

BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. March/April 2014

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In October, 2013 we had a deck party at our house. My friend Ben came over with his family and announced he had won a permit to run the Grand Canyon. Did I want to come? Hell yes! I didn't even ask who was going or when it was. I had been trying to get on the Grand Canyon for years but life's logistics hadn't worked out until now. I was going come hell or high water!

Continued on pg. 3

Looking Ahead

Coming BWA Meetings
Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

BWA Monthly Meeting Meet & Eat Meeting at Roosters

124 Marketplace Dr
Lexington, KY 40503
(859) 449-7737

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/roosters-lexington>

Coming Soon!
BWA Spring Clinic

May 16-18
2014



Over 30 years ago, the Bluegrass Wildwater Association began an Annual Spring tradition of hosting a weekend long Beginner's Swiftwater Clinic for Kayak, Canoe and C-1 (decked canoe) paddlers. The tradition continues today!!

More Clinic Info

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/?f=calendar#clinic>



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Bowlines is the Newsletter of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, POB 4231, Lexington Ky, 40504

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Membership Coordinator	Ali Blair	859-576-9409
Past President	Emily Grimes	

Join in on the Fun!

Join the BWA! BWA Membership \$20/individual; \$25/Family year entitles you to receive the newsletter, 10% discounts at many local and out of state outfitter shops, use of club equipment, discount at pool rolling sessions, a listing in the BWA Handbook, a stream gauge guide, and web site with a forum for member's messages & a parking pass for the Elkhorn.

Meetings are held at 7:30, the second Tuesday of each month at location announced on our website: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org>

Submission of newsletter articles can be on CD (Mac or PC). Pictures can be digital or ready to be scanned. Please include stamped envelope for return. Preferred method: Files can also be e-mailed to: DonSpang@aol.com



Enjoy this issue of Bowlines?

Check out Bowlines Online Archive with many great issues going back to 1998!

Issue Archive:

http://www.surfky-bwa.org/html/bowlines_arcN.html

A must read for all members, our 30th Anniversary issue:

http://www.surfky-bwa.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf

The BWA wishes to thank Canoe Kentucky & Benchmark for their support.
We urge you to patronize them for your outdoor needs.





Two decisions affected the outcome of the trip - supplying our own food and all our own gear. Early on in the planning Ben decided that he wanted to use his own gear and food rather than rent from an outfitter because he felt that it would be more economical in the long run. This trip would be the shake down cruise for what would hopefully be several future trips he would use the same gear for to take his family down the GC when the kids got older. Ben had purchased a quality 14 foot raft, an outfitter-grade Hyside and oar frame, two 70mm ammo cans for groovers. Ben and his dad also designed and built their own collapsible

Firepit from slotted sheet metal angle bolted together. GC park regulations permit gathering drift wood for campfires only in the winter time but the fire has to be contained in a metal pan, elevated off the ground, with a fire blanket underneath.

As time progressed we found it difficult to recruit more team members. Two big issues arose. Few wanted to provision their own food and time of year. The launch date was Dec. 4. Ben had to be back at work by Dec. 23 so we decided to make it a 16 day trip. It was pretty understandable that most folks would find being gone from the end of Thanksgiving to right before Christmas a pretty tough going even without weather considerations. The decision to self-provision was driven partly by economy but also by differences in eating habits. If each person brings their own you can spend and eat exactly what you want so went our logic. The final roster was Ben, rowing his raft, his dad Charlie, in a Blue Hole open canoe and myself paddling my Dagger Nomad. We had planned to takeout 279 miles downstream at Pearce Ferry.



On Dec. 2 we all piled into Charlie's pickup truck and headed west on a 26 hour non-stop journey to Lees Ferry put-in.



12/ 4 Day one.

The adventure started right away. Average bottom canyon temps for December are 37 degree lows and 57 degree highs. We knew that it would start out windy but we didn't expect temps 20 degrees below normal for the whole trip! Some days it never got above freezing. The river level was 10-12,000CFS. Summertime flows in recent years have been in the 20-30,000 CFS range. This posed an additional difficulty as many of the more difficult rapids get harder as flow decreases.

On the very first day, 8 miles down, Charlie swam in Badger Creek rapid and dislocated his shoulder. Ben and I reduced the shoulder fairly quickly. Per Ben's instructions I gripped him across the chest from behind with one arm while shoving my fingertips up under his scapula with 40-50 lbs of force from the other hand. Ben then rotated Charlie's arm outwards, pivoting about the elbow, which was against his side. This did the trick on the first try but unfortunately his drysuit zipper was not completely closed and by then, due to the wind, cold and wetness, hypothermia had started setting in. We had to help him into dry clothes and then put him into a sleeping bag and got him warmed up with hot food. We were camping there for the night.

We agonized over what to do with the open canoe since Charlie would no longer be able to paddle. Do we stash it and pay some strong young locals to haul it out later? There was a road that ran nearby but it

was on Navajo land. Who knows how much they would charge us to cross it. We even considered chopping it up into small pieces and hauling it out on the raft. We weren't sure what the park service would do to us for abandoning equipment and not exactly adhering to Leave No Trace principles. We were informed by the ranger at the Lees ferry put -in that NPS policy is not to leave any equipment behind. He stated that if anyone became injured to stash the boat and signal for a helicopter flight to haul them out but he didn't say how the boat would get out and we didn't think to ask. The wind was howling and we decided not to make a fire. We were so tired that everyone went to bed by 6:30 pm.

12/5 Day 2

We spent the greater part of the morning trying to find a good place to stash the boat and then haul it there. We ended up leaving it in some rocks high enough above river level so anyone finding it would know it was placed there on purpose with a note written inside that we would come back for it but if the finder wanted to take it they were welcome to it (it was 30 years old anyway). Charlie contemplated hiking out, getting the truck, and hanging out until we finished the run but we decided we could make room for him to ride in the raft. We launch by noon just as the next group comes down the river.

We get to Soap Creek rapid and my jaw drops to think

this is rated a 5? I decide to walk half of it but time spent walking and scouting it takes an hour. This will be arduous trip if I have to portage everything over a 4! On top of it all the raft group just behind us, a group of 6 six people in 3 rafts, sail right past without scouting. They know what they are doing, big long rafts with plenty of space, plenty of dry boxes for all their gear. Two rafts have kayaks strapped to the top which tells me I SHOULD portage this but wish we had the right gear to do all that – bigger raft, maybe 2 rafts, dry boxes instead of a hodgepodge of dry bags. Later on, based on my other rapid experiences, I decide Soap Creek rapid is either underrated in the river guide or is considerably more difficult at lower water levels.

House Rock rapid <https://vimeo.com/92158460>

We finally get down to camp on river left just above 25 mile rapid and pull in at 5 pm. It is so cold that anything wet starts freezing solid within minutes of getting off the river. We manage to scrounge enough fire wood but I am so cold I have to screw up the courage to get out of my river clothes and into dry clothes. We all decide that so far this experience feels like an exercise in survival. We don't think temps got above 30ies all day. Another cold front is predicted to come through. Last night, before my phone lost the last of its battery, Phantom ranch wasn't predicted to have highs over 45 for the next 4 days. Temps predicted for Lees Ferry

over the same period were highs in the 30ies and lows in the teens! The National Weather Service long-term forecast was for temps much HIGHER than normal!

Fortunately we could put a fire together tonight though its so cold my feet are still numb right in front of the fire pan. We are all in bed by 8.

With Charlie no longer paddling on his own I started thinking more about assuring my own safety. In the event of a swim, figuring it could be a long time before the raft could catch up to me, I started carrying more gear. At all times I now carried a dry bag with an MRE plus snack food plus my planned lunch for the day, extra water, a first aid kit, tinder and a lighter in water-proof box for starting fire. I also had another drybag with a fleece balaclava, thick polypro gloves, and an extra polypro shirt. Even on the coldest days I was completely comfortable in one to three polypro layers under my drytop and one polypro layer under my dry-pants as long as I was paddling but as soon as I got off river for the day I needed to have that extra gear handy to throw on just to setup camp.

12/6 Day three.

Everything is Frozen! The morning cold is unbelievable. My sponge is frozen solid in the bottom of my boat. Drinking water is slushy in the 5 gallon jug. We



have been putting it into the tent with us at night in hopes that our body heat will help keep it liquid but with limited success. The worst is putting on frozen river gear every morning. We try to lay it out after getting off for the day so it can dry out but it retains enough moisture that its still very stiff by morning. That coupled with cold-stiffened rubber wrist and ankle gaskets, cold-numbed fingers, and the wind-blown powder-fine sand that sticks to everything damp makes dressing a real challenge. It does help to thaw gear by dunking it in the 46 degree river water before putting it on

We now have a routine. Get up at the first crack of light at 7 am (though I would prefer to wake at 7:30, when we have full light, for mental health reasons). Put on dry clothes to make breakfast of ramen noodles with added veggies or a freezed-dried omelet or oatmeal. The others are somehow satisfied with just coffee and a granola bar. Then, pack up camp, change into river clothes and head out. Unfortunately this takes 3 hours everyday! A lot of this time is spent figuring out where to find a place for everything now that Charlie is riding in the raft and has to sit on top of the gear. We are also spending lots of time making small adjustments – spacing of the seat, footrest, and oarlocks on the oarframe, which drybags should go where, where and how to strap down the ammo boxes serving as our groovers, how to best strap down the dryboxes. Much

of this could have been prevented if we had done a shakedown cruise on a local river at home. We have 14 drybags, 2 mesh bags and 3 dryboxes that all have to be strapped down every morning.

We make very good time today putting on at 10 am, taking off at 4:30 pm, with a very short break for me to have lunch(the others only snack on gorp on the river for lunch). We are now making 4 miles an hour, 4 ½ if we paddle continuously. Very beautiful archaeology and geology – Stanton's cave where stick figurines from 4,000 years ago were found, The lush greenery of Vasey's Paradise, Hanging Springs, Proposed dam site in Marble Canyon which would have inundated all the Grand Canyon up to Lees Ferry, Redwall Cavern, Anasazi Bridge. Very pleasant weather today, light winds, sunny, easy rapids. I am now very comfortable paddling through 5's or less without scouting and 6's with scouting. I haven't portaged anything since Soap Creek.

<https://vimeo.com/92164010>

I had hoped we would make one of the Nankoweap Granary campsites today but we didn't want to run the rapid just before it in the dark even though it is a 3. This would have allowed us to hike in dry clothes first thing in the morning and then change into river clothes



for the day and make our run. Therefore we camped for the night at Dinosaur (never did figure out the reason for the name) at milemarker 50.

12/7 day 4

We manage to wake, eat, dress, and pack up in only 2 ¼ hours!. We get down to Nankoweap by 10:45, hike up and return to the boats by 12:45 for a quick lunch.

any progress downstream. I was literally being blown upriver in my kayak if I didn't actively paddle! Ben and Charlie could make no downriver progress despite their rowing. My sailing experience told me we were facing winds of around 20 mph gusting to 40 mph. I didn't want to get sideways to the wind as I was afraid I would be flipped by it. We got off the river around 1:30 and took shelter in a small slot canyon around MM 55 for a couple hours. It started flurrying and then



This river section , from MM 25 to 73, has no rapids over a 5 and many flat sections. It has been a beautiful , sunny day up to now and we hiked up in our river gear.

We had a great hike up to the Nankoweap granaries. These are small ancient pueblo Indian ruins in the cliffs above the river with one of the most stunning views of the canyon. It was to be the only day of the trip we had time for any fun hiking due to the short days and the need to stay on schedule. It was warm, sunny during the hike but within an hour of heading downstream the clouds closed in, the rain started, and worst of all the wind roared so hard up the canyon we could not make

raining and we wondered just how much rain would have to fall before flash flooding was an issue. We decided we would see water cascading over the cliff 200 ft.. behind us if that became a problem. We fortified ourselves with Kraken rum and leftover Halloween candy. To top it off the GC filled with fog. We later learned this was a once-in-a-decade occurrence due to a rare combination of a temperature inversion and higher than normal air moisture. Fortunately the wind went down to a reasonable level as fast as it blew up, the rain tapered off and we continued downstream but now we were even further behind schedule.

<https://vimeo.com/92158455>
<https://vimeo.com/92163090>



By MM 63 it's 4:30 and we arrive at Crash Canyon campsite. We need to get off before dark which comes by 5:30 this time of year. This was the site of two commercial airliners that collided mid-air in 1956 and the fallout from this incident precipitated the creation of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Supposedly if you hike up the canyon here you can still find pieces of aircraft wreckage. We all agree we will never run the GC in winter again. We feel as though we just qualified for the navy SEALs. The wind is raging. Fortunately this campsite is at the base of a 50 ft. cliff which provides a little protection but not much. The noise here is loud, some from the rapids nearby but mostly from the high winds buffeting the bluffs around us. However the sand is so fine and penetrating that with each gust it is as if someone took a shovelful and threw it across the inside of the tent. As I write this from my sleeping bag I have to periodically brush the sand off the pages every few minutes just so I can write smoothly and keep the sand grains from sticking to the end of my ball point pen. To make matters worse we have a slight drizzle all evening long. We were very lucky to come upon this campsite as dusk approached as all the other options were much more wind-exposed.

The evening routine is now find camp just before dark; unpack the tent, firepan and stove; collect firewood; make fire; eat reconstituted freeze-dried food (which we actually find pretty tasty) for dinner; chat around the fire until 7:30 or 8; then head to bed though I tend to stay up to read, plan the next day, and write for a couple more hours. The homemade firepan is a bit of a challenge as it's like putting together an erector set – 16 bolts and 16 wing nuts to assemble a panoply of slotted angle and sheet metal scraps every day! Then fuss with breaking loose all those heat-warped fit-

tings every morning! It does work as designed though and smartly packs up in a plastic bucket with a screw-on lid to protect the other gear from getting sliced up on the metal edges.

12/8 day 5

The wind has finally died. We wake and brush off the layer of sand that coats everything inside and outside the tent. We were warned by the check-in ranger that ravens were apt to take off with food and shiny objects, especially sunglasses. This morning we noticed one of them perched on top of the cliff overhang just above our campsite. He stayed there the whole time we went about our morning routine but he never found the opportunity he was looking for.

We arrive at Hance rapid at MM 77 at 2:30 and get out to scout. I am so pleased that I can easily see a route to sneak down the left side. Back at Soap Creek I despaired that I would be the one to hold up the group having to scout and portage so many rapids. I have been so pleased that I can easily portage anything I want because the debris flows that create all GC rapids are usually gently sloped and the shorelines are rocky but easily walked. However, after looking for an hour, Ben decides that he can not safely run the raft even if it's empty. We consider "lining" the raft down the left side but there are just too many small rocks at or just beneath the surface that prevent this. Hance is the first of five really noteworthy ones and the longest one too. It's an 8 on the western 10 point scale. In the past the left line was the usual route but in August of 2012 a debris flow dumped a lot of boulders into river left so you now have to take the right line but at this river level that line is still full of pour overs and nasty holes requiring a lot of maneuvering. We were very concerned about flipping the raft and not being able to get to it for a long ways downstream as immediately below Hance was another, smaller, but still lengthy rapid. After a lot of consideration and with extreme reluctance we decide to portage the raft and its entire contents!! It took all 3 of us 8 round trips each of ½ mile/ trip to get 1000 lbs of gear to the bottom. Another half day lost! We finish at 5:30p and make camp at the base of the rapid.

