

# BOWLINES

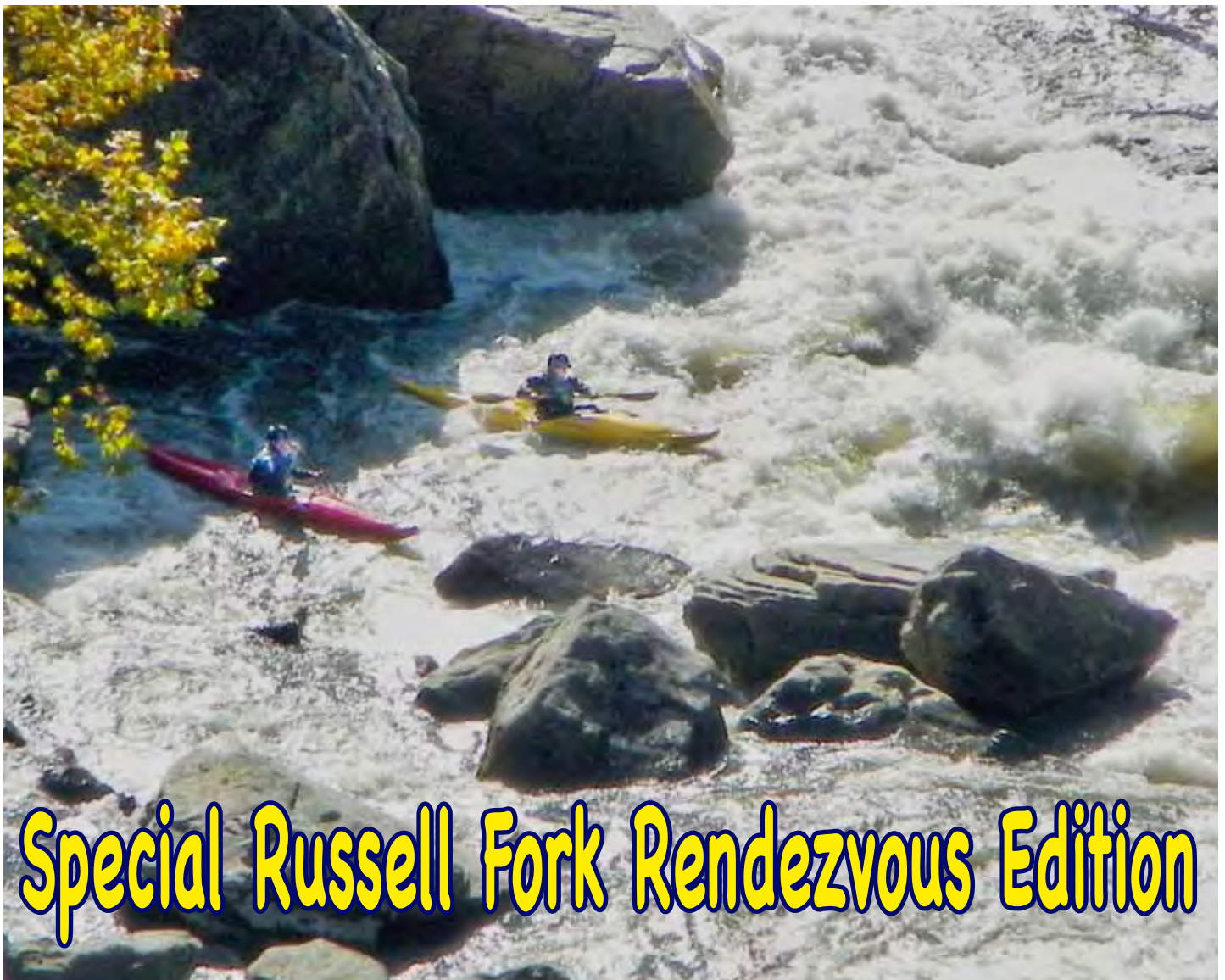
Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Nov/Dec 2019

**Special Russell Fork Rendezvous Edition: Packed with stories and articles**

**In this issue:**

Russell Fork Festival 2019  
AW Volunteers Recognized: Bob & Megan Larkin  
A look Back - The BWA & the Russell Fork  
Spiraling Into the 1999 Russell Fork River Rendezvous  
Russell Fork Season 2019 – They Just Added Water!  
Some of the Lessons I've learned in 65 Years  
Gad & the Lady Bird  
Off the Cuff & Eddy Lines

*In our own words.....*



# Looking Ahead

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

## BWA Monthly Meeting

Location can vary

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

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

## BWA Rolling Sessions

For Date, info and to register:  
<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/event-3645931>

6:45 PM - 9:00 PM

Current location is:

Georgetown Pavilion  
140 Pavilion Dr.  
Georgetown, KY



The BWA wishes to thank Canoe Kentucky for its 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	Robert Watts	859-554-8489
Vice-President	Hanley Loller	859-954-2025
Treasurer	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289
Secretary	Walt Hummel	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...

# The Russell Fork Rendezvous Turns 25 2019



Bob Larkin

Although I wasn't there from the beginning when Brent Austin, the one mainly responsible for getting the festival started over 25 years ago as well as the one with the weight of personality strong enough to draw nearly every outdoor enthusiast and cosmic wonderer within 200 miles to the festival grounds in Haysi, but I have attended long enough to watch as the festival has gone from outrageous to nearly non-existent and back again, which for me is a little over 12 years.

By the time I started attending the festival, although it had grown much smaller and been moved to Carson Island, it still had a very special feel to it. Something that was both hard to identify and yet felt by every single person you spoke with. Rather it was the effect that such a grass roots undertaking carries with it, the excitement of being back at the Russell Fork in October, or just the welcoming atmosphere, so common in Elkhorn City back in those days, it was something that made the Russell Fork Rendezvous the most unique festivals I had ever attended.

Known as the friendliest city in whitewater boating, Elkhorn City was a magical place and at that time seemed a great fit for the festival. Steve Ruth and the Elkhorn City Heritage Council, who were running the festival really knew how to roll out the welcome mat. Boater Appreciation dinners which included scores of residents showing up on Carson Island on Saturday afternoons with free food for the festival attendees, local law enforcement that knew the meaning of the term "To Protect and Serve" and the ever present group of waitresses from the Rusty Fork diner, who would hang out at the festival until sun-up and be at work serving scores of kayakers breakfast an hour later were just a few of the things that not only kept the festival going but planted a deep seated love for the area and an admiration for the residents in the boating community.

Like most things, there are many factors that can contribute to the success or failure of any event. Being an outdoor festival held at the end of October certainly makes the weather extremely important. Changes in local



politics, as well as the natural and sometimes devastating toll that running an event can have on festival organizers are all factors that are not only hard to control but that can have an extreme impact on an events success and the Russell Fork Rendezvous is certainly no exception. Although I had attended several of the Rendezvous where the festival and the town continued to co-exist peacefully, in fact blissfully at times by 2012 several of these factors combined in such a way that almost destroyed the event and for the next couple of years, with no one taking on the role of lead organizer, the Rendezvous carried on, pretty much in name only as a shadow of its former self, with 2014 bringing news that the festival would be ending.



*Bob Larkin discussing Tech problems the band was having*

Only hearing of this at Gauley Fest, a little over a month before the Rendezvous would normally take place, Nate Scally the President of the Viking Canoe Club and I, the President of the BWA at the time decided that we were not going to let the Rendezvous die without a fight. We raised the money necessary to keep the festival going by selling tee shirts and thanks to a longtime supporter, James Gunnoe and Nachbar in Louisville, hosted a fundraiser. We recruited volunteers to help with the festival and re-acquired the use of Carson Island as the place to hold the event and by the end of October, right on schedule, the Russell Fork Rendezvous, with the help of a lot of great people, a fairly decent crowd and some fantastic weather got underway.

Although we had no music that year, which we were later to re-introduce the following year, the best thing that could have happened did, when several others stepped up to take on co-organizer's roles for the festival. Each with their own unique talents and all sharing a love for the festival, Megan Larkin, Brandy Mello, Mark Branch and later Mike Daughtery formed the small but dedicated group of co-organizers that have worked together for the past 5 years to not only keep the festival running but to see it grow. Each with their own unique talents, they have been responsible for taking the festival from near non-existence to what it is now, an actual, full-fledged, nonapologetic, whitewater music festival, steeped in its own traditions, alive with its own character and unique among all others.

With the most common description being; "This ain't Gauley Fest" which is not meant as an insult to whitewater kayaking's largest festival and a personal favorite of my own, but a testament to the grass roots, few rules

and outright rowdy nature of the Russell Fork Rendezvous, with this year, the festival's 25th Anniversary being no exception.

Although for this article I won't get into the political changes that took place in Elkhorn City which from a governmental perspective changed the town from perhaps the most welcoming to tourism to one of the least, I will say that Haysi, Va., the town that helped get the very first Russell Fork Rendezvous up and running, as well as a town whose residence and government are as welcoming to new ideas and new people as they are to long lost family made moving the festival back there in 2018 an extremely easy decision. Charles Hay, the Mayor of Haysi, Va. the Kiwanis Club and the entire population of Haysi have not only been supportive but extremely welcoming and as far as I'm concerned, will remain the home to the festival from now on.

