

Each issue this year will Celebrate the BWA being 40!

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Bluegrass Wildwater Association

1976-2016



Forty years and the BWA is still going strong! That is quite an achievement for any group or organization, especially nowadays when so much of life seems to wizz by and change constantly. We live at a time where the pace and demands of living cause many to fret about not being able to take care of all that they might want or need to do. It is so much so we try to fill and save time by doubling up in any number of ways, like driving and calling on cell phones simultaneously, putting a comment on what they are doing or just have done on the internet so that someone equally frantic about saving time will read it and go on to the next internet "contact", etc. But, you may find that all of this "modern" way of living does not truly satisfy you completely.

You find yourself becoming stressed trying to "get the most" out each moment, each day, each week. There is little or no time to reflect. You miss the satisfying interaction between you and a "friend" as you talk and joke about things, important or not. And stay always focused on what has to happen that next moment or that next hour.

But being a paddler in the BWA helps you to recenter your life, at least for a period of time. Driving to the river takes time, but it also gives you time to talk to the friends who are riding with you. Running the river forces your mind off of everything but running that rapid and pools allow you to feel, see and enjoy the nature around you. The remoteness of the campground forces you to relax and not worry about what is happening in the rest world... your concern is when to put that next log on the fire. The experience is about you, the river, and your friends.

Paddling and the BWA has offered us many things we have been shortchanged from in our modern life. It brings an importance and value to our lives we thirst for and need. You will see this in the issues of Bowlines as we celebrate our 40th year. Hopefully you will take the time to share the experience with the rest of us in one of these issues. We would all love to read it!

Your Bowlines Editor

Continued on pg. 3

Looking Ahead

Coming BWA Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

BWA Monthly Meeting Meet & Eat

Location can vary

For more information on Club Meetings
& Activities always check the online Calendar.

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

Pool Roll Sessions

Location

Pinnacle Pool, 621 Southpoint Dr, Lexington

Check BWA webwite for dates & times

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.

The BWA wishes to thank Canoe Kentucky for it's support.

We urge you to patronize them for your outdoor needs.



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

Club Officers 2015-2016

President	Bob Larkin	502-550-4225
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Secretary	Susan Durachta	859-230-3396
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Film Festival Coordinator	John Mello	859-327-6092
Russell Fork River Festival Coordinator	Steve Ruth	606-754-4348
Equipment Coordinator	KC Frankenstein	859-420-1514
At-Large Member	Megan Larkin	859-743-8355
Membership Coordinator	Howard Markowitz	859-361-8467
Past President	Clay Warren	859-326-0602

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>

**BWA members want to read your story!
Short or long. Sad or Funny.
Tell us your paddling related story! Please!!**

Files can be e-mailed to the Editor: 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

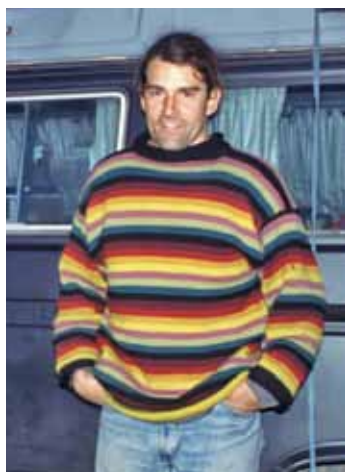


<http://www.canoeky.com/>

The next several issues of Bowlines will feature a BWA member that has played a significant role in the BWA and has become what might be described nowadays as iconic to many. There have been many such BWA friends over the years that might merit recognition for what they have done for the club, for paddling achievements, or just being someone you would like to paddle or enjoy sharing a campfire with. One such legendary member from years ago was Dave "Dad" Weiland that often regaled stories to us on paddling trips and is often written about in old issues of Bowlines. In a group like the BWA there has been and hopefully always will be such individuals, more than I could ever hope to tell you about. I urge you to send me in your story of some BWA member that over the years that has been a part of your boating life and should be recognized. Our fortieth anniversary year is a great time to tell us about them.

This issue's BWA legendary member: Brent Austin

Brent Austin found the BWA in 1989 and I think he must have been living a boring life. Brent took to paddling like a duck to water and by the second year was paddling the Upper Gauley and the Russell Fork. At that time it was rare to see any newbie paddle the Upper Gauley in less than three or four years, let alone the Russell Fork. Brent paddled so much I do not see how he found time for anything else in his life, especially being a lawyer.



Then I realized that if you are basically a boat bum at heart, you don't need a lot, just a old VW bus, a little gas money, and a boat and a paddle to run rivers. If he could do all that and enjoy life on working as a lawyer (part time?), I wondered if perhaps that most lawyers charge too much!

Affable, gregarious and always busy within the BWA and the paddling world, Brent came to be known first to many newbie paddlers by his musical speciality, playing the late night drums. Many newbies thought of the drum playing as a lot of noise. What they did not know (or hear) was there were songs in his head that he was playing the drum to.

For example, in his mind he might be rewriting lyrics to an old Johnny Cash Song and hear the drums playing along to:

*I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Crossed the rivers dare, man
I've breathed the foamy air, man
Boating, I've had my share, man
I've paddled everywhere*

But what those in the tents heard was:

*Boom tiddy Boom Boom.
Bang da bang boom.
Wang a boom di bang*

Repeated.....with appropriate crescendo

Repeated.....with appropriate diminuendo

Then someone or several someones holler: "*Dhaa dhin dhin dhaa*", "*Dhaa dhin dhin dhaa*"

Pause....Brent giggles and the drum music starts all over!

Some how it rarely seems to get beyond that first verse, but sometime before dawn, Brent and his drum band would pass out in dreamlandor perhaps it was the newbies in the tents finally giving out, or both.



But the amazing thing is Brent would always be there in the morning drinking coffee with us and ready to get going to the river! What a constitution!

Seriously, Brent has always show incredible drive and stamina. Going back through old Bowlines, I found he was serving as a member at large, then secretary, then and so on. Almost every issue of Bowlines in the nineties he has an article or two or three about some new stream he had just paddled, and I don't just mean a local stream either.

The Upper Yough, Narrows of the Green, Bee Creek, Caney Fork, Laurel, Wataga, Kern, Roaring Fork,

Merced, Arkansas, South Fork Yuba, is just a very few of the streams Brent paddled and wrote about. That does not include all the streams he paddled on numerous trips to places like Costa Rica and Ecuador where he might spend 2-3 months at a time paddling streams in another country. Brent would often have 2-3 articles on rivers he had run in an issue, generally at least 2-3 pages long. It was rare that there was an issue without an article by Brent throughout most of the 90ies.

But Brent had a fondness for a local stream in eastern Kentucky, The Russell Fork of the Big Sandy. He had first run the Gorge in 1992 , his story of that first run follows this article. Little did he probably think at that time what a important part in his life that the Russell Fork would play. Not only would he go back time and time again to run it and introduce it many other paddlers, he would devote a lot of time for years creating a festival devoted to the Russell Fork, "*The Russell Fork River Rendezvous*".

The Russell Fork, at least parts of it had been run by the BWA since the late seventies. President Bob Bryan at some point in the early nineties had moved the BWA's annual gathering to the Russell Fork Area and it was about that time that Brent ended up transforming it to the Russell Fork Festival. The first article in Bowlines about the RFF is dated October 1995:

October 1995

BOW LINES

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association
P.O. Box 4231
Lexington, KY 40544

BWA, AWA, ACA host first annual Russell Fork Rendezvous and race

Everyone agreed, the BWA still knows how to throw a party. The combination of boating, beer, and bluegrass music proved irresistible to the approximately 85 attendees who braved the rain, cold and fog at the first annual Russell Fork Rendezvous at Haysi, Virginia. The Rendezvous also attracted dealer reps for Perception, Dagger, and Triton boats, who showed off their latest and greatest boats and offered paddlers the opportunity to try them out on the river. Joe Greiner of the AWA organized and hosted the first Russell Fork Gorge race and declared it an unqualified success. Fifteen boaters entered the race, all finished and none were injured. Video footage shot at the race was a popular attraction at the party on Saturday night. The party also featured a local bluegrass band, who once more performed an excellent selection of music for dancing and listening. Preparations have already begun for next years event. If you wish to be involved, contact Sockeye Singleton or Joe Greiner at the AWA. (See Race Results on Page Two)

But Brent had a vision! He persuaded all kinds of bands to play continuous from Friday into Saturday morning and then from Saturday evening into Sunday morning. He had craftsmen and food vendors set up to sell their wares and food. Each year the festival grew in attendance, and in the Nov/Dec 1997 Bowlines

Brent said:

" Next year's Festival will again be the fourth week of October when we can count on increased flows. Hoping for better weather next year, prepare to see the 300-400 festival participants increase by a factor of ten."

The 1997 Russell Fork River Festival was an act of total kindness, sharing and giving. This river..... truly deserves to have a Wild and Scenic status some day. The idea is to make this event more of a Gathering, rather than just a kayaking event. We need to raise awareness and money."



Did It? Well the next year and years after any direction you looked on top of the hill in Haysi there were cars

and vans with boats on top as far as you could see! And that was just the beginning. The Russell Fork are had not experienced anything like it.....hundreds and hundreds of people pouring into the area for the festival.

The BWA donated money each year to help make the Festival successful. BWA members worked at the gate and in other ways at the festival, but Brent also recruited many others to provide everything from security to

Bluegrass Wildwater Association presents

Russell Fork River Rendezvous 2002

October 30 - October 1, 2002 (Sockeye Wild Water)
Klanford Park, Haysi, VA
A week long "Gathering" honoring the Russell Fork River!

Enjoy the opportunity of being floating from our address of destination to be gathered to honor the River!

Fun for all! Come Give to the River!
Music Donated by many musicians & bands

- \$1000 Sockeye Under the Hood!
- Stage Performances Saturday Oct 4 through Sunday Oct 6
- Local Craft & Antiques from Sat. 5 - 7 and around the river!
- Boat gear vendors - Tripple, Wading, etc. (independent vendors)
- Aerial Displays, Tripple, etc. Sat. 5, 6, 7, 2002, 10:00 - 4:00
- Vegetarian, Non-Vegetarian food at food & beverage
- Kayakers, Trout anglers, Hike, Drive
- 100 miles "Thunderbolt" (Haysi, VA)

This event proceeds are donated to American Wildwater and Headwaters, Inc. Inland these groups have a significant impact on wilderness and river access affecting the Russell Fork.

For more information on the Festival call
John Poy 2025-284-9271 or 2717 Westview Drive, Lexington, VA 40504 or <http://www.wildwater.org/russellfork>
or to <http://www.athwart.com/russellfork/>



The music seemed to on without any end

Brents always had the Russell Fork in mind and he not only encourage paddlers you to run the river, but did his best to help promote the annual race on the river. It now has become a destination tradition.

Brent Austin has show this energy and involvement with the Bluegrass Wildwater Association. He is al-

ways at the BWA events helping, supporting the clinics, the NPFF and other activities of the Cub. He has went beyond being a member of the BWA and now a director of American Whitewater. Brent Austin has shown that he has the spirit that has always made our club of paddlers so successful for over four decades.



The RF Race is now a tradition

Brent Austin deserves our admiration and respect as well as being awarded the honor of "Lifetime member of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association

Russell Fork Fun

"I soon learned what the difference was"

Brent Austin

Bowlines October 1992

On Friday October 16, 1992 I drove towards West Virginia to sleep at the dam where the next day torrents of water would be released for the last scheduled release weekend on the Upper Gauley. I was by myself after Randi had advised me that around 6:00 p.m. she had changed her mind: I'm staying home this weekend - have fun! " Oh well, I thought, I will just find someone at the put in and tag along for a good warm-up on the river.

The next morning I awoke to the sound of the release thundering through the river gorge which had been carved out over the eons. I hooked up with a three people from Alabama, we ran shuttle and put on by 10:30 a.m. The day was, great, as the Upper Gauley always provides a thrill, however, after five trips this fall and my plans for the next day, all I could think about were the words Marrea had left me once: "The Russell Fork is a good step up in difficulty over the Gauley."

Earlier in the week I had begged Rich Ready and Mike Clark to permit me the opportunity to follow them like a duckling down: the Russell Fork. Therefore, while, on the Gauley running Iron Ring I recall thinking halfway through the rapid Clark's response to my exclamation about how pumped up he was to paddle the Russell Fork: "You better be." "What did he mean by that?" I

thought as I raced through the drop.

That night I took the Mike Weeks approach to traveling to the Breaks from the Gauley - back roads, all six and half hours worth. Folks, go to Bluefield via Interstate highways and stick to the biggest highways. It should save you three hours or so off of my route! I awoke at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, aware that I was suppose to meet Rich and Mike at the take-out. "Good," I thought, "I'll miss them and I'll just lake a nice leisurely hike around the Breaks." But no, waiting for me was Don and Dan Coaplen. It was cold, somewhere in the mid-forties, but, it was a good group to go with and everyone had been waiting on me.

I soon learned what the difference was between the running this river and the Gauley. In addition to being more of a creek run and a hell of lot steeper, probably the most significant difference is in the of margin of error in running the rapids. Where the drops of the Gauley have fairly wide margins, the Russell Fork drops require margins more appropriately measured in inches. Rich Ready made this observation about Tower Falls: "about 1 foot makes the difference between a good line and not a good line." Ouch! I did not make the margin and narrowly averted a surf in the top hole which required that I make a move to the left of the center obstruction towards the undercut boulder.

No problem.

I had good fine in Fist though, the next Class V we encountered. (I consider the named rapids on this River to be Class V). So we then approach the rapid that has probably caused me the most trepidation in anticipation - Triple Drop. The holes at the bottom of these drops are legendary. Tales of Grimes spending 30 to 40 seconds underwater lurked in my mind as we approached this bad boy. There is no choice to run the drops you must punch the holes, and your line needs to be tight. Mine wasn't. I ran the top drop too far right. I felt the hole suck me backwards. The hole is caused by a river wide ledge. I surf with bow to river left. I try to ender out - it was not a happening thing, and a surf with bow to river right ensues. I take time to see what's happening downstream. Clark appears uninterested in giving me a bow assist (the back wash is about ten feet). Don is on the bank with a throw rope but he and I realize it ain't going to do much good. I suspect all are amused. I get little tired, find a spot for one last try, reach way down for some downstream flow, find a surge and out I come. I paddled over assuring the others that it was a great surf: "you can get out of it." Nobody wished to amuse me. Well, I then flipped in the bottom of the second drop and roll up in the middle of the third drop. Triple drop was interesting.