We know we absolutely can not portage all the gear again the way we just did. We plan to talk to the rangers the next day when arrive at Phantom Ranch and see what our options are. We consider the possibility of just getting off the river but that seems ominous given the limited access there.



<https://vimeo.com/92161462>

We should have been averaging 20 miles/day to take-out at Pearce Ferry allowing time to for a few layover days to goof off and hike but now we are struggling to just get down river and get out.

Its still below freezing tonight. Just writing is difficult as the ink wont flow. I have to alternate pens. One under my arm to keep the ink warm while writing for a few minutes with the other.

Despite the hardships of this journey is still great in that the time, distance, and geography affords you the opportunity, maybe even forces you, to consider the metaphysical aspects of life. If you drove to the rim of the Grand Canyon as 4 million visitors a year do, you would gaze out at the vastness and be amazed yet not come anywhere near to appreciating all the canyon has to offer. Few people in the industrialized world can get as isolated as you are in the bottom of the GC. We have seen only two other river groups and one group of hikers. In winter it is a retreat experience. It is awe-inspiring to contemplate the vast geography around you knowing there is likely no one around except for a group 10-20 miles ahead of you and may be one 10-20 miles behind. You can not get this experience surrounded by hordes of fellow tourists on the rim, which there are even in winter.

A river journey practically forces to you to consider the expanse of time and space. Viewing the rock layers up close and personally by going down river you view them progressively from youngest to oldest as the canyon cuts ever deeper along the way. You contemplate the incomprehensible time scale of events taking place from rock folding , faulting, and uplifting in geologic time all the way down to the billions of microbes living and dying in every second in every one of the 12,000 cubic feet per second of river. What would that landscape be like 200-500 million years ago to cause such dramatically different types of layering of silts, muds, sediments, different colored minerals from just one inch to the next so different from each other? One layer might only be $\frac{1}{4}$ in thick while other layers above and below are so much thicker while alternating bands of a range of colors, then above or below all that, to have one solid layer many dozens of feet thick ,completely homogeneous. The GC is 5,000 ft. at its deepest but its hard to fathom the forces that piled another 5,000 ft. of rock before it formed, wore it all away, piled another 5000 ft. and wore that away before forming what we see today. You can read about it in a textbook or magazine but you don't really internalize those concepts until you see it up close.

12/9 Day 6

Two miles down we arrive at Sockdolager rapid.

The term means “ the decisive blow” and this rapid delivered. I decide to portage the top half of the rapid. In the middle of my walk the other guys take the raft downriver. Unfortunately, the raft flips about half way. I hurry over the boulders to get to a decent put-in spot but that still takes me several minutes. <http://vimeo.com/82459504>

Ben makes it to shore on his own. I get to Charlie and pull him to shore. The guys are perched on a shallow ledge. We all agree that I should go after the raft. I grab an oar floating by but have to release it if I am going to chase after the raft. I am now extremely anxious, PADDLING ALONE IN THE GRAND CANYON! I can see the raft in an eddy. I almost catch up to it but come upon the next rapid. This one is small enough it isn't even listed in the guidebook but I am so paranoid about swimming, on my own, in these conditions, that I calculate its better take the time to be safe and portage. This extra time has allowed the raft to get pushed back into the main current again. Added to my fear of solo paddling is the dawning realization that its getting more and more difficult to reunite with my partners. By this time the raft is far downstream. By about a mile down I finally catch up with it slowly circulating in a very large (100 ft. diameter) eddy but now how to get it to shore? Pushing a 1000 lb. loaded raft with a kayak is like a mouse trying to budge a boulder. Fortunately Ben has carabinered a throw bag to the stern D-ring so I grab that and make a mad dash for shore but run out of rope before I get there. Now I get out, dig out my own throw bag and paddle out to the raft to clip my bag onto the end of his. Meanwhile the raft threatens to get swept back into the main flow with each recirculation. Every moment I am hoping I don't get entangled, hoping the raft doesn't pull me and the gear downstream and hoping if it does that it, me, and the two daisy-chained throw ropes don't get hung up in the next rapid down. Fortunately, the combined rope is long enough to give me enough time to get to shore, wrap it around a rock, jump out, and pull the raft in before the next recirculation cycle.

Now the next priority is getting the raft flipped over. By now it has been upside down for at least 20 min-

utes and no doubt lots of stuff is getting wet. But, how to flip it over by myself? I figure a z-drag is my best bet, maybe with an additional traveling pulley to get enough mechanical advantage. I am just getting the gear ready to set it up when lo and behold three self-supported kayakers from Quebec pull into the eddy!! We had passed two other raft groups earlier in the trip but hadn't seen anyone for days!! We quickly righted the raft but the main issue now was where were Ben and Charlie? The Quebecois hadn't seen them coming down!



This was a very bad section of the canyon for a group to get separated. We were now in one of the deepest parts of the GC. The topography had changed into near vertical rock walls as the river carved into the very hard, 2 billion year old, Vishnu Schist. I knew Ben and Charlie were too far upstream to swim down, and the shear walls prevented them from walking down. The Quebecois and I were perched on a very small but steep debris flow, one of the few in this section of the GC. We could see nearly a mile upstream but there was no sign of my companions and no response to our whistle blasts. I knew the guys were in a bad situation because they had nothing with them but their drysuits. It was now 3 pm. Its completely dark in the GC in December by 5:30 pm. Fortunately, the only ranger station on the whole 280 mile stretch of river was only 7 miles downstream at Phantom Ranch but we would need an hour and half to paddle that. The Quebecois had passed one of the other raft groups early that day but who knew if they were still right behind us or whether they had stopped for the day already. We had a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) with which to summon help but the check-in ranger at the put-in told us that it would take from 1-6 hours for them to get a helicopter to us and they don't fly in the dark.

The big question now was whether to trigger the PLB, stay and sleep on the cold, windy rocks (nowhere flat enough to pitch a tent) or to paddle like hell to Phantom Ranch and get help there? If we stayed there was a chance a chopper could get to Ben and Charlie before dark but it seemed really iffy. If we went down to Phantom Ranch now the guys would definitely be

out there for the night. The Quebecois agreed among themselves to stay with me whatever I decided. This was an enormous relief to me. We decided to stay for another hour to see if the raft group came down and if they had Ben and Charlie with them. If there was no raft group or if they didn't see the guys either then we would all head to Phantom Ranch immediately. Amazingly, within half an hour, the raft group did appear and they had the guys with them!!! The river karma this day was off the charts!!! Out of the three raft group only the very last raft had seen Ben and Charlie.

It turned out their situation was much more serious than I knew. Charlie dislocated his shoulder again just from the swim. However, this time Ben could not get the shoulder reduced no matter what he tried. Even worse, they had not been able to find any shelter out of the wind. They were trapped on the ledge of rock by the river I left them on, unable to move upstream or downstream. Ben is a physician and he is sure that despite wearing drysuits, conditions were such that they would have both died of hypothermia by the next day.

The group of 3 rafts and Quebecois group accompanied us down to Phantom Ranch, arriving just before dark. Fortunately ranger Adam Sherman was on duty who was also a trained paramedic and the station had a fully equipped clinic. It took Ben and the ranger 3 hours, a Fentanyl (a strong pain reliever) IV infusion, and several different techniques to reduce Charlie's shoulder to the point that it would go in and stay in. Ben and Charlie were allowed to stay the night in the ranger station clinic but I had to fend for myself. Phantom Ranch has a dining hall/lounge, cabins and bunkhouses. Its primary purpose is to service hikers making the day-long journey down from one side of the canyon, staying overnight, and then heading up the other side or back the way they came. Most times of the year you need to make reservations as much as a year in advance to get a bunk or a meal here. Fortunately, this was low season and I could get a bunk for the night in a heated bunkhouse and a hot shower aaaaaahhhhhhhh. Dinner was an MRE at 10pm, in the dark, so as not wake my roommates.

12/10 Day 7

We decided we had to leave the river. This was a huge decision. Clearly Charlie had to get off. Ben and I had been invited to join the raft group that rescued us but they were taking their time and wouldn't reach Diamond Creek takeout until Dec. 23 but Ben had to be back at work by Dec. 21. The only option was for all of us to takeoff now.

Now, how to get 1000 lbs. of gear plus the raft and kayak out???? The only access into Phantom Ranch was on hiking/mule trails that only went to the top of both the North and South rims. The shortest option was the Bright Angel trail but it was still 10 miles long and 5000 ft. up. Ranger Adam came to the rescue again!! After numerous phone calls to superiors he got the OK for the park helicopter to pull out all of our bulky gear up to 500 lbs. in one load, slung from the bottom of the chopper in a cargo net for free. Additionally, the National Park Service would allow us to put 60 lbs. per person on their next mule string, going out the next day, for free. Anything beyond that we would have to pay Xanterra, the Phantom Ranch concessionaire, \$60 per 30 lb. duffel for their mules to carry it out, carry it out on our backs, or try to give it away to other hikers/rafters. Absolutely EVERYTHING had to be hauled out – all poop, campfire ashes and trash we had generated on the entire journey. Leave No Trace was starting to get expensive!! The whole rest of the day was spent separating and repackaging all our possessions into those five categories – NPS heli-pickup, NPS mule duffles, Xanterra mule duffles, backpack ourselves, giveaways. We had trouble giving the food away as every hiker/rafter was well provisioned. Fortunately a good samaritan leading a raft trip agreed to take all we would give him, haul it all the way downriver and back home to give to a homeless shelter in Portland, OR. Ranger Adam reassured us that leaving the open canoe behind at Badger Creek rapid was not the worst sin in the world. The NPS does anticipate a number of these incidents occurring periodically. They run periodic river patrols to pickup such gear, haul it downstream, and store it in a local warehouse. If unclaimed after awhile its auctioned off.

The Quebecois were grateful to take my summer sausage, 2 bags of gorp, and granola bars. They were so tightly cramped for space in their Nomads that they took only exactly what they calculated they would need to eat for the duration of their journey. This worked out fine until a wily raven took off with an entire summer sausage they had brought and they had counted on to feed all of them for a meal.

12/11 Day 8

The entire next day was spent hiking all the way up the Bright Angel trail. It was a little treacherous as the last half of the journey the trail was covered with ice and snow. Once on top we needed a place to stay. Since the helicopter trip would be free we had to wait until they had a load of supplies to ferry into Phantom Ranch. The NPS couldn't tell us if that would be tomor-

row, the next day, or next week. Again Ranger Adam to the rescue! He happened to have the next several days off and also happened to have a new house he was moving into in the middle of Grand Canyon village park employee housing. We were allowed to stay in



his new place for as long as we needed as long as we helped him move his furniture from his old place. Fortunately, the helicopter brought the raft, kayak, and the rest of the gear back only two days later, we retrieved the truck from Pearce Ferry, and we were on our way home!!

Lessons Learned

Were we too inexperienced? Between the three of us we had at least 60 years of active paddling. Charlie was a seasoned class IV paddler with many years of open canoe experience. He had successfully navigated some hairy experiences – piloting his 22 ft. sailboat solo from the North Carolina coast to Bermuda and to the Bahamas and in some very bad weather conditions- he knew his own limits. Ben was a very seasoned class V boater whose favorite run was the Green gorge. We had all skied together in Utah on two different trips and known each other for years so we felt comfortable together. Had we had just one person on the trip with prior Grand Canyon experience would have helped with guidance on rowing the raft and river features. At a minimum we should have fully outfitted the raft and taken it down the Ocoee or lower Gauley (which might have convinced us to rent a bigger craft for the GC) and rented a second one.

Was the raft too small? The leader of the raft group that rescued Ben and Charlie offered us to join them the rest of the way down the river. He said “ I would love to row your 14 footer down. It would make for a fun, new challenge” So, in experienced hands, the raft may have been fine but for beginners , clearly too small.

Was the group too small? The Quebecois were only a group of 3, who were totally self-supported, each cramming all their food, PVC groovers, ultralight camping gear in Dagger Nomads(living 24/7 in their drysuits) for 11 days. They looked very comfortable but

had done a couple 4-5 days excursions, kitted this way, back in Quebec. The other two groups we encountered each had 6 to 8 among 3 rafts. A group of three can work but leaves little margin for error.

Were we ignorant? Ben and I had talked to many seasoned GC boaters, and I especially sought

out folks who had taken winter trips. We all watched lots of video of all the hardest rapids, read lots of trip reports , trolled internet forums of GC boaters - parsing it all for critical info, We found that the hydraulics of the Grand are so very different from anything we had seen on eastern rivers that even middle difficulty rapids were a handful. No amount of video or discussion can fully prepare you for these differences.

Were we ill-equipped? I would argue we were over-equipped and over-supplied. Not having experience of any kind of a trip of this length we erred on the liberal side. Not knowing how many extra calories I would need due to unexpected cold, exertion, group sharing I ended up packing twice as much food as I needed. We carried three stoves that operated on two different kinds of fuel, extra tents, an extra sleeping bag wrapped in drybag within another drybag to make absolutely sure no one would have to sleep in a wet sleeping bag. Between the extra thermal protection needed for cold weather , extra food, and backups for the backups we must have taken two to three times the volume of gear needed on a summertime trip provisioned by a seasoned outfitter. This became a particular liability when we were hauling the contents of the raft up to camp every day, trying to remember which of the 6 big drybags I had something stored in , and then digging to the very bottom of that 120L drybag for the snickers bar I just had to have right THEN. I became very jealous of the outfitter-provided rafts we later encountered, with a well-thought out proper place for every item.

Ultimately we all arrived home safely and parted company still friends. Though we would not choose to run the it again in winter given the very short days and the potential for very cold weather, we all agreed we couldn't wait to run it again in a bigger group with bigger rafts, outfitter-provisioned, in warmer weather.

NPFF 2014 was Immensely Successful!



Thanks to the BWA, the 2014 National Paddling Film Festival was immensely successful! Scores of festival attendees saw great film and still image entries from all over the world, won amazing deals on gear in the silent auction, happily consumed 12 local craft-brewed kegs, and ate delicious food. To top it all off, donation amounts of over \$11K were given to organizations dedicated to river conservation and river access from the festival proceeds. Now, that's winning!



Fred Norquist, one of the founding fathers of Substantial Media House, was our guest host this year. He recently graduated with a film degree and has been cranking out some of the best white-water footage out there.



NPFF 2014 Director Beverly Overfield & Guest Host Fred Norquist

Fred showed us some never before seen footage, answered questions, and was an all-around humble, approachable, and great guest host. "I had a great time drinking good beer, delicious bourbon, and enjoying the great company of the paddling community" said Norquist.

