

BOWLINES



Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Nov/Dec

Each issue this year will Celebrate the BWA being 40!

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1976-2016



The 2016 Russell Fork Rendezvous: Back to the Future!

I was coming home from a weekend of kayaking at the Russell Fork river early in the season this fall when I received the September/October 2016 Bowlines in an email notice from Don Spangler. I love the Bowlines, contribute to it and read it. I appreciate the club centricity of it and the long

Story continues on page 3

Looking Ahead

Coming BWA Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm
Ethereal Brewing 1224 Manchester St,
Lexington, KY 40504

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

Pinnacle Pool,
621 Southpoint Dr, Lexington
Thursdays 7:45 PM

For dates check:
<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/event-2379023>

Learn to wet exit, bow rescue, and roll.

Meet BWA members and be involved.

Wash your boats, inside and out, before arrival.

Cost:
\$5 - Members
\$2 - Member child 12-18
Free - Member child 11 and under

\$10 - Non-member
\$5 - Non-member child

First roll session ever? Non-members pay member rates



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

Club Officers 2015-2016

President	Bob Larkin	502-550-4225
Vice-President	Brandy Mello	859-312-8640
Treasurer	Don Perkins	859-948-1920
Secretary	Michael Daughtery	502-554-8489
Safety	Walt Hummel	859-705-8215
Program	Mike Wilson	585-507-3853
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Joe Wheatly	859-361-0892
Conservation	Megan Larkin	859 743 8355
Film Festival Coordinator	John Mello	859-327-6092
Equipment Coordinator	Kyle Koeberlein	859-576-7194
At-Large Member	James Welch	859-954-2025
Membership Coordinator	Dot Edwards	859-351-0132
Past President	Clay Warren	859-326-0602

Join in on the Fun!

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

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

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

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

We urge you to patronize them for your outdoor needs.



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

history it often presents of us as a family of boaters through the years. And, as I perused it, I saw an article I had written twenty years ago, back in 1996, about the event and the race which was titled: RUSSELL FORK RENDEZVOUS 1996: AN OLD STYLE RIVER FESTIVAL (See link: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BowlinesSepOct2016.pdf>)



Lo and behold, there was a race list for that year that I had thought was missing for the past 20 years! I don't know why I did not go find this article before. Anyway, this was a big deal as I had been searching the attic of my home for the past ten years or more trying to locate it when I had first noticed it was missing from the race history compiled by Steve Ruth. So, I immediately notified Steve Ruth who updated the race list located on the website www.russellfork.info at the following link: <http://www.russellfork.info/race.htm>.



That year, in 1996, the second year for the race and 20 years ago, we had 29 racers, a number of women paddlers for the first time, and some old BWA/Kentucky folks in the mix, like Hugo Araneda, Chris Cash, Dustin Cornelieson, Mike Clark, me, Greg Hoskins and Blake Brame. The river and the race were the focus of the event that year, the second year of the festival, all of which began with a BWA Club party in 1994. (This was my first exposure to some angry and raucous BWA politics by the

way, and I jumped on the band wagon in favor of moving the club party to the Russell Fork from the Ocoee where it had been for years, with Spangler, Bob Bryan, Barry Grimes (B6) and others in favor of having the club party at the Russell Fork. B6 and I went to Haysi to meet the mayor and found the site where the club party was held in 1994 and where the festival would be for the next 8 years. Then we went kayaking the gorge and he met Fist. That is a whole other story...)

See, in 1995, we had the very first race, and we rendezvoused with other clubs and paddlers by opening up the doors to more than just BWA, Vikings and some CCC folks that year. The race started because we were bombing down the gorge and had to start making up stories about our times because me and Mike Clark were truly not as fast as Chris Hipgrave and other younger paddling partners.





Age and treachery overcomes youth and ability, we reasoned. But regardless of the fact that we were not as fast as some of our young friends, we all knew it was a “cruiser” run, perfect for bombing and doing laps and that is what got us to do the race. The Russell Fork gorge was due for a race. Other Class V races were going on like Gore Canyon and Canyon Creek at the time, so we put it together, with help from Joe Greiner who was an AW Board member at the time and got us race bibs. We plotted out the start spot above “Let’s Make a Deal” (we all called it “Slot” back then) and the ending at the big



rock above Climax where the time keeper still sits to this day, and we all kinda figured out the way to keep time, kinda, and off we went to the races. In 1996, the festival started to take off and we just about doubled the number of racers. It was a good year, and some humble beginnings...



From that year on, the festival grew to a multiday event beginning in 1997 and we changed the date of the festival to the first weekend, instead of the last weekend when we had higher water.



This move to the first week end was controversial at the time, but my thought was that in doing so, the racers would still show up, and that because the weather is often better at the beginning of October instead of the end, we would draw more people to the area and event that were not paddlers but wanted to attend a cool festival with a cool cause – protecting the Russell Fork river corridor. My hope was to bring awareness of the Russell Fork and the Breaks Park to a broader



majickal and unique, the world over, in my opinion.

We took a grass roots approach and asked that commercial vending not take place so that small private vendors could operate. So, it was not going to be a Gauley festival, but way more "Mom and Pop" was the idea.