By the time we get to El Horrendo, I'm thinking that perhaps I'll carry that one. It is HUGE. I mention the possibility to Rich and he quickly brushes the idea off "Of course you'll run this." Okay Rich. Well El Horrendo was a really good line for me. It is probably the most impressive rapid I have run to date.

Once was enough for me at this point as I had been operating on a lot of adrenaline through the Maze above, not to mention all the other rapids, boulder gardens, blind drops, etc. it took to get there. I let the heroes run El Horrendo forty-eleven different ways while I was satisfied with my one, probably the most difficult rapid on the river is Climax. It is a blind drop, fairly long boulder garden with a really mean drop at the end that requires a precise line. Don came up to me and said: 'For Gods sake, whatever you do, do not flip in this rapid.' I am thinking to myself "what kind of thing is that to tell somebody?" So, I make this pledge to myself that I would not. My line was probably off by 6 inches, just enough to require that I prevent a flip by throwing a big left brace. I stay upright and fly past razor sharp jagged rocks underneath and to the right where they could not be seen until almost through.

What a day! Would I run this river again? You bet! It is the most challenging river I've been on and there was never any lack of excitement. The trick is to run this river with a group as good and knowledgeable of the river as the one I was with.

**BWA:
The World is
our Oyster**

**Brent
Austin**



When I first joined the BWA in 1989, I was not joining what I thought was really a "club". No, I did not join silly clubs, never considered joining a club, and generally looked with a bit of disdain on club joiners. But, I was really in to whitewater kayaking and there were no other kayakers around Central Kentucky that were not affiliated with this group, the Bluegrass Wildwater Association. And, they were a club in name, but not in form, because I quickly realized that these were not fuddy duds sitting around a circle worrying over Roberts Rules of Order and bylaws and a bunch of gobbledy goop that did not involve activity in the great outdoors, particularly on wild

ivers. No, they actually were more concerned with boating, camping, and getting outdoors away from people and crowds. They were incredible paddlers and were, quite frankly, rowdy.

They would throw the cap away to the bottle of good Kentucky Bourbon at the campfire before passing it.

They would throw the cap away to the bottle of good Kentucky Bourbon at the campfire before passing it. And, the more I learned about the gang/tribe/club, the more I realized the reason: these were hard driving paddlers that went into wild places, the world over, and were truly defining the sport at the time. These were friends of William Nealy (the famous Whitewater cartoonist of the 80s) and anyone who was anyone in the sport most likely knew members of the BWA.

After joining the BWA at the roll session at the Y on Cross Keys Drive (because the sessions were cheaper if you joined the BWA) and attending a raucus drunken meeting or two at the bar/restaurant "High on Rose" in Lexington (closed for many years now), I heard about Sam Moore leading Sobek Expeditions on the very first descent of a portion of the Yangtze River in China and his trip to Nepal kayaking world class

I heard about Sam Moore on the very first descent of a portion of the Yangtze River in China and his trip to Nepal kayaking world class runs

runs, that to this day are still considered class V and V+ as I understand those ratings. (No, I am not talking about the Upper Gauley for example). He was one of the first BWAers to paddle the Russell Fork gorge in the early 80s, that was described in the Kentucky Whitewater book of the day as "unrunnable".

I regaled in the stories and lore of Mike Weeks, Don Spangler and others on an expedition and being holed up for days in a refugee camp for Guatemalans on the remote Rio Lacantun River

along the Mexico/Guatemala border- in the middle of a guerilla war, getting drunk, playing poker and being a captive until the guards lost enough money to Weeks in gambling and decided to let them go. Barry and Cynthia Grimes relayed their stories of trips to Chile and Costa Rica and Canada. Of course the stories surrounding Dave "Dad" Weiland were already legend, and even though he had died three years before on the Crystal River in Colorado on a boating trip with Barry and Cynthia Grimes, his presence was still palpable in the paddling circles I was beginning to frequent in Central Kentucky.

This was the BWA..... Mike Clark, a solid class V paddler, induced me to join at the roll sessions.

This was the BWA I joined in 1989, when my good friend Mike Clark, already a solid class V paddler, induced me to join at the roll sessions. I bought two brand new Dancers for me and my then girl friend, Randi Beard (she was with the NOC for a number of years in the early to mid 90s). We got our rolls down, got some paddling skills and by the next year we were in Brazil. Two years later, Randi and I went down to Turrialba in Costa Rica because of a friend of ours, Phil Coleman, who had set up a rafting company and invited us to come down and kayak on the Pacuare, Reventazon, General and some other runs. We got beta from Barry and Cynthia Grimes who had been down there with Dan Dixon (with NOC and also known as Greystoke) some years before, and soon we were on flights, our boats in bags as "sit on top surfboards" and arriving in San Jose, to begin our journey to Turrialba. That was in 1992.

The following year, I returned to Costa Rica, this

I returned to Costa Rica..... with a burning desire to do a run that had only been attempted before but not successfully run from top to bottom

time with a kayak team and a burning desire acquired from poring over topographical maps of Costa Rica to do a run that had only been attempted before but not successfully run from

top to bottom: El Rio Chirripo Atlantico. On this first descent (at least since the epicenter earthquake there in 1991), we had on our team with me, Mike Clark, Chris Hipgrave (from England but living in the USA to this day), Andy Lee (from New Zealand, died 1999 in Austria) and Scott Andler from Portland OR. Mike Clark wrote an article about this journey that was published in AW magazine and can be found here: <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Journal/show-page/issue/5/year/1994/page/53/>

After this expedition in Costa Rica, I had the international kayaking bug and was already thinking about other trips out of the country. So, in 1995, I went to Nepal. While there, I kayaked on, among others, the Bhote Kosi and the Marsyandi, both of which were adventures in and of themselves. The Bhote Kosi was up near the border of Tibet with Nepal. I met a guy from Wyoming that wanted to boat some class V named Oli Kaylor, so I rented a boat from Dave Alardice of Ultimate Descents (previously with NOC) and off we went towards the border of Tibet. We stayed in a Teahouse near the border and put on the next day. I swam a class V, lost my boat and gear and had to replace the boat. Butt kicked hard, head hung in shame, I went back to Katmandu and planned the next trip, a 5 day journey on the Marsiandi River

Butt kicked hard, head hung in shame, I went back to Katmandu

flowing out of the Anna Purna Sanctuary. This was a super cool trip as I was running safety for the first commercial descent of this section of the river and we had Sherpa support at camp each evening. The only thing that comes close to the day in and day out camping experience on the river trip there, is the Grand Canyon with full raft support.

A year later, in late 1996, I received a phone call from Gynner Coronal Paris who I had met in Costa Rica. He was in Ecuador busting out first descents right and left and invited me and my crew to come down and check it out. I did not need much prompting, so Mike Clark and I planned a trip there immediately. I arrived first in January 1997, and then set up logistics in Quito, including trying to find my boat which somehow ended up in Columbia. I finally got my boat, picked up Mike at the airport, and since Mike was working for IBM at the time, we had a tight two weeks to boat together. Being self employed, I gave myself two months (I had the habit at that point of staying from anywhere from a month and a half to three months in the country I was visiting so I could get the “vibe” of the place). Mike and I did several trips on the Jondachi which was a brand new run at that point and was a quick favorite. (Today, this river is very threatened. See <http://ecuadorian-rivers.org/jondachi-fest/>). Ecuador became my destination for the next two years.

I went back to Ecuador in 1998 and was there again for Y2K. I planned for a moment to buy property down there, but in May 2000, I purchased land in the Smokies instead. That had a bit of a “chilling” effect on my resources and time to travel and do international paddling. These days, I hover close to the Appalachians and tend to paddle the same rivers over and over again, as my hair develops a bit more than a “Touch of Grey” and the hot tub becomes ever more a necessary part of my paddling curriculum:



Brent, tough day on the river

Must be getting early
Clocks are running late
Paint-by-number morning sky
Looks so phony
Dawn is breaking everywhere
Light a candle, curse the glare
Draw the curtains I don't care 'cause

It's all right
I will get by
I will get by
I will get by
I will survive

I see you've got your fist out
Say your piece and get out
Yes, I get the gist of it
But it's all right
Sorry that you feel that way
The only thing there is to say
Every silver lining's got a
Touch of grey

Today, the BWA, as a group, is still reminiscent of the spirit I saw in a "tribe" of people that were not really what I thought of as a club, did not give a crap about "club rules" or "bylaws" and were true paddlers. They were part of a world-wide culture, not dissimilar to the connection that world class mountaineers have with each other, no matter where on the globe they travel.

Our paddlers have always been part
of a world class of paddlers,
whether it was Sam Moore in the 80s
or Clay Warren ...in this Millennium

Our paddlers have always been part of a world class of paddlers, whether it was Sam Moore back in the 80s or Clay Warren well into this Millennium.

As many of you know, Clay is today an international paddler that has developed a fond connection to my old favorite location: Ecuador. And, he not only races regularly in the race that we created at the Russell Fork in the mid 90s, he has raced on some of the most difficult courses in the world, including the Green Race. I suspect we will have new Sam Moores in the future if we stay true to ourselves and true to our "vibe".

The BWA has a long legacy of
paddling to be extremely proud of.

The BWA has a long legacy of paddling to be extremely proud of. Not only do we do a good job introducing the sport to new paddlers, we have also incubated and provided an environment and culture that embraces the best and most able paddlers coming out of the state of Kentucky. Many clubs do not do so and cannot get past the "new paddler" ethos as a driver for a club's existence. Not the BWA. There is a reason we are a strong AW Club Affiliate. There is a reason that we provide the National Paddling Film Festival, and have since 1982. There is a reason that we provide the Russell Fork Rendezvous and that we started the race there, which is now a world class event for the Pros. We do provide space for new paddlers to develop, but equally if not important, we provide a place for the expert paddler to grow as a paddler, to convene not only with each other, but to also meet and at times mentor newer paddlers that desire to paddle close to the edge of the sport as well. I have always thought that was important, and it was absolutely the reason that I joined and continue to remain a member of the BWA for all these years.

Please join the BWA and AW!

Brent Austin
Director American Whitewater

Costa Rica Paddling in the Not So Dry Season

Brent Austin

Uwe Wachkamp

Bowlines April 1983

It all began last fall when Randi suggested that it was about time to get out of the United States again and head for the tropics. With her school schedule it looked like we would maybe be able to squeeze out 10 or 11 days during her Spring Break. Therefore we decided upon Costa Rica because of its' easy accessibility, - leave Lexington at 1:30 p.m. and be in San Jose by 8:30 that day. We booked flights about four months in advance.

Subsequently, numerous members of the local paddling community expressed astonishment: "Isn't that the dry season?" My reply was always that the Reventazon had daily releases that made exceptionally fine paddling of practically every range of difficulty. However, we expected everything else to be fairly low or dry. Furthermore, we had another motive which was simply to get out of the country, sight-see, Jiang out at the beach and work on our Spanish. Randi and I compromised our positions of two and four days paddling (respectively) to three days. The rest of the time was for the volcanos beaches and the wildlife.

We arrived in San Jose on Thursday evening and took a bus from the airport to the downtown ii district where we found our \$8.50 per night Hotel Ticalinda. We went to sleep that night listening to the mariachi band next door and woke up the next morning to check out the bus schedule to Turrialba. The two hour bus trip cost us a total of \$2.00 and we were in Turrialba by 1:30 looking for our friend, Phil Coleman, who resides there in the winter. We left our backpacks and paddling gear with the barber on the corner down from his apartment, and got familiar with the town. We finally caught up with Phil after he got off the river later that afternoon.

Over dinner that evening at the Soda Brujaba, PH tells us that he is taking two women, one from Germany and the other from the States, down the Peralta section of the Reventazon the next day. Because of the dry season and the lack of rain over the past 4 weeks, he said that the normally Class V section was releasing about 1200 to 1500 cfs and therefore it would be Class IV.

Randi had concerns, but Phil quickly assessed her paddling experience and assured her that she could handle it. Reluctantly she agreed to paddle it even though she had not been in her boat anywhere near as much as I had over the winter.

The next morning we went to the put-in at Angostura and met three Germans, two of which, Roger Weist and Jens Vorsatz, competed in the 1992 Olympics on behalf of Germany. The third, Uwe Wachkamp, was on

holiday and in Costa Rica to paddle and sight-see. Uwe decided to join us but the others were paddling glass slalom boats and were concerned about hitting rocks. Therefore, the trip consisted of three kayakers and one R3. Phil was guiding the raft and was the only one familiar with the river. The average gradient on this 9.1 mile section of the river is about 68 feet per mile. However, the first two to three miles of the "Meatgrinder Section" is 85 feet per mile.

After put in, we ran down a half dozen Class IIIs before Phil eddies out above an apparent horizon line. He explains the route down the left side which is approximately 100 yards long. Uwe blows down and then the raft. Randi and I made this deal that I would follow her in the unlikely event she got in a pinch. She roars out after them and I give her some distance. All of a sudden, I see her window shading in an apparent hole. I head down that way and see her coming out of the hole - the second one! I fell into the first one, the same one that slowed her down enough so the second one could eat her. She punches out and I eventually pull out and run over her boat still surfing the second hole. We get boats, paddles, wits, etc. over to the river left eddy and regroup. Randi said she was just fine. But, I know her and knew she was shaken, especially since Phil answered her question about how many more rapids like this first big one with a grim "Oh, 2 5 or 30" .

And we were just getting started. Most people rate this section a good notch up above the Upper Gauley at normal flows. At the level we were paddling this day, I would rate it as equivalent in difficulty, primarily because of the exceedingly voluminous number of Class IVs, with perhaps half a dozen or so IV+s and V-s. When we got to a rapid known as Jungle Run, Phil tells us that we are all carrying around it. I followed Randi down a scrape-like, sneak route and got out to look at the rapid. Apparently, Me decided he could run it after scouting. I got a throw rope and camera out to watch him make a fine run, avoiding both a gnarly pour-over and the badly undercut wall the river wants to slam you into. He eddied out where we were and we all prepared for the Class IV ferry between some big monster holes to river right and then the zig-zag down the rest of the rapid.

All this time, Randi is running great fines and appeared totally intense like I have never seen her on the river. I could not for the We of me get her to smile. I later learned that she was scared shitless and running on pure adrenaline and a desire to survive this run. Finishing out the Meatgrinder section, there is one last chance to take off the river and hike through the jungle, contend with Fer-de-lance pit vipers and make it to Turrialba. Randi elects to take off and tells me I should go on. I told her to forget it, I was going with her. She must have seen that dejected look on my face and known how much fun I was having because she changed her mind and decided to paddle the rest of the way down. We were only 1/4 of the way down the trip.

