

BOWLINES 40th Anniversary

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Mar/April 2016

Each issue this year will Celebrate the BWA being 40!

In this issue:

This issue's BWA legendary member: Mike Weeks
Ocoee - - First Impressions
Blue Moon of Kentucky Keep on Shining
Back Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines: Buzzing Down Bee Creek
National Paddling Film Festival 2016 Winners
The National Paddling Film Festival 2016 Photos
The Not NPFF 2016 Race Photos & Winners
Off the Cuff: Comments From the Forum Worth Remembering
Eddylines of Interest

Bluegrass Wildwater Association

1976-2016



Got an Old BWA photo? Send it to me and share it with us in Bowlines!



***BWA Clinic 1999 at the Wild & Scenic Emory-Obed River system.
Students getting ready to run a Class II rapid just above Clinic Camp at Rock Creek.***

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

Russell Fork River Cleanup April 23rd

In conjunction with the Leave No Trace 2016 Hot Spot week going on the same week we are planning a river cleanup for the Lower Russell Fork on Saturday April 23rd. We also welcome any boaters who want to clean the Gorge as they make a run. We will coordinate at Ratliff Hole for the cleanup at 11 AM on April 23rd. All the major access points from Bartlick downstream will be handled via road by volunteer boy scout groups. We are looking for paddlers that have the skill to run the Lower Russell Fork River at a yet to be determined level (its low right now) to do a sweeping cleanup. Its usually a class III or less run at most levels. If you have ran that section you know it needs a cleanup badly. We are providing some duckies and there will be some prizes for the most interesting finds on the run. All volunteers are welcome back on Sunday afternoon the 24th at Carson Island for a cook camping in the park. out. Also you can get a discount rate for

As for all the events of the Leave No Trace week we are expecting them to make a media release any day now regarding all of the weeks activities.

jasonfoley

Applications for BWA Spring Beginer Clinic June 3rd-5th, 2016

Adult, application and waiver:

http://www.hanleyanddenile.net/Clinic2016/2016_Clinic_App-Adult.pdf
http://www.hanleyanddenile.net/Clinic2016/ACA_waiver_2014__adult.pdf

Minor, application and waiver:

http://www.hanleyanddenile.net/Clinic2016/2016_Clinic_App-Minor.pdf
http://www.hanleyanddenile.net/Clinic2016/ACA_waiver_2014__minor.pdf



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

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Film Festival Coordinator	John Mello	859-327-6092
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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: Mike Weeks

Don Spangler

A refugee from the flatlands (and flatwater) to become the legendary BWA paddler the *Bowlines* when he was elected June/ indicate that he had recently joined the interest in paddling and thought he had a member of the Steering Committee.



of Florida, Mike Weeks did not seem destined he eventually would. Mike was first noted in July 1979 as a Member at Large. That would BWA and we had noted his enthusiasm and the potential to contribute to the club by being

Mike did become a very active member, ing in all the club efforts, from roll sessions ready for the first NPF. He eventually ran creeks in the Smokies, to the Chatoogga, the in our expedition to the Jataté along the border of Mexico and Guatemala as well as some western rivers.

always contributing time and effort participat- and clinics, to getting a getting the theatre barn all the streams we were running back then, from New, the Gauley, Cheat and Tigert, and participating

Well and good, but there would be a distinctive quirk in Mike's paddling adventures in the early years. From the beginning of Mike's relationship with the BWA, gravity and anything with a slope would haunt him. Mike seemed willing to give anything a try, not always appreciating possible consequences or considering "minor" details perhaps he assumed since others were doing it he could too.

In his enthusiasm to be a boater he went out and bought a canoe a 17' orange ram-x Coleman that probably weighed in at around 90 pounds, a beam of about 43", not to mention a metal rod inset the length of the canoe forming a keel. It was a canoe that was meant for a real man, actually at least a pair of real men. In the mid 1970's, Coleman introduced it's "Ram-X" line with the headline: The first "family canoe" with guts enough to take on whitewater. They said it was tougher than aluminum or fiberglass. I am convinced that all Mike saw was "tougher" and "white-water" before he rushed out and bought one.



The Coleman "barge" on top of Mike's white van

Well Mike managed to manhandle it down a few streams and survive. He was a young and tough guy, that proved to be in his favor. My favorite memory of Mike and the Coleman was a bit later when we had some good rains in the Emory-Obed area. We headed down to do Clear Creek and Mike Weeks decided he was ready for something with better whitewater. Sure enough the *ram-x* proved it was tough as it bounced and escaped down the chutes and over the rocks.

I was leading some of the rapids, and Mike was close behind following my canoe. As I approached "Wildow-maker" I pulled into an eddy on the top left of the rapid to size up the rapid. The tongue led into a series of 5'-6'+ "haystacks" and ended hitting a pourover rock. Seeing Mike heading for the eddy I was in I quickly

peeled out to avoid being run over by the "orange barge". As I was pulling into an eddy near the bottom I realized Mike never quite made it into the eddy, but his momentum had spun him around and he was heading backward into each of the haystacks, taking on water with each one. Somehow the canoe sensed the potential doom and nudged off to one side just missing the pour over. Though full of water Mike was still upright.... luck was with him. Newbies often are lucky if they just keep paddling sometimes, and Mike never gave up trying to get the canoe to respond.

Sometime after that Mike decided he needed a better (and lighter) boat. He had heard about this boat made in New York by a company that made light fiberglass kayaks and C-1s for racers. So he and a buddy each ordered one. They were great looking boats ...and light. They impressed the rest of the BWA with them, until Mike flipped and swam on a river. He recovered his boat, emptied it and got back in, but his paddle had floated into the next eddy just below where he was. He hollered at a person that was sitting in that lower eddy to throw his paddle back up to him, which they did. The paddle hit the deck of his boat and went into it and stuck at about a 45° degree.. Racers want their boats light, so they lay up the boat with as few layers of glass as they can. It was not long before the thin hull needed fixing too.

So we cut the top off the boats added more layers of glass to the hull and deck and they became as heavy as our own boats. Sometimes it is what you do not know that will get you in trouble. Of course Mike then blamed us for making his kayak "too heavy".

I have many more stories of Mike's difficult moments on the river.....and off the river, but some need a campfire and something to sip on. Least you think his only problem was with boats, Mike Weeks also had many incidents getting to and from the river in which his van or jeep would suffer. His van ran into a ditch and laid on its side on the takeout from the Big South Fork (long before there was such a thing as a paved road and big bridge at the takeout. While camping on a very foggy morning at the Nanty a friend (?) backed into his van twice thinking it was a rock that was stopping him from backing up. Then there is the one where he was leaving home, started the vehicle, remembered something he had left in the house, ran back in to get it just in time to hear his van crashing into the house.

Then there is the classic "Over the Hill Escapade" recounted in the Fall/Winter 2007 issue :

The Over the Hill Gang

We were in West Virginia to paddle the New and Gauley rivers over the Labor Day weekend. After paddling the New River Gorge on Saturday we returned to Babcock State Park where we were camping for the weekend. It had been a relatively quiet evening around the campfire and was well past the honorable hour to turn in. This was most likely because most of us had a wife or girlfriend with us since it was a holi-day weekend. Generally, with them along on a trip you are not as likely to do something stupid and hurt your- self, but there are those who can beat the odds.

With no excitement happening and it getting late I headed toward my van to call it a day. It was then I glanced across the loop and noticed Mike Weeks in his Jeep with Bob Bryan and Warren Moore heading out of camp. My first instinct was to be wary. Warren was new to the BWA and would not know to be cau- tious when Mike suggests you ride somewhere with him late in the evening. That is why we nicknamed Mike "Mr. Danger" or the "Danger Factor". But seeing Bob along I decided they must be just going up to the intersection to buy beer since the next day was Sunday.

I was sleeping when I was woke by a tapping on my window and a voice



calling my name. "Don, Don!, Do you have the club first aid kit?" I struggled to open my eyes and saw that it was Warren. Still not able to think coherently I blurted out that I thought that Don Coapland had it. As Warren went looking for Coapland I lay back down for a few moments until I realized something serious must have happened if they were looking for the major first aid kit.

I jumped up and went looking for Warren. I found him with Mike and Bob in the Restroom. My fears were confirmed. In the stark fluorescent light I could see they were covered with mud, had torn their clothes in places, and in general looked like they had been on the losing end of whatever happened. Mike was limping back and forth trying not to show he was in pain in any way. Bob's face reminded you of one of those monsters you might see in a horror movie as it was all cut up and had blood oozing out everywhere! Warren blurted out, "We're going to be ok, we just need some help in getting the glass out of Bob's face." Denial was a sure indicator that they were not okay.

Trying to comprehend the situation, I asked Mike what had happened. Forgetting that this would be just a preliminary question compared to what his wife's interrogation would be later, he blurted out "We were driving and looking for an alternate put-in for the New when something grabbed my front wheels! I had no choice but to go down the hill! We were just lucky we hit a tree that stopped us part way down, as the hill was steep and it was a long way down it!" I looked at Mike and he looked back at me, both of us knew his story was weak, but he was committed. "That's my story and I'm sticking to it." he said, while hoping it would work with Pam.

Bob interceded before I could tell Mike "good luck" with his story. "Honestly, I look bad but I feel ok, I just need you to get some of this glass out of my face and I will be ok in the morning." As I located the tweezers in the first aid kit, I asked if they were sure they did not need to go to the Emergency Room in Beckley. All three insisted they never felt better as they twisted and shuffled their bodies to alleviate the pain they did not have.

I worked on Bob's face pulling out the bigger splinters of glass from where he had planted his face into the windshield. After about 20 minutes or so I realized I was not equipped or trained to do a very good job. But Bob seemed satisfied as he looked in the mirror and exclaimed "That is better." By then they all wanted to retreat to bed. Mike asked me to help him get to his tent. He and I did the three legged thing toward his tent while Bob and Warren headed into the dark for their sleeping bags.

When we made it to Mike's tent I reached down, unzipped the door, and the familiar voice of Pam asked "Mike, is that you?" I said nothing as I shoved Mike through the door. Pam asked the still non-responsive Mike, "Where have you been?" I could hear Mike mumbling "I don't want to talk about it!" as I quickly headed away.

I woke in the morning in time to see Mike doing some kind of hop, skip and jump with a towel over his arm as he headed toward the restroom. Looking over at the SUV that Warren was sleeping in, I saw him, in agony, slowly and carefully trying to slide out the back inch by inch. I headed towards Bob's tent, curious as to how he was doing. He was still sleeping as I called out his name. As Bob raised his head, Kassie, his girlfriend at the time, woke up. Her eyes got big as Bob raised his head, along with the pillow that was stuck to it because of the dried blood. It obviously had been dark when Bob had crawled into the tent, and she had not seen Bob's face. It did not take long for the word to spread that there had been an accident. Fortunately the women knew better than to believe the three that they were ok and did not need to go to the emergency room. So I loaded them up in my van and we headed to the Beckley Hospital.

You might expect the story to end here, but remember this is a river trip story. I waited about three hours at the hospital till they were treated and released. All were quiet and subdued as they came out of the hospital, except for Mike. He was protesting that he didn't need no wheel chair to take him to the van. His caretaker agreed but said it was the rules. They got to the van, Mike stood up, took two steps, reached for the door, and sneezed. His face turned white, his eyes crossed and I grabbed him as he fainted. I yelled to the caretaker to bring the wheelchair back. An hour later they wheeled Mike back out.....this time not a word was said.



Warren, Mike & Bob, the day after the recovered Jeep.

Warren stiffly sat in the van while Bob was enjoying a beer and a cigarette as we waited for Mike. Another hour or so they finally brought Mike back out. Mike's only comment when he managed to get into the van was that he needed drugs, just get him to the drug-store. They had not detected anything broken on Warren so he just sat there enduring the pain from his non-injuries. Bob, with his beer and cigarettes, was ok..... as long as he did not look into a mirror. Despite appearances, he seemed to be in better condition than the others.

Later that day we headed back to Lexington, Mike in my van with pillows stuffed around him and under his leg. Bob, in his jeep, followed along behind me. Somehow we got separated near Charleston. When I no longer saw him in the rear view mirror I thought that he had stopped for gas. At least that is what I thought until I talked to him later in the week. It seems that the engine in Bob's jeep blew up and he was stuck in West Virginia for a while longer. It took months for the glass to work it's way out of Bob's face and at least that long to pay for a new engine. The weekend would not be one that he would soon forget! DS

Yes, Mike Weeks had a somewhat notorious early history in the BWA, but most of us have a lot of those boating moments, especially in our early days, that we try not to bring up while around the campfire. I was a more "cautious" paddler than Mike Weeks, but I still hold the BWA record for length of swim with my mile long swim on the South Fork of the Payette in Idaho at high water. I have plenty of other moments I also try not to bring up unless prodded by someone that was there when it happened.