We did have some of the small vendors from Gauley Festival sell stuff, like the old "Underware Guys" that had all that great cheap polypro. We had people, like my deceased friend Shjaway,



group of folks given that it was almost unknown in the general community, even in Lexington Kentucky at the time. There were some big issues that contributed to that goal and thought process at the time. We made the top ten American Rivers list with the threat of gas drilling in and near

making drums for sale and some of us still have those drums bought at the Rendezvous.



Kentucky Heartwood, an environmental group in Kentucky would set up amazing food vending, with mostly incredible vegetarian offerings that even the meat eaters could not stay away from. We had Famous Amos selling and giving away barbeque pork that

the park, and we got the word out to paddlers, environmentalists, hikers, climbers, mountain bikers, musicians and everyone we could pull out of the Shakedown Street Parking lot scene from Phish concerts and other crowds like that. It

he smoked right there on premises.

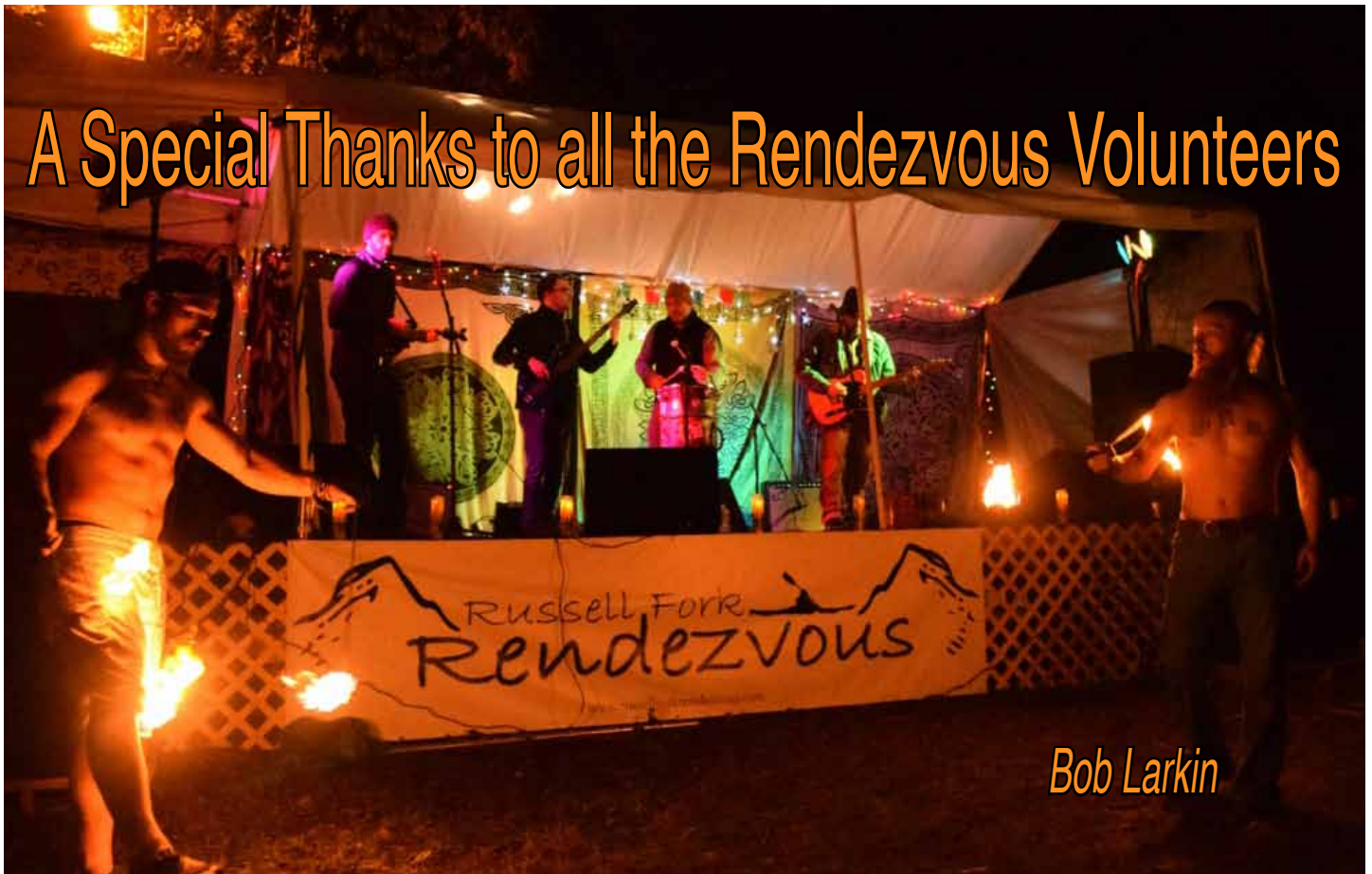


worked and we had nearly 800-1000 folks attend for many of the years after that. It was truly

Tie dyes and tapestries were everywhere. Folks were selling gypsy clothing, making and selling jewelry. It was pretty cool, I gotta say. If you were there, you know...



