

BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Nov/Dec 2017

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**Special
 Russell Fork
 Issue**

In our Own Words.....

REFLECTING BACK: THE HUMBLE ORIGINS OF THE RUSSELL FORK RIVER RENDEZVOUS & THE LORD OF THE FORK RACE



Brent Austin and friends warming up at race finish line at Climax - 2017 Photo courtesy of Eric Ashaff ¹

I have to admit to having this sense of inner peace when I am hanging out at Climax (in the sun ideally), after yet another amazingly beautiful autumn day in the Russell Fork river gorge. And so it was this year, 2017, as I sat by an unlikely but welcome fire, on a cool rainy day, waiting for the first racers in the 23rd Lord of the Fork race to make their way down to the finish line. My old friend, Eric Hendrickson, the race organizer, came down first so he could be time keeper and set up shop on the rock which is the finish line. It was chilly, the race was huge, again, over 100, and we watched the top women make their way first, followed by the boys. The top pros compete in this classic down river race through the gorge these days, followed by lots of friends doing their best fast run. It is a great course. It is fun. It has always been fun.

¹ Generally, we hang out on a large boulder on river right looking upstream of Foreplay and the other paddlers coming down this impressive section of whitewater



Transitions: The age old question

B. J. Phillips

Little did I know, or even begin to think about, that age would eventually create transitions in the evolution and path of being a boater!

I mean I should have known, because over the years I have witnessed several boaters just simply curtail their boating because father time just started to put brakes on their activity on the rivers that they love so much. However, with that said, I have also witnessed others that seem to even progress even though age attempts to try to slow them down.

Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bownlines...

- BWA Fall Party Rendezvous '94 Invite
- The Russell Fork:
 - The Upper Stretch
 - The Gorge
- Wrap-Up of Russell Fork Gathering
- President Devries 1992-4
- Russell Fork Fun

To the best of my memory, Stan Slater and I may have been the first of the BWA to paddle the Russell Fork sometime around 1978. Most of our BWA trips in those years tended to be to Tennessee or West Virginia if not the Elkhorn. But Stan was always looking for new places to paddle so he and I went paddling almost every weekend, often to run a different stream.

On our first trip to the Russell Fork we went to the Breaks to camp. I remember finding out the list of rules was important very quickly when we pulled into the campsite and Stan and I sat down and he pulled a cold beer out (it was summer if that makes a difference) and within minutes we almost got thrown out. We checked out the rest of the rules right away. We only paddled down to Garden hole as we had no illusions that we could handle the Gorge. While BWA paddlers will run the Russell Fork occasionally in coming years, mostly we still paddled to the south of Lexington... as there were a lot more choices including the dam releases on some streams and better locations for Clinics and the like.

In the mid nineties there was talk about having our annual gathering for present and past BWA members (hence why we had started calling it the "rendezvous") in Kentucky. Sam Moore runs during the CO Engineer's decision for Fall releases drew attention to the Russell Fork. Others in the Club, like Brent Austin & Mike Clark had become enthusiastic about paddling the Russell Fork. As president, Brigid Devries played an important roll in the successful relocation of now tradition fall event. Brent secured the Haysi Kiwanis Fairgrounds and Mike Weeks got a Bluegrass band for Saturday. After that year Brent Austin turned it into a true River Festival that became famous in the paddling world and the rest is some amazing history.



BWA Russell Fork Fall Party/Rendezvous Invite

The BWA fall party is set for Saturday, October 15, 1994 at the Russell Fork River outside of Haysi, in Western Virginia. The location for camping as well as the club party is Kiwanis Park. The theme for this year's party is Oktoberfest. Once again there will be a food contest so get out your recipes for German Food and get in the action. Any German dish will do, dessert counts also!

Those participating in the food contest need to have their dish up to the food pavilion for judging by 6:45pm. Dinner will follow at around 7:00pm. Don Spangler and I will be cooking bratwurst for BWA members so everyone needs to bring a dish to go with the brats, even though you may not want to enter the food contest. There will be some contests for the best German costumes, a Polka contest and other games we can dream up. Bring your own beverages!

Brigid DeVries Bownlines Oct1994

See ya there!

2018 Russell Fork Rendezvous

It's official folks!

The 2018 Russell Fork Rendezvous will be moving back to where it all started,
 Kiwanis Park in boater friendly Haysi, Virginia.



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

BWA Christmas Party & General Club Meeting @ Rock House Brewing



12 Dec

2017

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location

Rockhouse Brewing 119 Luigart Ct,
Lexington, KY 40508



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

Club Officers 2017-2018

President	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289
Vice-President	Mike Daugherty	859-554-8489
Treasurer	Ben Mudd	859-576-9834
Secretary	Jansen Cunningham	270-703-0352
Safety	Robert Watts	859-33-3341
Program	Clay Warren	859-326-0602
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Joe Wheatly	859-361-0892
Conservation	Brian Storz	859-324-2875
Film Festival Coordinator	James Welch	859-954-2025
Equipment Coordinator	Brandy Mellow	859-312-8640
At-Large Member	Codie Dunn	859-473-4232
Membership Coordinator	Dot Edwards	859-351-0132
Past President	Bob Larkin	502-550-4225

Join in on the Fun!

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

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

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

Files can be e-mailed to the Editor: DonSpang@aol.com



Enjoy this issue of Bowlines?

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

Issue Archive:

http://www.surfky-bwa.org/html/bowlines_arcN.html

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

http://www.surfky-bwa.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf



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

2018 Russell Fork Rendezvous to be held in Haysi, Virginia.

It's official folks!

The 2018 Russell Fork Rendezvous will be moving back to where it all started,
Kiwanis Park in boater friendly Haysi, Virginia.



Located just inside the Virginia border, Haysi is an ideal location for the festival. With 2 stages, restroom facilities, concession stands and amazing mountain top views, Kiwanis Park offers a variety of camping options with both primitive and powered hook-ups, which are just a few of the benefits that the new location has to offer.

New for the upcoming festival, those in attendance will be able to take advantage of the free hourly shuttle service to the upper, middle and lower sections of the Russell Fork River. You'll be able to check out booths by local craftsman and artists, eat at your choice of festival vendors or at any of the local restaurants located just down the hill in Haysi.

As has always been a Rendezvous tradition, everyone's invited, and we want everyone to feel welcome. For those that want to stay up and howl at the moon as well as those that want to get away from the party, the festival offers both "Party Friendly" and "Family Friendly" camping areas and all nestled in a community that knows how to welcome its guests

Stay tuned, we'll put out more information as we get closer.

REFLECTING BACK: THE HUMBLE ORIGINS OF
**THE RUSSELL FORK RIVER RENDEZVOUS &
THE LORD OF THE FORK RACE**

Brent Austin



Brent Austin and friends warming up at race finish line at Climax - 2017 Photo courtesy of Eric Acheff *1

I have to admit to having this sense of inner peace when I am hanging out at Climax (in the sun ideally), after yet another amazingly beautiful autumn day in the Russell Fork river gorge.¹ And so it was this year, 2017, as I sat by an unlikely but welcome fire, on a cool rainy day, waiting for the first racers in the 23rd Lord of the Fork race to make their way down to the finish line. My old friend, Eric Hendrickson, the race organizer, came down first so he could be time keeper and set up shop on the rock which is the finish line. It was chilly, the race was huge, again, over 100, and we watched the top women make their way first, followed by the boys. The top pros compete in this classic down river race through the gorge these days, followed by lots of friends doing their best fast run. It is a great course. It is fun. It has always been fun.

*1 Generally, we hang out on a large boulder on river right looking upstream at Foreplay and the other paddlers coming down this impressive section of whitewater

And sitting there below Climax again this year, I reflected how, some 22 years before, on an October day in 1995, I sat up on that very finish line rock that Eric was on now, for the first race ever, having just synchronized watches, and come racing down the gorge myself ahead of the pack to get up on that rock and note times of everyone else. I was 36 years old in 1995 and on the top of my game, but the race was not about me winning anything, primarily because I was not going to beat anyone anyway, and I had come to love the non-competitive aspect of paddling as opposed to all the other previous sports in my life.

Because I loved to “cruise” the Russell Fork Gorge with my friends for laps or a quick “bang and home” trip, organizing the race for my more competitive friends represented a sort of culmination for me in my paddling career at the time. And, the timing was right for a race in the mid ‘90s on the Russell Fork. Gore race was already happening in Colorado and the Green Narrows race (thanks to Leland Davis et al) was about to begin the same year as the Russell Fork River Rendezvous (RFRR) race. It became the Lord of the Fork Race in the fall of 2004 in honor of Jon Lord who died in Tower Falls earlier that year.*2

We were often asked by locals in Elkhorn City, Kentucky *3 back in those days if we had been out “riding the river”. “Yeah, we had been”, we always answered. Smiling and shrugging and saying thanks for the hospitality when they complimented us “rafters” for our bravery in “riding the river”, we built up a community of paddlers that transformed the lives of most of us that were part of that experience. Blink, and now it is 2017. And, what a “ride” it has been since those early days. In fact, we all learned that “Sometimes the lights all shining on me and other times I can barely see... lately it’s occurred to me...what a long, strange, trip it’s been...” So, with that in mind, I thought I would take you all down memory lane to take a look at the RFRR during those early colorful years in the nineties, one by one...

1994 A BWA FALL PARTY

FALL PARTY information

The BWA fall party is set for Saturday, October 15, 1994 at the Russell Fork River outside of Haysi, in Western Virginia. The location for camping as well as the club party is Kiwanis Park. The theme for this year’s party is Oktoberfest. Once again there will be a food contest so get out

your recipes for German Food and get in the action. Any German dish will do, dessert counts also! Those participating in the food contest need to have their dish up to the food pavilion for judging by 6:45pm. Dinner will follow at around 7:00pm. Don Spangler and I will be cooking bratwurst for BWA

members so everyone needs to bring a dish to go with the brats, even though you may not want to enter the food contest. There will be some contests for the best German costumes, a Polka contest and any other game we can dream up. Bring your own beverages! See ya there...
Brigid De Vries

The whole thing started with the move of the Annual BWA Fall Party from Hanging Dog down by the Ocoee river to the Haysi Fairgrounds in Virginia next to the Russell Fork river. It was not without controversy and a BWA political battle of strong wills ensued. One of my earliest political contest alignments ever in the BWA included Don Spangler, who was always going to the Russell Fork every year and, particularly was an ardent champion of the idea of doing the BWA fall party there. I would like to think that reason prevailed in the end, because we democratically voted to move the Fall Party to the Russell Fork. After all, it was the “Crown Jewel” in our Kentucky river belt. Back in these days, Carson Island was not yet a viable option, so we looked around and asked around, and Haysi’s fairgrounds were offered to us by the town of Haysi, Virginia. In fact, they bent over backwards to get us to come, and after a visit to the place by Barry Grimes and myself, which I videotaped on my SlimCam, (where ever that tape may be now), we decided to host it there. It was a great decision.

