

# BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. May/June 2017

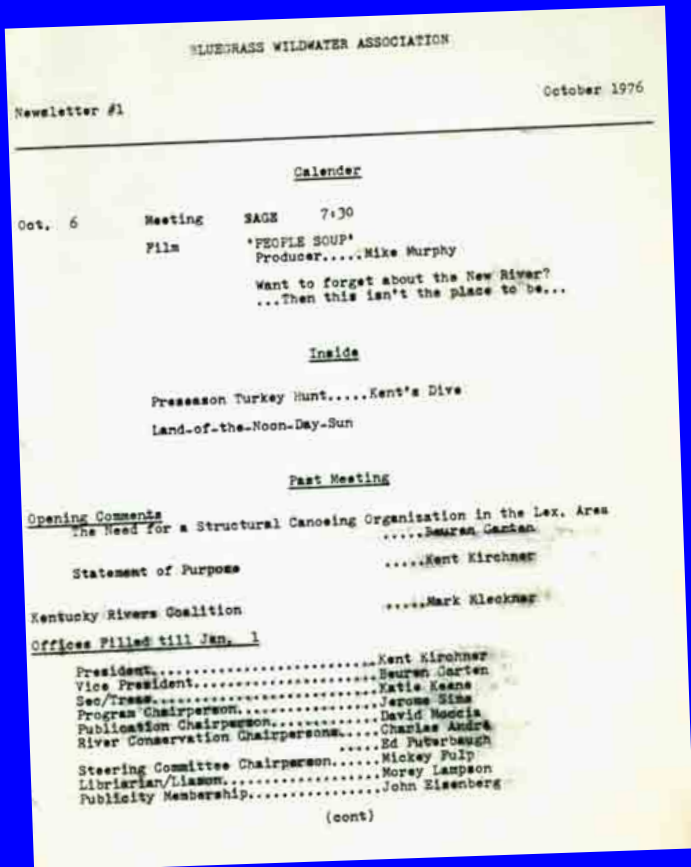
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**BWA 40th  
Birthday Celebration  
Announcement!**  
**Be there Saturday, June 10!**  
More on last page of  
this Bowlines

**Vote on New Bylaws, see pg. 2**

## In our Own Words.....



BWA members telling our  
story in the  
BWA Newsletter:  
"Bowlines"  
for 40 years!

The Bluegrass Wildwater Association has a reputation in the paddling world that is exceptional and unique. What is it that has given it this reputation? Our members of course! Their zeal for paddling and their dedication to each other and to the BWA, along with a willingness to put a lot of effort & time into the activities of our club has made the Bluegrass Wildwater Association a success.

**Newsletter # 1, dated October 6 (Wednesday) 1976,** reports a meeting at SAGE outfitters to discuss forming a Whitewater Club. Bueren Garten, our 2nd president, talked about the need for a "Structural Canoeing Organization" in the Lexington Area. (You can tell he worked for Howard K. Bell Engineering with that title).

Now one of our most successful achievements, "Bowlines", will give you an insight into the history of the BWA written "by it's members". That is something every BWA'er can do..... and that tradition will continue it's success..... plus make some great reading for future BWA members.

# Looking Ahead

## Coming BWA Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

### BWA Monthly Meeting Meet & Eat

#### Location can vary

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

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

## Pool Roll Sessions

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](mailto:DonSpang@aol.com)**



## **BWA Members Vote on new BWA Bylaws!**

This is your chance to vote yes or no on the new BWA bylaws.

If you would like to reread them you can do so on the forum under the topic: "Time to vote on the new Bylaws" Please respond back with your vote by hitting "reply", include your name and either "Yes" or "No". ("Yes" to accept them in their current form or "No" to not accept them.)

Your vote will not be made public but will be held for 30 days should anyone wish to challenge the vote.

We have not had a new set of bylaws in 40 years and this is your chance to vote on a new edition.

### Enjoy this issue of Bowlines?

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

#### Issue Archive:

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

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

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



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

The BWA wishes to thank Canoe Kentucky for it's support.  
We urge you to patronize them for your outdoor needs.

Kent Kirchner, Our first President, gave us a "Statement of Purpose", followed by Mark Kleckner of Kentucky Rivers Coalition. Names & Offices listed at the time was temporary and there was to be an election by January as we worked out the details of the running the club & wrote it's Bylaws.

One of the notable things you might have noticed is that our name has *Wildwater* in it, not *Whitewater*. Kent Kirchner, our first president thought it made it seem like we paddled tougher water. For others it was more inclusive as to the types of water we paddled. Our Newsletter had no name yet, but this first edition & the following ones was edited by Dave Moccia. Back then you handed in your story, handwritten, he would type it on a stencil and then run copies on the Mimeograph machine, then mail them out. Dave also taught Open Canoe WW at SAGE & and the NOC where he ran Accounting at the NOC for a number of years. He was our first Lifetime member for his participating in the Whitewater Nationals.

Dues were temporarily set at 5.00 to cover the cost of the newsletter. Bob Sehlinger, head instructor at SAGE showed films (they were really 8mm films, no video then). There was 3 trip reports on: 1) Cumberland Below the Falls, 2) Nantahala & 3) An early run on the Ocoee long before releases existed. Major work on the powerhouse and the flume would eventually lead to an agreement of regular releases. There was also a brief story on a bill in Wisconsin which would have required registration & taxing of canoes. (The bill failed)

## The Ocoee River Trip

By Charles Andre  
(known as Rudolf the Red because of his red hair)



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

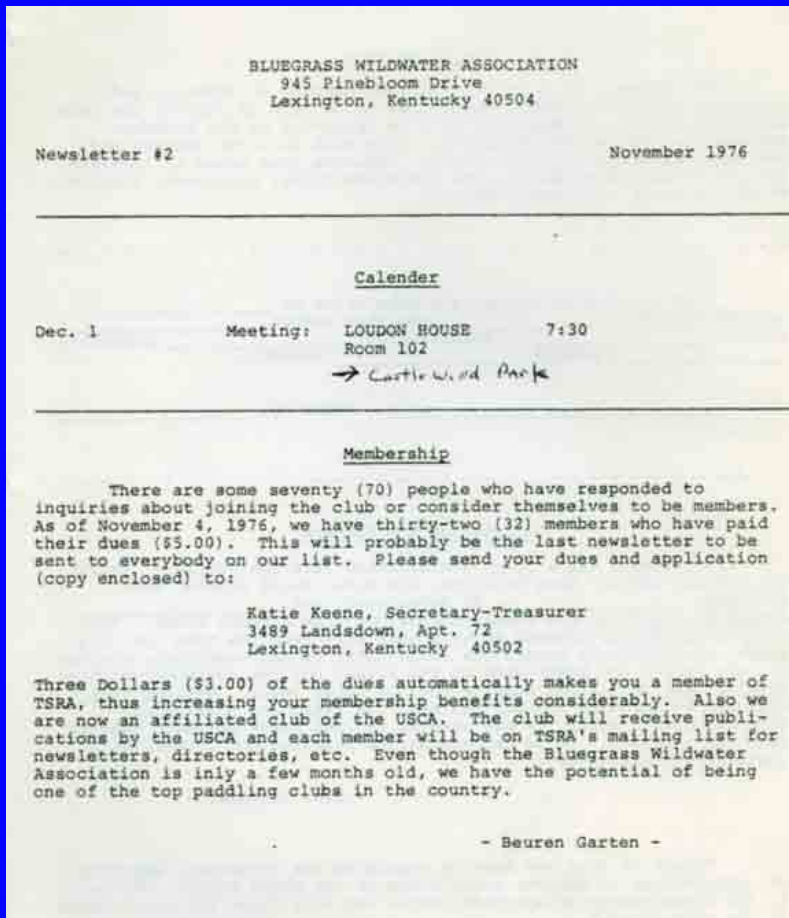
Those who stayed at the Ocoee were Sally Stultz (K-1), Ed Puterbaugh (K1), Bob Sehlinger (C-1-O), and Beuren Garten & Charles André (C-2-O). Both open boats were Blueholes with plenty of extra styrofoam flotation. We met three kayakers from the Atlanta area who agreed to guide us since they had run this section several times. Bubba Crochet and a friend, whose name I'm sorry I did not get, both K-1, paddled with us and Buck Mosley kept track of us from the road and offered a rope throw below the two big rapids. We are grateful to these three fellows for their help and friendly advice.

The river was running at 900 cfs with a gradient of 55 feet/mile on this section from just below the dam #2 to the take-out 1/2 mile downstream of the powerhouse. In the 5 mile run, there was little calm water, long rapids and the eddies, though fairly numerous, were small and sometimes difficult to enter. The two class IV rapids are well separated; the first about midway through the run and the second near the end along side the powerhouse. The first one is fairly long with two and three foot waves and a narrow chute with a big rock in the middle at the end followed by a big souse hole. The second is shorter beginning just upstream from the bridge to the powerhouse and ending just below the bridge. The right side of the rapid is the biggest with a four foot hole and a couple of four foot waves. The current is very strong here and pushes boats directly at the bridge pier in the middle of the river. (Ed. note. That bridge was replaced years later) If you come through the top part of the rapid and miss the bridge pier on the right, there is a three foot drop with associated holes and waves immediately below. We ran this rapid on the right and wiped out in the first hole with us and our boat barely missing the bridge pier, and flushing through the last drop. I consider this route pushing the limits of an open boat. The upper end can be more easily run on the left, missing the big hole.

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

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

## BWA Newsletter #2 , November 1976



With Issue # 2 of the newsletter there has been considerable interest in joining the new Bluegrass Wildwater Association., In fact 32 people have paid dues, a whopping 5.00! But for that five dollars, you are also a member of TSRA (Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association..a very large club) you get TSRA newsletters & publications and since the BWA is now associated with the US Canoe Association, it will get it's publication.

A meeting at the Loudon House on December 1 will be key to finalizing a lot of details about the new club.

Beuren Garten make a prediction that has turned out very accurate:

*"Even though the Bluegrass Wildwater Association is only a few months old, we have the potential of being one of the top paddling clubs in the country".*

A lot things are happening according to this issue of Bowlines: It was decided to organize a weekend of racing on the Lake at Jacobson Park, There was a report of a clean-up project on the Elkhorn that removed an old suspension bridge that crossed the Elkhorn that had sagged to the point where it blocked most of the right side of the river and was at head level at low water on the left side. Major safety hazard for boaters removed that day!

Discussion of good safety practices by trip leaders and that trip leader has the right to refuse participation to those who may not be prepared. No exceptions. Next story is about a death on the Elkhorn by a young physician who tried to portage the dam on the right. There was also trip report on trip down the Cumberland, and another report on a trip down the Rockcastle.

There was an anonymous article indicating that a common complaint about a paddler doing too much paddling & the answer to it:

*Having trouble with that nagging, jealous wife about Thursday or Friday? Kids not talking to you for lack of attention?*

*Let "Bury the Hatchet River Runners, Inc." solve your problems. Yes, for only 2,500.00 a head, our once in a lifetime raft trip starts with the "anything you particularly want to eat" breakfast. As soon as the water-dissolving seam life-jackets are passed out, you family is on the river heading for that first rapid- Dog Drowning Hole. This is a nice 12 foot hole with the special added feature of a chicken wire fence submerged immediately downstream to strain anything that may happen to fall in it. With half our money made and terror in the remaining rafters, our guide now jerks out his bullwhip and mercilessly drives the raft faster towards the final rapid - Mt. McKinley Falls. Just before the raft plummets off the 1150 foot drop, our guides jumps off his platform to catch the lifeline strung across the river just for him. Of course we provide a "no-witness-option" clause for only an additional 9000.00; in this case we leave out the life line.*

*Yes, fun & frolic can be yours.  
Call us today: 304-466-4321*

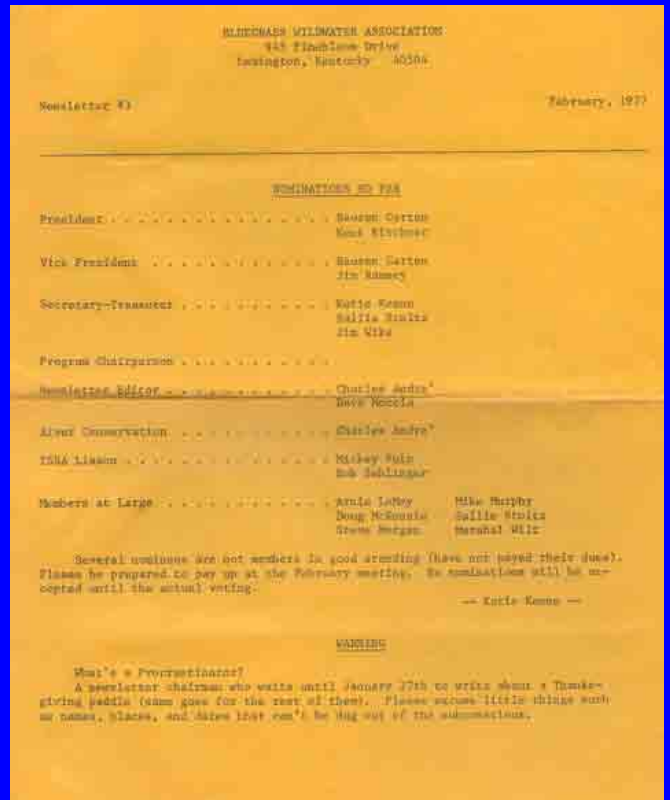
We boated a lot, but it is obvious why this entry is anonymous and I am sure pure fantasy. However I do remember a BWA'er returning home from a weekend of boating & finding it completely empty... and the shower head was gone too.

# BWA Newsletter #3 February, 1977

The club is still getting organized and issue 3 of the newsletter show nominations for offices up to that point. By laws are still in flux most likely as no mention of them at this point and a TSRA office is listed that did not become official in the Bylaws and an announcement that dues must be paid by the February meeting is made by Katie Keene who is the Secretary/Treasure. Stories include a group that went to the NOC during Thanksgiving for it's Turkey races and to Chow down at the NOC big time.

Trip report of a group of 7 that paddled Cumberland below the Falls in December. Another group of about 2 dozen went to paddle Clear Fork at 1700cfs and then spent Saturday night in Roy & Juanita Guinn's Barn. Roy was one of the principals of Blue Hole Canoes and went eventual become a VP of Dagger canoe. Lots of Swim in the cold wate that day!

There was also a training event on the Elkhorn in the Middle of the month and a group that heading to the Rio Grand at Christmas. Come January snow became the new whitewater accord to this:



## Think Snow 1/5 - 1777

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

Editors note: Another time when we did the Jacobson Park thing we a Bluehole canoe and several folks in it, we found that when it gets really cold plastic hulls on a canoe gets rally brittle and cracks and shatters. It was an expensive lesson! We did not uses canoes for group sleds after that.

Mention was made of a group forming to go to Madawaska in Ontario in July. It became the start of a tradition and friendships that continues today. Claudia was just a kid back in those days, her parents Christa and Hermann Kerckhoff had recently started Madawaska Kanue Center. MKC has always been a great place to go for paddle instuction and a good time, I know my trips tto MKC over the years have all been wonderful!

## Interesting chart showing membership statistics of the BWA for early 1977:

♂		1	1	1	21	3	1	1	2	3	34
♀	1				8	1				1	11
	Berea	Danville	Jeffersonville	J-town	Lexington	Louisville	Morehead	Prospect	Versailles	Wilmore	

HOW DO WE ADD UP?

We had an impressive 45 dues paying members at the start of 1977.

# What happened to the BWA in it's first year? Read it for yourself:

## Happy Birthday BWA!

November 1977 Bowlines, Vol. 2, No. 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Happy Birthday BWA---many more!

