

# BOWLINES



Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Jan/Feb 2017

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**Hey Paddlers!  
Something is happening**

**Feb 17-18**

**you DO NOT Want to miss it!**

*Here is what you MIGHT See!*

*Invasion of the Boat Watchers*

*Help!*

*Help!*

2016 NPFF Still Image Winner: Night Kayak Falling by Mike McVey

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

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

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



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](mailto:DonSpang@aol.com)



### Enjoy this issue of Bowlines?

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

### Issue Archive:

[http://www.surfky-bwa.org/html/bowlines\\_arcN.html](http://www.surfky-bwa.org/html/bowlines_arcN.html)

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

[http://www.surfky-bwa.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv\\_Aug06.pdf](http://www.surfky-bwa.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf)



# The Invasion of the Boat Watchers

A Reality Comic



They gather in a big dark room, crazy looking characters that exude a scent of dampness tinged with a hint of mold. They are hypnotized by a large screen a la "1984" & often showing their little screens to the big screen every few minutes



Full of the "message" from the big screen they then retreat to a dim secluded room to sip out of cups a substance that seems to make them want to talk to each other about what the big screen said do them.

# What else might you see at this INVASION?



The mastermind controller that makes it happen with his electronic infusions! Notice how many have these little gadgets they carry and look at all the time... now you understand this refocus gathering.



You might see ( or hear ) some Hoity Toity BULL....you might, you might, might not...you decide



There might be famous River Stunt Stars with Groupies.... well perhaps not, that thing is kinda passé nowadays!



You will not see plastic boats on the river here, but you will see them if you drive a few miles away where the "real" boaters not just watchers are.



If you really want to see a rare thing, a real boater, but one who is often mocked as a half-blader you might have to find a hidden spot & hope one paddles by... worth the effort!



You will get to see Elmer's House.... but not Elmer. However you can check out his bar & get some good sips on the wonderful stuff that wafts the air around his place.. How convenient to have a distillery just a stones throw away!

## The boat watchers are a fanatic Cult!

From the deep catatonic state they are in while being spoken to by the Big Screen in its temple, to the sacred elixir they always seem to sip, they often suddenly rise & speak out the "truth" they have learned of the "Boat" at the foot of the screen.

Passion, excitement & a few Hallelujahs can often be seen & heard during at the testimonials during these gatherings.

This believer is know to also believe he could put the river into a little pipe.... he did not realize he & his boat would never fit in the pipe, nice guy though.



It is said that it brought them together... for a while anyway.

# Other things you might want to look (out) for at this Boat Watcher Cult Invasion.



## Icons of the Cult

Like any cult the "Boat Watchers" are proud of what they are & like. Watchers love icons to remind them and others that they have a special reason for living. Young or old they proudly display these symbols.



Members of the Cult of boating white-not dark-water have their own language... You can take classes in it if you have money & know where to go.



Oh yea... UNDERWEAR, it's a big thing for this cult. But it has to be a special kind. Sound a little kinky?



The "Brewer of Youth & Skill" is the reverent title this often vocal guy is know as... At least that is what he often alludes to and believes.

If his elixer will do that, you might want to ask him, what is he doing here?

With "youth & skill" he could be rich! Must be an acuired taste.



Well... there might be exceptions. I heard that he might be a puristin his dress.

# Cult members are often close & love to see & hug each other... like life might depend on it sometime.



Here you see "Boater Watcher" cult friends of many decades hug and smile.

Excuse the Derelict in the back. Rumour has it he spend a lot of time pretending to cleaning & sniffing the vents in the distillery. He now just wanders around telling folks he is important & in charge...no one pays attention to him. You do the same all will be fine, he is harmless.



If you have money you can join the cult. Even the derelict found some money to join in.



There is even hugging & glad handing with a "celebrity".... the one with the Bull hat.



Well... Well, looks like the strange one might have some money, but from where!



More happy reunions, even if you often don't seem to know your own name at times like the femme on the left. Not sure the guys know their names either. But it looks like they have found spirit and all are feeling it.



Any group of common believers have a food tradition, the "Boat Watchers" are no different. Watching paddlers in cold wet water for hours they feel a chill. They crave something HOT. It is chile, of course, & great care it taken to find the right hot recipe.



The tradition & practice is to take all you can at one time of the sacred food... It proves you can handle the spirit & are worthy of being a cult member.



With the eating of the sacred food there is a sense of great relief of pressure, note the guys face who just finished his meal. The cult feels as if it is one & awards are passed around. They then start talking about the next invasion of the "Boat Watchers."

**DISCLAIMER:** Some things seen & heard in this report may be questioned as to accuracy... well at worst they are not far off the truth.



# The National Paddling Film Festival

Since 1983

You need to be there: February 17th and 18th! [www.npff.org](http://www.npff.org)



2016 NPFF Still Image Winner: Night Kayak Falling by Mike McVey

It's time for the 2017 National Paddling Film Festival! Every year in February, a motley crew of dirtbag kayakers and open boaters and single bladers and SUPers and rafters gather to watch paddling flicks, drink beer, eat food, bid on super silent auction items, and catch up with old pals--this all takes place at a bourbon distillery in the heart of central Kentucky.

**Buffalo Trace Distillery**

**113 Great Buffalo Trce, Frankfort, Kentucky 4060**

We throw this big party to highlight the best in paddlesport films and still images and to raise money for organizations dedicated to river conservation and access. February 17th and **18th**. [www.npff.org](http://www.npff.org)

Grab your tickets online early and save some cabbage. Online tickets are \$20. That money goes directly to American Whitewater. Tickets includes admission for Friday night and Saturday night, as well as beer and a raffle ticket. Festival tickets are \$25 at the door. Cash or check only. Children under 12, free.

<http://store.americanwhitewater.org/collections/miscellaneous/products/2017-npff-tickets>

**Silent Auction** Bid on many donated paddling and non-paddling items. The bidding gets frantic near the close of the auction, Saturday. Preview the auction items. <http://bluegrasswildwater.org/npff/webid/browse.php?id=0>

**Chili Cook Off** Chili cookoff on Saturday. Meat, Veggie, and Most Unusual categories, plus Chili King/Queen crowning. We will be having a food vendors selling food each night

**Sponsor Booths** Visit different sponsor booths. American Whitewater, Canoe Kenturcky/Jackson Kayaks, J&H, NRS, and Alpacka Rafts had setups in 2015.

*For more information about the festival, head over to our website: [www.npff.org](http://www.npff.org)*

# Schedule of NPFF

## Friday

5:00 PM – Doors Open/Beer Starts Flowing/Films Start  
8:00 PM – Guest Speaker  
9:00 PM – Films Continue  
11:00 PM – End of Day 1

## Saturday

10:00 AM- 2:00 PM Bourbon Tour on the Hour  
12:00 noon – Not-NPFF Race check-in at Elkhorn / AW Acres

1:00 PM – Not-NPFF Race start  
*Put-in 3200 Georgetown Rd, Frankfort, KY 40602*

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Bourbon Tasting  
5:00 PM – Films Start  
8:00 PM – Chili Cookoff Served  
9:00 PM – Director remarks, Raffles, Film Winners Announced  
9:00 PM – Wrap-up Silent Auction bidding  
9:20 PM – 11:00 PM Pick-up Silent Auction items  
9:45 PM – Guest Host  
11:00 PM – End of 2016 NPFF

## Katrina Van Wijk as our 2017 NPFF guest host!

Katrina is a 3rd generation whitewater kayaker with her family legacy streaming back to Hermann Kerkchoff, a renowned slalom paddler who competed at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Her parents, Claudia and Dirk Van Wijk, both took up the sport and were internationally ranked athletes. They ultimately took over Canada's first whitewater kayak school, Madawaska Kanu Centre, from Claudia's parents so Katrina was essentially born with a paddle in her hands.

Raised on the Ottawa River, Katrina fell in love with kayaking at an early age. She dedicated her early life to the sport and broke many barriers—she was the first female to compete in the North Fork Championships on the Payette River in Idaho. Katrina came in first at the Green Race in 2013 and the Little White Salmon Race in 2014. She's also a filmmaker and has submitted numerous films to NPFF over the years.

Katrina recently spends a little less time on the river but this hasn't diminished her love and involvement with the whitewater community. She currently resides in the small mountain town of Revelstoke, BC and enjoys her new passion of skiing and outdoor education. Kat always grounds herself with life on the river during the summers though. She runs her White-water Riders kids kayak camp to instill the next generation with the proper knowledge and skills to make good decisions on the river. We look forward to hearing what Katrina has to say; it's gonna be a super rad festival vibe this year!



