

**Each issue this year will Celebrate the BWA being 40!**

In this issue:

The Beauty of the Unspoken Word Between Boaters

This issue's BWA legendary member: John "Chief" Kulka

Cowboy Coffee and Other Reasons The Open Boat Reigns Supreme

Back Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines: Bowlines First Issue, BWA Decennial Anniversaries,

The BWA, Reflection and Conjecture, The BWA 1976 - 1981

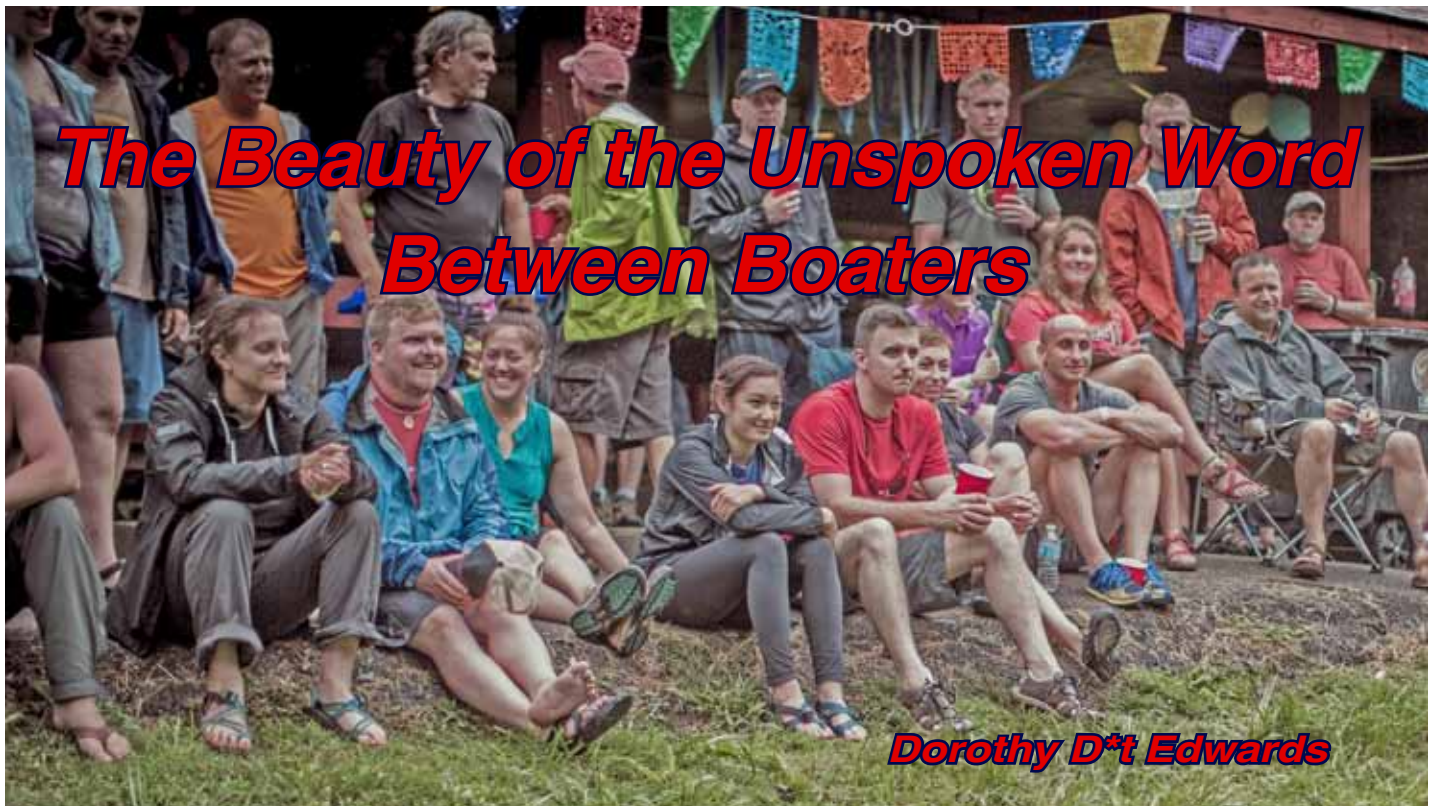
Off The Cuff

The Old BWA Guys can still Win!

Eddy Lines of Interest

## Bluegrass Wildwater Association

1976-2016



***The Beauty of the Unspoken Word  
Between Boaters***

***Dorothy D't Edwards***

Story continues on page 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

## Summer Roll Sessions have started!

They are at the **Tates Creek Aquatic center**  
Thursdays from 8 to 10 PM.

**Come on out!**

\$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

Also we need instructors.  
Remember to clean your boats!

**Check BWA webwite for dates & times**

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org>

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
Vice-President	Brandy Mello	859-312-8640
Treasurer	Don Perkins	859-948-1920
Secretary	Michael Daughtery	502-554-8489
Safety	Walt Hummel	859-705-8215
Program	Mike Wilson	585-507-3853
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Joe Wheatly	859-361-0892
Conservation	Megan Larkin	859 743 8355
Film Festival Coordinator	John Mello	859-327-6092
Equipment Coordinator	Kyle Koeberlein	859-576-7194
At-Large Member	James Welch	859-954-2025
Membership Coordinator	Dot Edwards	859-351-0132
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 realated story! Please!!**

Files can be e-mailed to the Editor: [DonSpang@aol.com](mailto: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](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.surfky-bwa.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf)



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

## *The Beauty of the Unspoken Word Between Boaters*



*Dorothy D\*t Edwards*

Kayakers have the advantage of having childlike weekend long group sleepovers known as camping. It is usually unfettered by technology due to the nature of being in the middle of nowhere with the mountains that create our wonderful whitewater acting as sentries against cell service. Especially Kentucky boaters get to take long road trips together since local dam released rivers are virtually nonexistent. This all weekend access allows us to see each other in our rawest forms, often unshowered, uninhibited from egos lubricated by libations nightly around the campfire and, at times, in our most vulnerable states such as after taking a beating in a formidable or not so formidable rapid.

Fear is a state that we can't really hide, though we may still try, our fellow boaters have all been there and know the look all too well. When scouting a scary rapid, it's not unusual for a boater to

disappear in the woods for a little bit. We understand how fear causes our bodies to evacuate any unnecessary weight. We patiently wait as they drop some weight. If a person takes a swim, it's understood that everyone will do their best to retrieve their gear and them. If a person takes multiple swims on the same run, it's automatic that everyone takes an extended break, their boat emptied by friends followed by a possible safety check. When getting chundered and/or surfed hard in a hole, all it takes is some eye contact or just a wide-eyed look to say without words, "Get your throw rope!"

The beauty is that there is a naturally implied comradery between boaters that extends off the river. We see your whitewater boat on your vehicle, we may not know you, but we know you. One of my favorite memories is from last Gauley season. Brent was driving shuttle and there are

some places out of state boaters do not want to speed. One BMW driver (go figure) was not happy about this so he cut in front us and proceeded to randomly slam on his brakes. Within a minute, fellow boaters, though strangers to us, boxed him in and proceeded to go 30 mph while the BMW driving road rager flailed his arms and eventually pulled off. Only boaters get to mess with the boating family, such as when someone has had too much to drink to make it back to their tent to pass out. Of course a trash pile is going to happen and of course all the trash will be properly disposed of before leaving the campsite.

Last year I got to go cross country with Barry Sipple, JBob and SuperDave. We got to stay over Mike Clarke/Beth Heller's place in Colorado. Before staying there, we knew them more as acquaintances, but we're fellow boaters so they extended their hospitality as if we were long

lost cousins. We left as family that is very understanding of tequila filled shenanigans. We boaters are a band of misfits with an unspoken code. Whether we like each other or not, when on the water, we help each other out. When camping, no food, no problem, but you're doing the dishes. On the water, if a person points then slaps their hand flat across over their fist, you know there's a boof to be had as I know you're probably doing the signal right now. While kayaking in West Virginia for the 4th of July weekend, we got to camp at John Regan's place (legendary kayaker). I told a friend (nonboater) about how I road in a side by side with John through a bonfire. My friend asked why I would do such a thing. I told him that the host asked me to ride with him through it so obviously I wouldn't turn down the invitation. A boater would understand, that should go without saying.



# This issue's BWA legendary member: John "Chief" Kulka



*"Chief" on the Cheaoh*

The eighties produced some outstanding BWA members and John "Chief" Kulka is certainly one of them. "Chief" went through the usual process of attending the clinic, going to roll sessions and so on, but he became noted by us in the BWA as for his national fame on a syndicated TV show "PM Magazine" that Sam Dick of channel 27 was a host on.

Sam Dick & "PM Magazine" did 3 shows in which the Bluegrass Wildwater was featured in a segment. The first one took place at the spring clinic. Sam Dick and his wife attended the clinic and on the second day they were to do a section of the Cumberland below the falls. That trip turned out to never be shown on PM Magazine, as it ended in disaster with Sam and his wife wrapping a new canoe around Center Rock.

The second segment was filmed at the Y pool in Gardenside that winter and, of course, showed Sam attending a roll session. The third and final segment was filmed at the Tellico river in Tennessee. It was of a group of BWA paddlers leading Chief and another novice down the river. Both Chief and the other novice were having difficulties and were swimming. But when the other novice was pulled off the river when they had a third swim, Sam Dick noted that while Chief was swimming too, just not as much. That kind of stuck with him for a while. We would often note and kid him at times when he swam, that did not need another take.

Chief would become legendary over the years for his cheerful attitude, his love of paddling and his love for the BWA and his years of memories he has collected with us.

Here are some Memories of Chief from his early day "friends":

## ***How did he come to be called "Chief?"***

John Kulka acquired the name Chief in the early 80's. As best as I can recall, he was going to a concert in Cincinnati wearing a child's Indian headdress. Sometime later, another paddler recognized him from waving at fellow motorists on I-75. "I know you, you're The Chief." and the name stuck. It is a particularly appropriate moniker in that he is a natural leader, the kind you want to follow down a difficult rapid, he is deeply connected with nature and at times he can be a little wild.