# What happened to the BWA it's first decade? A Lot!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BWA!

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

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

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

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

February 7, 1978, we began meeting the first Tuesday of each month at Sage. 1978 saw Sam and Karen Moore lead a 114 mile trip on the St. Johns River. Other paddlers were Terry Weeks, Sally Stoltz, Ed Puterbaugh, Barb Stansbury, Beuren Garten and Don Spangler. Roll sessions for the fall of 1978 moved to the YWCA, Tuesday from 911 p.m.

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

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

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

In 1982, the BWA sponsored the Southeastern River and Safety symposium. We were now, well, the Bigtime Wrestling Association.

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

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

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

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

*Carole Bryant, Bowlines Editor  
July/August/September 1986*

# 20 years of the BWA & We camp, boat, celebrate together in Tennessee!



Bob Bryan was our President in 1996 & we had a great celebration at Hanging Dog in Tennessee where founding members received special recognition & a tradition nip of Wild Turkey.

## **From the August 1996 20th Anniversary issue of Bowlines:**

The Bowlines has been a unique record of the BWA and its members for the past 20 years. Unique in that it has been more than a listing of club activities and general information about paddling and related issues. When you read Bowlines you read about each of us and what we thought and did over the years. Members have contributed articles not only about paddling, conservation, and the club, but also stories crafted with humor, imagination, and the spirit of enthusiasm of life and enjoyment of each other. These are only a small portion of the many articles worth rereading. There have been songs, poems, soap operas, jokes, cartoons, wedding announcements, birth announcements, and unique trip reports among all the issues. Not what you might think you would see in a Whitewater club newsletter. We owe a thank you to all the newsletter editors that spent countless hours preparing each issue. To all you club members a big BWA hand for your contributions. Please keep it up over the next 20 years! Now dig in and enjoy old memories or chuckle at the amusing stories, poems and pictures. DS



# 30 years and we had a very special 26 page edition of Bowlines with memories written just for this edition.

You will want to read this special issue: [http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv\\_Aug06.pdf](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf)

A lot of history and good times of the BWA are in this 26 page issue with some outstanding articles from members and others associated with the BWA. Check out the many other issues that have Backpaddling thru the pages of Bowlines sections that are on our web site:

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/?f=newsletterarchive&y=all>

## 30 Years of Good Paddling, Good Times, Good Deeds, & Good Friends.

The Bluegrass Wildwater Association has turned thirty years old this year. That is something that those who helped start it and those of us who have made it work over the years are proud of. According to our original by laws the object of the BWA was "to encourage enjoyment, preservation, and exploration of American recreational waterways for man powered craft".

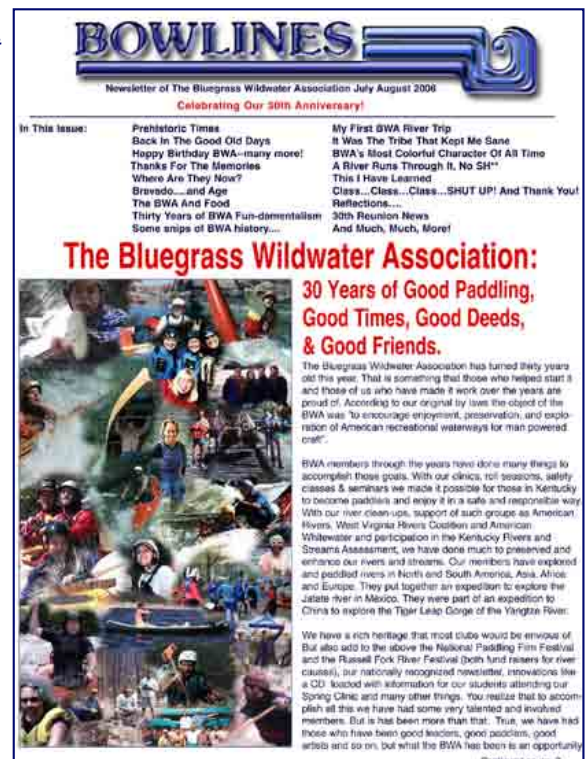
BWA members through the years have done many things to accomplish those goals. With our clinics, roll sessions, safety classes & seminars we made it possible for those in Kentucky to become paddlers and enjoy it in a safe and responsible way. With our river clean-ups, support of such groups as American Rivers, West Virginia Rivers Coalition and American Whitewater and participation in the Kentucky Rivers and Streams Assessment, we have done much to preserved and enhance our rivers and streams. Our members have explored and paddled rivers in North and South America, Asia, Africa and Europe. They put together an expedition to explore the Jatate river in Mexico. They were part of an expedition to China to explore the Tiger Leap Gorge of the Yangtze River.

We have a rich heritage that most clubs would be envious of. But also add to the above the National Paddling Film Festival and the Russell Fork River Festival (both fund raisers for river causes), our nationally recognized newsletter, innovations like a CD loaded with information for our students attending our Spring Clinic and many other things. You realize that to accomplish all this we have had some very talented and involved members. But it has been more than that. True, we have had those who have been good leaders, good paddlers, good artists and so on, but what the BWA has been is an opportunity for many members to achieve personal accomplishments while doing things for and with the club. By being an officer of the club you are exposed to what is needed to plan, lead and organize a group of volunteers. Those members are learning by doing too. BWAers did not know how to make a video, but they learned how to and enter in the film festival, often to win. Some do not know how to teach someone how to paddle, but they learned how to by helping someone who does at the clinic or roll sessions. Many of us have not tried to write about something since they left school days, but we work on a story for Bowlines till it says something to all of us.

The BWA has always been about paddling wildwater and should always be so. But the road to the river has taken us to many places that we never expected. Perhaps the most important has been the friendships that we have formed in the club. Yes, there is always disputes and there are some of us that kinda forget we are in this with each other for a reason. Paddling whitewater is a group activity. What we have realized over the years of our clubs existence is that paddling also does not exist in isolation. To see evidence of this just read the articles that have been written for this special issue. Some of writers have not been able to paddle or be with us for many years. But their bonds with us are still strong. The stories and photos in this special edition will leave many others untold and unseen, but issue by issue there will be more added.

That has made our club newsletter unique in the paddling world. In another 30 years think what stories and thoughts future BWA members will have written.

Our good paddling, good times, good deeds and good friends have come about because of our association and the need for us to do many things to do the one thing we all enjoy: paddling rivers!



# More from Our 40 years of the BWA

## Passing On the Tradition

“What’s this club all about anyway? “What do I get if I join?” These are but a couple of questions posed by people I talk to who are curious about our club. At first I’m usually frustrated by anyone who would ask such elementary questions. The basic answer, I feel, is to pass on an ever growing tradition. To be a good whitewater boater takes some skill that can be learned in a weekend, some practice at what you’ve learned, and then hooking up with a group of boaters who can pass on the tradition of river education. This river education is best passes on from one to the next, not by book or film, but by taking that novice and inviting him to go with you. Try to lead and then all you can and encourage then in what they do well. This tradition of helping is what encouraged me in the sport. A few well placed phone calls, invites on trips, and finally someone taking me under their wing for a paddling season.



Sam Moore

Since then I’ve had great respect for this effort. And since then I’ve picked someone each year and helped them along the best I could by just trying to pass along the tradition.....

*Sam Moore, Bowlines Oct. 1981*

## Recollections of a Proud Poppa

From the May/June 2000 issue of Bowlines by one of the founding members of the BWA, the late Beuren Garten



Beuren Garten

Please note that the title reads Poppa, not Dad. “Dad” was the affectionate nickname of a former, now gone, BWA character who was a legend in his time. The name has been retired by the BWA, much as UK retires basketball jerseys of former court standouts.

While seated around the campfire at Lost Mine Campground about 24 years ago, Kathy, Dave, Charles, Mickey, Jim, Katie, Richard, Kent and I simply decided to start a canoe club to facilitate having friends to paddle with and to assist in river conservation/ protection. We, in no way, could foresee the stellar accomplishments which were to come in later decades.

The “canoe club” became, at Kent’s insistence, a Wildwater Association. (He liked the macho sound). He also then became the first BWA hard-boater to paddle the Grande Canyon (in a fiberglass C-1).

After having recently participated in and observed the year 2000 beginners clinic operate like clockwork with over 150 participants, I felt proud of the BWA and reflected that Bob, Sally, John, Mike, Barbara and Steve would also have been proud if they had been there to observe.

I was most proud when I received a telephone call from Prince while at home recuperating from therapies and major surgery (minor surgery is when it’s performed on the other guy). Sometime during the fall I had made a comment on the listserv that we should quit complaining about “Uncle Sugar” not providing grant funding to purchase a take-out property on Elkhorn Creek when the application was unsuccessful and I volunteered to make the first donation of money to buy land. I forgot about it until Prince called and told me that a small group of people had amassed funds from contributions and wanted to know if I was still interested in contributing. She explained how a group had gathered other cervesas, devised a plan, and now had enough money in hand to bid on a parcel at public auction. That news really made Poppa’s chest swell with pride. It is utterly amazing what young people can do when they unite on a common purpose. I also know that many of the contributions were from young people with less disposable income than I, thus is a bigger sacrifice to them.

In the early years of hot tub clinics, the Women in Rubber, and film festivals held in horse barns the BWA became known as the hardest partiers around. Now the club may have metamorphosed into the most enterprising paddling club anywhere. The BWA newsletter, BOWLINES, as readable and professional as any anywhere in the country, is edited by Don who over 2 decades, has contributed more to a local outdoor club than anyone(except possibly Oscar).

Sometimes the comments made by participants on our listserv may not be quite as civil as they could be. Lets all count to 10 before we press the send button, and remember to love each other and show respect. We are a proud family with great accomplishments and many great rivers yet on the horizon.

*Beuren Garten*

## Reflections from a new member:

A little over a year ago I joined BWA. At that their point in time I thought I was a good paddler. The last year completely wrong, and I'm still not as good as I thought I was a year ago.

In the last year my swimming has improved immeasurably, the number of cuts and bruises that my body sustained definitely reveals that boating is a contact sport, and my suburban neighbours are pooling their money to either pay for a lawyer for my wife or an analyst for me. Some of the time, usually after a long cold swim, I think that if they got me a shrink I'd use him. But be it due to low monoamine oxidase, high catecholamines or just lack of good sense, I do love it.

I would also like to thank all of you that have given me support be it moral or physical over the last year. But I owe a special thanks to Sam, Terry and Don for helping this floundering C-1er through his roughest times.

*Wayne Catron, Bowlines, May/June 980*

### The Novice

Well I don't expect such a sight,  
As I rushed down the rapid wild,  
But my ex-friend did,  
And he yelled "watch out",  
Just before he smiled.

I plunged right down to the bottom of a hole,  
So fierce I could only wait,  
For it all to end,  
And prepare myself,  
For my arrival at heavens gate

I bounced and turned and flipped and spit,  
To my surprise it was almost fun,  
But I knew,  
That if I survived,  
My buddy had better run.

I couldn't seem to right myself,  
No matter what I tried,  
My paddle broke,  
And so did my heart,  
I knew I would not survive,

But I got tough, though the odds were bad,  
And with half a paddle I hung,  
Hoping for,  
A helping hand,  
From one I was among.

From downstream I heard a voice,  
It was my pal that I could thank,  
So I gained hope,  
To get that rope,  
That would pull me to the bank.

While I surfed and flipped I kept my eye,  
Looking for that rope,  
It finally came, With true aim,  
I made a heroes grope.



When I saw him next  
That he



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I was out of that hall and I almost cried  
So close I had come to know,  
What death was like,  
Then suddenly,  
My pal let that rope go,

I did not have time to swear at him once,  
So swift was the waters speed,  
But I knew in my heart,  
When I saw him next,  
That he was going to bleed

I gasped for air and nearly drowned,  
My fortitude slipping fast,  
A huge undercut,  
Was in my path,  
It seemed my die was cast.

I said a prayer and let it be,  
I knew it was over soon,  
When I slipped back,  
It all went black,  
And I woke up to a tune.

There they were, all my friends,  
Except on absentee,  
Dancing around the campfire,  
Drinking Wild Turkey,  
Merrily.

As I arose I felt two things,  
Relief and violent rage,  
I would look him up,  
And find him out,  
And then I'd twist his face.

So I asked one man "Where is that suz,  
That almost let me die, The answer was  
quick,  
He was in his tent,  
It was time for me to fly,

I crawled in fast, my head so hot,  
I couldn't even speak,  
He lay there calm,  
And as I fumed,  
In my pants I took a leak.

He knew that I was out of control,  
He knew what was the score,  
So he said to me,  
You hold on pal",  
"I'm going to say some more".

"You think it was really very close";  
I knew just what to do,  
I've been around,  
Don't get upset,  
You just swam a little class two!"

Mark Wilson, Bowlines, Oct., 1982

## From the 10th Anniversary Newsletter 1986: Survey Results

So here it is folks, the results of our survey. The typical BWA member is 34, paddles a blue dancer and is either currently or has been in the past employed by UK. Our typical paddler made their first whitewater roll on the Elkhorn, owns a 35 mm camera, a dog, wears seat belts and lives in Lexington. So what else is new?

Well . . . Occupations range from Physicians to Exotic Dancers to Drug Smugglers. The river most paddled by our members is the Ocoee. Though we've decided not to reveal the "biggest dud", and someone said, I understand Jerry Hey's sister-in-law is right up there", Sam Moore won hands down as "favorite dud".

In response to the question "what injuries have you had while paddling?" Many said "bruised or "hurt pride". However, one of our oldest members responded "knee, face, arms, hand, foot, fingers, ear, nose, side, back, and shoulder". Another, younger but certainly not more youthful paddler said "cut finger on pull tab."

Our members have paddled many, difficult rivers throughout the world. Selected as the most difficult river paddled by a member is "Howards Creek at no water with a chain saw" with "The River of the Mind a close second.

Though we all have different ideas about what is the best paddling vehicle, we liked someone else's and "P.I. Helicopter with wet bar" best.

Among outdoor activities in which we participate (other than paddling) were power lounging and partying and of course partying.

Duct tape certainly has been put to good use by members of the BWA. Some of uses are: to join two halves of my bashing suit, reinforcing pipe bombs, water proofing a baseball hat, fixing a radiator hose, to shave with and to silence a barking dog.

I'm pleased to report that most of us don't any Michael Jackson albums. One person did say that he used to have four but traded them for two Barry Manilow and one Slim Whitman. This person went on to suggest that if we need any MJ records we need only to ask Spangler.

According to the survey, we've all called in sick at one time or the other to go paddling except one person. His reason: "I don't have a job."

Only one person said she'd ever gone paddling with Sam Moore when he didn't yell at her. Seems like it was on the Colorado in '81 - "He was too busy swimming."

Though peach schnapps was our over all "favourite", I think I agree with the response "whatever Don is carrying."

Few hearts were broken when John Lovett married and one of our California members even replied by saying "No, I'll catch him the next time around when he's richer."

Most admired paddlers "whomever I'm following through a rapid", "Don Spangler - he's easy going, not afraid to portage and a great cook", "Karen Moore - she puts up with Sam", and "Frank Loudermilk - photogenicity - I could see slides photos, and videos of myself for hours" and "for an old man, he has the most high tech gear I've ever seen. "

We aren't certain but believe, that the longest swim taken by a BWA member was "The English Channel".

The earliest any of us ever actually "put on the river to paddle" is reported to be 6 : 3 0 am (Barry) and the coldest air temperature endured to paddle was 11 degrees. (If you want to believe that). BWA members selected 102 degrees as the perfect temperature setting for hot tubs.

Topping the list of favourite paddling restaurants were Mildred's, Gladys Breedings, and Don Spangler's house. Many of us think rafts should be outlawed - except to carry gear for decked boats. But one person responding to our survey said adamantly "No! What would Don do?"