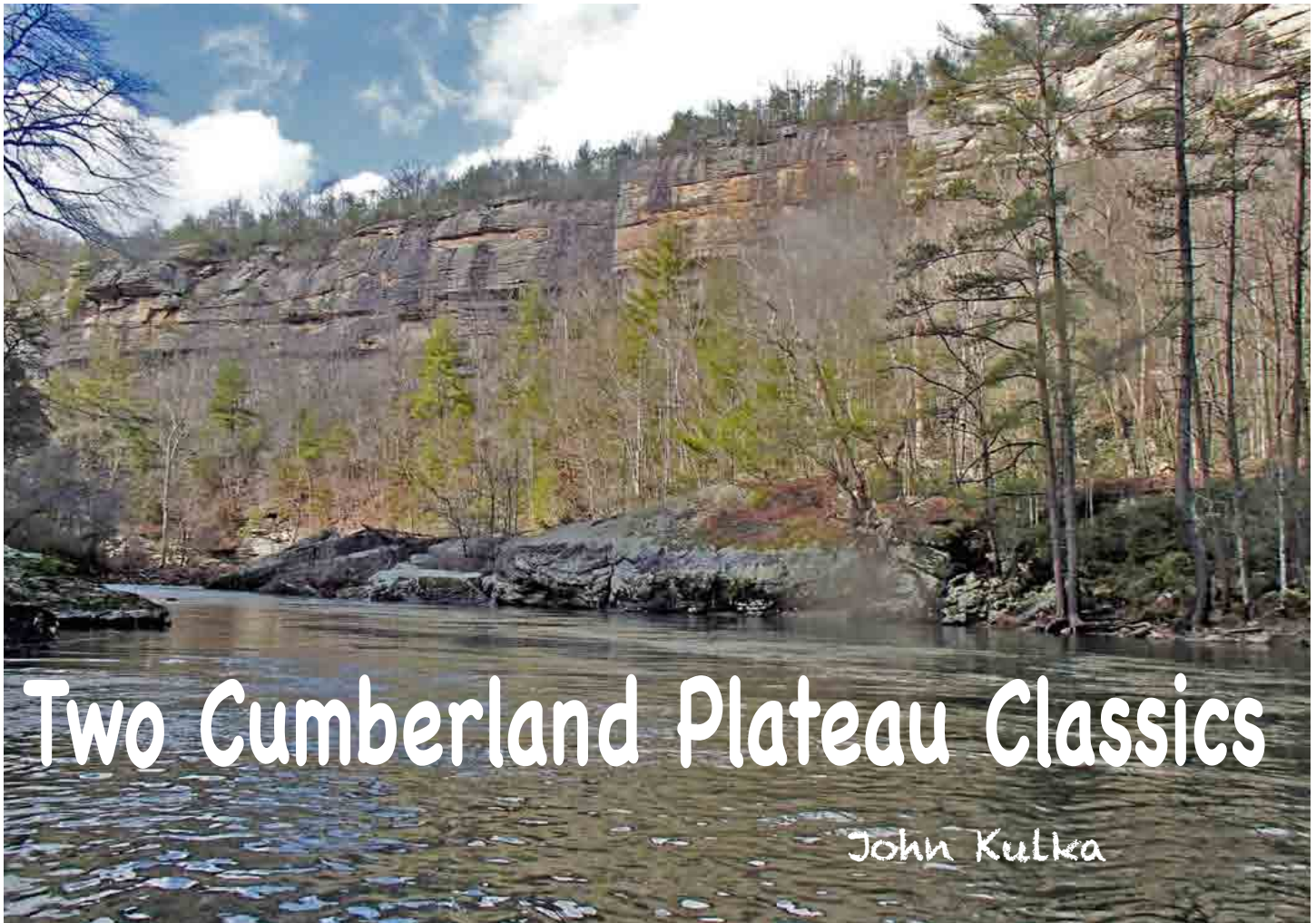
## Erin Savage will be the 2017 NPFF Friday Night Guest Speaker.

Erin is an environmental scientist and whitewater kayaker. On most weekdays and some weekends, she can be found working on clean water issues for the nonprofit, Appalachian Voices. She works with community members and citizen groups throughout Central Appalachia, helping to address pollution issues that impact rivers, streams and groundwater.

On the weekends, and occasional weekdays, she can be found kayaking around the Southeast. She races regularly, preferring races that include a running or cycling portion, in addition to kayaking, so that it isn't so obvious that she's kind of slow in a kayak (not our words, we know she's as fast as a fox and as graceful as a gazelle on the water). She began kayaking 9 years ago in Uganda, and still tries to escape the United States to explore rivers internationally, as often as her bank account will allow.

She recently joined the American Whitewater Board of Directors and is really looking forward to combining her love of whitewater and her work experience in environmental science and policy. Erin will be speaking about our connection to rivers and issues that impact this connection.





*Daddy Creek Scenery*

On the weekend of January 21 & 22, 2017 I had the pleasure of catching two classic, Tennessee Cumberland Plateau streams. Lately, it has been hit or miss to catch rivers up on a weekend, thanks to a few steady preceding days of rain. Think RAIN!

### **Caney Fork**

On Saturday I met Brent Austin at the Clifty Bridge Put-in. Brent had arranged a shuttle (probably the Caney Fork's biggest challenge due to length and road conditions) so we could put on immediately. We were joined by Tom Zimmerman, but there was a pack of about eight other boaters just ahead of us too. This is the traditional put-in with a Class III ledge and some waves that follow with some flat water. There is another put-in just downstream that I never used on private property that may be accessed with the landowner's permission (I do not know his number) that requires a phone call ahead.

After the flat section, the river makes a bend and a few juicy surf - potential holes come into play. Soon afterward the river's most challenging rapid, Devil's Kitchen appears. It is good to know where to get out and scout this drop (river left just above the first lead in ledge) and possibly portage too. Devil's Kitchen is often rated Class V, it has two lead in ledges that come to another ledge with many options that squeeze the river into a sometimes substantial hole that I've seen run on the right, left, and center both successfully and not.

### **Re- grouping below Devil's**

Kitchen, the next drop is often referred to as the Junk Yard which is usually run driving to the left side of the river to avoid pin rocks. The action continues with non- stop pool and drop Class III & IV action



***Fred on Yellow Creek***

for several miles. Most rapids or drops have more than one route, many have tremendous boof opportunities. A little over half way into the run a scenic tributary comes in from the right followed by a large pool.

Continuing downstream more read and run rapids appear. The rapid that I call The Backender Ledge that has shamed many a good boater (including me). It is about a 6-8 foot ledge that has a hole that loves to grab a boat's stern that can push the unwary into a large undercut rock on the right. Be on your toes here. At this point the rapids persist and may seem to be easing up, but then comes Eye of the Needle (I call it the Gauntlet). Steep, rocky, tight, and semi- blind it requires a move back to the left at its finish.

At this point about ten miles or so in you are almost at the take out. Look for Bee Creek coming in on river left (yet another classic). Next the slow drive out to a paved road.

Notes: we had two boats crack on this trip which required a few extra stops for drainage. The action once it starts is nearly non - stop, a challenging yet not too challenging Class IV run of about 10 miles. New put in gauge which appears to be close to the old gauge read 1.75 feet about 800-1000? CFS.

### **Daddy's Creek Canyon & Yellow Creek**

On Saturday night I camped at Rock Creek / Nemo near Wartburg. I met up with Damon Patterson, Fred Wilson, Mike Wilson, Nolan Amos, and Ed Bowen. The evening rains did not bring up Island



### ***Yellow Creek Logjam***

Creek another nearby gem, so we opted for Daddy's Creek. We drove through the Catoosa and dropped vehicles off at Devil's Breakfast Table (DBT) and continued up the road to the Antioch Bridge put – in. Along the way we stopped at Yellow Creek and talked ourselves into putting on Yellow into Daddy's. The gauge at the put in read 1.5 feet, someone thought Kirk Edelman's book suggested 1.7 as a minimum, which is probably correct. Undaunted we scraped our way through the micro creek with one portage for wood down to Daddy's just above where the main action begins.

The next mile or two is challenging but not extreme with a few classic rapids. Good entry, with correct angle and some speed gets you through the first couple of drops, and then comes The Rattlesnake a long twisting rapid that culminates with "The Fang". The Fang is a large tongue shaped ledge about 6-8 feet tall that has a line that changes with water levels. Generally, run center at the point of the ledge if you have the water and slightly to the right if it is lower. You usually eddy out on far left just above the main drop.