The aspect of the festival

that I'm most proud of includes the donation amounts we were able to give away this year. A total of \$11,300 was given to organizations focusing on river conservation and access:

NPFF 2014 Donations

\$8,500 to American Whitewater

\$1,000 to Ecuadorian Rivers Institute

\$1,000 to West Virginia Rivers Coalition

\$400 to Friends of Cheat

\$400 to Kentucky Waterways Alliance

I'd like to take a moment to thank some of the key NPFF players for making this year such a success. When you see these folks, please buy them a beer and give them a pat on the back: Brandon Jett, Phillip Bubba Sisk, Jacob Robinson, Dorothy Edwards, Don Perkins, Clay Warren, and Ali Blair secured the donations for the silent auction.

Don Perkins officially ran the silent auction at the festival. He also managed/upgraded/made amazing the NPFF website.

Barry Grimes was in charge of all things audio/visual for the fest and he also arranged for the films to be downloaded and available to the judges online (no DVDs!!).

David Leachman took care of acquiring and managing all of the judges.

Adelessa Grace and George Harbour were food ninjas and supplied us with food throughout the event.

Mike Wilson, with the help of Kyle Hoelscher, Philip Bubba Sisk, and Jeff Kirkner, took care of acquiring massive amounts (12!!) of local craft-brewed kegs.

Jeff Kirkner took care of the Homebrew competition at the festival.

Brandon Jett took care of the still image competition.



NPFF Director Beverly Overfield and American Whitewater Executive Director Mark Singleton



Mark Singleton greeting & signing up new members at the American Whitewater Desk



2014 Still Image Winner "Lone Canoeist" at Bald River Falls by Mark Zakutansky

Don Spangler took care of the NPFF Program.

David "YT" Thomas took care of the NPFF treasury and often took the show on the road (along with Clay) to drum up interest throughout the year.

And 60 of you volunteered to make it all happen the weekend of the festival by greeting festival goers at the front desk, working in the kitchen, managing the silent auction, and so on. Thank you all so much!

I also have to give a special shout out to Brandon, Bubba, and Clay for keeping me sane by giving me advice and by lending me their ears when I needed them (which was more than I care to admit). They were essentially on call for two months and I'm incredibly thankful that they were so helpful and accommodating.

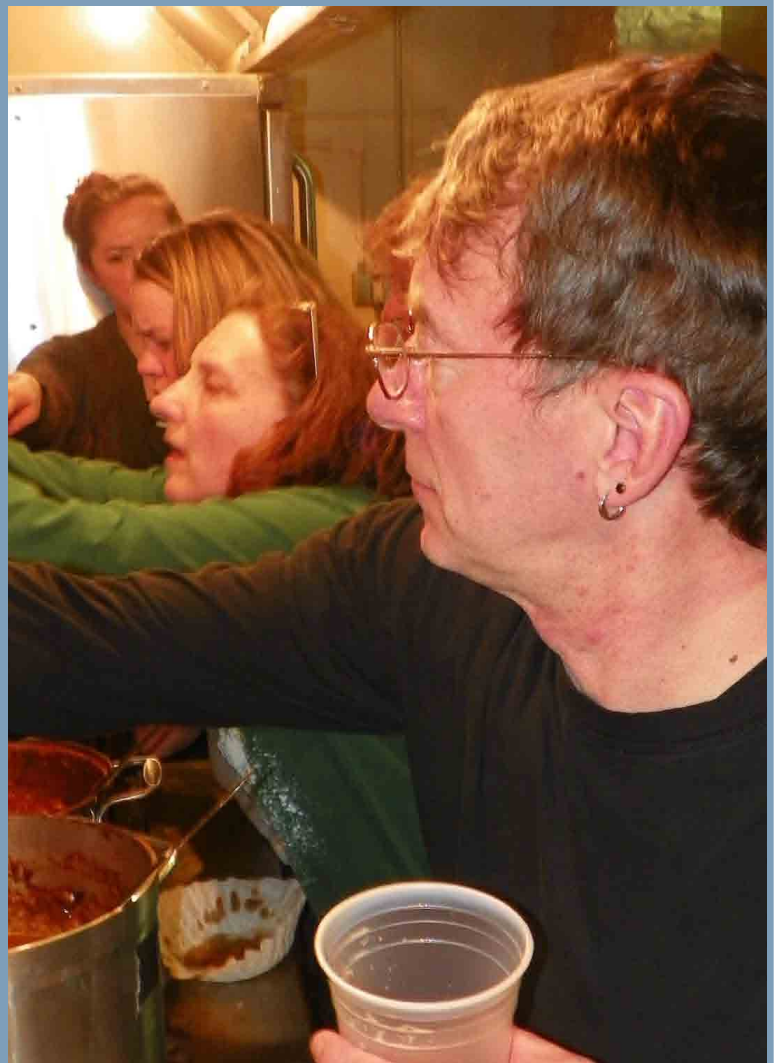
It's so amazing to me that we, as a club, pull this off every year! BWA should be incredibly proud of keeping the National Paddling Film Festival going. I hope even more of you will get involved with the planning and execution of the festival next year. We're always looking for new people to carry the torch.

My deepest and sincerest thanks.

Bethany



Don Perkins & Robert Milgate working on the Silent Auction

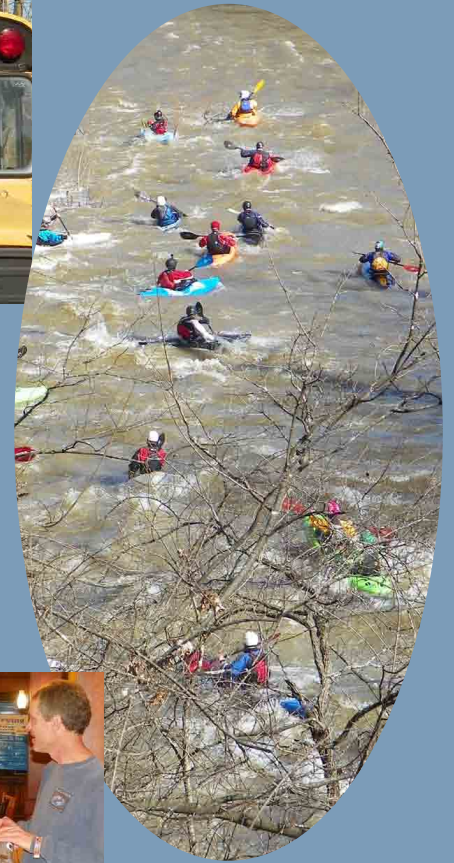


Always a hit: Judging the Chili Cookoff

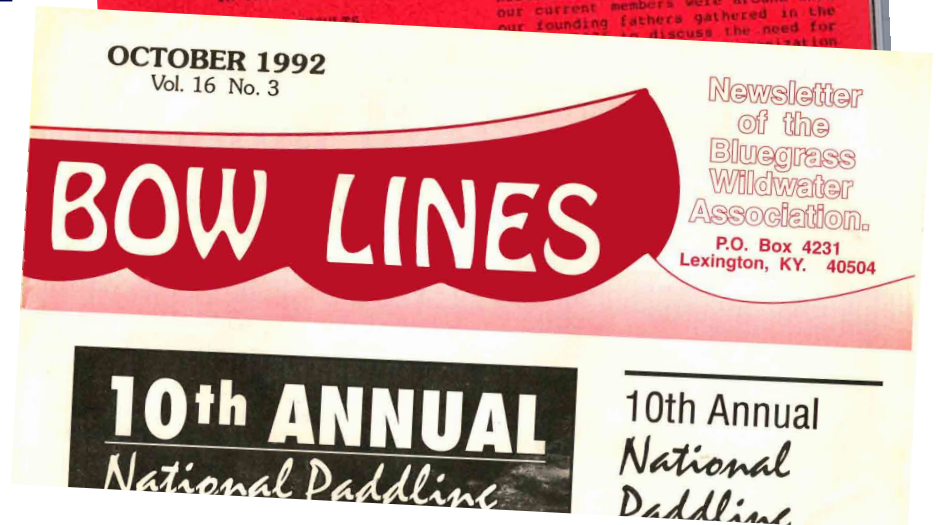
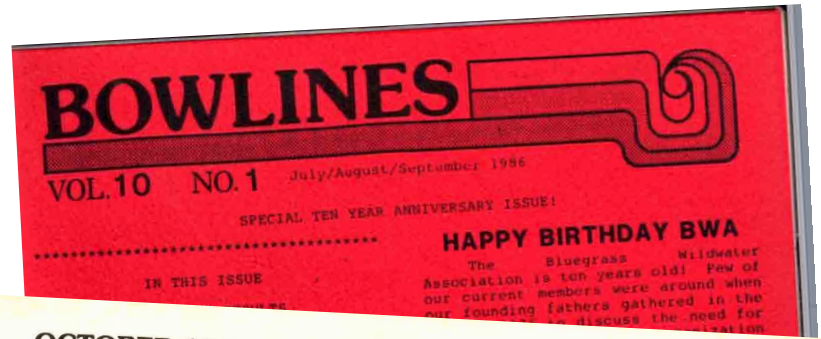


Learning about Buffalo Trace Bourbon

NPFF Weekend Photos



Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines...



more of our proud
BWA legacy that is
worth remembering!

An Accolade

Everyone who boats can look back on their year to one particular event that stands out in a special way. One of those events for me was on my last trip down the Ocoee for 1993.

Our group that day was made up of 8 to 10 paddlers. The composition was from expert to "his first time on the Ocoee". That "first time on the 'Ocoee" boater was Tim Miller. I was behind Tim that day we approached Broken Nose. Tim roached against the big boulder to the left of Broken Nose. His paddle was pinned between the rock and his boat. His boat was in a lean upstream which left him in a very precarious situation. It was one of those moments when an inexperienced boater was at a loss.

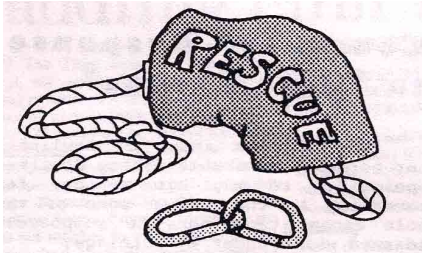
Terry Wyatt, a long time BWA member, had already run Broken Nose. He was sitting in the right eddy below when he realized that something was wrong up above. He did what he had done only in play before. He rode the upswell of the wave into an elevator move which brought him to the top of the wave. He then used the crest of the wave to sweep him from left to right into the current in which Tim had broached at the top. He quickly took command and had Tim safely on his way.

I suppose that Terry's spectacular move would have only been a "neat" move, if circumstances had not seemed so grim to those of us left in indecision up above. But, I for one, was never so glad to see someone who could take command of a potentially dangerous situation. And for that elevator move up Broken Nose, well, it was a sight I won't soon forget. An accolade to a fine boater!



Prince Vittitow

From Bowlines January 1994



Random Safety Notes

The weekend of September 13, John Daughtery, The Sixes, Lythia and took the Standard (advanced) river safety course at the NOC. There is absolutely no substitute for hands on experience in the practice of knot tying, Z-drags, shag lines etc. There is nothing like screwing something up to aid the learning process.

If you want to read about specifics, get River Rescue by Bechdel & Ray, illustrated by a Woman in Rubber, 1985. Read it, study it, practice it (and ignore what it says about shock). It could save your miserable hide.

A few better tips were:

- Wear a loose 'belt' of two loops 5-7 mm nylon rope tied with a double fishermans's knot and hooked with a carabiner. Very useful in Zdrags, quick tie offs, etc.
- A river knife is better if single bladed (unlike my Tekna). A story was told how a rope was cut from a victim's leg while slicing flesh with the other edge.
- Jam cleats--for towing boats with a kayak or C-I. I bought one and will demo at the roll sessions.
- The tying of a bowline around oneself-- break the window, scratch the belly etc.

I strongly recommend this course. One small criticism however: The course is oriented to rafting and canoeing somewhat in that heavy ropes and equipment one couldn't possibly fit into a decked boat are frequently used.

Other notes:

A well known, advanced, international, BWA paddler, whom decorum prevents my naming, offers this very personal observation:

"While pile is certainly warm, it is quite heavy to swim in."*

Neoprene provides both warmth and bouyancy but perhaps the ultimate is the dry suit. Trapping air" it floats the swimmer even higher. In fact, one can "inflate" the drysuit somewhat by blowing air in through the neck.

Lastly, I think the best way to promote safety in the BWA is to have an annual safety relays with competing teams, followed by- a massive drunk perhaps in August when nothing is running. I welcome any input.

Frank Loudermilk

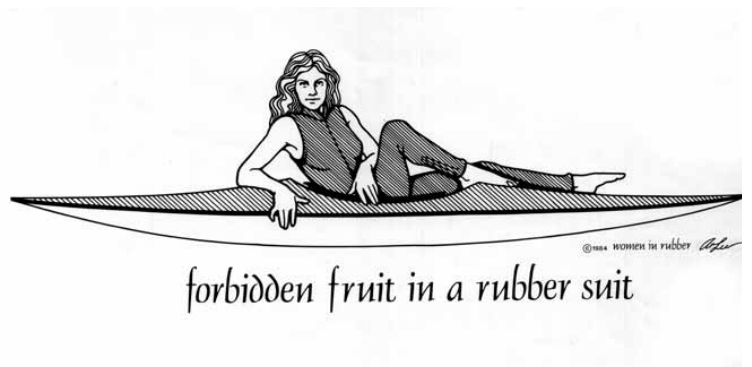
* "I could have told him that." (DS)

Some Small Town in Kentucky.

From the East Tennessee Club in Oak Ridge newsletter:

Several of us went up for the Gauley Festival on the weekend of September 21. It was a blast. The Gauley truly is the queen of eastern rivers, and the festival itself was highlighted by the *Women in Rubber* burlesque team from some small town in Kentucky.

From Bowlines Oct/Nov 1985





United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER
P.O. BOX 429
WARTBURG, TENNESSEE 37887
(615) 346-6294

Dear Fellow Paddler and river user:

A new paddling season is already upon us, even if it did start late. There have been some changes at the Obed Wild and Scenic River that we would like to make you and members of your club aware of.

A primitive campground is now available across the river from the Nemo picnic area. The campground includes picnic tables, fire rings and trash cans as well as a restroom. These sites are on a first come basis and are free of charge.

There are some new regulations now in effect at the Obed Wild and Scenic River that may affect some of your members. We request that you publish these regulations in your newsletter and make trip leaders to this area aware of the new rules.

1. Glass containers, such as soda bottles, are not allowed at river access points, including but not limited to; Nemo, Lilly Bridge, Jet Bridge and Barnett Bridge.

2. The consumption of Alcoholic beverages is prohibited at all Access sites, including the new campground across the river from Nemo.

Also remember when unloading or parking along roadways keep gear, vehicles and people out of the way of traffic. If you change at the access areas be DISCREET. (naked boaters is the 2nd biggest complaint from area residents. Obstacles to traffic is #1).



Sincerely,
Joe Kelley, Park Manager

Bowlines January 1994

Chief's Teepee : The Six Packs

Bowlines May/June 1986

After receiving my copy of the BWA survey, I reached in the tee pee and dusted off the typewriter. Some of the survey questions asked for "favorites" but of some, I have more than one favorite. Here's my list. There is no particular order.