Few of us still own our "first" boats. So where are they? One was "sold to a dud in Florida", "one was sold to a little old lady for bird watching", another is hanging in a shed in Katmandu", and still another is "in Jim Byrne's back yard". The rest it seems are "at the bottom of the river" or "are in several pieces floating down many rivers".

Well, for now that's it on survey results. But stay tuned for more in future issues of Bowlines.

*Carole Bryant*  
*Bowlines Editor*



# We always had a lot of talent in the BWA, Poems, Songs, Cartoons, Art, Music & more!

For More great reading go to: [http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv\\_Aug06.pdf](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf)

## The Novice

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To my surprise it was almost fun,  
But I knew,  
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I couldn't seem to right myself,  
No matter what I tried,  
My paddle broke,  
And so did my heart,  
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But I got tough, though the odds were bad,  
And with half a paddle I hung,  
Hoping for,  
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From one I was among.

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It all went black,  
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There they were, all my friends,  
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I couldn't even speak,  
He lay there calm,  
And as I fumed,  
In my pants I took a leak.

He knew that I was out of control,  
He knew what was the score,  
So he said to me,  
You hold on pal",  
"I'm going to say some more".

"You think it was really very close";  
I knew just what to do,  
I've been around,  
Don't get upset,  
You just swam a little class two!"

Mark Wilson, Bowlines, Oct., 1982

# The Ballad of McCauley B.

*This poem has been rated R*

McCauley B.  
Like a big oak tree,  
Had muscles like hard stone.  
He could row and drink  
Like the missing Link  
Had children of his own.

McCauley B.  
We could all see  
Was tottering on the sand  
His Bloodshot eyes  
As big as pies.  
His flashlight in his hand.

He'd had too much  
Of beer and such  
And simply too much fun  
He waved goodbye  
What a strange guy.  
He thought his day was done.

The fire grew dim  
And I looked at him  
As he ambled off to bed  
He could little know  
What lurked below  
Waiting to be fed.

He unzipped his tent  
His energy spent  
and lay down for a rest.  
He closed an eye  
And heaved a sigh,  
Then the Beast ran over his chest

Like desert plain  
where cacti reign,  
The mousie must have thought.  
He little knew  
By this miscue,  
What vengeance he had wrought.

And they heard a scream  
Like a horrible dream,  
and the tent did heave and twitch.  
And they heard a shout  
Get the f\_\_\_ out!  
I'm gonna kill that son of a bitch!

And the ground would quake  
And his comrades shake  
the battle would ensue.  
All who would hear  
would cry in fear  
As he gave the mouse his due.

He swung and missed  
Then growled and hissed.  
As the interloper fled.  
He tossed and moaned  
Then he flailed and groaned  
"I'll bash its f\_\_\_\_\_ head."

He raised his arm  
With little charm  
And pounded hard away.  
The mouse it thought  
If it got caught,  
That it would die that day.

McCauley B.  
So filled with glee,  
He dropped his jungle hat.  
He took his aim  
Then nailed his game  
And squashed the bastard flat.

And we would see  
That McCauley B.  
A boatman brave and true.  
Was tough enough  
And up to snuff  
To mash that mouse to goo.

The Mouse just slain  
Had felt no pain-  
And McCauley had to pee.  
With heartfelt loss  
And a mighty toss,  
He buried it at sea.

And there he stood  
Feeling quite good,  
His urine flowing free.  
And said out loud  
Quite fierce and proud  
Don't ever f\_\_\_ with me.



*The late  
McCauley B.*

That very night  
We heard of the fight,  
And humbled we all felt.  
And we gave the man  
A hearty hand  
And a championship belt.

A belt of gold  
We are told  
Silvered, rubied, and pearled.  
A fitting catch  
For he won the match  
Of loser leave the world.

He beamed with pride  
And glowed inside,  
As the new champ was  
crowned  
With balls as large  
As a river barge  
And a d\_\_\_ that could drag the  
ground.

When tales are told  
of the brave and bold  
On the Colorado River.  
Of deeds so daring  
And downright scaring  
Crown men start to shiver,

He stands alone  
A class of his own,  
A light for the world to see,  
A hulk of a man  
With massive glands  
And his name is McCauley B.  
*Frank Loudermilk*



Frank Loudermilk

## ONE MORE TIME

I first decided to write a legendary whitewater song, I tried to consider all those things in the south that it would take to write the perfect whitewater song. My song was published in *Bowlines* 1980 and I was proud. Me a nobody, an unknown in the world of songwriters and whitewater boaters.

Well, we're all a few years older now. Still nobody recognizes me when I'm on the water. I've failed as a famous whitewater boater. But my song, my song has really made it big, Yes, the worlds been good to that song. It's been sung all over: Wartberg, Oneida, Johnson City. Why, it was even sung at 2 BWA clinics!

But you know, there was always something that bothered me about that song . I could never quite figure it out. It was on our trip to Gatlinburg that it all started to fall into place. We had just finished the best meal of our lives. Standing and (or) hunkering as we normally do while dreaming of owning that wonderful piece of auto motive engineering (with, of course, a Futurematic Trans) which sat before us.

Begging our recently encountered feast to please digest itself, Dad suddenly turned to read the sign above the door aloud, "Gladys Breedings Restaurant". He turned agin, this time looking directly at me and spoke the words, " you ought to put this in your song!"

It was earth shattering. Lights started flashing, bells started ringing, and the world started dancing. Thats when I realized that I w..a..sss drunk. The next morning it all started coming together. Dad was right! Food! I had left out one of Dandy Don's most successful and skillful talents.

We sang about Wild Turkey, Whitewater, and Wildwomen, but there was not a word about food. As of now that will all change, for I have finally concluded the perfect whitewater song. From this day forward we will also sing about the wilderness eating habits of that legend in his own mind, the man they call Rasta Don, René la Don, Whop-Whop-Don, King Don, and many other unmentionables-your president- Dandy Don Spangler.

Well, enough of all that Bull, lets get down to it!

*Mike Weeks*



## DANDY DON-101 (Revised 83)



*Dandy Don*

Wild Wild Turkey, 'Whitewater and Wild Women  
These are the only things Dandy gives a damn about.  
Wild Wild Turkey, Whitewater and Wild Women  
He needs all three or he wouldn't be Dandy Don to me.

He was out on the Red one day, paddling just as hard as he could  
The rocks and the rapids up around the bend came up quicker than they should  
But Dandy just kept on paddling, paddling right on into them.  
Bouncing and a bumping and having a ball,  
Dropping over a ledge and never having to roll,  
Fighting that water and a surfing that hole, he sure looked good to me.

Wild Wild Turkey, 'Whitewater and Wild Women  
These are the only things Dandy gives a damn about.  
Wild Wild Turkey, Whitewater and Wild Women  
He needs all three or he wouldn't be Dandy Don to me.

Now most river trips are over when the last rapids' run,  
But when you go with Dandy, the trip has just begun.  
You carry back to the campsite with Dandy, Buren and John,  
Pop the cork on a bottle of Turkey, of course its one-o-one

Wild Wild Turkey, Whitewater and Wild Women  
He needs all three or he wouldn't be Dandy Don to me.  
I've sung about Wild Turkey, I've sung about Whitewater,  
So that only leaves Wild Women to finish Dandy's song  
He'd like to go honky-tonking, stay out all night long,  
But after that Wild Wild Turkey, he just snores all night long.

Wild Wild Turkey, 'Whitewater and Wild Women  
These are the only things Dandy gives a damn about.  
Wild Wild Turkey, Whitewater and Wild Women  
He needs all three or he wouldn't be Dandy Don to me.

He loves the biscuits and the gravy at Mildreds House of Fine Foods.  
He knows all about Dillards in Clayton Georgia too.  
He'll sit and eat till he damm near pops down at Joe and Ruth's  
But if you ask him where's the best, I think he will say:  
Take me down to Gatlinberg and let me find the way.

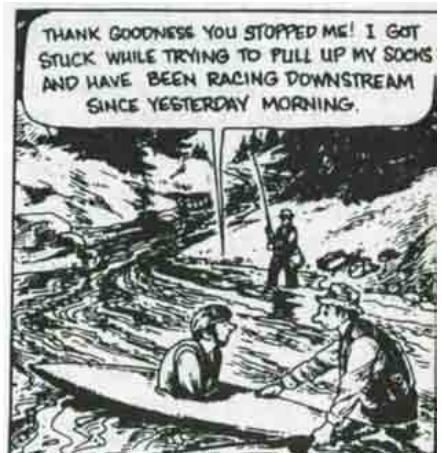
Now Gladys Breedings is his love, his most precious find,  
And yes she knows what Dandy loves, its food of every kind.  
He'll eat and laugh and scrape his plate then ask just what to pay.  
She'll look ole' Dandy in the eye and this is what she'll say  
"I think with all you ate...\$3.85 today.

Wild Wild Turkey, 'Whitewater and Wild Women  
These are the only things Dandy gives a damn about.  
Wild Wild Turkey, Whitewater and Wild Women  
He needs all three or he wouldn't be Dandy Don to me.

# CARTOONS

Cartoons were not in the very first issue of *Bowlines*, no good technology to insert them yet. Later we had access to a copier to help us produce an issue of *Bowlines*. We then found creative ways to add our own words to re-use cartoons so they worked for us. Some of us managed to crudely draw, but it would take awhile before we had someone with the talent to create a cartoon that had a real BWA situation.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Dik Browne







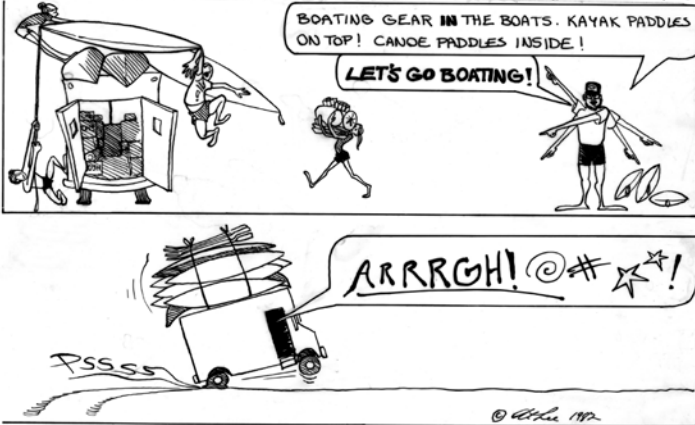
Jan Atlee practicing a telfer lower at the Nanty

We more & more began to turn the cartoon humour toward ourselves, especially to those members that earned it. With the advent of Jan Atlee, a professional artist joining our club, we really could have some fun!

Jan became the "Soul of Art for the BWA". Jan was the club artist for the BWA. Yes some others, including William Nealy, did some art for the club, but no one did more art and captured the spirit of the BWA over the years like Jan. She did art for the NPFF, the Women in Rubber, designed the basic logos we still use today for the Bowlines, not to mention cartoons, T-shirt designs and many other pieces of art. She is also one of the many members that came to us from the Medical Center at UK. She was a medical illustrator for UK before she was promoted to running the department. Jan paddled mostly canoe and C-1 during her active period with the BWA. She left Kentucky for a brief period but now is pursuing art in her studio near Georgetown on the North Fork of the Elkhorn. She still loves to paddle when time permits. Thanks Jan, for all you have done!

**Jan Atlee, truly another of our "Legendary Members"!**

**BOW MOMENTS** by Frank Loudermilk & Janis AtLee



by Frank Loudermilk & Janis AtLee

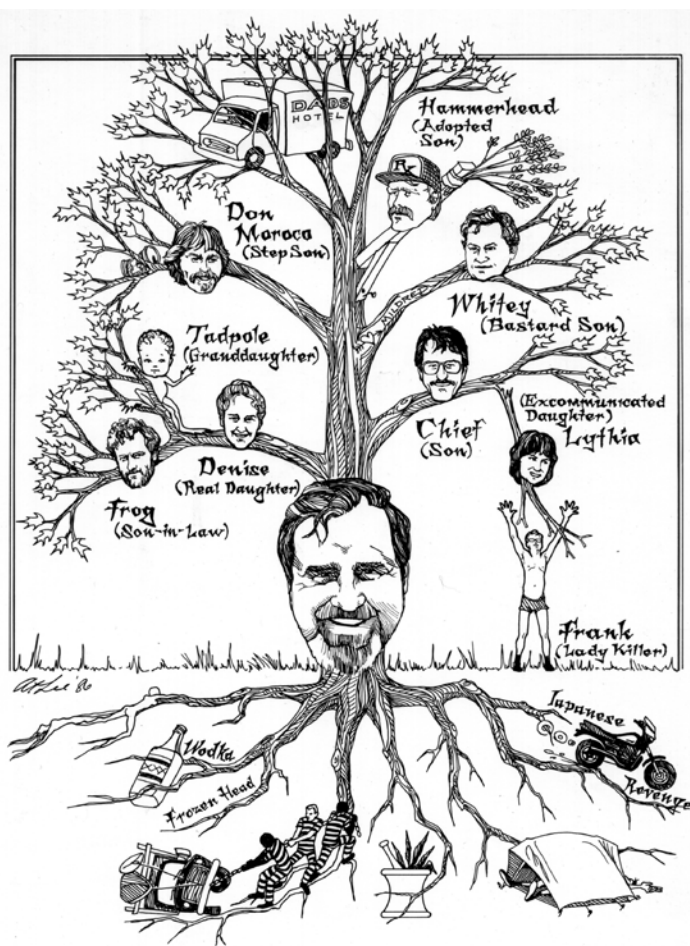
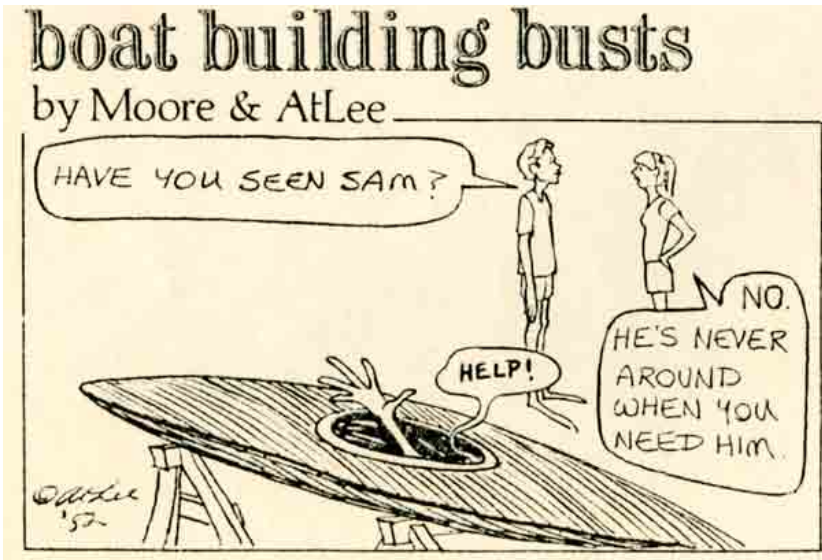


**DOONESBURY** by G B Trudeau



One editor did a hybrid or two.

Jan would get both ideas & inspiration from members like Sam Moore and Frank Laudermilk



Artwork Jan did as a memorial for a much loved BWA "character", who had made many of us a part of his family.

This is artwork for our 30th Anniversary that harkens back to a wild pie fight that we had celebrating 10 years.

Jan spent a lot of her time crating artwork for many of the BWA events.... you can see that she truly understood the "Soul of the BWA" and is a great part of our tradition!



**PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL**

October 22 - 23  
Kentucky Horse Park  
Lexington, KY

**PRIZES!**

Amateur categories (slide and 8mm):

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

Amateur combined subjects:

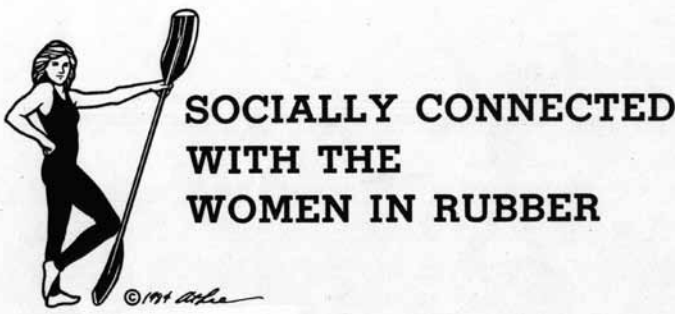
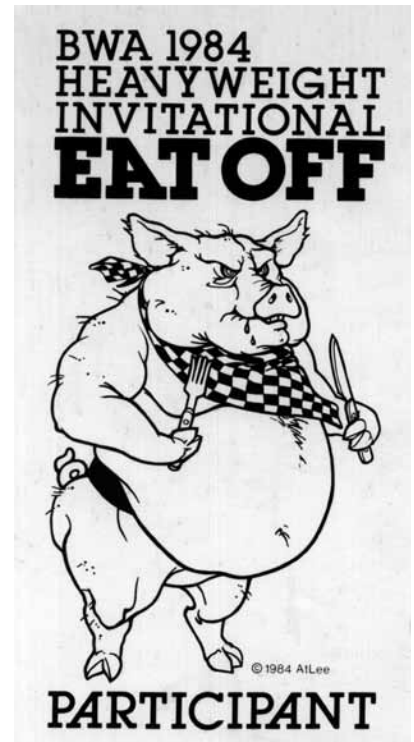
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- \*VIDEO

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

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

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

**Mark your calendar for October 20-21, 1984 and come.**

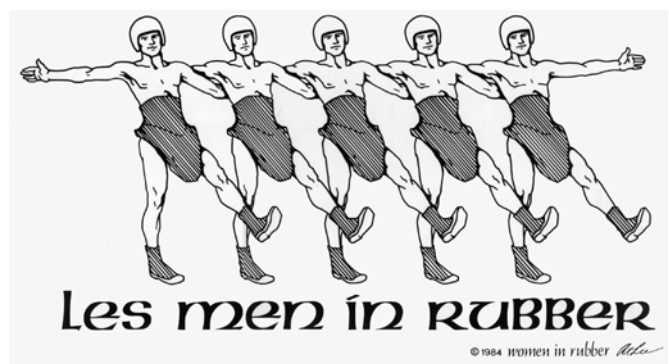
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People in the above art were all BWA members in 1984, one was very famous....which one?



**This art is just a  
portion that  
Jan Atlee  
generously did  
for the  
Bluegrass  
Wildwater  
Association**



# BWA Music and Musicians

Mike Molnar



Keith Hubbard at the keyboard during a fall Reunion Gathering in Tennessee.

When he finished playing that night he packed up & drove back to Kentucky so he could play a gig the next morning.

What a hard working good soul in addition to being a great BWA Musician! Thanks Keith!

Music is among the wide variety of topics throughout the colorful, energetic history of our BWA that newer paddlers may not know about. However, from the late 80's to late 90's various combinations of BWA'ers began to bring their musical proclivities for enjoyment around weekend boating campfires. This developed into a series of full-up rock and R&B bands comprised of BWA boaters and included playing the Gauley Fest in 1995 and 1996. This group was comprised of ( with some year-to-year changes ) of a core of hard-rockn' paddlers. Butch Quire (RIP) was a mean blues-man on lead guitar and vocals. Robert Hebble added top-notch Bass on his electric upright and bass, as well as vocals. Billy Lynch played the drums for us. I played guitar, keyboards, and vocals.

At times we were joined by pianist supreme Keith Hubbard, Barry Grimes on guitar, Mark Branch on guitar, Gary Hoagland on harp, and of course Brent Austin's Magical Drum Circle :) Another related group of us included Jeff Cress of Boonesboro on bass / guitar / vocals and the late Chris Cash on lead guitar and vocals. Lloyd on guitar, harp, vocals, and humor-tinged spoof of songs to fit our condition, chronic whitewater addiction to the point of hopelessness I hope I'm not leaving anyone out!

Our magical mystery tour began when folks such as B-6, myself, Butch and Robert started bringing our guitars on BWA weekend events to play around the campfire at places such as Frozen Head, Bandy Creek, Rock Creek and the like. There was always a special thing about playing around a campfire with maybe a dozen or two paddlers, imbibing and talking about the upcoming whitewater while jamming to everything from CCR to John Prine, to the Boss, to Bob Dylan, etc.



Bill Lynch, a BWA President, was part of the group that played at some of our important club events.



Robert Hebble & Bass.

Eventually we got the request to put together a group to play BWA events such and the NPFF and annual club parties. The name of the BWA band was "Utterly Rudderless" - dreamed up by the one-and-only Butch Quire ( who himself exemplified this condition in his OC-1 ! )This we did for several years. One year at the NPFF, Phyllis Horowitz, exec director of AW at the time, was there and excitedly asked if we could play the upcoming season's Gauley Fest in 1995. So, for two years we added that gig to our resume! It was lots and lots of fun, I must say. Of course screaming, beautiful ladies were chasing us everywhere ( in our dreams anyway ).

Top it all off with a heavy whitewater addiction and they were some of the best times of our lives. And all the friends all of us have made and continue to make among



Mike Molnar at home playing his Baby Grand

paddlers have remained among my fondest memories. And the best of friends."

*Mike Molnar*

## There is even more to the history of the BWA Music!

Music complemented our BWA paddling life. It fit in easily the hours you were driving to the river on Friday, our Saturday evenings at camp often someone had a guitar, and of course the ride home went better with more music. At many events we would have a band, early on the early years of the club, Bluegrass seemed to be around a lot. The first NPFF we had a local bluegrass band pick for us while we danced. In early years there was often a bluegrass band at times we got together. Over time the type of music tended to change a bit as we acquired our own talented musicians. Drum music (circles) seems to have become big in recent years and a nightly ritual for some.

Film festivals and reunions would always find the sound of good music. But the granddaddy of all was the Russell Fork Festival. It featured bands playing around the clock until sometimes Sunday morning thanks to the incredible efforts of BWAer Brent Austin. It attracted boaters that came to "ride the Russell Fork River" in the fall. There has been a number of Bowlines articles each year starting in the online issue September/October 1998: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/?f=newsletterarchive&y=all> Due to limited space in this Bowlines justice cannot be done to this import BWA event, but there is a lot of stories about the Festival and music in many issues of prior newsletters.

The RFF was an outgrowth of BWA Bob Bryan moving our Fall Reunion Gathering to the Russell Fork during his presidency and Brent Austin becoming an advocate for fall releases for paddlers on the Russell Fork. It has to be said that Brent & his love for the Russell Fork took BWA music to incredible heights with the Fall Russell Fork Rendezvous!



BJ & past president Clay in the Drum Circle



Here is one of the many Bands playing on stage at the RFF that gave boaters a great music experience!

*Don Spangler*

**Remember to bring your Musical Instrument to the Celebration!**

# We get National Recognition for our Efforts

## From the May 1981 Issue of Bowlines:

### **BWA gets national recognition**

For those of you who were asleep lately, PM Magazine and Sam Dick have been filming segments about our club for the last year.

It finally hit the airwaves last Tuesday evening in the form of 6 1/2 minutes of fantastic editing. The majority of the show was filmed on the Tellico with remaining pieces from the winter roll sessions and a run on Potters Falls. Needless to say the show was a huge success and we were very pleased with the outcome.

Thank you Sam Dick, PM Magazine, and Channel 27 for all you've done. We feel that if one person saw the show and benefits by the safety and importance of respecting whitewater, then it is all worth it.

*Editor: PM Magazine was a National Program with contributions from local stations. Channel 27 put together a contribution with segments from our Winter Roll Sessions, our Spring Clinic, and a Tellico trip. Not mentioned in the program is that Sam Dick & his wife flipped and wrapped Stan Slater's New Old Town canoe on Center Rock on Sunday. They had to carry it back up to the falls parking lot. Channel 27 paid for the boat, the video of the incident got lost, so I was told.*

## From the July/August 1999 Issue of Bowlines:

### **Bowlines chosen as 'top' Paddling Club Newsletter!**

#### **From the July-August Issue of Paddler Magazine:**

Lexington Ky's Bluegrass Wildwater Association takes top honors for the design, content, entertainment and usefulness of its Bowlines publication. If this were an on-line newsletter contest, the club would probably win that too--it went into cyberspace in 1996 and currently e-mails the newsletter to all members in addition to posting each issue online for others to download. In existence since 1976, Bowlines is published bimonthly and does more than just convey reports to the club's 150 members. "From the very first days of the club Bowlines has been a record of our activities and thoughts, says Editor Don Spangler." Early members decided the newsletter should be more than a reporting of trips. We wanted it to reflect our enthusiasm for the outdoors and paddling, and to reflect our humor and thoughts." Bowlines unique content includes restaurant reviews, tall tales, opinion articles, cartoons, soap operas and tales of epic journeys.

Editors note: Thanks to Paddler for the recognition and thanks to all the many great people in the BWA for their part in making this such a unique Paddling Newsletter!

## From the March/April 2017 Issue of Bowlines:

### **A message from John Mello, NPFF Director 1017 NPFF**

Thanks to everyone that volunteered for NPFF. \$9400 from the silent auction. the door brought in \$7200, BWA table brought in \$2540. We are now looking for people to step up for the NPFF 2018.

This is truly our most favorite time of the year at NPFF Headquarters!!!! The temps are getting warmer, the creeks are starting to flow again, and we get to divvy out loads of dolla's!!!!!! We're plumb tickled to announce that we'll be giving away more money than we ever have in the history of our festival. The 2017 National Paddling Festival was a gargantuan success thanks to volunteers, filmmakers, sponsors, and attendees!

We're donating \$14,000 to the following organizations that embody one of our missions--to protect, conserve, and make rivers accessible:

\$9,000 to American Whitewater

\$1,000 to Ecuadorian Rivers Institute

\$1,000 to the Green River Access Fund

\$1,000 to the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy's Cain Creek/

North Chick Access Initiative \$500 to West Virginia Rivers Coalition

\$500 to Ottawa Riverkeepers (in honor of guesthost Katrina Van Wijk)

\$500 to Bluegrass Wildwater Association

\$500 for the Jess Albright Kayaking Education Endowment

This brings our donation total, over the course of the lifetime of the festival, to over \$172,000. Not bad for some hillbillies from Kentucky who love to paddle and who love to throw a big party. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to those of you who came to the festival, who volunteered at the festival, who submitted films, and who donated to our silent auction. We love you long time.

*Editor: The BWA has not only donated money from the NPFF to many National Organizations (especially American Whitewater) & local organizations & causes but has also donated money many times from its dues & other resources. A lot of good things impacted by our efforts.!*

# Remembering a BWA Friend



## Jason Powell

I am trying to keep my eyes clear of tears as I bring our BWA family the tragic news that our friend and brother, Jason Powell, lost his life last night after being involved in a motor vehicle accident in Franklin Co. As many of you know, his roots run deep in our little tribe. It seems so unfathomable that his larger than life personality could ever be extinguished. He was a gentle giant that brought both love and admiration, as well as shock and awe at times. He has been a true friend to me through the years, a friend that would do anything and I mean ANYTHING for me at the drop of a hat. I cannot express how much I'm gonna miss that boy.

My heart is pouring out to his beautiful wife Lydia and their precious little daughter Abigail, to his sister Megan, and to his best friend and brother-in-law, Bob Larkin. Please keep all of Jason's family in your thoughts and prayers.

As I come to grips with this hole in my heart, I would like to share some of my fond memories of him, but I'm gonna need to get through this initial stage of grief and disbelief first I'm afraid. There's no doubt many of you reading this have some as well. I have never met someone that could make me laugh so genuinely and uncontrollably. He could bring the house down with some of his antics, and he most certainly could force some into having a "did you really just SAY that" moment, or a "did I really just SEE that" moment.

I know the BWA was a special group of people to him, and he dedicated a lot of time to our cause for many years prior to the obligations of raising his daughter came about. He's grilled many a hamburger at AW Acres for our meetings, he's been in charge of the beginners clinic, he's hauled people and gear all over gods creation, he's just done so much for our club. His legacy shall live on through me and through all of you for the rest of our days, there is no doubt in my mind.

Jason, I love ya brother. Until we meet again, I'll be thinkin boutcha. Please have a shot of Patrón waitin on me buddy, and you know what...fuck it, I don't need no salt nor a damn lime mofo!  
Clay

He was such a big part of my first few years in boating, and will sorely missed. Quite a character, but a great guy with a big heart. My thoughts go out to Lydia, Megan, Bob, and all those whose life he was also a big part of.

Jr.

Thank you Clay for making this post. I've seldom seen times when I was unable to either talk or write, Jason had a way of getting me in that condition for different reasons but my heart is just broken and I don't think I could have broke this news. As so many of you know, Jason was a larger than life individual with a huge heart and made an impact on everyone he met. He was both my brother and my best friend and I will miss him for the rest of my life.

Although I could write volumes about the crazy stuff Jason has talked me into doing over the years and all the funny stuff I've seen him pull off, as for now, given the fact that I've been trying to write this for almost 2 hours now and I think I'm about to drown my keyboard so I'll have to save those stories for another time. He was truly a unique individual and my heart goes out to his wife Lydia and daughter Abigail.

Jason wasn't big on funerals but I know there will be a memorial service and he always wanted a big send off party. He's told me that many times and when I was talking with Lydia earlier she mentioned that too. As soon as I hear about arrangements I'll pass the news on. Damn, I'm going to miss that big wonderful goofball.

Bob

Beautiful words Clay, thanks for posting. All my love and deepest sympathies go out to Lydia, Abigail, Megan and Bob. It's so hard to absorb a sudden and tragic loss like this. Jason was such an amazing and giving soul. I feel so very fortunate to have known him. Any time I was with Jason it was a fun time. His heart was so big it just knocked you over and sometimes pumped you up. I could use some pumping up right now from you Jason. Thanks for the memories big guy.

barryg

My condolences to Lydia, Abigail, Megan, Bob and the rest of Jason's family and close friends. My heart goes out to you. It is a terrible loss. When I think of Jason I think of exuberance. When he smiled and laughed it was infectious. As Clay said, he was larger than life in personality. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

-Zina

A few years ago Jason put together the Beginners' Clinic. Location: Carson Island. The clinic was going quite well and the locals were great. That is, the locals were all great except that one drunk asshole who became very hostile and threatening. People were trying to calm this billhilly down when Jason reached in and punched the dude. Result: instant calm. Instant consensus: I'd calm down too if that giant of a man punched my ass.

Thank you, Jason. You took command and you gave me a great story that I have been telling for years. Oh, the clinic was freaking awesome and the danceoff got even better when you broke out the sparklers.

RIP brother.

Dallas

Sorry for each of you. It is quite sad. I did not know Jason but Bob and Megan I do and my condolences are for you.

Andrew Van Horn  
Captain of the Pirate Ducky Fleet

Well said Clay. What a terrible loss. My thoughts go out to his family. Jason was truly one of a kind. I'll miss you brother.

Zack

Jason was a big, loud, gregarious, lovable teddy bear. He always had a big hug for me any time we saw each other.



I learned later that he was defending Britt and I when he clocked the guy at Carson Island. We're all better for having known him and he will always be with us. Much love to Lydia, Abigail, Megan, and Bob. The tribe is in pain as well, but we will unite in love for him.

Linda Tribble

I did not know about that part of the Carson Island billhilly butt beat. Thank you for sharing that. Jason was always known as a stand up guy and this new knowledge increases my admiration and respect for him exponentially.