But Mike Weeks is notable for much more than some direful times while boating during his early years. What I always remember is the good humour and friendship that he brought to our small club in it's early days. Mike was starting his construction business and would build some of the finest facilities and barns for the horse farms of central Kentucky. (Or as he liked to say working for millionaires and billionaires) That did not stop Mike from participating in club activities like clinics, roll sessions, the start-up of the NPFF, not to mention serving in several offices of the BWA steering committee. Doing so he became part of the band of BWA old timers that still do river and outdoor activities together.

Busy as he was Mike still found time to have a family and now has three sons that have gone to college and who he and his wife, Pam, are proud of. I also note that the rest of us old timers consider Mike a valued friend that has enriched & expanded our lives.



Mike has never given up his love of paddling. He did master the kayak and the canoe, but along the way he found other river watercraft that he explored using. The most unique was that of an import from Germany, the Skiyak.

When he showed us the skiyaks he had bought, we were all dubious about anyone being able to paddle on moving water with them, especially doing serious whitewater? Skiyaks were plastic narrow kayak shaped and about 8 foot long. One skiyak fastened to each foot and you used a long double bladed paddle to maneuver. Mike even had a video show Germans paddling class III-IV whitewater with them. They could even roll back up if they flipped...how I never could figure out.



He brought them to the pool roll sessions and they did not seem like most of us had the leg muscle to master using them. Mike worked at it and in time he did run the Elkhorn with them as evidenced by this photo. Some time later they were stolen along with some other stuff out of a small warehouse he used, so we will never find out what the potential was for them in serious white water, that secret is known only to some Germans.

Mike was always full of ideas. Back in the seventies and eighties access to many streams, even the Gauley were sparse and often you had to carry your boat to or from the access point for a mile or two or more. Access to the lower Gauley at Peters Creek was such a problem. Paddlers had a long hike from or to the bridge at Peters Creek from where they had parked. Mike came up with idea of building an Indian travois or drag sled for the boats. Well we tried it, but it would have worked much better if we had a horse. It was still tough going even sliding the travois on the rails for four guys and it took a bit of work to build. We decided after trying it one time it was just as easy, or as hard, to carry the boat on your shoulder.



Not all of Mike's ideas were bad. His idea that the BWA buy a bus so we all could go to the river together had possibilities. The crux of the idea was only one person needed to be the designated driver, everyone else could relax, talk and have cocktails and snacks. Limiting facts here was the lack of money for the bus and also the fact that no one wanted to be the designated driver.

Of course, back in the days when it was considered forbidden fruit to run waterfalls Mike had to be one to show that it was OK. Our first and favourite falls to run was lower Potters Falls near Wartburg. Note in the photo the fiberglass kayak, Tuesday nights were often patch & repair your boat night back then. As far as Mike and his rather open technique seen here, he just took the punishment and went on!

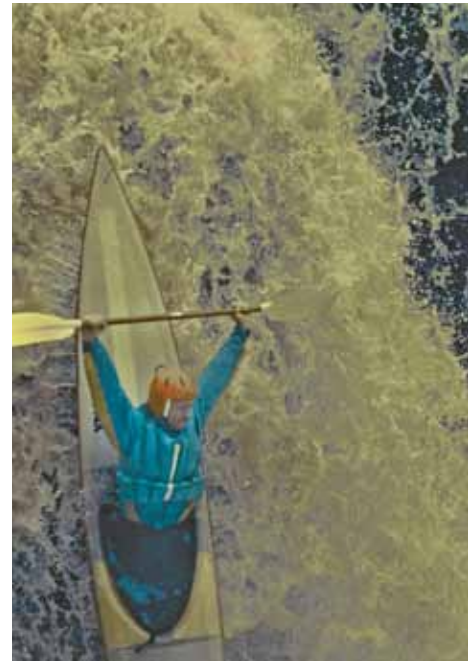
Fortunately, by the time we did the Jataté River Expedition, we all decided, including Mike, to switch to the "new" plastic boats. Boat repair during a jungle trip was a possibility we wanted to avoid.

But Mike, bless him, did not relent on his give it all when you paddle. We ran falls after falls and he still was not one to take the more genteel route.

After being detained for several days by the Mexican border police, we were released and found a large motorized *launcha* to take us to the take out at Bocca Lacuntun. It was flatwater the rest of the way and we did not care to paddle that. Along the way we stopped at the only small village that was along the river that had a small store. We quickly bought out most all the beer, tequila, cans of juice and snacks they had. As could be expected, Mike, like a few others, made sure he got his share of the joy juice. Minutes later, as you can see in this photo, it was a happy *launcha* and a happy Mike on the way back to "civilization".

Mike helped us explore and run many of the streams in the days before there were river guides or even an easy way to find out what the water levels might be on a stream. Boating whitewater was an exciting adventure for Mike and us. The not knowing what we might find or expect when we set out on a Friday afternoon was part of early paddling. Not knowing what lay ahead suited Mike and us fine. During the weekend there was rarely any thoughts about worries we had during the week as we were experiencing our "adventure".

A lot of our memories and many, many stories, can be told of Mike as he often became a central player in the adventure. But you would expect that of someone who is legendary!



Mike in a major rapid on the Jataté River in the state of Chiappas in Mexico.

Here are two of my favorite Mike Weeks Bowlines articles. The first one Mike wrote admitting there was more to river running than he had realized. The second written by BWA President Bridgid Devries shows how Mike always put his all into anything he did.

Ocoee - - First Impressions

The Ocoee is one of those rivers that always lets you know that you are not as good as you think you are. At least that's the way I felt after my first trip down this 4 miles of fast moving, action packed, whitewater.

I felt the Ocoee was my next step up after a couple of years of paddling rivers such as Clear Creek, Clear Fork, Obed, section 3 of the Chattooga and so on. It was, but it was a giant step. I was no more than 40 feet down stream before I was swimming along with a bump on my head and a bruised hip.

The Ocoee is an excellent river for those with the needed abilities. Abilities such as a consistent roll, experience in paddling 6 foot waves, and the knowledge of how to brace and recover while running thru large holes.

With the abilities I have mentioned and perhaps a few others, the Ocoee is a 4 mile play ground with endless amounts of surfing holes and waves for doing popups and enders.

Just one strong piece of advice from someone who found out the hard way ----- don't get in over your head, it's not a lot of fun.

mike weeks
Bowlines



We began the evening in the parking lot, (i.e. pasture) of the Jamboree with a "Tune Up" by one of the performing groups behind their pickup truck. After paying the admission, we headed on in and proceeded to our designated area, row number two, which is not to be confused with the reserved seating area. Needless to say, the Jamboree became a little more lively upon our arrival. There were three, count them, three bands performing that Friday night. Several songs were dedicated

to the Kentucky delegation, and we responded so well that many were played more than once. Everybody sang along. Ahhhh the melodious harmony of our own BWA voices was a thing to behold. Especially popular were Muhlenberg County and Blue Moon Of Kentucky, which were echoed all the way back to Frozen Head into the wee hours of Saturday morning.

There were even prizes to win! Warren Moore won a dollar (or was it two?) in the Jamboree raffle. The big winner of the night was Lloyd Funkhowser, who won a 12 pack of Pepsi at Darnell's Grocery. Yes, there was something for everyone at the Jamboree.

A contingent of BWA members visited the Rocky Fork Jamboree down the road from Frozen Head on Friday night of clinic weekend. Dr. Danger's "Tour de Tennessee" trailer carted some of the real partyers over to the Jamboree for an evening of Singin' and Dancin'.

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And then "HE" stepped onto the dance floor. At first we thought it was Elvis reincarnated in the Tennessee hills, or maybe Jerry Lee Lewis. But after looking closer, we discovered that it was Harold, the Jamboree's own "Dancing Machine". He slid onto the dance floor with moves unlike anything we had ever seen. He had groovy hips, he let his backbone slip, and he danced with every member of the female persuasion at the Jamboree. Several BWA dancers were lucky enough to get to dance with him, but we did the BWA proud. However, the middle of a "dance off " between Harold and Mike Weeks found Harold grinning down at an exhausted Dr. Danger resting on the edge of the stage. Only once during a really fast song when Harold was in the middle of one of his famous "dips" did we think that C.P.R. was in order. Dr. Danger had 911 on the line, but Harold pulled through. He readjusted his pacemaker and kept on rollin'. What a guy! By the way, Harold was pushing 70!

Alas, it was time to get back to Frozen Head. We headed out and boarded the "Danger Mobile" for the ride back to camp. As we left, we looked back through the Jamboree doors only to see Harold's 'shadow 'still "shakin' it up" one more time on the dance floor

From Bowlines May1992

Backpaddling through the pages of Bowlines

*Bluegrass
Wildwater
Association*

1976-2016



Celbrating the Bluegrass Wildwater's 40 years.



Falling Off The Cumberland Plateau

"Buzzing" Down Bee Creek

Brent Austin

Bowlines April 1994

BrentAustin demonstrates the one-banded "air brace"

The Cumberland Plateau stretches from Kentucky through Tennessee and into Alabama. Formed by ancient sea which deposited a massive layer of sandstone during the "Pennsylvania Period" some 300 million years ago, it was uplifted 50 million years later by the collision of the North American and African continental plates. Because this sandstone was so hard, after millions of years of erosion a plateau was left standing almost 2000 feet above sea level. over the years, additional erosion of soil, silt and the sandstone caprock has formed numerous dramatic river canyons across a vast tableland. Flowing over breaks in the sandstone, water and erosion scoop out softer layers which form the waterfalls and rapids abounding in the streams across the plateau.

Into this backdrop Mike Clark and I met four other paddlers in the Central Plateau near Crossville, Tennessee: Don Coaplen, Dan Coaplen, Joe Sudderth and Bart Haynes. The goal for the weekend was to paddle Bee Creek on Saturday and the Upper Caney Fork Canyon on Sunday. Both of these runs share a common takeout and are located in a beautiful canyon setting with exquisite water quality. The EmoryOakdale gauge read 4000 cfs that morning and Joe opined that 3000 cfs was needed for a mininium run. We were in business.

We met the other paddlers at the now closed 1000 Oaks BP station on Highway 70, west of Crossville, where the road turns off to go to the takeout for the Upper Caney Fork run. This road is just past the community of DeRossctt on the left. which the Tennessee Gazetteer identifies as Mourberry Road. Follow this road to Scotts Gulgf Road on the right and take that down to the 4WD section. Park on the left.

Joe had 4WD. he volunteered to drive down to the river and walk back up. That took almost an hour and a half, but was extremely worth it at the end of the day, Lugging boats up the road is, most unpleasant. Somehow the walk is more enjoyable with a beer rather than a boat at the end of a high energy day.

The put-in is at a bridge crossing Glade Creek and forms the county line for Van Buren and Bledsoe counties. This creek is a tributary into Bee Creek and forms the county line for Van Beuren and Bledsoe counties. The creek is in a beautifully wooded valley with small cliffs gradually increasing in size on one side of the stream or the other. It is fairly continuous Class II water with two notable class III's until the confluence with Bee Creek about 1 1/2 miles down. You will encounter the second class III+ just before you hit the confluence. Looking upstream at Bee Creek, you will see significant gradient that a lumberjack has been run.



Mike Clark in the middle of Rapid #1

From this point on the water is continuous Class II-III for about the next three miles or so. We all agreed that the water level looked to be between 250 cfs and 300 cfs: plenty of flow as the gradient steepened. The next mile and a half crept up to a class III-IV level until we arrived at the steep section. Then for about a mile or so, the bottom falls out with a gradient that feels comparable to the Narrows (of the Grccn without some of the big drops. We all estimated that this section was between 250 fpm and 300 fpm. The character of the section generally is blind boulder drops and narrow chutes. It is definitely undercut, and with lots of pinning and broaching potential. everyone had some incident or the other. The Freefall proved to be the ideal craft for this stream.

Without knowing any of the names of the five significant rapids, Joe had on an earlier run designated them with numbers 0 through 4. "0" was a nondescript and straightforward Class IV+ boulder drops. Very fun.

