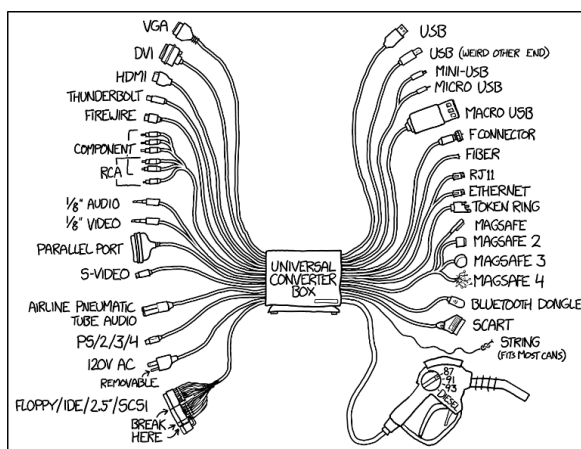


CLUB BUSINESS AT THE PUT-IN

For a while, it seemed that the planned November meeting might not take place. The first delay was caused by repaving at the recreation center. Then there was the burst pipe. Fortunately, we received the all-clear at 1 PM so we did not need to “postpone the meeting due to high water”. Whew! Then there were some issues with computer-projector connectors despite attempts at advance planning for a different computer. Who knew that there could be so many types of ports? Yes, the following “universal hub” would be ideal, but is not yet commercially available--so we will be adding cables with micro-USB and USB hubs (for some tablets) to connect via the HDMI port on the projector to our cable collection.



(courtesy of John Snitzer)

John gave a terrific tour of Patagonia. He has included a video link in his comments in the article below. We had a great turnout with a packed house. Rob Ristow, a long-time member, takes the prize for coming the longest distance, Michigan! Ron Ray, the Week of River organizer from the Monocacy Canoe Club, made an appearance as well. There were many new faces in the audience. Because they are fellow paddlers and potential new members, please take the time to introduce yourself to such folks and help such them get to Ledo's for pizza after the meetings. One of those in the audience was Paul Englehart. Please welcome him as a new member. He is skier as well as a paddler--so it is no surprise that he likes to paddle class 3 and higher and is up for cold water paddling.

With the change in the weather, it is time to think about some ancillary boating activities.

- One of the featured articles discusses care of that essential cold-water paddling gear, the dry suit.
- Yet another feature article discusses the components of a safety kit.
- Whether experienced or not, you will have a chance to work with some of these safety items (carabineers [locking and non-locking], pulleys, and ropes) at the January 7 safety rope training session in Great Falls Park (Virginia).
- While you are sorting out your gear, think about what you use and what you don't use. If it is part of the latter, consider listing it in the “For Sale” section of the newsletter.

The club has members who play significant roles in the boating community. Bob Whiting is the Chair of the Monocacy Canoe Club and is featured in Member Profile segment of the newsletter. Long-time paddler and recent BRV speaker, Barb Brown, is in the running for the Chairpersonship of the Canoe Cruisers Association. Working together makes paddling better for us all.

The **Holiday Party is scheduled for this coming Saturday, December 2** at the Lyon Community Center in Arlington. (See the article below.) There will be plenty of refreshments and time to catch up with friends. **The party will include two hours of paddling flicks from the National Paddling Film Festival so don't be late or you'll be in the dark literally.** In addition to the food and entertainment, the party is a chance to pay dues and to help develop the club event calendar. (We already have a January program with Court Ogilvie in the works.) Come with ideas and the willingness to pick an approximate date for an activity. Initially we would like to line up some indoor events, some easy cold weather trips, and then some warm-up early season events.

Keith Merkel has a lock on one of those prizes in the trivia contest, but there are enough outstanding questions to permit another two members to reach the necessary 200 point threshold before the party (or the end of the year). Give it a shot! There will also be chances for prizes for those members who have led trips and for those who have contributed to the newsletter.

Again, many thanks to newsletter contributors: Mike Aronoff, Max Black, Mark Brenneman, Charlie Duffy, Ed Evangelidi, Lisa Haskell, Bob Maxey, John Snitzer, Bob Whiting, and Mark Wray. **The deadline for the next newsletter is January 15.**

Finally, we note the passing of Wes Mills's mother. Fortunately for Wes, his son, who had just taken a job in the British Virgin Islands, weathered the recent storm, yeah that little hurricane!

Rick Koller

CONTENTS:

Club Business at the Put-in—The Prez	1	Member Profiles	24
The Holiday Party with NPFF Videos	2	Historic/Folkloric: Three Jewels	26
Programs—November & January	3	Conservation: Electroconductivity & Water Quality	28
Feature #1 Safety Gear—Charlie Duffy	4	Boaters' Dining Guide	28
Boating Trivia Contest	6	Feature #3 Dry Suit Care—Max Black	29
Humor: River Fortune Teller & More	6	Gear Swap/Sale	31
Pool Rolling Underway	7	Parting Shots at the Take-out	31
Winter Ropes Clinic	7	Club Member Roster/Profile Info Form	32
Seven Trip Reports/Photo Series	7	Quick Trip Report Form	33
Feature #2 Main Salmon—Mike Aronoff	20		

HOLIDAY PARTY—Mark Wray

The party will be held on December 2 at the same location, the Lyon Community Center (414 Fillmore St, Arlington, VA 22201). Set-up time will start at 4:30 PM.

Please bring a dish that will serve at least eight people. The type of dish will be determined by the first letter of your last name:

A-G: fruit dish, salads, uncooked veggies,

H-N: desserts, snacks

O-Z: casserole, cooked veggies, pasta, rice, etc.

Also bring the necessary utensils for serving. Please don't be late if you are bringing appetizers.

The main course, ham and turkey, and beverages, beer, soda, and wine (two per person) will be provided by the Club for a fee of \$15. Please send RSVPs to Mark Wray, our VP, (703-222-4802; redshoestwo@juno.com) by November 30.

There will be a chance to pay dues (\$10/year), complete membership forms, and sign-up to organize trips so bring your check books, pens/pencils, and calendars.

We also have **two hours of films from the National Paddling Film Fest**. The movies cover the spectrum of paddling from sea kayaking, extreme OC-1 boating, early runs on Great Falls, early guiding on the Yough to Canadian boating and epic swims.



PROGRAMS

Patagonia Paddling

John Snitzer has a job that requires maximal effort during the growing season. He makes it a point to paddle during the West Virginia Week of Rivers and to take short excursions during the Summer. He goes into a true relaxation mode, however, when he gets on his favorite shuttle vehicle, a 747 to Patagonia. There he spends several weeks boating, biking, hiking, eating good food, learning about the local culture, and just doing nothing.