As far as the festival goes, as it's lead organizer, I want nothing more than to build it to the point where it becomes truly self-supportive, where its infrastructure allow the festival its best hope of success and where word of mouth alone ensure that even those that have never attended put it on their bucket list of things to do. Finally, after these goals have been met, I want to walk away from it, pass on the touch and know that I have played my part in its history. In the end, with an event that has survived as long as the Rendezvous, I am just a temporary caregiver. I will be replaced by others that take the event further, do much better and I would guess, at times much worse. My only hope is to give it a chance to succeed. I may never have the influence or the personality that "draws nearly every outdoor enthusiast and cosmic wonderer within 200 miles to Haysi" but that's not my personal goal. Brandy Mello will pick up the slack there with the magic she breaths into the festival. Megan Larkin will pick up the slack with her gift of coordination and event promoting, Nate Scally with his hard work in fundraising, Mark Branch with his talent with the bands and the music and Mike Daughtery with his knack for being at the right place at the right, and sometimes wrong times and his willingness to always be the first person it pitch in when help is what is most needed.

This year, the festivals 25th, marked a turning point. The crowds were not only great but enthusiastic to the point where I know I'll see them again along with the many new faces they'll bring along. I think we had just the right mix of entertainment, we had an amazing group of volunteers and finally, in our second year back at Haysi, finally, the right place to call home. Thanks to all those that helped this year. It was truly one of our best. Our group of hard working dedicated co-organizers couldn't have done it without you and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Bob Larkin



*The traditional fire log chimney at the Rendezvous is always spectacular!*

**AW Volunteers Of The Month  
Presented By Kokatat:**

# Bob And Megan Larkin

By Bethany Overfield

American Whitewater would like to recognize Bob and Megan Larkin for their tremendous work as coordinators for the Russell Fork Rendezvous. They are our November Volunteers of the Month. Bob and Megan, who have organized the Rendezvous for a number of consecutive years, are part of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association—a club founded in 1976 that works tirelessly to support American Whitewater and shares a similar mission and vision.



The event began in 1994 as a Bluegrass Wildwater Association Fall Party at the Kiwana's Park in Haysi, VA. The next year it became the Rendezvous and the Carolina Canoe Club (thanks to Joe Greiner) joined the event. The race, which had started as a race between friends from Garden Hole to the takeout at Ratliff Hole, was shortened to include Slot (Let's Make a Deal now) through Towers, Fist, and all the way to the current finish line at Climax. Music was central to the event from the beginning, as well as food and a bonfire.

When American Rivers listed the Russell Fork as one of America's top ten most endangered rivers in 1997, more musical acts stepped up to raise money on the river's behalf and the event became a multi-day festival the first weekend in October. There, the Rendezvous stayed through 2003. In 2004, the event was changed back to the last weekend in October and was renamed the Lord of the Fork race in honor of John Lord who passed earlier that year. The festival moved to Elkhorn City, KY until 2017, after which Bob and Megan took on the Herculean task of moving it back to its original stomping ground in Haysi, beginning in 2018. We are so appreciative of Bob and Megan's effort to bring the paddling community together to celebrate this gem of a river in the heart of Appalachia. It takes dedication and countless hours to pull these festivals off and we are so grateful for their work.



# A look Back: The Bluegrass Wildwater Association started exploring and paddling the Russell Fork in the seventies.



*Paddlers in the Russell Fork Gorge in the nineties.*

The BWA started paddling the Russell Fork in the late seventies. Not sure that any of us paddled the Gorge itself back then, but we did paddle from the dam down to Garden Hole and the section from the city park at Ratliff Hole to Elkhorn City.

Some history from the early days of paddling. One reason that we could paddle many rivers more distant from Lexington in those years was due the improvement of roads. The interstate highways & US 65 and US 75 were mostly built in the sixties and completed in the seventies. Also, roads to Eastern Kentucky like the Mountain Parkway (initially a toll road) and other roads were improved, as well as the new sections of interstate made getting to and from more distant streams (mostly south) during a weekend reasonable.

Another factor that allowed paddlers more river time were major improvements in boat design and materials. The new plastic canoes and kayaks were tough and did not need constant repair after a rock banging run on a river trip. Other gear such as throw ropes, good helmets, composite paddles and paddling clothing made run-

ning rivers both easier and more comfortable and safer. Also, prior to that time we spent a lot of time both making and repairing made a lot of our paddling gear and boats.

All these factors, and others that you do not worry about nowadays, like easy access to river gauges, river books & maps, river access put-ins and take-outs came together around the time the BWA was formed. It set the stage for an explosion in paddling whitewater. Up until the later eighties there were so few paddlers, it was not uncommon that when you saw another vehicle with boats on top, you both would stop and see who they were and where they were going.

## Corps Sets Season For Gauley & Russell Fork

The 1991 Gauley Season has been established as 22 days. It will consist of five, four-day weekends. (Friday through Monday) starting Friday, Sept. 6. The last four-day weekend will end Monday Oct. 7. Water permitting there will be a final two-day weekend Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 12 and 13.

### Gauley Festival Weekend will be Sept. 21 & 22.

This years Russell Fork season will run for four, two day weekends (water permitting) starting Saturday, Oct. 5, and ending Sunday, Oct. 27.

Initial results of studies from the 1990 releases of 800 cubic feet per second maximum down the Pound River into the Russell Fork show that this flow rate is acceptable to wildlife.

Thus, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will again release no more than 800 cfs down the Pound River into the Russell Fork. This will be joined by the flow on the Russell Fork. The Corps will try to manage a maximum flow of 1,299 cfs from the combined streams.

Last years flow ranged from 900 cfs to 1,200 cfs over the four weekend season. Of course, if the Russell Fork is running at a high level (say 2,000 cfs), the Corps will try not to add anything to it.

boaters, as that is when the September releases on the Gauley had finished.

In 1992 Brent Austin wrote his first article for Bowlines about "Russell Fork Fun" about his trip down the gorge with BWA paddlers Rich Ready and Mike Clark. Brent remembers it as a trip in which he had a fear of not hitting critical lines just right.... Rich Ready had warned him just one foot could be the difference between a good line and "not a good line". It was a really cold day in the mid-forties at best, so Mike Weeks and I hiked the tracks up to the major drops with throw ropes and warm jackets. Brent found the run exciting & challenging at times, but managed to not have a "bad day", so our ropes stayed dry. (Bowlines October 1992). Brent liked the run so much that along with other top paddlers he paddled the Gorge whenever it was runnable. Brent was to become legendary in his efforts to make the Russell Fork River Gorge a must for top paddlers to paddle.

The BWA was still having our annual "Fall Party" or as some of us had been calling it the "Fall Rendezvous"

## Bowlines Oct.1992

### New TVA Number for stram 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.

One river system the BWA and others could then run more easily was the Russell Fork. It was a beautiful area and folks were friendly and proud of you coming to "ride the river". Locals would often come to talk to you by the river and might even invite you to have supper with them. Elkhorn City was the only town I have ever seen where they stretched a huge banner across the main street saying "Welcome Boaters!" They also would have a cookout with hot dogs and burgers at the takeout for boaters. Knowing the good folks of that area, it has been sad to see how tough things have gotten in recent years for them. They are finding a way to make things better for themselves and we may just be a part of that solution when we visit and boat in the area..

While there were paddlers that ran the gorge in the early years, most of the paddlers ran the section from the dam to Garden Hole. But with urging by paddlers and interested local residents, the Corps of Engineers decided to do some test flows from Flanagan dam on the Pound (a tributary of the Russell Fork) in 1990. Our most capable C-1 paddler at the time, Sam Moore, along with some paddlers from St. Louis, participated in a test run of a dam release of 800 cfs with a combined level with the Russell Fork of about 1,200. The COE declared it successful. The Corps then started doing regular releases in 1991. The October timing was great for





in Tennessee. But by 1990 we had started going to the Russell Fork in the fall because of releases. So with some urging by some of us BWA members, the event in 1994 was moved to the Russell Fork. For years BWA had an annual gathering in the fall at which members (past or present) got together at a river to share good times and retell stories. It was much like the Rendezvous which trappers and mountain men had in the 1800's. (Not sure we drank and partied as hard as them, but we tried). So we started to call it our "Fall Rendezvous Party".

In 1994 (after some controversy about relocating) we had the BWA Fall Rendezvous Party at Kiwanis Park in Haysi, Virginia ..... It worked out to everyone's satisfaction and it became our fall gathering place!

It was with satisfaction Brent Austin greeted the move, he had started dreaming of what could be at the Russell Fork. As he tells it, "At the time I was young and had a fire in my belly to paddle, especially the Russell Fork River". Brent led the incredible effort to turn the BWA's bringing our club together each fall into an event that would bring paddlers and others together to celebrate the Russell Fork at the "Russell Fork River Rendezvous".