*2 It was a tragic year in 2004. In addition to Jon Lord, John Heffernan died after a brutal swim in Triple Drop.

*3 Elkhorn City, Kentucky has been a traditional BWA “home away from home” for Russell Fork lovers. I hope things settle down there and a better reception for paddlers happens in the future than what was experienced this year’s RFRR at Carson Island!

Now, on this first occasion, there was no race, just a bunch of friends making quick boogie action on the upper, the gorge and the lower so we could either do a few laps or get on back to the food and the party up on the hill in Haysi.

1995

THE FIRST RENDEZVOUS AND RACE

After a successful fall party in 1994, and loving the potential for the location in Haysi, we started talking about doing it again, but this time we invited the Carolina Canoe Club, the Vikings and others and also hosted the first down river race in the Russell Fork Gorge.*⁴ Since we were coming back together at the Russell Fork, and inviting others, we named it the Russell Fork River Rendezvous (RFRR) and the race was simply part of the event. There was no charge for the event and this was yet to become a fund raiser.*⁵

Several of us, Mike Clark, Joe Greiner, Chris Hipgrave and myself, had been discussing the race for the better part of the year. Of course, the idea started when Mike and I did a 39 minute lap down from Garden Hole to Ratliff and told Chris about it, who, 15 years younger than us and seriously training all the time to the point of Olympian compulsion, in turn did it in “32 minutes” (with a thick British accent). I would like to say it was Clark’s idea, but regardless, we decided “age and treachery” could overcome “youth and ability”, so we made up a time of 29 minutes. Hipgrave’s exact words are still seared into my brain: “I don’t believe you.” The race idea was born! For a link to the race’s history from start to almost present go to Steve Ruth’s website at: <http://www.russellfork.info/race.htm> .

We got Joe Greiner (from CCC and AW) involved who obtained race bibs from AW. Yep, we had bibs back then. We scoped out the race course and decided on the river right beach above “Slot” *⁶ as the starting line, all the way down to “Climax”, with the finish line being the same rock used to this day. I remember vividly the day we decided on all those locations.*⁷

And, to this day, I remember that first race at the start. I remembering paddling up to the beach with everyone up above Slot on river right. And we were all sitting there on that rock sloping beach and I can visualize all the racers together there on river right, quiet, focused and solemn. I think I cracked some joke or comment and barely got a nervous giggle out of Mike Clark, who could usually muster some kind of laugh your ass off comment in response. Not today. Chris Hipgrave may have growled at me. He was not in the mood for fun and games as to him, a true contender for the title, this was serious shit.

We had a stellar crew that day sitting out there waiting to go. Jeff Snyder, already a well-deserved legend at that time, showed up in a Wavehopper, which he won the race in. He was always giggling and talking in surfer/kayaker slang about whatever. Love that kid to this day. But, generally the mood was somber. I recall Snyder surprising many when he showed up to race in that Wavehopper boat. They are fast but kind of difficult to maneuver without getting spun around, at a minimum, in the gorge. Nonetheless, Chris Hipgrave made an impressive stab at the title in a long kayak. Eventually, Chris would succumb to the Wavehopper choice of racing craft to take the title, but that was to be a few years down the road. Snyder was the first champion!

*⁴ The BWA has always loved a good race. If it is H2O and moves and we paddle it often, the BWA will end up doing a race on it.

*⁵ In the future when we did charge at the gate, to encourage folks to get out and race, if you raced, you got in the festival for free. (It was to be that way for several more decades.

*⁶ Today it is called “Let’s Make a Deal” – it is the rapid immediately above “Tower” and after “Eye of the Needle”.

*⁷ Today, the start line is at “Skunk Beach”, which is where we would take many a safety break back in the day because it was below Fist, which was always scary, and folks wanted to get down below it before they got real safe, and hence the name – ten years later it might have been called “Dank Beach”.

I ran down first with a synchronized watch to the very rock used for the finish line today, giving myself a four minutes head start. It was barely enough time. Shortly thereafter, here came Jeff soon followed by Chris and then the others. I was glowing with pride that we had, by golly, an official race going on in the Russell Fork Gorge! The only mistake I made was that I was a time keeper and did not have a time for myself. I may have told Clark I still beat his time. It would make sense. He could not prove that I didn't and that is consistent with how he and I rolled with each other – saying stuff like that. Next year I would race. Regardless, for 1995, check out the roster of 15 racers that year:

1995 Race Roster

1. Jeff Snyder	10:52 WH	9. Joe Greiner	12:47
2. Chris Hipgrave	11:11	10. Eric Strittermater	12:49
3. Boone Brothers	11:30	11. Danny Inman	13:36
4. Rick Gusic	11:58	12. Chris Bell	13:43
5. Andy Bridge	12:06 C-1	13. Mike Clark	13:53
6. John Horrell	12:26	14. Blake Brame	14:07
7. John Stockdill	12:33	15. Marc Harman	25:54
8. Greg Hoskins	12:35		

The BWA members in the race at the time were Greg Hoskins, Mike Clark and Blake Brame. There are some other very notable racers in this list. I was attending an AW board meeting in California in November, 2017^{*8} and was discussing that first race with Chris Bell, who is retiring from the AW board and making his last meeting. I normally think of Chris as a Canoeist, but he kayaked the first race, beating Mike Clark, by 10 seconds. Mike was a former BWA president and at the time was my usual and customary paddling partner. Greg Hoskins and I had been paddling quite a bit up to this point in time too. He would go on to be the Race Organizer, after me, and would then pass the job to BWAer, Jay Ditty, years later.^{*9} Boone Brothers and Andy Bridge would continue to be highly competitive in the years to come. Joe Greiner was probably about the age I am now, back then. I am 58 now. I can now really appreciate what an awesome paddler he was in his heyday. He stayed a very skillful and competent paddler way into his elder years which I found, and still find, inspiring.

1996

THE RACE GROWS AND GIRLS ARE DOING IT TOO!

For years, heck decades, I thought the race results of the 1996 Rendezvous were lost. I was looking for a hard copy written in ink or pencil that must be in some box in some storage spot somewhere. It was frustrating, because I made numerous thorough searches starting around 2005 when I first learned to do anything on a computer and wanted to compile a list. I didn't think about having maybe published them in the Bowlines as I began to search boxes. I just thought with horror that perhaps I left for Ecuador for several months after the 1996 Rendezvous and never got around to doing something with the times and they were in raw form, in some box, hopefully to be found somewhere in the not too distant future. But, no, they were compulsively published in a 1997 Bowlines article I had written which predated our digital archiving in the BWA. Spangler found them last year and the race results are now published and available.^{*10} Yee ha! And, 1996 was a great year for the race and the festival. First, I got some more of my local boys in the mix racing that year.

^{*8} Please take time to join AW now! Go to the AW web page – it is easy. Do it!

^{*9} Jay Ditty was the last BWA member that was the race organizer and he did it longer than anyone else and passed the torch to Erik Hendrickson who has completed two years now and is a great fit for the race.

The year before Greg Hoskins, Blake Brame and Mike Clark were my local homies getting down. Now, in 1996 we had Chris Cash ^{*11}, Hugo Araneda and Dustin Cornelieson join us. I was most proud of the significant number of women racers that year.



Left to right: Greg Hoskins sitting, Jon Lord (with hat on) behind Hoskins, Brian Jennings sitting in the center (KY), behind him is Jamie Parrish, and to the right is Chris Cash and Hugo Araneda sitting – Climax 1996)

I specifically recall that Jamie Simon and Katie Niehkert had not paddled the gorge before, but were such bad asses that they raced down with me and Cash who knew the race lines pretty well after we all did one early practice lap. Chris got passed in the end by the girls. Tee hee. Buffy Bailey and I were paddling partners back then as well and she won the women's division, blew my doors off and many of the guys. Note also that Colleen Laffey, to this day a good friend of many BWAers, beat me too. (As did Chris Hull, from Washington D.C. whose son, Isaac, is now racing the Lord of the Fork Race and doing well.) It was again the Jeff and Chris show with Snyder once more dominating the race in a Wavehopper.

We had a whole slew of new racers this year too, including Howard Tidswell, Clay Wright, BJ Johnson, Jason Hale and Woody Calloway, among others. All these racers are well known paddlers in our community. Brian Jennings tied Woody in that race.^{*12} Andy Bridge came in and blew away many kayakers, paddling C1. Andy would dominate C1 throughout the early years of the race. Danny Inman did well this year too, a big jump up the ladder from the year before. Another first that year: Paul Fantetti raced OC1.

The total number of racers nearly doubled over the prior year in 1995 to 29 racers. It was so much fun. Here are the racers and times for that year:

^{*10} For more about the year 1996 RFRR, see the article in the *Bowlines* Jan/Feb 1997, page 8.

^{*11} Chris Cash passed away in March 2010, just a few months after I had enjoyed a great season with him in the fall of 2009 on the Upper Gauley and Russell Fork Gorge.

^{*12} There were two Brian Jennings that have raced the Russell Fork, but in these early years it was a buddy of mine from the NOC who had family connections in Kentucky. The other Brian Jennings, passed away a few years ago in 2014 after a tragic illness and raced in the mid - 2000s for a number of years. Both great guys.