The next named rapid is Rocking Chair. We went right of the large boulder and then cut back to the left. There are several eddies to catch before the crux move with one on the left that I like to peel out of and aim for a Sycamore tree on the river right bank, followed by another ledge to the bottom pool. At this point the river's intensity eases up some but many read and run solid Class III+ rapids ensue all the way to the take out at DBT.

### **Conclusion**

Both of these runs are quite scenic; require good technical skill and boat control, a solid combat roll. They are always enjoyable shared with good friends and a brew at the take out. Hope to see you on the water somewhere soon!

# Doing What You Love..... The Life of an Outdoor Shop Owner

Nathan Depenbrock, Co Owner CKY: Canoe Kentucky



"You must love paddling!"

"So what do you do in the winter?"

"I wish I could have as much fun as you all do in my job!"

All things we hear on almost a daily basis. Are they reality? Sure, but that does not mean that life is always sweet smelling roses when you do what you love.

We have been running a small family outdoor business since 1981. Elkhorn Excursions began in 1981 as

a way to utilize excess canoes that were left to collect dust after a useful Boy Scout career. The first years were challenging, with rentals providing enough income to pay off debts and invest in new equipment, but not enough to allow for any full time work. In fact, all of us involved had to hold multiple jobs to pursue this “labor of love”. Even the kids held “real” jobs while attending middle and high schools.

Fate turns the way you want it to sometimes, and in 1994, the old Peaks Mill grocery and gas came up as a bank foreclosed property. At the same time, our founder came to a crossroads in professional careers and had to choose the life of either an on-the-road-five-days-a-week family man with young kids at home, or diverge down another path that did not have clear footing. It was a gamble, both financially, professional and emotionally, but one that paid off.

On that early 1994 day, when we signed the papers with People’s Bank of Owenton for a desperately in need of repair commercial building in rural Peaks Mill Kentucky, we also launched into a new chapter of life and new family venture called Canoe Kentucky.

35 seasons after those beginnings in 1981, we have expanded to not only offering rentals on our favorite creek, but operating on multiple bodies of water throughout the state, providing what we think is the best customer service experience we can through our retail shop, creating lifetime memories for hundreds of kids every summer through our camp programs, partnering with Kentucky State University to offer on water science classes in the 52 foot floating classroom known as the KSU Thorobred, and most recently, coordinating and offering adventure travel trips to schools and corporate groups that will provide team building and adventure as a background for group symbiosis and bonding.



*New faces on the Elkhorn & possible new BWA members due to Canoe Ky*

This all seems to have happened to so quickly, especially the last few years, and even to some of us, quite effortlessly. But when we believe that for even a fleeting moment, we are quickly brought back to reality and the understanding of how much work, dedication and emotion are involved in running your own business, especially a seasonal outdoor business.

What is that reality? First, believe it or not, Mother Nature is not predictable. I know, the Farmer’s Almanac will make you think differently, but years of experience let us know that she is anything but predictable. And how does that affect a business that relies on 12 weekends a year to make 90% of its net income. Think about that, 24 days a year to make hay. What if it rains two of those weekends? What if that rain causes flooding for two more? What if 4th of July falls on a Wednesday? What if schools start back one week earlier this year? What if...? That is a lot of uncertainty. Then, let’s make sure we all understand we live in a weakening society, a less adventurous culture. Our mom’s and dad’s took us out to do wild things, we ventured around our neighborhoods at all hours of the night, and did not come home until the dinner bell rang. Not so much in 2017. Kids are more fearful of the outdoors because it is unknown and not exposed to them as much. Instead, adventure comes in the form of VR and smart phone games.



*The next generation of Kentucky paddlers?*

These are all reasons for the vast diversification

we have embraced recently. These come with challenges, but they allow the basket, as in the proverbial “all your eggs in one basket”, to be much larger and diverse. Retail canoe and kayak sales has been one of the more successful endeavors we have taken on. We felt early on that if we were going to go into sales in a big way, there were a few ground rules. One, we would only carry the top of the line equipment that we ourselves want to use. Two, we would never take on the rule of “salesman”. We would allow the products to sell themselves. And three, we would use sales as a way to exemplify our outstanding customer service and our love of working with people.

These were and are all novel goals, but again, challenges in everything. Kayaking is a rapidly growing past time, so of course, competition is everywhere. And a lot of that competition is substantially lower priced, and much lower quality, than what we offer. But, their stores are also right in everyone’s backyard, conveniently located to make that boat purchase. And if that does not make it easy enough, the fact that you can buy any and everything paddling related at the click of a button on your smartphone or computer, that backyard has gotten exponentially larger. Along with the WWW, comes what we call the EBAY mentality. The thought that ALL prices are negotiable, and “I just have to ask” is now involved in almost all sales. We try to stay above this by not selling but by assisting in creating what the web cannot; experiences utilizing your new purchase. Things like complimentary shuttle service on all new boat purchases and instructional workshops on how to use your new gear and other outdoor equipment. We are paddlers and family people ourselves, and we want more than anything to help our customers create the same types of memories we have created. Reading this you should understand we put a lot of emotional stock into our relationship with the customer. This is the hardest aspect of sales. Working with a customer for hours and thinking you have created enough of a relationship to “seal the deal” and having them walk away, and even worse, having them come back in a period of time later with the “great deal” they could not turn down on the same boat. You attempt to train yourselves to stay cold to that emotion, but that is not who we are and not why we do what we do. Like a young girl falling in love, we put our hearts out there and hope for the best!

These are just a couple of the challenges we face. On top of that, if you have never owned your own business, this is a primer. Plan on being the boss, the employee, the lawyer, the nurse, the plumber, electrician and carpenter all in one, the guidance counselor, the driver, the referee, the salesman and the buyer, the accountant, the banker, and really, whatever other hats decide to be thrown your way. And who can prepare for all these roles? No one, so you simply do your best, keep smiling and try to treat each day as it could be the last, and each day as a chance to make someone else’s day. At least that is what we tell ourselves, because who does not want to be treated like we ourselves would want to be treated! The Golden Rule, and the first and foremost rule we strive to run our business by.

And after all these experiences, there has to be a funny or clever story, right? How could we choose just one? Or how could we give just one person in 36 years the privilege or the thanks of being that “One” story we pick. So... thanks to the grandfather and grandson who knew more than we did and ended up calling us 7 hours after their departure from Knight’s Bridge, intending to do our 6 mile Fun Float, but instead, went the wrong way on a 10” over Summer Pool day all the way to the base of the Jim Beam dam before calling for help; and thanks to the lady and son who decided to take out “way too far upstream” from the dam, hike their rental kayaks down US 460, slide them down the hill way too far before the dam, watch them hit the water and skip to the other side like a rock thrown by a 12 year old, where one went over the dam and the other wedged on the top, and wait until dark (they began their day at 9:00 AM) before deciding they should call for assistance and a ride out, only to have a very gener-



*Learning to paddle any kind of boat & water is good!!*



ous whitewater boater (thanks Todd H.!) help retrieve them a day later; and thanks to the fishermen who could not find our shop, and instead passed it, passed the second takeout, the third and the fourth, hit the Kentucky River only to paddle upstream at a high level another 6 miles before being flagged down by a concerned landowner; and thanks to Big Ass Fans for trusting their yearly corporate outing with over 200 employees to our small family business; and thanks to Sam Bowie for trusting his family trips to us, while he was in the NBA and later in life; and thanks to the many fishermen we have gotten to extract hooks from; and thanks to the numerous ladies who have returned topless, with the exception of a properly placed pfd, after challenging "The Claw"; and thanks to the "streaker" who ran up the road while we were staff training our new team, over 20 of them, many high schoolers and college aged, while screaming like the "Turtleman"; and thanks to Jon Voight, and the entire "Riley's Peak" film crew, for allowing us to help them coordinate, plan and film the movie that will hit theaters in the spring of 2017; and thanks to all those customers, friends and family that have given us more than a lifetime of memories.

We look forward to catching you in the eddy, and if not, know that our goal is to help you get there!

*Nathan & Canoe Kentucky at the National Paddling Film Festival held each year by the Bluegrass Wildwater Association.*



Editors Note: Back in the early days of the BWA there was always interest in a Paddling/Outdoor shop located on the Elkhorn. Efforts to do so never worked out till Canoe Kentucky opened a store... the early years had to be a real struggle especially the dry years. You have to admire Nathan & all the folks at Canoe Kentucky for making it happen.