It would be a historic effort and put the Russell Fork River on the list of the place to be at the third week-end of October.

The Rendezvous grew bigger than many of us, (except Brent and others with a "fire in their bellies"), might have believed possible! Hundreds would come to paddle the river and participate in the Rendezvous. As a brochure I did for the festival said:

*This Phestival gathering is to celebrate the value and beauty of the Russell Fork River, the mountains, and the people that live here. It is a gathering of friends, kind energy and understanding, much like the best of the gatherings of the sixties. But, wearing your tie-dies or your poly-pro, come to have fun, hear good music, boat, hike, bike, or climb in a beautiful place.*

Who would have thought that such an event would happen in the mountains of Appalachia! Thanks to Brent's dream and with the efforts of many others, it did!

**Don Spangler**

## BWA Russellfork Fall Party Wrap-up

### Bridgid Devries

The BWA "Octoberfest" Fall Party on Oct 15 was a good time for all who attended. The weather was beautiful and the fall colors were at their peak. A special thanks for all those who helped with arrangements-- Brent Austin for the leg work on site selection, Don Spangler for help with me on the food preparation and for selecting the "hottest "Red Hot" in the US, Mike Weeks for rustling up enough money to pay for the Truly outstanding Bluegrass band, Christ Spangler for putting some organization in the club 83 Breakfast Buffet, Valerie Vantreesee for coordinating the prizes for the contest and Prince for organizing the cleanup details.

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--has a really tough time in selecting the best dishes because they were all

### Bowlines NovDec 1994

excellent. The award winners were as follows

- ° Best Overall German Dish: Lloyd Funkhauser for his Sauerbraten.
- ° Best Side Dish: Elsie Miller for her Red Cabbage
- ° Best Desert: Mark McKinley for his Almond Delight
- ° Best German Costumes: Monty Wilson

The townspeople of Hasi and Mayor Mullins were very hospitable and seemed enthusiastic about the boating community in their backyard. The Kiwanis Fairgrounds, 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 as 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 a good time



**Kiwanas Park, Haysi at start of RFR.**



**Brent in early days at Kiwanas Park, Haysi.**

Brent Austin led the effort for the Russell Fork Festival and he placed a lot of emphasis on the Spirit of the Phestival at the Russell Forks. But in truth his example to every one showed us that he was the embodiment of the Festival.

A kind thank you for that Brent!

### ***Spirit of the Phestival!***

"The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give to the rivers the kindness you would give to any brother." As we are part of the land, you too are part of the land. This earth is precious to us. It is also precious to you! One thing I know: there is only one God. No man, be he Red Man or White Man, can be apart. We are brothers after all." **Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Tribe**

This Phestival gathering is to celebrate the value and beauty of the Russell Fork River, the mountains, and the people that live here. It is a gathering of friends, kind energy and understanding, much like the best of the gatherings of the sixties. But, wearing your tie-dies or your poly-pro, come to have fun, hear good music, boat, hike, bike, or climb in a beautiful place. **Brent**

# **Spiraling Into the 1999 Russell Fork River Rendezvous**

***Mist hovers on the mountaintop, not so high that the stars and last quarter moon could not be distinctly and clearly seen on an Indian summerish autumn night.***



***Bowlines Nov/Dec 99***

*Don Spangler*

***Brent Austin***

As you approach the glow of the Spiral Encampment, a steady heartbeat evolves into an ever-growing louder chorus of 30 or 40 drummers, circled around the fire on the inside. Entering the medicine wheel labyrinth in clockwise fashion, rows of tents form inside the walls until the central circle is reached. A magical mix of people, elements and spirit surrounded by tapestries, masks, tiki torches and candles, all inside drumming, playing flute, shaking rattles and dancing, some in lavish costumes, other looking like ... well, Boaters.

The Russell Fork River Rendezvous is an event developed, organized and conducted by Boaters. It was born as a race, loosely, among Friends trying to engage in friendly competition over the fastest times from Garden Hole to the takeout at Potters Falls. Mike Clark and I would usually run down together, keeping track of our time, and whatever Chris Hipgrave told us his time was, we would try to convince him our time was exactly one minute faster. This type of deception may explain how we duped Chris into many a paddling expedition with us - but that is a story for another time.



The Green Genes Band Plays

But discipline is what our event needed, so Joe Greiner intervened and the race began above slot and ended at Climax, the current course. That same year, the music began at Haysi Kiwana's Fairground, with Bluegrass rolling off the stage. Late that night, much to the chagrin of a few sleepy boaters, Barry Grimes, Greg Hoskins and several others kept the pace going with a couple of handdrums, pots, pans, and makeshift noise makers. There were some, however, that thought it was pretty groovy, and the seeds of the Russell Fork River Rendezvous Drum Circle were planted. Spiraling Into the 1999 Russell Fork River Rendezvous

The musical component expanded to the multiband format in 1997 by musicians that wished to donate their music to the effort to raise money and awareness about the river and its surrounding environment. This level of involvement was due to A.W.'s listing of the River as No. 1 in its "threatened river" list related to a proposed dam above Haysi. That led the boaters to ask local paddlers like James Stapleton and Jerry Elkins how they could help. We learned about coal bed methane gas development, extensive logging, raw sewage, chip mills, extraction industries, and activity that assaults the environment around the headwaters of the Russell Fork.

This precious jewel of a river gorge is nestled in the midst of a remote section of the Appalachians, at the northern end of Pine Ridge Mountain, a 125 mile long mountain ridge. The rugged terrain has seen human activity for thousands of years. Rock shelters abound and the Breaks, the chasm through the mountain terrain to take the Russell Fork River westward, has served as a passage for animals, native people and early pioneers like Daniel Boone. Unfortunately, cultural artifacts in the areas' rock shelters are clearly at risk of disturbance and removal. But risks to the environment are the most apparent in an area where culturally ingrained assaults on the region's biodiversity persists. This is the legacy of extraction industries in Appalachia.

In the early 1980's the Russell Fork River from Garden Hole down to Ratliff Hole was a seldom paddled, expert only run that was considered by many as on the "edge" of paddleability. However, by the early 90's, the river was enjoyed by numerous paddlers. Commercial rafting flooded the local economies with much needed tourist dollars. Unfortunately, this activity diminished measurably by the mid 1990's as a result of several drowning accidents. However, Boater's continue to flock to the river in October each year to paddle an awesome river and enjoy an eclectic river environment unlike any other.

The Russell Fork River Rendezvous began as a Bluegrass Wildwater Association (BWA) fall party in 1994 after a contentious debate about that location versus the traditional fall party near the Ocoee. The next year, the fall party became the First Annual Russell Fork River Rendezvous, with Bluegrass Music being played and a rudimentary drum circle being born. The event broke even and a great time was had by the Boaters in attendance. By 1997, when the event had expanded to the musical festival format, a new range of people were invited into the mix - granola crunches everywhere!

The Rendezvous is different from other river festivals in that it is a decidedly grass roots, people powered event that does not have corporate or commercial sponsors. With the rampant pace of commercialization of the sport, with equipment prices skyrocketing and an increasing array of competitive paid paddlers, the Russell Fork Rendezvous is a throwback to a time when paddlers were not competitive, but supportive of each other on rivers. Because this has always been the spirit of the paddlers at the Russell Fork, and because there exists outlets for commercialization at the Ocoee and Gauley Rivers, the Russell Fork River Rendezvous avoids the "energy" of the profit seekers that increasingly pervade a sport that once was more about brotherhood and sisterhood on a river, than who can make a million dollars out of the sport.

With that in mind, commercial vending and omnipresent corporate sponsors were foresaken. Instead, private and personal



The Spiral Encampment

vending was encouraged (no logos allowed for vendors), and money is raised from personal donations at the door and from the personal vendors. With a dozen bands donating music all weekend, combined with a PHAT drum circle in the Spiral Encampment, the experience of the Russell Fork Rendezvous is at once spiritual and tribal. From every walk of life come the Festivarians; to paddle, to hike, to listen to music, to drum, to just hanging out at the gathering. The proceeds go to non-profit groups like American Whitewater, Headwaters, Inc., and Apalshop, that care and work to help protect the Russell Fork. This years proceeds will be awarded at the National Paddling Film Festival, February 25 & 26 in Lexington, Kentucky.

Clearly, the "kindness" of Russell Fork Rendezvous is a ubiquitous factor that makes the event unique. So many people have donated something to the event, that the gift of giving pervades every aspect of the Rendezvous. The racers are not charged a fee to participate in the "friendly" competition. In fact, the racers tend to be friends that come to the river each year. Prizes vary depending on who donates what. Kindness is always encouraged.

The Russell Next year's Rendezvous will be held at the same location: the Haysi Kiwanas Fairground, beginning on Thursday, October 5, through Monday, October 9, 2000. The race will be on Saturday, October 7, 2000. Beg Erika Mitchell about coordinating a Rodeo below El Horendo on Sunday, if you see her. We are always looking for music to be donated to the event, so if your favorite band wants to come play, have them call me at (606) 278-2011.