1996 Race Roster

1. Jeff Snyder	9:53 WH *course record	15. Woody Calloway	12:04
2. Chris Hipgrave	10:24	16. Tony Windham	12:05
3. Howard Tidwell	10:42	17. Colleen Laffey	12:16
4. Clay Wright	10:42	18. Chris Hull	12:25
5. Andy Bridge	10:50 C1	19. Brent Austin	12:49
6. Andy Stockdill	11:04	20. Jamie Simon	12:54
7. B.J. Johnson	11:05	21. Katie Niehkert	13:01
8. Greg Hoskins	11:13	22. Chris Cash	13:04
9. Jason Hale	11:14	23. Craig Cardella	13:08
10. Eric Strittermatter	11:29	24. Dustin Cornelieson	13:15
11. Gerard Lechowick	11:29	25. Hugo Aranada	13:33
12. Robert Kelly	11:57	26. Mike Clark	13:50
13. Buffy Bailey	12:03 K1 W	27. Paul Fantetti	15:58
14. Brian Jennings	12:04	Blake Brame	DNF

Mike Clark made his second and last appearance in the race. He wrecked at Climax, and I watched him come through, shouting with glee and encouragement to my buddy: "Swim for it Mike, swim for it." He grimaced and did so and finished. On the other hand, Blake did not finish.^{*13} Blake and Greg were both med students at UK around this time and came in boating together in the BWA. Hugo Aranada, Chris Cash and Dustin Cornelieson not only raced, but along with Jeffro (Kress), they practically lived at the Russell Fork Gorge and were the heart and soul of the early music festival expansion of the Rendezvous. That day on the river, I also believe we had Hanley and some BWA folks, maybe B6, Spangler and others, shooting film, photos and/or video and running safety in various places along the course. Just a great day of racing with friends. I remember having so much fun on and off the river that year.

That Saturday night, we partied hard next to a raging bon fire thanks to our open boating buddy, Paul Fantetti. He was the original bonfire guru from Ratliff Hole in the early 90s and he brought his fire majick to the Rendezvous fire each year up the mountain to the Rendezvous in Haysi. That boy loved to build a fire, and not just any old fire. Big ones. His fires eventually evolved into some pretty impressive pyrotechnics. I sure do miss seeing him around rivers. He was always exuberant as hell whenever I saw him. Got some seriously funny stories about that kid.

Fantetti drifted away from the river scene the past half dozen years or more and he passed away this year. Ditty and I discussed Paul when he passed the word to me this year because we were both very fond of him. His ashes were put in the Blackwater River (his favorite) in West Virginia this past October, actually during the same weekend as the 2017 Rendezvous and LOF race. He was front and center at all the Rendezvous/Race events back in these early years.

I recently, while paddling the gorge this year, thought about Paul Fantetti, and a quite a few others that I am missing while out there on the river, a number of friends who have passed that I will mention in this article. Funny, how I can still see my old friends' paddle styles, coming down river, in my mind, even though are gone. There is kind of a cool comfort in that. Everyone has their unique paddling style you know, and if you are out there long enough, you totally see it in your friends.

^{*13} Somewhere, I saw video footage of Blake Brame's swim through Triple drop, or at least a portion of it that someone shot. B6 may recall. (If it is still viable in VHS and can be located.)

1997

THE RENDEZVOUS GATHERS STEAM AND RACERS FLOCK

By 1997, the festival and the race were growing. First, the Rendezvous was expanded to a multi-day music festival format with the festival site being available the entire week before to set up and camp. That year, we noticed an influx of many non-boaters that came to the event: musicians, vendors, artisans, hippies, drummers and dancers, climbers, hikers, environmentalists, Rainbow family and all sorts of outdoors lovers. And they added a lot of color and vibration to the event. There was music flowing like never before. This was actually a watershed year in some ways in my life with connections that started at the Rendezvous in 1997. That is the year I met Shjaway Deboer, a drummer, and drum maker that was very central in my life until he passed away prematurely in June 2007.*¹⁴



Brent Austin on stage 1997 by Spangler



Band photo 1997 RFRR courtesy of Don Spangler



Stage and pavilion at Haysi Fairground, RFRR 1997 photo by Spangler

These days, the BWA camp tarpology is often “par excellence” resulting from years of practice. Back in 1997, we were still honing our skills at infrastructure for temporary massive camping, so we did the best we could off of the stage and the shed where the food was being prepared by cute hippy chicks who were friends that were volunteering their services for the event which had turned into a fund raiser for AW and other river charities we could identify.

But, it was a blustery day in October 1997 as we set up the stage area with a large tarp to protect the huddled masses from the anticipated fall weather moving in as it will do during the last weekend of October. We ran tarps and lines from the top of the stage out over what we envisioned would be the dance floor. It kinda worked...

*¹⁴ 2007 was tough year for me: in addition to Shjaway’s passing, my soul mate, a White Labrador Retriever named, “Chama”, passed away in May 2007 and tragically, my river brother and dear dear friend, Griffin Sanders passed away in the weeks following the RFRR of 2007

But, weather conditions did not stop the feast and food that was prepared with care and by chefs who made very sure that it was all wholesome and nutritious. Hungry boaters and racers came out for the chow that was prepared community buffet style. This was a vibe unlike many other festivals and races already and even Joe Greiner commented to me that indeed something special was taking place here.

The music was jamming, the scene was super cool, but Friday night, there was anticipation and some semblance by the racers of trying to not party too hard the night before the race. The race was central to the festival. So, with a nights rest for the competitive and earnest ones, the next day the river sprang to life with paddlers and the racers did practice laps and got ready for another fine day of "precision boating"...



Matt Terry (ERI today) gets fed at the 1997 RFRR - photo by Spangler

The 1997 race, again, featured a heated competition between Chris Hipgrave and Jeff Snyder, except that Chris also paddled a Wavehopper this time, and won by 2 seconds. Apparently it was controversial. I didn't see the start so I did not witness anything that led to the issue. I was at the finish line first, once again. Regardless, the 1997 racer field continued to grow to 30 and the racers and times were:



C1 racer Andy Bridge - 1997 RFRR photo by Spangler

I gotta comment on the racer list here. First, Fantetti raced OC1 again. And, Jon Lord, who the race is now named after, raced his first race. As did Eric Hendrickson (current race organizer). Jerry Lechowick turned in an impressive 4th place. He is a little bit older than me.¹⁵ Matt Terry, currently of Ecuadorian River Institute (ERI) raced for his second year in a row.^{*16} Andy Lee from New Zealand came and raced. He was a friend of mine who did the first descent of the Rio Chiripo Atlantico with me, Clark, Hipgrave back in 1993 in Costa Rica.^{*17} Willy Witt, who has perhaps as many or more consecutive races than maybe anyone, did his first race that year. Jeff West (ACE) also raced his first RFRR race in 1997.^{*18} Andy Bridge was dominating the C1 again in 1997 and Shannon Carroll, one of the great female paddlers in the 90s did her first race down the Russell Fork, but was beat by Amy Brown. Looking at the times, it looks like Shannon was followed by Teresa and Katie, and somehow we got Eric's time sandwiched above Katie, if those times are correct. Hmmmm...

1997 Race Roster

1. Chris Hipgrave	10:00 WH
2. Jeff Snyder	10:02 WH
3. Howard Tidwell	10:37
4. Jerry Lechowick	10:44
5. Clay Wright	10:50
6. BJ Johnson	10:53
7. Greg Hoskins	10:56
8. Dirk Davidson	10:57
9. Danny Inman	11:04
10. Eric Strittimater	11:09
11. Jeff West	11:11
12. Clem Newbold	11:12
13. Jason Hale	11:14
14. Chris Hull	11:17
15. Rick Gusic	11:20
16. Andy Bridge	11:29 C-1
17. David Jeffrey	11:49
18. Matt Terry	11:52
19. Brian Jennings	11:57
20. Amy Brown	12:00 K-1 W *course record
21. Shannon Carroll	12:18 K-1 W
22. Teresa Rogerson	12:21 K-1 W
23. Eric Hendrickson	12:29
24. Katie Niehkert	12:26 K-1 W
25. Willy Witt	12:40
26. Jon Lord	13:11
27. Jamie Casson	13:14
28. Brent Austin	13:33
29. Andy Lee	13:45
30. Paul Fantetti	16:43 OC-1

*15 Good paddler and person who I have not seen in a few years on the Gauley or Russell Fork which is where I would usually bump into him throughout the decades.

*16 He would do one more after this year but he increasingly concentrated on Ecuador after 1997. I actually went to Ecuador before Matt, gave it high marks and then he went down there. I went there two more years afterwards and by the millennium he was fairly well planted there and the beginnings of ERI were born – a river conservation organization that the BWA has donated to in the past and should do again in the future.

*17 In 1994 I ran into him at the Coloma Club in California while out there for a deposition for work and had rented a boat and showed up there. We partied and woke up in some dirt parking lot. We did Giant Gap of the North Fork American River that day and I then talked him into coming to the Eastern US to paddle and raft guide. Andy Lee died in a Canyoning accident in the Swiss Alps in 1999 when a flash flood hit his team he was guiding down.

*18 Jeff West was a friend of the BWA who at times came and set up a booth at the NPFF and was cajoled by Spangler at least once or more to write an article for the Bowlines. He passed away doing a solo run on the Stikine River in 2013. He was an amazing paddler, was big into doing “vertical miles” and was just generally an all round great guy.

1998 Hippy Dippity Do

In 1998, the word got out that the Russell Fork River Rendezvous was a scene that MUST BE ATTENDED and the year demonstrated the largest crowd the fundraising event had ever seen. People came out of the woodworks to Rendezvous with their friends from the years before and to meet new ones. This was a hey-day event for sure. See also the article in the Bowlines Nov/Dec 1998 issue, page 9-11 at the BWA website.

But in the end, the race was again the focus of the entire event. Chris Hipgrave won, again, but this time Boone Brothers made a strong showing in yet another Wavehopper, finishing third behind Jeff Snyder. This would be Jeff's last race. Andy Bridge set the course record for C1 and beat all the other kayakers, placing 4th behind the Wavehoppers. Jason Hale was starting to



Former BWA President Bill Lynch getting money from BWA founder/former President Beuran Garten at 1998 RFRR – photo by Spangler



1998 Festival photos by Spangler





come on strong with a 5th place finish. Shannon Carroll won the women's that year, and John Grace (LVM fame, film maker etc) raced for the first time. Hope Concannon was the only other female racer that year. She paddled a bit with Chris Hipgrave back then. Fantetti continued to represent for the OC1 category. Here is a list of who all raced:

1998 Race Roster

1. Chris Hipgrave	9:58 WH
2. Jeff Snyder	10:23 WH
3. Boone Brothers	10:51 WH
4. Andy Bridge	11:23 C-1 *course record
5. Jason Hale	11:28
6. Jon Stockdill	11:30
7. Greg Hoskins	11:34
8. BJ Johnson	11:36
9. Bryan Jennings	11:49
10. Eric Strittmatter	11:52
11. Bryan Kirk	11:53
12. Joe Pugh	12:02
13. Chris Hull	12:06
14. Shannon Carroll	12:10 K-1 W
15. Matt Terry	12:21
16. Alistair Donald	12:28
17. Eric Hendrickson	12:28
18. Jon Lord	12:31
19. Willy Witt	12:45
20. Brent Austin	12:58
21. Joe Baranski	12:59
22. John Grace	13:10
23. Hope Concannon	13:28 K-1-W
24. Harry Field	14:57 C-1
25. Paul Fantetti	16:22 OC-1
26. Colby Mackey	? Strider



A 1998 Russell Fork Band - photo Don Spangler



1999 - WE RACED AND PARTIED LIKE IT WAS 1999

So 1999 was very special. The RFRR was truly growing as an event and we were packing in the participants. *19 I met Griffin Sanders and Sarah Mello this Rendezvous. Both would go on to become amazingly talented kayakers. *20 I knew Sarah's brother,

*19 See also: articles in the Bowlines Sept/Oct 1999, pp 4, 8-11 and the Bowlines Nov/Dec 1999, pp12-15.