They have been a great asset to paddlers of Central Kentucky and the BWA. They have supported us in many ways, loaning boats for roll sessions, helping with clinics, the National Paddling Film Festival & in many other ways, thereby contributing to the growth & success of our club.

We all thank you Canoe Kentucky, you are a wonderful friend to all paddlers!

# Out of the Darkness

**A rare river campfire type tale duel with words of raw emotion & imagination  
between Bob Larkin & Jim Gunn**

Out of the darkness a shot rings out. Our hero grabs his chest, coughs, stumbles and falls to the ground in the middle of the street. As the dust settles and the townspeople begin to appear to see what the commotion is about, from the shadows the villain emerges. Stunned, the townspeople look in amazement as they realize that once again, the outlaw Jim Gunn has struck.

Broken only by the evil laugh of the gunman, the town is locked in silence as they gaze at the scene before them. Birds are stopped in mid-flight, tumbleweeds in mid-tumble, even the clouds have halted their slow march to the east as they gaze down at the horror below them.

At first, like a single rain drop of raw emotion, a whimper is heard from Megan, the town's school-marm, as she becomes the first to break the grip of the scene before her, then, as if a flash flood simultaneously erupts from every direction at once, the sound of the gunman's laughter is drowned out by a torrent of grief as the townspeople suddenly come to terms with what their minds were unable to comprehend. Children burst into tears, grown men fall to their knees and women throughout the town tear at their hair and clothing as the devastation of their loss becomes too much to bare.

So horrid the scene, so utterly engulfing the flood of emotion that at first no one notices the movement of their fallen sheriff as he slowly rises from the blood-soaked street. As suddenly as it began, the realization of what they are witnessing strikes every man, woman and child as once again, the town is locked in silence. Robbed of his laughter, no one is more stunned by the sudden reversal of fortune than the dastardly villain, Jim Gunn.

Caught in the open, his mind nearly locked in disbelief, the gunman is robbed of his advantage.

Frantically his mind tries to break the hold of what he is seeing. Desperate for survival, the gunman focuses all his willpower in a vain attempt to force his hands to move, with the only result apparent in the growing wet stain in the crotch of his pants. Suddenly, as if from a bolt of lightning a shot rings out as the sheriff flames the gunman. His shot true, his aim precise, the sheriff's flame catches the villain Jim Gunn between the eyes and hurls his lifeless body into the dusty street from which it came.

As time passed, the townsfolk overcame the shock of nearly losing their hero. Megan, the school-marm, overcome with emotion took the sheriff in, nursed him back to health, and after much pleading, finally talked him into making an honest woman out of her. Although the years were kind to the town, joyous to the sheriff and his beautiful Megan, they were not so kind to Jim. Gone were the days when the villain's name was only mentioned in hushed tones, and the thought of him filled the town with dread, for forever afterwards, February 5th was celebrated as the day that "ole wet stain" met his match.

Bob

Years later, as the sheriff bounced one of his 10 children on his knee, the other offspring playing in the yard under the sunshine on a hot summer day, and the schoolmarm, his lovely wife Megan, tending to her beloved pets, a kangaroo, mini-piggies and goats, an old man peered over the horizon to take-in the scene. He removed his hat to wipe the sweat from his brow which had a scar between his eyes that covered the metal plate that was placed in his head after a childhood lobotomy. There was a grin on the old man's face that stretched from ear-to-ear because he loved Sheriff Bob and his kind wife Megan and was moved to witness their happiness. For many years ago, the sheriff and his wife took the then young gunslinger from a dank gutter, cleaned the stench from his body and nursed him back to health. The old man would be eternally grateful.

But suddenly the sheriff's face changed from blissful content to a look of extreme discomfort.

Thoughts ran through his head about the midday meal, the lunch of refried beans, prunes and Brussels sprouts that Megan had so carefully prepared. His bloated stomach was growing before his astonished eyes. His reddened face looked 'round to see his wife and family staring at him with baffled faces. Then suddenly, explosively, a gas erupted from his gut like the uncontrolled blowout release of an oil well. The porch furniture was thrown off the porch. The child shot from his knee 20 feet into the yard. Then unfortunately, so sadly, the gas reached the kitchen stove. It ignited. It ignited with the force of volcanic proportions. The roof blew off the homestead. The walls were ejected in all directions. The sheriff and his family and the pets never stood a chance. It was total and absolute destruction.

The old man stood up in utter astonishment. His jaw dropped. His eyes began to well up with tears like had happened to him only once before. The tears flowed from his eyes, down his face, down between his buff pectorals, continuing down his six-pack abs, finally across the top of his stout manhood and soaked into his 1872 Levi Strauss riveted-for-strength pants. The feeling was familiar. It happened once before, the day of the stand-off between he and the sheriff, when he shot the sheriff not to kill, but to set the scene for the ending. The ending of a relationship that could end no other way but in the death of one or the other. Or, with the skill of a seasoned gunslinger, an apparent death.

And so goes the legend of "ole wet stain." In his heart he felt relief to know that the sheriff would not die by his hand. A relief to the magnitude also felt by the sheriff, if only for a moment, in those last seconds.

Jim

**Is this the whole story, is there facts are have been hidden, if this was the ending of a relationship, was there another relation that was only delicately hinted at. How did life go on after such a shocking event..... will Jim & Bob rise to the imagination to tell us more of how & why they could bring such an event to our attention. Ask them for more.... they should not start something then leave us without the whole story. Will there be a part two in the next issue of Bowlines??**

# Off the Cuff

Bluegrass Whitewater Association Facebook page  
December 18, 2016

Hi All,

We've noticed that the forum was not being used as it has been in the past so, at the suggestion of many at the meeting, especially John Mello (Thanks for the great idea) we added a Bluegrass Whitewater Association Facebook group page. Most of you should have already been added to this, but if not feel free to drop me a line and I'll be glad to add you. On this page you'll be able to get up to the minute notifications of rain events, boating trips, postings about visuals on creeks around the area and other topics of interest. If you'd like to be dropped from this, you can easily do it yourself on the page or drop me a line and I'll be glad to do it for you.

At first, you will be notified of anything that's posted to this page. You can change that easily by changing your notification setting for this group. If you don't want to be notified of postings but still want to receive up to date information, I would suggest that you change your notifications when things of interest are happening. If it's raining cats and dogs outside and you want that up to date information, log on to Facebook, pull up the group and change your settings back to receive up to date postings. When it stops raining, change it back.

The only thing I ask is that you use the group for it's intended purpose. Talk about events, take about trips, talk about water levels and visuals on creeks as well as anything else of interest to the club, just please realize that there is a difference between posts that go here and those that you should be posting on your personal Facebook page. I'm sure as a member of this club that you are deeply cared about by scores of people, but we may not all care about what you had for dinner, so please think before you post.

Also realize that this is not the place for hate speech or a forum to resolve disputes. Recently, on a different group page, a member of that group started posting all sorts of stuff unrelated to the intended purpose of the page. Posts that included threatening language and other posts of that nature. Please understand that this type of behavior will not be tolerated on this group page. Post of that nature will be removed, and after a warning, your rights to post to this page will be removed.

Regardless of what you do, I would check on the page from time to time just to see what's going on. I'll be posting up to date information about meeting locations and the most current information on upcoming events. For those out there, the Facebook haters, and you know who you are, I'll still be posting that information on the forum, so not to worry,

## Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

continue to loath Facebook as you see fit, I'll still be making forum posts at the same level I've been doing in the past.

Thanks for your patience everyone while we try this system out, and especially thanks for your valuable input John and others. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, suggestions, questions or complaints. One thing I've always loved about this club is that it's packed to the rafters with people that want to make it better. Keep the ideas coming, and together we'll do just that.

Bob

Well, I think this sux! If you all want to kill the Forum more, do this. Facebook is the realm of idiots and yeah, I won't participate in that corporate crap. I guess Facebook and corporate medicine are here to stay. Too bad. Who needs democracy when you got corporations and their interests? I will not be there. The Forum will die. I guess it doesn't matter. If someone wants to know what I am doing on a given weekend after the Forum dies, then email me, text me or come see me in the Smokies or on rivers. I will never voluntarily participate in FB. My true friends can contact me. I will continue to post on BT which is down homey like Social Media. Anyway, I really hate to see this happen. Whatever. Have fun with Zuckerberg and Co. I didn't realize the BWA was suffering because they did not have a FB group page and folks didn't want to bother with the Forum. Lazy crap that empowers evil empires. Hmmm...

See you on a river but not on Facecrack with fools...

Brent

I'm not sure the forum is the reason people aren't posting trips.