See you on the River!  
Brent Austin

**One of the early posters that was used to promote the Russell Fork Festival.**

Bluegrass Wildwater Association presents

# Russell Fork River Rendezvous 2002

September 30 - October 7, 2002 (Monday thru Monday)  
Kiwanas Park, Haysi, Va.  
A week long "Gathering" supporting the Russell Fork River!

Enjoy the cascading rhythms flowing from our stream of consciousness as we gather to honor the River!

This Festival gathering is to celebrate the value and beauty of the Russell Fork River, the mountains, and the people that live here. It is a gathering of friends, kind energy and understanding, much like the best of the gatherings of the sixties. But, wearing your tie-dies or your poly-pro, come to have fun, hear good music, boat, hike, bike, or climb in a beautiful place.

**Fun for all! Come Give to the River!**  
**Music Donated by many musicians & bands**

- PHAT Drum Circles under the moon!
- Stage Performances Saturday Oct. 4 through Sunday Oct. 5.
- Expert Class V whitewater race (Oct. 5, 2 pm) through the Gorge!
- Used gear swaps • Private Vending (No logos/tradenames please)
- Activist Exhibits ("Frankly My Dear, I don't want a Dam!")
- Vegetarian, Non-Vegetarian and all foods in between!
- Workshops (Boat outfitting, Yoga, Drum, etc.)
- Of course, "Spontaneous Happenings!"

This years proceeds are intended for American Whitewater and Headwaters, Inc. because these groups have a significant impact on environmental and access issues affecting the Russell Fork.

For more information on the Festival call:  
John Foy: (859) 296-4967, 3717 Winthrop Drive, Lexington, Ky. 40514 or go to <http://www.surfbwa.org/russellfork/>  
or to <http://www.elkhorncity.org/russellfork/>

## The Breaks



The Russell Fork River at the Towers

Nestled in the midst of the Appalachians, the Russell Fork River runs through a deep gorge known as the "Breaks". A visit to the Russell Fork will bring memories of its past of mines, tipples, coal company communities and other signs of the rich history and culture of the Appalachians. It is a beautiful area with perhaps the "crown jewel" being the Breaks. The Breaks is about 5 miles in length and carves a spectacular 1600 foot deep gorge at the north end of Pine Mountain. It is estimated to be 250 millions years old of the late Paleozoic era.

The area shows signs of pre-history human activity in the caves and rock shelters of Pine Mountain. Early this century large numbers of logs were floated down the river with releases from an old dam.

The Breaks Interstate park was created in 1954 by joint action between Kentucky and Virginia. It contains some 4,500 acres surrounding the gorge including the Towers. Since the eighties, whitewater recreation has become a significant event during the fall releases from the John Flannigan Dam on the Pound tributary. However, it is possible to paddle the gorge about 150 days a year, especially during the winter and spring.

As people have become appreciative of the area, a new level of environmental awareness of the fragile river eco-system is evident. The Russell Fork River Rendezvous is an example of this energy at work! As it grows, so can the protection of this magnificent handwork of nature be more assured.

*Please come and recreate here and join us at the festival!  
May the Forks Be With You!*

Russell Fork River Rendezvous  
C/O Brent Austin  
632 Cardinal Lane, Lexington, Ky. 40503

The Bluegrass Wildwater Association Presents the 6th Annual

## Russell Fork River Rendezvous



(Monday thru Monday)

**October 2 - 9, 2000**

Kiwanas Park, Haysi, Va.

A week long "Gathering" supporting the Russell Fork River!

*Enjoy the cascading rhythms flowing from our stream of consciousness as we gather to honor the River!*

**Fun for all! Come Give to the River!**

Music by many musicians & bands

- PHAT Drum Circles under the moon!
- Stage Performances Friday Oct.6 through Sunday Oct. 8.
- Expert Class V whitewater race (Oct. 7, 2 pm) through the Gorge!
- Used gear swaps • Private Vending (No logos/tradenames please)
- Activist Exhibits (Frankly My Dear, I don't want a Dam!)
- Vegetarian, Non-Vegetarian and all foods in between!
- Workshops (Boat outfitting, Yoga, Drum, etc.)
- Of course, "Spontaneous Happenings!"

## Brochures were given out to businesses and sent to clubs in the early years of the Festival.

### The Festival.... unique, grass roots, & old style. Emphasizing an eco-activism gathering of People in Tribal Fashion having fun!

The RFR is a week-long gathering of kindred spirits that come together in support of the Russell Fork River and its connection and importance to each of us and Mother Earth. Our presence and statement by coming together in peace and love resonates with the mountains and valleys that surround this ancient and sacred place.

The Russell Fork River is more than just a metaphor for connection with a healthy Earth, it is a valuable and contributing "member" of the "community" that makes up the watersheds and river systems of the United States. The voice we become for one watershed ripples like a pebble tossed into a calm cove or pond: it is motion beyond our perceptions.

We gather in support of the Russell Fork River because it is a good thing to do, it is right and because it feels good to give, to be grateful, to appreciate a place of splendor and to be alive. So come join us, give what you have to offer because your positive input will lead to positive change.

By bringing our gifts, we "create" our festival each year anew and different. We invite musicians, artists, healers, teachers to blend with the motion, energy and flow dynamics of paddlers, the river and all it touches. Come give to the river.

### Even the river is unique. Only at the Russell Fork do they "ride" the river, all others are paddled!

The race is also a bit different...it is free. The course is an unforgiving Class V, expert only run. Even the best paddlers in the world must familiarize themselves with the river course beforehand, each assuming the risk of negotiating through the numerous deadly hazards: undercut rocks, sieves, log jams, large drops, and big powerful hydraulics. Entrants must be over 18 and waivers must be signed. Call Brent Austin for more information at 606-278-2011. Class I, II, III, runs can be boated on other sections.

### Mountain Biking & Climbing

Mountain biking is fast becoming a popular new sport in the area. Numerous logging roads provide access to Pine Ridge Mountain and rough Appalachian terrain. Climbers will find a bolted route at the Russell Fork River takeout in Kentucky. Beyond that, climbing is mostly an unexplored sport in the area, despite the rock being similar to that in the New River Gorge. Climbers should try to develop new routes, but check with the Breaks Interstate Park before you climb inside Park Boundaries.

For more information on the Festival call:  
Brent Austin: (606) 278-2011, 632 Cardinal Lane, Lexington, Ky, 40503 or go to <http://www.surfbaa.org/russellfork/> or to <http://www.kymtnet.org/wwatch/wwatch.htm>

### The Issues (Still)

1. Sediment Pollution (priority issue again this year) from coal bed methane and natural gas development which results in rock fracturing and pumping into the ground large quantities of hydrochloric acid.
2. Logging in and around the park and the headwaters of the river.
3. Nutrient pollution from human and farm activities.
4. General river cleanup
5. The proposed Haysi Dam upstream of the Park which would eliminate the natural flow that regularly comes into the gorge. "Frankly my dear, I don't want a dam!"
6. The need for managed releases of water from the John Flannigan Dam in winter, spring and summer months for recreation.

### Rendezvous Cost

The event is 15.00 for one hour or one week. However, the fee can be waved by donating 5 hours of your time (yes, that is 3.00 per hour!) You can donate more time or money. Remember the *Gift* is to the *Given!* Barter is acceptable (ie: a truckload of firewood, massage therapy for racers, etc.).

The musicians are donating music. Many of them have given up profitable gigs and incurred expenses to be at the Rendezvous. Some have families to support. Please encourage tips, pass hats around, find out who is in need and help out!

The race is free again! While the event has no corporate sponsors, some unnamed corporate citizens have considered making anonymous donations to the racers. We encourage all acts of blind giving with no thought of return, as consistent with the *Spirit of the Event*. Anyway race prizes vary from year to year with the cycle of the seasons.

### Rendezvous Proceeds

Of course there are costs. This flyer for example, renting the fairgrounds, sanitation, water, and wristbands are some examples. Last year (1999) we cleared and gave away nearly 4,500.00. Money was donated to 3 non-profit organizations: American Whitewater, Headwaters, Inc., and Appalshop. This years proceeds are intended for American Whitewater and Headwaters, Inc. because these groups have a significant impact on environmental and access issues affecting the Russell Fork.

**Support the many kind and friendly people that live in the Russell Fork area. Visit their shops and restaurants for supplies and food during your visit. Let them know you appreciate the friendly hospitality they have offered to us and the wonderful area they live in!**

### Spirit of the Festival!

*"The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give to the rivers the kindness you would give to any brother." As we are part of the land, you too are part of the land. This earth is precious to us. It is also precious to you! One thing I know: there is only one God. No man, be he Red Man or White Man, can be apart. We are brothers after all."*

Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Trib

Note: We are sure that Chief Seattle today would say "brothers & sisters!"

