

# BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Nov/Dec 2018

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*In our own words.....*

2018

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Megan Larkin



Entrance to the grounds

Lydia Powell

### ...A Little Rain Must Fall

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But this year, more than any other, we were hoping for good weather.

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But over the years, a lack of organization had resulted in near extinction for the event. People still showed up for the annual "Lord of the Fork" race, but the gathering had become informal and had migrated to nearby Elkhorn City, KY.

## Update from B.J. Kayak Bum & River Guide

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### Past Bowlines Stories about Team River Runner

#### Team River Runner on the Nantahala

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#### Team River Runner Goes to the Nanty

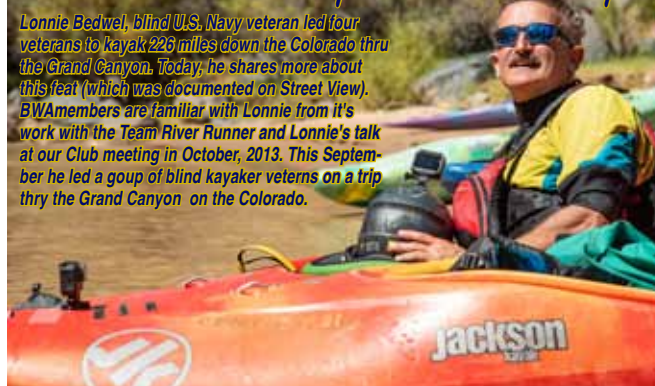
Bowlines September/October 2009 <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/SeptOct09%20Bowlines.pdf>

#### TRR Nantahala/All-American WW Festival

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## Five Blind Veterans Kayak the Grand Canyon

Lonnie Bedwell, blind U.S. Navy veteran led four veterans to kayak 226 miles down the Colorado thru the Grand Canyon. Today, he shares more about this feat (which was documented on Street View). BWA members are familiar with Lonnie from it's work with the Team River Runner and Lonnie's talk at our Club meeting in October, 2013. This September he led a group of blind kayaker veterans on a trip thru the Grand Canyon on the Colorado.



## The Bowlines needs your help!

It needs stories and articles that only you, the BWA membership, can provide. Your stories are important and members will be appreciative of you contributing your paddling trip stories, photos and paddling related articles. It is what has made this newsletter unique in the Whitewater paddling world:

We focus on printing the BWA's members original stories & photos. Please write for the Bowlines and email to editor!

# 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 Canoe/Kayak Roll Sessions

For date updates 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.

The tent is going up over the Pinnacle pool this week and winter rolling sessions will begin Friday November 2nd at 7:45. This year Christmas and New Year's don't interfere much so we should have sessions every Friday in December and January.



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

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)



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

### Club Officers 2018-2019

President	Mike Daugherty	859-554-8489
Vice-President	Hanley Loller	859-954-2025
Treasurer	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289
Secretary	Dot Edwards	859-351-0132
Safety	Hanley Loller	859-806-9843
Program	Sam Arnold	859-983-4475
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Joe Wheatly	859-361-0892
Conservation	Sandra Broadus	859-333-0208
Film Festival Coordinator	Ben Mudd	859-230-4763
Equipment Coordinator	Sarah Leach	262-751-4476
At-Large Member	Karen Payne Gill	812-221-5514
Membership Coordinator	Brian Storz	859-351-0132
Past President	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289

### 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



### About the BWA's Bowlines

The Bowlines has been a unique record of the BWA and its members. 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! Now dig in and enjoy old memories or chuckle at the amusing stories, poems and pictures...

# 2018

# Russell Fork Rendezvous Recap

Megan Larkin



*Lydia Powell*

Entrance to the grounds

## **...A Little Rain Must Fall**

The weather forecast for the 2018 Russell Fork Rendezvous looked gloomier with each passing day. For event organizers Bob Larkin, Brandy Mello, Nate Scally, Mark Branch and myself, the week leading up to the event was a frenzy of last-minute logistical issues and to-do lists that just grew longer. With a forecast that included the absolute certainty of rain, we tried to maintain our focus, while blocking out memories of the miserably cold and wet conditions of the previous year.

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But this year, more than any other, we were hoping for good weather.

## **Rendezvous re-born**

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But over the years, a lack of organization had resulted in near extinction for the event. People still showed up for the annual "Lord of the Fork" race, but the gathering had become informal and had migrated to nearby Elkhorn City, KY.

Bob couldn't stand the thought of letting the event fade away. In 2015, he and Viking Canoe Club president, Nate Scally, began making plans to bring the festival back to life.

In 2015, the event was moved to Carson Island (Elkhorn City) and rededicated as a fundraiser for American Whitewater, with a charge for camping implemented to cover costs. 2016 featured the return of a full band lineup on Friday and Saturday nights, and a truly enchanted firelit trail connecting the upper and lower campgrounds (created by our very own sorcerous, Brandy Mello).

But in 2017, the event faced a set of difficult challenges. In addition to the oppressive rain and bitterly cold temperatures, a political change in the town of Elkhorn City resulted in a police presence that included a roadblock at the festival entrance, regular foot patrols through the grounds and a ban on live music past 10pm.

"Don't worry," one of the police officers told Bob. "People are only upset because this is the first year we're doing this. But they'll get used to it."

Not likely.

### **Virginia is for lovers. And kayakers.**

With attendance on the rise, we already knew that Rendezvous wouldn't be able to remain at Carson Island forever. Several years back, Bob and I had met with members of the Haysi Kiwanis Club, which owns the site in where the original event was held.

The Kiwanis Fairgrounds were promising, but they were also more expensive and 15 miles away, two issues that would create a challenge when trying to re-establish the fledgling festival.

But 2017 left us little doubt that it was time for Rendezvous to go home to Haysi.



Team meets to plan 2019 Rendezvous



Is it that bear, a squatch, or Chief in a werewolf costume? We may never know for sure.

### **Free bear with purchase**

From the very first conversation, the Kiwanis Club couldn't have been more excited or more welcoming. Many of them remembered the old festivals fondly and were eager for the kayakers to return. During our second tour of the grounds, we met with representatives of the organization to hammer out all the details. They cut us a good deal on the facilities and would run the concession stands as a fundraiser for their club.

"Oh, and by the way," they mentioned, as we were winding up the conversation. "A bear hangs out here all the time. You'll probably see him. He's not shy."

The team got to work planning what everyone knew would be a very different Rendezvous experience, one that may even include a bear.

## The new digs

In August, we planned a scouting mission to check out the past and future home of the Russell Fork Rendezvous... Brandy and John Mello joined Bob and me for a rather unconventional sleepover. With the whole place to ourselves, we walked the grounds in the daylight and at night, took photos, made notes and kept our eye out for that bear, who was apparently suffering from uncharacteristic bashfulness.

Coming from the extremely primitive Carson Island, with no electric, no water and virtually no shelter, the Kiwanis Fairgrounds were practically a luxury resort. The new site featured a large stage with a green room for the bands, real bathrooms, a concession stand, electric hookups, trash facilities and multiple buildings that could be adapted into whatever we needed.