A Special Thanks to all the Rendezvous Volunteers



Bob Larkin

Hi All,

I wanted to thank all of the volunteers that really made the Rendezvous a success. With almost 50 of you stepping up to do your part, I can't thank you enough for your hard work and personal sacrifice. It was a true group effort and this event simply wouldn't have happened without you.

Of special note, I'd like to thank Mark Branch, who came into this project early on and who work tirelessly throughout under extremely stressful conditions. Thank you Mark, thank you Mark, thank you Mark. You really helped to make this event work.

Brandy Mello; You gave this event its soul. Your work on the stage, and especially the path through the woods accounted for 90% of the positive feedback I heard. I don't know where you get it from but WOW, you really made this event special. Everything you touched was magic.

Nate Scally, my friend and co-organizer, who's work generating start up capital and interest in this event has made





this all possible. You're not only one of my favorite people to work with but one of my favorite people in general.

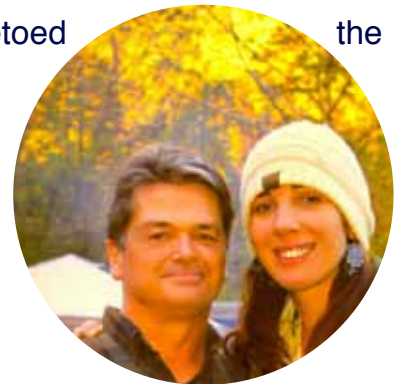
From Elkhorn City, I'd like to thank Steve Ruth, Teddy Sanders and especially Johnny Stewart who helped in every aspect of this event.



Brent Austin, for your constant support and advice. You've been the driving force behind this event from the start and are it's heart and soul.



Megan Larkin; I don't even know where to start.. No one was more help than you. You built the website, organized the volunteers, listened patiently to all my crazy ideas and thankfully vetoed the really crazy stuff. You were there, helping even before the real work got underway and stayed involved throughout the entire process. You were the first one in, you worked your ass off during the event and the last one out. You were wonderful to work with and a tireless partner. Thank you Megan, I can't thank you enough for all you did.



Once again, thanks to all of you. Rather I've mentioned you here or not, I can't tell you how much I appreciated everything you did.

Bob Larkin

Amazing Rendezvous! Largest Race to date!

Brent Austin



Photos from THarbor by Leslie

Overall	Dane Jackson	6:33.2	104
Female	Adriene Levknecht	7:00.9	10
K1W	Adriene Levknecht	7:00.9	9
K1Ws	Nikki Malatin	8:20.8	1
Male	Dane Jackson	6:33.2	93
C1	Tad Dennis	7:10.1	1
K1	Dane Jackson	6:33.2	78
K1s	Jim Janney	7:30.8	14
Female/Male	Aaron Erdrich/Caitlin Hollinger	10:07.6	1
Raft	Aaron Erdrich/Caitlin Hollinger	10:07.6	1

Here are the race results in detail: <http://www.webscorer.com/race?raceid=84838>

Bob, Megan, Brandy and Mello and all the other volunteers, this was the best Rendezvous ever, at Carson Island. The vibe is back and the scene was off the hook cool. Great job with the ambiance, the bands, the firewood, the food, the gate control (Mello even asked local cops for \$15!), the security, the multi fires, and the overall management of the event. Can't wait to hear how much money we cleared. I think it may be the largest crowd ever at Carson Island. Weather was cool, but great. The music was fabulous, both nights. The candle lit trail through the woods was majick (thanks Brandy). Clean up on Sunday was impeccable when I got off the river. I can't thank you all enough. Just made me feel like old times and right at home.

Huge number of paddlers in the race this year - 104 racers.

It was good to Rendezvous with old friends dating back 20 years or more and also more contemporary friends, as well as new ones made this weekend. We had some first timers on the RFG at flows of right about a 1000, which is a very good level for the gorge. Sunny skies on Sunday and nearly 70 degrees made for a nice day of clearing out the cobwebs from the festivities and activities the night before. I simply had an awesome time and I thank you all for making this happen. This was a big effort and it paid off in vibe for sure. I suspect it made some money too.

Brent

2016 Lord of the Fork Race Notes

This was the 22nd edition of the Lord of the Fork Race. At 105 racers, we had a record field yet again. It was a fantastic sight to see both sides of the river filled with racers and spectators. The Russell Fork is a special place. Quite a few present were here when the race first began in 1995. One of them was even on the podium.

An event like this takes a team to put on. Thanks are in order to those who helped make it all work:

Stewart Caldwell and JB Seay filled in for Willy Witt at the start. With 30 second intervals and a new timing system, this was a busy job.

James Welch and Gerald Delong headed up safety

It was a pleasure to have Jay Ditty present the awards. As the longest tenured race director, his insights are quite entertaining. He also kept time at the finish line in the event that the computer system failed. I am grateful that it did not, as calculating all those times is a wicked tedious job.

Bob Larkin has done a great job bringing the Rendezvous back to a worthy event. This event is tied to the race. I hope to see it continue to grow.