Just from a technical standpoint, its yet another list of members that has to be maintained....if its the intent is to only let members have access. Its a whole other issue if we never kick anyone off. As the one maintaining the forum user list, it does take time.

From a security standpoint, everyone does have read access to the forum today, but its not as visible as Facebook will be. I rarely post my activities ahead of or during my trips, whitewater or otherwise, on Facebook until after I get back. Right or wrong, I don't feel as paranoid about the forum.

And I worry about creating a divide in having two places to potentially go for information. I'm on both, but others aren't. Or it forces people to post to both to get to everyone.

Jr.

I am probably going to keep posting on the forum. Most of my trips are set-up via text messaging now that I have a

good group of paddlers in my phone and once the trip is set I then post on the forum to see if anyone else want to come. Might be why fewer posts happen, although I always thought the forum was active beneficial. Its how I first met BWA members and paddled with them.

If we are looking to grow the club and the paddling community then Facebook is definitely the right choice. It will create greater visibility with the overall area community and help with a great deal of stuff and pictures etc. It seems most of us are on there, with the exception of Brent, I will likely just check the forum first and then the FB group to see who is going where. I'm good either way as long as I find folks to paddle with.

Andrew Van Horn  
Captain of the Pirate Ducky Fleet

I'm not a huge fan of Facebook and I know there are a lot of people who are not on it. I like the tradition of the forum and hope to see it continue, especially for planning big trips and general club discussion.

That being said, technology has changed, and with the creation of several facebook groups, such as Central KY Creek Visuals and Russell Fork Boaters, I think that there has been a decline in forum posts in the "take me to the river" category. You can't force people to rely on outdated and less efficient means of communication out of loyalty to tradition.

Considering that the alternative to this super responsive communication system is for people to have a small group of people in a group text, which is limiting and excludes anyone not in it, I think there's a place for this FB group.

If this FB group kills the forum, then it was already going to die and there's nothing we could have done about it. But the advent of text messaging didn't kill it, and I don't think this will. It's just one more way to communicate. And if you're not on FB, that's okay. Chances are that 3/4 of the people in your text message conversation are, and can pass on any info they obtain to you.

-MeganL

Tell us how you really feel Brent smiling smiley I'm on FB but sometimes hate it. BT can be good but has a few on it that can't help being asses which turns me off from it sometimes. I'm happy to be in phone touch with you. My only negative with the forum is it's not nearly as easy for me to use with my phone. I've never blogged or tweeted but am wondering if they would be easier with a phone to plan / modify trips as a group?

Wes

Brent I have the answer...I let my wife deal with all the facebook stuff and she notifies me if there is something I need to know. That way I don't have to interact with all of my crazy uncles,

cousins, etc. and I'm not giving Zuckerschmuck all my personal info to be sold to the highest bidder.

Not sure how this will work with boating trips, however. I have a feeling she might start selectively filtering out information.....

Ace

Brent you are spot on about everything. Resistance is not futile. It's necessary - now more than ever. With that said, I still want to thank Bob for putting up a BWA FB page. It's good thing for outreach for the club.

barryg

Don't know if its the way you wanted it, but looks like any group member can approve or add other members Jr.

Gotta love my Brent. Agree with all you say my brother. Like you, I don't want to see what somebody has had or is having for dinner. Please don't show me tomorrow's turd.

No bourbon involved.

Dallas

December 19, 2016

I'm a forum guy. No interest in facebook. Also the forum helps with membership renewals and giving alternatives has high potential to lead to lower membership/club funds. Joe W.

In the past, there were always discussions about opening the forum up to just about anyone, like the Vikings, and never kicking anyone off. There was always the concern of declining membership if we did that. Looks like we are going to do an experiment like that now. I do have concerns that we have a value proposition going forward for people to join and remain long term members. I'm heavily involved in Meetups for flatwater. It has its advantages and disadvantages. There is not quite the need for immediate communication in that world, but its a whole different vibe than a club since there are generally no dues - we get sponsors to pay for the tool use. Our annual budget is \$200-\$300. There is still a lot of behind the scenes trip planning among different cliques once you get to know the more active members.

I don't particularly care what social technology we use for trips - phone/forum/facebook/twitter. I'd like it to be one technology and I would say somewhat exclusive access to club members. I understand in the old days, it used to only be wired phones and who you knew and who you called or called you from the club handbook/directory.

Jr.

Jr,  
To answer a question you asked earlier, for the time being, the group page is allowing its current members to add other members. That will change shortly, this is simply a grace

period. Soon I will add people as they ask and as it is appropriate.

Bob

Hi All,

First off I'd like to say that when I mentioned the "Facebook haters" in my original post, I strongly included myself among them. I do occasionally post to Facebook ( FB ), I use it to remind me of people's birthdays, to send greetings and occasionally to post pictures. I strongly believe that the impact it's had on our lives is a negative one and if it were to disappear tomorrow, I would count our society better for its departure. With that said, I also understand that I don't speak for everyone. I understand that many of our members use and even rely on Facebook on a regular basis. There are several different FB group pages out there that many, but not all our members use daily to find out about trips, weather conditions and creek visuals. Let's face it, FB is just more responsive than our forum. I'm not reinventing the wheel here, our members are already making the choice and the BWA group page is just another resource, it's there if you want it.

I believe that the two, both FB and our forum have a place and can co-exist peacefully. They both serve different functions and they both have their purposes. I do not believe that using one will kill the other. Setting up a FB group page for the BWA is simply providing an outreach to those members that recognize the convenience and responsiveness of FB, which is a big help when you're chasing water. As I said, it is simply another resource that many of our members use and want, and the lack of a responsive BWA group page on FB was one of the most frequent complaints I was hearing.

As I said, I do not believe that a BWA FB group page will not be the death of the forum, nor will it be the death of the club. For those of us that have been around for a while, I ask that you think back several years to the usage the forum got on rainy days. When I first joined the club the forum would light up when rain hit, now it doesn't. The reason for this is simple, our members are already using FB. Get out and talk to people, I do. I've asked about this very thing and have been surprised by how many of our members not only rely on FB but how many report that they seldom read the forum. Personally, I like the forum. Joe, I'm a forum guy too, but to ignore the trend and the technology is a mistake, if our members want it, give it to them. I'm sure at some point many of our seasoned boaters couldn't wait to get that new fiberglass boat but how many of you use them now?

As the club's president, I've always tried to keep us close to our roots. I'm a strong believer in keeping us grounded in the things that have made the BWA what it is today but I'm also a big believer in providing the services that our members want. Like it or not, this is a resource our members want and I know this because they're already using it. Change is constant, change is good, but most importantly, change is necessary.

Bob

Gotta say, I'm kind of with Brent here, although I'm on Facebook and use it.

This group actually highlights one of the things I dislike most about Facebook and that is that someone can create a group and add me to it without my permission. It should be that I choose to join a group, not that I am added by someone else, but enough about that, that's Facebook's doing.

Generally I agree that having a Facebook presence where the club can be found and information can be acquired isn't bad, but dilution of product and representation isn't helpful in that regard and we already had a BWA facebook group a while back, as well as a BWA Facebook page (different from a group), one of our members creating a facebook profile for himself called Bluegrass Wildwater, and in the past at least two different Facebook pages each for the clinic and for the NPFF.

...and all of that is just on Facebook. That doesn't count our entire website and a couple of ancillary websites that have been created.

So, if we're going to have a facebook presence, who's going to be in charge of it? Is it Bob, just because he created it? Will it pass from president to president? What if the next president doesn't want to fool with it and decides s/he wants to do all club posts through twitter instead?

Basically what I'm getting at is that if you want to be effective, you need to try to keep your efforts cohesive and attach them to the institution in long lasting ways, such as either using and promoting the tools you already have established or breaking with them cleanly in a planned manner. So, if we're going to replace the website (remember we also have a website that we pay money to keep up and put volunteer effort into maintaining) and the forum with Facebook, then we should do it decisively and thank Don and Joe for their service but not keep them working to maintain our web presence. They generously donate their time and effort, but if that effort's not needed, let's not drag it out.

If all we want to do is have a facebook presence, then we should not be encouraging the planning of trips and general communication through the group. Actually, a BWA facebook page is more appropriate to that goal than a group.

Okay, so I've rambled enough. The club is going to do what the club is going to do and change will happen eventually in some fashion.

Hanley Out.

If its mainly about convenience of communication for chasing water, maybe change the name of the group? With that "... and other topics of interest" in the intro, it pretty much opens it up to anything.