Chief

Best Rivers (I've Run)

1. Arkansas
2. Colorado (Grand Canyon)
3. Chatooga
4. Gauley
5. Russell Fork
6. Ottawa

Six U.S. Rivers I'd Like to Run

1. Middle Fork of the Salmon
2. Selway
3. Cheat
4. Upper Yock
5. Tiny Piney (TN)
6. Chauga (SC)/Watauga (NC) Tie

Six Favorite Drugs

1. Adrenalin
2. Caffeine
3. Alcohol (liquid courage)
4. Antacids (Rolaids, Tums, et al)
5. algesics (aspirin, etc)
6. Herbal Courage

Best Beer

1. Cold
2. Free
3. Pilsner Urquell
4. Molson Brador
5. Old Vienna
6. Old Milwaukee

Six Favorite Eateries

1. Gladys Breeden's
2. Steak House Cafeteria
3. Country Roads Inn
4. Swenson's
5. Western Steer/Sizzler
6. Mildred's

Six Groups' to Get You to the Grand Canyon While Driving through New Mexico in the Middle of the Night

1. Talking Heads
2. The Clash
3. Bob Marley and the Wailers
4. The Police
5. The Pretenders
6. The Nighthawks

Boaters Run World's Deepest Canyon

The title page of the 1984 Guinness Book of World Records contains a picture of the world's deepest canyon: the Colca Canyon, in Peru. Its near vertical walls rise 10,607 feet on one side, and a whopping 14,339 feet on the other.

The canyon was first surveyed by airplane in 1929. But the gorge is so narrow that in many places the Colca River at the bottom is hidden from view! Geographers and explorers entered the canyon at a few points, but much of it was never seen by human eyes until 1981, when the river was run by a Polish expedition, "CANOANDES '79", of which this writer was a member.

The Colca was the most challenging of all the 23 rivers we ran in Central and South America during our expedition. Indians living near the canyon gravely warned us that the devil lived in the canyon, sending out thunder and smoke. As we started into the canyon, in kayaks and a raft, we found that giant boulders blocked the river, and we had to resort to mountain climbing to make progress. Later we found whitewater that put even the most skillful boaters to the test: huge holes and whirlpools were frequent in the numerous class IV, V and VI rapids. Vertical walls prevented us from scouting some rapids, forcing us to run them blind.

We found waterfalls on tributaries of the river that were some 6,000 feet high. We found some strange rocks and fossils. And we found the source of the devilish acts the Indians spoke of: hot sulphur springs belching forth steam and water.

We made it through the Colca Canyon, but one trip was not enough to adequately explore this wonder. For this reason we are now preparing for the next expedition to this magnificent area, and we hope to include geologists, photographers, archeologists, and geographers, with river skills on the expedition. If you are interested, please contact us for more information.

River Explorer Yurek Majcherczyk is a native of Poland now living in the United States. His address is: c/o Canoandes Expeditions, 310 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017, (212) 286-9415.

Reprinted from NORS/CURRENTS

Update: In January 2000, the American Canoe Association selected Yurek amongst the 100 BEST PADDLERS of the 20th Century. In January 30, 2003 he was decorated with KNIGHT CROSS OF POLONIA RESTITUTA by the President of Poland. His book "The CONQUEST OF RIO COLCA – The World's Deepest Canyon" was first published in Warsaw, Poland in 1998. This book was first translated and published in Braille and two years later an English version with a detailed full color map was published in Arequipa, Peru. In 1995 he authored and co-published Poland Travel Directory - an encyclopedia of the Polish Travel Business.

Ocoee River No. 2 Powerhouse Bridge Piling Hazard

The Ocoee River bridge piling at Powerhouse Rapid has been identified as a serious safety hazard to recreational paddlers. The piling is just downstream of Hell Hole, exactly centered in the main fast moving flow of the river. Any uncontrolled or drifting craft is almost certain to hit it; many have pinned. Fortunately, there has been no fatality yet, but the potential is high.

Both commercial rafters and private boaters pointed out the hazard to the Ocoee River management tribunal of the Tennessee Department of Conservation, u.s. Forest Service and TVA at their public meetings in April and May of this year. The TVA has accepted the task to investigate and resolve the problem if possible.

The TVA has made progress toward seeking a solution to the bridge piling threat. In April, three staff members of TVA's Water Systems Development Branch observed, filmed and documented flow conditions at the bridge during normal recreational release. A proposal was prepared to conduct laboratory scale model flow studies directed toward recommending a deflector shape that could be constructed in front of the piling to modify the flow pattern and mitigate the safety hazard. As of August 13, the initial scale model flow laboratory study was completed. Two candidate shapes were selected. One shape is designed to form an eddy in front of the piling. It will require more flow experiments using a larger scale factor. The second candidate is similar in shape to the tapered wedge "cow catcher" configuration.

It is hoped that design selection and details can be approved in time to complete construction by spring 1986. No. 2 Powerhouse equipment and bridge refurbishment is planned during this same time.

Swap Night

New Horizons is having another swap night, Wednesday November 13 starting around 7 pm. Clean out your closets and bring your unwanted gear to sell or trade to an unwary boater. I hear New Horizons is having a sale that starts on Thursday but people attending the swap night fun will be allowed to take advantage of sale prices Wednesday evening.

Face of the River

The face of the river, in time, became a wonderful book. which told its mind to me without reserve, delivering its most cherished secrets as clearly as if it uttered them with a voice. And it was not a book to be read once and thrown aside, for it had a new story to tell every day.

Mark Twain

from Life on the Mississippi

Bowlines Oct/Nov1985

The Russell Fork 1985 - Chief

Our journey began on Saturday night, around 9:30. Tim Sampsel, his dog Bowman and I loaded our gear into Tim's bus and headed east to Breaks Interstate Park near Elkhorn City, Kentucky. We pulled in about three hours later, by passing the Boaters Ball at Dale Adam's house in Pound, Virginia.



We woke up to be greeted by a Park Ranger collecting camping fees. After breakfast at our campsite, we ran into Dale and about 30-40 other boaters at the Breaks lodge. From here, we headed to the put-in, unfortunately, the wrong put-in! We went to the Flannigan Dam instead of Bartlick on Virginia 611. Consequently, we were the last boaters to put on the river Sunday afternoon.

The put-in is just below a bridge piling over the Russell Fork. Friendly locals lined the bridge to watch the scores of paddlers going downstream. The current was swift, with three or four good, long class III-IV rapids sandwiched between large pools. These rapids had lots of eddies to warm up on and some small boulders to maneuver between.

About five miles downstream, another access point appears on river right, just above Garden Hole rapid. By taking out here, the Russell Fork is a great intermediate run. But, should you decide to make this run DON'T miss this takeout--it could be hazardous to your health.

The rapid that follows Garden Hole is a class IV boulder garden that we eddy hopped down behind a group we caught up with at the aforementioned takeout. The most noticeable difference between Garden Hole and the previous rapids was gradient--it began to get steeper.

The next rapid of significance was called Fist. This rapid required an eddy out to the right, a quick peel out to the left and a quick, almost U-turn. Tim ran it clean except at the end where he flipped and rolled. I failed to make a quick peel-out with the authority I needed and quickly pinned against a rock. My experience with pins told me to lean into the obstruction. Tim got a rope to me and pulled me off the rock. I missed my non-existent hands roll and swam to shore. After a brief pause on the bank where I collected my wits and prepared for the rapids to come, we headed for Tower Rapid. Here, the river squeezed between a car size boulder on river right and a house sized undercut rock on the left. The drop had two routes from the top, both dropping the boater about eight feet in front of a large, 5' pour-over rock. On the left there was a hole underneath the undercut and between the first drop and the pour-over. I recommend going right at the top, and to the right of the pour-over. The gradient let up briefly with some serious eddy catching through some immense boulder fields.

The next major rapid was actually three, the Triple Drop. Drop one was a river wide 5' ledge with a sticky hole. A swim here gets you a ride in two 8-10' drop tongues. This part can be made easier by utilizing all available eddies and peeling out on the big tongues giving the boater a discernable route.

The next major rapid is "El Horrendo". Here the river drops about 25' in two drops. Running this rapid successfully involves a quick move from river left through a small but volatile hole, towards river right down a large tongue followed by a wave/hole combination at the bottom. At the bottom of this rapid, on the left, is a huge, deadly looking hole. On the extreme right are some undercut rocks the current seems to want to push you under. All in all, this is one of the most exhilarating rapids a person will ever run.

Completing the run are two more rapids of some consequence. First is S-turn, which is just that, a quick left to right to left move. Climax, the last major and dangerous rapid required the paddler to make a peelout into a chute down a blind drop between some nasty boulders that could destroy boat and boater.

From here the river flattens out drastically to the take-out with only an occasional class II. The take out is on the right and is a class V walk or drive in a four-wheel.

We drove to the Rax's in Pikeville and did a class VI on the salad bar before arriving home about 9 p.m. Sunday.

In conclusion, this is a class V/VI run with a gradient of up to 140 feet per mile. The fall scenery at the Breaks was spectacular. The gorge the Russell Fork carves is one of the steepest and most impressive you'll see anywhere. This was a run I know I'll want to do again. It is close-about three hours away; the Corps of Engineers drawdown can give you optimum river flow (1,300 cfs) and its both beautiful and challenging.

Bowlines Oct/Nov1985

Chief

"Although the stop was more sudden than I really cared for, I must give Doctor Danger credit for turning the vehicle down the hill (down stream???). If he hadn't, we would have rolled and our entry into the 'Gang' would have been a lot rougher."



The last "good" tree before the bottom.

After much deliberation as to how to spend Labor Day weekend, a group of paddlers from Lexington, Louisville and parts unknown headed for West Virginia's New River Gorge. Being the first to arrive at Babcock State Park, Kassie and I immediately started setting up tents on as many sites as were available in one loop. When we started putting up the world famous Week's "Two-story Condo and Party Tent", others in the loop packed up and left with awe in their eyes and "Aw, sh__ on their lips. (if you can't take the heat, stay out of Hell's Loop).

Saturday proved to be an ideal boating day and being true to the BWA, we milled around for 4 hours,

shopped in Fayetteville, and in general delayed the put-in until about 1:30. We reminisce about Sleepy and the old put-in (now complete with changing rooms and other amenities). We talked of how we could further confuse the shuttle thus was born the idea of a Babcock Park river put-in. In theory, this is just upstream from Cunnard, on the opposite side of the river where the state park is. Since we were camping at Babcock, this would save about 30 miles or more on the shuttle. We could take out on river right at the old Fayette Station bridge.

The put-in at Cunnard now has launch ramps, complete with stairs. I know this will upset the large num-

ber of us that have slid our boats down the hill and catapulted them far out into the river (or into unwary novices). We drifted down to Upper Railroad to watch the run by our lone raft captained by Dandy Don. True to the Spangler style, all the rapids were run with perfection and ease, hitting all the biggest holes and waves. The river was at 0" (a low but playable level) and everyone had fun.

Saturday night, Mike Weeks, Warren Moore and I, feeling the party wasn't enough, decided to find the mythical Babcock put-in. Complete with county maps and a flashlight, we left with intentions of saving a 60 mile round trip shuttle. After we passed the last cabin, the road to the river became gravel and narrowed to about 12 feet wide. Even though it was dark, we knew that on our right it was a long way down the side of the mountain.

Alas, perseverance pays and drove the 5+ miles of "jeep trail" to the river where we met some people from the "Saddle and Paddle" trip run by a park concessionaire. They take horses down the mountain to the river, camp there overnight and then take a raft trip out to Fayette Station the next morning. The road is definitely not designed for just any old vehicle, so we were in 4wd - low range. Coming back out we got within a mile and a half of the cabins when fate, a soft shoulder and wet, slick grass decided that (as C-6 puts it) the 3 of us should join the "Over The Hill Gang"! I can still picture Mike saying calmly, "Sorry guys, but I think we're going down"!

As later observation showed, we dropped 105' into a tree, with loose forest soil acting as an accelerator.



My reaction was to brace as best I could, but it should have been to count down, "One Thousand One, One Thousand Two" Although the stop was more sudden than I really cared for, I must give Doctor Danger credit for turning the vehicle down the hill (downstream???) . If he hadn't, we would have rolled and our entry into the "Gang" would have been a lot rougher. As it was, we caught the last available tree that could have kept us from going all the way to the bottom (yes Butch, sometimes the trees do stop you). After climbing out of the uphill window and after several failed efforts to find the flashlight (to check each other for injuries or something) we decided to climb back up to the road, playing an animated form of leap frog the hill was REAL steep. As we skipped happily up the yellow brick road, I felt like the scarecrow. I seemed to have lost some of my stuffing and my knees were wobbly.

At the first cabin with lights on, Warren went down and managed to talk the soul men "Sam and Dave" into giving us a lift back to our camp, where we generally created an unattractive nuisance.

We were immediately grounded - punished for our efforts by not being allowed to boat the remainder of the weekend. And they had higher water on Sunday too!!!

Although we surely follow others into the "Over The Hill Gang", we must be the first triple inductees. I can't wait for the annual BWA party - I won't be grounded.

Bob Bryan

From Bowlines February 1992

The Rest of the Story..... is better than what you have read here. It is a true BWA classic that went on for days and gets even more incredible. It is best told around a campfire with some of the old BWA favorite, Wild Turkey, handy to all. You would think that night they had picked up that Li'l Abner character, Joe Btfsplk, the world's worst jinx.



My Gauley 1993

Oh what a happy day! Don Spangler says there is a spot for me in the raft. My fellow rafters were to be Bridgid Devries, Terry Weeks, Dave Mossbrook, and Kirk Huels with Don Spangler as raft guide. It was raining that morning on the way to the put in. Perhaps it was an omen.



The tubes at the put-in for the upper Gauley were awesome and on the walk back to the raft I wondered if I should wear two life jackets. I even went so far as to put two on but Don Spangler laughed. Perhaps it was an omen.

As we put on the river Don launched into a speech about one earning a place in his raft. It takes a commitment to boating or some such. Kirk & I got the point positions. Don informed us that point position was a rite of passage. It was then my stomach began to cramp. Perhaps it was an omen.

We negotiated Insignificant & Pillow Rock with great skill and finesse. This was going to be a piece of cake. We were all smiles. Lost Paddle was the next major rapid. As we approached Don who never seems to get excited yelled "right forward hard" & we jumped. We pulled so hard that we over corrected just enough for the second curler wave in Lost Paddle to heave us over. When I came up for my first breath I was next to Bridgid who was groping for a hold on the bottom of the upturned raft. I saw Kirk wash by in front. Then I heard someone yelling "Let go & swim." I let go but never seemed to be able to get enough breath to swim to an eddy.

Somewhere down below Tumble Home a rafter held out a paddle which I grabbed & they hauled me out of the river. I couldn't sit up (no breath). After a few a minutes of gagging, I was able to repeat "Thank You" several times and was given a ride to our raft down below.