The Chief has long since surpassed me in skill, but I will take credit in teaching him the Eskimo Roll. It took him perhaps 8 sessions to come up for the first time but he had already run a lot of class 4 stuff without one.

Chief, in turn, taught me about the best kinds of beers, free, cold and best of all free and cold.

1981 Chief, Dale Shearer and I squeezed in to my VW Rabbit and drove the 16 hours to Madawaska Kanu Camp in Ontario where we sought instruction from world class slalom racers. There was a special t-shirt and plaque for the "Ich Binder Beste" (I am the Best) Award. A trick performed first by world champion Norbert Sattler, one had to side surf Gravel Pit Suck Hole, while twirling one's paddle three times saying "Ich Binder Beste" with each revolution. At Chief's level of expertise, I frankly thought he was nuts to try this. Yet for 4 days one could see him walking around camp bending far laterally at the waist practicing his paddle twirl. When the time came, he dropped into the hole shouting and twirling. It took him 6 twirls however as his head was completely submerged for three of those, but he became the BWA's first recipient of the award.

When I think of Chief, I am reminded of the old saw.

" Can you play the violin? Dunno, haven't tried yet."

He might just pick that bad boy up and play the crap out of it.

I believe, if asked, he would attribute his considerable mental toughness to the copious amounts of pro wrestling watched during his formative years.

After all, ninety percent of paddling is half mental.

*Frank Loudermilk*



## ***Rolling with the Chiefster***

Well before I became a member of the BWA, there was Chief. Like many a new paddler today, Chief was someone we all were glad to have with us on the river. Of course, skill and experience are a big part, but it is the persona, the humor, the attitude of this legendary BWA paddler, that makes us all glad to paddle with Chief. I am fortunate to count Chief as one of my paddling partners over the past 25 years or so and we do many trips together, each year. I have lost count of the runs we have done together, not only this year, but throughout our lives boating together. Usually what I recall are anecdotal events or jokes or comments, that might tie into what river or where on the river we were. But, we are both into many of the same runs and truly enjoy each other's company, on and off river. He is my good friend. Love the brother.

Chief has a long history with the BWA, has been President and held other offices. While President, he had a column in the *Bowlines* called "Chief's Teepee" where he would dispense advice and commentary relevant to paddling and paddlers. He was the "son" of BWA legend Dave "Dad" Weiland. "Dad" Weiland passed away after his tragic accident on the Crystal River in 1986. "Dad" and Chief met a mother and daughter duo at Rock Creek or some such river destination camp ground, and it was his idea to be the Dad and for Chief to be the son. They thought they would have a better shot with the gals. I didn't work out, but the name "Dad" stuck.

Chief was on the third descent of the Narrows of the Green in the late 80s, and has a rapid named after him there. When you crash on new rivers, you often end up with a rapid named after you. I often introduce Chief to my friends that paddle the Green as "you paddle his rapid".

Chief was named a legendary life member of the BWA this year. It was due. He has been a good friend to many in the BWA, helps with clinics nearly every year, and is often a guide on many a river in the Plateau or elsewhere for folks looking to experience new runs in wild places. Chief knows them and knows them well, whether it is the Big South Fork or the more rarely run, Island Creek.

I am proud to have Chief as my close friend and paddling partner and I know many of you feel the same way. I am glad to see my friend honored in this way.

See you on the river soon I hope!

*Brent Austin*



Chief is the original happy paddler. You always can count on having a great adventure when Chief is along. He brings out the liberation of your inhibitions in a great way,

I first remember meeting Chief at the Cumberland “Below the Falls” clinic. He had a tough day. The bets were that we would never see this guy again on Saturday afternoon. Later in the evening when the partying was going strong no one would have said that. Chief paid his dues to the no-roll gods early on and learned to make the snap and the rest is history as they say.

I’m pretty sure I remember a high water run with Chief soon after he got his roll and I think he had the “Big Eye” down the entire strainer strewn creek. I think the Emory was running somewhere in the 20K range. It didn’t take long to get to the take out.

Not too long after that Chief had his leap to fame in the Red River Gorge. We were all impressed. Anyone who can camp, eat beans and drink bourbon, then survive a 100 ft fall in the gorge has got to have something strong going. So we invited him to join us on his first trip west.

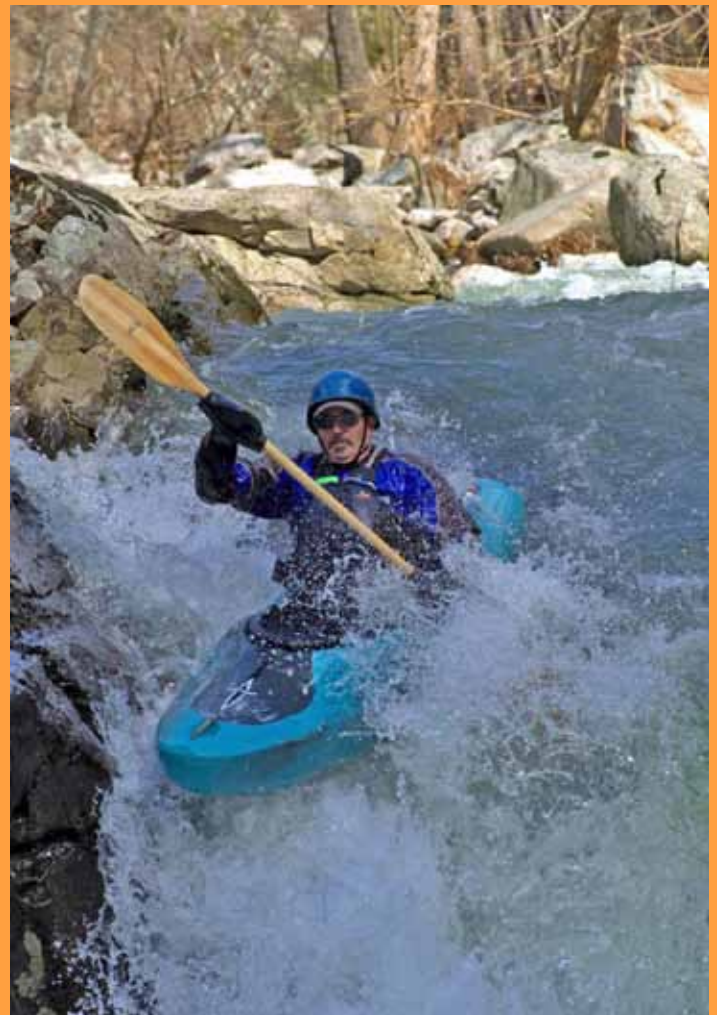
This was the summer of the Olympics in Mexico, you might ask how I remember? It was the Kalua of course. On the way out of town we loaded the van with Vodka, all the Kalua (in the gold commemorative Olympic bottles) the liquor store had and we were off to Colorado in Ed’s van. We made one last stop for a gallon of milk. You can’t make a “White Russian” without milk.

Some 24 hrs later we were approaching the front range and Chief yelled out “Mountains, I see Mountains”. It was his first look at the Rockies and our last look at the Kalua. It was somewhat like one of Chief’s favorite sayings “Where are we, we’re 64 beers south of Lexington”.

We started paddling on the Arkansas at just below flood stage. It was too high for the commercial rafts. We had a blast. Jerry Hey asked about what else we had planned for the week. I told him “this is the warmup”.....More partying ensued. On the third day we went to the Roaring Fork. The group made it fine through John Denver falls. On down about a mile, Chief and everyone else dropped into a riverside hole. Chief was one of the few to make it out in one piece. After that I always had a lot of respect for Chief’s ability on and off the river.

Then there was the phase about “Big Time Wrestling”, it went on for several years. I learned a lot of moves from “The Chief”. It’s a miracle we made it to the other side. Love You Chief!

*Sam Moore*





In 1980 I got the coolest job ever, working at Sage Outfitters in Louisville, KY - fresh out of high school. Sage Outfitters was a backpacking/kayaking/outdoor adventure supplier back in the early days. I wanted to get into kayaking, and my boss – the infamous Steve “Chuck Tubbo” Morgan told me I should contact the BWA in Lexington and go to the roll sessions. He mentioned this guy Chief. So, being the Girl Scout that I was, I followed his advice. Next thing I knew, I was hip snapping in the pool and then it was on to the Deadly Elkhorn. My memories of the early days with Chief intertwine a lot with memories of Dad (Dave Weiland)... as we sang “killing Miss Softly with this \$40 knife”... and trips to Frozenhead in the Super Truck. I think one time the police came there while Dad was holding me up by my ankles and they made Chief pour out the adult beverages. Chief always had the silver tongue that would get us the nod and wink from the local law enforcement agencies!

Chief and I had some pretty good ‘rassling’ moves that we showed off from time to time in the ring of fire, he had a very competent way of performing the “pile driver” on me without doing any permanent damage... so far I have had no neurological symptoms, anyway. We learned a lot of those moves on the rare weekends that we were not paddling and instead hanging out at 5020 Todds Rd. on Sunday mornings with YT, Gerry and whatever other roomie...I will not elaborate on the herb breakfasts... Which by the way reminds me of Kentucky Derby Daze with Chief and Gerry Hey and a busload of other folks. We left Lexington and went 62 beers north to the Kentucky Derby. Let’s just say I babysat some “grownups” in the infield with a bunch of hammerheads, but Chief picked the winner! I remember walking up 3rd Street drinking generic beer (the kind in the white can that just said “beer” - honk if you remember that one!)

Back then we rocked to the B52’s Rock Lobster- and partied hard. We loaded up almost every Friday afternoon and headed to the river... slept in tents or sometimes in a sleeping bag on a tarp in the dirt. We rolled in ice water to cure the hangovers... writing this after all this time is making me nostalgic because I think it’s too easy these days. Chief was a pioneer of river running – no fear, full of life, always the one to take the next big step – to run the drop first. Back in those days, the BWA was a baby too, feeling our way as a club.