Rapid Number 1 however, deserved a scout because a log was jammed up under a big severely undercut flat, boulder at the bottom right and a serious drop immediately below that. Running the right side initial drop into an eddy, three of us ran the right slot. three of with left angle away from the log and undercut and two ferried to the left and approached from that position. One carried. The log is nothing to take lightly and aggressive paddling is required. I had my stern side under the log as I moved away from it to eddy out.

No. 2 was another scout because the drop was big and blind. The move was to ferry to a small boat size eddy on river left above a 7 foot drop/slot. When



Don Cooplund at the top of "Fat Tongue Falls".

running the chute. angle and paddle to the right at the bottom to avoid some broach/sieve looking rocks. A whirlpool eddy in front of these rocks does make the risk of broach less severe, as one paddler found out for us.



No. 3 is the big drop. We now know that it is named "Fat Tongue Falls". From the eddy on river left above it, drive to the right toward the edge of a large sloping boulder, through two diagonals. If you get the boof, you slide down the sloping boulder to an eddy on river right. If you do not get the boof and are far enough to the right, you get a great, ride down the seam of the flow. If you are left you may have a big problem. This one we did not scout because Joe explained what to do, said "Trust me" and took off on the line he described. It was quite a thrill!

After running a series of class IV boulder drops (where I inadvertently ran a clean sieve), we came to No. 4, a large 7 to 8 foot horseshoe ledge which we ran on the far right. From there the run was interspersed with some Class III-IV, gradually easing to Class II-III to the confluence during the mile or so run out to the confluence with the Caney Fork. With an easy ferry across the Caney, we were back at the truck in about 3 three hours enjoying a beautiful 65 degree afternoon. We had beer in hand. boats on the truck and a quiet walk up the trail, marveling at the beauty of the canyon opening up before us and reflecting on a spectacular run caused only by the geologic processes of time.



According to my Log:

"3-5-94 Bee Creek: Estimated Flow 250-300 cfs. Emory Oakdale Gauge was 4000 in the morning and 3400 in the evening. Put on time about 1:45 – off river about 4:45. Me, Mike Clark, Don Coaplen, Dan Coaplen, Joe Sudderth and Bart Haynes. Great run, the steep section was in the 250 – 300 fpm range for about a mile. The rest was mostly III interspersed with IIs. Water quality was superb! Little more water is better."

BAustin

National Paddling Film Festival 2016 Winners



2016 Still Image Winner: Night Kayak Falling by Mike McVey

Amateur General: Why We Teach You by Christian Knight

Amateur Documentary: Lake Michigan in a Dugout by Mary Catterlin and Amy Lukas

Accomplished General: Ben Ghertner 2016 Promo by Benjamin Ghertner

Accomplished Documentary (Tie): Standing on the Current by Thomas Malkowicz and Mark Malkowicz; Shootout at Sang Run by Chris Preperato

Pro General: Chaos Theory by Mike McKay

Pro Documentary: Our Local Epic by William Taggart

The National Paddling Film Festival 2016

Photos by *Kyle Koberlein*





The Not NPFF 2016 Race

Photos by *Kyle Koberlein*





7th Annual Not-NPFF Race "The Jess Cup" - 2016

(Record 83 Racers!)

CLASS WINNERS

CLASS WINNERS

<u>Class</u>	<u>Winner Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Time</u>
Overall Winner:	Terry Smith	Team TN	26:05
Overall Winner Women:	Christine Warren	Team TN	28:16
Men Short Boat (Under 10'):	Bill Eades	MWA (Missouri)	31:05
Women Short Boat (Under 10'):	Ali Blair	BWA	32:15
Green Boat / Stinger / Karma Unlimited:	Pat Keller	Anonymous	27:50
Stand Up Paddleboard:	Aaron Koch	Team Jalco Mexico	30:42
Two Person Kayak (K2):	Justin & 8-Year-Old-Bella Burd	Team TN	29:41
Two Person Kayak (K2):	Spalding & 5-Year-Old Henry Hurst	VCC	33:30
Two Person Canoe (OC2):	Mike Larimore & Camille Lane	BWA	33:00
One Person Canoe (OC1):	Matt Douthitt	VCC	39:10
60+ Still Breathing:	John Hubbard	Team TN	32:46
Duckie:	Britt Wilson	VCC	34:26
Crocko:	Richard Millea	VCC	34:18
Youngest Paddler:	Issac (the brick) Thompson (Age 14)	VCC	30:22
Youngest Paddler:	Miles Wilson (Age 13)	VCC	39:03
Boater Babe:	Christine Warren	Team TN	28:16
	Tara Nathan	NOC	30:04
	Penny Kephart	VCC	30:05
	Lindsay Walthall	VCC	31:47
	Ali Blair	BWA	32:15
	Vicki Capone	Self	34:06
	Britt Lindstrom	BWA	34:22
	Nicole Young	VCC	34:37
	Danyelle Nockerts	VCC	34:47
	Leslie Coble	VCC	34:50
	Teresa Tweed	VCC	35:50
	Rachel Humfleet	BWA	38:17

TEAM RESULTS

<u>VCC</u>			<u>BWA</u>			<u>Team TN</u>		
Place	Name	Time	Place	Name	Time	Place	Name	Time
3	Matt Gossett	26:55	2	Bernie Engelman	26:50	1	Terry Smith	26:05
5	Dan Spitler	27:13	4	Clay Warren	27:08	11	Christine Warren	28:16
6	Justin Thompson	27:14	8	Fred Wilson	27:38	15	Chris Warren	28:38
7	Delaney Albright	27:20	13	David Thomas	28:25	16	Tom Montgomery	28:41
10	Todd Schindler	28:08	18	Clint Schiavon	29:00	19	Steve Price	29:10
31	Total		45	Total		62	Total	

Lowest score wins the Jess Cup!

Off the Cuff

Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

Smokies Trip Report - February 2016 February 11, 2016 11:34AM

We had a gang here in the Smokies this past weekend. I will let the others pipe in on their experience. We started off the week on Big Creek with levels around 3.2. See attached. The Elk are starting to take over the Park. See Amelia and Jessica taking pictures of Elk at the bridge gauge for Big Creek. Attached. I am sure Koebs has plenty of photos from the weekend, and we had several KY folks out on both days, but here are a couple of shots I took of Fred and Justin on the Sinks. Attached. Great weekend and great crew. Ya'll come back now, ya hear?
Brent



Check out the current issue of Bowlines February 12, 2016

Hey All,

I wanted to throw out a special message about the current issue of Bowlines. This is the first issue of our 40th anniversary year additions. All year Don will be putting out a whole string of very special issues which highlight the club and it's history. In this issue you'll find a great article about the "Appalachian Sheik" himself, our very own Brent Austin, a ton of stuff about the NPF through the years, including a copy of every single NPF poster. A great article from BJ Phillips, an article about the clubs first year, and a ton of other stuff. Although I've always enjoyed reading Bowlines, I'm really excited about this issue and the upcoming issues this year, check it out. You can find it via the "Newsletter" tab on the home page.

Bob
xsubdude99

February 13, 2016

You know, Don honors me in this last article and puts in some of my old articles in the early 90s. I actually still feel like a new kid on the block and was a BWA product of the 90s, long after the early days beginning in 1976. He and I go back to my first days there. We are friends and I have always looked to Don about the BWA history. He has been there since the beginning. Sometimes we had very hard disagreements, but we always valued our friendship first and foremost, despite any such disagreement. I have sought out his early morning coffee at campgrounds for decades. I have his chili recipe. I love me some Don Span-



gler, and it is because of him that we have these Newsletters and the amazing archive of BWA history at his finger tips. He sure can wrangle an article out of a kid though! Shuwee, he can be unrelenting until he gets one. Wink. SYOTR or the NPFF this next weekend!
Brent

40 YEARS February 14, 2016

40 years and counting. WOW!

40 years plus 4 is when I started boating. Deliverance had taken the country by storm and I too bit the hook. I bought a 17 ft Gruman aluminum canoe. A buddy and I thought that the Rockcastle needed running so we did. Got to the final set of rapids before Bee Rock and that is where we wrapped the canoe around the rock. There went that 125 bucks. All was good though, we were able to salvage the cooler, cigarettes, and weed. The river got not just into my veins but in my soul.

40 years ago I was living in Alaska and bought a pair of hiking boots. I still have them. I use them to weigh the back of the van down when it snows. They were great ankle support and handled rocks and rough paths but those damn things were HEAVY. So, what do these boots have to do with boating?.....not a damn thing. Random

40 years and 5 months ago Sharon and I were married and still are. We agreed that we would not divorce but the one who wins the gunfight gets the house. Sharon was never a golf widow but is without question a kayak widow. How we got together and stayed together is a mystery. She hates water as much as I love it. She has been okay with it as long as I keep the life insurance active.

My congrats and my gratitude to the BWA for 25 of the 40 years that I have been with you.. Words just don't explain the value this organization has in my life. I know I am a better person because of the BWA and the members. Life is more fulfilled when shared. My thanks to all of you, past and present for all you have given me.

Dallas

SEVENTH Annual Not-NPFF Race....a race for the JESS CUP February 16, 2016 09:23PM

That's right Ladies and Gentlemen, just what you've all been waiting for....it's that time of year again....time for the SEVENTH Annual "Not-NPFF" Downriver Race and Team Championship, where Teams will be competing for the coveted JESS CUP! As always, the race will be held on the Mighty Elkhorn and will take place this Saturday, February 20th, 2016. Coincidentally, there happens to be a National Paddling Film Festival going on just down the road.

Details:

For the seventh year in a row, there is no entry fee...yes, that's right, it's FREE....nil, nada! What does this mean? No excuses! Come one, come all! All we require is a donation to the winner's "pot". Examples could be cash, cashiers check, food stamps, a single can of warm PBR, a fifth of the elusive Pappy VanWinkle, a slightly used river booty, a wooden nickel, a shiny penny, a new kayak, a broken paddle, a slightly used river booty with a warm can of PBR inside, a ride back to Frankfort, etc

Racers meeting at high NOON on race day at AW Acres.

Be at the take-out (AW Acres) by 11:30. Also, please consider dropping your boat at the put-in beforehand. We should have help shuttling bodies to the put-in by Canoe Kentucky. Please consider visiting Canoe Kentucky in appreciation while you're in the area. They are a tremendous asset to our boating community, and we owe them all the support we can give. Please say hello to Nathan and be sure to thank he and the others at Canoe Kentucky for all they do for us as boaters and the Film Festival.

The Race:

The race will again be a mass (and I do mean MASS) start format beginning below the dam and run to the old take out (Saufley's). We will start lined up against the bank with the shortest boat located in the front of the line (downstream) and the longest boat last in line (upstream). The longer your boat, the further upstream you will be required to line up. Boats shorter than 10ft will need to have their stern touching the bank, and boats longer than 10ft will be required to start with their bow touching the bank when the gun goes off. Racers must finish by paddling (or swimming) BETWEEN the two buoys at Saufley's.

Awards:

Prizes will be awarded to the top guy, top lady, fastest "short boat" defined as any boat under 10 feet (don't make

us break out the tape measure on yo azz), top old fart (60 and over), top C-1, and the top competitor in whatever crazy class you fools wanna come up with (raft, shredder, OC-1, OC-2, K-2, hand paddles, playboat, SUP). I want to stress that the fastest lady AND the fastest "short boat" defined as any boat under 10 feet, will get one of the major prizes donated by the race committee. Please don't forget your own personal donation.

Perhaps MOST importantly, there will be a race for the JESS CUP....a race where Clubs/Teams compete for the ultimate Championship!

BWA vs Vikings vs any other club/team that wants to get beat ????. Our beautiful and most fitting trophy, the Jess Cup, was so graciously crafted to honor each year's fastest team.

Clubs/teams need at least 5 members to qualify. Scoring for the Club Championship goes like this: the fastest FIVE individual paddlers from each club/team (regardless of age or gender) ADD their finish ORDER together to get a score. First individual across the finish line gets 1 point... second person gets 2 points...third person gets 3 points... and so on. The lowest combined club score wins, and will be showered in gifts, glory, fame, and fortune. In addition to the Jess Cup, they will also be entitled to \$hlt talkin' for one full year....possibly the best prize of all. We would like to get other clubs/teams to join in this (Team TN, Team Dizastville, etc). Anyone with personal contacts to the other paddling clubs, please help spread the word!