He shared those activities with us during his talk on Wednesday, November 15. His presentation included maps delineating the various areas in Argentina and Chile he has visited. He discussed the geographic variation, which included rocky shorelines, vast flat expanses, some quite dry, foothills, and soaring peaks. He introduced us to the penguins and sea elephants in the southern

regions. His wife, Kerrie, a biologist, provided commentary on the many different types of plants. We learned about sea kayaking in the lake regions and flatwater rivers further north. John, then, took us on a tour of the Espolon River, the Azul River, and the Futaleufu River by still photo and videograph--some captured by overhead drone. While there is serious class 4 and 5 action, John pointed out that there was plenty to do on runs with class 2 and 3 water and that there is a focus on skill development that pushes one to the edge of one's comfort zone and then reinforces those new skills. We also learned about the local economies, how to bike with nearby cattle, the differences between the gauchos (Argentina), huasos (Chile), and arrieros (alpine areas), who still ply their equestrian cowboy skills in traditional garb, and finally the logistical issues getting to and around Patagonia. He and Kerrie entertained numerous questions during and after the meeting. Patagonia is definitely on the bucket-list of many of the audience members. Perhaps John will find some stowaways in his gear when he takes off for the area this Winter.

Comments from John Snitzer:

The group that takes care of me in Chile is Expediciones Chile, <http://www.exchile.com/>. They can be a quirky company, but are absolutely dedicated to paddling in Patagonia. They have allowed me to get my Patagonia fix for many years now.

Folks down there have a link to free-flowing rivers that exists only among a few up here. They're the farmers and ranchers whose land will be flooded to generate unneeded electricity for a European company to attract industrial development to rural southern Argentina. Pura Vida is a way of life--not just a political slogan. Local conservation efforts are hugely cost effective and represent the local people, not just us.

I like to think that paddlers are people who support wilderness and clean free-flowing rivers even if they personally can't get there to paddle them. Please consider supporting the Riverkeeper group for the area. Patrick Lynch, Esq. plynch@futaleufuriverkeeper.org (Chile: +56-9-7867-3758, U.S. 914-357-4837) and also South America Regional Coordinator-IUCN Transboundary Conservation Group-Futaleufú, Los Lagos Region-República de Chile (Chile cellular: +56-9-7867-3758, U.S. mobile: 615-375-6869) is the contact person.

Patrick has also provided the flowing video: <https://vimeo.com/241595582>. Jaime, the interviewee, was the guide with whom I paddled in 2014. He is a world class paddler and tremendous guy. Up here we practice rope work to rescue swimmers. Jaime just goes and gets people.

Upcoming Program

Court Ogilvie has been off on a series of adventures. He will be presenting some of these during the January meeting. Then he is off for more excitement.

FEATURE ARTICLE #1

Rescue Safety Gear: Not Just an Option—Charlie Duffy

Now is the time to accessorize your boating gear. This includes safety gear—especially if you are planning any early Southern trips.

Pin Kit – Wearable

Many like the idea of a pin kit, but choose to skip this item due to expense and bulk. An alternative is the wearable Pin Kit. Let's remember the Pin Kit mnemonic:

- 4 Carabiners
- 3 Pulleys
- 2 Prussic Loops
- 1 Webbing Strand

Now let's design one we can carry on us.

- ✓ Everyone carries **carabiners** these days, just make certain they are of the **locking variety**. These easily fit in your PFD pocket.
- ✓ Pulleys can be expensive, especially the SMC 2" rescue pulley. These are overkill for kayak extractions, I recommend the **SMC CR-X 1" pulleys** that handle 3/8" rope. These run about \$15 and work quite well. These are small and light enough to fit in your PFD pocket as well.
- ✓ Prussic loops are really inexpensive. Make these two different sizes and on the small side. I recommend **5 mm Polyester -- 4' and 4.5'** should be perfectly adequate. This allows you to double up on the Mechanical Advantage System Brake.
- ✓ As for webbing, I suggest constructing a **Guide Belt**, which is a simple loop of 20'x1" tubular climbing webbing tied in a loop with a Water Knot and secured around your waist with a single carabiner. The guide belt has an incredible number of uses.

Another item I like to carry in my PFD pocket in the Winter months is a **Skull Cap**. Hypothermia is a major concern this time of the season and fast access to something that abates heat loss is a must.

Stow Away Items

- ✓ **Gerber Stainless Steel Folding Saw**. We boat after major storms. It's nice to be able to deal with road closures (especially on dirt roads), strainers, and to set-up a shelter should that be necessary.
- ✓ **Hypalon Paddling Gloves**. Pogies are great, I use them all the time. Unfortunately, they are useless during rescue work. These can also be loaned out to people who have cold hands.
- ✓ **Hand Chain Saw**. May be needed for larger logs.
- ✓ **Spark Generator**
- ✓ **Solid Flame Cubes**. These can get wet and still start a fire
- ✓ **First Aid Kit**. Check contents annually.

Brain Food

- ✓ I highly recommend taking a **Wilderness First Aid course** every two years. This is a highly perishable skill that definitely needs replenishment.
- ✓ **Fun with Ropes Class in January**. This half day class is held every year at Great Falls Park. Although the course is free, there is the park admission fee. It's great to refresh knot tying skills and rope throwing skills as well as reviewing a host of other useful information.

PADDLING TRIVIA



The first member to accumulate 200 points will be awarded a prize from the shameless division of BRV commerce. **(No really, a real prize!!!)** The questions are arranged by category-as in the game show “*Jeopardy*”. **The questions will remain open until there is a correct response. The questions from the January, May, and August newsletters remain open. Question 2 from the WHO category from the March/April newsletter remains open. Questions 19 and 20 from the August newsletter remain open. Questions 3 through 5, the Congressman besides Nick Rahall in questions 6 through 9, question 18, and why the senator in question 22 was selected for being part of the dam detonation process besides his legislative role.**

WHAT

- 1--What is significant about the Casselman’s bridge? *10 points*
- 2--Is Crab Orchard Creek part of the “fruitbasket”? *10 points*
- 3--What river starts in Tennessee, travels through Kentucky, and then returns to Tennessee? *10 points*
- 4-5--What were the classic canoe colors prior to comments by Jeff Blumenthal of the Blumenthal Ad Agency, a consultant to North American Paddlesports Association (1987). Hint: Tis the season. *10 points for 1; 20 points for 2 answers*
- 6--What did the name Blue Hole OCA mean? *10 points*
- 7--How are freeboard and displacement related? *10 points*

WHO

- 8--The first kayak float bags were made by whom? *10 points*
- 9--Who designed the foldboat? *10 points*