Probably need a link to it on the web site. Maybe change the intro email people get when they join the club to reference getting access to it.

Jr.

FYI: I think the main reason the forum isn't lighting up every time it rains with visuals on all the local creeks isn't because people are now doing it on Facebook. Some of that is happening on Facebook but mostly it's that the people who used to post those visuals aren't doing it anymore and no one is taking their place. It's part of that change thing, a lot of those folks are just texting their buddies now, their crew, and hitting the steeps. The club's a little splintered right now, but that doesn't mean it won't bounce back, or that it will for that matter. We'll just have to wait and see.

Hanley Loller

Well said Bob. Just like s- -t, change happens. The whitewater of life means we either stick our heads in the creek and drown or roll with it.

Hanley, not sure I'm seeing fewer people posting levels. As a long time visualist for Madco I'm still regularly putting reports on the forum, FB and text. I'm actually seeing more posts about visuals from more people. A (closed - but just ask to join I think) group on FB called: Central KY Creek Visuals receives lots of posts about local creek levels.

[www.facebook.com]

Let's face it, posting on the BWA Forum is less convenient than Facecrack because we don't have an app for that. While I refuse to use the highly intrusive FB app a majority of people do like to use it.

Meanwhile if you want to know water levels as they are posted on the BWA Forum just sign up to get posts emailed to you. Same w/ FB. If you don't want Facecrack to know who you are but still want to use it's communication abilities it's not hard to do.

barryg

I think that it is a good thing to have a club presence on FB since that is where most of the young people are but I would not want to see that become the river meet-up device for the club. My cell phone does a good job with accessing the forum and I don't think FB fans will mind hitting the forum river link for meet-ups. If someday FB is the only good option for trip connections then I will sign and be glad I still have a place to connect.

Joe W.

As Bob pointed out, a lot of members are already using FB. A large percentage of them are from a younger, social media generation who are accustomed to using FB for this type of thing. The BWA is now meeting that group of people where they are, just like this conversation on the forum is meeting this group where they are. The fact that the FB group has had almost no debate about its usage, and the forum has been lighting up since the announcement, about

the details, the concerns, the necessity of it all, points to there being a place for both.

The creators of Central KY Creek Visuals and Russell Fork Boaters saw a need for quick communication with a lot of people. Unlike the pages and people you follow on FB, notifications for group posts are a default. This means that, unless you turn them off, your phone will likely notify you every time someone posts to the group. These groups are both used regularly, and people tend to stay on topic (usually). They require almost no maintenance and I've never seen someone post a picture of their dinner in a group.

Hanley, I see your point about being added against your will. Bob will change that so that people must request to be added. He will also consider a different name which highlights the core purpose: quick and easy communication during time sensitive rain events.

If you don't want to be a part of it, don't be. It's really simple. But consider this: A new member who is hoping to get out and go boating will see very little chatter about local meetups on the forum and they will not be in anyone's text message group. They are left out altogether by the current system. This will give those members, who are not as socially established or connected a way to be included and get out and boat.

-MeganL

Yeah Barry, I'm a member of Central Kentucky Creek Visuals too. It sees some sparse, limited activity, but not the sort that accounts for the drop-off in forum postings. Honestly a lot of the folks who used to post about every raindrop and possible opportunity on Calloway or Jouett just aren't any more. Not to say that nobody is doing that, it's just less. It'll probably pick up again, might pick up in just a month if there's enough rain and folks start feeling that old urge. Things ebb and flow and it's always tricky to predict the long-term trend.

Also, you've always been good about letting everyone know what's up down in MadCo. Nary a raindrop falls or a creek budes a millimeter that you don't have your eye on...  
...and for that we thank you.

Hanley Loller

Man, what a great discussion! Thanks for all the various viewpoints. I really dig it. This is why I love our Forum! I think everyone has made good points here. (Hanley, are you agreeing with me on something yet again?)

By now, and that is all of you, my good friends, you know I don't buy any of it about how sweet Facebook is. I understand this group page thingy is going to happen. But, you will not see the off the hook discussions about the moral imperatives of avoiding Facebook there. You gotta go here, to our sweet ass BWA forum to see that. And in that light, I

see your point Megan and Bob. The Forum can still prosper. How about this: Let's do the group thingy because some folks are lost on FaceCrack, but let's use our own personal skills in diplomacy to migrate folks here, to the Forum, where the true heart and soul of the BWA tribe resides? Let's all make an effort to use our Forum, to the fullest, and to politely suggest that folks come here (via link or what have you) when they want to know what the full range of the tribe, especially those that have been around on rivers the longest, think about rivers, topics about rivers and trip reports.

In the end, Facebook is crap and a sell out. Most professionals communicate their business (other than marketing) via email rather than Facebook, for a reason. Every major business and professional field uses email prolifically. It is super responsive, is a real paper trail and it is reasonably private (ok, intelligence agencies can access them under their protocol). Out of a 1000 lawyers in a recent CLE meeting, only 10 or so raised their hands as using Facebook. There is a good reason for that. Those accounts are a gold mine in litigation - just amazing what folks will put on there and the narcissism is off the hook. It seems to be the main lure: "hey, look at me!" Maybe folks looking for a pity party also. I don't see how you all can stomach it. I have seen plenty of folks show me things on Facebook and not once did it seem like something that would be of benefit to me. I just don't understand this need to have your shit in the Classified Ads of the New York Times or the substantial equivalent.

I understand also that organizations need a Facebook presence for marketing. But, we can certainly do our share to keep our communications as organic as possible and mostly oriented to our own sweet ass Forum. It really is not hard to set up a specific email account to have Forum messages sent to you on your phone. I don't use apps, and had my phone people remove a number of them when I got my Android. I don't want to buy stuff from my phone and I despise advertisements and things that are for the primary purpose of selling me a bunch of crap. Fortunately, there are no ads for me to suffer through on the Forum. No corporate behemoth is mining this Forum like Facebook does with its voluntary participants. Yeah, I am not impressed with the reasons for using Facebook. But, I hope the Forum is still our primary home. Help make it so.

Oh, and Dallas, I love you too!

Brent

One other point: Spangler puts Forum posts in the Newsletter. They are then recorded and archived there for future generations of boaters to see the things we discussed "back in the day". I have never seen him put FaceCrack posts in there. I doubt he will start and I hope he does not. Don, do you even do FaceCrack? (I may have to go see him at a meeting or his home for some "Face Time" to get a response, ya know).

Brent

Brent,

\*I couldn't agree more. Facebook, rather the clubs regular page or the new group page is not a place to discuss club business or hold spirited debates, the forum is and always will be. The fact that this debate has gone on the way it has proves this. Although my hatred for FB does not burn with the same intensity as yours, I am indeed a member of the FB haters club. I just don't understand the need to share so much useless crap with everyone. Most of the time, after I read a post, which is rarely, I can't help but wonder what they were thinking when whomever felt the need to make the post in the first place. I just don't understand it. With that said, the fact that I don't get it doesn't mean that I can ignore it.

This forum debate has been lively and informative. Given the intended purpose of the FB group page, I've been a little surprised by some of the things I've read but none the less, this debate has driven home a few valuable points: The first is that, as I said, it illustrates the strength of our beloved forum. The forum is the place for this type of discussion, and I couldn't agree more with you about steering the FB discussions, through gentle prodding and a link, back to the forum. The FB group page is set up for the quick dissemination of information not long winded and thoughtful discussion, The other point this has driven home is that I can't help but overlook the fact that, other than Ben's joking comment and Megan's input not a single person under 40 has chimed in. I've received several posts and messages via the FB group page about how much it's liked, but here, not a single one. Why is that?

I think the lack of involvement by the generation that will see this club into the next 40 years, shows just how comfortable most of them are with FB. Us old codgers (Not talking about you Brent, I mean me and Dallas (sorry Dallas)) may hate FB and from a deep level, mistrust it, but the fact is that most of the new boaters not only grew up with it but it occupies a huge amount of their attention. They like it, they use it, and to them, it's not the giant dark monster we see it as but instead, a reality of modern life. Like I said, I don't get it, but at the same time, I can't ignore it.

Lastly, Megan hit on a good point in one of her posts; when I first started with the club, one of the things I liked best about it was that I felt included. The forum was alive with posts about boating trips, visuals of creeks and all sorts of stuff. If I was too shy to post, at least I knew where the members would be, if I wanted to boat, I knew where the paddlers were. Now you don't see that. There may be a ton of reasons for that, but the fact remains that it is an unfortunate development on our forum. The FB group page is designed to get that information, that inclusion and that involvement going again. It's not meant for long discussions, it's not meant for detailed club business but it is meant to increase involvement by those that need it most, and even though I do see it at times as an extremely negative influence, I think



used in the manner intended, it will increase the overall satisfaction of our members.