Goal:

To provide an avenue for friendly competition among fellow paddlers. An avenue for people to experience other aspects of boating beyond just river running. An avenue to witness utter mayhem when 60-70 boaters have a mass start race on a small creek. We would like to promote river conservation, celebrate the wild spirit of the rivers we paddle, and maybe make a few new friends along the way. Please don't forget, the National Paddling Film Festival is just down the road and coincidentally supports river conservation too!

Dress:

Plan on cold/cool temps and cold water. Dress appropriately, which may or may not include dressing for a swim. Remember...SAFETY FIRST.

Watercraft:

So what boat should you race? Well the answer is obviously the longest, lightest, fastest boat you can get your hands on. BUT...we want EVERYONE to come out. So, bring whatever the hell boat you have....we'll make a class for ya...it don't matter...just BRING IT!

So there ya have it....See Ya On The River,
~notNPFF racing

Superglue for Skin Closures

March 16, 2016

Some of you may recall that I touched briefly on the use of tissue adhesives for wound closure at my wound care presentation a few yrs back. I personally would not use it on the river for multiple reasons and think that using super glue would be even worse. Without rehashing the entire presentation in a forum msg, I'll just briefly touch on my reasoning and try to answer any questions that remain.

Any wound that occurs in a river environment is not a clean wound by definition. It can be cleaned by irrigation (drinking water or iodine treated river water) but just rinsing it in river water and closing with super glue is a bad idea. As Dallas pointed out you are potentially setting up a cellulitis / abscess by closing pathogens under the glue. I use tissue adhesives fairly frequently in the ED but I choose those wounds wisely. They need to be relatively clean to begin with and in a good location with minimal tissue tension. Also the wound can't be more than a few hours old but I'll push that sometimes for kids / whiny adults (and much longer on the face). After closure with tissue adhesive it's good for splash water exposure only. Brief showers are OK and hand washing but submersion is a no-no. Once the skin is superhydrated / softened by submersion / prolonged exposure you start to see the tissue adhesives peel off. One final issue with super glue is that it doesn't have the flexors that medical use tissue adhesives have. It is extremely brittle and any stretch / bending of the wound will cause it to crack and likely peel away.

So if you encounter a closable wound on the river I would recommend just covering it with duct tape if possible and of course try to protect the wound and a few mm around the wound from tape adhesive in the process (gauze, back of duct tape - whatever you have) to make definitive care easier. Even better would be Xeroform gauze and Coban elastic tape. Coban tape doesn't stick to you but sticks to itself remarkably well even holding up to limited water exposure. Coban is the 3M brand name, there are other

names for similar tape from other brands. It's available at pharmacies / sporting goods / Amazon. Xeroform petrolatum gauze won't absorb water so works well in a wet environment providing some wound protection. A dab of Neosporin is also a good idea. It's available at pharmacies. This is new stuff - I hadn't thought of using Xeroform when I gave my lecture and can't remember if I recommended Coban or not.

The idea is to protect the wound as best you can before definitive closure. Depending on the doc you encounter, you may not make their closing window. I was taught "6 hrs" by most of my clinical teachers along the way, but obviously wounds closed sooner can get infected and wounds closed later may not. The more time the more the risk. It also depends on the body location - areas with better blood supply heal faster and are less likely to get infected. To me "6 hrs" is a relative time and I consider all the risk factors before deciding whether to close with suture / glue or dress to allow healing by "secondary intention". I also have other tricks that I may utilize to stretch out the time or close a dirty wound such as the use of a penrose drain or loose approximation to reduce the wound width for faster healing and a smaller scar for wounds that are high risk for closure but would take a while to heal if left open. In my experience there are few docs in the rural EDs (where I usually work) that employ these techniques and I'm thinking in most river wound situations you're going to end up in a rural ED so good luck! winking smiley

One final thought ... if you happen to be wounded in a warm water lake / slow moving river in the Southeast your relative risk of getting a nasty little flesh eater called *Aeromonas hydrophila* goes up quite a bit. To gain respect for this critter do a google image search ... but not right after eating! I will never forget my exposure to this bug. One of my fellow med students had a poor fellow as a patient in the ICU. He was "finned" by a sunfish in his hand while trying to remove a hook. Something that happened to me more than a few times growing up fishing. 24 hrs later he had a nasty necrotic hand infection and was working into his arm. 2 days later and his entire arm was involved and had undergone aggressive debridement. He ended up losing his arm by day 3 and almost died ... very lucky to have survived. If you have a wound that occurred in water and it's looking infected go immediately to a teaching hospital ED (UT, UK, UofL, etc) and tell the attending (the old doc) your wound occurred in water. They will hopefully treat you appropriately and aggressively!

Wes

I understand that the finger injury in question was from a beer can during a boating trip but not while he was kayaking. I heard he was a dry rafter. This makes the poopy water question a better scenerio for not prodcng a greater infection by closing the wound.
drspine

As most of you know, truckers are a vain lot and we take extreme pride in having nice,soft hands. We have been using Super Glue to close up small cold weather cuts for many years. Nothing works better, and so far nobody, to my knowledge, has lost any digits or other appendages. We do take special care when it comes to cleanliness though.

Tom(not just another pretty face) Minor

Need dry top advice

March 17, 2016

Hello,

So I've got a full dry suit but it's hot in spring and fall so was thinking a dry top would be more comfortable when water is cold but not freezing. I also like to roll for fun/ practice every time I'm in my boat so I want to do that and stay dry. I see there are different styles and I assume dryness to dry tops. What do you recommend? I assume I need latex gasket to roll and keep dry, right? Sure would be comfy with just the neoprene neck gasket but won't that allow water to rush in? Also, if i have to wet exit do any dry tops keep most water from coming in my trunk area or is it just a given if you swim dry top is not protecting much at all anymore? What are your favorites? Don't want to waste my money making a bad purchase so any advice would be great! Thanks

NMill

look for a dry top with a double waist deal. i put one inside my skirt and one outside. seems to work
drspine

Consider that there are dry tops and spray tops.

Dry tops have latex gaskets at the neck and wrists and are made of a breathable material like Gore-Tex so you don't steam like a clam in your own sweat when you wear them. They are designed to keep the water completely out as long as your skirt is good and you don't swim. Dry tops also have a tunnel for your spray skirt to seal things up even better.

Spray tops are lighter duty and usually have some kind of

neoprene and Velcro closure around the neck and wrists (or sometimes just neoprene or "other" winking smiley. They are designed to insulate and keep the water mostly out and are better for warmer days/water. They're often made of coated nylon since breathability isn't as important and they are also cheaper than a dry top. Some spray tops have a tunnel and some just go over your skirt.

There are also short and long sleeved versions of both.

What you buy will have a lot to do with what kind of paddling you do regularly and how strongly you prioritize comfort over convenience and price.

Consider also that a core-temp top of some sort is a good in-between item. Something that is designed to be wet and still insulate.

So much gear, so little money. (Sigh...)
Hanley Loller

I really like my NRS semi dry top for what you talking about. The key is to wear a layer underneath that will keep you comfortable if wet under your top. I'm a huge fan of merino wool over synthetics.

<http://www.nrs.com/product/25581/nrs-stampede-paddling-jacket>

<http://www.smartwool.com/shop/men-clothing-shop-all-clothing/mens-phd-ultra-light-short-sleeve-sw016005?variationId=825>
Koebs

First a contrasting opinion to what's been stated above.

1) There is a such thing as a Semi-dry top / "spray top" with multilayer breathable laminate. I have a 3 layer IR top with skirt tunnel and neoprene neck that I much prefer in "warmer" drytop conditions and for racing (can breathe better with the softer neck seal). Also my IR shorties have multilayer laminate - older one 3 layer with neoprene neck / sleeves / tunnel and a lighter 2.5 layer version without tunnel that is more comfy in Summer.

2) Wool is great until it gets wet. It still insulates well but is heavier than synthetics and dries much more slowly IMO - even merino. Not a big issue with thin base layers but with heavier insulating layers it becomes an issue. A thicker synthetic fleece will absorb little water, dry much faster (overnight / between runs) and insulate really well. Favorites now are the IR stuff for insulation, Patagonia capilene for base layers / light insulation - super comfy. OTOH I love

Merino for snowboarding where getting wet isn't an issue. If I were on a budget I would get one really nice drytop - Kokatat Rogue or the top IR model (worth the investment) or similar 3 layer. I would get several base layers of capilene of varying thickness and a medium weight and light weight insulating layer for the top. If you have a drysuit you won't need a thick insulating layer for the top unless you plan to not use a union suit or plan to use it in addition to the union suit to break Dallas record.

NRS hydroskin pants for temps above 60ish - I wear a drysuit below that but depends on water temps as well. You can add some warmth by limited layering under the hydroskin pants. I always wear at least a thin layer under hydroskin so I don't have to wash them that often - they aren't made that well!

Good drysuit (again worth the investment) with a IR union suit liner and base layers under that weight depending on temps. Union suit prevents gaps - worth the investment IMO. You can add some thick layers to the legs without changing paddling performance while bulking up in the top will hinder performance.

IR Nano shorty shell with thin and med fleece under layers and base layers.

NRS Hydroskiin vest

Have a little more money - semidrytop for warmer drytop conditions or when high exertion expected. Not recommended for really cold conditions or playboating if you don't have a drysuit because the neck will leak significantly more than the a real drytop and you will get wet if you spend any time inverted.

One final note: NRS does make some decent things - but unless things have changed significantly in the last few yrs with their mfg process I would avoid them for shells / insulating layers. Every NRS insulating layer / base layer / shell I've purchased has broken down in places far faster than brands such as Kokatat and IR. The problem is not materials, it's workmanship and the biggest problem is seams losing thread. Never had that problem with IR or Kokatat but it's been about 100% with NRS. Consider it if you can get it for a bargain, but I wouldn't ever pay retail for it. I buy NRS stuff for things that I can't buy from a better mfg - i.e. hydroskin pants / vest.

Wes

Well, Wes definitely gives you a much more detailed breakdown of available gear. In my experience, Wes is an extremely thorough and thoughtful gear critic and his advice is worth heeding. Wes always invests the money in top notch gear which, as he says, is generally worth the investment. However, looking at his "on a budget" plan

I'm guessing that's a \$500-\$700 budget. Heading into the summer with a mild spring in the works, I'd probably just get either a decent spray top or a semi-dry if you want to spend a bit more and pair it with a good medium-to-heavy stretchy, close-fitting insulating short sleeve top, something that can be worn either under spraygear or worn on it's own when the weather's getting warm but the water's still a bit cold.

My point is that this gives you a lot of options and flexibility with minimum investment heading through the Spring into the Summer. Then you have all the way until Gauley Season to think about other layers and options.

PS: I'm assuming you already have some base-layer or insulator stuff of some sort to add some flexibility to this mix.
Hanley Loller

Nice info Wes and totally agree with your remarks on merino wool. I should of specified micro weight which is no thicker than a t-shirt. Doesn't pick up any more weight than a soaked synthetic top of equal thickness but a hell of alot more comfortable. Still the downside of dry time but if day tripping no a huge deal. Have also heard alot of people knock NRS on some stuff and knock on wood. I've had good luck with my semi dry top I bought last year in the spring. I've worked in outdoor retail for a combined total of 6 years from high school through college, and part time after getting a big boy job. I'm definitely a big gear head. If you have the cash by the best in my opinion. There are few people who can beat my total collection of nice gear. Shout out to Sam I Am for being one of them. Always respect everyone opinion and personal preference. Not always a right answer. Best to borrow and test out gear if possible before spending the big money.

Koebs

I'm hopeful Koebs that NRS has improved their mfg quality because I do like the company. Keep us posted. Also thanks for the kind words Hanley and you offer a great point - warm season is just around the corner. Depending on conditions I can find myself in a drytop with shorts well into May and on rainy cool days in early Summer on colder water - dam release. Back in the day we used paddling jackets and nylon pile fleece in Winter in the SE before we had drysuits Brrr! If the budget is tight I agree you can get by with a cheaper jacket and some fleece layers - almost any fleece insulates as well as the best stuff and you can find cheap synthetic base layers and fleece at wal mart, Sams, Costco that works pretty well and used on Ebay. Consider a used IR / Kokatat / Bomber drytop in

good condition if on a budget. You may have to replace the latex but if it's quality 3 layer laminate that has been taken care of it will last yrs longer than the latex Hydroskin pants are hard to find used and iwon't be cheap but worth having for transition season.