Actually, Randi was making better lines than I was the rest of the day and was really reading the water perfectly. She lined up on all waves and holes in a constant flurry of paddle movement up around her bow. She was hot. She was also determined and totally aware of what the water was doing. I have never seen her paddle so well. I, on the otherhand, somewhat lazily found myself dropping into holes, not making the extra effort to get around to the good side of a big rock, and therefore, I got thrashed around a bit more. But it was tremendous fun.

When we got to El Horrendo, a.k.a. Lava Central (after Lava Falls on the Colorado and Lava South on the Bio Bio), Randi elects the long, highly technical, left-side carry Even at this level, this rapid is a Class V with mandatory moves around some big holes that require a sure zig-zag-zig-zag to avoid diem. It is much easier to inadvertently hit these holes than those in Insignificant Rapid on the Gauley in my judgment. I was determined not to however, and got a hell of a ride. The rest of the trip was busy Class IV and no one had any problems. Randi was incredibly elated at the end, as was I. However, she was ready for a break from paddling.

The next morning we got up early to catch a bus to San Jose and then catch an 8:30 a.m. bus to the Poas Volcano. It goes up only on Sundays and we decided it would be a great break. Anticipating another sunny day (this was, after all, the dry season), we clothed accordingly and by the time we got to the top of the 8000 foot mountain, it had begun to rain and the cloud cover was very dense. Since the bus did not leave for 4 hours to allow time for hiking the trails etc. and because we could not see into the crater because of the rain and dense clouds, we froze and were miserable. The Peralta section sounded better to us all the time.



Jungle Run on the Reventazon River Costa Rica

As it turns out, the big storm that hit the U.S. on Saturday, March 13 was throwing unusually wet weather over Central America and the rain that Sunday would persist, sometimes very hard for four days. In fact, Phil told us that the rain was heavy even by wet season standards and, yes, the rivers were coming up and getting high. The Pacuare, an endangered river that is incredibly remote, untainted by human activity, 18 miles long and previously extremely low was going to be a good, high water trip if we were interested. We were! However, this normally class III run with a couple of IVs was going to be Class IV with a couple of V's. AD the raft companies were cancelling trips on it because the flows were getting up to the 5000 to 6000 cfs range.

Because of access problems, it usually costs about \$60.00 to arrange a tico (local) to drive a land cruiser to the put in and take out. We were willing to do this. However, Phil had a friend that was going to take a raft down with five customers, despite the levels, and could provide the shuttle for us. This friend was very happy to have the hard boaters around for safety. He was even more happy to hear Randi elect to help paddle the raft. She still had her adreneline fix from the other day, thank you!

Low water or high water, 9 anyone reading this ever makes it to Costa Rica, you have got to paddle this river for the beauty alone. There are countless waterfalls coming in and the tropical jungle is lush beyond imagination. Certainly at the level we caught it we had the best of all worlds. It was big, the waves were huge and the holes numerous.

When we got to the big rapids on the river, Upper and Lower Huacas (pronounced "Wakus"), I was told by Phil to stay as far left as possible. Upper was not bad on that side and was a bit washed out. The right side was however, improbable. I ran left. The Lower was class V, anywhere you ran it. Normally, there is a channel between a large bolder and the left cliff and a hole to punch in between on this day, the boulder was a large and lethal pour over and the hole was HUGE. Having no choice but to punch the left and better side of the hole, I came upon the top of the next wave only to see that I had to punch another hole only to crest and punch another and then another. I paddled my butt off and was glad to have muscled through it. There is no way to carry that rapid. On the right side were holes of monstrous Class VI proportions. Fortunately, everyone on the trip did fine through this rapid.

At this point, the raft had only lost one customer, a man whom Randi grabbed and pulled in the boat before he

got totally away from the craft. But the problems were about to begin. At a rapid called Cimerones one of the raft customers had fallen out and was getting ready to get recirculated into a big hole. I jumped into the hole to assist, got thoroughly thrashed, rolled up only to see part of my wooden paddle blade floating ahead. I didn't hit a single rock - the power in the hole was just that great. Fortunately, we were 3/4 of the way finished and only two significant rapids ahead: Tres Equis and Dos Montanas. Still it was a hassle and the water was big and pushy.

Then, the raft flipped when it surfed a hole in some obscure rapid. Everyone except two took a long swim down fast current over rocky shoals. It hurt me to watch. Randi was sure she would get bruises on her behind (but she didn't - I checked!). I could do little for anyone with one blade so I just got to the end of the rapid the best I could. When we got to Dos Montanas, I tried limping down the left side and avoiding the holes the water wanted to push one towards. The raft was not so fortunate. It almost made it through a big hole. The key word is "almost". I watched it slide backwards, get on a big high side that lasted for about 3 slow seconds and then flip. The flip was actually more of a slam dunk. Everyone swimming, the other kayakers in hot pursuit, I could only watch from my pitiful circumstances. Everyone floated through the bizarre narrow canyon that is the sight of a proposed darn still threatening to forever drown this beautiful river.

We designated the rafters as the "Pacuare Swim Team" for the valiant dousings they took most of the day. Phil and I joked with Randi about the advantages of hardboats. Phil and RaDdi joked with me about the advantages of two blades. The raft customers, one of which was considerably shaken and ashen looking, seemed certain to never take a raft trip again. We, on the other hand were certain that we had a great time and could not wait to paddle again.

The next day, Tuesday March 16, promised continued high water. Randi was sick of the rain, sick of paddling and sick of me because that's all I wanted to do. She really wanted to go the beach, get some sun and relax for her vacation. Monday night the Germans told us they wanted to do the Peralta section and Phil thought it would be a great ride if it was not too high. Fortunately, the rain let up about 11:00 p.m. and by the next morning it looked like a run was possible. We agreed to meet the Germans at noon. Randi decided that she and a friend (the American on the first raft trip), were going to the Indian ruins instead. She definitely did not want to paddle the Peralta section at high water with a bunch of macho yeehaws.

At the put-in the river was noticeably higher. That morning the gage approximated 1.8 meters and by put-on time, but before the release, the gage was down to 1.65 meters. That translates to a pre-release flow of about 3500 cfs. Downstream with the other flows coming in, it would pick up to about 5000 to 6000 cfs, by Phil's estimate. Everything on the river was different, bigger, harder and just plain freaky. There were five of us in all. The Germans were all good paddlers, but when it came to the big rapids, even they preferred to let Phil run them first. Phil is an exceptional boater and has total control out there. I was impressed.

Without going into detail ad nauseum, let me simply say that the thirty some-odd class IVs were now all class Vs. Jungle Run was a sneak by all of us. El Horrendo was even more HUGE than before. The surfing waves were unbelievable. There was so much play on the river that I cannot even begin to describe it. Oh, if only I had river like that fifteen minutes from my house. No wonder Phil Coleman has been coming there since 1980 and has made it his winter home when he is not running his raft business, Precision Rafting, in West Virginia.

The next morning, we took the bus to San Jose, rented a car and drove to the beach on the Nicoya Peninsula to Montezuma. There we got sun, checked out the water falls on the beach, saw lots of monkeys, and enjoyed the local scene. What a great way to end a trip paddling in Costa Rica. Imagine sitting on an open deck of a restaurant with a great meal of shrimp and pasta, more than you can eat for about \$3.00, the sun is setting, the colors of the sky are changing from oranges, to blues, you can see the southern cross coming into focus over the horizon, a good bottle of guaro is on the table and your best friend in the world is sitting right beside you. That was the way my trip ended. I love Costa Rica!

Brent Austin

Meaning

By B.J. Phillips

"...But I cannot ever quite remember
What I went looking for,
Or what it was I lost
In that alien land
That became
More!
Than my own can ever be again."

Excerpt from poem: To the Asian Victors¹
W. D. Ehrhart - Vietnam 1967-68

Lost!

I was lost!

Upon returning from the war, and for too many years afterward, this is the only description that could possibly describe the state I was in. I simply meandered throughout life the same as a leaf blowing in a turbulent wind without any conscientious purpose.

I was a casualty of my own thoughts that only had a loathing for the government that sent me to war, killed and wounded many of my fellow countryman, and what I considered a complacent society that seemed to do nothing to stop it!

Years later I would see a simple sheet of paper while at a Veterans Affairs medical appointment that said “ Kayak Program”. Little did I know at that time that would change a life!

A lady led me into a world that I never knew existed, and literally saved my life from self-medication and fighting the government system that I despised.

Linda was a V. A. employee, not a therapist, but she seemed to know what a combat veteran just might need to make it to the surface of the darkness. I was introduced to the sport of whitewater kayaking!

Previous to that I had, finally, began treatment at the V.A. for P.T.S.D., and that had begun to educate me about this strange abnormality. I learned that I wasn't the only one affected by the Nightmares,

the Separation of Feelings for those close to me,

and the Anger within me that I could not explain.

This helped me in ways of at least understanding they were symptoms, but for some reason did little to alleviate them.

After the commencement into kayaking I eventually found a constructive activity that I not only enjoyed, but also freed me of the prison within my mind of the P.T.S.D. symptoms. When paddling down a whitewater rapid you only have time to focus on that.

I have worked with veterans, and others, learning, teaching, and sharing this wonderful sport. It is therapy on steroids!!! I have worked with a visually impaired veteran, Lonnie Bedwell, which became the first blind person to paddle the Colorado River the length of the Grand Canyon, the Upper Gauley River, and the Zambezi River in Africa.

Has kayaking ceased all of my symptoms – No!

Has kayaking ended my nightmares – No! But, I think it has reduced them!

Has kayaking ended my inability to be close to others – No! But, I now have friends I didn't have and trust in a few that is comparable to battle brothers in the military!

Has kayaking ended my anger – No! It still arises from chasms deep within with fire from a dragon that cannot be extinguished, but never surfaces when I am on the water!

In short the sport of kayaking has given me a direction I once did not have, a relief of symptoms of P.T.S.D. that I didn't think was possible, and it has given the greatest gift I could ever have...

“Or what it was I lost”...

Meaning!

Backpaddling through the pages of Bowlines

Bluegrass
Wildwater
Association

1976-2016



At the start of the Bluegrass Wildwater's 40 years.

The BWA was an outgrowth of a bunch of paddlers who were associated with SAGE outfitters that was located on High St. in the old Beck House. SAGE opened about 1973, sold gear and provided instruction in paddling, rock climbing, sailing and other outdoor activities. It was like a local NOC. Our first meetings were held at SAGE while we organized and wrote the by-laws. Later, meetings were held in a few other locations for a while, but it did not take us long to start having meetings at the Upper Crust and then Joe Balogna's in Southland. "Meet and Eat" became the BWA way to have meetings.

The first President of the BWA was Kent Kirchner, a doctor at UK. Actually, a significant number of members in the early years came from the UK Med Center. Others came from the SAGE staff, like Bob Sehlinger or Steve "Tubbo" Morgan, while others like me came from scattered parts of the community. Membership was not much more than 2-3 dozen in the first couple of years or so.

But it was an enthusiastic and active group. We went paddling whenever and wherever we could find moving water, not only in Kentucky, but throughout the southeast. A few made it to the Rio Grande in Texas, rivers in Ontario, Canada while Kent Kirchner became the first in the BWA to paddle the Colorado thru the Grand Canyon. For a couple of years afterward, Kent's black & white 8mm film was the program at meetings with Kent providing a monologue that described the rapids & filled in details of the trip. Back then there was few films showing whitewater & certainly nothing like You-Tube.



Kent Kirchner, first BWA president and first member to paddle through the Grand Canyon

Running whitewater rivers was not done by many in the seventies, in fact it was normal for your group of paddlers to be the only ones you would see on the river. But for the early BWA it was an "adventure" that we became obsessed with and would create strong bonds between us that continue to exist decades later. This passion led to many other related actions, like paddling clinics, roll sessions, safety & rescue symposiums, a film festival, a great award-winning newsletter and many lasting friendships

And that is just the beginning.

The First Year of the BWA

"know that you are close to some of the finest people to be found anywhere"

*Bowlines--Newsletter of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association Inc. Lexington, Ky.
Vol. 2, No. 1 November 1977*

Happy Birthday BWA

We are one year old, can you believe that? Did you realize that the association has just entered into its second year since being organized? It might have slipped by unnoticed, but some of us are sentimental--besides, birthdays mean birthday parties. Those of us who were at the September meeting at the Louden House unceremoniously celebrated our first year with the regular business meeting and some home-made vanilla ice-cream ... well, any excuse will do for homemade ice-cream.

Look back on the last year for just a few minutes. Has the last year been a worthwhile experience for you and the club? Sure it has. Admitted, we have a long way to go, but we have come a long way since that organizational meeting at Sage last September. A few of us are actually beginning to learn to paddle in whitewater.

So, what have we accomplished in the last year? After finally getting a quorum, (following a cold paddleless winter), we elected new officers, with Kent Kirchner retaining the high-chairmanship, and we even managed to decide on a new schedule of dues. The incorporation papers have been submitted, and we are (or will be) allowed to add the distinguished post-script "Inc." after our club title. The club, helped organize and conduct the Kentucky Wildwater Championships, held at Cumberland below the falls despite low water (350 cfs) and the second annual Jacobsen Lake canoe races was a great success thanks to Sage (and Bob Sehlinger), the BWA, the Lexington Parks Service, and Katie Keene who did a lot of the footwork.

Our paddling talents are really beginning to grow too. Russell Fork is a long way from our first trip down the Nantahala... a lot warmer too. Remember our first time down the Ocoee? How 'bout Section III of the Chattooga and "Bull Sluice" at 3.4 feet, the Tellico at high water, the Little River Gorge at flood stage, Raven Fork at over four feet, Cumberland below the falls at only 250 cfs ... is that really only four miles to the take-out? Wait, there are more --- I'll bet that Kent remembers his ender at the hole at the bottom of the narrows on the Little Tennessee. Snowbird Creek was a nice change of pace as was the Upper Red when the water was up. We got to paddle Clear Creek in the Emory-Obed system thanks to Roy and Juanita Guinn Expeditions Ltd. The New river gorge and the Gauley have offered some of the East's best whitewater this Fall to those who had the skills to paddle them. Have you had the chance to experience

The French Broad Gorge or the Clear Fork? Perhaps you were there when we tore down the old suspension bridge that had become a hazard to paddlers on the Elkhorn.

Our club has had people paddling the Rio Grande below Big Bend National Park on the Mexican border, the Petawawa and lower Madawaska in Ontario, and most recently the Colorado through the Grand Canyon. In short, we have been doing a lot of good paddling throughout the last year.