Since I've been president I've tried to keep the club as close to its roots as I could, it's more or less been a guiding principle for me. We've lasted as long as we have for a reason, and I try never to forget that, but at the same time, when I talk to members, especially new members and the biggest complaint I hear is about the lack of a FB group page, or that new members are having a hard time finding information about spontaneous gatherings, and aren't getting that same sense of inclusion that I did when I joined, I feel that I need to do something about it.

Anyway, I'm rambling a bit and I'm running short of time, but at least I hope you can get a glimpse into my thinking on this. I think we generally agree on most things, and as far as being a FB hater, brother, I'm with you, but through this, I hope you understand I have my reasons, and that I firmly believe, in the long run, it will have a positive impact on the club. Talk to you soon.

Bob

Brent,  
That was a very enjoyable read. Does this mean that I have to cancel my plans to add corporate advertising to the forum?

Joe W.

Thanks Joe. No, I have great confidence in your ability to manage corporate sponsors and limited marketing. Do as you see fit. I always appreciate your perspective (and Music) and company on rivers (been a minute eh?).

Bob, you are a good man and a great President! You totally have your eye on the ball and I appreciate the dickens out of you. You may have hit on something with regard to the uniqueness of millennials. The Millennials are also disconnected (perhaps by being over connected) to groups like American Whitewater although they are benefiting greatly from AW's work over the past quarter century and more. They don't seem to care, and do not join AW, and that is cause for pause at AW as to why. AW keeps looking at social media issues and nothing seems to get that crowd interested in anything nor any cause, much less membership, beyond themselves and the highly photographed moments they live in. So, I don't know... I guess my age group was not as active as the kids in the 60s about causes, so maybe it was us that quit caring and we are reaping what we sowed in the 70s...

I wonder if there are a higher number of AW members that use the BWA Forum than there are that use BWA and other FaceCrack stuff. May be a generational divide that affects both, I guess is what it appears...

I know that Crazy Horse, the famous Lakota Shaman and leader, never got his photograph taken. In this day and age

of Facebook and other social medias, I think I see why...It is scary, it is a monster and it is evil, per se. But shhhhh, don't tell the millennials because they won't see this post anyway.

I love you BWA! See you on the river soon, all of you. Happy Yule/ Solstice, which is tomorrow. Short days, long nights and good friends. Bob, you and Megan come see me soon. We can further this discussion in the hot tub with those bad ass Bloody Mary's you make. Mmmmmm.

Brent

**Let it rain all night so we can boat all day!**

January 24, 2017

So I left yesterday at 3am, made it down to nippur and met Brent some buddies at 7am, made plans to hit the Greenbrier, hike up Elkmont, then Tremont. GB was at 2.7 to 3.3ft, perfect 9am warm up, great personal first descent! Greenbrier is definately an amazing and beautiful class 4 run at that flow and I can't wait to get back! After that, Sunny and I met Tom Z. at the takeout and we drove to the hike up section of the Elkmont where what I thought was be a 1.5 mile hike was actually a 3+ mile hike up this neverending access road running right by the river. At 4ft the class 3/4 run becomes class 4+ due to the strainers and constant flow with a lack of eddys. I was the last to complete the grueling hike in by about 15 minutes so that gave them plenty of time to cool off. We put on at 1pm and had big CARNAGE by 1:20. Witnessed our friend falling into a hole sideways in his Mullet and he fought his way out straight into a strainer. He jumped out of his yak, climbed to shore but yardsaled everything! After seeing that he was safe, we chased the runaway boat for a good half mile, dodging holes and wood as fast and best we could, blasting down with the fury of a million killer bees. The runaway boat smashed through a downed pine tree that I paddled to the other side of thinking it would either hold the boat or I could catch it on the other side. That pine tree with all its thorn like branches became hell bent with twisted intent on keeping me from pushing the 600lb waterlogged boat to shore. I took a few jabs and blocked a couple of punches from that nasty pine before falling back a bit. Fearing for our own safety, Tom and I had to back off and let the boat disappear into the downstream darkness. We gave it all the fight we could.

After relaying the bad news to our friend, we continued with our run only to have more trouble. About a quarter of a mile down, we spotted a tricky rapid with a strainer in the main channel and a difficult hole that we had to punch on the other side. My other crewmate made the hairy ferry above the strainer but was tossed hard in the wrong direction by the hydraulic. I was upstream when he became pinned against a rock in the middle of a class 4 rapid, losing his paddle and having to jump onto the rock to save himself from further beating. I was upstream and in no position to throw him a rope from where I was at but I was ready to rampage if he had a slip. He was able to pull his broached kayak onto the rock and we worked our way to shore where

we somewhat agreed that the river had us cornered and our safest bet was to hike 2+ miles back to the car. Thankfully, the only injuries to report were to their egos. Who needs that anyways?

Made it back to Lexington by midnight and made it to work this morning. That is how I daytrip!  
Michael Daughtery

Yo Mike, awesome TR! That's the motivation I like to see, gets me fired up just reading about it. I'll tell ya, when the Park has water, there's not another place in the entire Southeast I'd rather be. It's especially good when Big Creek gets up or over 4', Greenbrier gets up to or over 3' and the Little goes over 4' which is what happened for you guys it appears. Those levels during winter months usually guarantee you get 3-5 days of good boating as levels come down. I saw Big Creek was at 2.7' this morning which is the primo level for the Upper hike up. Anytime you have to hike your shuttle to work for the goods, it gives you an extra sense of accomplishment which makes the beer taste ever sweeter at the takeout. Props for getting on that hike up Elkmont section. Not sure if you checked it out while you were there but if you take the road up to the trailhead for Ramsey Cascades and put in right there, you get probably the most action packed 1 mile of Class IV+ there is anywhere around. Drops 300 feet in that mile, same as the Green Narrows but without a Gorilla or a Go Left. It woulda probably been at the perfect level on Monday. Hope to get out there with y'all sometime in '17.

Clay

Mullet and paddle were recovered last night by Brent Sammy and Eric after we had a couple of fun laps on Greenbrier. However later John Flunker lost his 2 month old paddle in first rapid of Greenbrier. We did a low but still kinda fun lap (1.7) there this this morning but couldn't find it. Then we went over to the Little for a fun lap at around 3 ft. There is an almost riverwide log in the entrance to the Sinks that was covered enough to float over it. It was a bit less covered after the run. There is a 3 ft gap between it and the left rock so you can sneak around the end and get back on line for the drop. Fun 2 days for me and great weather for Jan!

Wes

While we're on the subject, be careful about scooching over barely submerged logs. (Wes knows this as we've discussed it, this is a general FYI for new and new-ish boaters in the club).

There is this thing that happens on a barely submerged log where, because virtually all the water is going underneath it, if you stall just a little on your scooch your stern will dive much easier than you would expect and water piles up on it very fast. You can end up backending and then pinning or getting sucked under. It's really a lot stronger than most boaters expect, so just take heed.

...also leave some heed, I'll need some for later.

Hanley Loller

Hanley makes a great point. Yesterday on our run it was covered enough I barely felt it. Also all but one of us were in creekers. Stearn volume/design and rocker all factor into what happens when you cross a partially submerged log. Sammy was in a Mullet but is an experienced boaters so I'm hoping he considered the risks. I learned of this effect first hand on Boone Creek in my playboat crossing a log in minimal current. Stearn got sucked down and I pinned. Luckily it was in a benign spot and flow was minimal so it was an easy spot to climb out. The entrance to Sinks would be a heinous spot for this to happen. Lots of folks are experimenting with creeking with squirt tail boats. IMO they add considerable safety risks to creeking runs and I'm hoping boaters are fully considering these risks

Wes

Also, I'll add that while Wes is right about low volume sterns, this can happen amazingly easy with a high volume stern too. I pinned my original Corsica, a huge boat with a big, high-volume stern this way once (although to be fair, the rocker on this boat left much to be desired). Like Wes's story, it was in a relatively benign area, water less than two feet deep. Nonetheless, I was pinned with the log partially blocking my cockpit and the water trying to pull boat and all under it. Fortunately a buddy waded out to me and gave me an assist.

Tag Wes, you're it.  
Hanley Loller

### **Let it rain all night so we can boat all day!**

January 27, 2017

It has been a great week indeed! I took the day off today even though there is still a good flow in the Little. It should be running tomorrow and maybe even on Sunday.