Enamored with the luxury of niceties like running water, we were still keenly aware of the challenges we would face in this first year. People are creatures of habit. How many of them could we lure away from the riverside Ratliff Hole campground that they were used to? Could we re-recreate the same vibe we had at the heavily wooded and remote Carson Island? Would we be able to make up the cost of this new, more expensive facility?

The sleepover had created more questions than it answered. We stayed up all night eating junk food and making plans.



Allisa Kaye

Magnolia Boulevard performs on stage.

## Raising Dough and Hype

One of the biggest challenges of the Rendezvous re-boot has been paying for it. Someday, we hope to be able to hand over big chunks of change to American Whitewater, but for now, we mostly hope to break even.

While the event is 100% volunteer run, bands aren't cheap, y'all. Neither are the facilities, additional bathrooms or loads and loads of firewood. They're an investment, which must be paid upfront.

With an increase in overhead and a big move, we had to get creative this year. Early seed money for Rendezvous comes from a variety of sources. T-shirt sales, a raffle, a successful fundraiser at Louisville's Nachbar, and a generous donation made by Lydia Powell (in honor of our late brother, Jason), were all vital to bringing in the funds we needed to make this event possible.

## But kayakers like rain...don't they?

When Brandy texted me her expletive-ridden feelings about the weather forecast, I told her not to worry. We were several days out still. Those forecasts are wrong all the time. And anyway, the universe wouldn't do that to us after all this hard work. Not after last year, no ma'am! Bob and Brandy arrived on site on Wednesday to discover that cell service was going to be the one luxury that the new site wouldn't offer us. At about 7pm, Bob managed to get a text message out to me that read, "The bear is here. It's really close and really big." Intrigued, I immediately responded with a request for more details. I heard nothing back for the rest of the night.

You'd be surprised how hard it is to sleep when you think your husband may have been eaten by a bear. I arrived the next day, a little sleep deprived, but excited to see busy volunteers and my totally uneaten husband, in a bucket truck that I still have no idea where he got.

Thursday gave us beautiful fall weather and a much larger turnout than any Thursday night in the past. The bear had lost interest in us and there was a peaceful, happy vibe around the small fire.

Friday was a flurry of new faces, tents popping up everywhere and trucks arriving loaded down with free firewood, which had been hospitably donated by nearby Thunder River Campground.

If the forecast or the move kept anyone away, you couldn't tell it by the crowd. The bands kicked off at 8pm with Vivian Leigh, Collateral Jamage and Dark Moon Hollow, with the help of sound engineer, Mark Branch. Saturday morning saw the arrival of damp and cold conditions, but no one seemed deterred as people began to shuttle to the river for the Lord of the Fork race.

I spent the day with my sister-in-law, Lydia, and several friends and family members who were experiencing Rendezvous and the Russell Fork River for the first time. If you ever need a reminder of what and magical life we lead, hike into the race with people who never have before.

We were welcomed back to the campground on Saturday evening to a roaring fire and the beginning of a live music lineup that included Heirloom Symphony, Groundhog Gravy, Magnolia Boulevard and Vessel.

The artisan building was hopping as shoppers browsed paintings and jewelry from talented local vendors. Rockstars, werewolves and famous wrestlers appeared around the fire, as people debuted their Halloween costumes. And the decision to welcome racers in for free this year paid off nicely, turning Saturday into a raucous Lord of the Fork afterparty that went all night long.

About ten dedicated revelers (myself included) were still left standing around the fire when members of the Kiwanis Club began arriving to make breakfast. One by one, we wandered off to our tents, trying not to think about what the next day would feel like.



Sonny and Cher, with Macho Woman Brandy Savage



Artist Shawn Wallace displays his unusual paintings

### **Moving Forward**

One week after the 2018 Russell Fork Rendezvous ended, a small group of organizers met to start planning 2019. After every big event, the desire to not think or talk about it for a very, very long time is always strong. But we know from experience how important it is to gather our thoughts while they're still fresh.

As we sipped beer around a much smaller fire in the Mellos' backyard, we talked about everything that went right, and everything that could have gone better. We brainstormed fundraising ideas and planned our next steps.

While no one is even a little unhappy with what was yet another crazy, stressful, amazing and ultimately very successful event, we also know that Rendezvous can be so much more.

But for that to happen, we need more. More dedicated, talented people to help us bring it to life. More fundraising, to allow us to cover the cost upfront and donate more money to AW. More awareness about the region and the event around the country. And for God's sake, more of October's normally crisp, dry weather.

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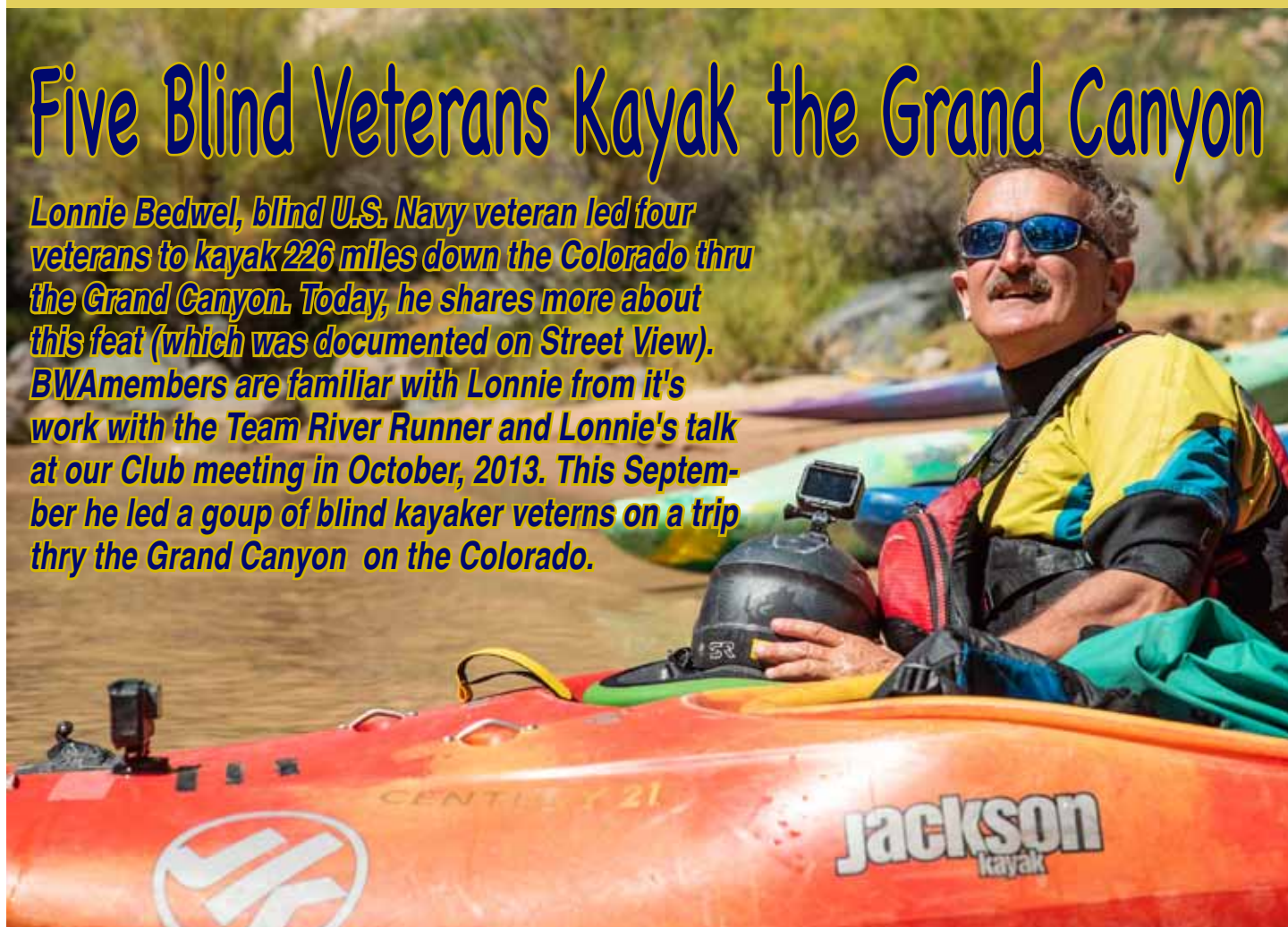
#### **Passing It On... With A Twist**