No fear of liability like there is now...but we decided to elect A SAFETY OFFICER! Chief ran for that office on the platform that “I should be safety officer because I have been in every dangerous situation that there is”. Many years later I was reminded of that statement on a Grand Canyon trip – Chief was rowing a raft – can’t remember the rapid... OK maybe the pile drivers did a little damage... but there was an incident where he got bucked out of the raft. His comment – “luckily the rope wrapped around my leg and drug me so I didn’t get separated from the raft”... Yes that’s how awesome he is – never lose contact with the beer cooler!

The one thing Chief could never tolerate was “duds”. Yep, he had a strict code of conduct that way, which was why he has gone out of his way his entire life to teach people the ways of paddling, encourage everyone to enjoy the beauty of the rivers, the nature and the nurture of the paddling community... he is a leader, a mentor and an inspiration to the old farts and the newbies alike. A treasure ...

Woman in Rubber, Lythia

# Cowboy Coffee and Other Reasons The Open Boat Reigns Supreme

Dave Moccia



## FACTS:

So it was the 30th club reunion at the Ocoee. I purposefully get up late with the hope someone has taken the initiative to get the coffee ready. Dandy Don appeared to be in charge but the joe wasn't flowin. Showing him my empty cup he attached some sort of single-cup plastic drip thing, inserted a filter, added some fresh grinds and hot water and viola, in just 5 minutes I had my first cup ready. Let's see, 5 minutes per cup, one plastic thing and a throwaway filter, and twelve thirsty participants equated to approximately an hour before any of us could get a second cup. Patience is one thing but leave the inefficiency for your federal and state employees. In all fairness to Don, it appeared no one was knowledgeable in the ways of the wagon train cook.

So let me pass along the Cowboy Coffee process as taught me by Joe Huggins of "Slow Joe's Cafe" fame. Start by filling a 2-gallon porcelain coated metal coffee pot with water and bring to a boil. This is a pot with a lid and has no percolator or other techweinee type attachments. Make sure the bail is stout and not just added for looks. The bail is the metal loop attached to two sides of the pot and is used as an aid to pouring but its most important contribution will be explained in a minute. Get some course ground coffee. We used to use ground-canned coffee in the days before Starbucks. Add the ground coffee to the boiling water. 1/4 to 1/3 of a can will

do. Quit adding coffee when the color looks rich enough for your taste. For river gods' sake, just dump it in out of the can or bag, no measuring devices needed. Bring to a rolling boil for a minute until the foaming subsides and all the coffee grains are circulating. Remove pot from heat source. The final trick is to get the grounds floating everywhere to settle at the bottom of the pot and to pour the best tasting coffee off the top. There are three ways to do this. 1) If you don't mind the wait, keep the pot off the heat source for half an hour. As the coffee cools the grounds will settle. Then warm the coffee back up



at a low simmer. 2) Add some ice to the pot. The ice will float at the top cooling that area and will set off a chain reaction and the grounds will settle out faster than method 1. Again warm it back up if needed. 3) The best and most ostentatious way to settle the grounds is to put the lid on, grab the bail, and swing the whole mess in a circle starting at your knees and going overhead. The number of swings depends on how fast and hard you swing and if you are an open boater or kayaker/other. Centrifugal force will push the grounds to the bottom and keep the coffee from coming out the top. For this reason you need to start and finish the swinging motion at your knees. Of course a combination of any of the above will work but # 3 is the best but should not be attempted if you have shoulder problems. Do not use coffee filters. Do not whine in the unlikely event you may get a few grounds in your teeth. Open boaters will typically drink their coffee black in either a metal or porcelain cup without a lid (an "open" cup). Not only will you have made the best tasting coffee you will have ever sipped, it will have been accomplished with a minimal amount of gear, a disdain for techweinee gadgets, a certain amount of strength and finesse (#3), and a competitive spirit as to who can best swing the pot, all the while the spitting out of any grounds at the bottom of your cup becomes politically correct. Life doesn't get much better than that.

## OPINIONS:

An open boater paddles an open boat. An open boat as defined herein is a canoe; which, if paddled in white-water, has a minimal amount of floatation so as to help avert a messy broach and serves to make self rescue easier, but at the same time said floatation does not impede the ingress of water and waves. An open boat is not stuffed to or over the gunnels fore and aft with floatation.

Non-open boaters are defined herein as kayakers/other, which include kayakers, rafters, C-1s, and canoes so stuffed with flotation they may as well be decked.

An open boater does not have to be a minimalist, but such a mind set goes a long way. Like cowboy coffee, open boaters require a minimal amount of gear, a certain amount of strength and finesse at least equal to or exceeding their kayakers/other brethren, and a disdain for techweinee gadgets, political correctness, and disco dancing.

The way I remember it was first there was the canoe (skin or birch bark), then there was post WWII with a surplus of aluminum thus the Grumman canoe. Then the miracle of ABS along with the birth of the Bluehole Canoe Company helped progress the canoe's whitewater suitability. As the sport grew so did the interest of non-mesomorphs and women. As a 75 pound 16 foot canoe was difficult to carry and push around using a single bladed paddle for these folks, the kayak and the two-bladed paddle were developed. Now I have personally known a dozen women over the years that were stout and strong-willed enough to master the open boat and their paddling was both joyous and beautiful to behold. It's just that the majority of the paddling population not "genetically gifted" just preferred something lighter. Mastery of a two-bladed paddle could be accomplished in a few hours and with only four strokes (forward, forward sweep, reverse sweep, and duffek). Throw in a few bozo points and a kayaker could quickly become proficient enough for whitewater. (All paddlers when they first start

the sport are issued a limited number of bozo points. When one runs into trouble, one can exchange a bozo point in place of death or great bodily harm. The idea is to gain experience and knowledge prior to running out of bozo points. Bozo points are non-transferable and have an expiration date).

An open boater in the days before BWA needed just a boat and a paddle. The boat could be aluminum or ABS, the paddle could be wood or wood and plastic. The canoe paddle didn't need to be made of carbon fiber or have fixed or adjustable offsets. Canoe paddles served alternate duties to dig fire pits, used as structural members for pitching tarps, or pressed into service to defend oneself from two or more legged predators. In the case of warding off tyrannosaurus rex or a brown bear, it helps to have a shorter, more blunt-edged paddle as it won't hurt so much when removing it after the bruin shoves it where the sun don't shine.

Life jackets (as they were called, not PFDs) had no back protection and were initially used for kneeling pads but later evolved into safety equipment for both groups. Both groups initially did not use helmets. As the kayaker was more tied to their boat in case of an upset, they deemed helmets to be appropriate sooner. Open boaters utilized helmets later when running class III, IV or while hotdogging.

Open boaters don't have to wear skirts, especially skirts made out of rubber. This enables the open boater to hitch a shuttle ride with a local and still be held in respect.

There have been some notable articles in past issues of Bowlines written on the merits of the open canoe. For me it has been the ability to kneel, sit, stand, or lay down. Although I paddled mostly solo, the capability to carry extra cargo such as iced beverages of choice and steaks for dinner along with the special woman occasionally carried some merit as well. You also get better leverage to throw your paddle over a swinging bridge whilst standing. Open boats are symbols of freedom and adventure. The more gear you have, the more time it takes to keep up with it all. Minimalism and simplicity, strength and finesse, less equates to more, less gear - more adventure. These traits seemed to have all but disappeared from the hustle of life nowadays. Savor the coffee.

### ***Dave Moccia's Paddling Bio***

My first exposure to canoes was with BSA Troop 49 in Frankfort, KY, Cecil Whisman troop leader. The troop had two aluminum canoes, a 16 foot tandem and a 23 footer with 5 thwarts that were wide enough to sit two small scouts side by side. We only paddled lakes and I soon mastered the J-stroke. Learned to gunnel jump in flatwater. As I was still too young for a driver's license, the canoe became an extension of freedom on the water, the equivalent of my bicycle on land. When not scouting, I rode a bike to the creek about a mile away to fish. My introduction to Elkhorn Creek.

Bought a canoe in college. Lost it on a highwater trip down the Elkhorn (approximately 3 feet of clearance on the put in bridge). Rescued the canoe the next day (still floodstage) but almost lost my good friend Charlie in the process. Put the boat in the basement but did get it aluminum welded. Transferred colleges for love. Did not work out and was driving around New Circle Road and heard an advertisement by Sage School of the Outdoors for a canoe school. Took Aqua I and Aqua II. Became a Sage canoe instructor. Founding member of BWA and first newsletter editor. Graduated UK. GPA went down ½ point due to too much boating on the weekends. On sabbatical in WV while building a kayak, I heard NOC needed accounting help. I wrote. They said no but if I wanted a river job to send in a resume and that a mutual contact would also help. Bob Sehlinger mutual contact. Later became Head Canoe Instructor at NOC. Paddled canoe on the Grand Canyon of the Colorado in July 1987 (30k cfs) and the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon earlier.