THINGS YOU NEVER LEARNED IN SCHOOL

- 10-12--What is a foldboat and on what continent did it originate and when? *10 points for 1; 20 points for 2; 30 points for all 3 answers*
- 13--On what river might you need a seamstress? *10 points*
- 14-15--On what route was the Cassleman’s bridge? What was the significance of the route? *10 points for 1; 20 points for 2 answers*
- 16--On what river is there a “balcony” over which you do not want to “fall”? *10 points*
- 17-18--For what rivers does the junkyard play an important role? *10 points for 1; 20 points for 2 answers*
- 19--The Keeney Rapids were named for whom: A or B? *10 points*
- A--The three youngest sons of Moses Keeney, who was born in 1766 in Greenbrier (Virginia) and died circa 1840 on Cabin Creek in Kanawha County (West Virginia).
- B--Frank—Keeney, UMWA District 17 president. After the Logan-Mingo strike in 1921, northern West Virginia operators wanted to de-link contracts for miners in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Ohio from those in West Virginia. Frank Keeney participated in those negotiations.
- 20—See Bloomington trip report. *10 points*

HUMOR DIVISION--Ed Evangelidi

I consulted a fortune teller before attempting to paddle a hard river that just beyond my skill level. He said to “*Speak to the river, and it will listen*”. After a few easier rapids I was

confronted with a hard rapid. I spoke loudly to the river: "*Will I be successful running this rapid?*". I heard a voice that said "*Yes*". After a few more rapids I again asked if I could survive the next rapid. Again the answer came back: "*Yes*". I was amazed at the rapport with this river, but soon I was being terminally recirculated in a hydraulic that I had misjudged. So I asked: "*What would it take to get me out of this monster hole?*". The answer came back: "*We take Visa and Master Charge*".

I was asked to test drive the first robot paddler. We got into a tandem boat and tried out all the standard moves. We were working rather well as a team with crisp eddy turns and good braces on the surfing waves. But something seemed to be missing. I could not quite put my finger on what it was until we headed downstream on a hard river. Then it hit me when the robot started in with "*You should have gone left up there*" and "*You came in low on that eddy*". Nothing like back seat driving to remind me what tandem paddling is REALLY like.

I knew that the boater dating site was authentic when it asked about #1 how much old wet boating clothes you could stand riding with while shuttling on a hot summer day and #2 how much duct tape you carried.

POOL ROLLING

Pool rolling sessions have started at Calleva and Valley Mill:

<https://calleva.org/liquid-adventures-kayak/beginner-instruction/instruction/pool-rolling/>

<http://www.valleymillkayak.com/Pool%20Rolling>, 4:15-6:15pm. Call to sign up 301-840-7388.

SAFETY

Beef Up Your Skills at the Winter Ropes Clinic—Charlie Duffy

The annual "Fun with Ropes Safety Clinic" will be hosted by CCA and the National Park Service at the Great Falls Visitor Center (Virginia side) on Sunday, January 7 from 10 AM to 3 PM. (9 AM is the start of the set-up time if you are volunteering for that task.)

The event is open to all and is free of charge. No experience is required. No special gear needs to be brought. There will be a large number of certified ACA L4 Instructors to accommodate the 40 to 50 expected participants. The indoor session runs from 10 AM to 1 PM while the outdoor session is from 1 PM to 3 PM. Indoor instruction will cover dry land material such as knots, rescue priorities, safety considerations, and the like. Outside, the instruction will cover cinches, throwing skills, mechanical advantage systems, and the like. There will be time for practice. Contact: Charlie Duffy kayakduffy@gmail.com.

TRIP REPORTS

Dip Your Toe in the Toe (River that Is)—Beth Koller with additions by Lisa Haskell

It was an extended drive (two hours) from Bryson City to the Toe River at Toecane near Bakersville, Burnsville, and Spruce Pine in North Carolina. The roads during the last segment were narrow and winding. (Thank heavens, Jon Shavor and Doug Willenborg were leading the way). The shuttle parking was limited. (Who ever thought you would need to do tight parallel parking on a boating trip?)

But the river was worth it. The water levels were up. It was a terrific playground. The river was devoid of paddlers except for one solo rafter, who was practicing for a trip out West and a planned Gauley run in the Fall and a separate group of inner tubers. (The local outfitter does not

rent inflatables and tubes when the levels are as high as those we were so lucky to experience.) The river picked up steam over time. It was narrow, and medium-sized rocks made serial chutes that called for eddy hopping and boat scouting. One of the bigger drops was not as difficult as expected, but no one entered one of the lower surf holes.

One paddler became sick and was escorted out by another paddler. The banks, of course, were very steep at this location. Lisa Haskell (Atlanta) demonstrated her hand paddling skills in a Crossfire (yes, a Dagger Crossfire in great shape). Indeed she almost prefers hand paddling to holding a paddle. Jennifer Brock (Pennsylvania) who started paddling in her late 50s demonstrated her prowess in an open boat! Luba Healy (Waynesville) grabbed every eddy in sight. The open-boaters had a heyday picking up all of the pool toys that were floating downstream or sitting in eddies--without any owners.

Dinner itself was an adventure because we forgot that it was the Fourth of July. We ultimately had a fabulous dinner at Birchwood Hall. (See the Boater's Dining Guide.) As we rolled through Bryson City on the way to the campground, we were able to see the last of the fireworks.



Mass surf at the start; Carrie Singer leads off.



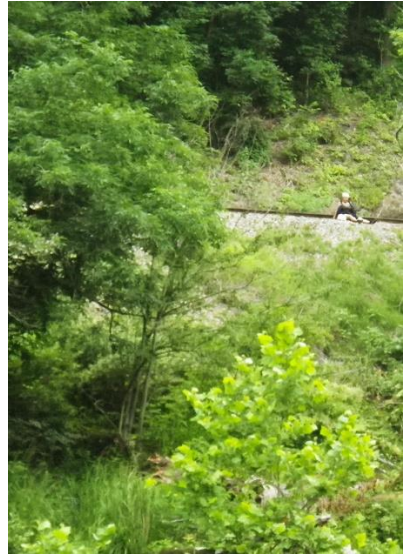
Jennifer in good form



Nancy Lemberger puts muscle into her strokes



Luba is styling



Getting the boats out, getting the people out, the rest before the walk-out



New member, Barb Franko, ferries



Lisa hand paddles into the eddy



Doug Willenborg eddy hopping



Carrie hanging out



Mike (Atlanta)



Jon Shavor in a wave train



Carrie travels downstream



New member, Lee Keller, in his banana canoe



Kim Buttleman rescues a pool toy



Jennifer to the rescue as well



Oh, these inflatables are crowding me out!