This festival gathering is to celebrate the value and beauty of the Russell Fork River, the mountains, and the people that live here. It is a gathering of friends, kind energy and understanding, much like the best of the gatherings of the sixties. But, wearing your tie-dies or your poly-pro, come to have fun, hear good music, boat, hike, bike, or climb in a beautiful place.

### How to get to the Festival.



Once in Haysi on Hwy 80 heading away from the Breaks you leave Hwy 80 when it crosses over the river and stay on a road that follows the river to your left. About a mile out of town there will be a sign for the Kiwanas Fairgrounds and a road to your right going up the hill. Turn right on that road until you see the Festival!

### What to Bring:

- Camping gear, warm clothes, food & drink (there are groceries & stores in Haysi and Elkhorn City.)
- Hiking, biking, climbing, and boating gear appropriate to activities you plan to do. (Cameras should not be forgotten)
- Drums, musical instruments of any kind.
- Tie-Dies and Kind energy to flood the area with our "presence".
- Private vending (no logos)

Please Recycle on river and trail... pack out what you take in!

Russell Fork Season 2019 –

# They Just Added Water!



**Brent Austin**

*Back in 1995, my paddling partner, James Stapleton, hailing from Elkhorn City, Kentucky and I were giving lots of thought to the Russell Fork river and its potential for adventure sports like whitewater kayaking. In the fall of that year was the first Rendezvous and the first race. We considered that ecotourism would be an alternative economy for waning economics in Eastern Kentucky. “Just add water” we thought, and then we started reaching out to the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss providing additional releases. Pretty solid wall of nothing for decades. This year, in 2019, we finally got some additional releases even though it was just two more days in October. But it was on the first Friday and the fourth Friday and I fully intended to take advantage of it. So did lots of other folks.*

I drove Althea (my truck) to Ratliff Hole Kentucky on Thursday, October 3, 2019 for the special three day release we were having that weekend listening to some of my favorite music. Loaded up, I clicked some old tunes in the ancient I-Pod I had in my even more ancient truck:

I told Althea I was feeling lost  
Lacking in some direction  
Althea told me upon scrutiny  
That my back might need protection  
I told Althea that treachery  
Was tearing me limb from limb  
Althea told me, now cool down boy  
Settle back easy, Jim

You may be Saturday's child all grown  
Moving with a pinch of grace  
You may be a clown in the burying ground  
Or just another pretty face  
You may be the fate of Ophelia  
Sleeping and perchance to dream

Honest to the point of recklessness  
Self-centred to the extreme

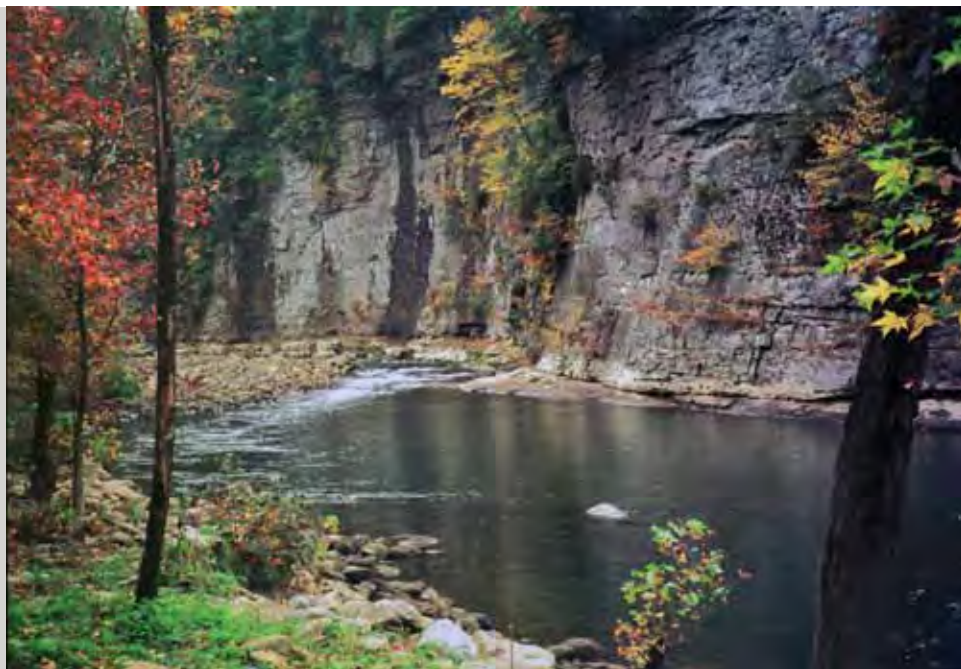
Ain't nobody messin' with you but you  
Your friends are getting most concerned  
Loose with the truth, maybe its your fire  
Baby I hope you don't get burned  
When the smoke has cleared, she said  
That's what she said to me  
You're gonna want a bed to lay your head  
And a little sympathy  
There are things you can replace  
And others you cannot  
The time has come to weigh those things  
This space is gettin' hot

You know this space is gettin' hot

I told Althea, I'm a roving sign  
That I was born to be a bachelor  
Althea told me, OK that's fine  
So now I'm trying to catch her  
Can't talk to you without talking to me  
We're guilty of the same old things  
Thinking a lot about less and less  
And forgetting the love we bring

Songwriters: Jerry Garcia / Robert Hunter

The weather was warm, like summer time warm, in the 80s in the day and 60s at night. The water was comfortable, but I still wore a dry top all three days and did not get too hot once. I was the first one at Ratliff Hole that Thursday, having got there around 6 p.m. so I picked the choicest spot for my tent and pop-up and then moved by truck where I could block for space for Bob Larkin, John and Brandy Mello, Denver Harrod, John Lawson and others, all before it got full (Clay usually does, and did this time, pick a spot up by the pavilion for he and Yvonne), and next thing you know, like a prophet, it came true by the next morning, times about 10, were the number of folks at Rat Hole. That number would go up by late Friday night as more and more folks streamed in. I saw so many friends that I have come to know over the years, and for some, several decades. It is cool and to me it is a community centered on something we all love: the Russell Fork river.



***Ratliff Hole***

That first day was me, Tom Schragger, Leland Davis, Eric Acheff, John Mello, Denver Harrod, Todd Harbour and Clay Warren. All was going well and we were cruising along with a solid crew when all of sudden a startling thing was immediately all around me. A big change happened. First day, the 800 cfs flow, after a long drought eroded below, must have caused the rock forming the Box move boof at Climax to shift and it has now changed the rapid dramatically. It is now easier/safer on the Box line and harder on the main line. That occurred because the rock had been gradually shifting and with the low flows recently eroding underneath, the release caused the rock to finally give way.

Another matter was we had a hand paddler of great skill with many runs at Fist, attempt the main line at Fist and ended up splatting the undercut and swam underneath while his boat stayed in the crack and was retrieved by John Mello and other paddlers. He was fine, but the low release level of close to 800 made for many, many close calls from what I heard. Fist is much safer in the high 800s than it is in the low 800s for the Fire Escape move which many folks do, attempt to do and will continue to attempt to do. I ran the Fire Escape the first two days and walked the third because it just seemed like a "skinny" level. Not everyone will exercise that same judgment and I have said for decades now that the rapid needs more than just 800 to make it a more reasonable run. Just saying...again.

The water quality was not great the first day on Friday, but it got better as the weekend went on. I saw quite a few paddlers out there all three days, the heaviest use day being Saturday. I don't even remember as I sit here who all I paddled with on Saturday or Sunday, but I paddled with Chief and Tom Schragger again on both days and I seem to recall that Robert Watts jumped in for a fast lap that also included Drew Armstrong. Leland and Eric left after paddling on Saturday due to other obligations. Ratliff Hole got slammed and overwhelmed the camping. Friday I personally saw at least 25 paddlers in the gorge. Saturday was probably a 100 paddlers. Sunday also saw good use with many paddlers up and on the river early. I was off the river by 1:00 and home by dark.

I drove back on Friday, October 11th, this time to the Breaks Interstate Park where I had rented a cabin back in July. It was already the last one available when I rented it. I arrived around 6 p.m. and settled in. Soon, John Mello arrived, Suzie and Ellie, Eric Acheff, Rodney and Caleb and Carl hung out for a bit. We made food, vis-

ited and I went to sleep in a nice soft bed with my own pillow and got great rest. I woke up that Saturday morning feeling rested and with food and a relaxed morning under our belts, we drove towards Ratliff Hole by about 11:30 a.m.

On this trip, it was me, Suzie, Ellie, Eric Acheff, Rodney, Carl, Caleb, Drew Armstrong and a girl named Samantha. Only Eric and I ran the Fire Escape at Fist and the others walked. The level was about 820, so it was skinny. Caleb got his shoulder banged when he went upside down in Dave's Rapid. He walked El Ho and put on below Walk the Plank. He reluctantly but successfully paddled down Foreplay and took out just above the Box, walked it and then paddled out and was done. Turns out he had a fracture. Rodney did fine and had no flips, but was full and done for the day after that as well. Suzie and Eric and I did a quick second lap and caught up with Sarah Mello, Brian Mattingly, John Mello, Leland and Andria Davis among others at El Ho but motored on down to get to my dog, Canyon, and to then head back to the cabin where a hot tub awaited my sore and well exercised old bones, followed by a meal and whatnot...including some Grateful Dead tunes of course.