I began to look around for my fellow. They were no where to be seen. One by one they were dropped off. I don't remember the order in which they arrived but I do remember their conditions: Dave was bleeding profusely above the eye, Terry had a stiff neck, Don had pulled something in his rib cage area, Kirk was hardly able to walk & had already begun to shake, Bridgid appeared remarkably unscathed, and I have a permanent bump below my left knee.

We had no choice but to go on down. Don remained our guide by just holding the paddle as a rudder. We placed Kirk in the rear as he could no longer function. Dave who looked the war victim part came up front with me. He was hard to look at but managed to pull water with his paddle.

With the help of many boaters we were able to carry Iron Ring. While there, we redressed Kirk who was getting progressively worse. We believed him to be suffering from a combination of shock and hypothermia. By the time we made Sweets Falls there was talk of medi-vacing him out. However, while there, he was placed next to a fire and was fed. The warmth and food seemed to help and he responded that he could go on.

At this point Don felt he could not guide us thru Sweets Falls. We had begun to line the raft thru, when a professional raft guide from Canada lent us his expertise and got us thru Sweets Falls. We pulled the raft out at the Panther Mountain take out. We got Kirk a ride on a bus going up the road and the rest of us hiked out.

Kirk & Don refused medical attention. Dave came back from the local hospital with 23 stitches. I have never been a superstitious person but the next time its rainy and gloomy on the way to a put in, or I have the urge to put on two life jackets, or my stomach begins to cramp unduly, I do believe I will listen a little closer.

Prince Vittitow

Bowlines January 1994

Where is the Water?

After a busy 1993 Gauley and Russell Fork season, a person gets into the habit of paddling good, clean, fun and often. So it was with extreme chagrin that the wait began with the closing of the dams that release on these two wonderful rivers. The wait began with the conclusion of the normal, dry season in the Eastern United States. The wait for water, rain, natural flow. November typically marks the beginning of the wet months to follow. At this time there is no foliage to sop up water and the water table quickly fills up. So with leaves off the trees, several good cold snaps already behind us, we watched in anticipation as a cold front moved into the area producing good 24 hour rain totals. Being Thanksgiving weekend, but starved to paddle, Travis Sewalls, Mike Clark and I decided to meet Derek and Jackie Eggers and a friend of theirs, Scott, on the Little River in the Smoky Mountain National Park on Sunday.



Excitedly we noticed that the little reached a peak of 2200 cfs on Saturday. Even late that day it was still up at really good levels. Would the water hold for the next day was the thought in each of our minds. Well, not really, but it was about 1060 cfs at 7:00 a.m. so we left anyway. Around noon when we put on we learned that the gauge was reporting about 800 cfs. While more water is unquestionably better, there are still a few good spots worth the price of admission.

Putting in above the Sinks about a quarter mile or so on the river left side at the small parking area, we quickly warmed up. In no time at all we approached the first series of drops marking the entrance to the big 15 foot, final drop of the Sinks. Mike, Travis, Derek and I ran the right side and at the bottom watched Scott unintentionally run the far more difficult left side. Very wet and slightly shaken for the experience, Scott and equipment were rejoined for the trip further down.

Eddy Out rapid was negotiated with glee by all and we cranked down the river. The weather had become quite cool with the advancement of the cold front and we were comfortable yet mindful of the cold conditions. As a result, it was not long before we arrived at what has become a nemesis to many a paddler: The Elbow.

The Elbow has a twenty some-odd yard approach before the drop which is split by a small boulder, often ski-launched off of at higher water levels. To the far right runs most of the flow which is slamming ferociously into a large, unpleasant and significantly undercut boulder on the left. Perhaps twenty percent of the flow comes into the drop from the left. At the level we observed that day, this is clearly the most sensible route to approach the drop. The objective is similar on a micro scale to the concept of running Iron Ring on the Upper Gauley. By slicing across the current which is hurdling towards where you don't want to go, the boat angle safely maneuvers one away from the hazard.

Clark-Vader identified this feature immediately and volunteered to show us how. My original plan was to carry, but Mike, as usual, made it look easy. "Wow!" I thought: "I'm going to do it too!" So I ran up to my boat, hopped in and maneuvered the approach. At the edge of the left chute, I made a big lunge with a left sweep and was in the throat of the rapid. The Response that I paddle has a stern that, with me, seems to get squirted a bit on drops. Not to let me down, I got backended a little so that my bow essentially slid along the right boulder. Pretty neat. Derek was next and sort of scraped his paddle along the left side to avoid being pushed into the undercut. He was in a Pirouette S. Travis followed in another Freefall and had, like Clark a really good, smooth line. Derek and I agreed that the Freefall was the better performing boat in that rapid, especially since we were convinced that it could not have been the paddlers.

I don't know about each of you, but I am really glad to see the water come back and am looking forward to a good full winter and spring paddling season. Hope we see you on the river!

Brent Austin

From Bowlines January 1994

Off the Cuff

Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

Giving Back

January 13, 2014

That's a great idea Zack. We could do free NPFF tickets at the very least.

Having you as a contact person for them in the event of anything coming up is really good. If they do end up having complaints at some point, it's nice for them to have a personal contact.

We could do a gift certificate to Jean Farris, since it's right down the road??

love,
bethany

I 100% support showing appreciation to any private landowners who let us use their land for access/parking. great idea Zack. not sure how though...jelly of the month club?

Same goes for the guy at the Jouett takeout...Brent? He's a cool dude.

Brandon

I agree and was kind of freaked out that I was parking on these folks land on my PFD.. I'm in for whatever a gem for sure we need to take care of them somehow.

Kelly.

January 14, 2014

I think that giving something convenient or useful to the people in question is a nice idea.

Speaking of appreciation, can someone who knows the right info repeat what landowners near Muddy Creek have asked us to do/ not do? And maybe we can show thanks there, too.

Zina

January 15, 2014

Since this thread was started about giving back to the folks that allow us to use their land at Calloway Creek, I want to get back on target and say that this is something I support and that we should do. No doubt, it is my favor-

ite creek in the area due to the ease with which we can run shuttle and lap it when it is up, so I am an easy sell. I support working with others on other creeks, but this is about Calloway and I encourage us to do something nice for these folks and let Zack reach out to them.

I suppose that the issue was discussed last night at the meeting but if not, maybe the SC can come up with something within their discretionary authority.

Brent

I lend my vote of support to this idea, but I might suggest that tickets to the NPFF are not a great gift for a non-paddler, and might backfire on us if they were of an extremely socially conservative mindset. Appreciation gifts of this sort should either be specific to the recipient, or very broad in appeal.

I also support doing this for other landowners in the area whom have exhibited a generous attitude towards our use of their land. I would even go so far as to say that this kind of outreach is one of the most appropriate use of club funds we're ever likely to find.

Hanley Loller

For Church Saufley, giving him a complimentary membership every year does the trick. He likes the parking pass. Don't know how we remember to bring this up at the appropriate time every year for SC or club to vote on. I try to remember, but am easily distracted.

Jr.

February 05, 2014

I finally got an opportunity to speak with the Sheree Taylor (the woman who owns the house at the putin for Calloway) this morning. I simply expressed our gratitude and told her about the idea to improve the area at the putin. She told me that they had planned on doing that last year, but due to unexpected family-related expenses were not able to. I told her that we would make that happen for her. So once the NPFF buzz dies down, I'm going to be getting quotes and making requests through the appropriate channels to secure approval for club funds

to purchase a load of gravel. I'm pretty sure we can get enough volunteers to help spread the gravel once it's delivered. Sheree and I exchanged phone numbers and I told her that I would keep her up to date on our plans. I also told her that if she ever had any concerns/grievances related to boaters that she could contact me and I would make her voice heard. This is a very good thing we have here, and for a few hundred dollars and an afternoon's work we can do something to really solidify our relationship with a local landowner.

Zack

Super cool Zack!
Todd Harbour

Nice work Zach...thanks for your efforts! I will see that we support this endeavor through the Steering Committee and at our monthly meetings when the time comes to purchase gravel.

Clay

Now this is the kind of stuff that really makes me proud to be involved in the club. When established boaters ask me why they should bother being a member, what can the club offer them, this is the best reply I have. It's not what the club can do for you, it's what you can do through the club.

Way to be point man on this one Zack. If we need any additional donations, I'll happily throw some extra cash in this pot.

Hanley Loller

That's awesome Zack! I'm in to spread gravel or whatever is needed.

Kelly

February 08, 2014

For years we rode and foxhunted in south Woodford County over thousands of acres of privately owned farmland. I found that maintaining good relationships with the landowners to be both critical and sometimes difficult. Most were easy to get along with and a few were not. I think that we need to be careful that the landowner not come to believe that we are leasing or paying for access to his property. We are just showing him our appreciation for his hospitality and that we would not

would not abuse the privilege of parking or access.

Zack has gone about it the right way. He thanked the lady & was friendly to her. He discussed an issue that we could help with and gave her his phone number.

We can all be friendly and leave any area we use in good order. We found that sending a pretty Christmas card and a box of home made cookies to be a big help, without leaving the impression of it being any sort of payment. If they ever think that they're being paid, they might decide that they deserve a raise.

I think that the cleanup and the gravel is a great idea and we need to follow through with that promptly. I'm sure that we could find a pretty photo of the stream nearby and make really nice Christmas cards to send next year.. something they might want to keep or stick on the wall. A batch of good cookies should be no problem either.

I will always remember that a Christmas card got us permission to hunt, on a beautiful 540 acre farm in the middle of our country. I had tried everything in the world to get permission on that farm for years. We sent the Christmas card and the lady called me two days later and said we were welcome to come hunt on her land and that she had appreciated the card so much.

I would have never think it !
Charlie Walker

March 11, 2014

I've been out to the Calloway putin a few times over the last couple of weeks taking measurements and talking to landowners. The debris has been moved and another local landowner has come through with a bulldozer to level out the area for us (which should be done in the next few days). Another local friend turned me on to the Boonesboro Quarry right down the hill on 627. After speaking with them several times we've figured out it's going to take 24 tons of 1" gravel to cover that area 3" deep. That's going to cost \$330.00 delivered. The driver is going spread it the best he can with the tailgate, but it's going to take a handful of people with shovels and rakes to get it finished completely.

This is what I need to make this happen:

1. I need someone to bring this up during a meeting (steering committee?) so that we can get approval for the funds. I work every Tuesday night, or I would do this

myself. Charlie Walker has already pledged \$100 to this project (Thanks Charlie!), so we still need \$230.00.

2. I need a handful of people to volunteer some time to putting the finishing touches on area with rakes and shovels. This is always the difficult part. Boonesboro Quarry only delivers Monday-Friday. What I thought would work was to have it delivered on a Friday and then get a group together for Saturday morning.

Depending on the weather, and the funds, I'm looking at having it delivered Friday 3/21 and getting a group together for the next morning 3/22. I will obviously be there when it's delivered and will be able to assess what still needs to be done. It may be that the driver is some sort of gravel wizard and can do most of the work for us, but from speaking to those that have done this before I don't think that's going to be the case.

There is a slight sense of urgency with this project. We want to get the gravel down before we get another rain storm and the area potentially becomes rutted out again. After David comes through with the leveling, we want to get it down as soon as possible. The people that used to always park there moved, so unless the creek comes up, that area shouldn't be seeing any traffic.

So if someone could bring this up tonight and get approval that would be the biggest help. We can figure out the volunteer situation later.

If anyone has any questions/concerns/insights post here or reach out to me directly. Let's get this done.

Zack

I just realized that Adelessa has the Elkhorn/AW fundraiser scheduled for that same Saturday. I do not want to conflict with that. If someone could step up and get approval for those funds I can handle the rest.

Thanks,

Zack

Great job handling all the footwork on this project!! thumbs up

I'll be at the meeting tonight and will bring forth what you've asked on your behalf.

It's nice to see the people in that area pulling together to improve the land as well. Leveling the area,

grading it out and getting the land prepped to handle gravel is great - Without the land being prepped properly, we'd just be throwing the gravel into the depths of the earth with each rain!

Did you ask about 2 sizes of rock? One as an initial layer of a larger size to be rolled over (heavy equipment works) to form somewhat of a 'foundation' if you will for the rest of the gravel? I know it's asking a lot but for the area we are talking, it shouldn't be much difference or require any more work, really.

Also, once this is approved (I know it will be) and you get the gravel delivered, I can come out on Friday evening, the 21st, and again early in the AM on Saturday with a shovel and help spread the gravel. My thing for AW acres doesn't start until around noon so I wouldn't need to head that way until around 9:30/10. That's plenty of time to lend a helping hand.

Let me know - and I'll keep you posted on the vote tonight!

Adelessa

Thanks Adelessa! I did ask about the larger stone first. The guy at the quarry told me that wouldn't be necessary for such a flat area. He said that was more appropriate for an inclined surface. I'm only going on what I've been told and what I've read. I'm definitely open to suggestions if you think that would be better.

Zack

I'll help spread rock barring conflicts.

I'll also chip in cash if the BWA doesn't meet this cost (I'm pretty sure we will, this is about as appropriate a use for our money as there is.)

I agree with the "one sized stone" approach. Simpler and easier to get labor arranged around.

Hanley Loller

I'm happy to help with the labor Zack. Thanks so much for working so hard on this.

bethany

March 12, 2014

Boom. Looking forward to getting this done.

Zack May

Interesting thing about gravel its actually best to put it down in the light of the new moon. Trust me on this I had a quarter mile driveway to maintain. Although it will sink a bit it will rise back up as long as its put down in the light of the new moon.

Paul Graves

I buy and use gravel a lot. Just purchased two 20 ton truck loads of Nos. 4s for the road up to Nippur on Monday. They are big, but do well as a base in all the clay on the property - and knocks out the mud. Thing about gravel is that every so often, you gotta buy another truck load - usually about every other year. I tend to get trucks when it is dry out although the New Moon is a good excuse to have a pot luck and if it coincides with a truck full of gravel, all the better.

The driver spreads the gravel as he drives up the road. No bobcat or rakes needed. Not sure raking a bunch of Nos. 4 would be efficient use of man power anyway. Hard enough to rake 57s as well. Good driver should be able to spread it without more.

Brent

Ummmmmmmm. There is no moonlight during a new moon

Dallas

March 13, 2014

Thanks Zack! Great project idea! Based on my experience with gravel roads / longevity I agree that larger stone is needed on steeper slopes and smaller stone usually works OK on flatter runs - provided the road was properly cut / prepared to begin with. I'm thinking this is not a typically flat run. For one it's in a flood plain and the road maybe was not properly constructed by cutting down to hardpan and packed with heavy equipment? Which is maybe why we keep having to redo it? That is typical road construction in my experience to provide a solid foundation for a roadbed. If we are not going to do this, and just spread gravel from a truck, then I suggest we go for the large stone to hopefully make up for a roadbed that may not have been properly constructed

initially. And to be fair, may be impossible to properly construct being in a low floodplain?

Wes

Sorry I forgot to add that I'm basically agreeing with Adelessa's concerns and thanks Adelessa for bringing this up again (we talked about this last time the gravel issue came up) and for putting on the EA event! smiling smiley Don't have my schedule with me but hoping I can either help work or attend the event. If not and additional funds are needed I too pledge additional financial support of the project if needed! Additional thanks to everyone else that helps with this project!