If you missed out on a lot of these trips, think about it before you turn down an offer to go paddling for the weekend.... even Kentucky's own Rockcastle can be a challenge at 2600 cfs, right Beuren? There is something to be gained from every paddling experience, and there will be a lot more opportunities in our second year. The true beauty of a remote wilderness, the challenge of good whitewater, the satisfaction of making every roll (almost) that day, are feelings that can not be had by staying home to watch the boob tube. The best feeling of all comes when you zip up your sleeping bag for the night, and know that you are close to some of the finest people to be found anywhere... there are five people in your two-man tent because it is raining outside!

Happy Birthday BWA---many more!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BWA

The Bluegrass Wildwater Association is ten years old! Few of our current members were around when our founding fathers gathered in the fall of 1976 to discuss the need for a "structural canoeing organization in the Lexington area" (Newsletter#1). Much growth has taken place in our club since its beginning.

Our first officers included Kent Kirchner, President; Beuren Garten, Vice-President; Katie Keene, Sec/Treas; Jerome Sims, Programs; and Charles Andre and Ed Puterbaugh, Conservation. The first BWA newsletter (October 1976) contained trip reports on Cumberland below the Fall, the Nantahala and the Ocoee. Our dues in 1976 were \$5.

Other early newsletters contained an article on an Elkhorn Clean-up, trip reports on the Cumberland and Rockcastle Rivers and a list of "Most Heard Excuses for NOT Going Paddling". One of my favorite "excuses" was "I'd really love to go but I was looking forward to painting the bathroom this weekend."

By February, 1977, our total membership was 45. In November, 1977, Bowlines appeared for the first time on the banner of our newsletter and an article reported 8 paddlers attended Madawaska Kanu Camp. Dues were raised to \$8 (single) and \$12 (family). Also during 1977, we began roll sessions. These took place from 8 am - noon on Sundays at UK's pool (and we complain about Mondays nights!).

February 7, 1978, we began meeting the first Tuesday of every month at Sage. 1978 saw Sam and Karen Moore lead a 114 mile trip on the St. Johns River. Other paddlers were Terry Weeks, Sally Stoltz, Ed Puterbaugh, Barb Stansbury, Beuren Garten and Don Spangler. Roll sessions for the fall of 1978 moved to the YWCA, Tuesday from 9 - 11 pm.

In March of 1979, our meeting place moved to the Upper Crust on Waller Ave. In May, we moved once again, this time to Joe B's on Southland Drive.

In 1980, our membership had grown to over 100 and we decided it was time to buy a club boat trailer. As 1980 neared an end, we changed our pool sessions once again, this time to Wednesday nights from 8 - 10 pm.

Spring of 1981 found Sam and Karen Moore, Don



Spangler, Mary Phillips, Terry Weeks, Arnie LeMay and Steve Morgan paddling the Petawawa followed by a trip to the Arkansas by Stan Slatter, Steve Morgan, Don Spangler, Mary Phillips and Rich Lewis. In 1982 the BWA sponsored the Southeastern River and Safety Symposium. We were now well established as the Bigtime Wrestling Association.

In 1983 Rich Lewis won the "Why I Swam Excuse of the Year" while Sam and Karen Moore, Terry Weeks, and Barry and Cynthia Grimes were the first BWA members to paddle the Rio Bio Bio in Chile. It was also during 1983 that we held the 1st National Paddling Film Festival, the 1st Annual BWA eat off and Barry and Cynthia began trying to sell their C-2. Pool sessions changed to Monday nights and Whitewater Passion first appeared in Bowlines as 1983 drew to a close.

In 1984 our members were paddling rivers in Nepal, Mexico and Costa Rica and we held the 2nd National Paddling Film Festival.

Our 7th Annual Beginners Clinic in the spring of 1985 found us relaxing in hot tubs at Frozen Head State Park after a "hard day on the river" while our non-boat-ing friends stayed home to attend Derby parties.

In the past ten years, we have grown from an idea of Charles Andre and Beuren Garten to an established organization. We've held eight beginners clinics, three National Paddling Film Festivals, and our members are paddling rivers throughout the world. We've taught and been taught. We've laughed together and we've shared tears. Our togetherness has made us what we are. We have endured the test of time. So, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BWA!! I'm certain there will be many more.

Carole Bryant

The Event that made us think we could put on a Film Festival

1982 Southeastern River Safety & Rescue Symposium



February 12 - 14

In the early eighties river safety and rescue skills were still relatively primitive and not well known or understood by many. The Bluegrass Wildwater Association decided to make an effort to educate paddlers in the Southeast on the dangers in paddling and how to participate in different kinds of rescues.

Presenters for the Symposium were well know at the time for their knowledge and skills concerning river safety and rescue. We had so- licated individuals from the National Park Service, Nantahala Outdoor Center, the TVA, Ohio Division of Watercraft, American Canoe Association/Red Cross, River Safety Task Force as well as memories of the BWA with considerable knowledge and abilities.

Our Dave Weiland provided buffet lunches, and Jan Atlee arranged for us to use the theater at the Nurses Center at UK. The success of the event was noted by club member Bob Sehlinger who suggested to us that we consider having a Paddling Film Festival. He, William Nealy & his wife, Holly, at Menasha Ridge backed us with several thousand dollars to get the NPFF started.

Program

Friday

7-8 pm Registration.....Lobby
8-10 Films and socializing

Saturday

8 am Registration.....Lobby
9:00 Safety from Down Under.....Sehlinger
9:30 "Uncalculated Risk".....Nichols
10:00 Vertical Pin on the Gaulley.....Leonard
10:30 BREAK
10:50 Rescue Organization..... Johns & Mason
12:00 LUNCH BREAK (\$2.00 buffet)
1:30 Mechanical Muscle: Z-Drag and Vector Pull.....Lewis
2:00 Rope Rescues..... Johns & Mason
3:15 Safety on the Ocoee River.....Berg
3:45 Big South Fork: Now and Tomorrow.....Voss & Meyer
4:30 Using Media to Get the Word Out.....Nichols
5:15 DINNER
7:30 Films

Sunday

9:30 am Paddling and the Art of Shoulder Maintenance.....Lovett
9:50 Hypothermia: Pound of Prevention.....Loudermilk
10:20 BREAK
10:40 Safety Education: A Paddler's Perspective.....Walbridge
12:00 LUNCH (\$2.00 buffet)
1:30 Urban River Rescue.....Dillon & Staiger
4:30 END OF CONFERENCE

The Presentors

TOM BERG - Ocoee On-Site Manager, TVA

FAM DILLON - Special Programs Coordinator, Ohio Division of Watercraft.

BUNNY JOHNS - Training Committee Coordinator of the American Canoe Association; Instructor/Coordinator of the Nantahala Outdoor Center.

CRIS LEONARD - Expert whitewater boater, Coastal Canoeists.

RICH LEWIS - Bluegrass Wildwater Association "Bowlines" editor and hard-core whitewater kayaker/swimmer.

FRANK LOUDERMILK, M.D. - Emergency Medical Physician; whitewater kayaker; Bluegrass Wildwater Association.

JOHN LOVETT - Senior medical student at the University of Kentucky; whitewater C-1'er; Bluegrass Wildwater Association.

DAVE MASON - Vice Commodore of the Dixie Division of the American Canoe Association; Instructor/Trainer of the American Canoe Association and American Red Cross.

WALTER MEYER - National Park Service Ranger of the Obed Wild and Scenic River.

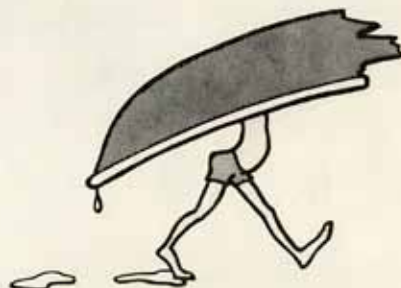
RUSS NICHOLS - President of Russ Nichols Productions; producer of several river safety films.

BOB SEHLINGER - Past president of Eastern Professional River Outfitters; author of several southeastern river guidebooks.

BILL STAIGER - Watercraft Officer, Ohio Division of Watercraft.

GLENN VOSS - National Park Service Chief Ranger of the Big South Fork and Obed Rivers.

CHARLIE WALBRIDGE - River Safety Task Force founder; Safety Chairman of the American Canoe Association.



The National Paddling Film Festival

Over the years the BWA has started several main events, roll sessions, clinic, safety classes and seminars, the Russell Fork Festival and the National Paddling Film Festival. Of these the NPFF has grown to be our most recognized and attended event. It has also become our biggest fund raiser.

The initial reason in 1983 for having a NPFF was to encourage river related films (both amateur & professional, which were rare up to that time.

The first NPFF was held at the then new Kentucky Horse Park. We learned a lot from the challenges we discovered in our first event and the second year moved it to state of the art theaters at the Nurses building at UK. The third year we skipped having the festival. We moved the event to the last weekend of February to allow film-makers the winter to work on video shot during the previous year.

The Festival prospered there for many years and we eventually learned how to make the event profitable. After some moves to the Kentucky Theater, the Lexington Civic Center and then the Thomas Hunt Morgan Home it has resided at the Buffalo Trace Elmer T. Lee Clubhouse.

The National Paddling Film Festival became popular with paddlers & film makers who have come from all over North America as well as Europe for the event. It took several years for the event to make money, but we were fortunate to have Menasha Ridge Press to bankroll us with the thousands it took to get the festival to be self sufficient Since 1981 the NPFF has raised \$146,600 of dollars that was donated to many river causes and groups. The first year we made money (1987) we donated 500.00 to American Rivers. It was a long climb until in 1999 we donated 9188.00 to the American Whitewater Association, the American Canoe As-

PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL

October 22 - 23
Kentucky Horse Park
Lexington, KY

PRIZES!

Amateur categories (slide and 8mm):

- SAFETY/INSTRUCTIONAL
- RACING
- RECREATIONAL/SCENIC
- HAIR BOATING
- HUMOR

Amateur combined subjects:

- 16 MM
- VIDEO

Professional exhibition:

- ALL MEDIA

For information write:
BWA
P.O. Box 4231
Lexington, KY 40504

SPONSORED BY THE BLUEGRASS WILDWATER ASSOCIATION & MENASHA RIDGE PRESS

SECOND NATIONAL Paddling Film Festival

1. Put your slides, films, or videos together and enter.
2. Mark your calendar for October 20-21, 1984 and come.
3. Do both and have a great time!

The Second National Paddling Film Festival is a contest of paddlers' amateur filmmaking efforts, and an opportunity for paddlers from across the country to get together, share experiences and celebrate the natural beauty of the waterways we travel.

We invite you to enter any 35mm slide, 8mm film, 16mm film, or videotape presentations of self-propelled watercraft; subjects may range from instructional to humor and hair. Amateur entries will be judged separately from professional presentations.

Join us this Fall to view presentations created by friends and fellow paddlers. On October 20-21, 1984 you will be greeted by Lexington, heart of the Kentucky Bluegrass region, by splendid autumn colors, and treated to indoor audiovisual facilities at the University of Kentucky for your viewing comfort. The Bluegrass Wildwater Association and Menasha Ridge Press will once again host a Saturday night **SPLASH**. Bring your boat and best swimsuit — we'll provide the music, libations, and indoor pool!

For more information on:
Entering/judging criteria
Coming/location
Camping/lodging

write:
Bluegrass Wildwater Association
P.O. Box 4231
Lexington, Kentucky 40504

SPONSORED BY MENASHA RIDGE PRESS & THE BLUEGRASS WILDWATER ASSOCIATION

About the Artist of These Posters

Jan Atlee was not only the "Club Artist" for many years, but also a very active paddler. She paddled OC-1, C-1, and K-1. Here you see the posters she did for the NPFF. She also did art for the Bowlines, logos, cartoons and characters of many of the more notorious members of the BWA. Jan also was noted for being one of the "famous" Women in Rubber of the BWA. Jan is now an artist in Georgetown and active at the the Scott County Arts & Cultural Center, and she still likes to paddle.

sociation, and the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. 1999 was followed by a few years that we made slightly less as the event went through some changes and tried some new locations out. But each year since the ones that Menasha Ridge supported have proved to be able to succeed.

This year will be the 34th year since we started the festival, but it will be only the 33rd NPFF. It seems skipping the year was a good idea.

Film Fest features wildwater,rubber

From Our Local Paper
Oct 1984
By Lyn Carlise Reporter

Can rushing white water with scenic green banks be found anywhere else except on the river? The Bluegrass Wildwater Association certainly thinks so.

Saturday and Sunday, this Lexington club and Menasha Ridge Press will be sponsoring their second National Paddling Film Festival, featuring exhibits and amateur and professional movies in a wide variety of categories. The films, slides and videotapes begin rolling at 10 a.m. Saturday in the UK Health Science Learning Center, located directly across from the Medical Center, and continue until 5 p.m.

The wildwater enthusiasts also invite the public to join them at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Landsdowne Club for an evening of music, dancing and the "infamous" "Women in Rubber Revue."

This wet suit entertainment has attracted much attention. According to Lynda Matusek, publicity chairwoman for the festival, the group's most recent show was for the Gauley River Festival in West Virginia, where they performed one of their more popular numbers - squeezing into wet suits to the tune "She Wore Black Rubber."

One of the films, "The Women in Rubber Do The Gauley," features the group. Entered by Lexingtonian Barry Grimes, it can be found under the humor category.

For more on the NPFF and the Women in Rubber go to: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BowlinesJanFeb2015.pdf>

Film Festival Update

The Film Festival donated a record \$1,800 to River Conservation groups.

\$850 went to the AWA

\$425 went to West Virginia Rivers Coalition

\$425 went to River Network

\$100 went to Elkhorn City's Russell Fork Fund

Thanks to all those who came and made this possible.

The 12th annual National Paddling Film Festival looks like it will be even better next year with the help of the ACA!

The NPFF hopes to attract more quality films and larger audiences. This will enable the NPFF to generate even more money to help protect our free flowing rivers and streams.

Look for our FF ad in the AWA Journal and Paddler magazine. The ad was created from the winning slide from this year's Best Paddling Slide Contest.

If you would like to be involved in this year's Film Festival, call Scott Smalley: 233-4012.

That's Jeff Snyder running a 50 waterfall on the Santa Domingo River in Chiapas, Mexico.

Matusek said the number of humor films has grown this year. Besides a good laugh with short 10 minute flicks such as "As Wesser Falls, So Falls Lesser Wesser Falls," spectators can munch popcorn while enjoying Olympic racing, canoe camping and something the pros refer to as "Hair Boating."

"Hair Boating," explained Matusek, features rivers on the very edge of navigability. A good example is "Where Toucans Dare," a 30-minute entry by contestants Sam Moore, Don Spangler & Mike Weeks. One of the longer films, it documents an expedition to the Mexico's Jatate River, which has rarely been run, Matusek said.