Dave Moccia

### ***Bowlines Editor:***

*It is always great to have an article from an old BWA'er, but I really appreciate one from the guy who started this newsletter. It has become a paddling newsletter that many past members and others read on a regular basis. Dave was also awarded the BWA's first Lifetime Membership for his achievements, including participating in the Whitewater Worlds. He also taught many of us how to canoe whitewater. Thanks Dave for your continued contributions to the Blugrass Wildwater Association!*

*From the May/June Issue of 1980: Dave Moccia has been selected for the U.S. National Whitewater Team which will compete on pre-World championships in England in August this year. Dave will be competing in the C-2 Wildwater Class, Congratulations Dave!*

# Backpaddling through the pages of Bowlines

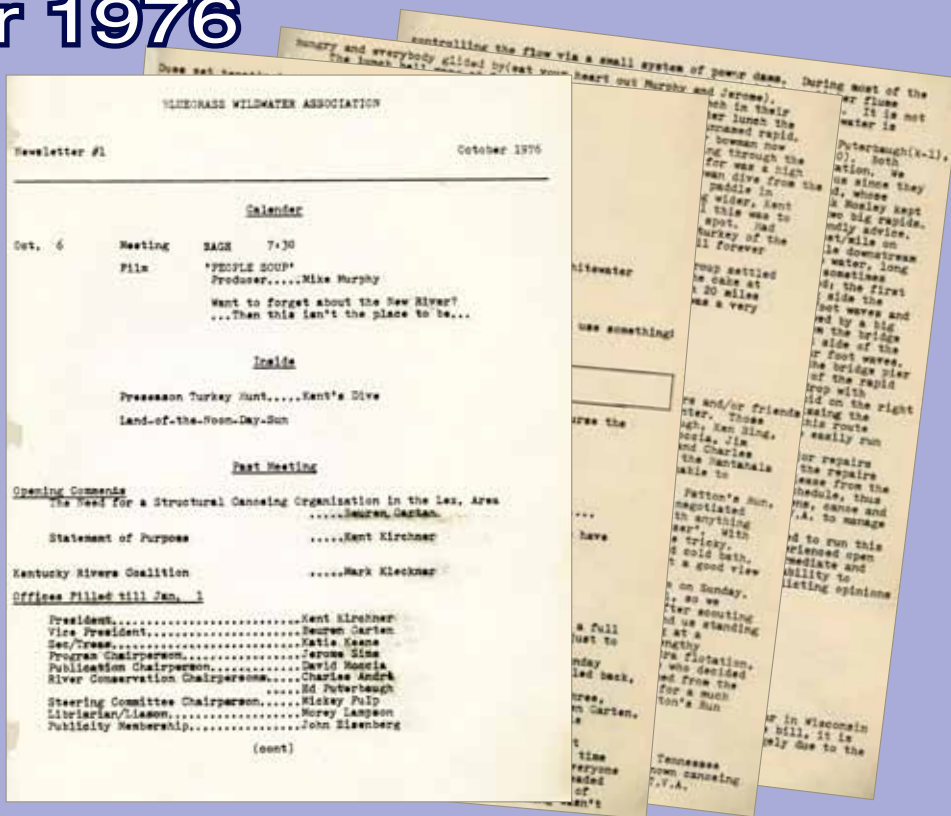
Bluegrass  
Wildwater  
Association



1976-2016

Celebrating the Bluegrass Wildwater's 40 years.

## Here is the First Issue of Bowlines, October 1976



### BLUEGRASS WILDWATER ASSOCIATION

Newsletter #1

October 1976

#### Calendar

Oct. 6	Meeting	SAGE	7:30
	Film	<p>"People Soup"</p> <p>Mike Murphy</p> <p>Want to forget about the New River?</p> <p>... Then this isn't the place to be. . .</p>	

Inside

Preseason Turkey Hunt . . . . Kent's Dive  
Land-of-the-Noon-Day-Sun

Past Meeting

Opening Comments

The Need for a Structural Canoeing Organization the Lex. Area  
. . . Beuren Garten

Statement of Purpose  
. . . Kent Kurchener

Kentucky Rivers Coalition . . . Mark Kleckner

Offices Filled till Jan. 1

President	Kent Kirchner
Vice President	Beuren Garten
Sec/Treas	Katie. Keene
Program Chairperson	Jerome Sims
Publication Chairperson	David Moccia
River Conservation Chairpersons	Charles Andre & Ed Puterbaugh
Steering Committee Chairperson	Mickey Fulp
Librarian/Liason	Morey Lampson
Publicity Membership	John Eisenberg

(cont)

Dues set tentatively at \$5 to defray cost of newsletter

Trips Planned

Cumberland Below the Falls	Kent Kirchner
Nanthala River	Jerome Sims

Films of Previous Trips                      Bob Sehlinger

Frustration Is:

Wiplng out with no chance to make amends, on the last whitewater of the day,  
when everyone else made it through.

??Heard any Now Jokes lately??

Send them to the publishing dept.... This newsletter could use something!

This place dedicated to SAGE and its staff (including of course the (Unequaled Bob Sehlinger) for

helping us got it together.

Thanks a lot you beautiful people.....

??What do you want to do this winter??

.... Need to start thinking of something before next meeting....

Word is in that the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association will be happy to have us as an affiliate.

### Cumberland Below the Falls

Did gobbler season open early this year? Was Frank garbed in a full length camouflage rainsuit, overlooking Cumberland Falls dressed just to keep dry?

Whatever the reason, by the time the shuttle returned that Sunday morning before Labor Day, the rain which we had driven down in, rolled back, putting everybody in good spirits.

The roll call included the likes of John Eisenberg. Steve Murphee Jim Wilkes Frank Block Mickey Fulp, Ken Bing, Charles Andre Beuren Garten, Liz Cornish. Kent Kirchner, Bob Sehlinger, Gayle Hall, the most agile Mike Dolan, and yours truly Dave Moccia.

Serenity prevailed for as long as it took to paddle to the first "rapid" of the day. Well anyway, Kent swore it was a rapid the last time he was there. After giving him a hard time about the water level everyone loosened up again. It wasn't long before we were facing the most dreaded rapid of the run... Center Rock. Being new on the river, I had a lot of respect for Center Rock and still do but that day the Broach King wasn't hungry and everybody glided by (eat your heart out Murphy and Jerome).

The lunch bell rang at Surfing Wave. With a little lunch in their bellies, everyone took their turn playing in the rapid. After lunch the whitewater picked up and before long we were scouting some unnamed rapid. Beuren stayed behind with his camera. This is all my former bowman now turned camera-hungry-stunt man, Kent, needed to know. Plowing through the first two drops, we approached the third one. What I asked for was a high brace. What I got was the most beautiful delayed-action swan dive from the bottom of a canoe I ever hope to see. Suspended in mid-air, paddle in hands, feet in boat, with gap between paddle and boat growing wider, Kent finally decided it would be more fun swimming the rapid. All this was to no avail, however, as Beuren was somewhere besides the right spot, had Frank brought a fishnet, he could have picked off his first turkey of the day. After a unanimous vote, it was decided that no-name will forever be remembered as Kent's Dive.

With much laughter and two more rapids behind us, our group settled back to enjoy the 4 mile paddle out. The icing was put on the cake at the 'Cracker Barrel' which the group voted the best place in 20 miles not to catch ptomaine poisoning. After a good chow down, it was a very contented drive back to Lexington.

## The Nantahala-Ocoee River Trip

In the early morning of September 189 fifteen club members and/or friends met at the Lost Mine Campground near the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Those present, at least physically, were Willie Johnson, Ed Puterbaugh, Ken Bing, Sally Stultz, Bob Sehlinger, Micky Fulp, Scott Meyer, David Moccia, Jim and Kathy Ramsey, Katie Keene, Kent Kirchner, Beuren Garten, and Charles Andre. Marshal Wilt and Stan Racke met at N.O.C. and paddled the Nantahala earlier than the group. Jerome Sims, trip coordinator was unable to attend due to the untimely contraction of a cold.

This was the first time on the Nantahala for many of us. Patton's Run, the first rapid, and one of the most famous on the river, was negotiated without much trouble. In fact the group had little trouble with anything on the river, except of course the falls, entitled 'Lesser Wesser'. With water lower than normal, the approach to the falls was a little tricky. The falls lived up to its legend by giving several of us a good cold bath. Scores of spectators lined the road along side the falls to get a good view of paddlers running (or flushing through) the Lesser Wesser.

After supper that night, talk turned to which river to run on Sunday. We knew the Ocoee River in southeast Tennessee was flowing well, so we decided to drive over and take a look at it in the morning. After scouting the river while driving along U.S. 64, late Sunday morning found us standing on the rocky banks of the Ocoee with our mouths agape marveling at a spectacular section of almost continuous white water. After lengthy discussions about the runability of the river, the need for extra flotation, and some serious soul-searching we decided to split up. Those who decided not to run the Ocoee returned to the Nantahala. We later learned from the group that the release was even less than on Saturday and made for a much more technical run. Converse to what happened on Saturday, Patton's Run was more difficult while the falls offered less trouble.

## The Ocoee River Trip

The Ocoee River lies in the extreme southeastern corner of Tennessee in the Unicoi Mountains. To my knowledge it is not a widely known canoeing stream because it is so infrequently runnable. This is due to T.V.A. controlling the flow via a small system of power dams. During most of the year, the release of water from Dan #2 is diverted into a timber flume which flows 4.6 miles along the mountainside to the powerhouse. It is not until they are repairing the flume or powerhouse, that enough water is released into the river to make it attractive to boaters.

Those who stayed at the Ocoee were Sally Stultz (k-1), Ed Puterbaugh (k-1), Bob Sehlinger (C-1-O), and Beuren Garten and Charles Andre (C-2-0). Both open boats were Blue Holes with plenty of extra styrofoam flotation. We met three kayakers from the Atlanta area who agreed to guide us since they had run this section several times. Bubba Crochet and a friend, whose name I'm sorry I didn't get, both K-10 paddled with us and Buck Mosley kept track of us from the road and offered a rope throw below the two big rapids. We are grateful to these three fellows for their help and friendly advice.

The river was running at 900 CFS with a gradient of 55 feet/mile on this section from just below the Dam #2 to the take-out 1/2 mile downstream from the powerhouse. In the 5 mile run, there was little calm water, long rapids and the eddies though fairly numerous were small and some-



times difficult to enter. The two class IV rapids are well separated; the first about midway through the run and the second near the end along side the powerhouse. The first one is fairly long with two and three foot waves and a narrow chute with a big rock in the middle at the end followed by a big souse hole. The second is shorter beginning just upstream from the bridge to the powerhouse and ending just below the bridge. The right side of the rapid is the biggest with a four foot hole and a couple of four foot waves. The current is very strong here and pushes boats directly at the bridge pier in the middle of the river. If you come through the top part of the rapid and miss the bridge pier on the right, there is a three foot drop with associated holes and waves immediately below. We ran this rapid on the right and wiped out in the first hole with us and our boat barely missing the bridge pier, and flushing through the last drop, I consider this route pushing the limits of an open boat. The upper end can be more easily run on the left, missing the big hole.