Wes

March 14, 2014

Wes,

Thank you so much for all the words of encouragement. I truly appreciate it...

Where to begin...

I'll just follow your incredibly insightful post chronologically.

Section 1:

"Based on my experience with gravel roads / longevity I agree that larger stone is needed on steeper slopes and smaller stone usually works OK on flatter runs – 1.) provided the road was properly cut / prepared to begin with. 2.) I'm thinking this is not a typically flat run. For one it's in a flood plain.

1.) provided the road was properly cut / prepared to begin with. Of course the road was not "properly cut / prepared to begin with". Simpson Lane is a backwoods country road that connects "Old Lexington Road (25)" (As in before I-75) to Boonesborough Road (627). It is narrow, and falling into the Smith Fork in places. I'm not even sure if it's maintained by the county. Excellent point though...

2.) I'm thinking this is not a typically flat run. For one it's in a flood plain What does typically flat run mean? If you've been there recently and walked around (which I'm sure you have...), you would know that it is an incredibly flat area. Flood Plain? Water comes up to that level every few years, maybe... (based on my 5-6 years of going to

check levels before dawn during most of the high water events during that time period). Who cares if the water gets up that high every so often? Should we stop improving parking areas at all put-ins because there might be a chance of them being altered by high water events? Sounds like a great idea...

Section 2:

“ 1.) and the road maybe was not properly constructed by cutting down to hardpan and packed with heavy equipment? 2.) Which is maybe why we keep having to redo it?”

1.) and the road maybe was not properly constructed by cutting down to hardpan and packed with heavy equipment? Again, of course Simpson Lane was not “properly constructed by cutting down to hardpan and packed with heavy equipment”. This is not a modern road constructed using “modern” technology. There are clearly marked weight restrictions for that road due to the antiquated bridges. Not exactly signs of “cutting down to hardpan and packed with heavy equipment”. Although that is an excellent observation, and very helpful/constructive to the conversation/task at hand.

2.) Which is maybe why we keep having to redo it? When was the last time the putin was re-done done by “we”? There are signs that it was partially black-topped before. There are also signs that gravel was used at some point. Neither of which I got to see freshly dispersed in my time there. I’ve spoken with the local landowners and I’m aware of what they’ve done in the past. If I’m mistaken and someone from our group has improved the putin, a long period of time has lapsed since then. Another insightful observation that really adds to the execution of this project...

Section 3:

“ 1.) That is typical road construction in my experience to provide a solid foundation for a roadbed. 2.) If we are not going to do this, and just spread gravel from a truck, then I suggest we go for the large stone to hopefully make up for a roadbed that may not have been properly constructed initially. 3.) And to be fair, may be impossible to properly construct being in a low floodplain? ”

1.) That is typical road construction in my experience to provide a solid foundation for a roadbed. And it’s customary to provide a solid foundation for a residential dwelling... Neither of which we’re talking about. The

area in question is a small strip of land that parallels the Smith Fork, which we happen to use for a put in on the 12-15 times a year that the creek runs. There are also local landowners that use the area for parking their vehicles during periods of inclement weather. We are not preparing for 18-wheeler traffic.

2.) If we are not going to do this, and just spread gravel from a truck, then I suggest we go for the large stone to hopefully make up for a roadbed that may not have been properly constructed initially. The 35” Swamper Bogger tires are back-ordered for my Honda FIT, until they come in I won’t feel comfortable driving my car on “walnut to tennis ball sized stone”. That goes for anyone that doesn’t own a truck/suv. In a perfect situation we could dig out the area 6-8”, use the large rock, and then use 4-6” of #57 on top. Maybe even mix in some of the dust/chips with the #57 so it sets up like concrete. This is not a perfect situation.

I understand not wanting to waste the \$/time/effort on a project that will not stand the test of time. I get that, but unless someone wants to: 1.) finance the removal of current material at the put in, 2.) incur the separate delivery costs of the varying sized aggregate, 3.) Manage/supervise/execute the different phases of those projects... I’m going to move forward with seeing that the parking area is relatively level and that we get approximately 3” of #57 limestone gravel to cover the area.

3.) And to be fair, may be impossible to properly construct being in a low floodplain? I especially appreciate you ending your constructive, insightful, and encouraging post with a vote of confidence regarding the execution of this project...

I know that you are a busy professional and your time is valuable. In the future, if you have absolutely no involvement in a project, and only negative/pessimistic points to voice: Maybe it would be a better use of your time to just keep them to yourself.

I also really like how you start your post with: “Thanks Zack! Great project idea!”, and then proceed to highlight everything you think is wrong with the “project idea”.

I’m really looking forward to an intelligent rebuttle, and if you show up to help when the gravel is delivered I will shake your hand and say thank you for coming out. That’s the kind of man I am.

Zack

Ummmmmmmm. I was thinking this could be a fast and simple project to spread some gravel that would benefit all who use this parking area. I was thinking that some of us could put some rakes and shovels in a truck or van and knock this out and everybody be happy. If we go beyond this, count me out. The heaviest equipment I have access to is that rake and shovel. Zach is going out of his way to do something that benefits all. I plan to follow his lead on this and congratulate him for his attempts to do something good for all. I am sure that people are trying to be helpful. At this point though I think the best thing is to replace your pen with a rake or shovel and show up.

Dallas

Maybe I'm mistaken, but I think Wes may have confused this project with graveling the Elkhorn Acres driveway.

Hanley Loller

Hanley is right of course - I was trying to catch up on a couple weeks worth of mail because work has been horrendous this week and I did get the too projects / events confused! I'm sorry Zach - your plans as they stood for the Calloway put in do make since and I do very much appreciate your efforts there. My comments were solely regarding the EA takeout. Sorry you had to put all that effort into a re: since my comments made no sense for that situation. And yes, if I'm not working or on break with Brit I will make every effort to help at Calloway! BTW, since we are making good progress with the land owners there I'm wondering if we should consider putting in game camera there like for Muddy - if there is a signal (can't recall). Would definitely be up for pitching in for that as well!

Will try to follow the threads more carefully..... I do consider you a friend Zach and do very much hope we can shake hands and boat together again soon!

Wes

My computer should really be equipped with a breathalyzer... Wes I consider you a friend as well. Clearly this was all a misunderstanding.

At this point I'm thinking next weekend isn't going to work because of the rain in the forecast. I'd really like to see it go down when the ground is not completely saturated. We'll just have to see. The other local landowner hasn't had time to level the area yet anyway. When the

gravel is delivered, we need to take the Taylor's into consideration and not be out there making noise really early or late.

I totally support the game camera idea. It would also be great to install a stick gauge so we can start identifying the level by inches instead of "touching the gauge rock" , "high-low/low-medium" , etc. I definitely have the local connections to get that approved.

Zack

March 21, 2014

t would have been a perfect day to get the gravel delivered...unfortunately the ground is still soft, and the other local landowner hasn't leveled the area yet. I ran out there this morning and could still push a stick several inches into the ground without much effort. I'll stay on top of this and post here when the gravel is delivered.

Zack

Boat Repair information needed

March 04, 2014

I hate to admit this but I am in need of some direction so I must. My husband accidentally shot my EXP 9 on Christmas day with the 22 revolver I gave him. Haha! but now the shell is embedded in my boat. It went in from the bottom and is lodged near the seat on the bottom. Does anyone know how to repair this or who can help me? Thanks

Well Holly, I think you do have a problem there smiling smiley

I think it is probable that we will need a bit more info before advice can be given lol. If you could provide a picture, I think that could help w recommendations. What I would look for is multifaceted. First, did the slug or shell go all the way through the hull? I guess my question is can you see the shell from the outside? It sounds like it did not penetrate fully, but if it did, then a simple weld would probably do the trick. You may, in fact, need to take the seat out to verify that the bullet/shell did not penetrate entirely through the plastic if it is visible from the outside. Even if you see the shell from the outside, it still could have complete penetration. If the shell did NOT penetrate through the hull, then I would try to retrieve/extract it from the outside very carefully....maybe

a scalpel or an elevator might be the tool of choice. If it didn't go all the way through, then I'd look for cracking in the plastic around the point of entry. If there's cracking, this complicates things a bit. If there is no cracking around the point of entry, and it does not penetrate through the hull entirely, I might just leave it as is.

Post of the year, hands down...

Clay

I'd say if it's a clean hole and only the size of a 22 slug then you may have several options before welding. I like welding in general and it's especially good for stress damage because it alters the composition of the surrounding plastic. However, if it's a small penetrating hole, I might see if someone has some GFlex they can lend you or some other sort of patch/glue that would fill the hole and be larger than the hole on both sides. I'm just spitballing here, of course.

Hanley Loller

Looks like Holly and her husband have the same outlook on marital longevity as Sharon and I: There will be no divorce! Whoever is left standing after the gunfight gets the house. Holly, was your aim truer than his? I'm with Clay. This is by far one of the best posts ever.

I'll leave the repairing to the experts, sooo oo..... Until you get this fixed, stick some well chewed bubble gum in the hole, cover it with duck tape, and let's go boating.

Love you,

Dallas

March 06, 2014

Geeze! Very happy only a boat was accidentally shot! Welding / G-flex would probably both work, but as others have said depending on what the wound looks like. Depending on size of hole welding may be stronger with screen reinforcement.

Wes

Holly, I'm planning on meeting BJ for a little boat repair Friday before the rolling session. One of his boats is cracking around a bolt and I'm going to lend him my heat gun and show him how to weld it. If you want, you

could bring your boat over too and make it a party.

Hanley Loller

Two thoughts:

Method One: Welding is good if it's a weldable plastic, g-flex is good regardless. If it's a through hole I'd tape a piece of wax paper over the inside and fill the hole from the outside with thickened g-flex, then cap it off with a small patch of kevlar or fiberglass wetted out with normal G-flex. You wouldn't need very much, not worth buying a kit. I've got most of a kit's worth of the thickened, and enough of the regular, along with some kevlar tape you could cut a little patch off of if you want to try the G-flex route.

See here:

G-flex challenge <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a5RlcP-4JE>

The patch might be overkill, but I don't like to use an adhesive to bridge gaps as a rule.

Method Two: This involves finding a very particular piece of plastic, shaped like a credit card, I'd suggest looking in your husband's wallet

Robert Milgate

March 07, 2014

So Holly, up for a little welding this evening prior to the rolling session? We can knock out your boat and BJ's at the same time.

Hanley Loller

March 09, 2014

That's a good question since he doesn't boat and bugs me all the time about my boats being in the garage. We only took them out Christmas Eve so we could play ping pong in the garage. I was going to bring them in on Christmas day.....He didn't confess until 3 weeks ago when I found it. Hmmmmm!

Thanks for all the good advice. I appreciate your humor, support, and expertise!!

Holly

SPRING SOIREE AT AW ACRES 3/22/2014 -
To benefit improvements to AW Acres
March 05, 2014

Looking for something worthwhile to do March 22nd, 2014? Of course you are!! So I've got the perfect thing for ya

A SPRING SOIREE AT AW ACRES

I just heard back from Mark at AW who has given permission for me to hold a fundraiser/birthday party at AW Acres on March 22nd. He thinks fundraisers like this are a great idea, and so do I!!!

As you all know, we have been working on an improvement plan to make much needed upgrades to the river access lot for the Elkhorn Creek. The cost has gone up slightly from the original proposal and I felt holding a fundraiser to help offset the additional cost would be a really good idea. Then I thought, hell, my birthday is coming up so why not have a birthday party, at the River, and try to help out a worthy cause in the process. I usually spend my birthday in the smokies being irresponsible so I felt this year I needed to do something more worthwhile.

That being said - Here's what's gonna go down - Please try to come out for a short bit, if not the entire afternoon, and show your support for Improvements to AW Acres and also share a paddle, a drink, a fire, some food with me for my Birthday. even if you don't like me, you can still come paddle and hang out and make a small donation to the cause.

There will be:

River Races, Land Races, Surf-Off's, A Pot Luck (so bring a dish to share), Games, Fun, Friends - AND

I will be asking everyone who attends for at least \$1 to be put towards the AW Acres Improvements Fund!!

Festivities will begin somewhere around the Noonish Hour - There will be more than 1 race down the Khorn - There will be more than 1 Surf Off - There will be plenty of food and fun!

Spread the word and then be there!

Remember, really, this isn't about me or my birthday, it's about AW Acres and raising the money we need to improve the property!!

Light and Love and Hope to See You All at AW Acres on the 22nd!!!

Adelessa

There seems to be some confusion so I want to clarify in case the name of this thread wasn't clear enough ~ This is an event to raise money for the AW Improvement Fund - An AW Fundraiser - with consent of AW.

My birthday is on Sunday so I will be celebrating that entire weekend. This isn't a private birthday party, this is me, using my personal weekend of celebration to try and raise some money, no matter what the amount, for a good, and much needed cause.

There's a good crew coming from the Vikings. Elkhorn Paddlers are being represented as well. Hope to see some of my BWA family there as well.

Adelessa

March 12, 2014

Looks like there's going to be a really good crew assembling to hang out, boat, eat, & raise money for AW. The money we raise will go toward purchasing the trees and plantings that will help protect the area from erosion as well as give some nice shade once they mature. Looking to get started around Noon and wrap up around 5 or so - - Spread the Word!!!

Thanks to all who are coming and all who I know will decide to come before now and then...

Adelessa

March 24, 2014

Man, You guys and gals are just the Bees Knees and then some!!! It was a fantastic day on the Elkhorn. Level was just above 300. Sun was shining and smiles were abundant. We had 10 peeps total on the river!

When we came off the river, there were 8-10 more at AW Acres visiting and speaking with Fishermen and others coming through the Access area that day about the Improvement plan - At the end of the day - WE RAISED JUST AT \$200!!!!!! WHOA!!! I had figured we'd get about a benjamin and I was gonna be more than ecstatic about that - But to double what I had thought - Man, you boaters just keep amazing me with your Awesomeness!!!

I can't begin to thank you for your time, your efforts, and your Hearts!

Pat yourself on the backs from me to you!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE WEEKEND A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY!!

Adelessa

FAMILIES PADDLE TOO 2014

March 17, 2014

We'd like to invite the Bluegrass Wildwater Club to join us again this year for Families Paddle Too. This is a great event for kids and teens to meet and paddle with others with the same interest. The write up below is what we're using, you're welcome to use it or change it if you want. Please let me know if you guys wish to participate or have any questions.

Jason Clevenger

Calling all paddling families! It will soon be time to get the kids out and kick off the summer. The Carolina Canoe Club, Georgia Canoe Association, and Foothills Paddling Club are working together again this year to bring you an awesome weekend of paddling and family fun. Families from across the southeast will be converging on Bryson City NC over Memorial Day Weekend for a weekend of paddling. We'll be coordinating family trips on everything from Lake Fontana to the Ocoee, over the three day weekend.

We know kids love to paddle together, what better way to get them hooked then by introducing them to other paddling kids. Special events are in the works for participating youth again this year. We'll have mini clinics, giveaways, and more. Bring the kids out to paddle and enjoy a weekend of making new friends and having fun. This year's sponsors include Jackson Kayak, Pyranha, Liquid Logic, Shred Ready and more.