*Fist*

Saturday night we were treated to some hot steak sandwich meal that John Mello had cooking in a crock pot all day and which was nothing short of divine as it mystery moved down our mouths. Rodney gave up his room because of his back and took to the floor, while I claimed the Master bedroom having been the guy with the MasterCard way back in July when I was informed it was the last one and they were then all sold out. But, there we were, sitting on the back deck, feeling quite safe, bellies full, cold seeping in over a beautiful lake mere feet away, soon to soak in the hot tub and then shower and drift off to sleep to dream of sweet boofs, tasty waves, skunky drops, dope slides and things that are, things that once were and things that might be in the future... like by 9:00 p.m.

The next morning, well rested, waking up in a soft a pillowing bed, curled up and brain telling itself not to think about shuttle yet, it was too early, and I heard the rustle of other early birds, soon a whole cabin full. As we slowly came to life in the warmth of the cabin, I got another soak in, Suzie made an awesome breakfast, yet again, and we were loaded up and out of the cabins by the designated time of 10:00 a.m. and on our way to Ratliff Hole where we planned to drop off Canyon and Turtle, the vehicles for shuttle and load up. Ellie offered to drive shuttle so we were stoked to be able to put on and all of us be able to leave for home from the takeout. Just another reason you gotta love Ratliff Hole.

Going to the top in Althea was me, Leland and Andria Davis, Carl Keaney, Suzie Jacques, Eric Acheff and Robert Watts with Ellie offering to drive shuttle for us. We put on a bit before noon or around noon and began stroking down. The level was just under 830 again. The crowd was light, and we saw one small group float down as we got our gear on at Garden Hole. We didn't see anyone on the river until about El Ho and we blew on down to Climax where me, Leland, Andria and Carl hung out for safety and to enjoy the spectacular gorge and the rapids looking up at Foreplay leading into Climax, all so impressive, even after 30 years of being in this special place. We also interestingly learned from a couple of boaters that had been sitting there about ten minutes before we got there, that they had actually caught up with the water at El Horrendo and had to wait for it before proceeding on down. That tells me, once again, that really, if you plan to cruise the river, there is no point in putting on before noon.



Back in the parking lot, Canyon was exhausted having spent the entire time, apparently chasing sticks and swimming after them in the river. He loves it there. A natural dog park as well as kayaker park, if ever I saw one

By Friday, October 18th, Canyon and I loaded up in Althea and headed back to the Russell Fork, arriving early-ish, around 5 p.m. at Ratliff Hole. Not many folks were there, except Bob Larkin, again holding down the fort/campground, singlehandedly and doing an awesome job of that. I squatted in his pop-up and set up my camp and tent next to him. Music around the fire that night by some locals and I was in bed by 9. Up the next morning, it was cold, much colder than I had been accustomed to so I dallied around camp and we finally rolled out about 1 p.m. for Garden Hole. It was me, Todd Harbour, Josh and Jason Hettich. We thought we were waiting on Gus who was doing an upper lap with E6, but we were mistaken as we found out an hour and a half later so we cruised on down and did a fast lap and was back at camp making food and hanging by the fire. The day warmed up to the high 60s and stayed comfortable into Saturday night, but the rain came and I went to bed around 9 again. It rained all night and by the next morning, we were up and rolling out around 11:30 with me, Todd, Leland Davis and YT for a fast lap. The rain brought things up a smidgeon to maybe 850-60 which cleaned up Fire Escape at Fist at bit. We were off the river by 12:45 and rolling homewards shortly thereafter. A nice weekend even if the crowds were considerably thinned from the prior two weeks.

### **RFRR Weekend**

I drove to Haysi on Thursday, October 24th and arrived around 4:20, just in time to set up my camp for the next two hours before it got too dark. My Tennessee neighbor and friend, Jewels, followed me, determined to paddle her Inflatable Kayak (IK/Ducky) and continue to develop her skills while meeting new people in the paddling community. Her enthusiasm for whitewater was becoming palpable and she has been like a duck to water for the sport. So, she came, set up camp with me, next to the Mellos where they and Bob and Megan had styled me out with a "Founder's Corner". Whatever, it was sweet, they are sweet and "hell yeah, I'm in" were my thoughts, and so I began setting up a large Opium



*Brent's Den*

Den with a 40X60 tarp over three pop-ups and two tents. Spacy, with tapestries hanging on walls and carpet down on an interior tarp, three space heaters and a propane stove and it was like home sweet home and down-right cozy. The scene up at the Haysi location has always been magical with incredible mountain top views of Pine Ridge Mountain and this amazing perspective of Appalachia from up high on this old strip mine that is now the Kiwana's Park/Fairground is nothing short of spectacular. Folks began to stream in, many that I knew. I was expecting folks I knew and was making plans to paddle with old buddies and new friends as well. Two friends from Colorado came in: Jessica and Paul and they wanted me to show them down the gorge. I kinda wanted to do a fast lap the first day and agreed to revisit the issue in the morning. I went to bed at a reasonable time because I'm getting old and like to feel rested. Just how it is.

The next morning I woke up to what appeared to be the makings of a beautiful Friday. We were getting an extra release that day, of 1000, which is perhaps my favorite level in the gorge. Always has been. I could go on and on as to why, but I won't bore you. Anyway, I was stoked that it was nearly 70 degrees and I was already going to boat with two kids my age that I have been friends with for a bit. One was John Regan who I first laid eyes on at El Horrendo thirty years before when I was in there in an R2 checking the river out. John is a legendary boater that is my age, but started kayaking when he was 15. I started when I was 30. The other was Brian Jacobson who serves on the AW Board of Directors with me. Also, a legendary boater that has known and boated with Regan since he was 19 when they both did some of the earliest runs on Overflow Creek down by the Chattooga. Brian still runs Overflow regularly and lives close by near Woodall Shoals on the Chattooga which is along the shuttle for Section IV. John still runs the North Fork of the Blackwater and lives in Friendsville where he runs the Upper Yough regularly. I paddle the Yough and the Chattooga, but I run neither Overflow nor NF Blackwater at this stage of my life and boating career. But, we all love to paddle the Russell Fork and planned to paddle this very day together. They are solid paddlers and I knew the river super well. It

was going to be a fun, fast run. I promised Jessica and Paul that tomorrow we would take our time and I would show them down and we would paddle the entire river, from top to bottom as Regan and I had been doing for a few years now as a prelude to the Rendezvous and his 60th birthday party that coincided with the Rendezvous each year.

We all met up at Ratliff Hole and our crew was me, Brian Jacobson, John Regan, Bobby from Pikeville, another Bobby, a Drew, this cat Steven from White Salmon and two other cats that John and Brian knew. All solid boaters but Steven got lost in Fist and went right over the middle but it worked out mostly because he is super competent in his boat. Helps to know where you are there, of course. We boogied down for a quick lap from about 2 to 3 p.m. and then headed back up to the festival site. Boaters were everywhere. When I drove in, it was like a scene straight off the Playa at Burning Man festival in Nevada. This beautiful giant parachute had been transformed with pvc pipe, duct tape, plants both real and surreal, different colored mood lights, a lounge couch in a carpeted space, all inviting you to relax, chill, take a deep breath, close your eyes, open them and smile that you are here at the 25th Russell Fork Rendezvous.

That evening, as music is wafting off the stage, I made rounds and ate food offered to me from everywhere. I see so many of my friends I can hardly contain myself. Spangler even, with Mike Weeks rolling with him, just like old times! I checked out the art in the vending area, listen to some music and decide that, once again, I am going to hit the sack fairly early so I can have a good rest going into a super fun active day running the entire river with Speedy Gonzalez Regan and again with Brian, but adding Jessica, Paul and well, some other super awesome river buds: like Leland and Andria Davis and purportedly Chief and John Mello, all escorted down the Pound to Bartlick by neighbor and good friend Jewels Newman in her IK. Before we put on, we were suddenly presented by Marty, our friend with the Army Corp of Engineers along with his son, Zack, a local Deputy Sheriff, with a free bandana, as long as we pose with it in a photograph that they intended to use to promote Safety. We are all about Safety so we agreed!



No sooner than we got on the river, we got separated from Chief and Mello, but we assumed they would catch up with us. Starting off with a bang, Jewels settled down nerves that are typical on an unknown new river and did fine, including running the dam at Bartlick. She got out and we waved to the Hettich boys getting ready to put in as we scurried down the river in hot pursuit of Regan, surely only minutes ahead, whereupon we could surely prevail upon him to wait a minute or twelve, not clear really how long, for Chief and Mello. If only we could catch Regan. Finally, below Twenty Stiches, having passed by other friends like Jeff Kress, James Stapleton, Steve Ruth, Dustin and Sarah Cornelieson, Bethany Overfield, along the way, we catch up to them. Breathless as we approach, I see John finishing up a sandwich as he sees us and then he packs it and starts heading to his kayak. "Great, time to go!" and in the water he and his crew are, floating off content that we caught up, however irritating it may have been to wait. At least they got to eat while wasting time waiting on us, and too bad Chief and Mello couldn't make it, I imagined they thought, and then off we went. Only thing left to do is "Smile, smile, smile" I thought, reflecting on some words from Jerry Garcia, as I paddled after him. Brian giggled along with me. John likes to cruise. (And people think I do, tee hee. Shoot, paddle with that cat! Wink.)