We have information that the powerhouse is in need of major repairs and that T.V.A. is in the process of deciding whether to make the repairs or close the powerhouse. If the powerhouse is closed, the release from the dam will go directly into the river on a much more frequent schedule, thus making the Ocoee runnable more often. In the event this happens, canoe and kayak clubs all over the southeast may be able to persuade T.V.A. to manage Dam #2 releases for recreational purposes.

In closing, I should mention the level of expertise needed to run this river. It was the general feeling of the group that only experienced open boaters with maximum flotation should attempt this ran. Intermediate and advanced kayakers would find this a very exciting river, but ability to eskimo roll is recommended. We found widely varying and conflicting opinions in some other newsletters about the rating of the Ocoee.

Charles Andre

#### Canoe Licensing Out in Wisconsin

Of interest to all canoers was a bill introduced this year in Wisconsin which would have required Registration (Taxing) of Canoes. The bill, it is reported by the ACA Midwest Div. Newsletter, was defeated largely due to the efforts of the Rock River Canoe Association.

## BWA Decennial Anniversaries

# Celbrating the Bluegrass Wildwater's 40 years



**BWA Celebrates 30 Years of Good Times!**

Nothing like a keg to get the celebration going on Friday at the BWA 30th Reunion!

This October 14 the BWA celebrated a milestone in it's history, its 30th year. There were well over 80 members camping at OAR campground near the Ocoee and Hiwassee rivers. It turned out to be a perfect weekend in many ways. First the weather gods smiled on us all weekend. We had sunny day temperatures in the mid to upper seventies, and cool evenings that were perfect to be around a campfire visiting with old friends.

The BWA reunion party has become an annual tradition. It started when the BWA, always ready for a new reason to have a party, decided that being around for ten years was a great reason to celebrate. Everyone had such a good time of sharing paddling stories we decided this was a great thing to do in the fall. This year's was our biggest reunion with folks showing up as early as Thursday. Those that came a long way include: Dave Moccia who did a ten hour plus drive from the North Carolina Coast, Jerry O'Connor flew in from Texas, and John Davis came from California.

### **Many Early Members Come**

There was a strong contingent of members from the seventies and eighties. Some of the founding members at the Reunion Party included Dave Moccia, Jim Ramsey, Bob Sehlinger, Don Spangler, along with Sam and Karen Moore.

There were also a lot of members from the eighties at the event: Rich & Lynn Lewis, Mike & Pam Weeks, Jerry Hey, John "Chief" Kulka, Bob & Elsie Miller, Paul "Sock-eye" Singleton, Patty Molnar (Garten), Mike Molnar, Bridgid Devries, Barry & Cynthia Grimes, Frank Loudermilk, John Davis, Lloyd (You can do it!) Funkhauser, Dave Martin and "Rico Weeks and Lee Belknap.

### **Eight Presidents at the Reunion**

Our first President, Kent Kirchner, was unable to attend. Kent is now Chief of Staff at the VA Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi, and was committed to donating his services in Panama for the week. Kent is suprised at how the club has grown and how much it has accomplished since he



Old Timers getting into the party mode.

play at church the next morning. A lot of effort for your friends! Keith, we appreciated your music and the effort you made to play it to us.

The older contingent of the club put on a display of dancing that while not up to current styles was enthusiastic. Younger members did not dance much, perhaps it was out of kindness to not embarrass the older guys or was it possible they were just out of energy?

### No Paddling Club Outcooks or Outeats Us

Food turned out to be first rate. In the BWA tradition of "bring a little, share a little, several tables were loaded with all kinds of side dishes and desserts. It was obvious that we have a lot of good wilderness cooks in the BWA. Because Bubba's said this was

moved to Mississippi. He may make it to a future reunion. However a number of past presidents did make it, including Sam Moore, Don Spangler, John Kulka, Bob Bryan, Bridgid Devries, Mike Molnar, John Davis, Jason Bailey, and Phil (Bubba) Sisk.

### Live Music helps set the mood

Great music was provided to us by Keith Hubbard and Bill L. with the able assistance of Mike Molnar at times. The BWA has had a great many talents over the years that have added much to our reunions and events. What is not recognized is that they generally do this with no expectation of any financial compensation. The BWA gives you all a big "Thanks!" I know it is not easy getting all your boating gear together and also loading all your musical instruments and sound systems.

This year I found out that Keith, one of the finest keyboard artists in Kentucky, came down to play on Saturday and then headed back home that night as he had to



Old Timers getting into the party mode.

not an event for chickens we had loads of sirloin steaks grilled by the team of Sam & Karen Moore and Bubba. The next morning people were still grazing (those that could make it up) on the steak leftovers as Lloyd Funkhauser and others added stacks of pancakes and big pots of coffee to the fare.

### Old Memories of Rapids

Have Not faded much. To check out and see if newer members were paddling enough rivers and to see if older members could remember paddling rivers we played a game we have often used at clinics and other gatherings: "Name that rapid". Early members formed one team and recent members formed the second team. Slides were shown of rapids of rivers the BWA has paddled throughout the US. The team that names the most rapids correctly is the winner. Well the old timers lost by one point. However there was some question about some older members trying to retain a "young status" and affecting the results. That was quickly soothed over by some sharing of the prize, a bottle of Wild Turkey.



Keith and Bill belting it out for the crowd.

A tradition that was started in the early days at the Red River take out. Since then after a fun day it is the tradition of a bottle of Wild Turkey is opened, the cork thrown in the fire, and the bottle passed from friend to friend along with recountings of paddling stories.



Passing on the Tradition!

### Around the Campfire

Finally things slowed down and folks gathered at our big bonfire. Lloyd Funkhauser and Jim Dinger sang and played guitar. Lloyd composes many original paddling and round the campfire songs that often have great humor in them, you may even recognize a lyric about someone you know! I noticed Jim listening to some of them very intently with his eyes closed for greater concentration. Slowly, as the night air became crisp and the fire died down all became quiet as folks moved toward their sleeping bags.

### Morning and Recovery

Morning comes slow to the BWA, which is why it has always had a reputation of not putting on the river till noon. Finally a couple of less experience members get up and locate some firewood to get a fire going. Most others wait in their bags knowing



Hot coffee gets us going in the morning.

that in time they will have a nice warm fire to dash to and huddle around that will soften the nip of a cold fall morning. Others wait till they smell the aroma of hot coffee to finally get up. Some wait too long and are seen trying to dash up the steep hill to the restrooms. That is one downside to the campground at OAR, it takes several minutes to get to them.



Lloyd's pancakes proved a hit in the morning.

The BWA did quite a job of filling the campground. What looked like a lot of space filled up on Saturday. Not many purist who travel lite in the BWA these days. Because of the small rv's and the large tents and Mike Molnar's trailer with sailboat on it and his extra gear on display around it there was not a lot of open space left. Ahh, prosperity is a good thing.



Sunday morning, the let's go paddling mill.

### Words of Goodbye

As the noon hour approached tent by tent and SUV by SUV disappeared as good byes were said among promises made to see each other at the next one.

Fun was had by all and some new memories were made that will only get better with coming years. There were no discouraging words to be heard.....unless you count whatever it was Todd was trying to say when his SUV did not start. Ha!

*Don Spangler*

# HAPPY 10th 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 canocing 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-Pres; 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 tile Falls, 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 favoarite "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 Monday nights!).

February 7, 1978, we began meeting the first Tuesday of each 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 911 p.m.

In March of 1979, our meeting place moved 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 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 arid 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-boating 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*

*July/Aug/Sept 1986*

# The BWA, Reflection and Conjecture

A cold January day can give one the time to pause and think about things, especially if you are a paddler. So it is the Bluegrass paddler, warming drink in hand starting to reflect about the Bluegrass Wildwater Association.

Our "Association" has withstood the test of survival. Several years have passed since an enthusiastic small group of paddlers came together to form it. It has outlasted many of them leaving, proving the idea and association was a needed and valid one. And most important, it has grown and prospered.

Our membership is 3-4 times what it was in the early days. We are one of the most active groups of boaters you are likely to find. In addition to all this we have put on the first club organized River Safety Symposium; we put on a Paddling Film Festival; we are becoming more active in River Conservation; we put on two Clinics each year; we teach at the YWCA each winter all signs that we are maturing and are here to stay. But, there is yet another side to our club, which I think is unique compared to many. As our founders seemed to predict in the choice of our name, we are an association in the dictionary sense: "a joining or uniting together into a relationship as companion, partner, or friend."

The "Bluegrass Paddler" has seen many good friendships evolve over the years. Some say that our club has become too "social" over the years, perhaps .... But, in today's society one thing that is often missing or hard to find is a group of people that enjoy life together, can achieve things together, and can care about each other in the way we do. As we evolve in the eighties, I can see us growing and I can see us doing more. I can see us paddling many more rivers, but I also hope we never lose that closeness we have as an "association".

*--The Bluegrass Paddler  
Bowlines March/April 1984*

## The BWA 1976 - 1981

In the past five years, the BWA has grown from an idea of Charels Andre and Beuren Garten to an established organization in our community and in whitewater boating circles throughout the country. Believe it or not, the BWA is performing a good service to the community in several ways. We encourage people we meet to use discretion and safety on the river: we set good examples by our knowledge and use of safety while in our own recreation. We promote communication on river related issues such as in this newsletter. There are many other items that this organization participates in for which time and space do not permit mentioning.

In reflecting back and examining past newsletters, I see quite a change in the club as a whole, but the excitement of hearing about past river trips on my first BWA meeting is still similar to the excitement I experience now when someone tells me of their trip on a new stream. It is this excitement and zest that keeps this club going and will guard its future. Because variety is the spice of this club. I see no end to river exploring or the good friends one makes on these journeys. As our present membership is somewhat over 100 members, I feel that we enjoy a benefit of that membership shared by fellow clubs "participation". Our membership is dedicated and active. The attendance at our monthly meeting is usually 50% of the membership, and when there is a project, people are so willing to help, I have to make a list of names to remember them all.