Current planned events:

Saturday 25th

Got a young paddler looking to move beyond surviving class II this year? The Nantahala Racing Club is opening their Saturday mini camp to us for the discounted rate of \$15. Young paddlers will get an opportunity to work with NRC coaches and NRC athletes. For more information see the NRC website, [nantahalaracingclub.com] Group bonfire with hotdog & marshmallow roast. Bluegrass music at Smoky Mountain Meadows.

Sunday 26th

NRC Youth Qualifier Race. Want to see how you stack up against some of the best young talent in the southeast? Join the fun and race the the bridge gates on the Nantahala. The bridge gates start at the founders bridge and run down to the vehicle entrance bridge. Cost to participate is \$15.

Moms/Womens Paddle on the Nantahala. Limited raft space available, please email to save a spot carlaclevenger@gmail.com

Camping and activities will be based out of Smoky Mountain Meadows in Bryson City. When making reservations, please let them know you are with Families Paddle Too. Group camping rates are \$10 per adult with 1 child(6-18) free with each paying adult. Additional children \$3 each. Children 5 and under are free. Regular rates apply to their developed sites. Check out time on Monday will not be until 6pm. [smokymtnmeadows.com]

For more information contact Carla Clevenger, carlaclevenger@gmail.com

Kentucky River FERC issues

March 22, 2014

See the attached. Comments? Thoughts? Ideas?

Brent

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/read.php?7,20914,20915#msg-20915>

Will look at it closer, later. Have more engineering and business plan questions than anything. As you know, the rivers around here are feast or famine. There is already a hydro installation at dam 7. Can't really tell any environmental impacts if they plan to do about the same type of plant, but its already close to the Dix River Dam at Herrington Lake, so the grid infrastructure is already close by. They are in the process of replacing dam 8 now from what I read. I assume its the same type they did at dam 9. They lock has really been cut off a lot more than it already was. They put concrete 'dams' at the head of locks 5-14 many years ago. The replacement dams are a totally different design - really large cylinders of concrete interconnected maybe 50 feet upstream from the old dam? The cylinders vary in height, a little higher towards shore (including the lock at dam 9), then lower towards the middle. And they always held out hope that they would reopen lock 4-1 - don't know how that stands. Wouldn't want to put hydro equipment in the locks if they were ever planning on using them. So, initial take, can't see many problems with the hydro generating equipment itself in dams 5-13 if it worked like dam 7, Would want to see the substation/transmission plans more than anything.

Jr. Perkins

March 23, 2014

Took a closer look at the drawings. Transmission lines don't look too bad for dam 5 and 8. Concerns me a little that the drawings for dam 8 don't show the replacement dam that is being built right now. And the substations are shown in the flood plain right next to the lock. Unless they are on a sturdy platform 30 ft. in the air, I don't know how that will work. Can't imagine that digging another channel next to lock 8 for the powerhouse could be cost effective.

Here's an article on dam 8:

<http://www.kentucky.com/2013/10/07/2864894/repair-of-dam-no-8-near-camp-nelson.html>

Sounds like they are open to the possibility of reopening of the locks at 7,8, and 9 - don't understand that, they completely cut off the lock at 9 (attached Google map photo - a little old since the dam is shown only partially complete). From Google maps images of dam 8 (attached), it does look like they are leaving the lock unblocked.

Looks like dam 10 is next to be replaced starting next year. Is anyone getting the water park requirements in there?

Jr.

dam9.jpg

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/read.php?7,20914,20915#msg-20915>

dam8.png

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/read.php?7,20914,20915#msg-20915>

Attached a Google map satellite and regular photo of dam 7. Looks like they chose to put the powerhouse on the opposite side from the lock, Most of the equipment looks up high, including the substation which looks like its up on the rock bluff. Unless there is new technology, I don't know that this isn't the way to build a power station on the Kentucky - may be what they have in mind.. At least around where we are.

Jr.

dam7.jpg

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/read.php?7,20914,20915#msg-20915>

dam7photo.jpg

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/read.php?7,20914,20915#msg-20915>

Do I hear crickets? OK, I'm not the conscience of the BWA,

but how I would answer:

The members of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association are highly committed to river conservation as well as other environmental preservation efforts. We encourage and promote free and easy access to and navigation of our nation's public waterways, restoration of natural waterways by dam removal and other means, but also enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded by damned rivers like the Kentucky River, and to renewable energy in general, of which, hydroelectric power has been the dominate player for many years.

As for our availability for consultation on proposed hydroelectric power projects on the Kentucky River, several of our members would be more than happy to participate, and have no objection at all on feasibility studies for such endeavors. The hydroelectric power plant on Dam 7 has been there many years and has not had, as far as we know, any additional environmental impact or impact on river access and navigation over and above the problems caused by the dams themselves. If you ever get to the design stage, we would like to have a say and provide recommendations on how to improve the access for people to be able to portage the dams, and even further help in the establishment of a Kentucky River water trail or blueway that many groups in Kentucky are in favor of establishing along the Kentucky River. The trend with the Kentucky River Authority has been to block access to these areas from land, and not much consideration has been given to access from one side of the dams to the other, including at locations where the dams are being replaced.

So, in general, our position on any such project must be that it:

1. Would not interfere with any locks currently or in the future that may be open to public transportation on the river. This include building within any lock or causing any hazard by causing new currents that would affect traffic or potential traffic through a lock that might potentially be reopened. Placing equipment in an existing usable or potentially usable lock, or creating a channel right beside an existing usable or potentially usable lock would be of concern. Dam 7's design, where the power station and substation on the opposite side of the river than the lock seems reasonable.
2. Would not create unnecessary river/environmental impact or unsightly vistas in the region for powerhouse, substation, or transmission line infrastructure. Due to the highly variable level of the Kentucky River, just about everything has to be 30 to 40 feet above the dam height. The solution at Dam 7 to put the substation on the side of the river with the bluff would be much preferred to it having been on the other side of the

river on a tall platform. We can't say the powerhouse at Dam 7 is much to look at. Surely a better design could be imagined these days. We would not be in favor of transmission lines dangled alongside the river, but the sample transmission designs in your letter don't look unreasonable. We would not be in favor of creating new channels beside the existing locks without studies on how they would affect the environment or the potential transportation through the locks. We're sure the Kentucky River Authority would be most diligent on maintaining the levels of the pools on any such engineering effort so we would not focus our efforts there.

So far, none of our members know of any previous studies that would be relevant, nor of any new studies that would be required if the hydroelectric power design project stayed within the current footprint of the Kentucky River lock and dam system. As stated above, any new channels created should be studied, and we much favor using the areas opposite the locks in most cases.

Jr.

March 25, 2013

I like what you are saying Jr. I would add that our position should include consideration of whitewater parks in conjunction with such efforts, where ever possible.

Brent

I did mean to put something in there about that and forgot by the time I got to that point. The more I thought about it, the new dam 10 design will probably already be done and construction may be started before this study ends, so we need to make sure we're in with that effort primarily. Maybe should say something about making sure the hydropower designs don't interfere with and take into consideration the waterpark effort at dam 10 - not sure they could help much with implementation by the time dam 10 is replaced if we don't get some features incorporated into the dam redesign - mainly the flood gates where the flume will pierce the plane of the dam.

Jr.

Can you run a mile? How bout 100?

March 25, 2014

As if great whitewater isn't enough on the first weekend of October (10/4-5), Elkhorn City will be hosting the first Cloud-splitter 100 Ultra Trail race. This is basically a 100 mile race

starting at the EC ballpark up onto the Pine Mountain Trail for a ways (about 50 miles?) and back. There are also 50 mile and 25 mile divisions. We're looking into pulling together a 5K in town to coincide this.

I know there are some serious runners in BWA, so check it out: www.cloudsplitter100.com

James (Fred) Stapleton has been working with the race organizers for several months identifying the course. There are already many ultra runners signed up, this thing is getting nationwide attention in that genre of torture...I mean running....

It looks like we'll pull together music and other family friendly festivities for the weekend at the ballpark. We'll share details once we've got them worked out. Hope to see all y'all by the river in October!

rustyboater

Emory Obed March 29/30 (or somewhere)
March 31, 2014

Even though only three of us made the trip, the rain gods partially smiled on us and gave us water.

It had rained part of Friday and most of Saturday morning, so the creeks had started to rise by the time Ali, Robert and I meet at the Wartburg Ranger Station. Since there were just the three of us and it was predicted that the weather would get cold, I opted for Clear Creek from Jett to Nemo on the Emory, simply because you can drive to the putin and it eliminated the time to carry in at OBJ. The creek had come up to just a bit over 200 cfs on the Lilly gauge, which is a low but non banging level for the top, and was rising slowly all day. Jett to Lilly is a pleasant Class II warm up, we continued on downstream to the Big Three in Clear Creek Canyon.

By the time we hit the Canyon, we had above 200 cfs at Lilly and the Oakdale gauge had risen to around 1200 cfs, a low and relatively friendly level for first timers. We all styled Jacks Rock Falls, Robert had a brief out of boat experience at Camel Rock and again at Wooten's Folly, Ali styled it and my own run I just give an OK. No further problems and the water had come up enough that the rockgarden rapids toward the bottom of the Canyon were technical, but not to the pain in the butt stage.

The Obed was very pleasant, at a nice and mellow level. The predicted wind and drop in temperature started about the time we got below Widow Maker and it was a quite chilly by the time we got to the takeout. We decided to try the Lilly Pad

campground, since it was only a couple of miles from the putin in and we had decided to try Jett to Lilly on Clear Creek on Sunday. Cheap camping, nice folks, limited facilities, but OK for an overnight stay. Don't camp too close to the communal firepit eye rolling smiley. I slapped some hot food together while Ali and Robert decided to forage for food in Wartburg's limited eating establishments. After I cleaned up from dinner, I was out like light.

We woke up to a cold but clearing morning after a bit of light snow during the night, not cold enough to stick, thankfully. We packed up and dropped Ali's car at the Lilly takeout and drove to Jett. Wow, what a different creek. The level had came up to around 800 cfs, which is on the high side, and the technical warmup for Saturday was a real romp. Big Fun after picking through everything Saturday.

My right knee said it was time to quit for the day (you hold yourself in an inflatable kayak with thigh straps by pulling your knees toward the center of the boat). Ali and Robert decided on another run, so I set shuttle for them before heading back to the house. Home in time for the UK game.

A good run with some great people and just what I needed to blow about eight months worth of cobwebs off my paddling skills. Next trip, you all are welcome to come along.

Larry Cable

Swift Water Rescue Class June 7-8 2014

Hello everyone! I am happy to announce that we are putting together a swift water rescue class. This will be held June 7 and June 8, 2014. The first choice as location is the Rockcastle River, if for some reason, such as flow, the alternate site will be the Cumberland. I know this is a little early to be posting notice, but this should allow plenty of time for those interested in participating to get their ducks in formation and practice their knots; more about that later.

So, now the who, what, when, where and why.

Who: Jason Foley as lead instructor and a maximum of 16 students

What: Swift Water Rescue Class

When: June 7 and 8, 2014

Where: First choice is Rockcastle, alternate site, the Cumberland

Why: For me, it's about being a good river partner; someone to count on should a situation arise. You can fill in this blank for yourself. Jason did want me to stress that this is not a beginner appropriate class. We may put on a class of that nature

if there is enough interest.

Other necessary points: Rescue gear, 15' or more of 1" tubular nylon webbing and 15' of 5mm or 6mm accessory cording to make prussiks and anchors. Two locking carabiners and a standard rescue throw rope. Jason said that if money is an issue here, buy the throw rope and we will make due by sharing. Further, practice the knots. The figure 8 family, figure 8 on a bight and a figure 8 follow through with a bend making the prussic in pairs. The butterfly, clovehitch and two half hitches would be useful as well. Learning tools are grots knots and our BWA website has a helpful link. Hanley has offered his expert service and will possibly host a class some evening before a roll session.

Personal equipment: PFD designed for whitewater use. (Rescue vest isn't necessary, but if you have one, bring it.) Protective footwear – NO SANDALS! Canoe/kayak/duckie/SUP, paddle and whistle, helmet, spray skirt. A big area of concern for folks is the protective clothing suitable for extended cold swimming. Recommended is either a wetsuit or drysuit since we will be cold and wet for extended times, but another option is to layer up if that is what your budget dictates. Jason said he will do his best to come up with gear if that becomes an issue.

Lastly, the participants should have a good level of personal fitness and confidence and comfort in moving water for extended periods.

I know there will be many questions and I think it best if you post them since others probably have the same or similar inquiries.

Tom Minor

Check BWA Website for cost & more Details.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnT0KPnSUqQ>
Watch Lonnie instruct James at a Walter Reed National Military Center pool session in preparation for the kayak football tournament.

BackFlips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXtV85ZYFbs>

Eddy Lines of Interest

February 2013 General Club Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2014 @ Rooster's

Present:

20 members, one guest/new member--Nick

Next meeting: Steering Committee Meeting TUESDAY 03/04/2014 @ Marika's

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Clay at 7:45pm

II. Reading of Minutes

Moved (Kris C), Second (Adelessa) to accept the minutes from the previous meeting in January. Motion passed.

III. Officer Reports

President-Clay—no report

Past President – Emily – no report

Vice President –Adelessa – Clinic is May 16th through 18th. Website is updated with applications. Already have 8 kids sign up.

Conservation Officer – Peter – Budget set around \$500.00. Plans are being sent to AW

Treasurer- Jeff K – no report

Secretary – Jacob – no report

Safety Officer – Tom – Roll session this Friday. Attendance was low last week. Instructor coverage has been good. Ad posted in the Southsider Magazine recently.

Membership – Ali –

Program Director – N/A – no report

Webmaster – Joe – Membership is in the 250 range. Latest Bowlines will be up on the web soon.

Newsletter – Don – Next Bowlines is ready and will be posted soon, it highlights the NPFF. Article in new issue is written by Kent Ford, who was a key player in the early film festival. Great story around how the NPFF began and the ties to the BWA.

Gear Coordinator – BJ – no report

NPFF Director – Bethany –

Good – 8 hours of footage, judging is being done as we speak. Films are really great this year. Most entries are short films. Fred Norquist is the new guest =host! Very exciting. Silent auction is going great.

Action Items:

1. We need two TV's. Mike W is donating the use of a 42" TV. We still need one TV.
2. Beer Situation. It's been a huge issue. We have to put a lot of money up front due to changes in the laws.
3. Running the kitchen will be different this year. The caterer will work with us on the food. Still need lots of chili!
4. Still need help with the silent auction closing. Robert Milgate and Zina volunteered.

5. Promote this on social media!!! Share and like all NPFF posts. Social media blast this week and next.

6. <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/NPFF/?f=auction>

7. Not NPFF Race is still on. Great prizes for all classes. Big media push... Spread the word around your office, friends, family, etc..