*20 Griffin became one of Clay Warrens' main paddling partners for a number of years. Sarah became a solid class V kayaker, got the Triple Crown on the Green Narrows and lives in Idaho with her husband Brian Mattingly these days and still is a bad ass paddler.

John, already. Sarah and Griffin were new paddlers and had just come back from a trip to Europe where they met my friend Andy Lee and had bad news to tell me: Andy had recently died in Switzerland in a flashflood canyoneering accident that resulted in 19 deaths after a 20 foot wall of water suddenly came blasting through the walled in gorge. I had heard about the accident, it made the news in the U.S. but had not known my friend was amongst them. My heart heavy, I wanted to put my all into the event we had going on at the Russell Fork and reflect on my friend who had been there with us, just a few years before, racing and celebrating.

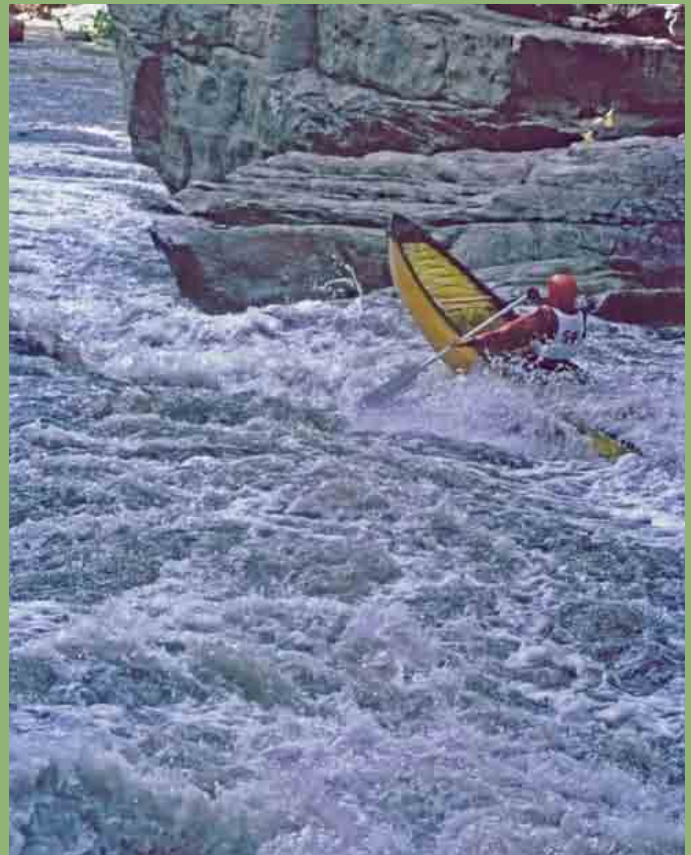
Music wise, we had a Lexington band that was very hot at the time, Catawampus, as a main act and they played for free and for the cause and vibe. We built a very large Spiral Encampment out of tarps and tap-estries with an encampment inside which is where the drum circle was. *21 I recall how much energy the Catawampus musicians added to the drum circle after they did their gig on stage that night. After this year, the drum circle would zenith and move up the hill outside the fenced in area where we did a big OM circle at the end in 1999. This new encampment, planned for the year 2000 was to be known as the "Journey Beyond Camp". But the millennial Rendezvouses are for another article. We are in the 90s baby!

So the race in 1999 was, as in 1998, again on the first Saturday of the first day of release. This had been a controversial change that was intended to bring more people to the festival in early October when the weather might be better. *22 So, to race, you had to know the course for sure. Now, I knew the course, and I knew it well, but I think the partying on Friday night got me. It was not pretty and it was my last race. Yeah, yeah, I swam across the finish line.

It was also the first year that Jeff Snyder did not race. He never raced again after 1998 in fact. Hipgrave won in a Wavehopper with Danny Inman winning the kayak division, although we really didn't note the crafts much unless you were in a Wavehopper. Strong third place battle between John Stockdill and BJ Johnson, with Clem Newbold and Brian Kirk hot in pursuit. Greg Hoskins made a strong showing again on behalf of the BWA. Nathan Helms, Eric Nies and Steven Matz joined us racing that year. The racers and times were:

1999 Race Roster

1. Chris Hipgrave	10:12 WH
2. Danny Inman	11:13
3. John Stockdill	11:17
4. BJ Johnson	11:21
5. Clem Newbold	11:30
6. Brian Kirk	11:37
7. Greg Hoskins	11:39
8. Brian Jennings	11:42
9. Chris Young	12:12
10. Corey Hall	12:15
11. John Grace	12:18
12. Daniel Tally	12:21
13. Nathan Helms	12:27
14. Duarte Marab	12:52
15. Ryan Bell	12:54
16. Jon Lord	12:57
17. Joey Buranski	12:57
18. Steven Matz	12:58
19. JB Seay	12:58
20. Eric Nies	13:03
21. Evan Collins	13:05
22. Brad Key	13:10
23. Matt Michael	14:14
24. Brent Austin	14:38
25. Steve Frazer	14:45 OC-1 *course record
27. Paul Fantetti	14:46 OC-1



Steve Frazier blasting Third Drop in OC1 – 1999 race-photo by Spangler

*21 See also Bowlines Nov/Dec 1999 pp 12-15

*22 I am a big fan of having the Rendezvous and race on the high water weekend which is the 4th weekend in October.

1999 would be my last race, as I thought at the time, at age 40, that I was over the hill. Lots of my friends that had paddled the race in earlier years were dropping out. Plus, Mike Clark had already retired and was sitting on the finish line rock, stop watch in hand, laughingly instructing me to “Swim for it Brent, swim for it” after I wrecked at Climax, just like he had, years before. I grimaced and did so and finished. He had way too much fun up there that day I recall thinking. But, he did seem to echo the reverse situation from several years ago. What can I say?

That night, we held the Racers Cup announcements and then Catawampus kicked in their jams followed by bands and drum circles all night long. We partied like it was 1999. Then it was history.

The new millennium lay ahead, I was going to Ecuador in about a month for the best End of the World Party, almost ever, on a beach at Montenita after and before a bunch of planned kayaking in the jungle and off the Andes.*²³ Regardless of the world ending on Y2K, and just in case it didn't, we had solid plans for the next Rendezvous in place and it was going to be bigger and better than ever.

The race would continue to soar in the next millennium, and would be the anchor to which the Rendezvous depended

for its very existence at times and despite a lack of enthusiasm at other times for organizing it and putting it together each year. I am now heartened to see the renewed interest in growing the festival and I want to put out there that I believe the important link is the race, now known as the Lord of the Fork Race.*²⁴ The Rendezvous and the Race had and have an eternal link. Keep on keeping on with this BWA. You will be more and more proud of the entire event as the years go by. It is up there with NPFF in terms of our potential. I know we will live up to it because we at the BWA roll that way.

See you on the River!

Brent Austin

I am going to leave you with a reprint of a poem my friend Anne Severn did for the Russell Fork back in 1999:

*²³ Go to every “End of the World Party” in your life that you can. They are usually a blast!

*²⁴ The race was renamed after our close friend, Jon Lord passed away at Tower Rapid in January 2004. The renaming is apt. I am not sure if all the racers these days know that is why it is thus named...



(Brent Austin announcing Racers Cup winners and race results and talking about river access issues with the Russell Fork – 1999 RFRR – photo by Spangler)

I Know a River

I know a River, where the waters are clean,
Where the fish are still living, in her mountain streams.
This is my River, she runs through my heart,
I know we can save her if we each do our part.
And I know a People, who still give a damn,

For this dear River, they'll still lend a hand.
But who are these people, who keep hope alive?
For without the fresh waters, we'll never survive.

And I know a Mountain, where the waters arise,
She spills through the Greenwood, under Eagle skies.
She's carved all these memories, as old as the hills,
For the future children she's carving still.

And where are their Greenwoods, the hemlock and pine?
For the life of the River is so intertwined.
And where are her creatures, the otter and bear,
The owl and the heron and the bobcat's lair?
For the gifts of the waters is what we all share.

CHORUS

These are the waters,
the living blood
From the tiniest trickle
To the raging flood!

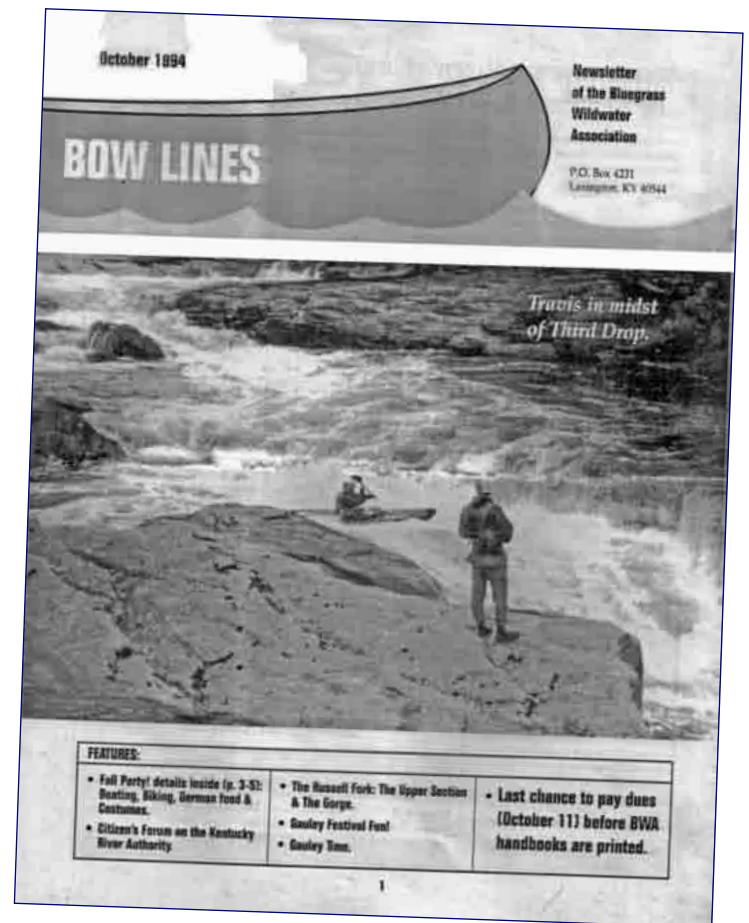
There is no place,
Upon this blue earth,
The waters have not given
Our lives and our birth

Anne Severn 1999 ©

Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines...