Jenny high brace turns



Doug surfs near the end



Lisa hand paddled the entire run

Interesting video links:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=toe+river+whitewater&view=detail&mid=B7412D6116E21E36A91CB7412D6116E21E36A91C&FORM=VIRE>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=toe+river+whitewater&&view=detail&mid=B7412D6116E21E36A91CB7412D6116E21E36A91C&rvsmid=C3011FAB2C418C6B6CCEC3011FAB2C418C6B6CCE&FORM=VDQVAP>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=toe+river+whitewater&&view=detail&mid=127DA53D66F763774084127DA53D66F763774084&&FORM=VDRVRV>

[The Hiwassee: Strike Two—Beth Koller](#)

After paddling several days and the absence of water elsewhere except the Nanty, we headed to a relaxed early July run on the Hiwassee--which is dam controlled and had two generators running. The run involves a drive from Bryson City to the Ocoee River. We all hopped out and watched paddlers coming down the Olympic course. The kayakers stuck to the edges of the river while some of the rafts went through some of the big mid-stream holes.



Two kayakers in the upper right eddy



Skirting holes



Big holes



Wide holes

When the Ocoee backwater emerged, we started to look for the sharp right-hand turn that took us down a series of narrow, curvy roads to the put-in. While the shuttle (to the parking lot next to Hiwassee Outfitters; 155 Ellis Creek Road, Reliance, TN 37369; www.hiwasseeoutfitters.com) was being run, the sunshine turned to overcast sky and then drizzle. Hmmm! A lot like two years ago!

Susan, a grand dame of paddling in Texas and a 30 plus year participant of the Carolina Week of Rivers event, started out in the lead. There was a large extended family on the trip. Two of the sisters had paddled competitively in college in Pennsylvania. One of the sisters came all the way from Texas to join the fun.

The river is a series of riverwide drops with varying amounts of water over surform-grater rocks. The goal was to try to find the side of the river with the most water. The routes selected did not seem to be any less scrapy than two years prior. Nor were paddlers on opposite sides of the river able to find superior routes. (This reaffirmed that my scouting skills from two years prior were not deficient, but did NOT reduce the audible boat damage.)



Sing: We are (part of the) family.... in the rain



Susan, in her trusty OC-1



Relaxed paddling near the start



Yes, I drove from the Northeast!



Recreation kayaks tracked well



Foggy

Mid-trip, the rain turned to lightning, and the groups from each side of the river reconvened on river right. A few elected to take out, but when we watched the geese swim downstream from their eddy, we were good to go.



I'm glad to be in the eddy!!!



The geese leave the river left eddy.



Checking out the rope swing



Taking off

Mercifully the river changed character during the last half. Especially after one island on river left, the far left channel became deeper, and there were steeper walls. There were some defined chutes and playable rapids. Of course, we obliged. An abandoned pool toy was rescued and tried to escape overboard, but was re-rescued by one of the tandem teams.

We made it down the river without major boat damage and no additional rain, but, after two attempts, I remained unconvinced that the recommended two tube flow rate was sufficient for optimal paddling. After two strikes, some of us may decline an encore run. That decision may be reinforced by our subsequent restaurant experience. (See the Boater's Dining Guide.)



Ron Ray in the canyon section



Still smiling in that OC-2



Pool toy rescue



The best surf spot—at the end!



Lisa in photo position

North Branch of the Potomac-Fall Release

Beth Koller and Rich Conde corralled a group of paddlers to make the last run of the Bloomington season. The group consisted of Gus Anderson, Richard Baillie, Steve Baker, Andy Brooks, Lisa Fallon, Ron Fisher, Ron Ray, Craig Quigley, Valerie Rasmussen, Alex Willard, and Robin Willard in addition to Beth and Rich. (*What drop on this river is named for one of these paddlers?* **Trivia question 20; 10 POINTS.**) The group, despite its size, was expeditious about running the shuttle.

The run was not a technical one--given the higher release of approximately 1,100 cfs. Some put-in adjustments had to be made to a paddling craft being used by an experienced boater who had subsequently incurred lower extremity paralysis. The clouds ultimately gave way to sunshine. Some of the deadfall that had been noted earlier was gone or pushed further to shore. We just bounced down the river. In flatter sections, folks rafted up for conversation. One group even stayed in raft-up position through the surfing wave well downstream of Top-of-the-World and just below the entry of a river right stream. Ron Fisher gave it the thumbs-up. We all gave the trip a thumbs-up.



No lack of water



The "Trio": Valerie, Ron, and Lisa



Rich at Top of the World



Gus, oh so relaxed....



Steve showing complete control



Robin stroking



Alex with a dynamic pose



Richard buried



Ron making a splash



Gus seconding the motion



Prepping for the communal run



On the surf wave.....

[A Balmy Fall Run on Little Falls—Mark Brenneman](#)

We had seven paddlers on our latest run down Little Falls on Thursday, October 19. I was joined by Gus Anderson, Mike Aronoff, Jim Carton, Wayne McDaniel, and Valerie Rasmussen, all in kayaks. The weather was near perfect at 70° F with clear blue skies as was the river level at 2.96 feet. Three of us ran the Beaver Slide. All of us headed down the Maryland side at Little Falls proper, although one ended up unintentionally on the Virginia side, swimming most of it. We recovered the swimmer, boat and paddle without incident or injury.

[Underutilized Section of the Shenandoah—Bob Maxey](#)

On October 19, the Thursday paddlers (Pete Chapelle, Sheila Chapelle, Julie Fitzpatrick, Sandra Ruprecht, Kathleen Sengstock, and I in kayaks plus Randy and Jo Snapp in canoes) ran the 10 mile section of the Shenandoah River between Route 50 and Watermelon Park. The AWA gauge reading measured 1.07 feet. This is a beautiful section of river that I had not run since I was in college. There is not much white water, but the clear water and proximity to Washington should tempt other boaters. We saw two bald eagles, an osprey, and several herons. It was amazing to see numerous large fish. Indeed at one point I saw at least 25 large fish! Although the river was at a low level, there was a good current, numerous deep pools in the river and only a few scraping rocks.



Documenting our run!

What Me Worry? Or What Happens to the Best Laid Plans—Ed Evangelidi

I usually sign up for and list my routine trips up to a year in advance. Similarly I sometimes have to sign up a year in advance for other trips such as those on western rivers with permit requirements. So it took me a while to realize that my Utah multi-week trip ended just a little over two days and thousands of miles away from my scheduled *New Joisey* trip—and that presumed that we would reach the take-out on time. As time grew closer, I entered worry mode, but still was not too worried. Paddlers signing up for the Jersey trip were mostly veterans who knew the routine there. Of course, I couldn't anticipate 1--snows west of the continental divide, 2--down pours for most of a drive traversing 10 states, and 3--very low water levels back east. The good news included 1--drivers using their flashers as I blitzed by them in the left lane at high speed during the downpours, 2--my ability to drive fast in the dense rains with little sleep, and 3--all the new paddlers to this trip eventually dropping out. (I did actually keep up with the comings and goings of people inquiring about the trip with my Wi-Fi connection at McDonalds coffee stops!