Dallas

Man, it is with heavy heart that I write. We got the word yesterday morning. Here with Wes, Todd H., KyJim at the tail end of a week of rivers. I simply can't believe it. I loved that boy, sure did. Where do I even start? I first remember Jason and Bob, together, they were kinda a couple and always on the rivers together. There was a lot of chaos in the club back then, and I remember Jason deciding that he was going to get to know folks, myself included, and make up his mind about everyone. We became good friends. And he accelerated as a paddler. Kinda left Bob behind for a bit, which led Bob to his other paddling partnership with Mary Anne. Another sad story but I want to focus on Jason. Jason became a really good and a solid class IV-V paddler. I was with him the first time he went down the Russell Fork Gorge, following every hard line Clay could throw at him. I was with him on his first trip to the Watauga. He boated a lot, all the time for awhile, and then, one day he took some steps back from paddling while he and Lydia contemplated some life moves and decisions. When I last spoke with him at NPFF, he told me he was all about being a Dad, that he probably was not going to boat a bunch, but he really wanted to throw himself into his role as a parent. I have no doubt he did. I am just deeply saddened that he can't continue to do what I know would be a solid Class V job as a doting dad. Little girls need that. This whole thing just breaks my heart. Can't believe it and wish none of it were true. I love you Jason Powell. I will miss your big naked ass dancing with me at the Russell Fork.  
Brent

I, as many others, am in shock with the passing of Jason! I do know what words can express my grief. I do know that was a true friend and ALWAYS greeted and treated me kind and could make me laugh as no one has in my life. He was there for me as an mentor when I first started boating and as a member of the BWA! My heart and prayers go out to his family, Megan, and Bob Larkin- they were inseparable. I can not keep from tearing up !

B. J.- Kayak bum

Thoughts and prayers for Lydia, Abigail, Bob, Megan and our entire paddling community. I have missed Jason on the water for quite a while, but this has entered a new level. I will never forget him , he will always have a place in my heart. He like so many of our BWA members he had a huge influence on Allan in his younger paddling days. It was like seeing the fable of the "Elephant and the Mouse", while in the pool or river he would work with Allan, Jason would make a big wave and Allan would follow with a little ripple, then the process would start over and over. Jason could launch Allan, sitting in the Fun 1 with spray skirt on and paddle in hand, up into the air like a missile. He would land in the water in who knows what position, roll up, they would roar with laughter, and do it again. It was Allan's priority to locate Jason to share his beef jerky with him. Those days are gone, Allan is no longer little and our brother has gone to a better place. Thank you Jason Powell for being our friend, rest in peace, we will see you again.  
Love to all, Bruce & Allan Friend

As I have sat and pondered the enormity of this loss, it has unknowingly lead me to a more complete understanding of how the BWA has enriched my life. If it were not for the BWA, I would never have had the opportunity to be Lydia and Jason's beginner clinic instructor when they made their first introduction to our motley group down at the Nolichucky. Nor would I have ever had the honor of getting to know him and calling him my brother. You know, right then and there down at the 'Chucky, I was immediately impressed with his skill set and ambition to progress....and likewise, I was immediately impressed with Lydia's skill set to put up with that crazy sum-bitch! We had so much fun that wkend...I got to meet Mike Effin Wilson and Happy Kyle and Zina's nephew as they rounded out our class. I soon realized that it wasn't he that needed the BWA, it was WE that needed him!!! I was so thankful to see he and Lydia stay connected to our group and become vocal about wanting to find others to paddle the Elkhorn with. I had no idea at the time how much our friendship would grow, but it wasn't surprising to me how much his love for whitewater would grow. He was actually kind of a natural, even for such a big guy...he would charge hard and always kept the "D" in Chief's keys to kayaking success alive, where the "D" in S.A.L.A.D. stands for "determination". That kid had some let me tell ya! I think we all realized as he was posting on the forum and starting to boat with many of the usual

suspects, that this guy was golden. He brought a personality to our gatherings that was magnetic (or possibly repulsive depending on how you looked at it lol). At the same time, I truly think he was drawn to us as well. We really are an open minded bunch that welcomes and admires ALL types of shapes, sizes, and forms...it's hard to shock us and it's hard to be too rowdy for us, yet it's easy to fit in with us. Well that leads me to my next segue smoking smiley .... boy did we find out what shock and awe really meant! For such a big guy, he had a really small...uh...uhhh...well... uhh...damn that boy could dance huh?! I bore witness to what Brent referenced above, and am pretty sure while they were doing the tango, Jason's wet willie was doing the centipede. Ok, ok, I digress... Well there was something else that drew me to him...I realized I had finally found somebody else that shared my loved to bump loud, bass filled hip-hop...the only difference is that he wanted to bump it all night long! To put it mildly, he probably detracted from a few nearby camper's REM sleep stage, but who in the HELL is gonna say something to THAT guy?? You know what though, as soon as those that may have been opposed to it woke up the next morning and saw Jason still sitting around the campfire with that shit-eatin-grin after being up all night, I mean how could you not forgive that big 'ol teddy bear? When it came to boating, I can't tell you how much it tickled me to get to paddle with him. He was really gettin' after it. He called me one October after pushing himself to get better and said he wanted to boat the Russell Fork Gorge and he wanted me to show him down. I was slightly shocked but of course couldn't turn my brother down and promised to take care of him and show him nothing but the "good lines". I'm still to this day not sure if he fully understood or expected what that meant at the time, but he soon found out! He got to run Main Line Tower, he got to run Maze into Triple Drop without any eddies, he got to hit all the cool boofs in Dave's Rapid, and then...and THEN... and to be fair I did give him a choice here...and then he chose to follow me on the "Walk The Plank" move between the two entrance ledges at El Horrendo, where you drive out between a ledge above you that forms a keeper hole and a ledge below you that will eat your lunch, all the while running out of space between them. To be sure, I was looking up-stream watching him and pulling for him to make that move...until...until I think an "ohhhhh shitttttt" slipped from my lips as he dropped off the plank just a wee bit too early. To his probable dismay, he found himself pitted in that gnarly "I'm gonna eat your lunch" hole below. I saw glimpses of his paddle and then glimpses of his helmet, but unfortunately they were remaining fully locked in. I thought, oh no, better get the rope out and just about that time he flushed...upside down and heading at a good rate of speed to the lip of the main drop. Well he made an epic roll right at as he was dropping the lip, I was yelling and cheering him on. He proceeds to get one stroke in as he drops the lip, but then he lands and flips again and starts washing towards the overhanging right wall. Once again, the bastard rolls up just in time to avoid the undercut wall, with his helmet cocked all the way back on his head and breathing like he'd just seen something that scared him for the first time in his life. He paddled over and I gave him a high-five and we paddled on downstream and reveled that night about what a successful day we'd had. There was also a time where I promised to take he and Bob down the Upper Gauley in my raft. What an epic day! Somehow, through possibly poor guide service, I managed to swim Bob and I multiple times...leaving Jason in the boat for a dry hair day. Thank the river Gods though because I'm not sure Bob and I put together could've pulled his big ass back in the boat!

Well.... I have so many fond memories of him, pretty much every single time I saw the guy became a fond memory. I'm glad I found him, and I'm glad he found me, and I want to thank the BWA for putting us in each other's lives. Lydia messaged me earlier today to give me the arrangements and asked that I share them with the club. She has posted them on Facebook but I would also like to share them more personally with you here:

Visitation will be Friday from 4pm to 7pm at :  
Rogers Funeral Home  
507 W Second St  
Frankfort

There will also be visitation on Saturday, beginning at 3pm. At 4pm, we'll have a come-as-you-are casual good old fashioned Jason Powell storytelling time until about 5. Then, we'll have an informal caravan out to Larimore's farm to have barbecue and revelry.

I would also like to ask all of our BWA family to rise up and show our support and solidarity to our fallen brother by putting your boats on top of your cars. We did it for our brother Scott Bradfield, and I feel we should honor our brother Jason with a similar salute.

Lydia has also bestowed upon me one final request, a request that has me feeling honored yet saddened. To quote her:

"One of his most emphatic final wishes was that some of his ashes be spread in the Russell Fork Gorge. He loved that place, and it was as close to a heaven as I think he ever believed in"

I will proudly fulfill this request and deliver his spirit into the spirit of the river so they can flow together in unity throughout the depths of time. I will chat with Lydia, Bob and Megan about the timing and logistics and most certainly let everyone know so we can join together for Jason's last run down through the Gorge.

One last note that Lydia brought to my attention was that day during the clinic, oh so many years ago, I was instructing them both on the Nolichucky. We got out to scout our lines through the biggest rapid of the day, a rapid called Radio Waves, well Lydia styled it and Jason swam it! It was hard to humble that big brute but I do believe he got humbled that day! Lydia, I sure hope you somehow etched that into his ego and never let him live that down!

Jason, I'll see you in the next big eddy in the sky bro...love ya,

Clay

BJ, I love you too buddy! I always look forward to seeing you around! This is a time where we come together to lift each other up, I hope to see you soon my friend.

Clay

Words don't often fail me, but they are wholly inadequate right now.

I feel lucky to have had a chance to know Jason, and am sorrowed by his passing. I cannot imagine the pain this loss brings to those who were closest to him.

My deepest condolences to Lydia, Abigail, Megan, Bob, and all who called Jason family or friend, he was a rare soul and he will be sorely missed.

Robert Milgate

Thank you, Clay, for that colorful remembrance. I was going to send my mom a link to this thread, but now I think I'll just give her the reader's digest version.

Bob and I have appreciated every single message we have received from you all. It may take us a while to respond, but I promise that I will cherish every story and every word of love and support.

I was so lucky to be part of two families with Jason, our actual family, and the BWA. With so many loved ones in common, the support has been overwhelming.

Four years ago, Jason threw me a rope when I really needed it. He knew that I was having a hard time, and decided to invite me into his world and teach me how to live life "Jason Powell style." He brought me down to Brent Austin's house and introduced me to some of the most amazing people I have ever met (including the love of my life, Bob Lar-kin). It's a weekend that I will never forget.

Jason said that he knew I belonged in the paddling community and always intended for me to eventually find my way into boating. As for me marrying Bob, I'm pretty sure that was less intentional.

In a somewhat unusual situation, Bob and I are grieving Jason equally. We are both at a complete loss as to what a life without our "brother" looks like.

I had a different relationship with him than anyone in the boating community. He has been making me laugh, cry and flinch for over 30 years. The most honest thing I can say about growing up with him as an older brother is that it was character building. But Jason and I only paddled together about 3 or 4 times. He was getting out of it as I was getting into it. I wish I had gotten to paddle with him more, but cherish the memory of how excited he was to show me down Cedar Creek for the first time, yelling "that's the gnar, Megan, that's the gnar!" as I followed him through some rather beefy cross waves.

Still, coming into the BWA as Jason Powell's sister was possibly the absolute best way to be introduced to this life. I am still amazed by the legacy that he left in this club. As his kid sister, I spent my whole life wanting nothing more than to be even half as cool and funny and he was. That didn't change as I got older and it likely never will.

I didn't get nearly as much time with Jason as I wanted while he was with us and I know that no one got as much time as they would have liked in the end. But I am so incredibly comforted to know that this community, who I have come to think of as my family, will remember him the way that I will for the rest of my life.

Thank you again for the love and support. Please continue to give us as much as you can. Call, text, come by. I won't be doing much for the next week but trying to wrap my mind around this. If I don't see you sooner, I hope to see you this weekend (with boats strapped on, please), even if you didn't know him.

Thank you, really.

I'm Jason Powell's sister. And you're not.

-MeganL

Over the weekend, I spent a lot of time thinking about all the fun times I had with Jason and Lydia. Probably none funnier than the afternoon we spent at the lake house up near Owenton. Just go to YouTube and search on Jason Powell and Flying Fish. That is me you hear cackling in the background. I laughed so much that day my stomach was killing me. I have nothing but the greatest of memories of this guy and really wish I had more. Like many things, you just never realize how much they mean to you until they are gone.

To Lydia, Abigail, Megan, Bob and family, please accept the Kirkwood's condolences and know that are thoughts are with you. Jason was a great guy and we are going to miss him. RIP my friend.

Allen

During times such as this we can be and are tested emotionally and spiritually. 'What ifs' can fly and the woulda, coulda, shoulda's will run rampant. It is obvious that Jason was a beloved member of our tribe and will always be close to us in spirit. I know my own life is better because I was given the opportunity to meet and associate with Jason and it was my honor to call him my friend.

There have been others who have passed and they too enriched us. We often say that we will see them again and I do believe that. I don't know how that will happen but I do believe that it can and will.

When I see Scott and I look down and see that I also have those pecs and abs, I know I am in heaven.

When I look up Paul Graves (Biscuit) and I get that 'man hug', I know I'm in heaven.

When I look over there and see Jason leaned back in a ladder back chair with that wonderful smile on his face, I'm in heaven.

But, when I get to my destination and if I'm automatically signed up for ballroom dancing lessons and Griffin is the instructor.....I'm in HELL.

Guys, I remember you and think of you often. Save me a spot and put in a good word for me. Lie if you have to.

Dallas

Clay forgot to mention that at Jason's first BWA clinic Clay awarded him the "Most Likely to Run the Gnar" award! How true that first impression was

Linda Tribble

I'm still having trouble absorbing this, three days later the reality of it still hasn't hit me.

We all see people pass out of our lives, and the older we get the more it happens and the more we come to expect it, but this one really caught me off guard. I still don't know exactly how to respond.

Even in the most contentious of circumstances in the club, Jason was somehow able to be on everyone's good side pretty much all the time. He was a mitigating force among us. He was an easy guy to like, fun loving, generous, gregarious and easy going... until he wasn't. Actually, that's what I remember most about him, he had a strong sense of morality. He was a live and let live kind of guy until he saw someone not letting someone else live. That was something he would not, under any circumstances, tolerate. I loved his open and accepting nature and his pure, undiluted love of life, but I think I loved that often hidden streak of righteousness in him even more. It's what balanced him out and made him not just everybody's buddy, but someone who had the respect of those around him. He cared deeply about people and he never hesitated to let them know it. If Jason never made you feel welcome and befriended, then you probably never met him.

I hadn't boated with Jason in a while... now it feels like there's a hole in my boating future that will never be filled, a big empty spot... a big empty spot.

Hanley Loller

I've been trying to navigate through the whirlwind of emotions in my brain and heart since Friday. And I'm still lost. And I reckon I will be for a while. We all will be. Some of the best times in my life were with Jason. Truly. Jason was larger than life. He was funny as hell. He lifted us all up. But at the same time, Jason absolutely had a serious side to him. He was a confidant and he was a protector. His fucking heart was gold. It was gold. I've never met anyone with a bigger heart. Jason was a force. He was a big, complicated, nurturing, compassionate, hilarious, mindful force. And I loved him dearly. I'd tell him that too. But not enough.

I spent time with Bob and Megan on the creek yesterday. We sat and talked about Jason for hours in the sunshine at the damn wave. The sky was blue with big, fluffy perfect clouds. There was no place else that I wanted to be. Bob and Megan--you all are special people--you'll both forever be in my heart.

I stopped by and saw Lydia and Abigail a little bit later. Lydia is overwhelmed by the love and support--not just from boaters and Jason's BWA tribe, but from everyone that knew Jason. Jason's big, gregarious personality was infectious. I hope that, as a crew, we'll continue to keep tabs on Lydia and Abigail. Always.

I always knew that Jason was special. That he was different. That he was one-of-a-kind. But I never really sat and collected my thoughts about him all at once. Let this be something that I do more often. Before it's too late. I don't boat as much as I used to. Jason didn't either. But that just didn't matter. The BWA brought us together. Throughout the years, the club has facilitated an outlet for scores of misfits to meet up. You have to be just a little bit off your rocker to do what we do. My life will be forever changed because of you all. My life will be forever changed because of Jason.