So, the rain I have been waiting for, finally came on Sunday night and all day on Monday. Sammy Muller and Eric HF came in Sunday night and we were joined by Magic Mike at 7 a.m. Monday morning. We went to Greenbrier first that morning and the river gauge read about 2.7 as we drove up. It was rising, clearly and the rain continued. By the time we put on and paddled down, we were on a flow of approximately 3'. That is a pretty chunky level. I flipped in the top quarter mile, (and Hanley will be pleased because these days I do a practice roll or three every time I get on the water) and busted out a solid roll in the middle of chaos. Cruising down to the bottom, we met up with Chief. He and I decided to head over to paddle big creek which was already over 4' and rising. Sammy, Tom Z and Magic Mike headed off to do the hike up Elkmont. I demurred because I don't like getting on high water that is rising in the Park. Sammy and Tom are solid Class V paddlers and I felt that Mike would be ok with them. Anyway, they had some chaos

and lost some gear. I believe at the level they were on and rising, the run had become Class Vish. Anyway, I made a post on BT about lost gear, NPS was notified and Sammy described the event there: [boatertalk.com]

The next day, we had a reasonable set of fast laps on the Greenbrier in the morning as it dropped to 2.4 for our first run around 11:45 and then to 2.2 for our second lap. I did not go to Big Creek on Tuesday and am actually surprised to hear it was still near 4' on Tuesday from one of the posts above and having seen the level at Greenbrier. I would have suspected it to be close to 3'. Anyway, after that, we went to go look for Sammy's boat while the Little had dropped to 3.5 in the afternoon. By dark we had found his boat and his paddle, without any damage to speak of. Good juju with that brother as the river Gods took good care of him. The place where he got pinned was a very dicey log jam and super sketchy. He is quite fortunate!

Then on Wednesday, we went to the Greenbrier running 1.7 to look for Flunker's paddle, and then went over to paddle the Little and it was running about 3' as Wes described above. My favorite level for the Little. The log Wes described at the Sinks is not really an issue at that level. And yes, Sammy is a solid Class V+ paddler with decades of experience in slicey boats. I used to paddle the Sleek (an old school slicey boat) all over creation in the 90s, raced the Russell Fork and Gore Canyon in mine and I think it is super cool to see slicey boats come back. There are advantages and disadvantages for sure with a slicey stern, including with safety. Anyway, a great day and we all had good lines on a beautiful river, with super clean water and temperatures approaching 70 degrees. Check out the attached photos...  
See you on a river soon.

Brent

[http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?6,file=1054,filename=IMG\\_0656.jpg](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?6,file=1054,filename=IMG_0656.jpg)

[http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?6,file=1056,filename=IMG\\_0657.jpg](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?6,file=1056,filename=IMG_0657.jpg)

[http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?6,file=1053,filename=IMG\\_0616.jpg](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?6,file=1053,filename=IMG_0616.jpg)

## **New Years Resolutions and New Years day paddle** December 30, 2016

Hi All,

For those new to the club, I just wanted to tell you that paddling on New Years day is an old tradition around the BWA. Regardless of the weather, you'll probably see a good crowd down on the Elkhorn on New Years day and I encourage you all to get out there and start the year off right.

New Years Resolutions: (That I hope many of you will consider adding to your list)

1. (American Whitewater)..... Renew my membership to American Whitewater as soon as it comes due. If you're not a member, join. It's as simple as that. Not joining an organization like AW, that works behind the scenes to improve your quality of life and who's hard work affects you on a daily basis is a dirtbag move and the river karma gods will notice. If you're not a member, join. Join in January, hell, make a resolution to join and do it on New Years day. It's really cheap to do and the river gods will smile on you for doing it. smiling smiley

2. (Help out a new member) ..... Take a new member under my wing and help them get started in the sport. If you've been around for a while or even if you're just finishing your first year; your help, your attention, or even just posting information about boating trips on the FORUM can be a huge help for a new member. People were there for you, pass it on.

3. (Speaking of the Forum) ..... Post more info about upcoming trips and water conditions on the forum. Regardless of the fact that I still believe in the outreach provided by FB, our roots and the best place to provide in-depth information is still, and always will be on the forum. If you love it, use it, even if you don't, try it, you'll like it..... and others will appreciate your efforts.

4. (Attend a monthly meeting) ..... Ok, so I already attend every meeting, so this one was meant for you all. The business of the club happens at the both the Steering Committee Meeting and the monthly club meeting. Go to more meetings and get involved.

5. (Volunteer more) ..... Ok, so I already do that too so once again, this is aimed at many of you. I would ask that every single member of the club makes a resolution to volunteer for at least one event. (the more the merrier but at least one) You all seem to like going to events, so get involved. I always have and for the most part have enjoyed every minute of it.

6. (Run for office) ..... Ok, so I'm definitely not talking about me here. Since I've been in the club I've been the Conservation Officer, The Program Director, the Vice President and now, the President. Elections will be in the Spring and like the presidents before me I completely plan on retiring from the Steering Committee. With that said, it's been a great experience and being the BWA President has been a real honor. Regardless of how long you've been in the club, pick an office and run for it. The club needs your help and once again, you'll be glad you did.

7. (Work on my paddling) ..... One of the side effects of getting involved in every project that comes down the road is that it's severely limited my time on the water and my paddling has suffered. This year I'm going to step up my game and start hitting it again.

SYOTR. Bob

# Eddy Lines of Interest

## **BWA General Meeting Meeting**

### **Panda Cuisine**

**September 13th, 2016**

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

Steering Committee Attendees: Mike D, D\*t Edwards,, Don P, Bob, Kyle K, B-randy, John M., Walt.

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:47pm

New Boater!!! Welcome Nolin!

Up-n-coming: Gauleyfest is this coming weekend, Russell Fork Season coming up.

#### Officer Reports

Don, Newsletter – Suggestions on Newsletter post Article on C1 boaters and the history of boating.

Megan, Conservation Officer –

Kyle, Gear-Sherpa -- Approved tires at SC meeting for new tires for the trailer. In the process of coordinating a time to get the tires on the wheels.

Michael D, Secretary –

Dot, Membership Coordinator – We have 4 new members over the last month.

Walt, Safety Officer – Roll sessions are looking to begin in November either on a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday at UK with the possibility of starting in September.

MFW, Program Director--

Don P, Treasurer –

Joe W. Cyber Communications--

Bob, President – October is coming up! RUSSELL FORK season. We have the race and the rendezvous. Held at Carson Island. We should have the same set up as last year with the addition to a stage. Talk about finding wood along with hope to four bands lined up. Next year, we're planning on moving the Rendezvous to Haysi back where the Rendezvous began. Lot of bands and a huge step to increase the amount of people that come out = a larger donation to American Whitewater. AW is still kicking around the idea to make BWA the first Honorary member of AW. Country Boy Pizza Party General Meeting!!! BYOC.

Brandy, Vice-President – We are working on fundraiser for the Clinic next year, helping out with John on the NPFF booth.

John Mello, NPFF– We have a booth set up at Gauleyfest, Hopefully have the chance to get the word out and find sponsors/donations and people to join us at NPFF this year.

KY Jim, Member at large--

New Business:

Motion to close-- 8:08pm

## **BWA Steering Club Meeting**

### **Etherial Brewery**

**October 4th, 2016**

Steering Committee Attendees: Mike D, Megan, Mike W, Jim, Don JR, D\*t Edwards, Bob, Kyle K, Walt H, John M, B-randi, former President Brent A.

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:42:23pm

#### Officer Reports

Don, Newsletter –

Megan, Conservation Officer – We are planning on helping clean up Elkhorn Acres. Need volunteers for Russell Fork Rendezvous. Trying to get in touch with other groups for volunteers.

Kyle, Gear-Sherpa -- Working on scheduling the time for the trailers to get in before rendezvous.

Michael D, Secretary – Gauleyfest awesome., looking to take some people down the Upper Russell Fork.

Dot, Membership Coordinator - Perry just renewed. Total of 229 members,

Walt, Safety Officer – Pool sessions starting Nov 4th, Looking for a Lifeguard!!! Nov 7th CPR sessions start, 20-25 a person up to 20 people. Talk about subsidizing the

MFW, Program Director-- Pretty active month, first timer trip on the Gauley, had a bunch of first timers. Ran 44 miles over the weekend. Mike has done a great deal of work to get new boaters on the water. Post more on the forums!! October 11th general club meeting will be at Country Boy.

Don P, Treasurer – \$6000 balance

Joe W. Cyber Communications--

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)