So when I arrived at the meeting place campground on Friday night I expected to see the boaters camping where we usually camp--although this is a very big campground. The sites at which we normally stay were reserved but ... no boats! So I turned in for the night a bit concerned. The next morning I got up and considered my options not knowing where the other boaters were. I cruised the campground a bit and found Bill from North Carolina, who took me to where he and the Ficos were camped. Turns out that Frank had cruised the large campground the night before as well, but did not find me.

So we spread out maps over coffee and checked levels. The creeks were all lower than I had been on in recent paddling history, but we quickly settled on the Great Egg Harbor River. The Great Egg is one of the longer creeks in the Pine Barrens and is named for the millions of eggs that the explorers found when they first came to the area. There are only two sections of river that are sawed-out by outfitters, so we gladly paddled these. One section starts at an old furnace and quickly disappears into a mix of woods, swamp, cliffs, and sandbars. The other section is similar, but empties into a dammed lake. Of course, the headwinds at the lake were unfriendly. That night we regaled ourselves with trip stories and the good Jersey food at the family diners for which the area is known.

We then ran into a local hiker/paddler who told us that lower Cedar Creek was at a good low level. That was the paddling choice for day 3. Cedar Creek is known for cranberries as well as cedar trees. Frank watched the boats as we ran a short shuttle and manage to pick a huge quantity of cranberries. Mmmmm! We also had time for some short hikes. There were some unplanned short driving detours as my prior lack of sleep finally caught up to me.

My next scheduled trip was the eastern shore (Delmarva). I had it all planned out. I was to paddle around there for a week and then lead a hiking group on a schedule trip. How was I to know that the weather would turn so miserable that all the boaters would drop out? So I hiked solo until my big hiking group arrived.

FEATURE ARTICLE #2

The Main Salmon—Mike Aronoff

My company, CKAPCO, exists for FUN. We do our best to have fun classes and trips and when it comes to trips, our Idaho river trips are my favorite. I have been doing them for 27 years and am as excited now as on the first one. This year we had sixteen folks along with us: one from California, two from Pennsylvania, and the remainder from the DC area. I knew all but one from the start, but in no time at all, it was a big happy family. I've never had a better trip; never had such a great group. I will try to beat it next year though.

Day 1. The trip began with sixteen super people. We were able to leave luggage that we didn't need on the river at the hotel for later pick-up en-route home. We left Boise, ID via Gem Air in three small planes about 7 AM on August 12 after a day and night in Boise enjoying the local scene and cuisine. The flight to Salmon, ID took about an hour. It is an adventure in and of itself as you fly over, or often through, the Sawtooth Mountains and see the remaining snow and ice patches on the upper slopes. We landed at the tiny Salmon airport. There we loaded our “stuff” in the big drybags and ammo cans provided by the river outfitter.

After packing, we traveled by bus to the river. Our first stop was in North Fork to stock up on the essentials, you know, beer, wine, liquor, milk shakes, and even good deals on river clothes. Traveling along the river to the put-in, we saw a baby moose, sheep, and the spot that gave rise to the name “River of No Return. (On their journey, Lewis and Clark decided to move onto the Platte watershed instead of going down the Salmon.) On our arrival at the put-in, we were greeted by guides who had all the rafts, inflatables, and hard boats ready to go. We had seven kayaks for the hard boaters, a Torrent sit-on-top kayak, a two-person shredder, a big shredder, two inflatable kayaks, a paddle raft, and four big oar rigs (for the gear and food).



Flow data at the launch site



Dithering at the launch site

The gauge readings were +1 foot above zero, or 4,400 cfs, at Corn Creek and 6,400 cfs at Whitebird. For perspective, our 2016 level was -14 inches and 2015 was + 0.43 feet. All these levels provided plenty of excitement. The elevation drops from 3,000 feet at the put-in to 2,000 feet at the takeout 80 miles downstream. The water temperature was 66° F, which eventually warmed up to 70° F downstream. The air temperature was 80° F with 20% humidity (so no mosquitoes, flies, etc. on the river or at camps).

After everyone became situated/oriented in their daily craft of choice, we launched with a sense of excitement. In pretty short order, we came to our warmup rapid, Killum. This provided a sense of the big-wave nature of the river. This rapid was followed by a couple more, big class 2+ rapids before coming to the first class 3 at mile 8, and then by a big, tougher class 3, Alder Creek. Alder Creek Rapid got the best of one kayaker, but we had an easy rescue. The rapids are nearly all deep-water, so swims are painless. No one had an injury from paddling/swimming. We stopped for our usual lunch of fresh breads, cold cuts, various chips and cookies, and then it was back on river with a couple more, good, named rapids: Lantz and Devil's Teeth, along with some no-names (that deserve names, IMO).



Groover with a view

Our first night's camp was at Devil's Teeth Camp at river-mile 13. It was a typical Main Salmon camp with beautiful views above a rapid with white sand and level tent sites. The views from the groover (toilet) river-side were some of the most breathtaking views to be found!!! Really!!!

Dinner was steak and mashed potatoes accompanied by salad and dessert. Most folks slept in tents the first night, but some slept out under the stars from thereafter. It gets down to the high 50s° F, so the sleeping bags feel good, as does a sweater in the morning for coffee by 6:30 to 6:45 AM. Breakfast greeted us, usually at 7 AM, with fruit, eggs, and meat along with pancakes and French toast on two of the days.

Day 2. We were up, fed, and on river by 9 AM. We paddled through some no-name rapids and Little Devil's Teeth Rapid.



Black Creek Rapid



Teamwork for the reentry

Then we stopped to scout Black Creek Rapid. This class 4 was actually just formed in 2011 and continues to change. Its lines are NOT obvious. It deserves respect. I had run it several times successfully on a left route and once took a beating on the right side. With the higher water levels, the consensus this day was to run right. Brendan could see the entrance so the two of us took the lead. Scorecard: of eleven paddlers, three capsized, one did a spin mid-rapid to finish backward, no one was injured. Now I have a right-side line that work--well for now. Like all the rapids on the Main, there was a moving, deep pool at the bottom. Soon thereafter, we stopped at Barth hot springs for soaks and snacks.

We paddled Hancock and Maisie Rapids, both class 3, then Baily another big 3+ before stopping at the beautiful Allison Ranch for our camp. That evening most of us got a tour from Jim. The year-round caretaker of the property has a small cabin museum with an old sewing machine, guns, bear and mountain lion skins, and other miscellaneous items. He also has interesting stories of the wildlife that he sees--bears, cougars, and wolves.