I look forward to being with you all on Friday and Saturday. Imma hug it out with you all and Imma blow the roof off the mutha' for Jason.

love,  
bethany (or beverly or whatever)

My words are very inadequate, but I too, am deeply, deeply saddened. I will miss his smiling face so much. My deepest sympathy to Megan, Bob, and the whole family,  
Tina

Hi All,

Tomorrow will be the visitation for a friend that I was sure would be attending mine. Although I've posted very little for the person that has given me more than just about anyone I've known. The truth is that I've been unable to do it. I've tried many times; I get half way through, reread it and it either makes no sense or I've gotten so emotional about it that I can't continue. What has enabled me to, what I hope will be a fruitful effort, is that on Saturday, at Jason's memorial service, we will be given an opportunity to tell our favorite Jason stories. Although I'll want to talk about this amazing human being I doubt I'll be able to, so I'm picking this opportunity to tell mine.

When I started this off, I stated that Jason had given me more than anyone I've ever known, and it's true. Jason was a friend that I could count on. I could count on him to stand by me when I was right or wrong. Trust me, I'd hear

about it when I was wrong, but he was always there, unjudgmental, protective and a fierce ally. He was there when I first started boating and opened the door to this community for me at a time when frankly, many others doubted the longevity of this swimming champion. Jason gave me this community. He introduced me to my lovely wife, his sister and didn't beat the crap out of me when perhaps he should've. Through the use of an extremely effective motivational technique that I can only refer to as the Jason Powell, "Paddle you fu\*king pus@y" technique, he instilled a determination in me that enabled me to get my first combat roll of Boone's creek.

Although most of you know Jason as a loveable goofball that was the life of the party, I worked with Jason and knew a completely different side of him, the hard working, extremely competent side of Jason Powell.

Several years ago I got Jason a job where I worked. I knew Jason to be good at nearly everything he attempted so I figured this would be a good fit. It was amazing, Jason picked right up on the technical aspects of an industry he knew nothing about. Whenever there was an extremely hard project, Jason was the one I went to, to get it done. I'm not sure how we'll get along at work without Jason, he'll be impossible to replace, but Jason was as much a source of pride for me as I hope I was for him, as through his example, I became a better boater.

As I end this post, I want to tell you a story about Jason that almost no one knows. I just told my wife this story last night, and she was the first person, due to Jason's urging to keep secret that I've ever told this story to. A couple of years ago, I was working a job with Jason up in Indiana. Usually we drove separately but on this day, the day before Christmas, Jason and I decided to meet at the Frankfort Walmart and drive together. When I got there, ready to go, Jason said he had something he needed to do in Walmart. Of course I tagged along, because you never knew where trips like this would end, but soon found out that Jason really was on more of a mission than just hassling the "religious right" camped out at the doors to Walmart.

As Jason had been working this job, every morning on the way to work, he had driven by a community of homeless people that camped under a bridge in Indiana. Jason's mission that day, and one of many that he talked me into participating in was to give these people a decent Christmas. That morning we walked all over Walmart, we bought ham, we bought all kinds of clothing's, warm gloves, long johns, warm shirts and a ton of food and other supplies, including sweets and pasties that, although not necessities, would be nice to have on a Christmas morning. Bags and bags of stuff we bought. When I said, I think we have enough, Jason thought of more. We filled a cart with stuff and then went to work on another one. At the counter, Jason insisted on paying, I'd have none of it. Jason had talked me into many things during our friendship and hadn't killed me yet so I was all in on this one too. I forget what the total was but it was a lot. I'm not kidding, it was a lot.

Loaded up with bag and bag of stuff we drove to Indiana. Although we could tell the campsite was populated, no one would come out of their make shift shelters on that cold day before Christmas, and I know that was exactly the way Jason wanted it. He not only didn't want to be thanked for the generosity, he didn't want to be acknowledged for it. I've got to tell you, that was one sketchy campsite. Even though it wasn't my idea, I didn't want to be killed while trying to be a good Samaritan and for a while it was touch and go. Anyway, we piled up the stiff, made a few trips back and forth to the van to get more and I can only hope, through Jason consideration, made a Christmas for those people that they are still talking about.

So that's my Jason story. Sure I helped him, sure I demanded to pay for half of it but had it been left to me I would have driven past that underpass without ever noticing the plight of the people living under it. As his closest friend, (and I am honored to claim that title) I can tell you that Jason could be pigheaded. Jason could be stubborn, Jason could be the life of the party and more fun, more in your face, definitely more naked and a better friend than anyone you've ever met, but inside that infinitely complicated individual was a truly good human being. I love you my brother, I'll miss you till the day I die. May you always have fair winds and following seas.

Bob

Bob, thank you so much for your post. It left Britt and I in tears. We will be with you all in spirit this weekend. Love to you all

Linda Tribble

**Editors note:** A lot has changed since we wrote the By Laws in the old Sage Outfitters classroom in 1976. It is fair to say we could not have visualized all the changes to the club and to the world. Newsletters were printed with a mimeograph machine, there were no computers to use, no access to gauges, no internet for that matter, just a phone & word of mouth. We could not see the club growing to the size it is or doing things like the NPFF or being in a very different world. Much was good about the original by laws and served us well, but Bob Larkins proposal is a good starting point for the next 40 years of the BWA and deserves serious consideration.



## Things change in 40 years...

### A proposal to adjust a few things in our founding document from the BWA President

For years, as the club has grown, as technology has advanced and finally, as the need for the club to take on a more official standing has become apparent, it has become obvious that the BWA is in great need to have the Bylaws updated. Our official status as a "not for profit organization", things like online voting for some issues of great importance to the club and an expansion and in many cases, official recognition of the offices and duties of many of the clubs officers, are just a few of the things that have prompted this push to move forward with a change in our bylaws.

One of the few things that have hampered updating the bylaws for so many years were the "perceived" requirements needed to make these changes. The original bylaws state that the bylaws can be changed whenever the club deems it necessary by a majority vote of the clubs members. When this was first written the club was much smaller and online voting was still years off in the future. It has been assumed that the only way to make a change to the bylaws was by a majority vote of the clubs membership "at a meeting". No where in the bylaws does it say that an in person vote is required to change the bylaws, but rather, simply a "yes" vote by a majority of our members.

So the process will go as follows. The current bylaws, the new bylaws and a summary of changes will be posted in Bowlines as well as on the forum for (1) month. Discussion will be debated at the meetings on April 11th and May 9th, in which club members can discuss the new bylaws and any additional changes. Within a week after the close of the May 9th meeting, private online voting will be opened, as per a procedure that will be decided by the club at the 2 monthly meetings. (April 11th and May 9th). Voting will continue until a majority of the club has cast their ballots one way or the other. After the close of the May 9th meeting, no further changes will be accepted to the proposed bylaws and once voting starts, it will either be an up or down vote on the final revision agreed upon at the May 9th meeting.

Finally, voting will be private but a record of your vote will be maintained for a prescribed time, determined by the club during the two meetings, so that any challenges to the authenticity of the outcome can be verified.

The goal here is simply to act in the best interest of the club, both for now and in the future. A lot of effort has gone into the drafting of these changes, and I only ask that we all try to make our discussions as friendly and as productive as possible. Good luck everybody. I know changing the bylaws, or more accurately, redefining the bylaws will be a challenge, but I have faith in you that together, we can work to do what's best.

Bob Larkin  
BWA President

#### BWA Members

### Vote on new BWA Bylaws!

This is your chance to vote yes or no on the new BWA bylaws.

If you would like to reread them you can do so on the forum under the topic: "Time to vote on the new Bylaws" Please respond back with your vote by hitting "reply", include your name and either "Yes" or "No". ("Yes" to accept them in their current form or "No" to not accept them.)

Your vote will not be made public but will be held for 30 days should anyone wish to challenge the vote.

We have not had a new set of bylaws in 40 years and this is your chance to vote on a new edition.

# Off the Cuff

**Elkhorn Tues 3/28**

March 28, 2017

Robert and I are going directly to the put-in after work. Should be there around 5:00 PM. We will set shuttle in a few minutes on our lunch break so we can just put directly on. If anyone wants to join us (Megan), we'd be happy to paddle with you.

Rides back to the put-in are on a space-available basis (i.e. we will have a car already at Sauffley's, Robert may have already committed to some rides back up top, but we can always loop back around and fetch a second round if absolutely necessary, or you can set your own shuttle before 5:00).

See y'all after work.  
Hanley Loller

I'll be there. Flying solo, so I won't be able to set shuttle. I'll meet you at 5 at the put in and then beg and plead for a ride back to the top after. If anyone else needs to work out a shuttle before hand, let me know. 859-seven four three - 8355  
-MeganL

Assuming Robert hasn't already promised all the seats to someone else, you're in. If not, I'll whip back and get you, or something... we'll make it work.  
Hanley Loller

Great day on the korn with friends.  
Joe W.

The small amount of rain arrived from Lexington at about 5:00, and held the level firmly at 1,200 for the rest of the day. Does anyone contest that this is not the perfect level for almost all of the Elkhorn's features? If so, what spots are in at different levels? I've been running the Elkhorn for a millennial's lifetime, but I can always learn something new.  
Robert W.

Sorry I missed you Joe. It was good seeing you at Sauffley's briefly while Robert and I were setting shuttle. Sorry we didn't get more of a chance to catch up. Would have been nice to paddle with you guys, but y'all were way ahead of us.

On the good side, Robert, Megan and I hit the water just after 5:00 and had a great evening on the 'khorn. Caught up with the remnants of the day crew at the Dam and surfed hard for an hour or so before continuing down. Good times had by all.  
Hanley Loller

March 29, 2017

## Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

In answer to Robert, Surf City is definitely much better at higher water. Generally, the higher it gets, the better it is.  
Hanley Loller

The main Dam wave was particularly good yesterday. All kinds of features are different at different levels. The little pocket wave in front of Indian Head Rock comes in at a slightly higher level. The new almost creek wide wave between there and Barking Dog comes in somewhere in the 2000s. Like Hanley said, Surf City can be much better at higher levels. Above S-Turn too. And we all mourn the loss of the great Lunch Stop wave (which has come and gone twice is the short time I've been kayaking), and the Rebel Hole wave(s) that were there a couple of years ago (the top one may still be there).  
Jr.

1200 is a great level with tons of fun surf but in addition to those Don and Hanley have pointed out, several other surf spots come into play or get better at levels above 1200. Some that come to mind are the waves above Church hole and many of the upper waves in the Dam Rapid, which few people ever seem to play for some reason. The tail waves below the Dam hole and at S-Turn get way more dynamic and numerous. The terrific section between the old Stoner Beach and the ledges lunch stop is way better at higher levels with several super surf spots appearing. Left side of Upper(old) Lunch Stop is getting some new play holes and old Lunch Stop itself, while still not regaining it's old glory waves, still has a nice play wave at the top right and a really dynamic new wave with eddy service on river left. Also Log Cabin rapid has some terrific surf at higher water levels with a sweet hydraulic that forms at the bottom of the river left channel that isn't there at 1200. At levels of 2000+ there is also a beautiful. glassy wave that forms up on the bottom left of Log Cabin. Colston's Lane rapid has a sweet, one and done, wave on top right and sometimes at certain high levels, CL at the bottom gets these really weird "ocean-like" pulsing waves that are a blast to catch and try to stay on. Surf City is pretty great at most levels but, IMHOI is really killer around 2500cfs where daisy chain-surfing down the rapid hitting one surf wave after another both above and then below the main river-wide hole make SC the best surf spot on the creek. The Rebel Wave rapid also gets it's old slanted surf wave back at higher levels with even a useable eddy-service on river left. The surf in Barking Dog gets much better at higher levels and there's a fun new, wave with eddy service on bottom left (that Larimore is calling Barry's Wave :-)) in the unnamed, rapid just below Barking Dog/Cliffside.  
barryg



Speaking as somebody in a longish boat, there are a number of rides that wouldn't appeal to short boats that tend to come in as the level goes up.

Although I haven't been out since the last high water and it may be gone, there was a beautiful, smooth river wide that came in stronger above 2500 at the low-water ford between the bottom of barking dog and the left turn toward Saufley's. Enormous eddy on river left. I think this is just below the above-mentioned No-name/Barry's Wave. Not huge, maybe 1.5 to 2 ft, but wide enough to put four boats on and smooth enough to learn how to carve back and forth without getting bounced around.

At low levels say 600 -1200, there is another glassy wave if you cross over from the left channel to the right going down barking dog. Again, not a dynamic wave, just a smooth relaxing long boat wave. Won't hold a short boat, but Tim, Ed, and I had three canoes on it at the same time. I was laughing like Tim.

Also, at what I think of as Whitehouse (I think the same as Barry's Log Cabin) there is another quite wide wave that comes in at maybe 2200, although the ghost of it is there lower. It's approximately level with the free standing stone piling in the eddy on river right.

Again, at 2000+ in the wave train below Rebel Yell, maybe 6 waves down from the the Rebel wave itself there is a nice fast standing wave with eddy service from river right.

The Elkhorn's a gift that gives amazing joy at almost any level, it's hard for me to pick a favorite.  
Robert Milgate

## **April Fools Chief Fest**

April 02, 2017

Chief Fest for the Rest of Us- April Fool's Weekend Trip Report

After several days of phone calls and text messages to the usual suspects and some timely rains our group of boaters from Louisville, Bowling Green, Lexington, Carlisle, Somerset, and displaced Kentuckians in Tennessee we selected two Classic Class III-IV East Tennessee Rivers. Most boaters began the southern exodus on Friday and spent the night at North River Campground just a few miles from the put in. I drove down Saturday morning and we began to set up shuttles for multiple runs for the Upper Tellico section. We (Keith, Rachel, Nate, Josh, Jason, Lindsay, Steve, Ben, Jimmy, Mike, Mike, Cody and I - Chief) with help shuttling from Dara, put on the water. The water as usual was clean and clear, running just over 2 feet or somewhere between 400- 500 CFS. This is enough water to make the run out between drops readily passable, pads the rocks well, without being too pushy, and provides ample "Boof" opportunities.

We negotiated the river hazards without any major problems that included avoidable strainers, large groups of boaters in

eddies, trout fishing anglers(most who showed patience with the boaters-thanks), plus overcrowded parking areas and anal rangers. Doing multiple laps allows boaters chances to try different lines, perfect or clean up lines, build river confidence with repetition, and memorize the run better. Some of the better known rapids include Auto Boof, Baby Falls, Diaper Wiper, and Jerrod's Knee; for those who find the upper section too steep or challenging, a Class III run is just downstream. With a road the parallels the river, car scouting is easy, and numerous put ins and take outs can be selected for either run.

The group left Tellico Plains and drove to Knoxville meeting at Chief's humble South Knoxville abode, Ben grilled steak and veggies, and everyone contributed various food items for our impromptu pot luck dinner. Beer and Bourbon were consumed around the outdoor fire pit until the early morning hours. Everyone managed to find a place to crash, some in spare bedrooms, others on cots or sleeping pads on the floor, and some in the driveway in their vehicles. We woke up, prepared a breakfast featuring Benton's Bacon, and arranged to meet Brent Austin at the Little River in The Graate Smoky Mountains near Gatlinburg.

The Little was running about 2.6' on the gauge. Like the Tellico the water was clean and clear, low but like from the previous day, enough. Some of our group elected to put on the Meanies section and also run the Sinks while others chose to do "Sinks Lite". The Sinks drop has a new twist from a log that makes the approach to this 10' drop tricky, I watched a video of most of our runs and no one seemed to style it. My Sinks run included a flip, a broken paddle, and bow rescue. We continued on downstream running Silver Diner, Eddy Out, Two Sweet Sliding Boofs (Names unknown by me) and the Elbow. For boaters not ready for The Sinks section an easier run continues downstream with numerous put in and take out options from the riverside road.