Wes

One more thing I forgot - if you treat your insulating layers (fleece()) with Nikwax Polar Proof they'll absorb minimal water which will make them much more useful under a splash jacket / semi-drytop or for swimmers smiling smiley I do recommend wearing a baselayer if you do this though because the fleece is less comfy and waxy feeling once you do this treatment. I do this for all my paddling fleece - even my union suit. Oh, and it will need to be washed with Techwash or similar to preserve the Polar Proof coating.

Wes

Thanks everyone for all the very detailed and useful information. That was helpful for me to make a decision and not buy the wrong gear which is easy. I do have a medium weight IR union suit which I absolutely love to wear under my NRS full dry suit. My drysuit works very well except that it does not have a spray skirt tunnel and I sure wish I knew about those before I paid \$900 for it on sale at NRS 2 years ago but oh well it works good enough. Thankfully I'm not really on a tight budget I can afford the best gear so I think I'll get one of the IR best dry tops with latex and three layers. I do have the NRS 0.5 Hydro skin shirt and plenty of fleece and various synthetic shirts of various thickness. Im totally set for very cold, just not for warmer weather. I might add hydroskin pants to that set up since I don't have anything for my legs if I dont use the full drysuit. I just finished a great long weekend on the chatohoochie river in columbus Ga. Highly recommend it to anyone, especially play boaters, which I'm not, but it has some really big water Rapids larger than anything on the Ocoee and runs every day of the year. Plus you can watch semi pro boaters up close often. Thanks again

Nathan

Yes the tunnel is worth it. What was the flow Nathan? Brit and I did that section of the Chattahoochee at Columbus during Thanksgiving break last yr. Was 19K and the usual summer playspots were washed out. We were in the creekers (thankfully) and it was plenty big at the end. Stayed left at the bottom. I got power flipped because I man'd up to the big wave hole at the bottom left and Brit sneaked it after she saw my flip lol. Definitely want to check it out in playboats during summer flows.

Wes

Waterproofing

March 26, 2016

Tom I'm re-posting below my dissertation that I posted on BT a few mos ago. I've posted all of this info in bits n pieces on this forum over the years. As most that know me have realized - I'm kind of a gear geek so I take the care of my gear pretty seriously. I do a lot of research on the subject and am always happy to share what I've learned from experts on the topic. First to answer your question - I've not one time read any recommendation for using Scotch Guard on laminate fabric. I'm not saying it's bad, I haven't heard that it is but I suspect if it was OK I would have read about it somewhere on a reputable site along the way. The experts from Gore and the clothing mfg that use Gore and other laminates have never recommended it nor any serious outdoor enthusiast that I can recall. Therefore, I would recommend something designed for the fabric - read on...

Reading some of the replies it's apparent some folks still have no idea how waterproof breathable laminates function and even less about how to properly care for them. In their defense there is conflicting information out there. Here are my recommendations based on literally years and many hrs of research on the topic.

1) Wash as frequently as you need to in a front loader using Nikwash or similar non-detergent wash. I do not recommend agitator type machines to wash waterproof laminate gear. Almost all laundromats have front loaders now and I would recommend at least a med size (2-3 load) size machine for drysuit. Keeping the laminate clean improves breathability but has nothing to do with waterproofness.

2) I've found that drying briefly on a low temp will help re-activate the DWR. Be careful doing this however because heat is hard on both the latex and adhesives used in seam tape.

3) Hearing folks say that loss of DWR and wetting out of the fabric has anything to do with waterproofness drives me nuts! Please understand they have nothing to do with each other. As long as the laminate isn't penetrated it is waterproof. Pinholes are common and if you think you have them send your suit in for a pressure test / patching. It may feel more damp in the suit because it is no longer breathing off vapor. Wetted-out laminate cannot breathe off vapor. In order to maintain the breathability you paid big bucks for it is important to maintain the DWR properly and restore if needed. Otherwise you might as well be wearing the urethane suits we wore

back in the day and they sucked.

4) My research has shown that Revive-X spray on is the best DWR restoration treatment you can do at home. Second best (by a very small margin) is Nikwax spray-on. There is controversy on wash in treatments. In my experience they do well to restore the DWR and are certainly easier to use but at a cost of clogging the pores on the inner fabric so it doesn't breathe vapor quite as well. I much prefer spray on because of that difference.

5) Inspect your drysuit / drytop carefully before spraying and think about what part actually needs DWR. You will soon realize that there is actually a small area in the top portion of the garment that can vent vapor - that is the only part where there is a single layer of fabric only between you and the outside. These are the only areas where DWR is important so you can save a bit of money by only spraying these areas.

Wes

Dead on Wes. To maybe help some people understand a little more about wetting out. A waterproof membrane product like Gore-Tex is used in garments in either two layer or 3 layer. Dry suits are three layer which means you have an outer nylon layer, the membrane (example: Gore-Tex), and then a protective layer often referred to as a scrim that protected wear on the membrane from abrasion and body oils. The outer nylon layer is not waterproof but is sprayed with a DWR "durable water repellent" that with time will wear down. The DWR helps the water bead and roll of the nylon instead of soaking into the outer nylon layer. Which most people refer to as wetting out. The downside to wetting out which is minimal is added weight and even though water isn't physically touching your skin. It will still absorb a higher percentage of body heat. I too suggest using something like Revive-X and nothing that comes out of an aerosol can. Typically the propellants used can cut down on breathability or at least that what a Gore-Tex rep told me one time.

FYI- 3 layer means that the outer nylon layer, membrane, and scrim are all laminated together. 2 layer is a cheaper process which means that the outer nylon and membrane are laminated together. Then the manufacture will sew in a hanging liner to protect the membrane in lieu of using a laminated scrim. 2 layer is most common in jackets. Many manufactures make 3 layer membrane jackets but are usually associated with a hefty price tag. Anyone who has purchased a Gore-Tex dry suit understands that for sure. Koebs

Well, everyone knows I'm often an advocate for old-school

technology. Sometimes (but not always) the old ways are best and the newest innovations are just a way for companies to make money on a patent. In this case, I'm a staunch originalist. I treat all my drygear with whale oil. It's the best for keeping my sealskin drytop supple and waterproof. It prevents cracking and it imparts a manly odor that drives my wife insane. I can't hang it outside to dry though.

Birds.
Hanley Loller

Good information. My curiosity though 'forced' me to call Kokatat today. What I wanted to know was how to wash this shit. I spoke with Scott.

Scott from Kokatat said to wash your drysuit or whatever on the delicate cycle. Wash it with zippers zipped and latex gaskets tucked in. Hang to dry. He said the Nikwax spray is as good as you can get once the article is clean and dry. We did not discuss using the wash repellent stuff. Another thing I thought was significant is that he said good ol' Tide is as good as anything but you should not use Tide with Bleach. I have to agree with Wes though as I have seen what Tide can do to a towel and that is not using the bleachy bleachy stuff either.

So, all in all, you have paid some big honkin' bucks for drygear. Don't go cheap on taking care of it. A drysuit of top quality can easily run you a thousand bucks. Don't let twenty five dollars get in the way of maintaining your equipment to keep it that way.

Dallas

Tide *powder* is safe to use if you really want to clean stains. I did this with my new Kokatat drysuit after I flipped and dragged the walk the plank and rolled and ran El Ho main backwards last year. Had a nasty green / brown stain on the shoulder. Tide almost totally removed the DWR though. Never use liquid detergent however as some of the ingredients like lanolin will plug the pores and turn it into a urethane suit / top.

As you said gear is expensive and replacing DWR is a PITA so I use good wash. Other good washes that preserve DWR is Grainger and some cheaper stuff called sport wash I think in a big orange bottle at REI.

Brent - Definitely want some Watauga!

Hanley - I've smelled river gear that might as well be from a dead seal! Like maybe some drysuits after a canyon trip smiling smiley

Wes

Inflatable Kayak

April 03, 2016

Hey All:

A friend of mine is looking to buy an inflatable, Ducky-style, kayak for him and his wife to paddle. Probably mostly flat-water, but occasionally moving water such as the Elkhorn. He has pretty much decided on the Sea Eagle brand, and most likely the Pro Package with the better lighter paddles. I know nothing about these things and have never been in one, but would really like some observations from anyone who does.

Tom Minor

OK, the Duck Master will speak.

I'm not impressed with the Sea Eagle boats. They are adequate, but mainly they have a good marketing team.

OK, I am making the assumption they are looking for a tandem boat, so a tandem inflatable that paddles OK on flat water and still does OK on easier whitewater. That's a pretty narrow field and I'll give three recommendations, all from the same company, but at different price points. The absolute best choice would be an Aire Super Lynx with the removable skeg. The Super Lynx is as fast as most touring style Sit On Tops and is still capable of easy class III whitewater and has a pretty good carrying capacity if you are looking to camp out of it. It's extremely durable and has a ten year warranty.

I've had it out on everything from Lake Erie to the Upper Red River. The downside is that this is the most expensive boat in the class.

My second choice would be the Aire Strike. This one is kind of a compromise between the Super Lynx and the starting Tributary line. A bit more whitewater oriented and you should be able to pick one up for under a grand. I would still recommend spending the extra money for the removable skeg if I were paddling much flat. I've learned to love the skeg on flat water.

If cost is an issue, then the Tributary line Sawtooth for a flatwater oriented, or a Tandem Tomcat for a more white-water oriented boat.

BTW, as a note, tandem inflatables really need longer paddles. I generally use a 230 on flat water and easy whitewater streams.

Larry Cable

Larry,

....You pretty much knocked it out of the park there, but I would add two boats from Custom Inflatables to that list as well.

On the one hand you have the T4-2 (two-person version of the standard Thrillseeker). Although it is probably more expensive than they want to go and is certainly more whitewater oriented than flatwater oriented, it is at least worth consideration. It is not a great flatwater boat if you're looking for any kind of speed though.

On the other hand, the two person Thrillkat is a really a good versatile boat designed for flatwater to easy whitewater. It's also amazingly light due to its unique design. I'll agree, before you mention it, that it is probably not as fast as the Aire Strike or Super Lynx with skeg on flatwater (although I'd be interested in comparing them), but it is surprisingly fast and easy to paddle. It is also much more maneuverable on modest whitewater than you might expect. The big difference between this boat and other inflatables is the floor. Most of these boats have inflatable floors that support your weight and as a result sag and drag in the water. Stiffer floors help, but do not overcome the problem. The Thrillkat has a taut PVC fabric floor suspended above the waterline by stiff foam blocks in front of and behind the paddler(s). The two long pontoon style tubes create a long narrow waterline that allow it to move with more speed than most inflatables.

Now I'll admit, this isn't the boat for everyone, but it is specifically designed for the exact kind of use Tom describes above. I would definitely give it consideration. It's a very stable, easy to paddle inflatable craft that does flatwater well.

Lastly, I strongly second what Larry says about Sea Eagle. In the whitewater industry that name is a running joke, mostly involving people having bad experiences that lead to dead boats wrapped around trees or rocks on the side of the river somewhere. If you're going to buy a Sea Eagle, I say just cut out the middleman and buy an inflatable pool toy, gut it with a knife and throw it over a bridge into your favorite creek. It's cheaper, easier, less painful, and the results are the same.

Hanley Loller

ROFL Hanley about your Sea Eagle rec: I don't know

much about IK's but I do have some experience in cheapo rafts. Imagine if you will a warm Summer day in Ocoeland around 1980. My family shows up with a 4 man yellow Sears 2 chamber raft. A bargain from the ATL Sears Outlet. After some feverish foot pumping this big yellow double dildo - I say this because it was thwartless! - was ready to float! At this point Dad and I had Nanty open boat experience and young Wes' first season kayaking. We put in at the old put in and believe it or not we made it to the take-out with no pins or flips but as I recal a swim or two. Ocoee first time read and run baby! Thwartless rafts are interesting in whitewater. As soon as we hit a rapid it would fold together like a hot dog bun and dump us into the thin floor where we were sloshed in water and beaten by the rocks we were going over. It was also pretty flaccid after the first rapid as we didn't dare push the pressure on inflation. Oh and to make it even more interesting we were riding those tubes like a horse. I'm sure we were quite entertaining to the fledgling raft companies - the river was a lot less crowded then. That was the only voyage of the yellow beast for us and it was soon replaced by a Sears hypalon 4 man raft with inflatable thwarts and 5 chambers I think. This raft was surprisingly good and was used regularly for family fun trips during my Ocoee guide years in the late 80's. My sister may still have it in her basement. Invest in good rubber. Even if you don't like it if quality products it will be easy to sell - try finding a used one as Hanley said. Or if you are super adventurous like we were go Sea Eagle! Or Sevlor! You will definitely find out if you picked the right wife vs a quick ticket to divorce court! Thanks Hanley for bringing back some great memories!