- BWA Fall Party Rendezvous '94 Invite
- The Russell Fork:
The Upper Stretch
The Gorge
- Wrap-Up of Russell Fork Gathering
- President Devries 1992-4
- Russell Fork Fun

To the best of my memory, Stan Slater and I may have been the first of the BWA to paddle the Russell Fork sometime around 1978. Most of our BWA trips in those years tended to be to Tennessee or West Virginia if not the Elkhorn. But Stan was always looking for new places to paddle so he and I went paddling almost every weekend, often to run a different stream.



On our first trip to the Russell Fork we went to the Breaks to camp. I remember finding out the list of rules was important very quickly when we pulled into the campsite and Stan and I sat down and he pulled a cold beer out (it was summer if that makes a difference) and within minutes we almost got thrown out. We checked out the rest of the rules right away. We only paddled down to Garden hole as we had no illusions that we could handle the Gorge. While BWA paddlers will run the Russell Fork occasionally in coming years, mostly we still paddled to the south of Lexington... as there were a lot more choices including the dam releases on some streams and better locations for Clinics and the like.

In the mid nineties there was talk about having our annual gathering for present and past BWA members (hence why we had started calling it the "rendezvous") in Kentucky. Sam Moore runs during the CO Engineer's decision for Fall releases drew attention to the Russell Fork. Others in the Club, like Brent Austin & Mike Clark had become enthusiastic about paddling the Russell Fork. As president, Brigid Devries played an important roll in the successful relocation of now tradition fall event. Brent secured the Haysi Kiwanis Fairgrounds and Mike Weeks got a Bluegrass band for Saturday. After that year Brent Austin turned it into a true River Festival that became famous in the paddling world and the rest is some amazing history.

BWA Russell Fork Fall Party/Rendezvous Invite

The BWA fall party is set for Saturday, October 15, 1994 at the Russell Fork River outside of Haysi, in Western Virginia. The location for camping as well as the club party is Kiwanis Park. The theme for this year's party is Oktoberfest. Once again there will be a food contest so get out your recipes for German Food and get in the action. Any German dish will do, dessert counts also!

Those participating in the food contest need to have their dish up to the food pavilion for judging by 6:45pm. Dinner will follow at around 7:00pm. Don Spangler and I will be cooking bratwurst for BWA members so everyone needs to bring a dish to go with the brats, even though you may not want to enter the food contest. There will be some contests for the best German costumes, a Polka contest and other games we can dream up. Bring your own beverages!

See ya there!

Brigid DeVries

Bowlines Oct1994

The Russell Fork:

The Russell Fork has the reputation of being a river for the expert paddler only.
Not so. Check out the Upper Russell Fork.

Bowlines Oct. 1994

The Upper Stretch

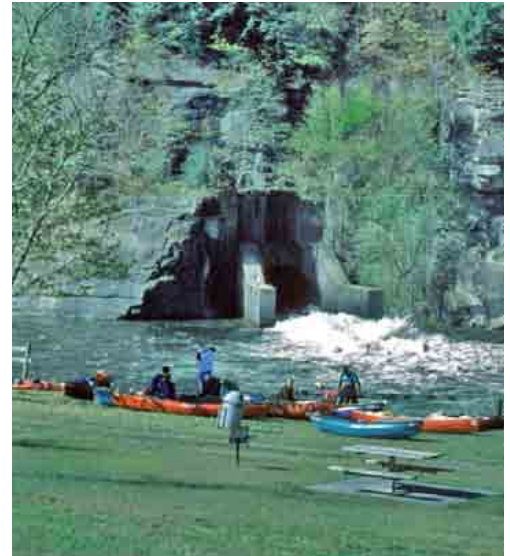
There seems to be a lot of mystery surrounding the stretch of river that makes up the Russell Fork from Bartlick to Garden Hole.

Who's paddled it? ...a few of us, who remembers it?probably none of us. What's it like?

....Well Let me see....

One snowy day (or was it raining?), anyway, it was cold and there was a group of us that decided to paddle it.

After getting there late (Another story entirely) we put in at Pound Creek below the release site. After starting down the river, one cold paddler asked the others, "so who know the lines?" and to everyone's dismay there was no response.



One cold day, no one knows the way, pretty interesting wouldn't you say? So the group went off to play. If this looks like a typical paddling trip, just wait. Around the first bend there is a great surfing spot (a little sticky on the side-surf but Teflon coated none the less). Moving on downstream there was a big tree (strainer) on the right, just before the confluence with the Russell Fork. STAY LEFT. After reaching the confluence, you'll see a bridge, Below the bridge is a low-head dam, nothing too difficult, but run it far right against the bank (I played probe and almost found myself a stir-stick) but this is the best or only route. I wouldn't advise trying to punch the hydraulics between the pylons....extended surf potential without a door.

On downstream you will find a myriad of pour-overs, boulder gardens, and other various surprises -nothing too difficult or scary but respectable confusion none the less. Eddies are everywhere and ferries and s-turns are the moves for the groves. There are no clear lines though these generously long boulder gardens, but there are plenty of eddies to pick your way down. The half-way point features one really long boulder garden I'll just call "The Energizer" for lack of a better name. It just keeps going and going... Just keep your mind on your business and you will be fine. After that it's just more of the same stuff in smaller doses to Garden Hole.



I would recommend a good combat roll and keeping your eyes open. There are undercuts. The things that sticks out in my mind more than anything is the incredible scenery. It's beauty beyond compare and you will be mesmerized by the views! Let's have some fun, surfs up! See Ya on the River. **Kirk**

The Gorge

The Gorge is a beautiful two mile stretch of river that drops some 200 ft/mile. The put in for the gorge section of the Russell Fork is at **Garden hole**. People wanting to hike down to **El Horrendo** to watch the carnage should paddle across here and walk down the railroad tracks. Along the way most major rapids are visible or can be reached by foot.



El Herrendo, early nineties, photo by Charlie Buccola

Nothing I have paddled to date had prepared me for the fun I was about to experience. The Russell Fork is definitely a big step up from the upper Gauley. The Gauley has room for error and is forgiving if your lines are not so precise. The Russell Fork gorge has little margin for error and serious consequences for the paddler whose line is off by just inches.

The gorge has six named rapids, all class V+. The first rapid, **Tower Falls**, is about a quarter of a mile below the put in and can be scouted on the right. If you have a problem in Tower get to river right fast because **Fist** is immediately below.

Fist is a little like Pillow Rock only no pillow to talk to. This is the most dangerous rapid on the river.

Maze is next. Maze is a boulder garden with many blind drops. Catch eddies and avoid the undercut rock on river right just above the last drop. The best is yet to come. **Triple Drop**. The first drop can be run down the middle, the water pushes you to the right. Avoid being side surfed in the hole, it's too much fun for most paddlers. Catch the eddy on the left. Run the second drop down the middle with a little left bow angle to help catch the eddy on the left. Catch this eddy.... the third drop is immediately below. Run **Third Drop** by punching through the fold in the water high on river right. Catch the eddy below on the right, bounce off the rock and down the last part of the drop. If you catch the eddy you may find exiting is not as easy as you would like it to be. Just aim the bow of your boat directly at the fold and paddle hard the current does the rest. While sitting in this eddy, I watched a boat and paddler completely disappear when they fell into the fold. Seconds later, it seemed longer though, boat and paddler emerged rocketing skyward from the backender he received. The most down time I have ever seen from a boat other than a squirt boat.

There is about 50 yards of boogie water until you reach the next big drop. **EL HORRENDO**. This monster has many lines. The ones I chose were interesting. There is a staging eddy on river left from which you can boat scout this rapid. The hero route requires that you paddle to the right then surf a wave over to the eddy just above the big drop on river right. Peel out and down you go. Wow, what a ride! Watch out for the rock wall on river right the current slams you onto this wall. Not fun. I was there. The other line I chose is a fun slide down a series of 5-6 foot ledges. Start from the staging eddy and stay left all the way down, wahoo, you're in the eddy on the left ready to carry back up and do it again. It doesn't get any better than this!

The next rapid is little El Horrendo. It is similar to **Heinzerling on the Upper Yough**. Just bounce off the pillow and down you go. No problem.

Climax, aka Kentucky the hard way, is next. This boulder garden is runnable many different ways. When you get to Climax Falls you can run right down the middle or go for the boof move in the box on river right. The boof move requires right bow angle or a rocky landing is assured. Hey Derek remember that move on the upper Gauley above Sweet's Falls? Same thing, only bigger.

That's it, that's all, the rest is boogie water all the way to the takeout. There is a fun play wave above the take out. Those who didn't get enough upstream can work off any excess energy just seconds from the take out.

I plan on doing this again soon.

See you There. **Scott (Smalley)**

BWA Fall Party Wrap-up

by Brigid DeVries (President)

The BWA "Octoberfest" Fall Party, October 15, was a good time for all who attended. The weather was beautiful and the fall colors were at their peak. A special thanks go to all those who helped with the party arrangements --Brent Austin for the leg work on the site selection, Don Spangler for his help with me on the food preparation and for selecting the hottest "Red Hots" in the United States, Mike Weeks for rustling up enough money to pay the truly outstanding Bluegrass Band, Chris Spangler for putting some organization in the Club 83 Breakfast Buffet, Valerie Vantreesse for coordinating the prizes for the contests and Prince for organizing the cleanup details. A special thanks goes to all those people who brought food and entered the food contest The food was Primo!

