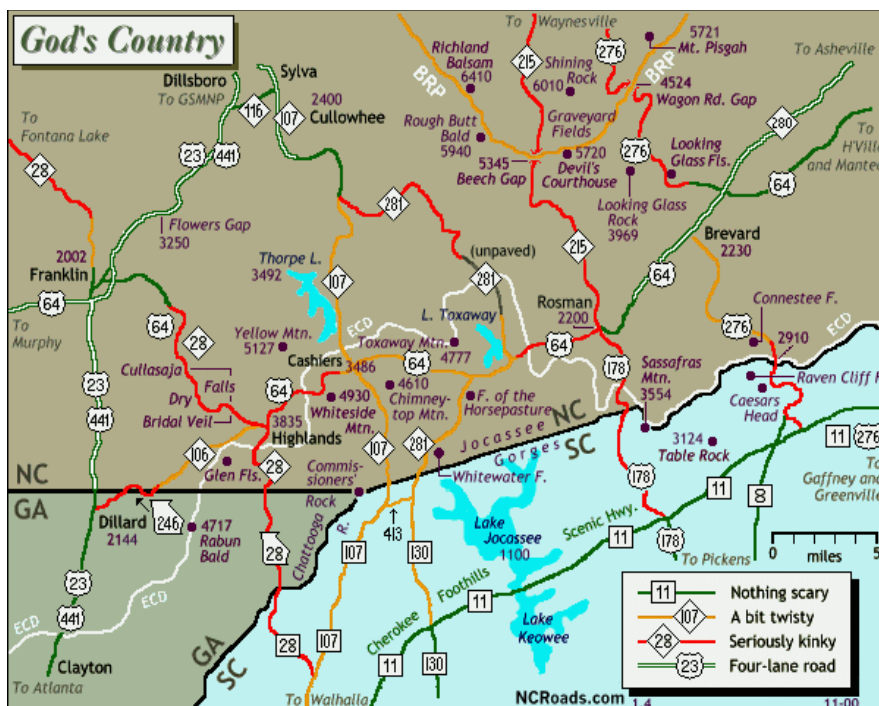
<https://elkinsdepot.com/2015-ramps-and-rail-festival/>

### High Value Asian Restaurant

A run on the Chattooga, whether it is the upper part of Section III, the entirety of Section III, or Section IV, can take a long-time. This followed by a drive back to Smokey Meadows Campground (Bryson City, NC) can make for a long day and a late in-camp dinner. Too our surprise, we found a fabulous restaurant in a most unexpected place. The Mishima Express (706-782-0045) was next door to a convenience store and gas station. Lacking any exterior ambiance, it offered the possibility of being a hidden jewel or a real dive. It was the former.

- ✓ It offered a variety of Japanese, Chinese, and other Asian dishes. The specialty was vegetarian cuisine, but there were plenty of choices for meat-eaters. Everything we tried was terrific.
- ✓ The portion size was great.
- ✓ The prices even better. Nothing was more than \$13. Most were \$10 or less.
- ✓ There was plenty of table space for larger groups-if tables were combined.
- ✓ There was adequate parking, with gas available near-by.
- ✓ Best of all, it was right on the main road (near the intersection of US 76 and US 23 in Clayton, GA)-reducing the likelihood that group members will get lost.

Map from <http://www.chattooga-river.net/directions.html>



## PHOTO GALLERY

Scenes from an upcoming program by Beth Koller. Stay tuned:



Figure 1 Flying



Figure 2 Tandem Trouble



Figure 3 Oops



Figure 4 Eye on the Prize

## HUMOR DIVISION

**This edition's submissions from Ed Evangelidi:**

Why did the trip leader change her name to Florence? So she could change her motto to: "Go with the Flo."

My doctor knows that he has to be very creative to get me to come in for a check-up, so he sent me a postcard that said that it's been 3,000 canoe miles since I last saw him and it was time for my tune-up.

Some basic river math equations: Novice boater + running hard rapid = entertainment. Strainer ahead + no eddy above it = choice swear words from the probe. Ugly guy and beautiful woman



both swimming in a tough rapid = rope tossed at woman. Inattentive rolling up of dry bag before trip + swim = soggy lunch. Poison ivy anywhere near the river + needed potty break = scratching for days. Bad swim or bad pin or bad line + writer in the group = good trip report.

I was browsing in a bookstore when I saw that someone had published a book about all of my Class 5 exploits. Unfortunately, it was filed under “fiction”.

My neighbors see me with any piece of boating gear and they assume I'm heading out to a river. The other day I proved them wrong. I was putting on my wetsuit and a neighbor asked me if I was going out to paddle some cold spring creek. I corrected him and said I was just going to see how underwater my house mortgage was.