At Garden Hole, the level was right smack dab at 1000 cfs on Gerald's Rock, just as it was the day before and we were there by about 1 p.m. Part of the reason I thought we were cruising so fast was that we wanted to be at Climax by the time the race started at 3 p.m. so I even commented to John that we now had plenty of time. He pointed out I had two newbies going down the gorge and that we need to roll. I considered that Chief and Mello probably hooked up with the Hettich boys (which they did) so I agreed we should keep motoring down. At this point I had Jessica follow me, followed by Brian who would lead Paul down. The reason for that is because it gets kind of blind in there in spots and after a boater or two, it is hard to see the line if you don't have someone in front of you to show you. And, since I like to show folks easier lines for many of the sections, I can just as easily provide some basic beta and then have someone follow me down, especially at Maze where I like to eddy hop down to just above Triple Drop so I can point out the entry to that very big series of ledges leading to the pool below. Jessica and Paul did great and I showed them the Fire Escape line that I take, and they



### ***Fist Fire Escape***

were actually surprised at the bottom to hear they had just run Fist. At the end of the day, they said that was the easiest move out there. I pointed out that regardless, many, many good boaters walk it because it is one of the most deadly rapids out there.

We made it to Climax by 2, with nearly an hour to wait on the race, Regan took off and we stayed. Leland, Andria and I have really been digging hanging out at the Russell Fork this fall and we giggled and and watched friend after friend come through what used to be the Box Move and was now a much easier flush. I think Willy Witt told me 86 racers. It was super cool to see all the sisters come flying through first, especially as there are not as many as the guys, but there was still an impressive amount of girls racing this year. Dane Jackson won, and it was impressive on top of the fact that he just flew in from China. His dad, Eric Jackson was there and I swear, he is as much a kid as Dane or any of the crew that paddle for his company. I watched him be the final push in toppling the giant fire log and it was fun to watch that cat have that much fun. Hilarious. Loved that!

I see and saw so many friends at the race and at the 25th Russell Fork River Rendezvous this year. It is truly a homecoming for me to see this event expand, thanks to folks like Bob and Megan Larkin and crew for the Rendezvous, Willy Witt and crew for the Lord of the Fork Race, and beyond any comparison, the fact that we got three days in a row of 1000 cfs was a huge help and catalyst for getting boaters to come to the area to recreate. It was for me. I got there on a Thursday evening, and by Sunday 2 p.m., poof we were gone. Great Rendezvous all. The main players put their hearts and souls into it and it was worth it. I love you all!

As I drove back to the Smokies, reflecting on the season past, I sighed thinking about what I would do next. Pulling over to get gas, I see rain in the forecast for the Smokies and even better, the Little was running a sweet 3.2 right then. Ah, the winter paddling season begins and most of it is close to my home in the Smokies. No more camping for me for a bit. Stuff close to home the rest of the winter is my game plan. If any of you have any interest in joining me for whitewater adventure within a two hour radius of the Smokies this winter, please come visit.

*See you'ins on a river soon!*

***Brent Austin***

# Never Trust a Fart or Stifle a Sneeze Some of the Lesson's I've learned in 65 Years

Dallas Hargis

I turned 65 last month. I guess I'm old.

Damn. 23,777 days and counting. Damn x 2 I don't feel old. I can look in the mirror and honestly say I look older than I feel. That's ok. I'm still around to look in that friggin' mirror. I'm ok with my face having as many or more wrinkles than my scrotum. Nature is kind to us because wrinkles do not hurt. I once read that cursing indicates intelligence. If that's the case, I'm a genius. Now, if you run up on a sentence that looks like it would be the perfect place for an F-bomb to be dropped, it probably was but I know Spanky will read it first and make me edit that crap out. I said friggin' just a couple of seconds ago but you all know what I really meant.

Sixty-five years. Sixty five trips around the sun. You would think that with that many trips around ol' Sol I would notice something different about it. Nope. Still the same. Moon looks the same too. Every now and then the tv says the moon is going to be a Super Moon. It will be so much brighter because it is 'on its closest approach'. That's bull. If you add two goldfish to an aquarium full of goldfish do you see the difference? Nope.

I have witnessed a lot of history. I remember when JFK was elected and then murdered, in that order. I will never forget the feelings I had when the Challenger exploded or the 9/11 terrorist attack. I am of the generation who took to the streets to stop a war. I am also witness to the Red River Gorge Dam idea being killed. Y'all came close to that gorge becoming

a lake. I will never forget watching on a grainy black and white tv the night that Armstrong was the first to put his foot on the surface of the moon. I stood in line in Somerset to get my dose of vaccine to eradicate polio. The polio line stands out in the memory banks because my grandmother contracted it and was left mobility challenged for the rest of her life. Thank you Jonas Salk.

September 15 is my birthday. It was the best and worst day of my life. On that day I was born and on that day I gave the eulogy at my mother's celebration of life ceremony. I guess I should say that giving her that sendoff should be a joyful thing as she is returning to God, but my being a selfish asshole is part of my makeup. I miss her. Am I a gold plated asshole because I now mention that it was a Saturday and it was Gauley season? Mom had a great sense of humor and would have appreciated that last line.

They say that the older you get, the fewer filters you have. My argument to that is you have to have filters to start with. I do have a few but they are pretty fluid. Sometimes my desire to say something outweighs your desire not to hear it. I love to talk to people with a lot of tattoos so I can call them amateurs. If you have a booger at the end of your nose I won't ignore it. I will be your friend and tell you that a booger is hanging out the end of your nose. Be my friend and tell me too instead of trying to ignore it and let me walk around with a booger hanging out the end of my nose.

That many years of living also gives you time to pon-

der some of the biggest questions put out there over the generations: Is there a god? Is there life on another planet or planets? If you touched your buttock when you masturbated does that mean you are gay?

So I have sixty five years under my belt. I made it. I reached my goal. I really did. Between Medicare, VA and Social Security I am now an official parasite on society. Keep working, I need my Social Security funded. I worked my ass off for 47 years. I just hope our politicians don't succeed in blowing up the planet before you get your chance to suck the teat of government sponsored benefits. Now I am Dallas Hargis P.O.S. (Parasite on Society, not Piece of S\_\_t).

I am at the age of finding delight in most of the stuff I do. I love to walk the Shillito Trail and am on it frequently. You would think that would get stale but I found that if you reverse direction you get to walk an entirely different trail. Downhill becomes uphill, left becomes right and right becomes left. Best of all is that the playground that was at the start of my walk is now at the end of my stroll. How'd that happen? Enjoy!

Old people ramble and can be tangential. Sorry. Let's get to it. You will find a mix of kayaking 'wisdom' and just plain lessons of life. I hope you enjoy it.

- ***In the world of kayaking you should carry your own weight. When it is time to load or unload boats, help instead of standing around sniffing everybody out while others are doing the work. Show that you are 100% into it.***

- ***Buy a pair of straps and offer them up when loading boats. Most of the time the response is no but it is always good to have extra straps around if and when needed.***

- ***When you wreck on the river, do as much as you can to self rescue, especially your paddle. Paddles are damn hard to see in water. The members of your team are happy to help you out but the less they have to retrieve, including you, the better.***

- ***Put airbags in your boat. Airbags are not for you. Airbags help the people who are trying to help you. They contain air that would otherwise be water in your boat. It is a common knowledge that the less water trapped in the boat leads to a faster retrieval. It has been known also that if you have not put airbags in your boat though were encouraged to do so, good luck retrieving your boat. We all want to delay those hernias for another day.***

- ***If your team tells you to abandon your hard earned stuff and swim to the shore please abandon your hard***

***earned items and swim to the shore. This means they have control over the yard sale you just created. Help those who are helping you and swim baby, swim. Trust your group.***

- ***One other thing about wrecking. Recover as quickly as you can. Don't sit on the bank to bitch and moan because you swam. It is already common knowledge that you swam. Get your hard earned items together and get back in the boat as soon as you can. If you need a few moments to get your breath back that's cool. It is a good idea to let others know that you need those few minutes instead of assuming it is cool with others to watch your melt down. You have already been looked over and if there is no bleeding and no fractures, get your ass back in the boat and let's go. It was just a swim, something that all of us are between every time we get on the water. This just happened to be your turn.***

- ***If you are the leader of the herd it is a good idea to turn around and look back frequently to make sure the herd is still following you. And if you are part of the herd, stay with the herd. In case you are the one who is culled because you wrecked, the rest of the herd can help you as long as you are still with the herd.***