Bowlines September/October 2009

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BowlinesSepOct2013.pdf>

## Five Blind Veterans Kayak the Grand Canyon

***Lonnie Bedwel, blind U.S. Navy veteran led four veterans to kayak 226 miles down the Colorado thru the Grand Canyon. Today, he shares more about this feat (which was documented on Street View). BWAmembers are familiar with Lonnie from it's work with the Team River Runner and Lonnie's talk at our Club meeting in October, 2013. This September he led a group of blind kayaker veterans on a trip thru the Grand Canyon on the Colorado.***





**Lonnie Bedwell:**

*A question I often get is "How do blind people kayak the Grand Canyon?" Well, it starts with grit. And a lot of preparation. Our other visually-impaired team members—Steve Baskis, Kathy Champion, Brian Harris, and Travis Fugate—practiced hundreds of rolls (flipping yourself back up if you go underwater) and ramped up on big rivers all around the country to prepare. From there, it was all about teamwork and trust. Team River Runner pioneered a system in which a guide in front makes a homing noise that the blind kayaker then follows, as you can experience for yourself in this 360 video. Just like we relied on our squadron the military, we relied on each other out there in our kayaks. Our deployments in Afghanistan or Iraq reinforced our ability to work together and survive as a group, which came to life again on this river.*

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*Every single person challenged and pushed themselves on a daily basis. When the earthy warmth of the desert day cooled during the starry nights, delicious cooking smells filled the air, and sounds of music and laughter replaced the roar of the whitewater. I'll never forget how I felt our last night in the Canyon—so humbled by our team and their devotion to each other. I mean, very few people ever kayak the Grand Canyon, let alone five blind people! We reveled at how far we had come together, but most importantly, how far we could go if set our minds to it. We may have lost our sight, but we didn't lose our vision.*

**Read BWA member B. J. Phillip's article to find out about "the rest of the story" and how the BWA has been a part of that story.**

***"While we no longer have the ability to see, we still have the power of our senses. The transformative and healing power of exploring wild and natural landscapes like the Grand Canyon can be experienced, felt, and sensed."***

**B.J. Phillips**



On September of 2018 five visually impaired kayakers paddled the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. This is the rest of that story, the central Kentucky and the Bluegrass Wildwater Association connection that had beginnings of this amazing feat!

Most BWA members know about Lonnie Bedwell, who is an honorary member of the BWA, and his adventures of becoming the first blind person to paddle the Nantahala, the Pigeon, the Ocoee, the Gauley, the Zambezi, and the Colorado Rivers, but few may know of the beginnings of this latest trek down the Grand Canyon section of the Colorado!



The five blind kayakers are Lonnie Bedwell, Kathy Champion, Steve Baskis, Brian Harris, and Travis Fugate. Travis was one of the first two veterans to be members of Team River Runner Lexington when that organization was still a white water group of volunteers and veterans training on white water before it dissolved several years ago. At that time Travis still had some sight remaining and was not totally blind. His first completed white water run was on the lower Elkhorn creek. Not long after he moved from the central Kentucky area, but has remained active in kayaking despite becoming 100% visually impaired.

The beginnings of Travis' white water life began with two BWA members, Linda Tribble and Britt Lindstrom, and they are responsible for Team River Runner Lexington at that time. They are two very dedicated individuals who had the vision to see a connection between white water sports and the benefit this sport could be for military veterans! Their dedication and belief was infectious and went on to help a lot veterans deal with physical and Post Traumatic Stress traumas of veterans since.

Lonnie Bedwell's trek into white water sports has been pretty well covered in the past on this site and at presentations at the National Paddling Film Festival, but few know that Linda and Britt was also there when Lonnie was "training" on the Nantahala and Pigeon rivers before his historic first descent down the Grand Canyon. It was these two that set the bar and the tone for future trips of sighted and non-sighted veterans on white water since then!

However, Lonnie was not completely satisfied with being the only first to achieve the feats that he has accomplished and he had the yearnings to "bring others along". He has worked relentlessly on helping to teach other visually impaired veterans the skills of kayaking and this year his vision became reality with being joined along with four other veterans on the mighty Colorado. He said, "This was kind of a pay back trip for me!" By a pay back trip he meant that after that first trip through the Grand Canyon that although he was first but it was,

“absolutely irrelevant and meaningless if we can’t pay it forward and bring others along to do it”.

Steve Baskis told Lonnie, “I want to do this just like you did”, and according to Lonnie that “set the tone” for this recent trip that included the other visually impaired paddlers. When asked by a Today Show host, “How do you guys do this?” Steve’s answer was simple. “It’s wild, because recreation sports, athletics, is about moving and the physics is something the blind can tap into. We learn the same skills and techniques that a (sighted) kayaker would learn, but we apply that in a different way. We don’t have this ability to see down the river and be proactive... we are reacting”.

Not all the blind veterans on this trip paddled the entire 226 miles of the grand Canyon this time with two of them paddling about 80% and the others paddling about 50% of it, but they all said that they will be going back because those that did not boat the entire section, “have unfinished business there”. Of course Lonnie paddled the entire section again and is setting the bar, spreading confidence, and showing that it can be done – it is a sure bet that even more blind veterans will follow his lead!

Also, much should be said about the sighted veterans and volunteers that have made this recent trip by the five non-sighted veterans because without them such a trip would not be possible. Some of the veteran guide kayakers included Russell Davies, Racheal Ward, and “Doc” Guzman and intensive training at the White Water Park in Charlotte. Guzman said, “I am helping other veterans and this is my therapy”. This is the connection that Linda Tribble and Brit Lindstrom envisioned years ago and that has endured since within the paddling community and at other locations throughout the United States. Hopefully the present Team River Runner Lexington can realize this and once again return to the positive aspect that white water sports can have on the veterans that surely need it!