Look forward to another house slumber party boating extravaganza soon.  
John K

Great weekend!  
Thanks for hosting us Chief  
Ace

Chief and all,  
It was great to see a bunch of you all on my home river yesterday. The Little is my Elkhorn. When I woke up yesterday morning and saw a text in spanish from the Chiefster at 1:50 a.m., I knew that was going to be my move for the day and that I was staying close to home.

There was one or two good lines on the Sinks now. Wink. But yeah, there were a few less the optimal lines. Chief was hanging tough trying to roll with a broke stick. Cool and calm under pressure, he accepted a bow assist. At the Elbow is where I saw the most upside boats. LOL. That drop is tricky. Great day on the river with ya'll. Looks like we are getting ready to get some big rain in the next few hours. Chief, you wanna boat this afternoon? It is gonna happen. I am going

to work until about noon then skobotin.  
Brent

## Proposed New BWA Bylaws

April 09, 2017

Well here goes;

For years, as the needs of the club have grown, as technology has advanced and finally, as the need for the club to take on a more official standing has become apparent, it has become obvious that the BWA is in great need to have the Bylaws updated. Things like the BWA's official status, online voting for some issues of great importance to the club and an expansion and in many cases, official recognition of the offices and duties of many of the clubs officers, are just a few of the things that have prompted this push to move forward with a change in our bylaws.

One of the few things that have hampered updating the bylaws for so many years were the "perceived" requirements needed to make these changes. The original bylaws state that the bylaws can be changed whenever the club deems it necessary by "a majority vote of the clubs members". When this was first written, the club was much smaller and online voting was still years off in the future. It has been assumed that the only way to make a change to the bylaws was by a majority vote of the clubs membership "at a meeting". No where in the bylaws does it say that an "in person" vote is required to change the bylaws, but rather, simply a "yes" vote by a majority of our members.

Included as pdf's I've attached the Original BWA Bylaws, The New Proposed BWA Bylaws, and a brief Summary of Changes to the original bylaws.

So, after much thought, I think the best way for this process to be handled will be as follows;

The current bylaws, the new bylaws and a summary of changes will be posted in Bowlines as well as on the forum for (1) month. Discussion will be debated at the meetings on April 11th and May 9th, in which club members can discuss the new bylaws and any additional changes. Within a week after the close of the May 9th meeting, private online voting will be opened, as per a procedure that will be decided by the club at the 2 monthly meetings.(April 11th and May 9th). Voting will continue until a majority of the club has cast their ballots one way or the other. After the close of the May 9th meeting, no further changes will be accepted to the proposed bylaws and once voting starts, it will either be an up or down vote on the final revision agreed upon at the May 9th meeting.

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The goal here is simply to act in the best interest of the club, both for now and in the future. A lot of effort has gone into

the drafting of these changes, and I only ask that we all try to make our discussions as friendly and as productive as possible. Good luck everybody. I know changing the bylaws, or more accurately, redefining the bylaws will be a challenge, but I have faith in you that together, we can work to do what's best for the club.

Bob Larkin  
BWA President

Bob, well done, sir! I'm so impressed. You all have done such a tremendous job making this as transparent as possible. The bylaws have needed an upgrade for as long as I can remember and you've taken the proper steps to make that possible. Thank you so much!! I think there should be a bronze statue of you at Elkhorn Acres.

I skimmed everything and am fully supportive of all the changes. Again, well done!

love,  
bethany (or beverly or whatever)

No statue. Unless you are the leader of North Korea , statues are for dead people  
Dallas

Bob,  
I never thought I would say this. But, I like them. Great job. Very balanced and hits salient issues. I support these.  
Brent

Damn, I had a statue and got it taken away, all within the same topic. Thanks to both of you for your kind words and for not killing me off just so we can throw a dedication party for a statue. Brent, as always, thank you for your support. A lot of work went in to making these changes by a lot of really good people and I believe they'll be the backbone that carries the club into the next 40 years.  
Bob

Except for a couple of new things, I think they accurately capture the way we have been operating for years now, so I can't think there would be any problems getting this through. Very good job.

April 11, 2017

On a quick read, there were a few minor things I might suggest changing. Maybe not specify the exact \$ amount the SC spending limit is, but tie it to the dues. Make it, say, 20 to 25 times times the Individual dues amount, so when the dues go up, the spending limit goes up and you don't have to come back and change the bylaws. Clarify in Article VII that Past President is not an elected office (which is explained in Article VIII), and maybe state that one person cannot hold more than one elected office at a time. That would still allow the Past President to serve in one other office. State whether they get one or two votes in that case.  
Jr.

Good discussion last night on the proposed by-law changes.

Meeting stayed totally positive on the vibe. Turnout was light. Definitely need to see more members at the next meeting. The new venue is great!  
Joe W.

April 19, 2017

Sheesh, you mention considering Presidential bid and they go and change the bylaws making it so you can't. Imao - Just kidding guys....smiling bouncing smileyspinning smiley sticking its tongue out

The only part that really gets me on the new By-laws is the setting of a Minimum skill level to be President. I understand the possible thinking to back this insertion but as someone who has paddled for 7 years and who has dedicated endless hours to the club, it kinda hits me in a gut spot that because my Paddling Skills aren't "Good Enough", I could never be, or even consider, running for President of the club.

I mentioned wanting to run for President after my year as VP and was told that the SC had already been decided and that I could be Secretary if I wanted. So, don't challenge the sitting President because that's not how it's typically done. Ok. Whatever. I decided not to be on the SC that year and haven't since. I have, however, stayed relatively active in BWA events on and off the river. Now, if the new By-Laws are passed as they are currently written, I won't be able to run for President because I'm not a "Solid Class III" boater. Sure, I run Class III but I'm by no means what I would call solid.

So, I guess what's gonna be will be and the By-Laws will pass, probably exactly as they are written, but that's my 2 cents as to what I object to and my reasoning why ~ SKILL SHOULD NOT DETERMINE ABILITY TO LEAD in a Recreational Club designed to raise funds for River Conservation not just Class III and above Whitewater.

Adelessa

Okay, I said before that I hadn't read the new by-laws yet, but if what Adelessa says is true about a minimum set of boating skills being necessary to be president, then I'm dead set against it. That's a deal-breaker.

We've got a lot of very dedicated members who aren't really class III boaters, some of them in the officer corps, both past and present. Many of those folks have been dedicated public servants, volunteering and serving the club by taking officer positions that we are routinely struggling to fill. Telling these people that they're good enough for the more menial positions, but not good enough to be president, that's a slap in the face.

In the past there have been some efforts from time to time to cull the club of boaters who don't live up to someone's particular standards. PLEASE, let's not go back there. As a club, we should be defined by who we include, not who we exclude.

Bring me your tired, your poor of skillset, your huddled pad-

dlers longing to roll up and breathe free. Seriously, bring them to rolling session and I'll help them reach their personal goals and I won't apply a litmus test to them about how big they intend to go before agreeing to teach them.  
Hanley Loller

Another addition is the requirement that candidates for all officer positions must have been members for two consecutive prior years. Why? This might make sense for some positions, but a blanket two year minimum prior to eligibility for all officer positions seems unnecessarily long. Many groups find that their newer members bring enthusiasm and diversity of ideas that can benefit the organization.

BAM

Eh, I'm less concerned about that because it's a simple objective standard. I'm not going to say any more until I give the proposed bylaws a complete read, which I should have done before now. I will say that (having read Bob's "Summary of Changes", nice touch Bob) I see some other things that I might disagree with to some level, but the class III requirement is the only thing that I see as flat-out unacceptable.

I'll also add that I'm sure that Bob didn't add that in any kind of mean-spirited manner.

I'll get back after I've had a chance to read the whole thing.  
Hanley Loller

Hi all,

The bylaws have two chances to be amended before they go to the full club for a vote, the first was the last club meeting, which had very poor attendance and the last chance is at the next club meeting on May 9th. At these meetings, things can be added, things can be deleted and things can be edited. A lot of changes were made at the last club meeting and I'm sorry but I haven't had the chance to post the updated bylaws yet but I'll do that soon.

A couple of personal thoughts:

As for the time and skill requirements, I do honestly believe that you should show a commitment to the club and to the sport before you decide to take a position running it, but just for the record, the class 3 requirement for president was dropped at the last meeting.

Adelessa, I consider you a class 3 boater. You may have your bad day from time to time but I've paddled a lot of class 3 rivers with you and you are one fearless lady. Keep up the good work, thanks for all the volunteer stuff you do.. You make the club a better organization to be a part of.

Ok folks, the next meeting is on May 9th at Rockhouse brewing. Come on out, I want to hear your thoughts.  
Bob

April 20, 2017

At the last meeting, we went through the entire proposed By-Laws line by line. Even though the meeting was poorly attended, interestingly we had a pretty wide representation of the diversity our club enjoys. We really did try to look at the proposed By-Laws objectively, and we tried our best to amend those things that could be controversial and/or unnecessary, as well as add some things that may be for the collective good of the club. Needless to say, we had a very long meeting but a very productive one. I'm sure there will be a few more changes before it goes to a vote. When the revision is posted, and if you've already looked through the proposed By-Laws, I'm sure you'll notice some of those changes, including the topic Adelessa addressed above. Megan so kindly stepped in as Secretary so there was documentation of all that was discussed and voted on. I will tell you that all attendees took this task very seriously and I'm sure that the next meeting will be of similar accord. I would like to point out that there was no "fighting" nor long drawn out debate but there was a lot of constructive input that ultimately lead to some really good amending to what was previously written in the proposed By-Laws, IMO. I would encourage anyone that would like to have input come to the next meeting with an open mind and a reasonable (but hopefully concise) argument for or against the articles you think need revision.

Clay

I think requiring a reasonable skill set should be required. Why ever have non-boaters be President? Without it, they can be and I think that would be folly. Class III seems reasonable and assures actual whitewater paddlers are running the ship. We are in fact a very active "whitewater" boating club and generally eschew flatwater. The top office should have a required skill set for whitewater. I guess I strongly disagree with Hanley on this one.

Cheers,  
Brent

I'll chime in on the change that states that all officer positions must have been members for two consecutive prior years. Someone asked 'why' and I've been around long enough that I think I can answer that one (despite not speaking to anyone who tinkered with the bylaws).

Lots of new folks join the BWA each year; new members do bring enthusiasm and diversity and keep the club chugging along. However, some folks get jazzed about a new sport, dive in, and then end up figuring out that whitewater isn't really their bag. Or that they don't have enough time for the SC meetings. I've seen loads of folks drop out in the middle of their terms over the years and this almost always happens with new boaters. It puts a tremendous amount of stress on the other officers.

Also, it's important for the club to get to know new folks before they join the SC--a functioning Steering Committee is invaluable and a dysfunctional SC can literally halt all operations. Two years is a vetting process in a way.

Lastly, there are so many ways in which to get involved with

the BWA that don't initially require an office. We need folks to help with the Beginners Clinic, to help with NPFF, to lead trips, work the roll sessions, etc. If you can't find the time to help with club functions for a couple of years to prove that you are dedicated to the BWA, an officer's position honestly probably isn't really for you.

love,  
bethany

I'll go along with what Bethany says. I've got no problem with a time requirement, I even think it's a pretty good idea. Two years isn't a very big hurdle anyway. If you can't wait two years to be president, then maybe you're running for the wrong reason.

Before this next part, let me just say that I did see Bob's post about the skill set requirement being dropped. I'm specifically addressing this to Brent, with whom I have disagreed over the years but whom I still respect, although sometimes grudgingly. This is, a purely philosophical discussion.

Who's going to set the standard and what kind of arguments are we going to have over whether someone meets those standards or not? Are we going to use a Hanley Loller class III or a Brent Austin class III as the definition and will the Brent Austin class III continue to get bigger as boaters do harder stuff? Did someone just survive a class III rapid once or do they regularly paddle class III rivers? How many times is enough? I am sure that Bob had the best of intentions when he wrote this up and I have to respect him for doing the hard drudgery that makes the club run, but I'm glad this requirement was removed as I think it would have caused much contention, hard feelings, accusations of cliqueishness and division within the club. We have enough squabbling as it is.

I will point out that in my memory, I can't think of a president for whom this would have been an issue, but it smacks of arguments we had years ago about who would and would not be fit to be in the club and how the "problem with the club (was) not enough hard partying badass boaters". You really can't say that without strongly insinuating that people within the club don't belong because they don't go big enough or party hard enough. Advocate for hard partying badass boaters joining the club all you want, but don't act like they are any more of an asset to the club than a hard volunteering, tee-totaling, twice a week Elkhorn paddler. We all contribute and we all paddle.

Now, if you think that badass boaters or hard partyers are being somehow excluded or discriminated against, then we have a different issue, one Brent and I would be united in. Even though I may not agree with everyone's lifestyle, I wouldn't want to exclude someone from the club or from running for office. I might not vote for someone because I felt that they were too focused on partying to effectively run the club, but I wouldn't want them excluded from running. The majority will speak and the club will move on, whether that majority agrees with me or not.

Hope you're having a good day Brent. Hope to see you on the water soon.

Hanley Loller

Hanley,

Glad to see I can still get you riled up. Now I didn't mention a party requirement, did I? Also, I am now the lame party guy and most of you know that I tend to go to bed early and get up early. Getting good rest to have a good fun day on a river is more important now that I am 58 years old. I admit that 20 years ago and more, I partied hard and boated Class 5 and 5+. That was then. Now, I prefer rest and Class Fun boating.

To your point, Class III does not require anything more than the usual AW definition. Your class III may or may not be different than mine, but that is something that can be hashed out in the election cycle if that became one of the issues. I am not sure we have ever had a Prez that was incompetent on Class III in 40 years. But, I have only been around the BWA since 1989, so can't speak to the before years. The Bylaws without a skill set requirement, would allow an incompetent paddler with good political skills to control the machinery and that is worrisome.

Class III is middle of the road skills. The President represents a broad spectrum in the BWA from novice to Class V+. We have all those ranges in the BWA currently. To lead a diverse group of paddlers, unless your goal is to alienate the class IV and V paddlers and only cater to novice and beginners, then the President should have the temerity to develop middle of the road skills. In other words, they should at least be able to take newer boaters down the Pigeon which has 3 classic Class III rapids. Without that, there is a respect issue related to basic skills, perhaps not found with dreamy eyed newbies. I have seen many many clubs lose their representation of Class IV-V boaters who simply drop out because the club has become lame and focused on Class II. Hanley you have probably seen it too with clubs you are aware of. Most of the bad ass class V boaters in Knoxville for example do not belong to Choata. They are unaffiliated and make fun of club boaters and there is a video out from a few years ago that does just that. It is called Club Boater and has a little jingle that many of you have heard.

I know that the BWA is one of the most active and perhaps coolest club in the country. And that is because in addition to working with beginners, we also cater to our bad asses (which I am not one of by any stretch).

We have one chance to do these Bylaws right and I believe setting a reasonable skill set for the person that is to lead all these range of kayaker skills in the club, is the right thing to do and will assure a continuation of the range and quality of paddlers we represent. Club boaters already have a bad rap as being lame in the at large boating community. We, the BWA, are the exception. In fact, Leland Davis (author) told me that the BWA is one of only two clubs in the country he would consider belonging to because of our cool factor.

That does not mean just because we party. We have always had solid boaters out representing in the highest levels of this sport (like the Green and Russell Fork races). And that is because we are who we are and keep our eye on the ball and on keeping skill sets sharp with our members.