8. T-shirts are for sale at the door! Only \$15.00.

9. Volunteers are encouraged to pay for their entry into the event, at least a minimum of \$10.00.

Member at Large – Jeff S. – no report

IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

1. Moved (Kris C) second (Carlisle) appropriate \$1000.00 to Bethany for NPFF subsidy. Motion withdrawn.

2. Moved (Zina), second (Kris C) donate \$1000.00 and loan up to \$1000.00 additional to the NPFF for upfront costs associated with the beer situation. Motion passed.

VI. Announcements

None

VII. Trip Reports

Robert and Jeff – Elkhorn and Calloway...

Emily – Trip to Costa Rica

Clay – Trip report to the Tellico.

Trip report to the Russell Fork Gorge, John Lord memorial paddle

VIII. Adjournment

Moved (Robert), Second (Adelessa) to adjourn meeting at 8:55pm pm. Motion passed.

March 2014 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Huge Thanks to Bethany for taking such fine minutes at last weeks' meeting! You are awesomriffin!!!

SC Meeting minutes, Tuesday, March 4

Members present: Clay, Adelessa, Emily G, Joe W, Jeff K, Don Sr., Tom M, Bethany O, Peter S, BJ P

Meeting called to order at 7:43 p.m.

Meeting minutes from the last SC were heartily adopted

Officer reports:

President, Clay: nada

Vice President, Adelessa:

-Spring Clinic right around the corner, May 17th 18th, formally has asked the Army Corps of Engineers for water; needs instructors, co-instructors, safety boaters, video boaters, cooks, etc.; made a Facebook page for the clinic (<https://www.facebook.com/BWASpringClinic>); camping will be at Carson Island; clinic will be in conjunction with Vikings Clinic

Past President, Emily G: nada

Secretary, Jacob: not present

Member at large, Jeff S: not present

Webmaster, Joe: not present

Treasurer, Jeff K:

-We were paid back the \$1K borrowed from NPFF and have received \$200 from a Benchmark fundraiser over Christmas, and \$200 from the Vikings from last year's clinic. Roll sessions are doing good and not breaking the bank—we're breaking even or making a little on them. We're good on cash.

Safety Officer, Tom:

-Roll sessions are bitchin'! Last scheduled one is on the 7th, but he will schedule them through March. Will reassess after March. He can always use instructors and money takers.

-Swiftwater Rescue Class will take place this summer, June 7th and 8th on the Rockcastle. Limited spots available. Jason Foley to instruct. Sign up thread on forum forthcoming.

Conservation Officer, Peter:

-Elkhorn/AW Acres improvement plan moving forward. Zina and David L met with Mark Singleton from AW at NPFF and Mark was pleased with the overall plan. Cost for gravel/top dressing/new parking loop for the first phase of the project will be ~\$2624. Funds acquired for the improvement so far are around \$2000. This prompted a discussion that included fundraising possibilities for the \$600 deficit. Concerns involving time sensitivity and fundraising overload were discussed. The conversation then devolved into the actual logistics of the plans themselves. After we revisited the issue of the funds deficit, Bethany offered to earmark at least \$600 from the NPFF donation that will be given to AW this year (NPFF will be able to give AW more this year than the past several years, so this allocation is not cutting into general proceeds given to AW) for the improvements. Jeff K also said he would look more closely at the BWA Treasury to see if he had funds available [as of this posting, he had looked and did feel like the BWA had plenty of funds to cover the \$600 deficit]

-Russ Miller wants to have the Red Cleanup on the first weekend in May. This is not a great time for Peter or for the BWA in general. Peter to call Russ and talk to him about other dates [update: Russ needs to have it on the first weekend, so we will rally as many BWAers as we can]

Gearmiester, BJ:

He recently checked both of the trailers—lights and tires—in preparation of the Spring Clinic

Program Director, Wavey D: not present.

We decided, in his absence to have an NPFF program at the next meeting since many volunteers don't get to see the films. We'll show 3-4 of the shorter NPFF films on Tuesday, March 11th.

Newsletter, Don Sr.: Articles are always needed. Bethany will do an NPFF wrap up article. He hopes to have some clinic information in the next Bowlines as well. Deadline for submission around the end of March.

NPFF Director, Bethany:

NPFF happened. Bethany is glad it's over. Over \$19K was brought in. We should be able to give away ~\$10K this year, up for around \$8K last year. Giddy up.

NO new business.

Move to adjourn 8:39 p.m. Motion passed. Woot.

March 2014 General Club Meeting Minutes

General Club Meeting @ Rooster's, 25 members, one guest/new member--Sanford

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Clay at 8:05pm

II. Reading of Minutes

Moved (Robert), Second (Adelessa) to accept the minutes from the previous meeting in January. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

President-Clay—Recognized BJ for his recent article in the AW magazine

Past President – Emily – no report

Vice President –Adelessa – Dates for clinic, May 16th – 18th. Formal request has been sent to ACOE. Insurance must be "proved" to the ACOE prior to the event. Get with Adelessa for printed off copies of applications. Working on Carson Island lease and will pay in advance.
Treasurer- Jeff K – Working on budget for second half of the year. We are currently in the black, and have a projected surplus.

Secretary – Jacob – no report

Conservation Officer – Peter – Red River clean up first weekend in May 3rd. Elkhorn Acres improvement is full on. Peter is working on a plan for the work day. Phase One will be gravel, roads,

Safety Officer – Tom – Roll session are going great. We have been breaking even!!! Tom is working on a Swift Water Rescue class for the first weekend in June.

Membership – Ali – no report

Program Director – N/A – no report

Webmaster – Joe – no report

Newsletter – Don – no report

Gear Coordinator – BJ – Conducting inventory this winter, will complete list after clinic. Checked out trailers, and other spring clinic equipment.

NPPF Director – **Bethany** – 2014 NPPF brought in \$19,000.00. Highest gross ever. WOW!!

Thank You:

1. **BWA club in general for all the volunteers**
2. **Barry Grimes for killer job with AV, Jerome helped at the festival.**
3. **Don – Silent Auction, awesome silent auction**
4. **Silent Auction Crew – Brandon, Bubba, Dot, Clay, Bethany, Jacob,**
5. **Home Brew – Jeff K!**
6. **Beer Team – Mike Wilson, Bubba, Jeff K., Kyle H.**
7. **Kitchen – George and Adelessa Harbor**
8. **Cry Crew and Race – Clay**
9. **WT – Vice President of Finance**
10. **Programs – Don was the man**
11. **Beer Supplier – Country Boy Brewing**

Jon Mello is the Director in 2015! He is pumped and will need tons of help. We need plenty of help, especially new blood.

Bethany received a much deserved Standing Ovation for all her efforts!!!

Fred Norquist gave really positive feedback...

Member at Large – Jeff S. – no report

Unfinished Business

NPPF has been repaid.

New Business

Adelessa - Calloway put in improvement. Zach May has been working with the landowner on this project and this is a joint project. Zach is asking for \$230.00, up to \$330.00 for gravel on Mach 21st from the Boonesboro quarry. Moved (Adelessa), Second (Robert), motion passed to provide up to \$330.00 from the BWA to purchase gravel from the Boonesboro Quarry for improvements at the Calloway Creek out in.

Announcements

Care Free Living Stickers Available

Next Saturday (22nd) at AW Elkhorn Acres, Adelessa is putting together a fundraiser for Phase Two improvements.

Boating Announcements

Cheoah is releasing this weekend, 3 days.
Ocoee is releasing 24/7 but not at full flows.
Tallulah releases are the first two weekends in April.
Cheat Fest is the first weekend in May!

Trip Reports

Robert – Took a trip to Louie Fest last weekend. Paddled the Tellico, and Clear Fork that weekend. Tons of open boats.

Not NPPF Race –

Robert won his class!!!!
Carlisle won the Prices Right Class, closest to 60 without going over!

Level was high, but just low enough to have the race
Big Props to Hugo and Steve Ruth for helping with the portage Vikings won again this year. We lost by 2 points....F that
Jeff K. --

Paddled this past weekend with Mike Wilson on his birthday. He had an epic battle with Double Drop. Great BWA crew down there this weekend.

Adjournments

Moved (Don), Second (Bethany) to adjourn meeting at 9:25pm. Motion passed

Correction of Kent Ford Article Jan/Feb Issue

On Wed, Feb 12, 2014 at 10:40 AM, Barry Grimes <bagrim1@uky.edu> wrote:

Kent,
Just saw your wonderful article in the BWA newsletter about John. Well done! However, as you are a whitewater historian I hope you will pardon me if I offer a correction for a couple of minor things in the article that were inaccurate. At the beginning of the article you write:

"It all started in 1985 when John Davis was busy promot-

ing the relatively new BWA National Paddling Film Festival to ask if I would face the video camera for an interview about the Russell Fork River. John's idea was to do a paddler's perspective promotional of the Russell Fork. It worked, and soon after, the river was getting noticed on the National radar screen for boaters."

In fact, It was me who contacted you for the interview at the Nanny because I had met you at a NOC River Safety class I had taken earlier that spring and recognized you in the footage we took at Triple Drop. While it's true that John, myself and many others in the BWA were (and still are!) promoting the NPFF, the concept behind the video "Autumn Run" was entirely mine and was conceived, produced, directed and co-edited by me simply out of a love for the visual drama of the Russell Fork. I had already shot 2 videos about the RF (including the 1981 8mm film "El Horrendo" the original catalyst for the NPFF) and had recruited John to the "Autumn Run" project because he was a friend, a boater but most importantly - a professional videographer with free access to broadcast quality equipment. While "Autumn Run" was not in any way "John's idea" he obviously contributed his copious skills and expertise as a photographer and co-editor. I couldn't have made as fine looking a film without him.

As for promoting the RF with "Autumn Run" the credit for that must go entirely to James Stapleton, the local Elkhorn City paddler who saw AR and then tracked me down for permission to make copies and use it for promoting the river.

Hope this clears things up a bit. Thanks again for all you have done for the NPFF, whitewater videos and the sport in general.
barry grimes

Sat, Feb 15, 2014
Greetings Barry

Please accept my apologies for mixing up the early history of the Russell Fork film and the NPFF. I am sure your recollection must be correct.

My memory of John contacting me must have been for C-1 Challenge, and I mixed up the early stages of the two films. I certainly did not write that intending to diminish your role or the NPFF early years. I took a guess that it was 1985, and that it was early NPFF, but I honestly do not know the year or the exact nature of John's involvement in NPFF either.

Again, accept my apologies...

I've started a note for the next newsletter, or as an insert for this one... but please feel free to add your more complete story or help edit my correction below.

Cheers, Kent

To the editor:

My recent article contained errors about the early history of the Russell Fork film and the film festival, inadvertently giving John Davis credit for "Autumn Run"- an early (1985?) film about the Russell Fork river. The credit for that should go to Barry Grimes. It is an important distinction, because the video put the Russell Fork on the radar for paddlers nationally, but more importantly it accelerated a rich history of NPFF advocacy for river conservation. My apologies for the mistake. Kent Ford
ps. Thanks to BWA and NPFF for the fantastic support of river conservation efforts!

Feb 15, 2014

Kent,

No worries - just wanted to set the record straight.

With that in mind, perhaps this might be more appropriate?

"My recent article contained errors about the early history of the Russell Fork film inadvertently giving John Davis full credit for "Autumn Run"- an early 1984 film about the Russell Fork river. While John was the principle photographer and co-editor, the film was conceived, written, co-edited, produced and directed by Barry Grimes. The video, not actually shot as a promotional tool, did help in putting the Russell Fork on the radar for paddlers but only after being copied, widely shown and distributed by Elkhorn City paddler, James Stapleton. My apologies for the mistake. Kent Ford"

btw, just now recovering from the NPFF - which was a huge hit this year. I volunteered to upgrade our AV to an all digital presentation. The entire show was run from my Mac. No more DVDs yeah!

Feb 24, 2014

Hi Don, Barry

Yes, I think this would be an appropriate correction, thanks for the clarification!

Cheers, Kent

"My recent article contained errors about the early history of the Russell Fork film inadvertently giving John Davis full credit for "Autumn Run"- an early 1984 film about the Russell Fork river. While John was the principle photographer and co-editor, the film was conceived, written, co-edited, produced and directed by Barry Grimes. The video, not actually shot as a promotional tool, did help in putting the Russell Fork on the radar for paddlers but only after being copied, widely shown and distributed by Elkhorn City paddler, James Stapleton. My apologies for the mistake. Kent Ford"

Red River Clean-Up Volunteering May 3

Check BWA website for more info



Photo: Adelissa Grace

Join fellow river enthusiasts for a Clean Sweep of one of our local streams. Help draw attention to one of our precious resources. We will be working to remove unsightly trash along the river banks and send it to the landfill where it belongs! Boats and volunteers are needed, non-metal canoes or duckies preferred.

RED RIVER UPDATE - Allen Kirkwood

I just got back from the RR Monday night after helping Russ Miller with the pre-cleanup, i.e. cleaning up the river section from his house down to the Dog Drowning Hole. With last year's cleanup cancelled due to high water, the amount of trash is pretty big. We could really use a few more folks with canoes.

The plan is for everyone to meet at the bridge on Hwy 715 at 8:00 am. I will have the canoe trailer to haul the boats up to Russ's place. To make logistics easier, please plan on hauling your own boat to the bridge. I know the cleanup is a lot of hard work but it is quite rewarding to see all of that trash out of the river at the end of the day. Plus pizza at Miguel's has never tasted so good as it does at the end of the cleanup.

From the March 2014 Chicago Whitewater Newsletter "The Gradient".

ALF or Ain't Louie Festival Trip Report

For 9 days in March Open Boaters and the occasional kayaker meet at Shoney in Lenoir City, Tennessee every morning to plan a day of whitewater paddling. The week includes a 1 mile mass race on the upper Tellico Ledges section ending after the drop on Baby Falls. In 2014, over 200 paddlers from 22 states plus Ontario, Quebec and Germany came to paddle in south eastern Tennessee and over 50 of those came from Canada. Illinois had a showing of 3 paddlers with two of those being current CWA members.



Lunch on the Obed



Andy at Baby Falls

River paddled by ALF participants included Big South Fork, Ocoee, Clear Creek, Obed, Emory, Nolichucky, Tellico, Cheoa, Big Daddy's Creek, Watauga and many more.

By Andy Cocallas



Pool Roll Session Pinnacle Pool, 621 Southpoint Dr, Lexington

Learn to wet exit, bow rescue, and roll. Meet BWA members and be involved.

Wash your boats, inside and out, before arrival.

Are you new to pool roll sessions? Check out some prerequisites here.

Cost:

\$5 - Members

\$2 - Member child 12-18

Free - Member child 11 and under

\$10 - Non-member

\$5 - Non-member child

First roll session ever? Non-members pay member rates

Demo kayaks are made available by Canoe Kentucky - feel free to try them out.

Call them the day of the session to have a specific boat brought to the session

1-888-CANOE-KY.

More information and online registration: <http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=482733>



Bluegrass Wildwater Association

PO Box 4231

Lexington, Ky. 40504

BWA Meetings

Meetings held Second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm

To eat during the meeting come a little early so you can place your order before the meeting starts.

For up-to-date info on meetings always check <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org>