The Judging Panel-headed up once again by Cynthia Grimes-had a really tough time in selecting the best dishes because they were all excellent. The award winners are as follows:

- Best Overall German Dish: Lloyd Funkhouser for his Sauerbraten;
- Best Sidedish: Elsie Miller for her Red Cabbage;
- Best Dessert: Mark McKinley for his Almond Delight;
- Best German Costumes: Monty Wilson

The townspeople of Haysi and Mayor Mullins were very hospitable and seemed enthusiastic about having the boating community in their backyard. The Kiwanis Fairgrounds campsite, although not as scenic as other places we go, certainly was adequate and the covered shelter was perfect for the Bluegrass Band.

The Boating was excellent and from all reports on the biking scene it sounds like the mountain bike trail was "challenging" to say the least. Bob Vittitow and Chris Spangler were great with shuttle assistance. For those of you that couldn't make it... Ya missed good time!

-Bowlines NovDec 1994



1992-94 BWA President Brigid DeVries

Brigid DeVries was one of the many canoers in our club. She paddled a Bluehole OC-1 & OC-2 throughout the Southeast and also many long trips on rivers in Maine, the Southwest & West. Great to paddle with her zest for fun, she was also a great river chef that always had some tasty addition to our usual basic river fare. For our club gatherings she would announce "theme" dinners that folks would bring eats related to the theme (Mexican, German, Italian, etc.). Brigid also added music & other activities to the events to enhance the themes.

Brigid DeVries, was the first female commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (2002-2010). A graduate of University of Kentucky, she was inducted into the UK Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame in 1995, and the KHSAA Hall of Fame in 2010. With her swimming qualifications, Brigid was well prepared for the occasional swim we all have in paddling rapids. She is now retired and living in Lexington.



Brigid DeVries & Lloyd Funkhouser on the San Juan River, New Mexico.

Russell Fork Fun

Brent Austin
Bowlines Oct 1992



Mike Clark, El Horrendo, Russell Fork



On Friday October 16, 1992 I drove towards West Virginia to sleep at the dam where the next day torrents of water would be released for the last scheduled release weekend on the Upper Gauley. I was by myself after Randi had advised me around 6:00 p.m. that she had changed her mind: I'm staying home this weekend - have fun!" Oh well, I thought, I will just find someone at the put in and tag along for a good warm-up on the river.

The next morning I awoke to the sound of the release thundering through the river gorge which had been carved out over the eons. I hooked up with a three people from Alabama, we ran shuttle and put on by 10:30 a.m. The day was, great, as the Upper Gauley always provides a thrill, however, after five trips this fall and my plans for the next day, all I could think about were the words Marrea had left me once: "The Russell Fork is a good step up in difficulty over the Gauley."

Earlier in the week I had begged Rich Ready and Mike Clark to permit me the opportunity to follow them like a duckling down: the Russell Fork. Therefore, while, on the Gauley running Iron Ring I recall thinking halfway through the rapid Clark's response to my exclamation about how pumped up he was to paddle the Russell Fork: "You better be." "What did he mean by that?" I thought as I raced through the drop.

That night I took the Mike Weeks approach to traveling to the Breaks from the Gauley - back roads, all six and half hours worth. Folks, go to Bluefield via Interstate highways and stick to the biggest highways. It should save you three hours or so off of my route! I awoke at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, aware that I was suppose to meet Rich and Mike at the take-out. "Good," I thought, "I'll miss them and I'll just lake a nice leisurely hike around the Breaks." But no, they waited for me with Don and

Dan Coaplen. It was cold, somewhere in the mid-forties, but, it was a good group to go with and everyone had been waiting on me.

I soon learned what the difference was between the running this river and the Gauley. In addition to being more of a creek run and a hell of lot steeper, probably the most significant difference is in the of margin of error in running the rapids. Where the drops of the Gauley have fairly wide margins, the Russell Fork drops require margins more appropriately measured in inches. Rich Ready made this observation about Tower Falls: " * " about 1 foot makes the difference between a good line and not a good line." Ouch! I did not make the margin and narrowly averted a surf in the top hole which required that I make a move to the left of the center obstruction towards the undercut boulder. No problem.

I had good fine in Fist though, the next Class V we encountered. (I consider the named rapids on this River to be Class V). So we then approach the rapid that has probably caused me the most trepidation in anticipation - Triple Drop. The holes at the bottom of these drops are legendary. Tales of Grimes spending 30 to 40 seconds underwater lurked in my mind as we approached this bad boy. There is no choice to run the drops you must punch the holes, and your line needs to be tight. Mine wasn't. I ran the top drop too far right. I felt the hole suck me backwards. The hole is caused by a river wide ledge. I surf with bow to river left. I try to ender out - it was not a happening thing, and a surf with bow to river right ensues. I take time to see what's happening downstream. Clark appears uninterested in giving me a bow assist (the back wash is about ten feet). Don is on the bank with a throw rope but he and I realize it ain't going to do much good. I suspect all are amused. I get little tired, find a spot for one last try, reach way down for some downstream flow, find a surge and out I come. I paddled over assuring the others that it was a great surf: "you can get out of it." Nobody wished to amuse me. Well, I then flipped in the bottom of the second drop and roll up in the middle of the third drop. Triple drop was interesting.

By the time we get to El Horrendo, I'm thinking that perhaps I'll carry that one. It is HUGE. I mention the possibility to Rich and he quickly brushes the idea off "Of course you'll run this." Okay Rich. Well El Horrendo was a really good line for me. It is probably the most impressive rapid I have run to date.

Once was enough for me at this point as I had been operating on a lot of adrenaline through the Maze above, not to mention all the other rapids, boulder gardens, blind drops, etc. it took to get there. I let the heroes run El Horrendo forty-eleven different ways while I was satisfied with my one, probably the most difficult rapid on the river is Climax. It is a blind drop, fairly long boulder garden with a really mean drop at the end that requires a precise line. Don came up to me and said: 'For Gods sake, whatever you do, do not flip in this rapid.' I am thinking to myself "what kind of thing is that to tell somebody?" So, I make this pledge to myself that I would not. My line was probably off by 6 inches, just enough to require that I prevent a flip by throwing a big left brace. I stay upright and fly past razor sharp jagged rocks underneath and to the right where they could not be seen until almost through.

What a day! Would I run this river again? You bet! It is the most challenging river I've been on and there was never any lack of excitement. The trick is to run this river with a group as good and knowledgeable of the river as the one I was with.

Brent Austin



Transitions: The age old question

B. J. Phillips

Little did I know, or even begin to think about, that age would eventually create transitions in the evolution and path of being a boater!

I mean I should have known, because over the years I have witnessed several boaters just simply curtail their boating because father time just started to put brakes on their activity on the rivers that they love so much. However, with that said, I have also witnessed others that seem to even progress even though age attempts to try to slow them down.

O.K., for those who may think that I am referring to turning about 35 or 40 years old because you may have started boating at some ridiculous age of only a single digit, I am talking about those – which includes myself – that are in the 60 + category.

So, how does transitions fit into this O. G. age-old question???

Well transitions is the natural evolution of ALL boaters no matter what age you begin to be involved in this great sport. I mean, virtually no one begins on Class IV rapids the first time they get into a kayak or canoe. OH, of course there are exceptions to every rule, including this one, but for those that do begin with Class IV they usually have ALL their gear for sale on Boater Talk for REALLY CHEAP prices shortly thereafter, and they don't even want to talk about the beat down that they endured.

So, what was my solution to father time creeping up on me at 62 years old?

I became a commercial raft guide!!!

OH YEAH, that's what I'm talkin' 'bout!!!

Now some people may say that is crazy. I wish I could put up a logical argument against such a statement, but I am not for sure logic even fits into this conversation.

As a kayaker I thought that guiding customers down the Pigeon River in a raft would be as simple as floating a leaf down the river.

OH YEAH, that's what I thought!

Before becoming a commercial raft guide I had done several personal fun run raft trips down various rivers including the Upper Gauley in W. V. There, I had other experienced river peoples paddling along side of me or guiding the raft we were in. We could do all kinds of ridiculousness and still make it down the run without TOO much problems. However, I found out real quickly that guiding a raft down even Class II and III with a crew that has never been in a boat, much beside on a river that has currents in it is a WHOLE DIFFERENT THING!

Left and right and forward and back seems to be easily confused. And, of course I still get the occasional person that just quits altogether in or slightly before a larger rapid and just stare in suspended animation at the white water as if they are looking into the eyes of a dragon or something similar.

So I found out the hard way that this transition was not gonna be as simple as I first thought!

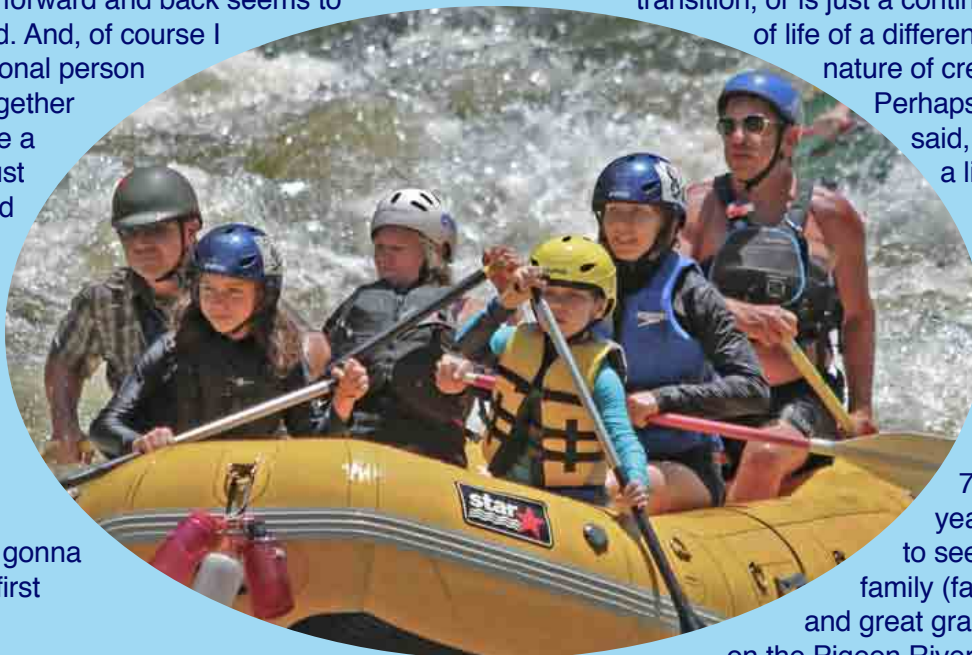
The first year was a learning experience to say the least. Just like any other "rookie" I guess. However, I had certain advantages over a typical total "rookie" such as the experience of being able to "read" whitewater and how to maneuver a boat through the currents of class II, III, IV water. But, those "advantages" ended right there! I had to learn to present myself as a "raft guide" to the outfitters and to the customers, which ride down the river. I had to learn to present an efficient and quick safety talk about how to lock your feet in a raft, paddle forward and backward, how to get back to a raft by swimming, and how to pull someone else into a raft without ripping off their head, ears, arm, etc. These "skills" came somewhat slowly and took time to develop, even for an "experienced" kayaker and river person. So, I was not always successful initially for the outfitter or probably more importantly the customers. I had to learn to maneuver a raft basically by myself and not assume that the customers would be able to assist by paddling. Furthermore, I had to learn some of the lamest jokes and attempts at humor that I have ever heard in my life! As Forrest Gump said, "...shrimpin' is tough" or something like that.