Anyway, you have your role, and I have mine. Because of that difference in approach and perspective, we have almost always disagreed on a number of topics and this issue goes to the core of our philosophical difference. I recognize the things you do for new boaters and appreciate it as I tend to focus on the up and coming committed boaters and tend to get to know them when they are stepping up. But, we both care deeply for the BWA, just with completely different focus. That is a good thing. You and I inspire others in very different ways and often with very different goals.

I would urge Bob and the club to add back a skill set for the President. We don't want a class I-II or a non-boater president in my opinion and it would not be good for the BWA. In fact, it would be bad for the BWA. I know the club will do what it will do, but truly this is very important in my view and if it does not go down, some day someone can look back at this post and see that I told you so. Time will tell. I guess my support for this is now wavering and I wonder if just sticking to traditions rather than bylaws might be better. We ain't broke, in fact we are more vibrant than ever, and we don't have working Bylaws. Just saying...

Cheers, and let's go boating sometime Hanley. (I never get to boat with you it seems and not sure we have boated together in the past 15 years, have we?). I boat all the time. Going to the Cheoah or something natural flow today. Probably do something tomorrow.  
Brent

I think the club has had an unofficial policy of at least an intermediate skill level of its president for as long as I can remember (1980). Making it official or not doesn't bother me, but departing from the tradition does. Our president should be able to relate to beginners and advanced boaters and have familiarity with the rivers and creeks most people in our club paddle. Unfortunately a beginner cannot do that until they expand their experience and skill set. These avid beginners should seek mentors to improve their skill level if they want to become a president of BWA. Seek me out personally if you want to improve to say paddling the Ocoee, I go many weekends throughout the summer. Attend roll sessions. You have to pay your dues on the water (Not just the membership ones) if you want to advance as a boater. I say continue this tradition of solid and dedicated boaters as a club president.

Bethany states all the ways beginners can contribute, and over the years they have vastly contributed to the success of every club event that I have been part of. There are countless people in BWA that I do not paddle with much because I do not live in Central Kentucky that can always be counted on to help. No need to mention names, I think you know who you are (I do). The two years, except for members at

large seems like a reasonable vetting period for club office. I wholeheartedly agree with those points.

I have also felt that any organization should always work to develop new and young leaders, mainly to stir things up a little with new perspectives and ideas. I wish the club and entire boating community would make a better effort to somehow encourage and support more women boaters and their development. I thought the speakers at NPFF were a refreshing change toward that goal.

Glad to see and hear people expressing their opinions all have some merit.  
Chief

Wow, great debate here on this issue. If you are still on the fence on this, please go back and read the last 2 posts from Brent and Chief. I will tell you this, being President of this club should not be an easy job and I truly believe to do it right you should have both a passion for the club and a passion for the sport.

As many of you know, this was not a sport that came easy to me. I worked hard at it because I love it. I've swam damn near every river we paddle, I've busted boats, paddles, cut myself to the bone and for the past year, hell, for over a year I've been trying to recover from a back injury I got while paddling, but in my heart I truly believe that in order to head this club, you should have more than a desire to lead. This is not a social club, this is not a hiking club, this is not a church group, a dating club or even a gaggle of bird watchers, this is one of the best whitewater clubs in the sport and if you haven't taken the time to at least become a competent paddler, I really don't see how you could consider yourself qualified to lead a club as important to the sport of whitewater paddling as the BWA has been.

While reading through the posts on this issue I've seen a lot of stuff about the focus of the club. This issue isn't about "Bad ass boaters" running the club, simply put, it's about electing someone to head the club that represent "ALL" our members, and how you expect a solid class 2 boater to do that is beyond me. The President should understand the issues of new boaters as well as those that are more advanced. Think about it, rid your mind of the old debate about class 5 boaters verses new boaters, and think about the issue at hand.  
Bob

April 24, 2017

Observations from a Beginner:

Although I have my 2nd parking pass to park at the Elkhorn Campground and theoretically eligible for president, I would not consider it at this point. There is much that goes on in the club that I don't have a grasp on, and don't think anyone could have a firm grasp on all the club does in just two years of membership. I have been running some class 3 stuff as of late but still consider myself a class 2 paddler. But, I am an open boater and the learning curve is a little longer, or at

least I would like to think so. My view on the subject is this:

1. Lengthen the membership requirement to at least three years or better yet, more. This gives members time to get to know their potential president; their passion for paddling, and their dedication to the club. Three years or more gives the potential president time to absorb all that goes in to leading the club; past contributions from the paddlers we beginners have all heard so much about, present activities the club is pursuing, and the future direction of the club.
2. Drop the mandatory class 3 requirement. In three years or more of membership, if the potential president is passionate about improving his/her skills, he/she will already be a solid class three paddler. If not, the club members at large will at least have had time to get to know the candidate and be able to make a judgement as to whether the candidate will represent the interests of the club and lead the club in a positive direction regardless of the level of river the he/she chooses to paddle. Yes, this is a white water club. There is no class zero in white water. Therefore, if person predominantly paddles class 1/2, he/she is by definition a white water paddler and should be welcomed in the club and even in the role of president. In the same breath as a class 5 boater can have the best interests of the beginners and seasoned boaters, this person could have the best interest of the seasoned class 5 boaters as well as the rank beginners. Just give us the time to get to know them and make that determination ourselves.

edit: I mis-spoke when saying I'd be eligible for president with two years of membership. I realize a person would be eligible for general offices, but president would be at least three years. I still believe that it would take longer than even three years, and stand by my statement that time and activity in the club is more important than type of rivers a person likes to paddle to be an effective leader that can represent the club as a whole.

Ed Singleton

Just because a person has good intentions doesn't mean they have the experience necessary for effective leadership. Experience gives one a wider perspective.

We obviously have a problem organizing swiftwater rescue so I'm going to use that as an example. When I started out paddling the Elkhorn I wasn't worried about safety. Since I have now progressed to paddling Class 4 water and have had certain experiences on those rivers, I have become much more concerned about safety. A class 2 paddler may be more concerned about river cleanup or throwing a good party. I am more concerned about safety. The experience can change your priorities. All the issues are important, but how do you prioritize your time and energy when leading the club? I will throw in with Brent and Chief and vote to keep the minimum experience level.

Ben Murphy

Good discussion.

I'm still opposed to the SOLID CLASS III Pre-Req being added back since it has been removed from the original write up.

I agree with Ed, set a membership length requirement and then let the members of the club vote in the person they see best fit for the job.

After 3 years, a persons commitment to paddling and to the club is pretty much on point. Who cares what level ww they boat. I know a lot of Non-Boaters who do nothing but run shuttle and sit by the river who could tell you just as much about Class IV+ water as the guys and gals out there running it because they are around those people and hear all about it all the time. I think a person can be knowledgeable and show a true passion for Whitewater and for the BWA without being a Solid Class III - Skill truly has nothing to do with someone's ability to take into consideration the needs of the whole and set in motion plans that will benefit the majority. I am one of those people. Again, I am not a SOLID CLASS III boater but think I have devoted time, heart, and passion to this club for upwards of 7 years now. I don't push myself to boat harder stuff because I have found a Niche leading beginner trips, of which, I always include a more advanced option for the Class III and above boaters to get their jollies in before helping out the Newbs, and because For Safety Reasons, I don't want to take the Risk repeatedly and regularly that Class III's give - My Son Needs his mother. So, because I am comfortable where I am, I'm not capable of being the Club's President.

I understand the logic behind why one would want a certain Skill Level to Lead, but feel that it's not necessary for Good Leadership nor does it determine PASSION for the club. I see a lot of Class III and above who would much rather go boat than Lead the club and whom only show up when the party if in full effect.

As for Bens' comment on partying and safety - As someone who has spent my entire paddling career working with beginner's I can say without a doubt in my mind that the Beginner's have more focus on Learning Safety and Skill and not just coming to party than the Old Timer's do. To the Old Timer's it's about the Party - safety 3rd. There is never an issue arranging SWR classes, it's getting people to take them. The last class cant' be used as a Go-by because of the holiday it fell on being a key factor for keeping the response low.

When instructors at the Clinic's are up all night drinking and are heading to the river with beers in their hands, trying to say that the Class II boaters are less focused on Safety and more focused on the party than the more experienced boaters is just plain Ludicrous.

Anyway, what's gonna happen will happen despite my not being allowed to run for President, ever, if this gets added back.

Seriously, running a club should be based on PASSION AND DESIRE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE ENTIRE CLUB and not based on HOW GOOD YOU CAN BOAT ~ Everyone has reasons behind why they 'Skill Out' where they do and those reasons shouldn't keep someone with the Heart or Drive or Desire to Lead this Club from stepping up and doing so with the Members Voted Support.

Adelessa -

Told once I couldn't be President but could be Secretary.... Now being told I'm not a skilled enough boater to be Club

President.....

and yes, I am taking this personally - given the blood, sweat and tears I've given to this club for years, my name tarnished at campgrounds because it's now associated with loud parties that have to be repeatedly told to be quiet, even planning food and the likes for events I couldn't even attend, I take this as an out right slap in the face.

Ben, I agree completely that "Experience gives one a wider perspective", but it's not a "minimum experience level" that is required, its a minimum level of river difficulty. My family and I went outside the club last year for a basic swift water rescue course. It was eye-opening and we are just class 2 paddlers. I'm sure there are lots of people in the club boating class 3 and above that don't have that experience. Which is my point. Lengthen the time required or place other "experience" qualifications on the office rather than just being a class 3 boater. I'm not dis-agreeing with you on the experience level, just placing true paddling experience over that of the level of river difficulty, which is two separate things in my head.

Ed Singleton

## Eddy Lines of Interest

BWA Steering Club Meeting

Ethereal Brewery

May 2, 2017, 7:30pm

Steering Committee Attendees: Mike D, Megan, Bob, Walt H, John M, Brandi, Don

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:32:37pm

Officer Reports

Don, Newsletter--

Megan, Conservation Officer – Red cleanup needs help, we need members to step up! Everyone should do it at least once! It's more fun than you think.

Michael D, Secretary –

Bob, President – For the first time in 40 years, we are looking at a new set of bylaws. There is a question for the procedure for voting but the majority of the club HAS to vote. Voting is confidential and will be kept for 30 days for any recounts. We need to have majority vote, approx. 140 ppl. Bylaws go towards the full club next week. Spring Clinic is on the first weekend of June, we need to help as much as we can. Start promoting the clinic!!! The BWA is short on funds and we need this as a fundraiser. This is a self supporting club and we rely on our members to keep the ball rolling. The end of June is the elections, all positions are OPEN. We need to start thinking about who should be nominated. The beginning of June, we will have our nominees by the Steering Committee meeting next month. We will start the nomination process at the NEXT MEETING!!! Election day is at the next June general club meeting. June 10th and 11th at Mike Laramores place. Address will be posted. BWA

BAND to be expected. Food. Rendezvous will be at Carson Island and is about to be given to a new office. We are going to need help from current members trying to get this ball rolling. Dues are due on July 1st.

Walt-- Pool sessions are about wrapped up for the season, 2 weeks left. We are looking at June 1st for the first summer pool session. Trying to get a big group of lessons. \$900 for Summer pool sessions.

Jim- Mello's need some volunteers.  
Koebes-- Trailer for clinic will be done in time.  
Motion to adjourn at 8:10:40pm

### **May BWA General Club Meeting Rockhouse Brewery May 9, 2017, 7:30pm**

Steering Committee Attendees: Mike D, Megan L, Bob L, Walt H, John M, Brandi M, Don P, Don S, Jimmy W, Mike W, Joe W, Clay, Dot E, Kyle K.

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

#### **Officer Reports**

Megan, Conservation Officer – Red River Cleanup still on for May 13th

Michael D, Secretary – Setting up an e-mail voting system in order to pass the changes in the bylaws.

Bob, President –BWateeshirts.com is a fundraiser for the 40th anniversary party. There are two logos offered and the shirts are \$20.

Walt-- Pool sessions are about wrapped up for the season, 2 weeks left. We are looking at June 1st for the first summer pool session. Trying to get a big group of lessons. \$900 for Summer pool sessions.

Jim- Mello's need some volunteers for the Beginners Clinic.  
Koebes-- Trailer for clinic will be done.

#### **Nominations:**

John Mello nominated Jimmy Welch as NPFF coordinator. Seconded. Accepted.

Bob made a nomination for Michael Wilson for president. Accepted.

Megan made a nomination for Michael Daughtery for vice president. Seconded. Accepted.

Robert Watts Nominated for Safety Coordinator. Accepted.

Bob nominated Ben Murghey for secretary. Accepted

Clay Warren nominated for program director. Accepted.

Joe Wheatley will stay a Web Meister.

Don will stay as Newsletter Editor.

Kyle Koeberlein will stay the gear meister (sherpa).

Jansen Cunningham nominated for conservation officer. Accepted.

Cody Dunn nominated for members at large. Accepted.

Bob Larkin nominated for RFR director. Accepted.

Ben Mudd nominated for treasurer. Accepted.

D\*t Edwards nominated as membership coordinator. Accepted.

#### **Bylaw amendments:**

131 "yay" votes will be required to pass the new bylaws.

Article 1 passed

Article 2 passed

Article 3 passed

Motion made to about amend article 4 section 1, "striking competent swimmer", passed. Article 4 passed.

Article 4 Section I now reads:

Section I: Any person 18 years or older, interested in paddling whitewater and in the objectives of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, who is willing to uphold its policies and subscribe to these bylaws, may become a member upon payment of dues.

article 5 (all) passed.

article 6, motion passed

article 7 section 1 argument against the russell fork rendezvous coordinator being a steering committee member:

(change to make the president makes sure the Rendezvous happens, appointing someone in charge.) accepted as a new responsibilities

Noteworthy comment: "if Gerry Garcia was running for president, I would vote his ass off!"

Motion that we strike the 2nd sentence in section 5 and replace it with one year in the organization instead of two consecutive years for any position. (motion passed)

Article 7 Section V now reads:

Section V: Officers shall be current whitewater paddlers and these Bylaws acknowledge the importance of active paddlers being officers in this Organization. Officers shall also be members of the Organization for one year prior to election as an Officer. The President and Vice President, in particular, shall be a consistent paddler with experience on whitewater rivers and shall have held at least one other office prior to the term as President.

Article 7, passed

Article 8 section 1 added finding a person for the RFRR coordinator.

all of article 8 except for removing section X and addition to 1. Passed

Article 8 Section I now reads:

Section I: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, shall be chairperson of the steering committee, appoint Russell Fork Rendezvous coordinator and shall perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office. No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms in this office.

Article 9 passed





## BWA 40th Anniversary Gathering

See old friends & make new ones!

Rain or shine, it's the BWA 40th Anniversary Party  
and you're invited if ever a BWA member

Coming this June 10, Saturday  
(Camping Friday-Saturday night)

# BWA 40th Anniversary party

Free for all current & former BWA members  
Bring your Musical Instrument if you play one  
Bring a folding chair

**WHY:** The BWA always likes to have a celebration!

**WHERE:** Mike Larimore's on the Elkhorn River at 2385 Sullivan Ln. Frankfort, Ky. 40601

**WHAT:** Bonfires, music, drum circles, games, contests. (Other activities is being worked out)

**FOOD:** Club provides Main Dish (meat), members bring side dish to share. (BYOB)

**CAMPING:** Will be possible Friday /Saturday Night (space available).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** to help, Contact Bob Larkin: [bwapresident@gmail.com](mailto:bwapresident@gmail.com)

Please RSVP to help us plan & buy food

[BWApresident@gmail.com](mailto:BWApresident@gmail.com)

On E-mail or forum USE SUBJECT HEADING: BWA Anniversary Party

Other info will be updated as needed at  
<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org>



**Special Tee shirts can be ordered:** <http://www.bwateeshirts.com> Limited selection at event