My association with this organization has only been 4 1/2 years, but in that time I have been on trips all over North America with the club. Friends come and go, but my boating friends are always cherished. Good luck BWA and let's see that our next five years are as good as the last.

*Sam Moore  
from Bowlines  
November 1981*

# Off the Cuff

## Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

### Upper Yough July 1, 2 and 4 with a Savage lap on the 3rd

June 20, 2016

I am thinking about going up for 3-4 days of paddling in MD. Probably leave out on June 30th and return on July 5th.

Brent

June 21, 2016

Brent , i will be on the Upper the 1st and 2nd . Probably be camping up on Piney Mountain . Lets hook up !!!

Jesse

June 27, 2016

Brent, I plan to arrive Friday night the 1st, and am looking to paddle Saturday. Let me know where you are camping and I'll be sure to bring my drum. Jeff K 859 948 nineteen twenty I don't have your digits in my phone, so text them to me when you get a minute. Thanks.

Jeff K

Sounds like a great time, boss confirmed that I can have Friday off so that means a 4 day weekend. That means whitewater, friends, and fun times... I would love to join. Let me know the game plan.

Mike D

I am heading up Thursday afternoon from TN. Suzie Jacques is rolling with me. Jesse, where is Piney Mountain? Do they allow dogs? Jeff and Mike, come join. Plan to head back to TN after boating on Monday. My cell is 859-321-7588. Should be four days of Class Fun boating...

Brent

I'm doing day shift Fri and Sun. Thinking of day tripping from work for Sat as I really need a long boat lap! Sleep be damned!

Brent Piney Mtn is on the ridge across the river from Sang Run put in. Cross the bridge and drive up that road and you will see a turn off with sign for Piney Mtn on your left at the top of the hill. It is remote with sites hundreds of yards apart - except for the first 2 spots about 100m down the lead in rd, The shelter on the left has a 50 yd driveway and the spot on the right is right across the gravel lead in

rd from the shelter spot with the only pit toilet I've seen nearby. Snagging the shelter on the left would be best as there is room for several vehicles plus expansion room across the rd in that spot if someone snags that with the toilet very close to it. Think it is dog friendly, but never read the sign - Fred would know probably since he camps there a lot I think. There's literally nothing there but trees, a few remote spots and a pit toilet - your kind of place and if there's a squatch anywhere in the region it's in those woods lol. Hope to see Sat!

Wes

Piney Mountain is a sweet spot to camp but heads up that the area is supposedly patrolled regularly (I hear it wasn't in the past). Had local LEO visit us this past weekend there and had a strong vibe that he was really hoping to do more than just chat. Based on the info I found it looks like alcohol is prohibited in the campground unless you reserve the group site and buy an alcohol permit. Just a heads up...

[dnr2.maryland.gov]

Hope you guys have an awesome trip!

Derek

June 29, 2016

Brent , I've never had any problems camping there . I've been campin there for a long time and only had some rangers stop thru to check on the camping permits and what not but that's about it . I'm pretty sure dogs are allowed as well but never actually checked on that . Its pretty low key so I can't imagine it'd be a issue . I usually try an grab the shelter site as my 1st choice or the site across the road . I'll be traveling after work tomorrow and hopefully be there around there say ..... between 9:00 - 11 :00 just depends on getting out of the city

Thanks Derek and Jesse for the campground beta. Gonna give it a try. Wes, you are a nut. Be careful with that no sleep. Seriously. Oh, and Todd Harbour wants to go and ride share with someone. Anybody wanna ride with that hippy? if so, give him a call. If you don't have his number, text or call me and I will give it to you. Super stoked for the weekend/holiday...

Brent

July 05, 2016

Road warrior report: A most propitious 2 days in MD. Bare-

ly squeaked in there in time to join the crew on Sat. Glad to be part of the group but there were so many boaters out there I could have paddled alone and been a part of many groups lol. Glad I could also help Jeff out on his PFD - he had great lines.

I just experienced part of the party at John Regans Sat night and hear it just got more wild after I left around 1. Definitely a fun dude to hang with!

Sun we joined another cluster f'k for the Savage. Was almost a continuous line of boats. Mike had a great surf in a big pour over hole and managed to get out without swimming. The second lap was totally different. Was just Jeff and I. We pretty much had it to ourselves with just seeing a few other boaters and a couple of racers go by. The shuttle wait was also short the second lap. Definitely worth the short additional time.

Brent: Hope you come up for the race - Brit needs someone to paddle with race day.

Wes

## **2nd Summer Beginner's Trip July 29-31 : Hiwassee/Ocoee**

July 05, 2016

The 1st Summer's Beginner's trip was SMOKIN' HOT with enthusiasm so I'm going to do it again....

This time on the Hiwassee!!! ( Ocoee for you Intermediates who are ready).

I know this is the weekend before the Club Parties but I think it'll be groovy to get out there and get familiar with the river and really work all it hasd to offer with some more support than you may get party weekend and with less 'hurry' to be part of the Club Party Shenanigans. thumbs up

Here's the Deets:

July 29-31

Thunder Rock Campground & Recreation Area, Copperhill, TN 37317

Beginner Trips down the Hiwassee both Saturday & Sunday with Adventure Guides smiling bouncing smiley

Rafting available on the Ocoee both Saturday & Sunday (Currently have 1 raft, working on others.... anyone??)

\*Wine & Cheese Party will begin as we return to camp

Saturday - though the campground is No Alcohol drinking smiley so Be Creative please! winking smiley \*

Bring Camp Eating Gear - Let's Keep Trash to a minimum and leave no trace.

Breakfast provided Saturday & Sunday for \$5 for both days (\$2.50 daily)

Saturday dinner will be Potluck so please bring a dish for sharing.

Please post here or message me if you're interested in this trip ~

let me know you're a Beginner or if you're coming to play Adventure Guide aswell please, Thanks!!

I'll be reserving our sites on Friday and plan to get 6 sites.

Hope to see another great weekend on the water with the Beginner's and the Paying It Forwarders!!

Though I can't be on the water with you, I still want to provide this learning and tribe time to those just getting in to boating. LET'S MAKE THIS TRIP EPIC!!!

SYOTR

Adelessa

## **Another first descent for Lonnie Bedwell**

July 11, 2016

July 10, 2016, the Ocoee River, and Lonnie Bedwell!!!!

Lonnie Bedwell, non -sighted paddler and honorary B.W.A. member, became the first non-sighted hard boater to paddle the middle section of the Ocoee River this last weekend! On this adventure I thought it would be essential to have very experience Ocoee paddlers to lead and be Lonnie's safety and four did show up to take on this task: Rick Steeves from Carolina Canoe Club who heard on this attempt on boater post, and 3 members of Atlanta Team River Runner: Jeremy Thompson, Nick, and Sam (the female of the crew). After meeting at the put-in of the middle Lonnie and Myself gave them a very quick crash course on leading a non-sighted person down a whitewater river, and they absorbed the information very, very good. They were apprehensive to say the least and did not feel good about taking Lonnie through Entrance/Grumpies, but that apprehension dissolved shortly after the first rapid below Grumpies! I set this one out and took Darlene, Sandy, and a guy called Zues (who was filming this project for YouTube and T.R.R.) to select rapids to document, and it was also Darlene's (Lonnie's Girlfriend) first opportunity to actually see Lonnie paddling rapid's! The run was very successful and although Lonnie flipped three times his usual bomb proof rolls impressed the Ocoee pros with him. They are talking about doing the Upper and Olympic sections in the future! Special thanks to the Atlanta T.R.R. members and the Carolina Canoe Club for being such an essential part of this endeavor! The Southeast boating community are BOMBASS!!!! Film of this project SHOULD be available on YouTube in the near future!!!! Thanks DUDES!!!!!!



Report by:

B.J. Phillips: Kayak Bum: The only ambition I ever had in life, and it was well worth the wait! Team River Runner Asheville, and B.W.A.

## Fun w Crosslink Plastic - Repair Needed

July 09, 2016

Canoe KY said we would need to drill holes at the end of each crack to prevent them from spreading. Then put large Kevlar Skid Plates on both the inside and outside. They didn't want to do it. Sounds complicated. Would anybody with experience be interested in being paid to repair it? We were thinking about putting an exterior skid plate on both sides and painting them to look like eyes! Jim call or text.

Jim Cunningham

July 13, 2016

The good news is this isn't the hull, looks like the knee pad area? Yep you want to drill those ends to prevent propagation and I would do what they said - kevlar skid pad mat on inside and out. Prior to repair heat treat the plastic to improve adhesion then rough it up a bit with sandpaper. Heat treat until water no longer beads on it - heat gun or propane torch (carefully). Gflex Epoxy is what you need for resin. I would do one side then the other. Use a glad freezer bag over it to smooth out the fabric and squeeze out extra resin. All the help I can offer as I don't have time to fix my own boats! sad smiley  
Wes

Jim you should be able to fix this yourself. Guys like Wes, Hanley, and Robert talked me through the process years ago. It's not that difficult. You just need to buy the kit with the resins. Etc  
Linda Tribble

July 14, 2016

Thanks Guys. Wes - I understand! Any suggestions on where to get the kit from?  
Jim Cunningham

I bought my Gflex at NOC, but you can order it online from multiple sources. Google homework.... West Systems G Flex Epoxy Kevlar Felt

One more thing. The Kevlar felt is usually a natural color brownish yellow that just get uglier with UV aging. You can tint it with epoxy tint (another search) to whatever color you want by tinting the resin. The yellow color will

blend in though unless you choose a really strong tint that's dark like black.

You might want to read up on heat treating HDPE for better adhesive adhesion, if you are nervous about that step. I noticed this interesting bit of info from the West System site - notice the huge difference in adhesion with flame treat and that alcohol wipe alone gave better adhesion than sanding! Would have never thought that!

[www.westsystem.com]

I would probably patch about 2" beyond the crack margins - or you can research the web to maybe find actually tested advice on margins.