The most important and most difficult transition was that in a kayak you can pretty well make a last second correction or adjustment to maneuver into or through a rapid, but in a raft with inexperienced paddlers that is not always possible, o.k. almost impossible, and you have to set up for your line MUCH sooner than in a smaller boat. I have made that adjustment during the first year of commercial rafting, but it is sometimes still a work in progress.

As a kid I use to love playing in creeks, perhaps doing whitewater as an adult is just a transition of that love (?). So, is becoming a commercial raft guide at my age a transition, or is just a continuation in the circle of life of a different way to enjoy the nature of creeks and rivers?

Perhaps, as Forrest Gump said, " May-be, it's just... a lit-tle bit of both".

For those that think that boating, whether in a kayak, raft, or canoe is out of the question for someone in their 60's, 70's, or 80's, last year I got the privilege to see a four generation family (father, son, grandson, and great grandson) in kayaks on the Pigeon River at Class III+ Lost Guide rapid, with the 85 year old paddling like a pro!



So, in retrospect, and upon completing my third year as a commercial raft guide, now at the age of 66, I have found and made the transition into this totally illogical and wonderful world of customer river rafting for someone my age – and I wouldn't trade it for the world!!! Right now I plan to do at the minimum of at least two trips per day until I get about 85 years old or so, and then cut back to one trip per day and do more fun runs!!!

"You gotta have a plan... at least until the next transition."

OH Yeah, that's what I'm talkin' 'bout!!!

*(Humor – sort of!)

B.J. Phillips is a merc on the Big Pigeon for four different rafting companies. Also, river guides for Team River Runner, Asheville, NC.

Contact or volunteer for Team River Runner Asheville, NC: www.teamriverrunnerasheville.org

Rendezvous. Wow, you guys were great.

October 29, 2017

Wow,

What a wet, muddy awful mess but damn, considering the rain, the surprise 10 o'clock quiet time ordinance and an extremely over-reaching police force, I really had a great time. I want to thank ALL the amazing volunteers for their massive efforts in making this festival a success. The sight of all those partied out, muddy zombies dragging themselves across the woods in the morning to help with the stage tear down really warmed my heart. I can't thank you all enough.

Thanks to the terrible weather and the help of the Elkhorn City police trying to intimidate everyone it looks like our numbers were about half of what they normally were but still, it was one hell of a festival. Great bonfires, awesome after parties and muddy smiles everywhere, not to mention the crowning of the undisputed, BWA mud wrestling champion, after a little recovery time, I'd do it all over again. Great job everyone. smiling smiley

Bob

It was indeed a fun weekend. Thanks for organizing Bob. I know I had a fun time at camp and on the river. Now its just a matter of waiting for some warmer temps today to set up everything again so it can dry!

Andrew Van Horn
Captain of the Pirate Ducky Fleet

What a great rendezvous! Even with the weather and dum cops it is ALWAYS a warm fuzzy feeling to see old and new Boater friends gather at the Russell Fork! It was also so nice to take Brice and Vivian down the upper in rafts and give the "New generation" a taste of what WE all love!!! Great job Bob, Megan, B Randy, Mellow fellow, and ALL the volunteers!

B. J.- Kayak Bum and river guide

Man Bob, our ENTIRE southeastern boating community is a better place because of you and your efforts to re-energize the Russell Fork River Rendezvous! I sincerely hate that the weather and the unnecessary intrusion of the local police force put a damper on your efforts. However, if there is one gleaming quality about boaters is that we can embrace the elements and thrive off inclement weather. From everything I witnessed, it was a hugely successful Rendezvous all things considered. I can't even fathom all the energy that went into all facets of getting this thing up and running, I hope you

will have the fortitude to come back and do it again next year!

Clay

November 03, 2017

Bob,

I couldn't agree more with what Clay said. There are two major reasons the world of kayaking, pros and all, are aware of the BWA. One is the NPFF and the other is the Russell Fork River Rendezvous and Lord of the Fork Race. We have our fingerprints all over the Russell Fork and it is a credit to the BWA and recently because of you, that it is true. I see the Russell Fork as the Crown Jewel of Kentucky whitewater and the BWA has a strong presence. It does not matter the money raised, although it is sweet to give away money to AW. Vibe is key. It is more important that the commitment to the festival, the race and the Russell Fork in general creates the vibe that places the BWA front and center in this event that draws professionals and world class kayakers from ALL OVER THE GLOBE. The day we lose our interest in the Russell Fork is the day we lose our path in the center of the paddling world and we may find the club floating into dudsville like so many paddling clubs. This event, and your effort and leadership with it, are yet another reason the BWA is such a nationally successful club. Truly. No one does what the BWA does and your effort is part of what makes us great. It was good to see BWA movers and shakers at the Rendezvous (except Spangler and he gets a pass). We make shit happen!

And, man, I can't say enough about the impressive infrastructure, the heaters and the large, large pop-ups. Stage was beautiful. Mark Branch is the man for the sound and coordinating the music with the bands. Brandy, Megan are queens when it comes to ambiance. The woods trail was beautiful again. Just beautiful. Mello was the shuttle bunny extraordinaire. When I see effort go into something like this, I feel protective and love for you all. I don't really care if we made money or not, the event was amazing and the circumstances did not take that away. The BWA is better for this effort, and so is the event that we started way back in 1995 when I was a much younger hippy kayaker.

We need to move to Haysi. Elkhorn City is hostile. Carson Island is a great location because you can paddle to it. But, it is unfriendly like I have never seen before in all the decades I have been coming, and it is completely unnecessary. I see politics involved. We are eco-tourists when we are there. That may be part of the problem. Mayor Mike Taylor has been heard to claim that eco-tourism has done nothing for Elkhorn City. That paddlers do nothing for the area is the import of that mes-

sage. While it is not true and we all try to spend money there, it does not seem to matter. We are not coal and we don't go to the Mayor's church. He does not like us and at the end of the day, he is responsible for the abusive police tactics at the entry to the festival.

To do Haysi, we will need to up the ante. It will need to be as much music festival as anything in order to draw folks up the hill to Haysi. It is sometimes hard to get folks away from Ratliff Hole on Rendezvous weekend, so large incentive to make the drive is needed. That is what I used to do. I funded many a Rendezvous out of my own pocket back in the day. One year we had 17 bands play, non-stop on the stage. Many played for free and just formed for the Rendezvous. Others, like Catawampus, Green Genes, Barnyard Effect, Born Cross Eyed, came and played for free or costs because I cajoled them to come help us recognize a breathtaking place at risk. Of course, we kept the BWA broke back then, like zero balance in our accounts, which is not close to where we are today. Anyway, this is going to require large effort to move the festival and make it attractive. I will help in ways I can.

Don't get down and bummed with detractors about the Rendezvous (I never listened to them back in the day either because they don't get it) and the problems at Elkhorn City. Let's talk to Haysi now. Let's promote the next years festival now. Let's line up as many acts, as we can, now. Lets coordinate with the Race crowd (Eric Hendrickson and Jay Ditty) as soon as possible. And, everyone buy goods and services in Haysi from here on until we get a new Mayor in EC and a renewed attitude to those of us that love the area and paddle and camp there.

I will add that it was brilliant to coordinate the camping situation at Ratliff Hole with Austin Bradley, the super-intendent. It took a load off him, he told me, he trusted the BWA and it gave us some control over the camping. Great idea and lets keep that up if we can next year.

Brent

Rope Work On The River With Bart Bledsoe
November 15th, 2017

All,
Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming club meeting at Rock House Brewing. This is another one your not going to want to miss and don't hesitate to invite your friends and family out if you think they would enjoy what the BWA is all about. Please keep in mind that this month meeting is on a Wednesday.

Program: Rope Work On The River With Bart Bledsoe
Flyer For November's General Club Meeting

When: Wednesday November 15th, 2017 @ 7:30PM
Where: Rock House Brewing
119 Luigart Ct, Lexington, KY 40508

Eddy Lines of Interest

BWA General Club Meeting Minutes
9/12/17

Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Kyle <u>Koebertein</u>	President	✓	
Mike <u>Daughtery</u>	Vice President	✓	
Jansen Cunningham	Secretary	✓	
Ben <u>Mudd</u>	Treasurer		✓
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor		✓
Brian <u>Storz</u>	River Conservation Liaison	✓	
Robert Watts	Safety Officer	✓	
Clay Warren	Program Director	✓	
James Welch	Film Festival Coordinator	✓	
Joe Wheatley	Web <u>Meister</u>		✓
Brandy Mellow	Gear <u>Meister</u>	✓	
Codie Dunn	Member At Large		✓
Dot Edwards	Membership Coordinator	✓	
Bob Larkin	Past President	✓	

Non-Steering Committee Members in Attendance

32 including steering committee members.

Introduction of New Members

Curtis Angeline – no boat, no paddle, no helmet...wanted to do it forever and thought no better way to come to a club meeting and get the ball rolling.

Zack – UK Student, 1st combat roll on Nantahala the other week-end. Bought a boat last summer.

Program 30-45 Minutes

Let's Talk Gauley! A guide to the festival and guide to the river and its biggest hazards.

Gauley Fest is probably the biggest Whitewater Festival in the world. Great place to buy and sale gear! They have a fence where people tend to leave items for sale with phone numbers. Watershed dry bags is a great place, but you need to get there earlier for this, runs out quick.