Day 3. The long one. Due to the system for assigning camps to groups on the river, we had a 27 mile day that started with a class 2, then a class 3, Five Mile, followed shortly thereafter by two more class 3 rapids, Split Rock and Little Stinker. Things eased up for two miles, and then we approached Big Mallard, a dramatic, fun, big rapid. The guide book rates this as a class 4, but I rate it 3+. You need to run through a narrow slot between the rock bank and a big hole. As I said, it's dramatic fun. Of course, there's Little Mallard (2+), another really long, three-part rapid, Elkhorn (class 4). I really like this one as it is technical, and you need to maneuver from river left to the right and then to left. One of our paddlers had a tough time and took three swims, finishing up in a raft to settle. We then had Growler, Don't Lose Me Now, and Whiplash; all 2+, then China Bar (class 2) and Boise Bar (class 2+) before arriving at Buckskin Bill's. Whew! Twelve major rapids.

I was ready for camp, but we had six more miles to go. I personally am not fond of commercial entities in the wilderness, but Buckskin's has some interesting stuff as well as ice cream, which seemed to please a few. (I was holding out for beer.) Back on river for the final eight miles, we reached Action Jackson Rapid (2+) and then Ludwig, a tough class 3. We were then at river mile 60.6 and Mann Creek Camp. Thankfully, some of the rafts and guides had gone on ahead to start setting up for dinner. This had been a really **BIG** day.

Day 4. The short one. Atypically, we lazed around before launching about 10:30 AM for an itty-bitty ten-mile paddle with several class 2s and some interesting scenery, including Polly Bemis Ranch. Most of the crew was in camp 1:30 PM! The camp, Bull Creek, was another beauty with good hiking trails and a trout stream running through it. Our fisherman caught eight native trout. After dinner, we had the (dreaded by some) "talent show" which includes dressing up in strange garb. I wore an off-the-shoulder dress that Debbie picked for me. Talent ran the gamut from Koala bears look-alikes, poetry, song, mime, and weird dance to Indian leg wrestling. Prizes were awarded.



Brendan played guitar along with Ken and others There was singing and story-telling around the nightly campfire. Morning smiles came with the good, cowboy coffee.



"chill-ax": 'CHilaks/ verb, informal: calm down and relax.



Dinner



..and dishes

Day 5. We took our time and departed from camp about 10 AM. After several scenic miles, we came to T-Bone Rapid (class 3-). In the distance we could see some smoke. Next up was Dried Meat (also class 3-), where the Shoshone dried salmon. This was followed by Chittam Rapid (a big class 3/4). After a short respite, the last biggie called "Vinegar" (class 3/4) was in our sights. It is a perplexing rapids in that there just doesn't seem to be a clean line. I took what looked best; it work for all but three, two of whom ended up swimming.



Vinegar Rapids

The cool-down rapids were Carey Falls (class 2+) and a final no-name at the Carey Creek take-out ramp. We unloaded our gear into bags for home, had a good lunch with beers and milkshakes available and got in the bus for our ride to McCall and hot showers.

The ride back to McCall seemed long as civilization crept back into our systems along with the inevitable email, voice messages, and texts. The hotel was fine, and everyone seemed to enjoy the many eateries and the town itself. We loaded up about 8 AM to get everyone back to the Boise Airport before noon. The drive back is along the North Fork of the Payette River so we all were able to see class 4+ action and the race course sections. The Boise airport is very user-friendly with a couple of good restaurants so some of us enjoyed a final lunch before the trip home.

The wilderness river, the rapids, the scenery, the starry night, the camp are spectacular. But, it's the people that make the experience. If only the world could run like our trip, with sharing, caring, consideration, hard work and constant smiles.

MEMBER PROFILES

Bob Whiting

1--How long have you been paddling?

I began paddling in the late 1980's, so it's been about 30 years.

2--How did you get into paddling?

I bought a 16-foot tandem Old Town Camper to use for fishing on the Potomac. When I became aware that there were other opportunities to use it, I looked into paddling.

3--Where did you get your first instruction?

I had read an article in the Frederick newspaper about the local Monocacy Canoe Club. I joined and signed up for the basic paddling lessons that they offered in the Spring, first solo, then tandem with my daughter the next year, and my son the following year.

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

Initially, most of my paddling was tandem with either my daughter or son. I got by with the Old Town Camper on class 2 waters by outfitting it with kneeling pads and floatation. Then I added a solo whitewater canoe. I also purchased a shorter flat bottom canoe for fishing solo.

I have NEVER paddled a decked canoe nor a whitewater kayak, but I have paddled a recreation kayak on flatwater.

5--Are there any particular features you look for in your open canoes? Do you favor any particular outfitting? Given that you favor larger boats, do you have any particular requirements/favorites for boating vehicles/rack systems?

I am on my second solo whitewater boat. Both have been in the 12 to 13 foot range. This length suits me fine, because I am more of a cruiser than a play-boater. I have had to make one adjustment to my current boat: the seat was so low that after 15 minutes my knees were protesting vehemently, so I gave myself a boost by adding additional foam to the saddle.

As for boating vehicles, I've been driving the same Toyota Tundra for 13 years. I selected it because the back bed was over 6 feet long, giving me ample sleeping room when I choose not to set up a tent.

6--You paddle whitewater. Do you also do other kinds of canoeing such as quiet water paddling or overnight canoe campers?

I do both. I've done the Paw Paw camper numerous times. And I've come to enjoy Florida paddling, including moving flatwater and tidal areas. Additionally, some friends have purchased recreation kayaks, and I have led them on easy sections of the Potomac.

7--What do you enjoy most about paddling?

Foremost would be the river settings. So many of the locations where we paddle are beautiful places.

Then there is the sense of accomplishment for successfully paddling challenging whitewater, no matter your skill level.

Also, paddlers are a great bunch of people, and I have enjoyed the camaraderie.

8--In how many states and countries have you paddled? Any favorites?

Other than a few days north of the border into Ontario, my paddling has been exclusively in the U.S., probably in about one-third of the states. My favorite locations are Wyoming, particularly around Jackson Hole, and Montana, in the Missoula area.



On Rock Creek (Montana)



On the Hoback River (Wyoming)

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

As a paddler with intermediate skills, the Laurel Fork of the Cheat was probably the most difficult. It was early spring on one of Tom McCloud's Easter weekend "Smokehole" trips. There were many swims, including two by me. It was a long trip with no intermediate access, and I was glad to make it off the river by dark.

10--What was the most fun thing that you have paddled and why?