Wes

Jim, if you want to come over to my house sometime, I'll talk you through it and you can use my heat gun.

Like Wes said, it's good that the break is not on the hull, but that looks like a hell of a break. Welding should fix it, but some kind of backup repair like an adhesive skid plate is probably in order. I don't know anything about those, but I'll bet we can learn everything we need to know about them on YouTube.

Hanley Loller

PS: Yes, Wes, any purchasing recommendations?

You might try sweetcomposites.com for one stop material ordering. I have heard they are pretty good at talking you through materials and methods also.

PS: I haven't done any repairs yet, so all I know is from what I've read, but I would think felt would be thick and ugly. 4 or 6 oz weave S-glass might make a prettier repair. But... I haven't done any repairs myself.  
ed

I would not attempt to weld the cross link plastic. From everything I've read about it the general consensus is you will make a mess and the end result will be so brittle as to be much weaker than the surrounding plastic. It's not that it can't be melted and rejoined - it's that this cannot be accomplished with cross link without overheating the plastic severely that leads to the mess / brittle result. Cross link plastic goes immediately from too hard to bond to a liquid puddle - which is the problem. In linear HDPE welding, the key is not to overheat, to focus the heat to just the area being joined and to get it just soft enough to make a good bond. This requires a speed tip or a heat focusing tip and excellent technique that requires hours of practice to perfect. This is where most DIY plastic welders mess up -

they use a regular heat gun and heat a large area and get it so hot a puddle is formed which is too hot and leads to a brittle area that will break before the surrounding plastic. I recently purchased a heat gun specifically for welding and have some limited practice with it. After I'm confident I'm going to weld my Karma ... right hopefully! There are several YouTube videos on the net about repairing plastic kayaks and all are wrong! I've done hours of research - as is my nature lol - on this before I even thought about fixing my Karma. There are good welding videos / written instructions out there but none involving kayaks. Do a search on HDPE welding technique but don't use "kayak" in the search. Maybe I'll make a video if I'm successful in getting it down pat. It supposedly requires hours of practice to find that magic point of just the right amount of focused heat / melting for a strong weld. Done right, I've read it's stronger than the original plastic. When's the last time you saw a boat repair where that was the case?

Wes

I wasn't reading closely. Wes is right, crosslink is not heat weldable.

Well, I'm happy to help you work with the G-Flex if you want to give it a shot, or simply watch, point, laugh and give bad advice. I haven't used it before, but I've used a lot of two-part epoxy of many varieties for various purposes. I'm not particularly good and my work isn't pretty, but what the hell. If you want to do it, we'll grab a couple of beers and give it a try.

Now, if you've got a LINEAR polyethylene boat that needs welding, ... that's a whole-'nother story.

Hanley Loller

I'd push for the g-flex and patch approach.

I've seen some astounding welding work done on cross-link, but my understanding is that the temperature window for success is very narrow, and, as Wes pointed out, the heat affected zone needs to be kept small.

If you skip through the various humor bits, there is a quick illustration of the various steps of using thickened g-flex to repair major damage here: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)]

Based on boat repair experience in a previous life, I'd rather go with un-thickened epoxy and cloth, I think that felt would be thick, and ugly, and besides, something woven would be structurally superior. I'd probably opt for 6 oz cloth.

I second Sweet composites as a source, the folks there are great to deal with. Another option for supplies is Jamestown distributors:

[[www.jamestowndistributors.com](http://www.jamestowndistributors.com)]

A bit more from the folks at West Systems about bonding plastic with G-flex: [[www.westsystem.com](http://www.westsystem.com)] Based on my experience the flame-treatment is a big deal in making a good bond.

As an aside, before Philip Galls went under they stocked thickened G-flex kits, I don't know if J&H does or not.

Give it a shot, it's not all that tough.

Robert Milgate

July 15, 2016

I think Robert has a good point re: glass over felt. I thought maybe Canoe KY had some experience or knowledge that I didn't to recommend Kevlar felt. That's not a high flex area so glass should work fine. I would do it like a glass boat patch (something unfortunately I have a lot of experience with from back in the day). 2 layers inside and out, inner layer 1 in or so smaller in diameter than the outer and use freezer bag plastic over the outer patch taking time to squeeze out the air / extra resin. A small minicel wedge works well as the squeegee.

Wes

### **Pigeon river/water quality/drowning?**

July 24, 2016

So we ran the Pigeon yesterday and the water quality was as poor as it was 10 years ago. Water was very brown and several of us itched all over. I am getting ready to take my second shower since our trip because I am still itching. There was a reported death in power house early in the day. No clue of details on that one. All we heard was older boater at least a 100 yards under water and unable to revive. Any one have any info? tim m So we ran the Pigeon yesterday and the water quality was as poor as it was 10 years ago. Water was very brown and several of us itched all over. I am getting ready to take my second shower since our trip because I am still itching. There was a reported death in power house early in the day. No clue of details on that one. All we heard was older boater at least a 100 yards under water and unable to revive. Any one have any info?

tim miller

The fatality has been confirmed, but no details other than the cryptic information we heard yesterday

Linda Tribble

So I felt obligated to comment on this because, in some regards, I was the one to propagate this rumor. I probably should have been more vocal of my uncertainties when I told Britt, Linda, Tim, Anne, and Mac yesterday about this. What went down, I was eddied out and a mid 40's guy in a white Sweet Strutter helmet R-1ing a grey NRS E-130 (or close) raft passed by in a lull of commercial traffic. I commented on how awesome the day was. He replied with a pleasantry and then made a comment about a death. I asked if he was serious, and he replied that they were recovering the body of a older kayaker that didn't have a roll, he flipped at Powerhouse and floated downstream without anyone able to get to him. I was in the eddy and he never left the current, so the entire conversation was 40ish seconds. I then told all the others. I got worried that I started this rumor so I called around outfitters today asking if I've spread this untrue story. An employee at one of the local outfitters confirmed a death but was unaware or not willing to comment on specifics. Sorry to bring this to you all, and my heart, thoughts, and prayers go out to the family, friends, and boating community of the beautiful Pigeon River.

Sam IV

July 25, 2016

Channel 8 from Knoxville reported on this yesterday with the following feed which reported 2 deaths on the Pigeon last weekend. 1 was the kayaker and the other a 20 year old man who was swimming in the lake without a life jacket. Be careful out there and watch out for all those around you, even class 3 can kill given the right circumstances; "Earlier Saturday afternoon a kayaker also died in the Pigeon River, according to Kevin Benton, Cocke County Emergency Management Director. He said the South Carolina man was with a co-worker when the current swept him under.

"His friend said one minute he seen him, the next minute he didn't," said Benton.

Four commercial rafters with Big Creek Expeditions were in the water at the time and recovered the body."

Bob

There are accounts of the incident on Boater Talk from individuals who knew the gentleman and were with him. At this point reports point to a heart attack, but whether the attack triggered the swim or the swim triggered the attack is anyone's guess. It was ZREALLY hot at the put in on

Saturday and that could also have been an extenuating circumstance.

Linda Tribble

My group put on almost directly after that victim put in. As I was preparing to shoehorn myself into my playboat I noticed him peeling out. He looked wobbly and tentative slapping at the water but not really paddling solid strokes. We saw him next about 1/2 mile downstream, he was pulled up on the shore breathing but unresponsive. I asked one of the boaters if everything was okay, he didn't say anything but his body language said NO. I got out of my boat and positioned myself on the bank as a trio began First Aid and CPR quite valiantly . An ambulance arrived and we (mostly raft guides) relayed him up the bank into the ambulance. Just hearing of his passing tonight.

Chief

Hey there (this is Betsy writing on chiefs acct), So I was with Chief, Lou and Mel paddling the pigeon. We were eddied out at the put in waiting on Chief when the 2 boaters (the man that died and his friend) paddled past us. We didn't see him until about 1/2 mile downstream. A small group of boaters and raft guides had just pulled the one boater out of the water and had him on a rock. His coworker friend was with him and out of his boat. Nobody was really sure what happened other than he flipped and swam close to the put in and had been swimming down the river for awhile. One boater said he saw him swimming and yelling but the boater thought it was more of a "yahoo this is fun" yell. Eventually somebody figured out he was in distress and a boater got the guy sort onto his kayak( but he was not very responsive) and got him to shore. And then other boaters and a couple raft guides stopped to help. That's about when we got there. The guy was a little responsive, they tried the heimlich on him and kept talking to him. He started to turn pale/purplish. Then they gave him CPR for a long time. They put him on a SUP that someone had been paddling on. (it was pretty rocky so that really helped) he started to get more color in his face. The people who were trying to help him were amazing. There was a woman boater who was an ER doc and some other skilled people who took turns doing CPR. They were really focused and worked really hard. When the ambulance arrived the paramedic brought down the AED and hooked it up and it told them not to shock him so they kept doing CPR until they had him on the ambulance backboard. A bunch of raft guides on a bus came down and helped lift him up the bank and into the ambulance. Chief heard the local put in cop saying that a helicopter was going to meet them at the rest stop on the interstate. I am really sad that

he didn't make it. He and his friend were probably mid 30's. It was hard to know if he had a heart attack or if his throat had closed up from drowning (I forget what you call that) . I think the 2 guys were really inexperienced boaters. He was using a sea kayak paddle and his PFD didn't fit well (it was up over his head when they pulled him out). It's kind of amazing he swam so long without getting help. It was a busy day. It was really humbling to watch the rescue and I promised myself right then to get up to date on my rescue skills.

Chief

July 26, 2016

It's worth repeating.

The number one rescue skill you can have in your bag of tricks is traditional "breaths and compressions" CPR as taught by the red cross. That is the one thing that is most likely to save someone on the river. All that rescue training, pin drills and Z-drags, all that is good, but CPR is far more likely to see use and is far too easy to learn for anyone to have an excuse not to know it.

I've taken the class repeatedly for over 30 years, but I could stand to take it again just for practice and to re-up my certs. Anybody else interested? Roll sessions are about to wrap up so it's a good time to start thinking about such things.