The festival also includes a two-minute video, "Classical Kayaking." In the humor category, "River Flow" features the vocal chords of Bob Dylan.

The films include an R-rated entry by Californian Corwin Fergus, titled "Further Adventures in the North Woods." The "Rubber Revue" is a PG-13 feature.

This year's prizes will be awarded Sunday; the morning's activities begin at 10:30, for those who survived the party. The cost is \$10, which covers both days of film viewing, and \$5 for the party.

**12th Annual
National Paddling Film Festival**

FEBRUARY 24-25, 1995
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
All proceeds go to river conservation

SPONSORS:
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Bluegrass
WILDWATER
American
Canoes
Association

Photo: Michele Wernick/American Adventure Productions—
Winner 1994 Film Festival Slide Competition

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
BWA, Scott Smalley (606) 278-2552 OR ACA, David Jenkins (703) 451-0141

National Paddling Film Festival 2012

February 24-25, 2012



Guest Host: Steve Fisher

Famous Guest Hosts... We had 'em at NPFF!

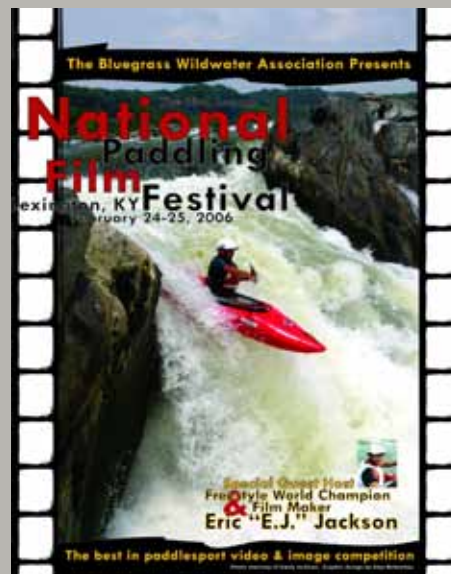
Promoting Paddling
While Supporting

2008
National
Paddling
Film Festival
Feb. 25-26

National Paddling Film Festival
2014



Guest Host
Fred Norquist



Special Guest Host
Freestyle World Champion
& Film Maker
Eric "E.J." Jackson

The 28th National
Paddling Film Festival
with Guest Host Doug Ammons



28 Years of Promoting
Paddling Films & Images
While Supporting River Causes



Year's Special Guest
Kent Ford

2004 Corran Addison

2005 Kent Ford

2006 Eric "EJ" Jackson

2007 John Grace

2008 Todd Gillman & Bryan Smith

2010 Tyler Bradt

2011 Doug Ammons

2012 Steve Fisher

2013 Rush Sturges

2014 Fred Norquist

2015 Ben Marr

And More to Come!



Guest Host Ben Marr

National Paddling
Film Festival 2015



PRESENTING THE 30TH
NATIONAL
PADDLING
FILM FESTIVAL

WITH GUEST HOST RUSH STURGES



Since our first festival,
we have been a leader in



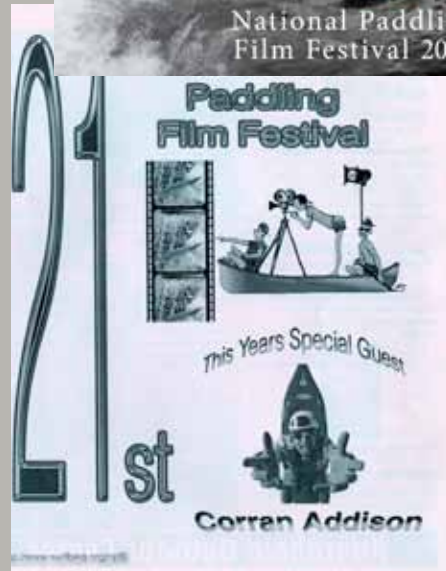
2007
Our 24th
Year!



Photo: 2006 NPFF Best Image Winner "Sturgeon falls" by Renee Fawcett

Special Guest Host
John Grace

Chosen by National Geographic as
one of the best adventurers of 2005



Paddling
Film Festival



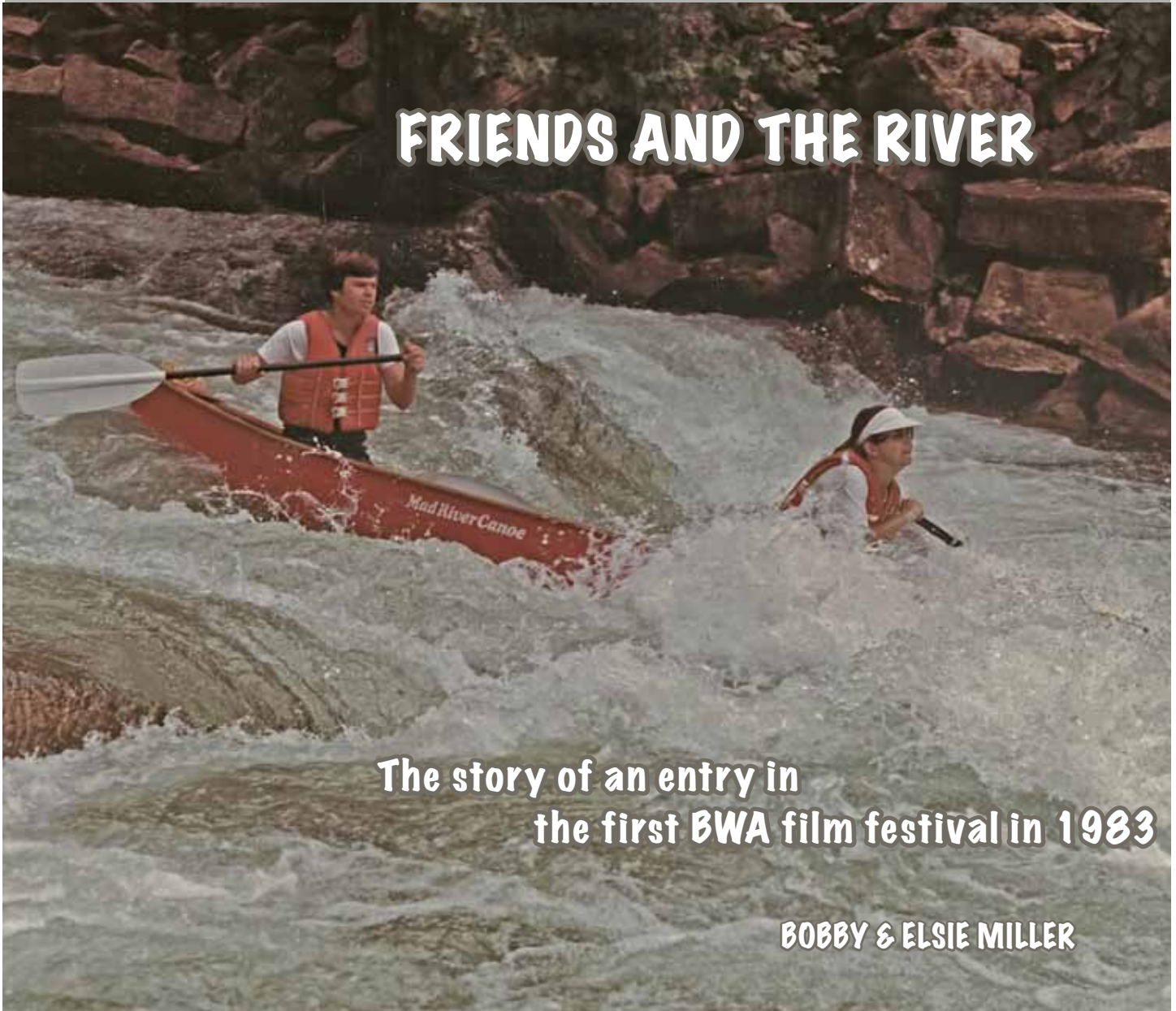
This Year's Special Guest



Corran Addison

Found: the NPFF, the BWA, New Friends and New Rivers

Each one of us have our path to the paddling life. Here is one that led to many good times on rivers all over North America that started with a simple canoe trip and an entry to the first NPFF.



FRIENDS AND THE RIVER

The story of an entry in
the first BWA film festival in 1983

BOBBY & ELSIE MILLER

I can't write this without first telling you how the idea to enter and the idea for the title came to be. On Labor Day Weekend 1981, Elsie and I agreed to go on a overnight canoe/camping trip with some acquaintances (soon to become good friends) down Green River in Taylor and Green Counties. Little did we know that this brief weekend would have a big impact on our lives for years to come and continuing to this day.

Our group of four couples rented aluminum canoes, packed our day gear (we had left our tents and camping gear at a friends farm along the river) and headed for the put in. No one in our group had much, if any experience (Elsie and I had zero), but I believe we all felt like great adventurers. The trip turned out to be quite eventful for us (at least we thought so) even though, thankfully no one was injured. The weather was clear and mild, but the Corps did have a robust release going, putting the mighty Green in the trees. Of

course, we had no idea about the consequences of any of this, so we bravely shoved off. It didn't take too long, and soon we had all four boats headed down stream. I think we all were feeling confident and I can't remember when the mishaps happened, but of the four boats, only Elsie and I managed to show signs of our future paddling brilliance (any of you who may have witnessed a few lapses in that brilliance over the years please keep it to your selves) by remaining mostly upright all weekend. One of the group was an accomplished photographer. What he was not accomplished at, was keeping his expensive camera gear dry. Not long into the trip his boat snagged on a limb (I'm pretty sure he blamed it on his wife) and he suffered the loss of nice equipment. Another couple felt they might need a little something to bolster their courage so they had brought along a cooler of Bloody Marys. We're not sure if that contributed to their mishap, but what we are sure of is, the wife had Elsie's nice non waterproof binoculars around her neck. That did not have a good ending.

We finally made it to the campsite (about 10 miles). Camping was great fun, sitting around the fire, telling lies, and enjoying some adult beverages. Someone had acquired a big canvas tent that we all tried to sleep in. It didn't take long to find out who you would rather not share a tent with. Some of our new friends could snore with the best of 'em.

In spite of the few mishaps (hey, who has been on a trip without mishaps, and aren't they often what we most fondly remember), the two most important things I took away from that weekend were the new friends I had made and the almost unexplainable peace and tranquility I had experienced while being in that canoe. For those few days, the stress and thoughts of everyday life were forgotten.

Later that fall we would take a trip down the Elkhorn in those same aluminum canoes. Some of those same new friends were with us. That was our first taste of whitewater and even though our friends never felt the allure of the rapids, I believe Elsie and I were hooked from that day. I can still see two of our male friends (I think Elsie was the only female to tackle the Elkhorn that day) when their aluminum canoe went over in the rapid just below the dam. The mishap seemed to be in slow motion as we watched the paddlers desperately trying to reach out and climb onto the bottom of the overturned boat. No more whitewater for them!

The next spring, summer and fall we continued to paddle numerous flat water rivers with our new friends: the Upper Green above the lake, Russell Creek in Green County, the Rolling Fork in Marion County, the Beech Fork of the Rolling Fork in Washington County. Every paddling trip presented numerous opportunities for photos of the rivers and our friends. I could go on, like how Elsie, our son Rob and myself rented a royalex canoe at the Hiwassee in the summer of 1982. We had gone to Knoxville for the "Worlds Fair". We didn't find the fair so interesting, so we went canoeing instead.

By late 1982 I had decided we needed our own canoe. I surprised the family with a new Mad River Explorer at Christmas, bought from Steve Morgan at Sage on Bardstown Road in Louisville.

We both loved being on the river and wanted to learn more about whitewater. I believe it was probably at Sage that we learned about the Viking Canoe Club and became members and participated in their 1983 Spring Clinic on the Tellico. We took the tandem open boat class and loved it. It was a great day on Saturday practicing running a small rapid, doing eddy turns and learning to ferry. As it seems to often go at clinics, it rained all Saturday night, and the next day the Tellico was running high. I believe all classes were canceled, but a few of the better paddlers (Rich Lewis K1, Ray Hinton OC1 and maybe a couple of others) put on and entertained the rest of us. Naturally, Elsie and I were taking many snapshots of the paddlers who were soon to become our friends.

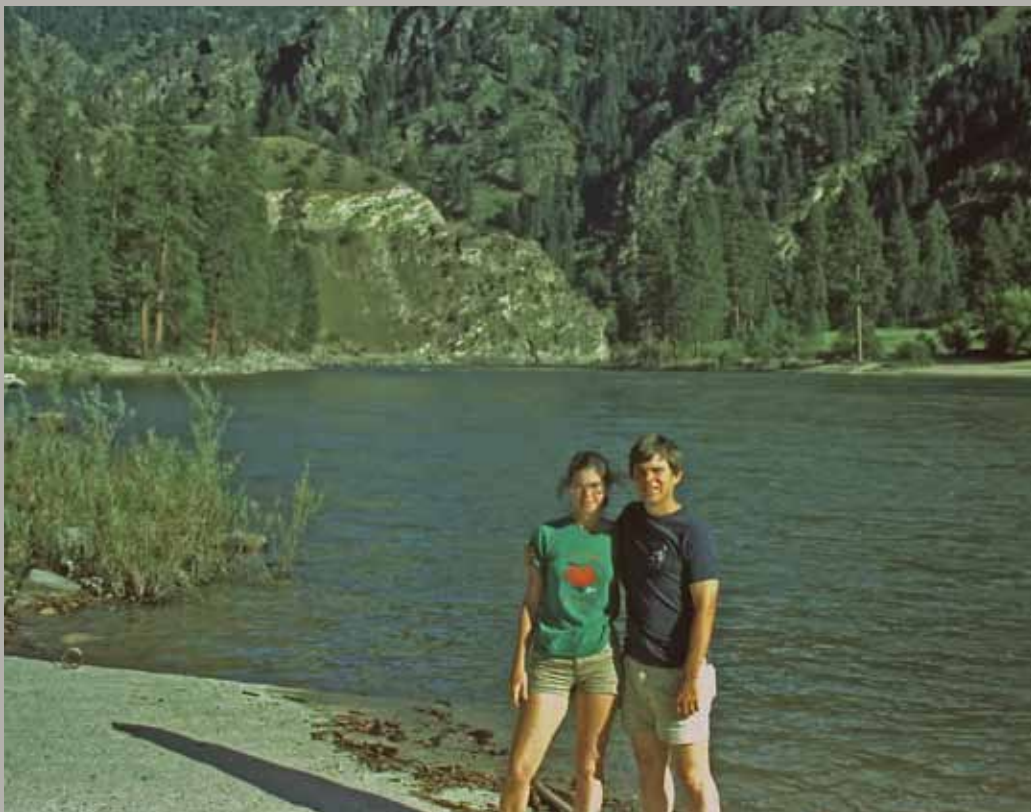
Now about the film festival.