Jennifer Taylor made and donated our finisher medals. These are unique and beautiful pieces.

Sara Mullett was at the finish and took over 1000 photos of racers. These are worth checking out. I'll have a link to them soon.

Sara and Jay for the starting order. Next year my goal is to successfully implement all of it.

Lila Thomas was key in collecting the bibs. We have several thousand dollars invested here, and they are not easily replaced. Thanks to everyone for being on board.

We were again a bit late on the start. As the race has grown, this has been a challenge to keep things on schedule. Thank you for your patience.

Steve Ruth has maintained the history of the race. This year the 1996 results were discovered. We now have a complete history.

See you next year,
Eric Henrickson



Race Photos taken at El Herrendo are from THarbor taken by Leslie

Backpaddling through the pages of Bowlines

*Bluegrass
Wildwater
Association*

1976-2016



Celbrating the Bluegrass Wildwater's 40 years.

From the Nov/Dec1997 issue of Bowlines

1997 Russell Fork River Rendezvous: A Race & Music Festival!

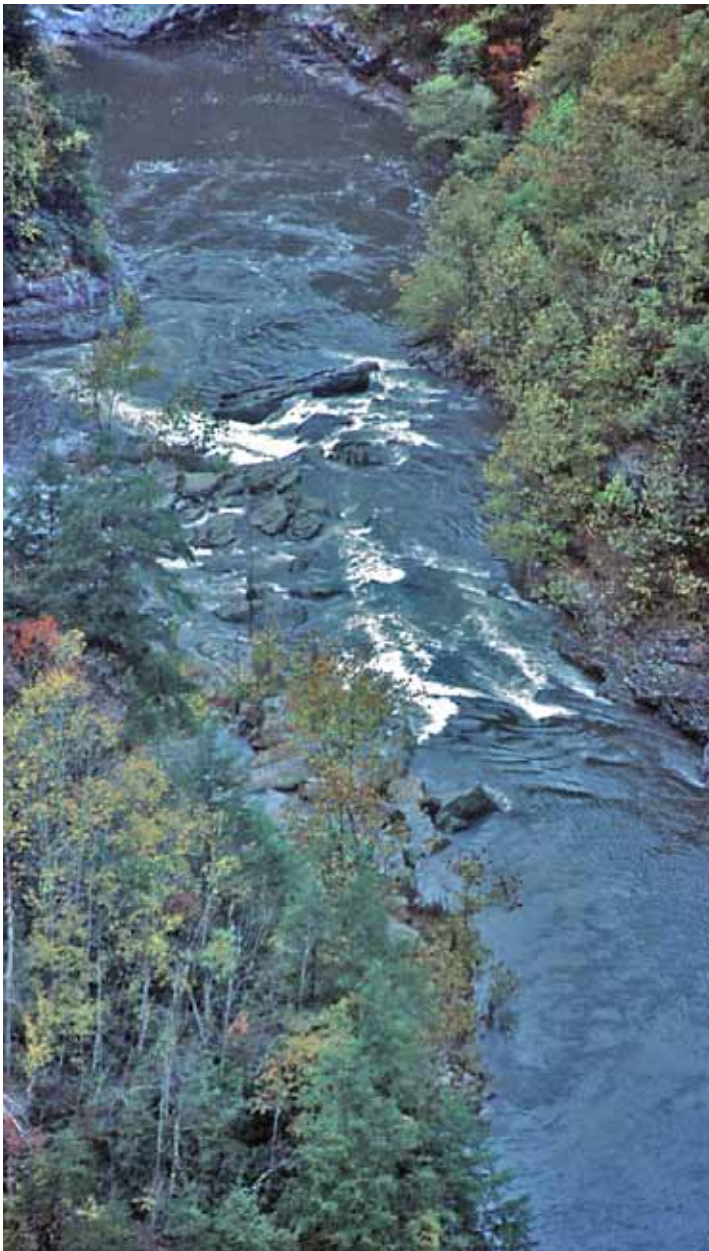
Brent Austin

The third annual Russell Fork River Rendezvous was dampened by persistent, foul and wet weather. However, the spirit of those in attendance was everything but damp! The gates opened Friday, October 24th at 8:00 am. to windy and wet conditions. A handful of paddlers from Kentucky and the Bluegrass Wildwater Association busied themselves all day securing tarps, arranging kerosene heaters, setting up cooking equipment, building bonfire sites, and otherwise organizing the campground for a Festival that was promised to draw not only the paddling community, but numerous non-paddlers who were interested and concerned about the future of the River and wanted to attend a music