Kathy Champion said, “Once you meet people like Lonnie”, who said to her,

*“You can do it, you can do this!”*

*... and they did*

*... and they will!!!!*



## TEAM RIVER RUNNER

Team River Runner believes that every wounded and disabled veteran deserves the opportunity to embrace new challenges, invoke leadership, and promote camaraderie. Team River Runner provides an outlet to fulfill these beliefs – inviting wounded and disabled war veterans and their families to participate in adaptive paddling programs.

# Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines...

## I Want to go paddle a river, but where?

Being a whitewater Paddler in the sixties, seventies & eighties was a challenge in ways you may not even consider nowadays. The interstate highway and many other roads were not what they are today. You might often add a hour or two or more in the time it would take you to go paddling in North Carolina and Tennessee. I remember getting to the NOC at 1 or 2 in the a.m. even leaving Lexington by 6. We would go to the Chattooga on 3 day weekends and then work back to Tennessee so that going home on Sunday would be closer.

The other problem we had was knowing if there was enough water to paddle a stream. We would watch the weather column in the Newspaper that listed cities in each state to see if was raining or had rained. No weather channel, no internet always made it a guess.

Best we could do is find someone to call that lived near the stream to see if they could tell if it had rained and how much. We had certain restaurants that we ate at like Mildred's in Wartburg, or the Riverside restaurant at the Tellico we would call for current rain info.

Paddling with good water become much easier when the TVA and then others would have numbers that you could get recorded river flow info on. River level info got easier to call for, but it could still be expensive.

The internet has made driving a few hours to paddle less of a guess and encouraged river trips further afield.

### NEW TVA NUMBER FOR STREAM FLOWS

From a touch-tone phone, you can now get updated information on 21 unregulated rivers within the TVA system. Call 632-2264, interrupt the message by pressing "3", and this will give you the flows, which are updated on the odd hour. This is a great service to the paddling community. Thanks TVA.

*Bowlines Oct 1992*

### TVA River Flows Now Available From Recording

TVA river flows are now available 24 hours a day by calling Raleigh, NC (919) 833-6319. What you will hear is a recorded announcement of 19 river flows as of 0600 that morning. The recording will be updated each morning by 0830. Readings will be available SIX days a week Monday-Saturday. If you call on Sunday, you will hear Saturday's message. In the future, it may be possible to get Sunday readings also.

Joe Greiner and the Carolina Canoe Club, working with the TVA has had the system installed and it is now operating.

This is an improvement over the current system where the paddler can only get flow information from a TVA technician between 0830-1630 Monday-Friday. Saturday flows are currently unavailable on Saturday morning. Now the paddler can call the recordings in the evenings when the phone rates are lower and can also get Saturday morning flows on Saturday mornings.

The TVA is currently looking into establishing an 800 number service. Part of their justification will be if the use of this number reduces the phone load to this technician. Therefore, if all you need is the river flows, please use this number instead of calling the TVA in Knoxville.

The Announcement that you hear will be something like this:

This is (day), the (date) and here are the river flows as of 6:00 a.m. this morning. Rivers throughout the area are generally (falling, falling slowly, steady, rising, rising fast). These are being provided to the TVA in Knoxville, Tennessee and the equipment and phone lines are being provided by various paddling clubs.

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Town Creek at Geraldine        | 10. Clinch at Tazemore           |
| 2. Little River (TN) at Maryville | 11. Little Tennessee at Needmore |
| 3. French Broad at Newport        | 12. Oconoluftee at Birdtown      |
| 4. Doe at Elizabethton            | 13. Emory at Oakdale             |
| 5. Watauga at Sugar Grove         | 14. Collins at McMinnville       |
| 6. South Fork Holston at Damascus | 15. Toccoa at Dial               |
| 7. Nolichucky at Embreeville      | 16. Buffalo at Lobelville        |
| 8. Little Pigeon at Sevierville   | 17. Powell at Arthur             |
| 9. Clinch at Cleveland            | 18. Powell at Jonesville         |
|                                   | 19. Tuckaseegee at Bryson City   |

Thank you for calling and have a nice day.

*Editors Note: TSRA has contributed to telephone costs.*

*Bowlines July 1991*

From the 1992 Bowlines this info on a 900 number to obtain river flow info. Expensive, but you got needed info... better than going and finding no water in the river!

## BOWLINES

### RIVER GAUGES BY PHONE

**T**here is now a service called WATERLINE that you can call to get gauge readings for many rivers in New York state. But, don't get too excited yet, because there is a catch. It's a "900" number that costs \$1.19 per minute.

I haven't tried this service yet so all I can tell you is what I have read in their brochure, which says the following:

To get river level readings, dial (900) 726-GAGE (4243) and enter the code(s) for the gauge(s) you want. A touch tone phone is required and your phone bill will be charged at the rate of \$1.19 per minute.

WATERLINE will speak the current and prior gauge readings in feet, followed by the reporting frequency. A complete reading takes about 45 seconds. You can interrupt any reading and start a new one by entering another gauge code. If you only listen to the latest readings, you can get one reading in the first minute and five readings in two minutes. The gauge sponsoring agencies control the content and timing of reports available to WATERLINE.

WATERLINE also has a customer service line. You can call their automated toll free 24 hour customer service at (800) WILLDERNESS (945-3376) for information, sample readings, and river gauge lists for other areas. They will mail you details or if you have a FAX number, they will automatically FAX you everything that you request within a few minutes. Their message says that they currently report over 320 gauges in the northeast portion of the

country and they now have partial coverage of Virginia and West Virginia. They expect to have nationwide coverage (over 1000 gauges) within the next few months.

Using the customer service line you can have a list of the gauge code numbers mailed or FAX'ed to you. As a sample of what is available, the following is a list of the gauge codes for New York state:

- 361384 Genesee River at Wellsville
- 361421 Hoosic River near Eagle Bridge
- 365111 Hudson River at Albany
- 361424 Hudson River at Fort Edward
- 361426 Hudson River at Green Island
- 361427 Hudson River at Hadley
- 361431 Hudson River at North Creek
- 361443 Independence River at Donnattsburg
- 361511 Mohawk River at Cohoes
- 361518 Mohawk River near Little Falls
- 361488 Moose River, Middle Branch near McKeever
- 361543 Newtown Creek at Elmira
- 361563 Oaks Creek at Index
- 361564 Oatka Creek at Garbutt
- 361565 Oatka Creek at Warsaw
- 361778 Oswegatchie River, West Branch near Harrisville
- 361585 Otselic River at Cincinnatus
- 361591 Ouleout Creek at East Sidney
- 361594 Owego Creek near Owego
- 361632 Raquette River at Piercefield
- 361638 Rondout Creek at Rosendale
- 361646 Sacandaga River at Stewarts Bridge near Hadley
- 361648 Sacandaga River near Hope
- 361659 Saranac River at Plattsburgh
- 361665 Scajaquada Creek at Buffalo
- 361667 Schoharie Creek at Breakabeen
- 361668 Schoharie Creek at Burtonsville
- 361672 Schoharie Creek at North Blenheim
- 361673 Schoharie Creek at Prattsville
- 361677 Seneca River at Baldwinsville
- 361674 St. Regis River, West Branch near Parishville
- 365112 Susquehanna River at Bainbridge
- 361724 Susquehanna River at Conklin
- 361726 Susquehanna River at Unadilla
- 361727 Susquehanna River at Vestal
- 365116 Susquehanna River near Waverly
- 365117 Susquehanna River at Windsor
- 361737 Tioga River near Erwins
- 361736 Tioga River at Lindley
- 361738 Tioughnioga River at Cortland
- 361739 Tioughnioga River at Itaska
- 365115 Tioughnioga River at Lisle
- 361742 Tonawanda Creek at Batavia
- 361754 Unadilla River at Rockdale
- 361766 Wallkill River at Gardiner
- 361771 Wappinger Creek near Wappingers Falls
- 365118 Allegheny River at Olean
- 361121 Allegheny River at Salamanca
- 361317 Ausable River, East Branch at Ausable Forks
- 361129 Batten Kill at Battenville
- 361131 Beaver Kill at Cooks Falls
- 361151 Black Creek at Churchville
- 361159 Black River near Boonville
- 361158 Black River at Watertown
- 361166 Buffalo Creek at Gardenville
- 361174 Callicoon Creek at Callicoon
- 361176 Canacadea Creek near Hornell
- 361181 Canaseraga Creek above Dansville
- 361187 Canisteo River below Canacadea Creek at Hornell
- 361191 Canisteo River at West Cameron
- 365113 Catatonk Creek near Oswego
- 361211 Cattaraugus Creek at Gowanda
- 361215 Cayuga Creek near Lancaster
- 361218 Casenovia Creek at Ebenezer
- 361222 Chadakoin River at Falconer
- 361227 Chemung River at Chemung
- 361228 Chemung River at Corning
- 365114 Chemung River at Elmira
- 361232 Chenango River near Chenango Forks
- 361229 Chenango River at Greene
- 361231 Chenango River at Sherburne
- 361242 Cohocton River near Campbell
- 361267 Delaware River above Lackawaxen River near Barryville
- 361344 Ellicott Creek below Williamsville
- 361352 Esopus Creek at Allaben
- 361353 Esopus Creek at Coldbrook
- 361378 Genesee River at Avon
- 361385 Genesee River near Mount Morris
- 361379 Genesee River at Portageville
- 361381 Genesee River at Rochester

# BOW LINES

## California Dreaming on Such a Summer's Day

**O**n Monday June 7, 1993 I drove from the Ocoee to the Arkansas border where I slept in an Arkansas Rest Area. On Tuesday I drove to the border of New Mexico and stayed in a Rest Area there. Wednesday I made it to the California border and Thursday, June 10 I drove into Lake Isabella where I met up with Chuck Richards. Chuck has traditionally been my contact person and good friend on the Kern River. Later that day I hooked up with some paddlers in Kernville at the Park (takeout and slalom course) and agreed to do a run with them on the upper section of the Kern.

The plan was to put in at the Johnsondale bridge and run the Limestone section down through Chamise gorge, the Goldledge section and take out below Cable rapid. The Kernville flow was a medium-high level of 2100 cfs. None of the four of us had done this run of about 15 miles and one paddler was a fairly new boater. From what I later experienced we would have had big trouble if we had succeeded in doing this run. Fortunately for the group but unfortunately for the newby, the newby totally dislocated his shoulder in the first Class IV rapid we came to, a half mile or so into the run. The rapids in the Chamise gorge and Goldledge dwarf that one in comparison and volume.



Friday was a day to explore the area and mountain bike. That evening I met an open-boater who invited me to do the Cable Run which is a Class III run of about five miles. Saturday morning, June 12, at the put-in below Cable Rapid, the river had risen to 2700 cfs at Kernville. Because of a recent persisting heat wave, the river was rising steadily and was about 3000 cfs by the end of the day. The end of the day level would usually be the level one started with the next day.

The next day found me hooked up with a paddler and two of his friends to do the 9 1/2 mile Chamise gorge and Goldledge run. The consensus among these guys was that the water was rising

on us during the day. By the end of the day the level was about 3200 cfs at Kernville. Because of diversion, the flow we were on was a beefy 2700 cfs. For comparison,

*(continued on page 4)*

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Holbek and Stanley says this run is optimal at 1200 cfs. At the level we were running it, this water was solid Class IV-V with one carry: the first drop to Salmon Falls rapid. At normal flows, I believe this run would be a grade easier.

For those interested, we put in at Caulken Flat and took out at Thunder Rock. There are numerous class IV-V rapids, most of which are described on maps available through Chuck Richards' Whitewater store in Kernville. For California paddling in general, I recommend the Holbek/St Stanley and the Cassidy/Calhoun books because they provide different useful information.

On Monday, June 14 after a warm-up run on the Cable section, I drove to Fresno where I picked up Mike Clark at the airport. Tuesday found us at the Johnsondale Bridge with two Prescott University instructors, Gareth Richards and Steve (I forgot his last name). The flow at Kernville was about 3500 cfs. After a good warm-up on the Limestone section, we decided to paddle the Goldledge section called the "Thunder Run". This consists of putting in above Squashed Paddler, running the meat of the big rapids on the river in about a 4.5 mile stretch.

That night Derek and Jackie Eggers drove in as planned. Wednesday, June 16, began with Clark running Chamise gorge (from the dam to below Satan's Slot) with Gareth and Steve. The river peaked this day with the flow at Kernville being close to 4000 cfs. Because they were not familiar with the run at this level the run ended up lasting about five hours. I paddled the Cable run with Derek and Jackie, neither of whom were accustomed yet to the water.

On Thursday, June 17 the four of us paddled the Lower Kern from Hobo Campground to the Highway 178 bridge. The water was released from the top of Lake Isabella at a juicy 2000 cfs that day, allowing us to wear shorty splash jackets for the first time. At this level the run is a pool-drop Class III+ with maybe one easy class IV. There is one portage called Royal Flush that signs on the river direct your attention to.

After getting off the river, we drove out of the Kern valley past the Cascades section of the lower Kern, a stretch of whitewater that is nothing short of "desperate Class VI" as I heard it described. That night we made into the Sequoia National Park for camp. The next morning found us in Three Rivers where we set our shuttle for a run on the Kaweah. The



take-out was at Noisy Waters Restaurant. Get permission first. We put in at the Gateway Bridge where we were told that we would be trespassing but to go ahead and do it and be quick about it. River access is pretty uptight here.

The flow was a high 2000 plus cfs with a gage reading of 2.25. We had been told by other paddlers that 0 to 18 inches were the ranges to paddle. However, we did not see the gage until we were already on the river and committed to the run. It was a good level. The water was cold, you could see the snow capped mountains upstream that fed it and the river bed was periodically choked with brush that hindered the downstream view as the water sped up and we would find ourselves in the middle of a class IV rapid. At the takeout there is a six-foot river wide ledge that requires a move either on the far left or left center around a boulder. As one of the local tubers described the hole at the bottom: "don't get near that swirly water, cause you'll go round-n-round and have to get yourself out!"