Since we were members of the Viking Canoe Club, we got the notice that was sent out by the BWA about an upcoming paddling film festival. One of the categories was slides. Since we had many slides of our friends paddling, we decided why not give it a try. We felt this was a good way to join in with other paddlers, probably learn something, make some new friends, and since this was the first film festival and the BWA was asking for entries, maybe help in a small way to make the festival a success. Our entry was a slide show of about 40 slides divided into two parts. We called it "Friends and the River". The first part were slides of our local friends and their children on our local rivers. Just snapshots of us having fun! The music we chose to accompany the first part was "Peaceful Easy Feeling" by the Eagles. Even though ALL the words were not relevant, the tune was nice and it did reflect that feeling the rivers gave us. The second part was a few snapshots of whitewater paddling (the above mentioned clinic making up a big part of the photos, since we hadn't been around much yet). For that part we choose "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" by Flatt and Scruggs. We felt the upbeat and energetic nature of the tune fit in with the excitement of whitewater, still do. You better take that stroke, you better make that brace!

Even though we didn't win an award, we were glad to have participated in what turned out to be the beginning of a wonderful event that so many have worked so hard to put on over the years. For those of you who may have missed the 1983 event, here are a few of our recollections. When Don asked us to write this article I said that I remembered it being in November. Don, having the advantage of the written record, corrected me and said it was in October. OK, maybe it was October, but it was a cold, windy, and rainy day. It could have easily been November, if not December. It was held at a big barn at the Kentucky Horse Park. The BWA had put black plastic sheeting on many of the walls to try and keep the wind out and placed bales of hay or straw in strategic locations for insulation. It was a good try. It was still colder than a mother in laws kiss. In spite of the unpleasant weather (hey, rain makes the rivers run) we remember having a great time.

Thanks to that weekend, we made friends with many BWA members and were soon members ourselves. Over the years we have had so many wonderful times with our friends and the rivers. Everything from day trips on rivers in Kentucky or Tennessee to multiple week trips out west or in Canada. We can put a value on many things in our lives, but we consider the times spent with our friends on these river trips priceless.

In closing, we hope that our small contribution to that first film festival did help the festival to take off and to enjoy many years of success. We also want to thank all of you who have worked so hard over the years to put the festivals on, because even though we never had another entry we continued to attend for many years.



Bobby & Elsie Miller on a river beach out west during a river trip

Off the Cuff

Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

What rivers have you conquered this year?

December 28, 2015

Hi All,

The end of the year always leaves me thinking about events over the past 12 months. As a club, it's been a pretty decent year. We had an awesome NPFF (thanks John and Bethany), one of the biggest clinics in a long time, a great Summer Party (with no bear attacks) (thanks Clay), some amazing beginner trips (thanks Adelessa), a couple of great boater marriages that turned out to be huge club parties as well, (Thanks Matt and Liz) and above all else, (Thanks Megan) and one of the best Rendezvouses in a long time (thanks Nate and a massive number of volunteers)

For me, one of the most exciting things over the past 12 months has been the huge influx of new boaters. As kind of a tradition, I was wondering which rivers, new to you, have you all conquered this year? New members, more seasoned members (You'll notice I didn't say "Old" members) but I'm curious, what about it folks, what have you done?

Bob

Elkhorn, Pigeon, BSF, Ocoee (raft), Hiwassee, Russell Fork, Glens, Nanty, Youghagenny (sorry my spelling is way off)

Howard

This is my first year paddling whitewater kayaks and I can't seem to get enough. Spent much time on the water (at least one time/wk for 34 weeks straight) thanks to some great BWA friends and the drive to become a better paddler. I'm very grateful for all the river rats that I've met and paddled with!

Rockcastle 450cfs, 250cfs, 120,cfs

Nantahala at release

Cumberland below the falls 2400cfs, 1750cfs

Glenn's Creek x5

Boone Creek

Silver Creek x4

Ocoee x2

Upper Pigeon laps ~1000cfs x5

Nolichucky 1800cfs

BSF Canyon laps 1800cfs, 1600cfs, 1350cfs, 450cfs

Upper Russell Fork ~1100cfs, 800cfs x2

Little River, TN Elkmont to Sinks and Elbow to the Y

(Although not new, Elkhorn 5200cfs, 3300cfs, 2800cfs, 1900cfs, 1200cfs x2, 900cfs, 800cfs, 600cfs x2, 400cfs, 200cfs.)

It has been a great year, going to start the new one by rafting the New River in WV. Take care friends.

Michael Daughtery

December 29, 2015

Awesome guys. What's next, BSF Gorge?

Bob

This is so fun because I try to tell my non-boating friends and they don't care. I can see it in their eyes.

This year, I got PFDs on:

Benson Creek

Cedar Creek

Glenn's Creek

Middle Ocoee

Upper Russell Fork

Lower Gauley

All were done at medium or release levels and resulted in only 3 swims, 2 of which were handed to me by the Lower G.

My new year's resolutions include creeks like Muddy and Calloway, BSF Gorge and Tellico, as well as a little more time upright on the lower Gauley. All in all, I'd call it a successful second year of boating for me, and a really awesome first year for a lot of my new friends.

-MeganL

As many of you know I am also a new member/boater - started at Clinic in May earlier this year. I haven't got to paddle as much as my childless, unmarried friends but I am grateful for the time that I have spent on the water and in the company of BWA (and Vikings and some others). Mostly I owe thanks to my wife, who hasn't left me yet (the paddling hobby somewhat stressed our marriage this year....imagine that.) My log shows 27 days on the water since May with the following rivers & creeks under my belt:

Elkhorn

Upper Red River (although I think I swam more of the Narrows than I paddled)

Russell Fork, Upper & Lower sections

Pigeon, Upper & Lower sections

Ocoee, middle section
Big South Fork, Gorge & Canyon sections
Silver Creek
Muddy Creek
Boone Creek

Looking forward to next year I am anxious to get my 9 yr old daughter involved - have gotten her a boat and most of the gear she needs and will have her at roll practice in the coming weeks.

Ben M

I wouldn't say I conquered anything this year but here is a list of things i've been on:

Elkhorn (o' course)
Muddy
Tellico
Lower RF
Upper & Lower Pigeon
Upper Red
Calloway
Middle Ocoee
Hiawasee
BSF Gorge/Canyon
Glenn's
Rockcastle

PFDs: Muddy, Tellico, Upper Red, Hiawasee, BSF Gorge, Glenn's

34 days on the water, so more paddle time is my resolution.

SYOTR

G3

January 01, 2016

I hit a couple of new ones this year but what I want to discuss is how much pride I have in each and every one of you that is out there and discovering the wonders there that your senior members found out years ago. I bought my first canoe right after Deliverance came out so I've been di

To say that you were in diapers when I was discovering these rivers is in no way a stretch of the truth. And you know what? The waters are just as much fun today as they were then. Thanks to good conservation and care, some of the waters are in better shape than they were then. The Pigeon is first to come to mind.

You good people are just as magnificent as we were then. I see a genuine caring for and of each other. You are polite, you are adventurous, and you are generous to each other. You bring with you your knowledge of the streams and the wisdom to maintain safety and protocol on the waters. You encourage each other and you congratulate the successes

and empathize with the failures. You have made lists of the rivers you paddled last year. It is likely you can remember most, maybe not all, but most of the people you paddled those waters with.

You share a love and respect for each other as you do the waters. You share what you have and you extend a helping had to your brothers and sisters. You are showing the maturity required to become not only an expert paddler, but an expert person. As you continue to explore not only the rivers, but also yourselves, please take notice that those of the senior class are watching and urging you along. You are finding out now what we were realizing years ago.

The joy of the journey on the river is one thing. The joy of the journey on the river with your fellow paddler, you will discover, far exceeds anything the river has to offer.

Dallas

Love this tradition! Wish I had kept a river journal to take note of the levels but overall had a pretty good year. Thanks to everyone for their company and/or leadership that made these runs so much fun.

PFDs for 2015:

Lower Big Creek
Little River (Sinks to Elbow)
Caney Fork
Lower Tellico
Upper Gauley (--> Marathon! hot smiley)
Cheoah
Little River (Elkmont to Sinks)
Little River (Elbow to Y)

I've also had a lot of fun showing some of the newer members some of my favorite runs. Trips on the Ocoee, Lower Gauley, BSF, and Tellico spring to mind. We've got an awesomely good vibe going within the club right now and I can't wait to see what we can fire up together in 2016! Such a fun crowd, let's get out again soon! smileys with beer

Yours knowingly,
MFW

January 04, 2016

"It's not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves."

I'm happy to have simply co-existed with whitewater rivers over the years, and sometimes truly grateful to have survived with friends, gear, and egos intact!

justin.mcdaniel

January 05, 2016

Well said Dallas, and also well said Justin! I am happy to brag about that trip that I put together to the gaully last

fall. Mfw was my inspiration. He led a trip earlier in gaully season. I must admit I felt like a true bad-ass boater when we got to woods ferry rapid (the first kinda big one on the middle gaully) and I led it! Now I know that there were tons of stronger paddlers in our group that day, but it still felt pretty cool leading that rapid that day. Something else pretty cool that happened to me was (a different trip) we had just paddled the upper ocoee and we took out at edge of the world rapid to eat lunch. Well my dumbass leans my boat upright against a small tree and went up to our spot to eat. Well apparently my boat fell into the river and was churning in that boiling water right there. Somebody got out (which isn't easy to do right there I might add) and rescued my boat for me!!!! They drained it and set it aside safe on the forest floor. Just another prime example of how us boaters look out for each other on and off the water. Thank you mystery person! That was very cool cuz it might have floated into a more difficult place for a safe recovery. Very cool!

Tim s

Looks like some awesome times were had by many in 2015! It is really cool to see all the newer boaters finding a love for the sport and getting after it like you guys are!

I took a new job at the beginning of the year that I thought might cut heavily into my boating time but I think it all worked out pretty well actually. Good to know I'm not going to have to find a new job winking smiley

2015 PFDs for me included:

Jouett - Great crew, great level, and that one drop above the flume, dead and bloated I believe, is really nice! Look forward to another round on this hard to catch gem someday!

Nantahala Cascades - Low flow, definitely want to catch this one with some more juice in it. Hope to catch a Friday release this year.

Daddy's Creek - First time down a run with a group where no-one had been on the run before. Made for a really fun day and great practice for boat scouting! It is really beautiful out on there!

Russell Fork Gorge (first time at release level) - This was my favorite PFD of the year. I will admit I was pretty nervous the first day. Second day the nerves chilled out and the lines smoothed out as a result! I hope to start getting out here on a more routine basis with some of the RFG regulars. Peter, thanks again for the awesome lines! Also, big congratulations on your PFB, George!

Personal goals for 2016:

PFD on Benson (still haven't been on it)

PFD on West Fork of the Tuckasegee

PFD on the Green

More RFG

Cedar at high water (must get more of this wonderful surf)

I look forward to spending more time on the water with everyone in 2016!

Derek

January 08, 2016

Not going into the "rivers I conquered this year", although have been on several in the Southeast area, including the Blg Pigeon River 152 times in either a kayak or raft (this included one TUBE run with other rafts guides that included entirely too much alcohol!). Most FUN runs was the TUBE trip and guiding down the Ocoee with Team River Runner and B.W.A. members in which I spilled everyone, twice, except for the raft and myself (THE MAIN THINGS :-)). However, I would like to say to and acknowledge the "new" members of the B.W.A. and the sport of Kayaking of the last couple years that have progressed SO-O-O much and well on their way to be "BadAss" B.W.A. boaters!!!! Seeing these people progress in their skills is so great and fun!!!!

B. J. : Kayak Bum

Paddling has been a BLAST getting out with all these bad ass boaters, stomping some boofs down these rivers, and the campfire stories continues to get more grand with each adventure.

This year I have paddled some great water starting with clinic. We started it off right on that Friday before hand by getting out on the lower for some practice runs. The Korn was there for some training with laps with all that great rain we had in early summer. Next we had the awesome beginners pig trip that was a blast. This lead to several other trips down to the pig in middle summer. Then one weekend the Red River was up and pumping and I found myself there, a beautiful place in the spring, and at the right level a little meaty. The BSF canyon laps soon fell into place. This Building up to the first trip down the Ocoee at summer party. Now this trip really took it to the next level. The Ocoee was such a blast that we continued to travel back after summer party for several laps finishing it out with a great first decent on the upper Ocoee, with a great roll in the Olympic section. Now I found myself at the Gauley on opening weekend running the middle with an amazing crew I had meet at the Ocoee. Next was an amazing trip to the Nolichucky, then running a few laps back down at the pig. So, I found myself in Madison County paddling Silver creek and Muddy having a blast. Then I got a call about Daddy's creek running and we were off and running on creeking season. The next big trip after Daddy's was the Tellico another great adventure. followed up by a beautiful paddle down Boone creek then we kept the energy strong through the new year by getting out last weekend on the Little river and running the sinks to the elbow then running over to the Tellico on Sunday for a great lap.

Thanks to all the bad ass boaters that have made this an

amazing adventure on the water ways.

jJames Welch

January 13, 2016

Hmmm, never "conquered" a river in my life. Been conquered by rivers a few times. Regardless, I have experienced joy paddling on a number of rivers this past year, none new: Pigeon, Greenbriar, Little, Tremont, Big Creek Upper and Lower, Cheoah, Elkhorn, Daddy's Creek, Watauga, Nolichucky, Big South Fork, Island Creek, Caney Fork, Lower Yough, Upper Yough, Middle Fork Tygart (Audra), Cheat, Upper Meadow, Upper Gauley, Russell Fork Gorge and I am probably missing something. Multiples of course on the Little, Greenbriar, Big Creek, Pigeon, Upper Gauley and RFG. Good year, maybe 125-150 days, but got sidelined the last two months with a shoulder strain. Back on the water for the first time yesterday. Annual birthday boating. Me, Lou and Dot on the Pigeon at 300 cfs. Great day.

Ya'll come see me. I am back in my boat...
Brent

Relatively inexpensive racks for small cars

December 30, 2015

[www.sportrack.com]

I picked up one of these racks for my son's Mazda Six and they were really better made than I had anticipated. They are half the cost of a Yakima system, a bit lighter rated, 130 lbs per rack verses 150 on a Thule or Yakima, but that is plenty for a kayak. You can find these racks cheaper than the list price given.