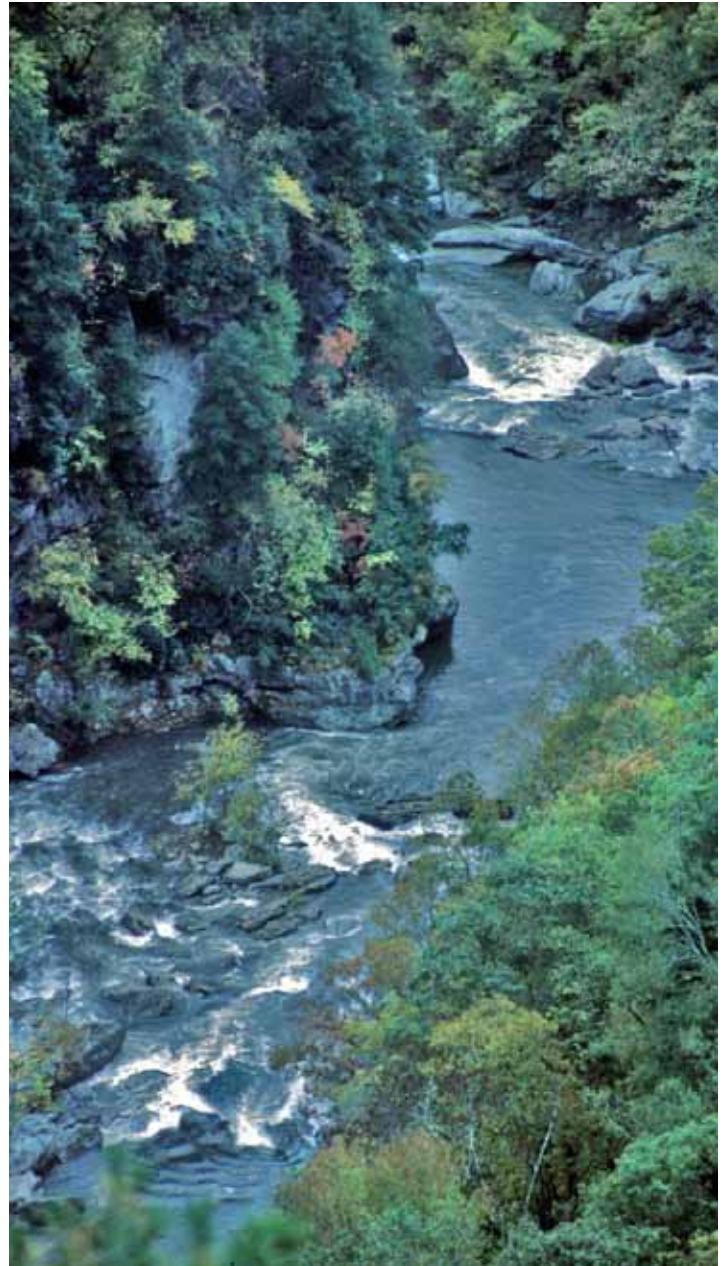
festival in a most beautiful venue.

By 6:00 p.m. Friday evening, thousands of dollars of high-caliber musical equipment, P.A. systems, etc. were put in place for the first round of musicians to begin performing. The first band,



The drum circle was small due to the persistent wet weather and the risk of the drum heads getting wet. Nonetheless, numerous drummers could be heard throughout the weekend.

Saturday morning, the race participants geared up for the FREE (again) Russell Fork Race from the start above Slot rapid to the finish at Climax. As usual, the caliber of racers was impressive. There was tremendous excitement in the white-water competition between Chris Hipgrave and Jeff Snyder, as well as the K-1 division which , again this year, was very closely contested.



The Knick-Knack Shelf, began playing with hard-driving, jam-oriented music that lasted for several hours to the delight of the small, but increasing crowd arriving on the scene throughout the evening. Following Knick Knack Shelf, a female soloist, Marla Land, riveted the audience with her energy, message and harddriving lyrics that totally captivated the audience. Following Marla was a band from the Lexington area made up of local boaters, Jeff Cress, Chris cash and assorted friends, who played until well-after midnight A bonfire was located next to the stage for those listening to the music on stage and a second bonfire was located about 400 yards away, behind the horseriding ring for drum circle activities.

1997 Russell Fork Race Results

Placement	Bib #	Name	Time (mins)
1	62	Chris Hipgrave (WH)	10.00
2	1	Jeff Snyder (WH)	10.01
3	48	Howard Tidwell	10.37
4	82	Jerry Lechowick	10.44
5	18	Clay Wright	10.50
6	47	BJ Johnson	10.53
7	26	Greg Hoskins	10.56
8	188	Dirk Davidson	10.57
9	61	Danny Inman	11.04
10	60	Eric Strittmatter	11.09
11	174	Jeft West	11.11
12	162	Clem Newbold	11.12
13	10	Jason Hale	11.14
14	25	Chris Hull	11.17
15	172	Rick Gusic	11.20
16	189	Andy Bridge (C-1)	11.29
17	200	David Jeffery	11.49
18		Matt Terry	11.52
19	11	Bryan Jennings	11.57
20	4	Amy Brown (W)	12.00
21		Shannon Carroll (W)	12.18
22	23	Terres A. Rogerson (W)	12.21
23	95	Eric Hendrickson	12.29
24	42	Katie Nietert (W)	12.36
25	28	Willy Whitt	12.40
26	100	Jon Lord	13.11
27	16	Jamie Casson	13.14
28	170	Brent Austin	13.33
29	5	Andy Lee	13.45
30	184	Paul Fantetti(O-C1)	

Following the race, all festival participants and racers made their way back to the fairgrounds in Haysi, Virginia to continue the festivities. That evening, vegetarian, black bean burritos were served, all-you-could-eat, for \$5 per person. Handley Lohler, from Riverhouse Productions, again provided raw footage of paddlers and racers through the gorge. It is available for \$12.00. If interested, please call (304) 574-2851.