One especially memorable day was paddling Rock Creek near Missoula, MT with Bob Raab and Craig Wolfe, while the rest of the group went elsewhere that day. The middle section, "the Dalles", is a mile-long boulder field. (See above.) We took turns in the lead, each paddling a couple drops and then catching an eddy while the next paddler went forward.

11--How did you come to join the BRV? Besides the Monocacy Canoe Club (MCC) and BRV are you a member of other clubs? What are the challenges of being a boating club president?
As current Chairman of the MCC, I have found it increasingly difficult to recruit trip leaders and to replace Board members. Talking to counterparts in other clubs made it apparent that we are all facing the same difficulties. A few years ago, I reached out to BRV and CCA with a proposal to cross-list paddling trips on our schedules, and this seems to have gained acceptance. That encouraged me to join both clubs, as many other paddlers have done. We can be successful by working together.

HISTORIC/FOLKLORIC

Three Jewels near Canaan Valley

There is a triumvirate of unique treasures often bypassed despite their proximity to the Cheat and Yough watersheds.

The first of these is the **Cranesville Swamp Preserve**, which straddles Garrett County in Maryland and Preston County in West Virginia. Its 1,600 acres constitute one of the few remaining boreal bogs in the southern United States. The cooler temperatures and higher moisture levels of the area promote the formation of peat from the sphagnum moss. The soil is nutrient poor and acidic. Few trees except eastern hemlock, red spruce, and tamarack can tolerate these conditions. Cranberries, sedges, and sundew plants cling to the ground in open areas. There are more than 100 bird species including the

Alder Flycatcher, Blackburnian Warbler and the Saw-whet Owl. Mammals include the black bear (especially around Muddy Creek) and the Northern Water Shrew.

To get there from I-68, travel south on Route 219 and then turn west on Mayhew Inn Road and, 1.4 miles later, turn left on Bray School Road. Another 1.6 miles will bring you to a T-intersection, at which you should turn right onto Route 15 (also labeled Oakland/Sang Run Road). Another mile will bring you to Swallow Falls Road, at which you should turn left. Another 2.6 miles will bring you to Cranesville Road, at which you should take a hard right. Another 4 miles will bring you to Muddy Creek Road and a gravel parking lot and information kiosk behind a red house. After picking up a map, you should return to Cranesville Road and turn left onto Lake Ford Road. At the sharp curve, stay to the right. Continue to stay to the right at the next fork, and travel another 0.2 miles to the swamp parking lot. Step out to enter an environment long in the making and spectacular for its diversity.

The second of these little gems is **Cathedral State Park**, which is West Virginia's largest stand (132 acres) of virgin timber. Although it is a mixed forest, the eastern hemlock is the predominant tree species. Rhine Creek traverses the tract. The area was the site of the Brookside Resort. The resort was built in the 1880s. The altitude, tree cover, and meandering stream offered cool relief to visitors from Baltimore and Washington. In 1922, the resort was purchased by the caretaker, Branson Hass, who later sold it to the State with the stipulation that it remain uncut. In the mid-1960s, it was entered into the National Registry of Natural Landmarks.

The trees are up to 90 feet tall and 16 feet in circumference. The largest tree was struck by lightning in 2004. Other trees were damaged by the heavy snow from Hurricane Sandy in 2008. The hemlocks, which are a keystone species are at risk of encroachment by the invasive parasite introduced from Japan in the 1950s, the hemlock woolly adelgid. (Jenny Thomas is our resident expert on this!) Nonetheless, the park is beautiful with 170 plant species including ferns and wild flowers and easy to explore with seven trails from 1000 feet to almost 6000 feet in length.

For information, call 304-735-3771 or see <https://wvstateparks.com/park/cathedral-state-park/> or http://www.agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/plantindustries/Documents/PID%20pdfs/HWA_Management_Plan.pdf.

The park is located at 12 Cathedral Park Drive, one mile east of Aurora, WV. To get there off of Route 219, turn at Redhouse, MD and travel west about five miles on Route 50. The park will be on right side of the road. A farm with a large, very impressive barn will alert you that the woods are just ahead.

The last jewel in the trio is **Our Lady of the Pines**, a tiny, well-maintained, Roman Catholic chapel just yards from the bend in the main thoroughfare in Silver Lake. The church was built by the Milkint children in 1958 in honor of their parents. The exterior dimensions are 12 feet by 24 feet. The pews seat 12. There is a complete altar, and light pours through multiple, stained glass windows. Behind the church is a diminutive post office. Yes, you can mail the postcards you can buy for less than 50 cents at the post office!

Our Lady of the Pines is just off of Route 219 in Horseshoe Bend, WV across from Silver Lake Park resort. The entry is on West Virginia county road 24/8 boundary of the property.

(<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=silver+lake+chapel+and+west+virginia&qpvts=silver+lake+chapel+and+west+virginia&view=detail&mid=1764E20D6F0E4C694C5D1764E20D6F0E4C694C5D&FORM=VRDGAR>)

CONSERVATION

Electroconductivity Used to Determine WV Water Quality

Judge Robert Chambers ruled in May that Falco mining activity (mountaintop removal) had contaminated the Shanty Branch and Elick Hollow waters near the Clay and Nicholas County boundary line. The basis of the finding was electroconductivity which has been shown to be a marker for stream degradation. To help determine the appropriate remedy, the judge appointed a special master, James Kyles, who has the necessary technical expertise to assist the judge. The judge made the appointment shortly after his ruling because of the behavior of Falco in the contamination of two nearby areas. Despite the final rulings in those cases, the coal company used the 10 and 11 month intervals between the rulings and the appointment of the same special master to submit additional briefs and legal materials, which delayed the remediation efforts.

https://www.wvgazette.com/news/special_reports/mining_the_mountains/judge-to-appoint-special-master-to-speed-up-coal-mine/article_d3a201ab-6cb5-590c-9768-ef634a39a8ac.html

BOATERS' DINING GUIDE

Accidental Gem

We were ravenous after a great run on the Toe River (North Carolina) and well into the long drive back to Bryson City, NC. Barbeque had been planted in our minds by Jon Shavor and Doug Willenborg. When we reached the parking lot, it was strangely empty. It was closed for the Fourth of July, duh! Smart phones and prior reconnaissance suggested two more locations. Both closed. It was looking like chain, fast food. But during our drive through Waynesville, someone thought that they had seen some lights on at a restaurant just up the hill from our latest failed attempt. We had nothing to lose. Persistence led us to the Birchwood Hall Southern Kitchen (111 North Main Street, Waynesville, NC; 828-246-6111; birchwoodhall.com).

The staff looked a little surprised to see us--either the size of our party, our bedraggled appearance, or both. It took some time for them to set up the tables. Some of our party took that time to start on the adult beverage--just in case this place fell through as well, but surprises awaited us.