Wes

Membership dues increase to be discussed and voted upon

March 01, 2016

The]steering committee voted to bring a proposal to be discussed and voted on at the general meeting this coming Tuesday. The Motion to be discussed and then voted on will be to increase the dues to: \$25 single \$35 family If you want to discuss the motion at the meeting, come on down.

Howard, membership chairman

I think this is a fair increase, but I have a question. Do we have money problems or something we want to do that needs more cash? My impression was that we've been sitting flush for the last year or two and I have to defer back to B6 who once said that having money sitting around in the bank draws conflict.

We've done pretty well keeping our profile low and our bank account slim so we don't have to incorporate. We've still had money for pretty much everything we wanted to do. In fact, we seem to be having trouble keeping our bank account down lately. Usually this time of year is when it's lowest, but we're around or over \$5000. That's feeling pretty healthy.

So, what was the motivation for this proposed change? Was it just the idea that it's a fair increase that's long overdue or is there a purpose or goal behind raising the dues?
Hanley Loller

Hanley you beat me to that question which could also be why does the BWA need to make it harder for students, folks on tight budgets or anyone to be members? We are way flush with cash and I would hope would be discussing how we plan to give it back to the Rivers. I suggest we should LOWER the membership dues, give all the money away and have a party instead.
barryg

I will not be able to make the upcoming meeting... I agree that we seem to have plenty of extra cash and increasing the price may make membership less accessible, so my vote would be to keep membership dues at the current level. However, if an AW membership is included with BWA membership, then perhaps an increase seems appropriate. Or/in addition we could reduce the cost of clinic attendance for BWA members if we increase membership dues. Either way, we should throw a party, as evidenced by the great time we all had at NPFF!
Thanks,
John

Even at the increased rate, if an AW membership was included with BWA membership we'd just break even on single memberships and lose \$15 on family memberships.

The BWA has two main sources of funding, membership dues and the clinic. I'm in favor of encouraging AW membership and even subsidizing it, but I think raising dues when our coffers are flush and both the clinic and renewal season sit on the near horizon would be counterproductive.

Barry and I have a history of disagreement, but we're in lock-step on this one. I had never considered it before he said it, but he was right. Having too much money in the club coffers causes problems and conflict, whereas having a thin budget spurs the club to action, cooperation and involvement.

Sometimes change is good, but before I'd vote in favor of this I'd want to hear why the dues are being raised. Is there something we want to do that will require more money... like making the rolling sessions free to members? (hint, hint)

Hanley Loller

At first glance, I agree with the others. Even though the dues have been the same for years, we've been able to cut back on some of the expenses over the years due to electronic distribution of most things instead of mailings, and the number of members has increased and brought it a lot of money while most of the fixed costs have stayed the same. I'd like to see our current financials broken down if we don't think we can cover what we are doing today, or a budget proposal if and when we ever want to do a dues increase to see what we are proposing to do with the extra money, which would be what, ~\$1500 extra?
Jr.

While we're all armchair quarterbacking, I want to take a moment to commend Howard for posting this ASAP after the steering committee meeting so that folks would be aware of it and have the chance to discuss it. Some ugliness has surfaced in the past whenever someone felt that someone else was trying to slip something by without general notice, whether that was the intention or not. Getting a hot button issue out in the open quick is the right approach. Kudos Howard.
Hanley Loller

I count that we have 125 family memberships and 122 individual memberships (plus a handful of honorary and lifetime members who do not pay dues).

With a \$5 increase for individuals and a \$10 increase for families (assuming membership remained static) we would see an increase of \$1,860 in dues revenue.
Hanley Loller

Those 125 include bundle members, so for family memberships, it's the number of bundles, which is shown as 93.

We should also get 10-15 new memberships a month through June.
Jr.

First of all. Thank you for thanking me to put this out there so there are no surprises. The forum is not the place to talk about how much and how little money are in the coffers. Nor is it a place to discuss what BWA does with its money. Once things are put on the forum they are immortalized forever. What I will say is we have been quite fortunate to have extra monies in the past to give out occasional free membership, donations to Ecuador, Save the Ocoee, etc. We have been able to throw money toward summer parties, Christmas/winter parties, NPFF, and food for certain post clinic beginners trips. It is a comfortable feeling to be able to, without worry, give/donate/release money for almost any noteworthy project brought up by any member. We can have lots of discussion at the general meeting and a vote will be taken. Personally, I do not see us losing any members because of a \$5 increase. I would like to see the coffers bigger so we can subsidize more boating fun. On my watch I saw money being given for 4 events- 2 pigeon

trips, some other trip that I did not go to and the Ocoee summer party. It is nice not having to charge admission to such events. With a little more money we can do this more often. This is a boating club. I know many of us enjoy boating with our friends on no-club trips. I see nothing wrong with this. I do it all the time. But, I would like to see more BWA/non-BWA trips that could get some club sponsorship for food. Giving out \$200 here and \$500 there adds up quickly. Last year we were fortunate to get a sponsor to finance the pig for clinic. This big dinner will no longer have an outside sponsor. Things like this are what we need money for. And finally, \$25 for a single membership one time per year. You spend three times that much on gas for one trip to the Pigeon, so crying POOR won't work. OK, done.
drspine

I haven't been to many meetings lately, but generally, we don't talk about budget enough as far as I'm concerned (if Jeff wants to step down at some point, which I've heard he is, I will be glad to do the Treasurer role if you want an engineer/AR treasurer type). I know some are fine with that go with flow method of spending the money. But what I've seen in the past is we have too much money at the end of the year and we just look for things to spend it on. I like the idea of spending more on trips/parties and even more on classes, and am good with donations to NPFF, AW Acres and other causes. I'd like to see funds earmarked at the beginning of the fiscal year on these things and give the SC members or the others that are volunteering to run these events the encouragement to spend their budgeted amount. I don't see the need to "make money" on the clinic, at least not a lot of it. To me, the clinic should focus on quality as much as quantity. The pig money should just be a part of the expense from the money collected from the students instead of dumping excess raised there into BWA coffers then raising the dues to potentially cover it. I'm fine with loaning pig money until the student money comes in.

You absolutely will have lower member numbers if you increase the dues. How many? Who knows. We have a turnover of 70-80 people a year who don't renew already with \$20/\$25 dues.
Jr.

I will be out of the country and not able to attend the meeting, but I am NOT in favor of an increase in the membership dues.
Linda Tribble

Ok, before I point out a few things that may have been glossed over I would like to comment on this debate as a whole and the lack of participation that I've seen from many of our members when it comes to showing up at the meetings where these things are discussed.

Debate as a whole is a good thing. Personally I think it's about time we saw some passion for the club stirred up in our members. Judging by the attendance at the Steering Committee meetings and the monthly club meetings I was

beginning to wonder where everyone was. I too congratulate Howard for taking the time to post this on the forum. Howard, you've been doing a great job as Membership Coordinator and the same applies to Jeff. Howard, I appreciate you going the extra mile to ensure that so many of our members that don't bother to take the time to show up for meetings or even to read the meeting notes are informed about what's going on in the club.

The truth of the matter is that most of the people that have posted on this topic "DO" show up for the club meetings, at least occasionally, anyway, and I can't ask for more than that, but the sad truth is that most of our members don't take the time to become involved in the business of the club, or, except for the same group that always do, take the time to volunteer when the call goes out for help.

In his post, Hanley, when discussing other topics that have generated debate said;

"Some ugliness has surfaced in the past whenever someone felt that someone else was trying to slip something by without general notice, whether that was the intention or not."

The fact is that the Steering Committee meeting, which is open to everyone, and the month club meetings are the places where this business is debated and discussed. Want to be in the know? Want to have your voice heard? How about taking the time to show up at meetings occasionally and find out for yourselves what's going on. I seriously feel about this the same way I do about most of the citizens of the United States not taking the time to vote. If you don't want to vote than don't bitch about who gets elected to office. It's as simple as that...

Now, as to the topic at hand: The one thing I think most of those debating here are missing is the fact that this year has been the exception instead of the rule. Due to the money raised at the clinic and a few other things, the club has been sitting on a surplus of funds. These extra funds have not generated extra controversy, the fact of the matter is that these funds have helped us to grow as a club. They've allowed us to help support worthwhile causes, they've allowed us to fund beginner trips that (along with the magic that Adelessa generates by just being Adelessa) have not only seen record attendance, but have also created a welcoming and learning environment that has spurred more of our beginners to stick around than I've ever seen before. These extra funds have been a good thing and we as a club have done a lot of good because of them.

Last year, one of the guiding principles for the clinic was that I wanted to get as much of it pre-funded, by outside sources as possible. That pig that Jr. brought up cost us nothing to serve. Where we had usually spent a lot of money on certain aspects of the clinic, we were able to save that money and as a result, we had a fairly large surplus because of it. Making money by not spending it in the first place is not a bad thing, as I said, we as a group

have been able to do a lot of great things because of our surplus, and I want to continue to be able to fund those worthwhile causes. I want to be able to expand our funding of beginner trips and I want to continue to foster that welcoming environment of acceptance and growth that, I honestly believe, has helped us to hang on to more long term members than at any time since I've been in the club.

Is there a specific reason to generate more funds? Well, as a matter of fact there are two; The first is that this past year was an anomaly. We've done a lot of great things with our surplus but there's no reason to believe that we will have to same chain of events that created the surplus again next year. The second is that I would like to place more emphasis and tag more funds for doing the things that bring us closer together as a club; increase funding for beginner trips, sponsor a swift water rescue course and allocate funds for club events and get-togethers. Besides all that, does anyone know when the last time was that we actually raised the cost of membership? Will that extra \$5.00 for an individual membership or \$10.00 for a family membership cause us to drop some members; I would say that it probably will. I do not however believe that it will keep us from building our ranks with members that actually have a desire to be active, long term members. If anything, I'd say those extra funds, earmarked for causes and events that bring us closer together as a group will have a much more lasting effect on building a stronger club than anything else.

Bob

I think the level of interest in this topic is great. This is a debate-worthy issue because it can be looked at from several different perspectives and there isn't really a right or wrong answer. But I agree with Bob, and not for the reasons you may think.

This has been an exceptional year. One only needs to listen and be present at the meetings to know that the influx of new boaters this year has been amazing, but not typical. The size of this year's beginner class helped make clinic such a financial success, and their continued attendance at roll class has even made paying for the pool profitable. Their enthusiasm for volunteering and showing up at meetings and trips has really breathed a lot of life into the club.

But the reason that clinic was so profitable was because Bob is an excellent fundraiser. He worked his butt off to turn out that kind of profit, seeking out sponsors and even writing and winning an essay contest that paid for the pig roast. If Brandy wants to continue that this year, she's going to have her work cut out for her too, and she can't be guaranteed to have the same luck as Bob did with super-sized enrollment and several very generous sponsorship opportunities readily available.

And for those of you who have been unable to attend any meetings this year, there was almost no discourse on how to spend the funds generated by this effort. We voted to spend it on club parties, charitable contributions, and

the beginner trips that encourage new members to stick around and stay involved.

That money is hardly already "in the bank" for next year. If it can be used to take a little pressure off of the people who dedicate an enormous amount of time to events like clinic, the summer party, beginner trips and NPFF, or it can be used to improve the experience of these events for everyone, then it should be welcomed, not shunned as some sort of devil currency. I've seldom found the old saying "More money, more problems" to actually be true, and never when the amount was only \$1500.

As for the idea that it will be an impediment to membership, it's five freakin' dollars. Like I said at the meeting last night, when I joined the club, I was in my twenties, single, had a mortgage and worked for a petting zoo. I was practically the epitome of the poor boater people seem to think is so common in this group. And I almost fell out of my chair when I saw that membership was only \$20.00. I was expecting to pay \$75 to \$150, like I have for every other club or activity I've ever joined. There's an argument to be made that too little cost of entry can be just as much of a turn off as too high of one.

I love every single one of you and hope to see you and your passion at the meeting next week. The reason that the steering committee unanimously agreed to put this topic on the forum is to encourage people who care deeply about it to come to the meeting. But Howard is right. Let the specifics of our finances be confined to a smaller forum than one that is open to the entire world wide web.