Hanley Loller

PS: For all you new folks who haven't seen my rant on "compressions only" CPR vs "breaths and compressions" CPR, I urge you to check it out here: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/read.php?5,1977,1977#msg-1977>

It's worth repeating.

The number one rescue skill you can have in your bag of tricks is traditional "breaths and compressions" CPR as taught by the red cross. That is the one thing that is most likely to save someone on the river. All that rescue training, pin drills and Z-drags, all that is good, but CPR is far more likely to see use and is far too easy to learn for anyone to have an excuse not to know it.

I've taken the class repeatedly for over 30 years, but I could stand to take it again just for practice and to re-up my certs. Anybody else interested? Roll sessions are about to wrap up so it's a good time to start thinking about such things.

Hanley

PS: For all you new folks who haven't seen my rant on "compressions only" CPR vs "breaths and compressions" CPR, I urge you to check it out here: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/read.php?5,1977,1977#msg-1977>

Maybe CPR certification for BWA members at a meeting would be a good way to spend our cash??  
durachtas1

Thanks for the eyewitness updates, Chief and Betsy. This happened during our group's first lap and before our second, with no idea that these unfortunate events had occurred.

I'm happy to hear how well the CPR was orchestrated, yet I wish that the victim was extracted from the water sooner, as that excess time in the water may could have contributed to excess water in the lungs or a dry drowning.

It's amazing how quickly things can occur on the water and how quickly one must react to rescue a swimmer, get out of one's boat, help with a pin, throw a rope, etc., especially given the fact that most folks cannot hold their breath for 60 seconds.

I completely agree with Hanley on the need for breaths or breaths and compressions. Most boaters have healthy hearts. Therefore, the major threat to survival following a water related drowning scenario with a healthy individual is a lack of oxygen to vital organs. Get oxygen (breaths) into the lungs of an unresponsive drowning victim ASAP. Then check for a pulse to determine if CPR is needed.

My vote would be for the club to organize (and subsidize) a swiftwater rescue course at the Russell Fork (or BSF/re-alternatively close river), taught by the best instructors we know of, as soon as possible.

Be safe out there.

John

Yes, I agree. I have never felt scared of death or injury out there, only inconvenience and embarrassment. I am not sure if I have been stupid or lucky. I will say, I have been with great friends and skilled boaters every time I get on something bigger than the Elkhorn. I would like to know more about rescue skills in the water. I have done CPR many times and can tell those that have not, it is a skill that is the most noble skill you will ever learn. Saving a life puts you in a category above all others.

Howard

I just posted this statement below on boatertalk in response to the official AW report. My primary concern was that according to that report, for at least some pe-

riod of time (they said 5-10 min) he was known to be a near drowning with altered mental status and was being "monitored". This terrified me! Hanley is right of course in that river CPR should not be what's commonly taught in community courses as that CPR is for primarily cardiac / electrical causes of cardiac arrest.

[[www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org)]

Unqualifield or at least poorly supported for his level of fitness / skill. Poor / bad fitting safety equipment and poor fitness for the activity he was undertaking all contributed no doubt. An account I read on the BWA forum from someone immediately on the scene stated that he was initially ignored by other boaters because they assumed he was fine floating along? Seems like the high riding PFD would be a clue that he wasn't?

Now this is the part I'm not clear about and perhaps someone can clarify it. According to the AW report he was at minimum a near drowning and had altered mental status which signifies significant hypoxemia. At this point your primary concern should be dry drowning / secondary drowning. That's when water enters the lungs and is absorbed into the blood - which is why you don't need to try to get it out, I'll get back to this. This irritates the lungs and causes pulmonary edema - or fluid to fill the lungs from the blood. A well trained ear could maybe diagnose this listening to the lungs with their ear against the chest, but a stethoscope would be better and a chest x-ray much better. My point is I wouldn't "monitor" someone who nearly drowned and had altered mental status. I would treat that as an emergency transport and activate EMS immediately where they can be intubated and positive pressure ventilation / advanced respiratory care may save their life. If you sit around on the side of the river and "wait and see if it

happens" it will likely be too late once you decide they are bad enough to summon rescue. There is no definite time period to when pulmonary edema will occur if it does - it can be a few minutes or hours. But if someone comes in my ER with a near drowning report I will at the minimum observe them for a few hours and then very likely admit them for overnight observation. Please don't sit and watch a near drowning - especially with road access. If you are remote it may be worthwhile to get them to try to paddle to a better access point IF they are up to it. But as soon as they start feeling short of air they need to stop and signal the group for help. Again, don't blow this off - it can be deadly serious.

The report I read said someone did a heimlich on him? A waste of time that may cause injury, you won't get any significant fluid out - it's rapidly absorbed into the blood as I said above. Another comment on the AED not shocking. It reads the telemetry from the pads and only shocks specific rhythms that are known to benefit from defibrillation. Asystole (flat line) and sinus tachycardia (normal conduction, just fast) would be examples of rhythms it wouldn't shock.

Wes Prince, MD

Emergency Physician

July 29, 2016

Thank you for all the good information, especially Dr. Prince, there is a lot to know; FYI to anyone interested I know that the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association TSRA is offering a Swift Water Rescue course in August, I believe it is on the Ocoee; I know their instructors are great as I just took a basic river safety class from them a few weeks ago and they are frequently hired by area EMS / fire departments etc for trainings. I believe the website is [www.paddletsr.org](http://www.paddletsr.org)

Tina

## The Old BWA Guys can still Win!

Some of us Silverbacks i.e. Old Farts were blessed to have started canoeing at an early age. My own saga started in 1956 when my Dad bought a 15 Grumman from a man accused of murder.....he needed money for his lawyer and back then \$150. went a lot farther. But that is another story.

Fast forward 60 years and that same Freddy Tuttle is still paddling aluminum canoes and even taking third place with 68 yr old Vietnam Vet Dave Hendrich from Indiana near Blue River in the National Championships on the White River in Arkansas . I won't bore you whitewater paddlers with details but suffice to say that we had to pass the same canoe three times to edge them out at the finish line in the 10 mile race. So coming from horse country this ole paddler was pleased to come from behind (we were dead last coming out of the gate) and beat a younger team in a lighter faster canoe.

Next Aluminum Nationals are in Florida near Sarasota March 4-5, 2017.



*Fred at Nanty Fallls*

# Eddy Lines of Interest

**BWA Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Ethereal Brewery**  
**June 5th, 2016, 7:30pm**

**Steering Committee Attendees: Mike D, Dot, Bob, Ky Jim, Kyle K, , Don P, Don, B-randy, John M.**

**Bob called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm**

**Welcome to the new members!!**

**Up-n-coming:**

**-40th Anniversary party in the works.**

**-AW needs a rep for the Ocoee for TVA intervention. BWA reps are Mike W and KY Jim**

**-Motion on the table John seconded by Don P to send \$300 to Adelessa's Hiawasse/Ocoee beginners trip. Motion passed.**

**Officer Reports**

**Don, Newsletter – Working on the June/July issue. Article about a legendary BWA member. Original newsletter officer, first honorary member is also writing an article. Don is also welcoming all members to send in trip reports and**

**Meghan, Conservation Officer –**

**Kyle, Gear-Meister -- Need to look at current gear and implement inventory. B-randy agreed and is willing to help check condition of gear on hand.**

**Michael D, Secretary – Interest in meeting new members**

**Dot, Membership Coordinator – Talking between Don P and Joe to weed out non paying members from current members in order to send out Elkhorn parking pass. Kyle asked if it was possible to send BWA stickers with parking passes. Discussed it would be cheaper to hand out stickers at meetings, plenty to go around. Kyle looking to promote membership by passing out stickers like business cards. Dot is looking to promote river stewards but not with waste of handing stickers to people that would throw it away as that would be counter productive. Howard reminds us about all the new boaters that need to be recognized**

**and 292 current members.**

**Walt, Safety Officer – not present**

**MFW, Program Director-- not present**

**Don P, Treasurer – \$750 in membership dues. Bob is looking to approve the same amount donated towards the summer party (\$1K) but it must go before the full club. Talks about getting the trailer back into proper working condition. Kyle is willing to search for cheaper parts to save the BWA money for repairs. Interest in subsidizing cost of swift water rescue, first aid, cpr, and first responders training, for safer boating. Discussion about a lifetime membership for BWA as an affiliate of AW, Bob will look into it.**

**Joe – Not present**

**Bob, President – meetings are going awesome, talk about what the new officers are getting into.**

**Brandy, Vice-President – Clinic committee is running strong, looking for a new person to help out. Possibly move the meeting to after the steering committee meeting.**

**John Mello, NPFF– Npff is on it's downtime right now. Planning on being at Gauleyfest. Planning on new website. Trying to get an early start on finding companies to donate for the auction. Looked into a subwoofer for the club to use during events.**

**KY Jim, Member at large-- Russell Fork Rendezvous! Looking to see how many people would like to meet river side and include paddling into the meetings in order to get more people involved. Discussion about having club meeting at club party. Club meetings at the Elkhorn and the other rivers**

**Motion to close by John M. at 8:40, second by Mike D, meeting closed**

**Mike D.**

# Fellow BWA Member!

## Your Help is Needed!

*Bowlines* has always been known for its original stories, cartoons, artwork, and photos from its members.

**That is why Paddler Magazine awarded Bluegrass Wildwater Association's Bowlines " top honors for the design, content, entertainment and usefulness" as the best Paddling Newsletter in the U.S.**

**Please help continue this tradition by supporting each issue of *Bowlines* with your paddling stories, cartoons, art, & photos.**

From the very first days of the club Bowlines has been a record of our activities and thoughts. Early members decided the newsletter should be more than a reporting of trips.

We wanted it to reflect our enthusiasm for the outdoors and paddling, and to reflect our humor and thoughts.”



**Send your stories, cartoons, or other material to your Bowlines Editor: [donspang @aol.com](mailto:donspang@aol.com)**