### **MEMBER EQUIPMENT FOR SWAP OR SALE (or Early Spring Cleaning)**

- KAYAK: Red BlissStick RAD 185 playboat. In good condition. \$350. Gus Anderson
- KAYAK: Yellow WaveSport Lazer river runner. Stored indoors. \$375. Beth Koller
- PADDLE: White, fiberglass Sidewinder. ~200 cm. Minimal use. \$100. Beth Koller

### **PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT**

#### **Kudos**

We would like to thank several people:

- Bob Maxey for his past efforts as Trip Coordinator. We hope that he will continue to provide trips slideshows and that someone will step in to fill his shoes.
- Bridget and Frank Fico for their many years of service to the BRV newsletter. Please help Frank develop the club's Facebook presence (“Friends of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs”; <http://www.blueridgevoyageurs.org/Facebook.html>) by providing content and comments.
- Mike Martin for his efforts revamping the website (<http://www.blueridgevoyageurs.org/>) and investigating electronic payment methods. Please respond to his requests for content including photos.
- All those members and outsiders who contributed to this maiden voyage.

### **Roster/Membership Questionnaire**

The membership form is being revamped so that it will provide more information about members' interests and skill levels-which may help when putting together trips. We would like to finalize the roster so it is important that members complete and proof-read his/her member roster questionnaire and **pay the annual dues: ONLY \$10!**

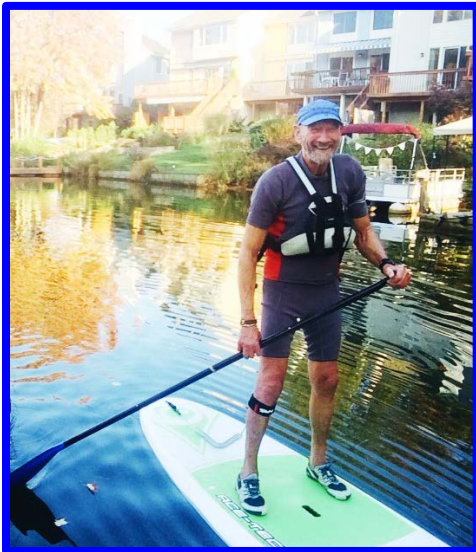
For now, until electronic payment is set-up, checks may be sent to Ginny DeSeau 1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851. The questionnaire may be included along with the payment. If the membership questionnaire is sent electronically, it may be sent to Beth Koller.

### **Future Editions**

- Send content for the newsletter to **brvnewsletter (at) earthlink.net**. The interval between issues may be two to three months. To avoid stale-dated material, plan ahead. To facilitate layout and distribution of the newsletter, please submit materials at least 10 days prior to the publication date. The next publication date is expected to be mid to late March.



- If you have an idea for the newsletter, take a stab at it. Short is OK.
- If you have photos, please size them to 1024 by 768 in a high quality JPG formatted in the sRGB color spectrum.
- Reviewers of the Ingram series of guidebooks and/or “Canoes-A Natural History in North America” by Mark Neuzil and Norman Sims (University of Minnesota Press) are being sought.
- Photographs with enough contextual information for a “Name that Rapids” or “Name that River” segment are also being sought.
- Mike Aronoff is prepared to present how stand-up paddling can improve one’s whitewater boating skills. He promises that gators need not accompany the learning process-although they could provide more incentive to avoid falling into the water!



**... SEE YOU ON THE RIVER !!!**

## BRV MEMBERSHIP/ROSTER INFORMATION

**Name/Spouse Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** home:                                  work:                                  cell:

**E-mail address(es)** (in order of preference or marked by location work vs personal):

**Preferred Boat:**

K-1 C-1 OC-1 K-2 C-2 OC-2 Inflatable kayak Shredder Raft

Other(s):

**Other boat types used:**

K-1 C-1 OC-1 K-2 C-2 OC-2 Inflatable kayak Shredder Raft Sea kayak Stand-up  
paddleboard Sit-atop kayak

Other(s):

**Preferred boating difficulty level(s)**

WW grade range: (perhaps by boat type):

Flatwater (under what circumstances):

**Other types of boating aspects:**

Cold weather paddling Canoe camping trips Extended trips Family boating Play boating

Racing Removal of safety hazards-gauge painting River conservation activities

Safety clinics Boating for service activities (e.g., safety support for races/ triathlons, teaching)

Other(s):

**Availability for weekday paddling:**

Yes No If yes, times/days:

**Other activities** that you might participate in during longer trips or with low water or cold conditions:

Biking Hiking Skiing (DH) Skiing (XC)

Other(s):

**Willingness to lead a trip or clinic** (can include limits as to type or location of trip):

**Other ways in which you are helping BRV (or another club):**

Officer/Board member Newsletter contributor Photos for web Program presentation

Social activities Trip solicitation

Other(s):

**Ways in which you could help BRV:**

Officer/Board member Newsletter contributor Photos for web Program presentation

Social activities Trip solicitation

Other(s):

**Membership in other clubs**

Benscreek CCA Conowingo Carolina Coastals Greater Baltimore Mason-Dixon

Keelhaulers Monocacy TSRA 3-Rivers Other(s):

**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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