-MeganL

In general, I can see the arguments that a rate increase is something we should consider, but I'd be more swayed by hard numbers. Probably too late to generate them for the next meeting. I don't remember a time when we've been hurting for money, I don't remember any trips, classes, roll sessions, cleanups we couldn't subsidize, nor donations we couldn't make. Typically we couldn't get volunteers to organize or run enough events or they've been cancelled due to lack of interest. The last money crunch we had was before my time. You have raised a lot of money this year, the clinic was a huge money maker but I don't know that the we don't put too much pressure on ourselves to make even more money every year on the clinic and cause our own stress. We should be getting another \$1000 in dues this fiscal year, and we look to be going into next year with a large surplus.

All I'm saying is I'd hate to see us raise rates just to have an even bigger surplus next year. I'd like to see just a rough layout of expected income and outflows. Even if the outflows are just in 4 big buckets:

Fixed expenses (Elkhorn parking, parking pass creation/ mailing, web site, Wild Apricot, storage fees, storage item maintenance, po box, checks, PayPal expenses, marketing expenses)

Club trip/event subsidies (4 or more beginner or women's

trips, Summer Party, Fall Reunion, Rendezvous, Gauley Fest, Christmas Party)
Education/class/roll session subsidies
Public service (NPFF donation, our share of AW Acres maintenance, other donations, cleanups)
Really, I'd like to see that every year, not just when considering a dues increase.
Jr

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Really, I'd like to see that every year, not just when considering a dues increase.
Jr

I think the suggestions made by Hanley and Jr. concerning having hard figures at the meeting which show this potential increase within a budgetary framework and how that money would be earmarked is a good one, at least on paper. I can certainly discuss how the increased revenue would be used to benefit the club in the upcoming year, but the problem is simply that by all practical purposes, the beginning of the BWA's fiscal year, or at least the point at which we finally know what we have to work with comes after the clinic.

As much as I hate to point this out, as is the case with most organizations that host these events, the clinic has generally been seen as a fundraiser for the club. Some years it makes more than others. Some years it just about breaks even, I'm sure there have been years when it has

lost money, but generally it does raise money and it can only be after that final unknown is accounted for that a realistic budget can be put in place.

Although from a financial standpoint the club has generally been run a little more on the fly, meaning that we have in the past chosen to fund or not fund whatever shiny thing which happens to grab our attention at the time, I do think this highlights the need to adopt a budget right after the clinic and work within its parameters. Of course that doesn't mean that a fairly large portion of it can't be set aside as "discretionary spending" because hey, I like shiny things as much as the next guy but I do promise to work with the treasure to ensure that this happens in the future.

But back to the topic at hand. Expect at the club meeting at projected allocation of funds, should this increase be adopted. Do not expect a budget which lays out in detail what our expenditures are going to be for the next year, that's simply unrealistic.

Now to touch on one last point. If you did read my post completely you would have noticed that when I was discussing the participation of members at the different meetings I clearly stated that I was not including anyone that I had seen post on this topic in that group. The group that I've seen take an active involvement in this discussion is the same group that I also see take an active involvement in everything else. Kudos to all those that have posted. You are not only the heart and soul of this club but the blood that gives it life.
Bob

I guess it's been too long since we've had a lively debate to bring the forum back to life! smiling smiley Many good observations from old schoolers and newbs alike. I've been an active member since 2007 and during that time I can only remember one time that we came anywhere close to the red in our account. I can however remember several times when wise old schoolers with a sound legal fund of knowledge (i.e. Brent) strongly recommended that we dump funds ASAP to keep a low profile. I trust their judgement on that matter!

I have no problem with raising the dues personally, but I would like to see it done for the right reasons. IMO, some of those may be...

- 1) Membership in AW included - I would strongly support raising the dues to whatever would make this possible with possible appropriately lower dues for lifetime members.
- 2) Free roll sessions / longer roll session seasons (good one Hanley)
- 3) More donations to AW, WVRC, FOC, Ocoee, Ecuador, etc (agree with Clay)
- 4) Parties / educational subsidies - I would deem less important than the above reasons

Re: member attendance / interest in activities. Some of us have pretty rough work schedules or life stressors while others have all the time in the world and others are in between. The best attendance I can remember during my

time was '07-'08 which was about as politically tumultuous as a current day GOP debate! And the forum was crazy with battle after battle. Don't get me wrong, I'm not longing for that craziness again - but when debateable issues come up, people are more likely to get involved! Human nature. Are folks missing programs? We've had some good ones for sure in the past - not sure if that's to blame at present though. If I can come I'll come - program or not!
Wes

Not looking for a detailed budget. We should be able to predict income from dues pretty well. We don't know how much the clinic will raise, so just put in a modest amount. We should know our fixed costs pretty well. Throw in 10% contingency over this year's expected amount. We should have a pretty good idea of how much we've spent in the past on the trips/parties. If we think we can get volunteers to organize more, budget more. The education component has always been hard to predict. We have spent a ton on roll sessions in some years, and sounds like we didn't have to this year so far. Others classes have depended on how many we had. I'd like to see us budget for more classes and encourage the money to be spent. Put in more contingency. A lot of the public service has been about the same year to year, except when we dumped surplus just to get rid of it. I'd like to see more cleanups funded, but we usually just lack volunteers to organize them.

The reason I like those 4 buckets is that we should have a pretty balanced spending plan for a healthy club. Some people will like the trips/parties more than others, some are more interested in the classes, some will like the public service spending. I like a subsidy more than paying outright for anything. It makes our money go further and you get some buy-in from the participants. If we do donations to other groups, I like the idea of some kind of match from the club to member donations up to a certain amount like we've done in the past. Maybe come up with a list of groups we'll support and that will report back how much they got from our members and let the members donate to their favorite if they want. Prorate our overall donation to the groups based on amount given.

Only other thing is I'd like to know about how much surplus we think we'll have this year, if we just include a guess of how much the clinic will raise, how much we'll get in dues, how much the remaining roll sessions will cost, and whatever other expenses we have. Maybe we can start thinking about dumping some of it if we need to, or use it next year instead of a dues increase.
Jr.

Excellent Bob. I know myself and everybody else would want to know a general accounting of where the money kinda goes. If you do make a list of expenses, please add that, presently for a \$20 single member it costs about \$1 to print and mail a parking pass to that person. I know that sounds like a pit-tins, but its 5% of the dues. I also think we should always keep a certain reserve in the account. Maybe 2-3,000 dollars in case of some disaster that we

all feel the need to get involved in (the clubs iguana mascot needs an operation, etc.) If there is an increase after all of the fuss, I think that all students should get a reduced membership and anybody that claims hardship. It would be nice to have the luxury to make boating available to those that can't afford it.
drspine

I know that the membership fee increase has been approved, but there were many issues/questions that remain unanswered so I felt they needed to be discussed.

1. Being involved

In the previous thread, most people went out of their way to be understanding about the decisions that members make about how to spend time in their lives. It was implied, however, that some people have 'more' of a right to raise question than others, and this is wrong. Any questions/concern is legitimate and should be answered or addressed, regardless of how many meetings you've been to or how many hours you volunteered.

2. The vote

Steering committee votes to discuss a rate increase on 3/1/16. Vote is held 7 days later at General Meeting. Vote is 16 for, 6 against. Based upon the input on the previous thread it may have been a good idea to table this vote until the April meeting to allow interested people time to request off work, find baby/animal sitters etc. Hindsight is 20/20 I guess.

3. The Reasoning

After reviewing the previous thread, and all the SC/ General club meeting minutes going back to 7/15 the only reason I can find for wanting more money is "more funding for trips" and possibly having "\$2-3000 in case of some disaster that we all feel we need to get involved in". I'll discuss 'more trips' later, but what kind of exposure/liability does that club have that would require \$3000 on hand? I'm sure that members would be happy to contribute extra dollars out of pocket for important causes (Ocoee river access that suddenly came up this past year would be one example (although the club made a contribution to the cause out of general funds.).

4. The Budget

It was mentioned that the club would prefer not to air its financial laundry on the intraweb, but since there is not a 'members only' forum here goes (all figures taken from meeting minutes).

July 2015 – Balance: around \$9000 Members: 272-276
Approved expenses – up to \$500 for 7/25 Ocoee/Hiawassee trip. Up to \$1000 for Summer Party
Rejected expenses – none
Expenses discussed - \$75 for booth @ 2016 July 4th events in Lexington. \$100 to join downtown Lexington group for discounts on future events.

August 2015 – Balance: \$9351.42 Members: 323-325
Approved expenses – none
Rejected expenses – none
Expenses discussed – Rent/buy a subwoofer for Gauley

Fest. Buying a grill.

September 2015 – Balance: \$8365.62 Members: 326
Approved expenses - \$250 for carpet/rug for NPFF roadshow use. \$1000 for Ocoee River Council. \$500 for T-shirts for festivals.

Rejected expenses – none

Expenses discussed - \$1000 per year for AW Acres maintenance (details not given)

October 2015 – Balance: \$7587.99 Members: 328

Approved expenses - \$300 for AW Acres for Rendezvous (misprint?).

Rejected expenses – none

Expenses discussed - \$350 for bands to play at Rendezvous. \$75/roll session to cover costs (estimate 30/year from BWA calendar).

November 2015 – Balance: \$6116.93 Members: 332-333

Approved expenses - \$2300 paid to AW after Rendezvous. \$1500 to subsidize AW memberships. \$500 for Ecuador River Institute.

Rejected expenses – none

Expenses discussed - \$1500 donation to NPFF

December 2015 – Balance: \$5470.28 Members: 332-335

Approved expenses - \$100 for Xmas party deposit and \$300 for other expenses.

Rejected expenses – none

Expenses discussed - \$4200 to purchase a party bus to shuttle people to club meetings.

January 2016 – Balance: \$4148.08 Members: 338-341

Approved expenses – none

Rejected expenses – none

Expenses discussed – none

February 2016 – Balance: not reported. Members – 349-351

Approved expenses - \$1500 to NPFF.

Rejected expenses – none

Expenses discussed - \$300 for storage unit (in budget). \$500 for Clinic (food)

March 2016 – Balance: \$3115.88 Members: 261 (non-payers purged)

Approve Expenses - \$100 insurance & \$150 ACA for Clinic. \$200 donation to NPFF

Rejected expenses – none

Expenses discussed – none

OK, back to “more trips”. There have been exactly one (1) club sponsored trip in the last 9 months (not counting parties). There have been exactly zero (0) requests for money from the club to facilitate trips during that same period. There are exactly zero (0) trips scheduled on the calendar between now and the Clinic.

5. The Clinic

Do we need to make money on this event? Should this be counted on every year as a source of revenue? If we looked at this as a net-zero or non-profit event could we attract more people with a lower cost? I know that we probably spent more on this event in 2015 than the \$750 I estimate from meeting minutes, but at \$85 for BWA members, 10 students would have covered costs. Maybe we should consider lowering the rates in the hopes of growing our community.

Thanks for the time if you read all this. Input/replies optional

...Let me suffer the slings and arrows...hot smiley
G3 You really should run for office. Long forum rants don't really benefit anyone. Get involved! Everyone does have an equal voice, but it will be louder if you jump into the fray.

It is a dead horse, no doubt.

Also, Bob did a good job outlining the process that went into it. They voted, its done. Lets give them a chance to do what they say they will do.

Brandon

George,
This club is a democracy. The idea to raise funds was raised and discussed by democratically elected leaders. Those leaders then brought it before the rest of the club a week in advance and actively engaged in discussion, addressed concerns and answered questions. The issue was then brought up in a very well attended meeting, where those concerns and questions were discussed again, with many of the same facts and figures you just listed. The issue was then voted on, and passed pretty handily.

I'm sorry that you missed the week long discussion and that you disagree with the decision that was made by your fellow members. But it is not Bob's responsibility to personally notify all 250 members when a matter regarding the club is being discussed. And it is definitely not his responsibility to try to make sure that every single member gets exactly what they want on every issue.

You are beating a dead horse. And we do have a members only forum. Two of them, actually, on the first and second Tuesday of each month. As has been said and re-said, this financial information does not belong on the forum.

-MeganL

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-MeganL

I like to think there is a lot of love in this group, and it's silly to waste so much energy on this. If we are truly a democratic club, why don't we have every member of the club have a ballot to cast online on important issues, instead of 22 out of 330 + members deciding in a meeting that is over an hour a way for some members on a Tuesday evening. If all members of the club had a vote on this issue, I think no one would have any complaints about the result, and we could all go boating in harmony. Let's put this to rest by changing the process to an online ballot so that we truly give everyone a chance to have their voice heard on the important issues.
Todd H.