On June 20, 1993 we arrived in the town of El Portal along the entrance road to Yosemite National Park. The Merced was roaring along at over 6000 cfs. We put in about 200 yards upstream from the Chevron station in El Portal and took out at the hanging bridge below Ned's Gulch Rapid. The put in was Class IV-V but looked like III-IV from the road. After about 1.5 miles of hyperventilating on the top stretch (imagine Pillow Rock for this distance - that is roughly what it felt like), the river took on a more manageable III-IV character to the take-out. Even the lower stretch was deceptively harder than it appeared from the road. Hole dodging was the name of the game here. Notwithstanding that objective, we all found ourselves punching or surfing holes. Jackie

Eggers saw god in one but was able to get out in one piece before getting munched too bad.

After spending the night in Yosemite park, Mike and I bade Derrick and Jackie farewell as they left for Colorado. I would see them at the Animas River Days in Durango in a week. Mike and I headed north looking for the next river to paddle. On a tip from a raft company, we decided to try the North Fork of the Stanislaus which was running a manageable 500 cfs. With an average gradient of 77 feet per mile, this sounded like eastern style creek paddling and a nice break from big pushy water.

On June 21 we put on at Sourgrass Bridge and hitchhiked the shuttle from the take out at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. This Class III-IV run was a delight among Sequoias and Ponderosa Pines and the occasional lava flows that boxed in parts of the run. With another 500 to 1000 cfs, this run could easily be a grade harder.

June 22 found us further north still in Lotus (also "Coloma") where Sutters Mill is along the South Fork of the American. After frequenting the only paddling store in the area and talking with several boaters, including Perception Representative, Steve Long, we drove up to do the North Fork American to paddle the Chamberlain Falls section. The flow was about 1000 cfs on the flow phone gage. We thought the flow was too low as the run was mainly Class III with a couple of maybe IVs (Chamberlain Falls and Staircase). Holbek and Stanley put the optimum at 1500 cfs which would have been about 50% more flow. The put-in is in Colfax at the bridge on Iowa Hill Road. The take-out is found by driving down the treacherous Yankee Jim's Road to the bridge.

After that run, Mike and I decided to drive up to the North Fork of the Yuba. Traversing up Highway 49, we crossed the

South Fork of the Yuba and were astounded by the view of beautiful cascading rapids over white granite boulders disappearing into a gorge. We stopped the vehicle, got out the Holbek/Stamley book and began considering that run. We then drove up the North Fork of the Yuba to Downieville, and found a campsite along the river. The next morning I observed Mike trying to work his "magic" on another paddler to run the South Fork (*i.e.* run shuttle for us). His logic went as follows: the South Fork had 814 cfs in it which is below the minimum Holbek and Stamley recommend for this Class IV-V run. Therefore, the run would be class IV and "why don't you pimp your friends and do this run with us," he suggested slyly. It didn't work and we were without a shuttle.

Instead, we drove back to Coloma and then took the Interstate up to Kyburz. By this time, June 23 was into the 6:00 p.m. hour and we decided to do a short three mile run down 100 foot gradient. The flow was 1000 cfs and the run was an absolute blast. I strongly recommend, however, that those interested in running this section put in below the portage rapid since you will not miss much and you will avoid at least two carries (a low head dam being the other portage). We took off a little before dark and hitchhiked back up to the van.

That evening we had no luck getting other boaters interested in doing the South Fork Yuba run. Two paddlers from Oregon acted interested but wanted to speak to a local comrade before getting on something like that. Apparently they were talked out of it. We decided that one way or the other, with or without shuttle, we were going to put on tomorrow.

June 24, 1993: We arrive at the put-in to the South Fork Yuba at the Route 49 bridge around noon. Because of new construction, we could not get to the old bridge and we could not find any other access point. So, we lined our boats down the hill. Finally, about an hour later, hot, tired and thirsty, we were ready to put on and begin the first portage of the day. Our plan was to take-out at the bridge that crosses at Bridgeport and hitch a ride from the people that hang out on the river there. We expected that the 7.2 miles, scouting and possible portages included, would take 3 to 4 hours. It took 6 hours, we had numerous portages and were scouting almost every hundred yards.

The gradient reached 120 feet per mile in one section with large drops becoming common. There was a lot of variety in the

rapids, but we were wrong on one point; the level of difficulty was very much in the class IV-V range, and with only two of us and being unfamiliar with the river, the run would be roughly comparable to doing the Watauga for the first time trying to pick your way down. It was a grueling run. Several drops on this stretch caused Mike to comment: "this is just like X and such rapid on the Green," as if he stealthily were planting a seed in my brain. Mike led most of the river, but towards the end of the trip the stress of leading began to show signs. After almost sending me to my doom on one 8 to 10 foot drop, Mike finally called for a carry on a narrow, but class III shoot. We ran it and both realized that he had short circuited out.

Back at camp that evening, we both contemplated the Giant Gap run we had planned the next day with Steve Long. Having seen the Holbek/Magneson film "Wild Americans," we estimated the mental fatigue of running Class V water. But it would be nice to follow someone's line for a change that knew the river. Therefore, on June 25, we put on the river with about 700 cfs in it. Steve and friends Randy and Kim assured us that this would be a mellow level, which compared to the day before, it turned out to be.

At this level, Giant Gap is a solid class IV+ run with one easy V called Dominator. Locomotive Falls was not the sticky hole and was straightforward. Nutcracker was likewise straightforward. It did help having lines to follow with confidence. We stopped and lunched at a beautiful waterfall below the Gap and enjoyed Class III water to the takeout. A number of the rapids were solid III+ to IV-. Suffice it to say, that this run would be considerably more difficult with increased push from the water. A 1500 to 2000 cfs level would certainly involve running very solid Class V rapids and numerous IVs.

I drove Mike to Sacramento to John Davis' home where I finally met this film legend of longstanding BWA repute. Mike was to catch a flight in the early a.m. and I drove east to spend the night on the Pacific Crest at Donner Pass (where the cannibalism took place in the 1800s). I made it to just north of Moab, Utah on the evening of Saturday the 26th and got to Durango late the next morning where I searched for Derek and Jackie. After briefly seeing Frank and Metz and then promptly losing them for the rest of my stay, I ran into an old friend that I met last year on the Upper Gauley: Scott Bortz.

The Animas was cranking 4000 cfs and there were not many running the upper section. We paddled the town slalom course that afternoon and finally met up with the Eggers. They had found a lead to do the Piedra and we were in. On Monday, June 28 we put in on the lower stretch of the river which includes the most difficult rapids on the river in what is termed "the first box canyon." The first three miles of this run, at medium-high water level, is good class IV with one easy V called Eye of the Needle. It is also easy to carry and scout on the right. It is beautiful all the way down the river. The remaining 7 miles or so is class II most of the way down.

The next day, June 29 found me near Vail with Scott on Gore Creek (not to be confused with Gore Canyon), a tributary to the Eagle River that runs right through the middle of Vail. The water came up suddenly that day and Scott and comrades were all surprised at the high level. I wasn't because I didn't know what to expect. This run was, at this level, continuous class III-IV without much in the way of eddies. It was lots of fun.