The music began again at approximately 6:00 p.m. with Jim Hill and friends from Hazard, Kentucky, rocking the crowd for several hours followed by Sara Evans, a highly noted song writer from Kentucky. She began with a Bob Dylan cover, "Tangled Up In Blue", and finished with a heartfelt Janis Joplin tune, "Me and Bobby McGee". Following Sara was a hot new band called Gravity Wagon, followed by an even hotter Grateful Dead cover band from Louisville, Kentucky known as Emilr's Garden, and finishing the music for the evening were a random group of musicians from the night before and newcomers who combined their talents to entertain us all. The music lasted until approximately 4:30 a.m. and everyone agreed that this was one of the most entertaining River Festivals.

Sunday morning rose with the aroma of veggie, stir-fried potatoes and fresh-brewed coffee filling the cool air. A donation of "whatever you can pay" (ranging from 9 cents to 5 dollars) was requested for the all-you-can eat, vegetarian breakfast buffet.

The 1997 Russell Fork River Festival was an act of total kindness, sharing and giving. It exemplified all meanings of sisterhood and brotherhood without the taint of commercialism or other features witnessed too often in the growing and, thus, changing sport of kayaking. This was truly an old Festival that staked its claim as a non-commercial, grass roots event, making it unique and eminently "kind".

Next year's Festival will again be the fourth week of October when we can count on increased flows. Hoping for better weather next year, prepare to see the 300-400 festival participants increase by a factor of ten. Please come help us save this fragile river that truly deserves to have a Wild and Scenic status some day. The idea is to make this event more of a Gathering, rather than just a kayaking event. We need to raise awareness and money. Please call me with your ideas

Brent Austin

The "Legendary Spirit" of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association

Legendary is a word that is used to describe something or someone that is far beyond the regular everyday expectation. In the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, we have been fortunate to have a history of having many "legendary" members. This year, our 40th year, I have highlighted just a few of the "legendary members" in the bi-monthly issues of Bowlines. They include Brent Austin, Mike Weeks, Sam Moore, John "Chief" Kulka", and Steve "Tubbo" Morgan. I could have written about many other past members that would fit that title, but the point I have to make right now is that because of them and many other BWA'ers we are a paddling club that is "legendary"!

The BWA started the path to legendary from year one. We paddled local streams, but very quickly looked beyond them to streams in Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia and others in the southeast. But very soon we were going even further... to Texas, Maine, Colorado, Idaho, Arizona, Ontario and then international trips and expeditions to Chili, Mexico, China, Nepal, Costa Rica and beyond. We were more active than most other paddling clubs of that time, not only in where we paddled but how much. Rarely was there a weekend or holiday that there was not a lot of us paddling somewhere year round. Our love of paddling drove us to boat whenever and wherever we could. But that was just one thing that contributed to our legendary reputation.

Circumstance was an important factor in allowing a small new club to do the things we did. We were fortunate that we were a small strong association of good friends. This was in part that paddling whitewater demands trust and reliance on others because of hazards and dangers you encounter while running whitewater. But being from a fairly small town also made a difference. We all lived within just minutes of each other and was always visiting each other for dinner or other social activities. We also got together to make our boats, life-jackets, spray skirts, throw ropes and other things related to paddling and camping. Organizing many club activities from meetings, parties, clinics, roll sessions and starting up or doing things like the River Safety Symposium, cpr classes, river clean-ups, major paddling trips, the National Paddling Film Festival and so on. This meant we saw and interacted with each other literally every week before the weekend. The only time we did not actually be around each other (other than work & sleeping) was when we were on the phone working out details on Thursday night as to where we would go to paddle on Friday night. Remember there was no river gauges or internet to rely on. Friday afternoon, we started the social hour when we got in the vehicle to head to the river, something that paddlers in Knoxville and places close to major rivers did not do. They went to the river in the am and headed back home in the pm. No evenings around the campfire or sharing coffee with others in the morning.

Yes, we had a lot of legendary types as members. But what helped make them and the BWA legendary was a closeness and bond that lasts to this day. We all still consider each other to be close friends and we all still stay in touch and do a lot of things together when we can, even though we may now live hundreds of miles from each other. This tradition is what makes the Bluegrass Wildwater Association "Legendary". This tradition of closeness enabled us to do great things though we were small in number.

Don Spangler

BWA member since the beginning.

**To find out more about what made the BWA legendary
be sure to read the following reprints from Bowlines**

Happy Birthday BWA

From Bowlines Vol.2, No.1 November 1977

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dave Moccia

THINK SNOW 1/5-17-1977

From Bowlines # 3 February 1977

With most of the creeks and rivers frozen over and six inches of snow on the ground, what else was there to do but sleigh ride? Equipped with sleds, toboggans, saucers, two hollowforms and a 17 foot Bluehole, Carol and Bill Congers neighbourhood was the first to be broken in. Other nights saw us at Jacobson park, Masterson Station Park and back out to Jacobson a few more times. Aqua III (Sage boating class) was given free the 2nd night, compliments of Steve Morgan, certified bow paddler and steering instructor.