This this the exact sort of behavior that runs really great volunteers off. Being a BWA club officer is time consuming and it's thankless. Folks probably don't know the effort that goes into half of the stuff that the Steering Committee does. The issue was introduced on the forum and debated on the forum. It was reintroduced with much discussion at the meeting and voted on at the meeting. It passed. The horse is beyond dead. There are a plethora of ways to get involved in the BWA. Instead of beating a dead horse to a bloody pulp get involved.

I'll say this again. Many thanks to the SC for all the hard and thankless work that you do.
bethany (or beverly or whatever)

On Hanley's point, the info George put together in one place was, in fact, from posted minutes, so was already public.

Having once been very active in the club, and having

suffered many slings and arrows for it, I also thank the officers for being willing to take responsibility and do the work it takes to keep the club going. I wasn't personally in favor of the increase, but I accept the vote graciously and will continue to belong to and support the club, and will try to be around to be involved in votes on how said funds are spent.

I would be in favor of an on-line or by mail vote, if we can control to avoid spurious votes. We are a regional club, and I agree it can be hard for folks to get to meetings in the middle of the week. Or on the weekend, either, because they are spread out all over the southeast boating....

much love,
Zina

I kind of didn't want to go here, but I'll just quickly point out that the question of online ballots, proxy voting and early voting has a long and extremely contentious history in the BWA and the solution may be quite difficult. I haven't read the bylaws recently, but I believe that they stipulate "majority of those present" when referring to voting on most mundane issues. So, to do this you may have to....

(drum roll please)

CHANGE THE BYLAWS.

(low muttering, gasps from audience)

Changing the bylaws has been discussed on many occasions, hypothetically. The problem with trying to change the bylaws is that in order to do so you need a majority of the entire membership of the club, which is why it has never been done in the previous 40 years.

Really, especially in the current context, I don't think this is a big deal and here's why. Any issue that can be voted up at one meeting, can be voted down at the next. I don't propose that we do this, I suggest we let it be. However, if this situation was actually a truly egregious manipulative attempt to circumvent the process it would be no more difficult to mobilize the voting populace of the club to vote it down at the next meeting than to gather them to oppose it to begin with. All that would be necessary would be for folks to show up and make a motion.

I want to repeat myself so that I'm perfectly clear on this. I do not recommend this course of action. We've got bigger fish to fry, many of them ready to be rolled in cornmeal even as we speak.

Hanley Loller

Eddy Lines of Interest

BWA Steering Committee Meeting

Marika's Restaurant

February 2, 2016, 7:30pm

Steering Committee Attendees: Don, Howard, Sue, Brandy, John, Megan

Brandy called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

John – film festival is in two weeks. Guest speakers are, Friday, Lonny Bedwell and Steve Fischer and Pat Keller on Saturday. Most films ever in NPFF films. Run time of 8 hours and 15 minutes. Courtyard Deli will be providing food options and beverages will be available also. Capital Plaza has a few rooms left in our block of 20. Block is good until February 7. \$99/night as opposed to normal \$120/night. Voting is up on the site and NPFF.org is evolving so please take a look at it. Has spoken to Vikings leadership and asked them to match BWA donated funding and at the next general BWA meeting,

John will be making request for funds. Howard inquired as to how NPFF spending of funds is determined. John indicated there are several ways it has been done, most including group input or suggestions from involved members. Howard inquired as to whether there has ever been a consideration of donating some funds to improve parking at Sofflies. Discussion held regarding focus of funding being more at AW Acres and that most funding has been for outside waterway improvement and beautification efforts. Don indicated ACA was the first recipient of donations from our organization, followed by Red Cross and Kentucky River Coalition and then other organizations over time.

Don – Bowlines issue will release in next few days and be first of the 40th anniversary and will be approximately 40 pages. Future issues will include special features on various and particular members and will be extremely interesting. Stories on people who have paddled all over the world will be coming out and also something on the current film festival. Please do not hesitate to submit articles though! Don welcomes and encourages submissions.

Howard – 349 members, 11 new in past month.

Brandy – Clinic is June 3-5 at Russell-Fork. Permit is being mailed to Brandy and we have the pavilion. More to come.

Megan – No report

Sue – General club meeting minutes posted today and last steering committee minutes posted previously.

Meeting officially adjourned at 7:56pm.

BWA General Club Meeting

Rooster's Restaurant, Lexington, Kentucky

2/9/2016 7:30 pm

Bob called meeting to order at 7:40pm. NPFF and Clinic coming up. Also 40th anniversary newsletter first addition coming out.

Officer Reports.

John, NPFF: 33rd NPFF festival is upcoming (over 34 years due to calendar move), at Buffalo Trace. Some exceptional presenters for this event. Team working on this event has been awesome, in particular, Bethany, Howard, Sue, Will, Jason and several others who deserve mention for silent auction work and Bob has been wonderful in beverage arena. Ade-

lessa has been wonderful with food. Event will be documented through photography and it is really coming together. Trying to make it more of a multi-media event and strong goals for support funding in future and making it more of a year round event with a bigger online presence. Record number of film submissions this year and quality of films as a whole is best yet. John is still researching opportunities for after party events which has been a challenge in Frankfort, but John will strongly be researching other opportunities to present to the club for future NPFF events to see if we might consider other ideas. John welcomes anyone with thoughts and ideas to contact him. Confirmation from other club members that if other events are going on in Frankfort, it makes it a real challenge to meet all our hopes/needs there for a venue. Buffalo Trace itself is awesome. Shout out to Trevor Bennington who provided exceptional pricing on insurance for events. Kudo's to Brandy for her support and work also. Short handbill with a website link because last year we had many left over programs. Mucho beverages for sharing for NPFF and John asks that BWA members consider funding for NPFF at \$1,500 level. Motion was made for BWA to fund \$1,500. Question as to what the level of available funds are since treasurer is not here and answer is that the current balance is \$5,500. Question as to what \$1,500 covers and it is mainly beverages and hotel rooms for speakers, etc. Motion was seconded. Question raised regarding whether any funding in 2016 has been provided to NPFF and answer is no. Question raised as to whether NPFF needs any additional buffer of potential funds over the \$1,500 level and John indicates no. There being no further discussion, motion to fund \$1,500 for the NPFF this year from BWA was put forward and unanimously carried. John asks that everyone who is not currently volunteering please consider signing up as he does need additional volunteers. It's going to be a fantastic NPFF Festival this year! Clapping and much support!! Question as to when silent auction occurs and usually bidding stops around 930-10.

Brandy, VP: Clinic first weekend June (3-5). Ratliff Hole. Pavilion is held and Brandy would like to raise some money for the Pig roast as last year Bob garnered funding through an essay competition he won. Perhaps \$500 and open to ideas on how to raise funds for this. Bob indicates Canoe Kentucky may be willing to donate for this. Please contact Brandy with any questions. Ratliff Hole asked that we PLEASE this year not camp in any areas marked no camping.

KC – No specific report but asks everyone begin thinking about anything needed from the storage area as she will need a little bit of notice. KC requested money to pay storage invoice which is under \$300. This is already part of the budget and Bob indicates she should just contact Jeff to get this paid

Walt, Safety Officer: Roll sessions are active and lots of new people coming out. Discussion held regarding who is able to teach for roll sessions and that more are very much needed as classes are very large. Current plan is to run sessions at least through Mid-May. Possible a special session "drill-in" session sometime in March. Please let Walt know if there is interest.

Don, Newsletter: New issue of bowlines is out celebrating 40th anniversary year of club. Exciting articles for celebration year coming up, but Don is also still looking for those who can contribute articles that will provide history, legends, etc. for the ongoing newsletters. Many interesting and fascinating

articles Don has achieved, but he knows there are many more demanding day.

so please contact him to discuss historic ideas and potential articles. Also, pictures are very welcome and encouraged.

Bob indicates he has reviewed and he encourage everyone to take a look as Don does an excellent job on the newsletter and it is a great read – please check it out and PLEASE! Write an article!

Jeff, Treasurer: Not in attendance.

Howard, Membership: 351 memberships, thinks he has finally figured out that there are approximately 124 bundled memberships. Bob indicates counts very depending on how you look at the memberships (individuals vs. family/group). Regardless we are at an all-time high.

Sue, Secretary: Steering Committee meeting minutes are up on site.

Meghan, Member at large: Not in attendance

Bob, President: Bob indicates still looking to organize swift water Rescue for spring clinic. It is a challenging 16 hour course that is very paddler oriented and highly recommended.

April = Leave no trace team coming to Elkhorn and very exciting. More will be forthcoming in forum on this. Question as to Elkhorn clean up and Eli should be leading this and perhaps a Glenn's Creek clean up alternatively.

There being no further business to discuss, trip reports were given and meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

Re: February 2016 BWA General Club Meeting Minutes February 29, 2016 11:27AM

For number of members, you should be looking at the Active column numbers, not Total members. Its 267. There will be bundle members in that number, but we've always included the extra bundles in the number, although I would usually go through and remove bundle members who didn't have email addresses, because it just wasted a membership slot when we are trying to stay below 250 for the lower Wild Apricot subscription rate.
Jr.

BWA Steering Committee Meeting Marika's Restaurant

March 3, 2016, 7:30pm

Steering Committee Attendees: Howard, Sue, Bob, Megan, Walt, Joe, Jeff.

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:34pm. Bob deferred deep discussion on NPFF until John and Brandy's return. Our conservation officer, Eli has moved to Colorado and Gear-meister is gone for summer. Meghan will be taking over the positions for now. Guidelines are that Member-at-Large takes over unless committee feels there should be a vote, which indication from group was that this is not necessary.

Officer Reports

Meghan, Conservation officer - Red river clean-up will be going on and she will have more details as soon as possible. Usually around mothers' day and Meghan will be trying to get Vikings and as many as possible involved. Starts above Red river gorge and goes into the gorge. It is a pretty physically

Gear-meister Meghan – no report.

Howard, Membership Coordinator – membership has been purged of non-payers and current count is 261. Howard suggested he would like to consider increasing dues this year for singles from 20 to 25 and family from 30 to 35. Discussion was held regarding pro's and con's of this sort of change in terms of potential impact on membership and also on ability of club to ensure covering of expenses with the uncertainties of membership and spring clinic sign ups. Not sure of when last increase in dues was made - very long time ago, Walt indicates he cannot recall that in the last 6-7 years. More discussion was held. Walt proposed that we raise the dues to 25 and 35, which Sue seconded, and vote was 5-1 upheld. Bob indicated this means it will move onto the general club meeting for vote. It was suggested that it be posted on the forum that this item will be discussed and put up for vote at the next general club meeting and agreed that it will be posted which Howard will take care of.

Walt – Pool sessions averaging about 20 people per session. Meghan suggested she may have resources for getting more word out on looking for life guards for sessions as that has been a challenge. Agreed she will see what she can do. Do need more instructors to help whenever possible.

Jeff, Treasurer – Current balance is \$3,115.88. Donated \$200 to NPFF and dues for storage facility for next 13 months were paid. Should not be much other than minor expenses coming in between now and clinic.

Joe - Not much to report. Calendar updating and next meeting will be at Rooster's for general club. Howard asked if there is a way to update the calendar for the clinic, and Joe indicated he has not been managing the clinic portion of the calendar. He needs to speak with Brandy to see what she would like to do. Meghan suggested that in Brandy's absence she will go ahead and change the dates on the site to get it updated.

Bob – will be getting insurance for clinic so that will be around \$100. Need \$150 dollars for ACA, which Howard made a motion for supporting this purchase, which was seconded and unanimously approved. Bob next discussed how long standing the club is and how many years some members have been involved. He discussed life time membership awards and how best to ensure we are considering all worthy potential people in this regard for the variety of reasons such as length of tenure, participation, commitment, etc. This is not intended to necessarily be a standard each year, but should be looked at each year to evaluate if there are members who deserve such recognition. Group was supportive and this will be discussed more.

Jeff asked about AW memberships as he would really like to make AW membership part of attending spring clinic and given subsidy it should be easy. Spring clinic attendees will then get the newsletter which will encourage participation. This will be discussed with Brandy to get her input on it.

There being no further business, the meeting officially adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:24 pm. Trip reports shared.