Wednesday June 30 we put on the Arkansas River, the Numbers section. The level at the bridge was a juicy 4.5 feet. Commercial trips stop running at 4.0 feet. Neither of us knew the river but everything was pretty much boat scoutable. We did get out of our boats to look at Number 4 and Number 5. For the most part, the run was class IV- with one IV+ (Number 5 rapid). I thought the water level was perfect and the run was a rock-n-roll hoot.

Thursday July 1 we put on the Roaring Fork (Slaughterhouse Run) at 3.5 feet. We were told this was a high level and that the cfs was about 1200. It could have had more water, but at this level, the run was class III-IV from start to finish. Slaughterhouse falls was run on the right. The boulder gardens were numerous and lots of fun. This was probably one of my favorite Colorado runs, overall. The Piedra ranks up there as well.

That evening I drove to the border of Kansas. I made it to Cairo, Illinois the next day. By Sunday I was back on the Ocoee and it was almost as if I hadn't left. After weeks and weeks of adrenaline and paddling, what could I possibly do? The haunting words of Clark Vader kept coming to mind: "Let go Brent, I am your father. Use the [boat] control. Come with me to the dark side, I mean the Green." But that is the next story.

*Brent Austin*



# Off the Cuff

## Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

### **Obed River Map** **October 23, 2018**

Got this message from Alex Zendel:

Here's the Obed map I was telling you about. [rainpursuit.org <http://rainpursuit.org/obedmap/flyer.pdf>]  
Can you please spread the word with your KY boating contacts? I was hoping to write a much bigger check to AW.....

Thanks,  
Alex

### **Check it out, pretty cool.** **Brent Austin**

### **Rendezvous a blast!** **October 29, 2018**

The new/old rendezvous was GRE-EAAT! What awesome facilities compared to Carson island!!!! Can't say enough about Bob, Megan, Brandy, and everyone involved to make this new/old rendezvous the special event it was!!!! The town of Haysi and the Kiwanis were so welcoming and expressed their pleasure to have a bunch of crazy boaters feel at home! Goo-ood time!

### **B. J. - kayak bum and river guide**

**I agree BJ.** It was a blast from the past in so many ways, and refreshing and new in others. Location is great. Good to be back there. It had been since 2003 when I was last on the property. The locals were awesome. Haysi is very welcoming. Just refreshing. Good job on the infrastructure, the signage, the majick, the music and amazing volunteer effort by so many. Felt so good and so right. Thank you Bob, Megan and Brandy. You did it. Mark Branch deserves great credit for the professionalism he brings to managing the sound board and working with the musicians.

The race was awesome, and the near 1300 cfs level added a bit of excitement out there and also contributed to some very fast times. Thanks so much Willy Witt for doing the times, with Damon Patterson helping. A great tradition continues and it is cool to have pros show up from all over as well as our homeys. Love watching the finish line at Climax. Awesome that the

racers got into the festival for free. That is what I used to do too.

Overall, the energy was palpable and real. It will pay dividends as this festival really put the Rendezvous in the consciousness of the paddling community and beyond. I am so proud of the effort and the exhausting work done. I know what this is like and while tired, you should feel really good about how it went down. And it was crappy weather too! Big BWA hand you all.

### **Brent**

**Just want to give a huge thanks to ALL the volunteers** that made this years festival such an awesome event. Brandy put and has been putting the magic into this festival for a long time and deserves a ton of credit. Megan worked hard behind the scenes to organize the volunteers, build our facebook presence and keep this event fresh in the minds of those that showed up. A big thanks to Mark for the massive amount of work he did before, during and after the event. The music was fantastic and your efforts really showed. Both John and Little Bear were always there and always in the thick of things when stuff needed to get done and thank you, thank you thank you to the clean up crews that just seem to show up out of nowhere and get stuff done. Set up, gate volunteers, security and especially to the members of the Kiwanis club and the town of Haysi as well as to everyone that jumped in to help out. You really are what makes this festival happen.

### **Bob L.**

Bob, Brandy, Megan, Mark and other volunteers: You folks did a great job. I am continually amazed how much work you put into an event like this. Huge thanks!

### **Ace**

### **Rainy and warm this weekend!** **November 29, 2018**

Everything is primed here. See what the rain does. Hopefully Greenbrier and the Little will come up. Otherwise, I could do the Nolichucky again or perhaps the Watauga. Supposed to be 68 degrees in Cosby TN on Sunday.

### **Brent**

Drizzled all night here in Cosby, but nothing too much. Even that caused a small bump in the Little. Looks like rain will be spotty today so I don't expect things to come up much in the next ten hours. The Pigeon just turned on, so it will be running a bit today. On the other hand, from looking at weather maps and the quant precip forecast, Sunday looks almost guaranteed to have a Greenbrier run. Saturday, it is hard to say at this point. But, the Little will likely be in play on Sunday, if not Saturday afternoon as well. Will not take much to get it over 2.4 as it is at 2.10 now. As such, I am planning on staying around here. Anyone interested in doing either of those runs this weekend in the Park? I am pretty sure they will come into play, so come on down. I should be out there on one or the other, depending on water levels. Also, Big Creek will probably run on Sunday. I suspect that the Pigeon will run every day like it has been, with the water turned on and off per the Duke web page generation schedule.

I have plenty of camping space and shelter, indoor kitchen and bathroom/shower, hot tub, and it looks like warm and wet this weekend. Just how we boaters like it! (Side note, if you come, bring coffee, paper towels and toilet paper along with food and booze to pot luck/ share with hungry dirt bag boaters). Skobotin!

### **Brent**

Looks like Sunday will work out good for me. Anyone from Lex interested in riding down to the park Saturday evening or early Sunday?  
Can't wait to get back on the Little or Greenbrier...

### **Ace**

Dang, looks like I'm going to be stuck in Lexington on Sunday. Might push for a RFG lap tomorrow if rain doesn't slam the Smokys. I would love to hit the Wataqua soon too.

If you can't boof it, squirt it! If you can't squirt it, are you even wet?

### **Mike D**

Cool Ben. Come on down. I understand Majick! I have Chief and Mark Singleton in for a Sunday run on the Greenbrier. I also think we may see the Little tomorrow afternoon, perhaps rising enough. I am meeting Amelia in four hours, at 3 p.m. in Hartford today to paddle the Pigeon. If you are in Lexington, you would need to leave right now to join us. Come party and boat this

weekend BWA people. I got some time on my hands this weekend and next week so this would be a good one to do nothing but paddle and eat and drink with friends.

For those that have not done the Greenbrier, it is a mostly Class III run, with some III+ and some easy IV action in a few spots. It starts off with a bang and about a quarter mile of steady continuous class III and then it is one nice class III after another until you get to Billboard and Pillow, which are more in the class III-IV range, water level and line dependent. There are class III lines through both. Then several more miles of class III interspersed with Class II, pretty continuous, until you get to the last two picturesque class III drops at Wedding Beach and the takeout. Go get some great barbeque two minutes away on Hwy 321, come back and repeat. Pretty scenery with very clean water to play in. Hard to beat something 10 minutes from my door step.