Our "Association"

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

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

Our membership is 3-4 times what it was in the early days. We are one of the active groups of boaters you are likely to find. In addition to all of this, we are becoming more active in river conservation; we put on two paddling clinics each year; we teach (rolling) at the YWCA each winter... all signs are that we are maturing and are here to stay.

But, there is yet another side to our club, which I think is unique compared to many. As our founders seem to predict in the choice of our name, we are an association in the dictionary sense: "a joining or uniting together into a relationship as companion, partner, or friend". The "Bluegrass Paddler" has seen many good friendships evolve over the years. Some say our club has become too "social" over the years.....perhaps. But in today's society one thing that is often missing and hard to find is a group of people that enjoy life together, can achieve things together, and can care about each other in the way we do. As we evolve in the "eighties", I can see us doing more. I can see us paddling more rivers, but I also hope we never lose that closeness we have as an "association".

The Bluegrass Paddler
from Bowlines
March/April 1984

The BWA 1976-1981

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

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

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

Sam Moore
From Bowlines
November 1981

Happy Birthday BWA

The Bluegrass Wildwater Association is ten years old!

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

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

Other early newsletters contained trip reports on the Cumberland and Rockcastle Rivers and a list of the "Most Heard Excuses for NOT going paddling". One of my favorite "excuses" was "I'd really love to go but I was looking forward to painting the bathroom this weekend".

By February, 1977, our total membership was 45. In November 1977 Bowlines appeared for the first time on the banner of our newsletter and an article reported 8 paddlers attended Madawaska Kanu Camp. Dues were raised to \$8 (single) and \$12 (family). Also during 1977, we began roll session. These took place from 8:00 am- noon on Sundays at UK's pool (and we complain about Monday nights!).

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

In March of 1979, our meeting place moved to the Upper Crust on Waller Ave. In May we moved once again to Joe B's on Southland Drive. 1980, our membership had grown to over 100 and we decided to buy a club boat trailer. As 1980 neared an end, we changed our pool sessions once again,

this time to Wednesday nights from 8 - 10 pm.

Spring of 1981 found Sam and Karen Moore, Don Spangler, Mary Philipps, Terry Weeks, Arnie LeMay and Steve Morgan paddling the Petawawa followed by a trip to the Arkansas by Stan Slater, Steve Morgan, Don Spangler, Mary Phillips and Rich Lewis.

In 1982, the BWA sponsored the Southeastern River & Safety Symposium. We were now well established as the Bigtime Wrestling Association.

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

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

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

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

Carole Bryant

Update on Elkhorn Acres Project



Update on the project. Right now, pretty much everything's done. All the rock we had, all 168 tons of it have been spread. The parking lot is A LOT bigger, transmission rock at the top of the entrance road has been removed, the low spot at the bottom of the entrance road where the giant pot hole was has been raised about a foot, all the other pot holes have been repaired and the parking lot now has a new exit road.

With all that said, the exit road still needs about another 30 tons of gravel, right now we only have the base layer down which are really big rocks so, although you could drive on it, I wouldn't, and all the dirt we had to dig up is still piled up all over the place. I'll be bringing in the additional 30 tons of gravel sometime next week and as far as the dirt is concerned, we'll get back down there soon and get rid of that. It does look like hell right at the moment but we worked until well after dark so it's still a little rough down there, but like I said, we'll get everything back to normal soon.

Special, let's make that super special thanks go out to Steve Price, who not only hauled a Bobcat all the way up here from Somerset, but did almost all the actual work of digging and spreading the



gravel (168 tons in one day, WOW). Steve, you are the man, thank you so much for all the hard work. I'd also like to thank KyJim for all his help in laying out the project, racking gravel and with his help in coordinating the logistics of the bobcat work. Also, a big thanks to Mikes all Wet for staying late, freezing his butt off and shoveling and racking gravel until the job was done (Jim and Mike, you guys were awesome to work with, as always). Special thanks also go out to Mike F'n Wilson, Robert Milgate, and oh course to my lovely wife and your Conservation Officer, Megan Larkin for taking on this project in the first place. It's truly amazing what can be done when we all work together.....



Bob



Off the Cuff

Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

**Happy Thanksgiving everyone.
November 24, 2016**

Happy Thanksgiving everyone,

I just wanted to take a moment to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. I can say, almost without exception that every year since I've been a part of this club has been better than the year before it. I'm thankful to have had the chance to get to know so many of you. I'm thankful for my beautiful wife and my awesome son and I'm thankful for the many moments and memories that I've been a part of with you. I'm thankful for the chance to have served as the leader of this organization; there were certainly times when I doubted that I'd ever have the opportunity to do it.