From the looks of the rain gutter style racks, this may be the old Pannon rack company. I had one of those on my old truck and they are still going strong after 15 years with the new owner of the topper.

Just thought I would give a heads up since I know boaters tend to be a cheap lot smoking smiley.

Larry Cable

Last minute Christmas ideas

December 20, 2015

Hey All,

With the Christmas holiday rapidly approaching, and the last minute scramble for gifts underway, have you thought about giving the best gift of all; a full year of AW membership. As per the December club meeting, the BWA has opened our sponsorship program up to ALL Kentucky boaters and for only \$10.00 for an individual membership or \$35.00 for a family membership, AW offers benefits like nothing else.

Visit the BWA Sponsorship site for more information at

www.awmembership.weebly.com

Aside from the National River database that we all know, use and love, located on the AW site at [www.americanwhitewater.org] American Whitewater supports the paddling community in hundreds of activities. As an AW member, you are not only supporting AW in this work but also the boaters you paddle with every day. Below are just a few examples of the work you'll support with your AW membership;

As an AW member you help to affect river projects throughout the United States. In Washington State and Iowa, your membership helped American Whitewater construct new river access points on Canyon Creek, and the Noonsack, Sauk and Clackamas Rivers.

In Colorado, your membership allowed AW to continue its work with the state in adopting a Colorado Water Plan which helps to ensure free flowing water for paddlers in a state undergoing a major push to establish a new network of dams, reservoirs and trans-mountain pipelines.

In Montana, your membership empowered AW to continue its 5 year-long effort to establish a network of over 700 miles of rivers designated as "Wild and Scenic Rivers". Now in its final push, this legislation would forever protect these rivers dams and other construction which could not only severely restrict boater access but destroy these extremely scenic rivers.

In North Carolina, which has almost 400 dams and only 3 permanently protected rivers, your membership has allowed AW to continue its work with the Forest Service so that other rivers, such as the Gragg Prong added to this list. In North Carolina, as in many states throughout the United States, AW is leading the fight to establish new and better access for boaters, and it's your membership that gives them the muscle to get these project and many more like them done.

With the BWA Sponsorship Program, we've not only made it easy for you to do but also a lot cheaper. Do your part, sign up today at: www.awmembership.weebly.com

Bob

Dallas's Polar Bear Challenge?

January 17, 2016

I have not heard mention of this so far this winter, but Dallas started it, many, many moons ago. Yeah, many of us have had super cold ass days in the teens, covered in ice, but that was then and this is now. So lets start off 2016: I just paddled the Pigeon today, it was 33 degrees, spitting snow, running 2250. Who can get colder than that?

Brent

I accept this challenge and will boat with you next weekend, Pigeon, Greenbriar, Little; it don't matter let's bring it on.

Chief

Awesome Brent! Was out on the water today as well, I'm willing to discover my boundries, it's still t-shirt weather in Alaska.

Michael Daughtery

Nine degrees and seven inches of brand new snow. Just wanted to remind you aspiring record breakers where the line of scrimmage is. Records are made to be broken and if you can break this you have my respect. BTW: Alaska does not count (does it?).. That goes for you too Hellman. Just be careful out there with temps like that. It is dangerous and even if you don't flip, you are still at a high potential for a cold weather injury.

Dallas

You guys are all nuts. Let me know how it goes. 102 de-grees from my Hot Tub.

Howard

January 18, 2016

My new dry suit is not rated to break the record.

Joe W.

Nine degrees and seven inches of snow will hold for a while Dallas, you have my respect. Jason and I did our night run at 14 degrees the year you broke the record, and let me tell you, I was cold as hell. But with that said, If anyone out there gives it a run be careful, temps like that are dangerous. For us, we were so cold and covered in ice that we literally had to stay in a heated car for 45 minutes before the ice melted enough to get our PFD's unzipped.... Brrrrr.

Here's a pic from that night, which we took at Dam Rapid. By the time we got back to AW, we had icicles hanging off our helmets that were a couple of inches long.

Bob



Please don't let me take all the credit here. That day I called Tim Miller and without a second's hesitation he said he would go. A few others who I called said I was bat shit crazy. Tim is just as drain bamaged as I

Dallas

January 22, 2016

Tomorrow night calls for a low of 8 so the opportunity is there for someone. No one has said how long the run needs to be so I think it could be done as a park and surf just to get the record. That low is about 32 degrees below where my limit sits so no danger of me giving it a try as I sit somewhere above bat \$hit crazy.

Joe W.

January 24, 2016

Looks like Dallas and Tim have broken the record again. After 20 years holding the record they just reset the bar! Joe W.



January 25, 2016

Come back when you get on some real Whitewater.

My top three winter time remote runs.

Cumberland Below the Falls in a snow storm and day time high of 25 degrees.

Big South Fork from the Confluence to Leatherwood with a day time high of 23 degrees.

Red River Gorge from Stillwater to the Bridge below Sky Bridge, 16 degrees when we put on the river.

The latter were all canoeist, the first two in kayaks. The advantage of a kayak is that your sprayskirt quits leaking once the ice forms on it.

Downside is all the zippers on the PFD's froze.

Larry Cable

Larry, I accept your invitation. Though I have not kept written record, here is a short list:

Russell Fork Gorge: 3 inches of snow and thick ice covering the rocks. Walk-in was a bitch. Had to slide over quite a bit of ice on the side of the river just to get to the current.

Little River of the Smoky Mountains. Several runs where snow was plentiful and the water was 'invigorating'.

BSF: Witch titty cold with ice plentiful. The sky was as blue as our lips and to this day I remember that even though the sun was out, it never blessed us with its rays.

Nantahala: Snow, ice, snow and.....snow. Water was Liquid Snow. We thought the bitter temps would make the water seem a bit warmer as the Nantahala is always cold. It did not. That place was COLD.

Elkhorn: Some of the most impressive and beautiful ice anywhere, especially on our helmets. Who can't appreciate the wall of ice between Colson's Lane and Surf City? Old record of 9 degrees was set there.

Just a short list. I have paddled several trips where we compliment each other on the size of our impressive icicles. But putting all that to the side, please allow me to say: "3 degrees and the bar is reset".

Dallas

January 26, 2016

It might be a little crusty but the testosterone is still slinging here. Keep the stories coming. I got 32 and sunny on the elkhorn and pretty happy to keep that as my personal best so no competition from the cheap seats!

Joe W.

January 28, 2016

I've had too many cold, kick-ass ice formations on the horn to remember. (Guess a boating log would be a good idea), but on morning sticks out in my mind in particular. We just had one vehicle and the plan was to just park-n-surf at the dam. The creek above the dam was completely frozen over! So we had to hike along that ridge line down to the dam! Snow covered, with our boats, had to lower them down to the ice with a throwrope! Brian, Caroline from Louisville, s brother dropped his boat and it went out onto the ice!!! We had to tie s rock onto the rope and lasso the boat off the ice cuz we couldn't walk onto the ice. I've got about one brain cell enough to know that that would spell insta-death to fall through. MAN that was a schetch!! For future reference, if the creek is frozen over, just pack it up and go home. Temp? Cold twenties. I will never do that again!! Tim s

I want a new paddle

December 09, 2015

So I have a boat, all kinds of gear, but I need a reasonable paddle. My crap paddle will be retired to be used for our spare boat for friends and family. Anyway, does this make sense- I still want a 30degree offset since I seem to roll fairly well with my present 30 degree. Is the bent shaft thing a big deal? I can't tell the difference when I borrow friends' paddles. Maybe it's my lack of technique that makes it all seem the same. Also my current paddle is 196cm. I am 5'11". Does that sound right? When I am looking online for used stuff, are there certain brands I sould steer away from and ceratin brands I should only consider?

Thanx
Howard

I bought a used Werner Powerhouse bent shaft a couple years ago. This was a transition from a straightshaft. I found that the straightshaft felt like it had more "leverage", especially in "hooking" the lip of a ledge in a boof. Could have just been my personal interpretation of it, but I have heard others say similar things. However, being that I've had a surgery proceedure on my right arm that left me with a plate fixed to the bone, the bent shaft is by far more gentle on the arm and wrist than the straight shaft. I would also add about the Powerhouse, one does not simply lay on the couch all winter and expect to pick it up in the Spring to continue where the previous season left off.

The sizing chart on the NRS site states a 194 will fit 5'8"-6'1". I'm 5'10" and a 194 feels comfortable. My previous paddle was a 197 and the length difference is slightly noticeable, but not an issue. ...The length difference may also be a small factor in the "leverage" issue.

Kevin

December 10, 2015

I prefer bent. I like carbon Werner and AT. Each has adv/

disadv. The grip area is a little different on each. There were some gripes with the new AT glass paddles breaking but supposedly the problem was fixed. I prefer a bit longer stick. My legs are short so I base my length on my wingspan which is 5' 9.5" My creeking / river running length is 196 and playboating 194. Love the aggressive bend and oval on my Lightning playboat paddle but unfortunately they're no longer marketed in US.

Wes

Howard,
I like the Werner bent shaft too. Easier on my forearms on long days of paddling. I have a Stikine that is 45 degree and 200 length. Mostly because that is what I have always paddled, since back when I first converted from a 207 length, 90 degree Perception Harmony paddle, around the early 90s. I am on my fourth Werner and really really appreciate the stick. Bottom line, it is all personal preference and what you get used to. Buy quality and it will treat you right. Good luck.
Brent

I'm 5'11" and have used a 198 Werner bent shaft Stikine for the last several years. My forearms and wrists are kind of wrecked so I prefer the ergos of the bent shaft for me personally.

You may get better leverage with a straight shaft if that's what you're used to. I'm more apt to go a little longer rather than shorter for a few reasons. Blade and length sort of depend on your strength as well as personal preference. I think whatever you get used to is what you'll like....until you try something else and get used to that.

Dave Lafferty

There is no formula for height or wingspan to paddle length, it's a personal choice.

I have a werner straight shaft 194 that I use for most purposes and an AT bent shaft racing paddle that I use for going fast.

Depending on the specific stroke, a bent or straight shaft may give you more leverage instance to instance. However, length and blade size are the main factors in leverage. The longer your shaft and the bigger your blade, the more leverage you have.

HOWEVER:

The goal is not to maximize leverage. The shorter your shaft and the smaller your blade, the more fine control you have and the faster you can move your paddle, especially when the blades are in the water or underwater. More leverage allows you to use your strength, often to your detriment. A shorter paddle allows you to move more, use your body and the water more effectively.

This is a subtle point with a strong effect that is often lost even on those who utilize this advantage. Shorter paddles and smaller blades also help protect your shoulders from injury.

Brent talks about his old 90 degree 207, he's not joking. When I started I had a Silver Creek 204 with a 90 degree offset because that was the standard, evolved from racing paddles where leverage was critical for winning. As time went on, folks started to really realize how clumsy these paddles were and they fell out of fashion, never to return.

So, what's the right length and blade size? Beats me, but don't be afraid to use a paddle that might seem a little too small. You'll get used to it and you may just learn to love it.

Hanley Loller

PS: Come to roll session sometime and ask to try my Q-tip. It's an actual paddle that I used as my main paddle for several years in the late 90's and it's kind of freakishly small, but it gives you some crazy speed rolling and it works better than you probably suspect as an actual paddle. Higher stroke rate, less power per stroke, more fine control.

Hanley Loller

Hanley, Werner paddle disagrees with you and does have a formula for paddle style and size. [www.wernerpaddles.com]

I find it's assumption and recommended sizes reasonable. While to an extent paddle length is a personal preference, their recommendations are a good starting point.

Larry Cable

Thought it would be good to have this chart in the chain for future reference. Also I combed the site and could find no mention of werner being in disagreement with Hanley.

HEIGHT RANGE	PADDLER HEIGHT
4'8" to 5'2"	191cm
5'2" to 5'8"	194cm
5'8" to 6'	197cm
6' to 6'3"	200cm
6'3" and taller	203cm

December 11, 2015

Werner knows what they did. ;-)

They can disagree with me all they want. I'll agree that their sizing isn't a bad place to start if you're going from scratch, but different folks are going to be happy with different blades. Musculature plays a role in blade size and shaft length, but I don't see it accounted for.

Nice to see you're still lurking, Larry. Always a pleasure running into you.

Hanley Loller

You have to follow the link and go through the previous steps to get recommended blade size. The blade is size by stature and athletic ability. So for a river runner and being a stout guy at 5'9" and 197 Powerhouse would be their recommendation and it would be my choice too. If I pick one for the crossover, it would recommending going to a 200, and I agree with that also. I would also recommend that length for anyone self supporting in their river runner. Paddling a loaded boat with a short paddle isn't fun.

Larry Cable

I started with a straight shaft, and found that after 3 or 4 days consecutive paddling I would get Tennis elbow. Switched to a bent shaft, and never had another issue, but I would say it's personal preference. Also, consider a blade with a dynel edge, so you still have the same blade shape 4 years from now instead of a tooth pick. They are pricier, but will not wear down to nubs like Handley's "Speed" paddle. The length is personal preference, but make sure you have a long enough stick for your height and build. I use 200 CM for 6'2" with long arms and torso, and it provides good leverage without my arms being extended past the ready position. I watched someone about my height and build yesterday with a 194" and they were choking up to the blade on one side in rapids when their hands would go to their natural position on a paddle that was just too short for their physique. I would suggest a roll session, and try out some different paddles for comparison, or talk to Nathan at Canoe KY. Either way, hope you find a good blade.

Todd H.

December 13, 2015

Yeah Larry, but you're still using a flintlock musket. 'nuff said.

Hanley Loller

December 14, 2015

WOW. Now I know there is no right answer or a single bad answer. I have taking all of your suggestions and from what I have seen. I have decided to go with a straight shaft, 197cm, Werner Powerhouse. It should get me through the next few years.

Howard

Howard,
That sounds like a good choice. I believe you will be happy with it.

Brent

December 15, 2015

Did a guy that still paddles an RPM just accuse me of being old fashion? Just saying. grinning smiley

Larry Cable

I am by far not an expert on what paddle, boat, etc. to use!!! However, since I use to play quite a bit of baseball back in the day I think that paddle choice/preference is probably much like choosing/preferring a particular baseball bat size and that ALWAYS varies from person to person! It is almost impossible to try every size or style (straight or bent shaft) unless you are just rich and can afford numerous paddles to experiment with until you find that one that is "just 'rite" for YOU! Paddle charts from suppliers are a good reference to choose from, but they are just that - a "suggested" choice! What works for one person may not work or "feel good" to the next person! With all this crap said by me it boils down to just getting a good quality paddle such as Werner, A.T., and other top name brands mentioned above. Many top surfers/free style paddlers I have met in the Southeast prefer a straight shaft for whatever reason and seems that many river runners prefer the bent shaft. Also, probably in a pool is not the best place to try and determine what is best for you, since flat water and white water paddling is quite different just due to the action of currents and other forces generated (same could be said with creeking versus river running, etc. etc.)!!! Just choose what "feels good" and works best for YOU, although that in some cases could take some time, if not years, to determine!!!