In addition to a variety of wines and tap beers, they had a cocktail list that included bourbon smashes (with citrus fruit and mint) and blueberry mint shines (sweet blue berries combined with moonshine) as well as daily concoctions. There were a variety of appetizers with an update on their Southern roots. This included the Fried Green Maters with fried green tomatoes garnished with goat cheese mousse, sweet pepper chow-chow, and comeback sauce as well as the classic Pimento Cheese served with fried chicken skin, black pepper crackers, and a variety of pickles. The salads such as the one with arugula topped with pear and duck ham were almost a meal in themselves. The main courses included the ever popular fried "Naked Bird" chicken brined in sweet tea accompanied by buttermilk potatoes with gingersnap gray and benne beans, the fabulous, roasted, duck breast accompanied by dirty rice and sautéed local greens with brandied almond butter, and the vegetarian ragout with portabella mushrooms, goat cheese, lentils, and

kale with white wine. The dinner was not inexpensive with entrée prices averaging \$20, but there were no complaints. The food was excellent, the service was good, the mood was finally jovial, and we avoided the DQ (sorry Jon and Dou--we know how much those Blizzards mean to you!).

[No Michelin Stars for This Classic](#)

We (a party of 10+) were ravenous after a rainy, lightning filled day on the Hiwassee (July 5). The Gondolier (1603 US 64, Benton, TN 37307; 423-338-7299; gondolierbenton.com) is a well known and often visited Italian/Greek restaurant after a run on the Ocoee or Hiwassee. We felt lucky to be seated given the full parking lot. That is where our luck ended. The server, who was new, received little assistance from the kitchen or management. The delivery of the ordered entrees was very uneven. Some were served as others waited and waited and waited. One paddler had not received his dinner by the time everyone else was done. No explanation/compensation was proffered by management. Rating: Five black aprons!!!!

[New Grocer in Thomas](#)

Ash Keane opened up Front Street Grocers (122 East Ave, Thomas, WV 26292, 304-591-9085; www.frontstreetgrocers.com) this Summer. It features specialty items including local foods and craft beer. They still make the same great pizza previously found at Salud. There is also a community kitchen and dining area for local residents. Business hours are 10 AM to 5 PM.

[New Coffee Shop in Davis](#)

Trailhead Coffee (438 Williams Avenue, Davis, WV 26260 [across from Hell Benders Burritos]; 681-435-9025; trailheadcoffshop.com) will feature fair trade coffee and snacks. They will provide information on trail conditions. The owner is also considering use of the location as a cinema café for screening films during evening hours.

[FEATURE ARTICLE #3](#)

[Brrrrrr. Dry Suit Time: Care of Your Dry Suit—Max Black \(Immersion Research\)](#)



With the cold weather quickly approaching, it's time to pull your dry suit out of the closet and keep your paddling season going despite the frigid temps. If you've never owned a dry suit or your suit has finally given up the ghost, the good news is dry wear technology has come a long

way in recent years, and a new dry suit is almost certainly going to offer you features and advantages that your old suit did not.

There are lots of different brands and styles of dry suits out there, which is why when making such an expensive purchase, it's important to be aware of your post-purchase servicing options for when your garment eventually needs repaired or refurbished.

Immersion Research (IR) drywear is made from waterproof/breathable fabric, neoprene, and latex. Immersion Research dry wear is made to stand up to the rigors of whitewater use. With proper care, these garments can last many seasons. However, these materials are very susceptible to damage under certain circumstances. Impact with rocks, sharp sticks, thorns, and the like, however, can and will damage your dry wear.



Here are some tips to help extend the life of your dry wear:

- Brush socks and shorts or pants clean of debris before entering your dry suit.
- Always wear shoes over your dry suit socks. Do not walk around in dry suit socks without shoes.
- Wearing an outer protective sock over your dry suit socks will significantly increase their life span (especially the latex socks)
- Do not expose any part of the dry wear to sunscreen, bug repellent, or other oils. Oils will lead to premature fabric and latex failure.
- After use in saltwater, your dry wear should be rinsed in fresh water.
- After each use, hang your dry wear inside out to dry. Never store dry wear if it is still damp or wet.
- When dry, lightly brush the inside of suit to remove sand and other debris.
- After your suit is completely dry, store it loosely folded in an airtight bag to reduce exposure to ozone. Ozone is the main contributor of latex gasket failure.
- Wash your dry wear seasonally (or when soiled) with a cleaning product designed specifically for use with waterproof/breathable fabric such as [Gear Aid ReviveX Pro Cleaner](#). If you using a washing machine, use a **front** loading washer and no harsh chemicals.
- Latex gaskets can be trimmed to make them larger, but do so carefully, making as even a cut as possible.
- All latex gaskets will need to be replaced at some point. IR can replace gaskets for a reasonable fee. For more information on repairs from IR, visit the Repair Center area of our website.
- When IR dry suit zippers become difficult to slide across the track, lubricate your TiZip zipper dock.. You can find instructions at the [TiZip Service Site](#). Other types of zippers will have their own set of instructions. Do not lubricate zipper teeth.

- Immersion Research is an equal opportunity gear repair company. It has a full-time staff dedicated to repairing garments and will service your dry wear even if it is not an IR product. If you think your dry gear needs to be repaired please contact the Immersion Research Repair Center at the IR website or call 814-395-9191.

MEMBER GEAR FOR SALE/SWAP

- CANOE: Caption tandem w 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: Double Slate River whitewater kayak with bags. Good for kids or nervous adult partners. \$600. Beth Koller.
- PADDLE: Lightning Gradient. Right fix. 197 cm. Used 10 days. \$80. Jim Pruitt.

PARTING SHOTS AT THE TAKE-OUT

Dues for 2018 are \$10 and should be sent to Ginny DeSeau (1105 Highwood Road, Rockville, MD 20851). Please complete your member roster information.

There will be a Winter meeting with a program in January. The details will be delivered via an e-mail blast. The meeting will be held at the Clara Barton Recreation Center (7425 MacArthur Blvd #151, Cabin John, MD 20818). As usual, the meeting will adjourn to Ledo's for pizza (5245 River Road Bethesda, MD 20816).

The National Paddling Film Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, February 18-19, 2018. **But it is time right now to enter your video or still image into the competition.** The video entries are due January 12. There are multiple categories. The event supports American Whitewater and other paddling/conservation groups. See <http://npff.org/film-entry/> and <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/NPFF/motionentryform.php> for more information.



Look forward to reports of the waterfall clinic held at Valley Falls in August (See photo to the left.) and the release on the Tohickon in November as well as the benefits of participating in the Penn Cup series in the next newsletter.....

I'm in reverse!

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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