I'm thankful for the support that you've not only shown me, but time and time again that I've seen you show each other, and mostly I'm thankful to be part of an organization where that kind of support is the norm and not the exception.

So let's not forget the meaning of the holiday. It's not about shopping, it's not about turkey, or pumpkin pie or even football, It's about remembering the things in life that we're all truly grateful for and for sharing with those that mean the most to us.

Bob Larkin

Amen Brother Bob and Happy Thanksgiving to all

I'm Thankful:

1. I'm thankful that my God is a god that had enough sense to make man a being of self awareness and freewill.
2. I'm thankful that my country respects that and makes it a right to practice my religion freely and without fear of imprisonment of other punishment.
3. I am thankful for lima beans. I hate'em. Every 2 or 3 years I try a couple just to make sure I still hate them. They make everything else that I like seem that much better.
4. I'm thankful for that prescription of Percocet I had filled over four years ago. You don't think I could have gotten all this ink without using it do you?
5. I am very thankful for my health. I'm 62 and still 'doing it'. The reflexes are not what they used to be but I'm still out there enjoying and appreciating more and more the gifts that come with life.
6. Like Bob, I am thankful for my paddling family. I love the

sense of belonging, the giving and taking of our brothers and sisters to and for each other. I celebrate often the ups and downs. Good times and not so good times are the way it has to be. Otherwise, if not, we would be just like a flatline EKG.....no activity, no life. Bring on those times, both good and not so good. Let out lives happen. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it all.

7. I'm thankful that when bourbon is not in the picture, I know when to shut the f*ck up.

Peace,

Dallas

**Movie Night at West Sixth 12/1
November 30, 2016**

Thanks for the help with the details amigo. My cutting and pasting skills aint what they used to be!

John Mello went over to the tap room last night to check out the situation and we are full steam ahead! smileys with beer

Hope to see a good turnout!

MFW

Hey All,

Big props to all those involved in "Movie Night at West 6th". I think that was my favorite one yet and we had a really nice turn out. Great job on the videos John, I can't wait for the next one.

Bob



**The Rendezvous Numbers are in...
Oct 25, 2016**

Hi All,

Even with the higher expenses associated with a much larger event, Rendezvous this year still did pretty good. In total we took in right around \$5500.00, which does not count the seed money generated from the BWA, the Vikings and the hard work of Nate Scally nor the generous donation by the Nackbar in Louisville. After all the expenses are paid, Rendezvous this year generated a profit of \$2260.39

Counting the 50 plus volunteers (Thanks again) and a few that I'm sure made it past the gate, I think we had an attendance somewhere right 400.

Bob

Nice!!!

Michael Daughtery

Wahoo! A great event and great money donated to AW. Thank you to all you wonderful organizers. It was a job well done.

Andrew Van Horn

Bob,
Many thanks to all who made this event a success. Personal shout outs go to You, your sweetheart Megan, John and Brandy Mello. I thought all four of you went above and beyond what is expected of a volunteer. I'm sure there are others that I may have overlooked.
Great friends, music, river, and race.

Chief

Chief,

Thank you for the accolades, and it was a lot of work, especially leading up to the event but well worth it. I'm really happy with the way things worked out but it was truly a group effort and a whole lot of people deserve a ton of credit.

Like I pointed out, the work leading up to the festival covered a period of a couple of months where several people put in a lot of hours trying to get this thing right. Megan, Brandy and myself made up the core group but also part of that group were a couple of others that have gone, pretty much unrecognized for their contributions and I'd like to publicly thank them for their hard work. Mark Branch and Nate Scally have been a part of this from the beginning, as they were last year and I can't even express how valuable their contributions were to making this festival a success. Without their efforts, the Rendezvous we all attended would not have been possible.

Although, as I said, the work leading up to the festival was important but I do not want to overshadow the massive amount of work that went on during the event. In particular, I'd like to thank the efforts of (and I'm sure I'll leave several deserving souls out but) Johnny Stewart, Kris Mullins, Mike Daughtery, Rob Middleton, Lindsay Erin, Jason Hittich and of course, the other person out there working his butt off with an injury, and I'm sure the BWA's most famous gate guard, John Mello.

Thank you all,

Bob

**BWA Christmas party..... The Crickets have spoken.
Dec 7, 2016**

Hi All,

Due to the overwhelming lack of interest in this event we will not be having a Christmas party this year. What we will be doing instead will be holding a BWA 40th Anniversary party a little later in the Spring. More details will be available at the next club meeting which will be in the back room at Ethereal Brewing on Tuesday, 13 Dec @ 7:30 PM. The address is 1224 Manchester St, Lexington. Please eat before you get there or bring food with you.

Bob

**Eddy Lines
of Interest
will return in next issue
with Meeting Minutes
& Club News**

Coming this Spring:

BWA 40th Anniversary party

More info coming in January

Got a paddling story worth sharing?

**We would like to help you share your story....
short, long, exciting, humorous, or whatever!**

**Just send it to your Bowlines Editor along with any photos you may have,
I'll take care of the rest.**



**Send your BWA stories & photos
to your Bowlines Editor: [donspang @aol.com](mailto:donspang@aol.com)**