BJ

for future reference, the NOC has demo paddles if one is in that area. Depending on what is available, this would provide the opportunity to try different options on moving water.

Kevin

Big South Fork Saturday January 07, 2016

Heading down to the Big South Fork this weekend with a few folks for my annual bday campout!! Heading down Friday to camp, then meeting some others at 10:30 at O&W Bridge where we will be setting up shop. Hoping to get a bump from the rain tomorrow but either way we will have water. So far MFW, Kobes, Damon Patterson, and myself are in, are u????? Meet us there if you like, we are camping both nights.

Jeff Schetler

January 09, 2016

Wish I could be there.

Joe W.

January 11, 2016

Trip report? Well I guess no news is good news
TimShuler

It was a great birthday weekend Tim!!! My buddy Ryan and I headed down to secure the campsite early afternoon because we were afraid a lot of folks would be camping over the weekend, or we had the day off. We setup camp and were joined by MFW, Kobes, and Will Buck a bit later Friday night. We woke up Saturday morning and had some Mike Griddles, step 1 Pancake, step 2 a dollop of syrup, step 3 2 sausage patties, step 4 pancake, thanks Mike. Afterwards Damon Patterson, Mikesallwet "Thick", and a few others I didn't know joined for a great day on the BSF. I don't often swim the EI, but when I do, I do it from my pinkish swirled Jackson. Last time I swam the BSF I blamed it on Brent making me drink Tequila at T Montys campsite but this time, well nothing to blame it on. except getting older I guess... One small pointer when boating the BSF under 900, don't catch the river right eddy in Asskicker unless you want to give a few chuckles to your buds hanging out below the rapid. I followed Damon in there and after watching him run the line I immediate regretted coming in there. we both gave some laughs I think, all was good though. Kobes met us at the Canyon and we continued down with no other hiccups besides 1 (I'll let your confess if you want). All in all it was a great day on the water with beautiful weather, great air temps, and fantastic friends. One of the guys in the group carried an Aire Super Puma by himself to the confluence without stopping 1 time, he owned that thing, very impressive. After the river we had camp right there with a few cold beverages and enjoyed some samiches from MFW. Then came the rain, and more rain, and more rain, and then the temps dropped, and then it started snowing, and then it rained, and the arctic polar vortex was there. Luckily we had tarped the seasoned firewood, had a few popups tarped together, and already had our tents sealed up. We took a page from Joe Wheatley's playbook and cooked a 3.5lb piece of Salmon, it was

enjoyed by all. Mike actually enjoyed it twice, I'll let you figure that one out. After dinner we just hunkered down, drank some really good beer, told some lies, and tried to keep dry. Woke up Sunday and pulled my usual disappearing act. As you get older you appreciate the friendships you have made over the years more, especially when you can share your love and passion for the same sport and outdoors with one another.. Thanks to all that came and made it a great weekend!!! I would suggest everyone have an annual camping/boating weekend for their bday, 11 years in a row for me.

Jeff Schetler.

Awesome TR Jeff! Happy belated b-day too buddy! Maybe one of these years we can take your campout south of the equator

Clay

Jeff,

I was wondering if you guys paddled on Sunday because you are the Bad A\$\$ boaters that I have come to know and love. The annual thing sounds like a great idea to me since my Bday is late june where vortexes are only memories of the previous winter. Hope to paddle with you soon.

Joe W.

BSF Monday 12/21

December 20, 2015

Any one up for a bsf trip on monday? I'm thinking of getting down that way with Jason A and my buddy Blue if all goes according to plan!

Derek

859-806-9031

December 22, 2015

Great day on our pressious big south fork! We met that young man from Nashville so that made four of us in our group and we were able to set shuttle and off we went. We were waaaaay ahead of "boater time"lol. Like always I was talkin a big game like I actually know what I'm doing and so blue (derricks bud) Walsall like "cool he seems pretty solid" and what do I do??? Wait for it... I swim at double drop! Poor blue was in a playboat and he rescued my big ass creek boat right in the middle of the big three! He got it in an eddy above ell. Thanks blue!! You rock!! I flipped again at the bottom of the ell and found the cheese grader rock with my now cracked four trillion dollar sweets full face!! Those guys know how to make a safe helmet!! The helmet performed beautifully absorbing all of the impact and I was all good!! I thank god that I bought such an expensive helmet because it saved my butt yesterday. Muuuuch love to the sweets protection company! We had a great rest of our run and it was a good day all around. I love the bwa and all the cool people I continue to meet! Merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah!!

Eddy Lines of Interest

BWA General Club Meeting

JDI

December 9, 2015 7:30pm

Bob opened the meeting at 7:38 pm. Howard indicated he brought BWA stickers and cards for handouts for group which Bob encourages group to use. Christmas party was a good time with a bit of a light turn out.

Sue indicated steering committee minutes are out on forum.

Howard relayed that 335 is current membership

Walt – 22 people showed up for role session and it was very busy. John asked about possibly having Spring Clinic info at the roll sessions and general agreement that it is not too early to start having info.

Meghan – no report

Don – New issue of Bow lines is coming out currently and if not up tonight, should be tomorrow. President did lead article about Russell-Fork. Also Town Branch/Fork article with maps. Article from Chief from early spring on cold weather boating.

John – Have NPF in a bit over 2 months. Recently had launch of new website and still tweaking. Getting great film submissions and continuing to work on silent auction items. At January meeting will probably officially ask for funding and likely \$1,500 will be request. John hopes to go to Vikings meeting to make same request. Asked if waiting until January will allow enough time to do what is needed and John indicates yes it will. Event will be end of weekend of 19th, 20th, 21st, at Buffalo Trace. Race is usually forming around noon and starts about 1p on Saturday. John made the call for volunteers so please let him know.

AW membership has been a strong push. Bob reviewed last AW membership proposal that while helpful, has not gotten us where they needed to be. Bob discussed he would like us to get recognition for top membership for Kentucky and how worthy what AW provides to us is. Bob petitioned group for 100 new/additional AW members by opening program up to anyone who has a Kentucky mailing address. Don raised the idea of creating a friendly challenge with the Viking members which Bob indicated we can do, but the sense of urgency is growing for this. Ideas discussed on how to structure such a challenge. Suggestion to consider dual membership renewal for 2016 that is sign up for both BWA and AW membership. After some discussion, Meghan made the motion to open up to all Kentucky boaters which was seconded by Walt. Further support discussion was held with a suggestion that it might culminate at the film festival. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

John really encourages group to please look at NPFF.org and provide him with any feedback to help him improve it...he welcomes any feedback negative or positive.

Jeff reported through remote communication that we cur-

rently have \$5, 470.28 in bank

Discussion was held regarding poor attendance at our general meetings and the suggestion was made that we purchase a \$4,200 party bus – assumption to pick up attendees. Discussion on this was very active and Bob suggested that additional conversation and potential voting be deferred to next general meeting.

Glens Creek put in issues were discussed.

Trip reports discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:12pm

BWA Steering Committee Meeting

Marika's Restaurant

January 5, 2016, 7:30pm

Steering Committee Attendees: Howard, Brandy John, Bob, Meghan, Sue, KC, Brent, Don, Walt

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:33p. Exciting new year coming up with spring clinic and NPFF. Aw sponsorship program which is slow and steady but still growing. Details will be shared at next group meeting.

Officer Reports

Meghan – no report

KC – no report

Sue – December minutes posted and no major complaints.

Howard – 338 members, 4 new in last month

Brandy – Bob, Meghan, John meeting next week to determine final spring clinic dates

Walt – Roll clinics this Friday and hope that we have a life guard so clinics can happen, or Dave said he will be there so clinic will be held regardless.

General discussion held regarding the skilled trained swift water rescue staff on site during every roll session, regardless of whether or not life guards are present so sessions are very safe.

Don – Discussed 40th year as a club and history of levels of kayaking over time. First clinic at Big South Fork – long before there was a bridge there. History of written issues that were postage mailed, and transition to the electronic version that reduced costs. Don encouraged going back to 30th year version which is very interesting and association of members over the years and how BWA impacted their lives. Don really encourages everyone to think about placing articles because people years from now will enjoy hearing about this. He also discussed the beauty of how the kayaking boats and equipment evolved. History of membership and how all the work of prior generations led to today's high membership levels

which is very exciting.

Jeff – Not in attendance but sent through Bob that the current association account balance is \$4,148.08

John – NPFF in about 6 weeks. Many things being juggled, but calling for all hands on deck for silent auction work as we are a bit behind on contributions. Still in talks with Red Bull and for who guest host will be, and also beverage situation. Courtyard deli and Buddy's Pizza are likely going to be there. Approximately 13 films have been submitted thus far and John appeals to everyone to solicit for more films...but this is probably about average for where we are this time of year. New website is up and running, though "tweaks" still being made.

Inquiry as to who emails and notifications have been going out to. Inquiry as to hotel contacts and many final contacts now being made.

John suggested consideration of \$1,500 to assist with NPFF expenses and will be raised at next club general meeting.

Bob discussed the many people who help to make our club happen and suggested some honorary person to consider as to their contribution to the group. Discussed that perhaps it could be a Presidents' award since the President is well positioned to know broadly who strongest contributors are. Further discussed that perhaps the President consider doing it at the end of the term. Discussed whether President should simply have power to appoint such an honor and general agreement that it should be the President's appointment and Bob will present at next general club meeting.

Meeting officially adjourned at 8:18pm and followed by trip reports.

BWA General Club Meeting Rooster's Restaurant, Lexington, Kentucky 1/12/2016 7:30 pm

Bob called meeting to order at 7:37pm. New introductions made by Bob for attendees, Rachelle, new member introduced herself, from Corbin Kentucky. Brian, new transplant to Kentucky from Tallahassee, paddled his whole life, but has never done whitewater, so looking forward to learning new adventure. Brook from Nicholasville, has never white-watered and looking for new adventures.

Bob discussed NPFF coming up which is a BIG deal! Great experience, vendors, community. Independent race that goes on at the same time which is a blast. Fun regarding rafts during race discussed.

Officer Reports

John Mello NPFF: 3 officers out tonight due to illness, KC, Brandy and John. John report out through Bob is that NPFF will happen and Court Yard Deli will provide food and chili cook off will happen. Beverages will be available. Still accepting film submissions. Question regarding whether past films can be submitted, probably ask Berry Grimes and/or John Mello to be sure, but likely can. Please communicate we welcome submissions from both armatures and professionals.

John presented for Brandy: Spring Clinic at Russell Fork is in planning stages and dates will be released soon. Will be

amazing.

Discussed reasons for NPFF, show case paddling films, to encourage conservation and to party.

Don discussed importance of 40th year of club, and rich and wonderful history. Please review Bowlines and 40th anniversary. Please take a look!

Andrew introduced himself as new member and welcomed by group.

Jeff gave report regarding balance which is same from Steering committee report plus roll session income.

Members report per Howard– 341 currently. Howard mentioned not only club camaraderie you get, but parking pass for Elk, and discounts at NOC and others.

Sue –Steering committee meeting minutes have been posted to website so please review and comment.

Meghan – films for NPFF really needed! And also silent auction items...please plead to anyone you know!

Walt – Roll session life guard hard to pin down so please let Walt know if you know anyone. Sessions will continue. Brook indicated she is life guard and may be able to come on Friday nights which would be awesome! Please come to teach. Conversation held regarding importance of teachers and volunteers at roll clinic.

Bob discussed hard work of so many who contribute to club, and that steering committee has discussed Bob recognizing volunteer of the year, which Bob has indicated his pick for this year, based on many considerations, and would like the selected person to receive free membership. Susan made the motion which was seconded by Howard and unanimously carried. Recognized member from President Bob this year is ADELESSA GRACE!! Yeah!! Clapping!!

Bob discussed American White Water memberships, and BWA-AW membership co-sponsorship. Bob made case for why everyone should join AW when they join BWA as it is a great joint membership and together saves you money. Many benefits, due to AW protecting our interests in conservation, and also providing up to date information on water levels. PLEASE! Everyone who is part of BWA should also join AW. Question asked regarding whether those who join BWA, could have joint membership to AW to which Bob indicated there has been conversation. One member wanted to discuss having AW and BWA a regular co-joined membership opportunity. Strong discussion held. AW needs money to lobby across the country for our interests.

General agreement that we should continue our efforts to support AW. Question raised as to how much money we gave to AW last year - \$15,000 rough estimate. Individual membership is \$25. Suggested we consider paying it up front as a club and promote it after. Bob indicated this is strongly under consideration. Much discussion held pro and con on whether or not BWA should be involved and how much. Mike disagreed with supposition that any memberships should be included based on his experience. Bob proposed that we continue sponsorship program.

There being no further business to discuss, trip reports were given and meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.



Steve Fisher and Pat Keller are the 2016 National Paddling Film Festival Guest Hosts

Steve Fisher initiated a grand plan in 2015 to raise funds to create an instructional video with some of the world's finest kayakers, made it a reality, and spent a good portion of late last year filming on the Zambezi. Pat is one of the stars in that show. They're going to tell us all about that adventure and some of their other adventures on the Saturday night of the fest (02/20).

Both Pat and Steve have had profound impacts on the world of whitewater. Steve has evolved into one of the best paddlesport filmmakers and Pat has evolved into one of the world's most talented kayakers. We're looking forward to hearing about their exploits and giving them both a big ol' Kentucky welcome.

February 19-20, 2016 @ Buffalo Trace Distillery | Frankfort, Kentucky
More info about the NPFF at: <http://npff.org>



Lonnie Beldwell to tell about his Zambizi Kayak Trip

Lonnie, a 2015 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, is an accomplished paddler that was the first ever blind kayaker to complete the entire 226-mile stretch of Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. He most recently ran the Zambezi with a crew of Jackson Kayak paddlers. Come hear Lonnie speak about his adventures and see some new footage of him on the Zambezi.

Lonnie Bedwell will be our highlighted speaker on Friday night around 8 p.m..

National Paddling Film Festival

Take

your

best



shot

2015 Still Image Winner "Colorado Boof" by Samantha Ruppel

February 19-20, 2016

Buffalo Trace Distillery Frankfort, KY



Entry Deadlines:

Motion: Jan. 15 - Still Image: Jan. 30

www.npff.org



33th Annual Media Competition Benefiting River Conservation Presented by volunteers of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association