When I first bought the property down here in 2000, I had been hearing about the Greenbrier for years, mostly from Mike Molnar who claimed at one point it was his favorite stream in the Smokies. After I got the land here, I first got on Greenbrier and fell in love with it. A true Smoky Mountains classic. Come check it out!

### **Brent**

I am driving to South Carolina on Sunday and plan to catch a couple of laps on the Pigeon on the way. Should be in Hartford around noon. Have fun on the Greenbrier...maybe I can catch you next time.

### **Joe W**

Joe, the Little and/ Greenbrier are going to be in tomorrow since it is still raining, has been all day at least drizzling, and I see the Little is already at 2.47 as of 6 p.m. reading. That means everything may go tomorrow if you want to meet up. I imagine the Pigeon may get bigger than normal so if that is all you can do, it ain't bad.

### **Brent**

Brent,  
I would love to jump onto the little or the greenbrier tomorrow. Let me know what the schedule is.

### **Robert W.**

Cool Robert. I am helping a friend in the morning drop off their car with a mechanic do probably won't paddle until noon. I now think Greenbrier will be in tomorrow

and the Little will be big. Text me in the morning and I will know more.

**Brent**

So, it appears that this is going to be one of those perfect weekends for the Greenbrier and the Little. Warm conditions and just the right amount of water. I have 1.1 inches in my rain gauge over the past thirty hours. Looks like another half inch in the next 12 hours. Things will not get too high. Little is currently at 3.14 and dropping. I do not have a visual on Greenbrier yet, but am sure it is running. Lou will probably go have a look this morning. Should be a party here tonight. Great conditions! I will be out there by noon.

**Brent**

**December 03, 2018**

What a great weekend! Big crew here enjoying warm wet conditions on fun class III/IV creeking action on the Little and Greenbrier. Little was over 3' both days and the Greenbrier was about 1.9 on Saturday and 2.2 on Sunday which provided a Ramsey's run for Clay and a new buddy while the rest of us, like more than 20, did laps on the Greenbrier section with temperatures near 70 degrees. Bunch of new first time runs by folks. Now y'all see why MikeMolnar (one word), always crowed about it back in the early 90s... Sure was fun to get to know some new folks this weekend. Y'all come back now, ya hear?

**Brent**

Brent! I have such a great time on the Greenbrier! Thanks for the unending hospitality and for a serious Sunday funday! Send my thanks to Lou for lines at the big ones!

**Jessy R**

**Think On This  
October 03, 2018**

October/November 2018 Schedule  
10/6-7 800cfs  
10/13-14 800cfs  
10/20-21 800cfs  
10/27-28 1000cfs Lord of the Fork Race  
11/2-3 350cfs  
11/9-10 400cfs  
11/16-17 900cfs

The USACE are adding 3 test release weekends in November as part of the study to extend the fall release season and add low water summer releases.

**October 07, 2018**

Ok, so they updated the information on the USACE page, so here is the new schedule and flows. Russell Fork Info still shows the old schedule, but I think Stevie is on vacation. this week.

Russell Fork River		
Dates	Times	Flow
Oct 6-7	9:30-3:30	800
Oct 13-14	9:30-3:30	800
Oct 20-21	9:30-3:30	800
Oct 27-28	9:30-3:30	1000
Nov 3-4*	9:30-3:30	900
Nov 9-10*	9:30-3:30	350
Nov 11-12*	9:30-3:30	400

\*Additional whitewater release weekends to allow an assessment of impacts as part of a study to optimize winter drawdown.

Target flows are 1100 cfs (800 cfs plus Russell Fork flows) not to exceed 1300 cfs at the Bartlick gage.

**Thanks** for posting this brother! Its my belief that this schedule will stick. Ignore rumors about other dates and levels unless you see it on the CORPS site. The worse case scenario is that nobody shows up on these weekends. NOV 3-4 dates are being studied for consideration of 900 use on other dates(!!!), the next weekend dates are more to monitor changes in fishing by the smaller releases. I personally plan on fishing that weekend and reporting the results in a survey to the USACE. I know the 830+ that we saw opens up some rafting lines that aren't in any of the sections otherwise but makes the upper less janky especially.

We need as many people as possible to be there BOTH of this historic release events to prove we are force and will use the resources that the CORPS seems willing to consider giving. If you aren't racing or running safety in the Green Race you don't have an excuse to miss this precedence setting event for future extended releases in the Russell Fork! We started the precedence by getting the flows in spring for the swr and kayak clinics many years ago and this is just as an important step as those were then. I am going to offer very special rates for commercial rafting and ducky rentals during the two November weekends with free wet suit rentals.

If you see a USACE or Breaks Park Ranger doing surveys go to them, Dont wait on them to come to you

to fill one out. The USACE one is going to have less boaters simply because few people put in at the dam because its not near the gorge and there are shorter shuttle routes to Bartlick and Haysi. It is vital that folks who use the other access areas have access to those entities internal surveys. Your cars are also being counted right now at Garden hole and Ratfliff hole so back up and forth a few times on the cables if you have time and gas, haha.

Be on the lookout for meeting notices coming up in the winter and spring. Attending and commenting on those meetings is vital in our work to secure future schedules during feasibility studies.

October 15, 2018

This past weekend Saturday the 13th was 1050 cfs dropped down to 850 cfs according to one boater's view of the rock at Garden hole on their first and second laps. I personally saw 1200 cfs on the rock Sunday the 14th which was a fantastic level for the gorge. Great water so far this release season. Hope to see more folks over the next two weekends of October and the extras in November.

**Todd H.**

**November 05, 2018**

2 More weekends left.

Date Time CFS

Nov 9-10\* 9:30-3:30 350

Nov 11-12\* 9:30-3:30 400

**tharbour2001**

So is there no release on Sunday?

**-Hisel**

**November 09, 201**

I'm not positive, but I assume the Nov 11-12 is really meant to be next weekend which is Nov 17-18? Also this weekend listed as Nov 9-10 would be Friday / Saturday so I assume it was intended to be Nov 10-11.

But with the rain hard to tell...

**-Hisel**

No, it's a long weekend

**paddlezrm**

**November 13, 2018**

Yep, 4 day weekend, and I hear there were crickets on

Saturday.

**Hanley Loller**

*From Bruce Hare at the Chattogga:*

## **Whetstone Bridge to Cassidy Bridge At the Chattogga**

If the Forest Service and SC DNR have their way they will maintain 200 pieces of large woody debris per mile in the Chauga River. Current inventories show 165 pieces of LWD on that section, or 86% of the target goal. But they are currently cutting live hardwoods into the river and this will make it extremely hazardous for boaters on this beautiful half day trip. 200 LWD per mile is 1,000 trees in five miles, no one would want to paddle thru that. Numbers are great, but visualization helps, too. To bring that section up to Plan standards would require dumping 175 more trees into the river and that equals six tractor trailer loads of trees in five miles of a small river. At 200 LWD per mile that would be 1,000 LWD or about thirty three tractor trailer loads of wood in a five mile section.

**Bruce**

## **Eddylines of Interest**

**BWA Steering Committee & Member Meeting Minutes not available for posting at this time**

**Check future issue of Bowlines**