Driving to Gauley:

Police on highway 19 are selective when pulling people over, mainly people with boats on vehicle.... Oakhill, Fayetteville, Summersville. Set cruise control because they will sit at bottom of hill where it goes from 65 to a 45.

2 Main ways to go:

Lexington to Charleston, take 79 to Morgantown, past Summersville, Take 29 to from northeast to southwest (actually pass Summersville)

Charleston and staying on 40 to Mossey exit that takes your to Oakhill... 22 miles shorter, Clay suggests it to be a nicer drive.

Venue:

Nicholas County Memorial Park, northside of Summersville. Tennis courts will be on your left. BWA camps just outside of actual venue, doesn't require wrist band. Lease don't bring bottles, cans are preferred.

23 Miles long, located running through a West Virginia Gorge. Standard release flow, without natural flow, is 2800 cfs.

New Business

KY Jim looking for Gauley Fest volunteers to man the NFFF Booth. Each volunteer shift is roughly 2 – 2.5 hours (7:30 – 9:30 and 9:30 – 11:30). Volunteers get into festival for free. Information is on the forum. See Jim or John for wrist band, you could also pay and be refunded when you switch your wrist bands out (vendor wrist bands).

Trip Reports

Dot

Saw a pinned boat and boater stranded on rock in Gonzo Schouls. Gentleman was pale and could not catch breath, suggested a slow ferry across above broken nose to get him off river because of his appearance, asked for a second person due to concerns of health, but was unsure how to handle situation due to the stress of having him to hike out in a difficult area, but didn't want him to risk taking another swim in broken nose. Summary, pay attention to people and your surroundings and weigh the risks.

Cold water combined with fear can induce health issues.

Angela

Labor Day weekend, Brandon suggested 3 rivers in 3 days, Hiawasse, Nantahala, & Elkhorn. Pulled over going 53 in a 40 near campground the Ocoee, Police officer asked if they were boating the Ocoee "No sir, that water is to big for us, we are boating the Hiwassee". Police officer, "Oh okay well you all slow down and be safe".

Joe

Lower Gauley this past weekend, 3 days of paddling. Saturday planned on 3 to 5, as morning progressed, crew grew and grew with shuttle, ended up putting 3 trucks at bottom and 3 trucks at top, 18 paddlers. Told chief to bring 4 guys

back from take out back up to put in, chief brought 3 guys, left 1 at take out...left Hanley at take out! After about 10 minutes, Hanley shows up. No carnage, no swims!

Mike Daughtery

Last year, no swims on Upper Gauley.

This year "Hell Yeah I got this!" Was using Sarah Leach's axiom, initially playing around using all of his energy, made it through initiation, got to pillow "I remember the line in pillow!" and took the absolute worst line possible and pretty sure he found every hole possible, with each one getting pushed far left and in mind "Rooom of dooom", "man its not flushing me out, I should conserve my breath" He pulled his squirt and denied a raft of insanely beautiful girls help of getting a raft ride. Got into the eddy and all demoralized, and contemplated strapping his boat to a raft but saw his friends and kayaked on.

Announcements

Gauley fest is this upcoming weekend!

Russel Fork rendezvous is last weekend of October.

Dr. Wes Prince will be leading next meetings Program on treating shoulder dislocations.

Adjournment

Rob Middleton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9/5/2017 @ 8:52 p.m.and it was seconded by . The motion was carried.

Jansen Cunningham
Secretary

11/6/2017
Date of approval

BWA Steering Committee Minutes

10/3/17

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Kyle Koeberlein	President	✓	
Mike Daughtery	Vice President	✓	
Jansen Cunningham	Secretary	✓	
Ben Mudd	Treasurer		✓
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	✓	
Brian Storz	River Conservation Liaison		✓
Robert Watts	Safety Officer	✓	
Clay Warren	Program Director	✓	
James Welch	Film Festival Coordinator	✓	
Joe Wheatley	Web Meister		✓
Brandy Mellow	Gear Meister	✓	
Codie Dunn	Member At Large	✓	
Dot Edwards	Membership Coordinator	✓	
Bob Larkin	Past President	✓	

Non-Steering Committee Members in Attendance

John Mellow

Terry

Apri

Reports

President – Kyle Koeberlein:

Kyle will put these on trailer for her from past gear Sherpa responsibilities.

Don't want to spend large sums of money until a budget is developed

Updated membership list to J&H.

Send article to Don Spangler about myself for next newsletter, but would like to include other officers as well.

Don't want to spend large sums of money until a budget is

developed

Updated membership list to J&H.

Send article to Don Spangler about myself for next newsletter but would like to include other officers as well.

Vice President - Mike Daugherty:

Spring Clinic 2018 Marketing

Been working with Jim for NPFF, hasn't reached out about clinic yet. Doesn't want to step on NPFF's toes, therefore, waiting until after NPFF to begin this.

Spring Clinic: Thinks it would be neat to have a food sponsor to subsidize cost for it. Needs sound for the talent show.

Brandy recommended reaching out to J&H for sponsorship, talk with Tubbo or Sam Arnold. Recommended putting T-shirts at J and H to sale. Kyle recommended when asking for sponsorship, put it on paper what dollar amounts could afford what.

Secretary - Jansen Cunningham

No new news.

Treasurer -Ben Mudd:

Clean up active bank cards on our account.

Current process of becoming official not for profit organization.

Working on club budget.

Account Balance?

Newsletter Editor – Don Spangler:

2 great articles that he couldn't get in last issue, from vice president and safety officer. Found a few other interesting articles to include, 1 about how much of a release should they do in October.

If someone has an article about RFR, he'd love to have it.

River Conservation Liaison – Brian Storz:

Program on climate change and its effects on river. Has a faculty member (Brett Werner) to discuss future for south eastern rivers....about 45 min presentation, 15 min for questions. Will need an AV Source, just needs a list of dates that would work for him to come and speak

Battle of Breweries, Bob applied to a grant for this.

Safety Officer – Robert Watts:

Fine tune the process of people checking in and paying at roll session. Something that makes it easy to look at attendance and check that the money taken matches the check in process. My suggestion is to keep it simple and as efficient as possible.

Brandy has a form she created for NPFF that Robert can use for Roll Sessions

Talked with Dave at Pinnacle pool, cannot do any day other than Friday. Therefore, winter roll sessions will be Fridays from 8-10. Asks for recommendations on when to start, November is traditionally the month to start. Bob motioned to approve 500 for winter roll sessions, seconded by Mellow, approved by club. Needs a form for roll sessions.

Program Director – Clay Warren:

Program for October general club meeting.

Discussed with Wes Prince about giving a shoulder dislocation program, goal is October. Will need an AV source because he would have a power point presentation.

Wound care and general first aid in the Spring

Film Festival Coordinator – James Welch:

Finding new videos

Working on NPFF auction items. Need more volunteers.

Kyle stated NPFF is likely to be lumped together with BWA for legality purposes, however, NPFF director is still in charge of making decisions for NPFF. With this statement, documentation for financials need to be documented appropriately.

Bob agreed BWA should be moving towards this goal.

Web Meister – Joe Wheatley:

Gear Meister – Brandy Mellow:

Would like to make a trip with Kyle to storage locker to organize and figure out what we have and what we don't.

Brandy would love to update gear.

Coolers

Expects she could re furnish old equipment under roughly 500

Member At Large – Codie Dunn:

Glad to attend his first meeting!

Membership Coordinator – Dot Edwards

Ben gave card to buy Stamps, it was declined. Card had Don Perkins name on this, and it had canceled.

274 active members. 1 new membership in the past month that was family.

Past President – Bob Larkin:

Work with Brian Storz about Elkhorn Creek clean up idea.

RFR = Wants to make it a fun and safe environment, will be very strict and have low tolerance for anything other than commodore. Is considering hiring an off duty police officer to set at the gate but does not have the right to enter the property, that person would be employed by RFR and would be private security. We need to be aware of our liabilities at RFR. Booth area will be 20 dollars a person for weekend. Will have well lit lighting at the gate. Cash only.

Vendors = looking for food vendors. Looking for someone to have exclusive rights to the festival. Expecting 400-500 people to attend. Brandy recommended Mikes Meats.

14th = will be spreading Jason's ashes at el horrendo

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

James Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10/3/2017 @ 8:41 p.m. and it was seconded by Robert Watts. The motion was carried.

BWA General Club Meeting Minutes

10/10/17

Non-Steering Committee Members in Attendance

35 club members in attendance.

Introduction of New Members

Any new members to stand up and introduce themselves. Jennifer: People helped on Elkhorn because she didn't realize that there is was going to be white water. Others boaters mentioned about checking out the BWA and looking into

appropriate safety gear.

Joey: Roommate is Brandon Yates and hears how cool boating is.

Mike: Knows Brandon Yates too and wants to get in on the cool action.

Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Kyle Koeberlein	President	X	
Mike Daughtery	Vice President	X	
Jansen Cunningham	Secretary		X
Ben Mudd	Treasurer	X	
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	X	
Brian Storz	River Conservation Liaison		X
Robert Watts	Safety Officer	X	
Clay Warren	Program Director	X	
James Welch	Film Festival Coordinator	X	
Joe Wheatley	Web Meister		X
Brandy Mellow	Gear Meister	X	
Codie Dunn	Member At Large		X
Dot Edwards	Membership Coordinator	X	
Bob Larkin	Past President	X	

Program 30-45 Minutes

Shoulder Injuries: Prevention and Treatment on the River
Presenter: Wes Prince, MD

New Business

Camping at Ratliff hole for BWA to be run by Brandy Mellow for the next two weekends which are the weekend of the 14th and 21st.

Bob giving update on rendezvous and memorial for Jason Powell. Need volunteer for rendezvous and Jason's memorial is this weekend.

Trip Reports

Time for club members to talk about and share any recent trips.

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

Robert Milgate made a motion to adjourn the meeting on 10/10/2017 @ 8:58 P.M. and it was seconded by Bob Larkin. The motion was carried.

**BWA Christmas Party &
General Club Meeting
@ Rock House Brewing**

12 Dec 2017

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location

**Rockhouse Brewing 119 Luigart Ct,
Lexington, KY 40508**



Rock slide damages wooden flume at TVA's Ocoee Dam No. 2

A rock slide damaged the water flume at tva's ocoee dam no. 2 In polk county on wednesday., November 8.

"The intake gate to the flume closed immediately and water is now being diverted down the river channel," tva wrote in a tweet.

No timetable or estimated costs to repair the damage were immediately available.