- ***Probes and nonverbal communication. On an unfamiliar stretch of water somebody usually steps up to go first through the rapid. Pay attention because this is where nonverbal communication comes in. If you see the probe is getting destroyed it means one of two things; alternate route or mandatory portage.***

- ***When a trip is put together and the meet time is, let's say, 11 o'clock, that does not mean the meet time is 11:20. Being consistently late proves that you do have the ability to be consistently on time. That kind of behavior is passive aggressive and will be tolerated for only so much time before you start to notice that you are not on the group's contact list anymore. Just sayin'. The best way to deal with the passive aggressive behavior is to ignore it. When that does not work anymore then the next step is to distance away from that behavior. Just sayin'. Be 20 minutes late to a trip that Larry Cable has put together and chances are very good that you will arrive to an already emptied out parking lot. Captain Cable knows how to tell time and keep to an agreed upon schedule.***

- ***I have said it before that Zina Merkin is the only person I know that a tree will hug back.***

- ***Take lots of pictures of your kids but don't share every one of them. All babies look alike, all of'em. Most of us are eager to see a picture, but not every picture on your phone.***

- ***As often as you can, immerse yourself in the moment. Let yourself be consumed and all of your senses share the experience.***

- **Laugh**
- **Cry**
- **Laugh until you cry.**
- **Mend fences before they become fortress barriers.**
- **Hold a baby and smell it. Smell the purity of that new life. The scent of a rose pales in comparison to the smell of a newborn child.**
- **One more thing about swimming and people pulling your ass out of the water: Thank them. Then and there, thank them.**
- **As good a paddler as you may be, you are still only a Class II paddler. Class V paddlers attempt to make the Class V rapid a Class II as the Class II paddler tries to make the Class II rapid a Class V. Say that three times as fast as you can.**
- **When rolling, keep your head down. You can come up with all the lame excuses you can think of if you would like. Keep your head down. Ask Hanley. That rolling God will tell you the first rule of rolling: Keep your head down. (Note to self).**
- **Every now and then I like to hug my wife and thank her because she gave me the opportunity to marry up.**
- **One cooks. The other cleans up.**
- **Divorce is not an option. Whoever is still standing after the gunfight takes everything.**
- **Don't bring your dog if you intend to lock that poor bastard in the vehicle or tie it to the bumper while you are enjoying yourself on the water. You're an asshole if you do. This is the creature that treats you with nothing but unconditional love. This is the creature that you could lock in the trunk of your car for an hour and it would be glad to see you when you open it up. It is a dumb animal. If it was a smart animal it would run off after crapping all over the driver's seat, uses the steering wheel for a chew toy and bites you on the way out the door. Pull that shit with your girlfriend and see how fast you return to the days of trying to impregnate your sock. Reciprocate and treat your dog like you want to be treated. No wonder they lick their balls and ass before they lick your face.**
- **Vote. Then bitch all you want. I became eligible to vote in 1972. I have missed only one opportunity to vote in all that time. I was in the field in Germany and am still pissed that I did not get my absentee ballot. This is just an opinion but if you vote a straight ticket without even thinking about it, you are a robot**

• **Want to start the day on a positive note? Before you go to bed the night before, replace the old dead batteries in your toothbrush with fresh ones. It makes a huge difference.**

Sixty five years. Damn! I have only one regret. I wish I had gotten my degree before I went to the Army. But I would have still gone into the military. The other stuff, no regrets. Explore, experiment, evaluate. Enjoy the trip. Search out joy and relish in it when you find it. You only get one chance in life. This is not practice. This is it. Life is good when you can look back at all the stuff you have done and can honestly say that you did no intentional harm to others. Don't find yourself on the front porch with a blanket and cat on your lap and wishing you had done this or that. Taste what is on your plate because you can spit out what you don't like it.

One last thing. Thank you. Thank you for being in my life. Each of you in your own way has enriched me and I am forever grateful. A man's true riches are not weighed on his possessions but in the relationships he had throughout his journey. Each one of you has made my life's journey so much richer and rewarding. Which is worth more; a sack full of gold that just sits there or another person who shares a moment with you?

Running a river can be a truly awesome experience. The water can be challenging and the feeling of accomplishment can be very satisfying. All that though does pale in comparison to the camaraderie I feel when we paddle and share nature's gifts with each other.

So many people have enriched me that my brain can't remember all the names or the faces, but my heart does. My heart may be as black as coal but that is due to all of the indelible marks that people have put on it. And the older I get, the more marks I hope to acquire.

So, 65 and looking forward to more years of living. Bring'em on. And when my work on Earth is done I pray to step out quietly and with hope, joy and anticipation for what is yet in store for me.

**SYOTR**

**Dallas Hargis**

# Gad and the Lady Bird

B. J. Phillips



Another Gauley season has happened and with my increasing advancing age and the fact that I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer I decided to make it to the Gauley River and spend a little more time than usual! I spent two weeks with a Gauley River guide that also owns a rafting business on the Pigeon River and has been a Gauley guide for eighteen years. The Gauley is quite possibly the best Class IV and V stretch of whitewater in the United States, if not the world, and boaters from all over the planet converged in West Virginia to enjoy, paddle, and sometimes get beat down on these great rapids. Some of the things I love about this river are the chance to see old friends, the river community, and with the opportunity of being with a seasoned guide, and friend, this year along with the local stories and river lore that is spewed from the local West Virginia river guides! Thus, the story of Gad and the Lady Bird:

In the 1960's the completion of the dam that created the now Summersville Lake and Dam to most people took its name. Now, normally a dam is named after the closest town, even if eventually covered by the rising waters of the 'new' lake, that the dam and lake is located to. However, in this case that was not true!

For those that may not be familiar with the town of Gad it is, or was, located a few miles past the present dam on the way to the takeouts for the upper section of the Gauley River. There is actually a small sign at a ninety degree left turn and the intersections of "Whitewater Way" and "Gad Road" that leads one to the present small community of Gad. If you follow Gad Road it will essentially run right into the lake and at the direction of the town of Gad that is now covered with water. In effect the town of Gad exist no more. So, the first obvious choice for the name the dam and lake was Gad. Now this created an issue to some people and resulted in what were evidently a much-heated discussion and vigorous arguments about such a name!

Those discussions and arguments went to the highest levels in local, state, and eventually the federal governments. The President of the United States at that time was Lyndon Baines Johnson so one would think that the buck would stop there, but, no sir, there was a higher power

than even the President of this country. So, enter the person that would nip this Gad Dam name in the bud. Her name was Lady Bird. The wife of President Johnson and the one that had the final say about Gad Lake and, most importantly, Gad Dam.

Now it has been said that President Johnson thought that the name of Gad Dam was amusing, if not down right funny, but Lady Bird was having no part of it. She has been loosely quoted as saying, "There will be no Gad Dam dam" or something like that. And, with the infinite wisdom that most President's think they have, or at least are accredited for if only by themselves, and the knowledge that most married people have in the fact that if the better half is not happy then no one's happy he relented and said that Lady Bird has the final say. Then began a search for a new name of Gad Dam.

Top government officials pulled out an atlas with the state of West Virginia and discovered that Summersville was the next closest town, which may or may not have been accurate, because any road atlas are notoriously inaccurate because they don't show some of the other small towns that may have been nearby, but, anyway, Summersville was selected as the new name. After much discussion and, most importantly, approval by Lady Bird, and probably some kind of congressional vote or something the President washed his hands of the whole Gad Dam proposal and the name of Summersville Dam and Lake became official! Also, just like the small town of Gad the name Gad Dam existed no more! Thus, peace and harmony once again reigned in the Whitehouse! And, the rest is history or, at the least, Gauley River raft guide lore!

Disclaimer: Gauley River raft guides have passed down this story and local lore and the accuracy cannot be confirmed or denied, and with most raft guide stories it should be accepted with tongue in cheek or a grain of salt.

However, the next time any of you are at the Gauley River seek out one of the local raft guides and they will have all the Gad Dam answers to any of your Gad Dam questions.

# Off the Cuff

**Russell Fork Schedule out  
October 07, 2019**

Here is my trip report and comments to Kevin Osborne today...

Hi Kevin,

Just a quick report on the weekend. I was on the river all three days and the flows were just over 800 cfs. Big news and a big change happened. First day, the flow must have caused the rock forming the Box at Climax to shift and it has now changed the rapid dramatically. It is now easier/safer on the Box line and harder on the main line. That occurred because the rock had been gradually shifting and with the low flows recently eroding underneath, the release caused the rock to finally give way.

Another matter was we had a hand paddler of great skill with many runs at Fist, attempt the main line at Fist and ended up splatting the undercut and swam underneath while his boat stayed in the crack and was retrieved by other paddlers. He was fine, but the low release level of close to 800 made for many, many close calls from what I heard. Fist is much safer in the high 800s than it is in the low 800s for the Fire Escape move which many folks do, attempt to do and will continue to attempt to do. I ran the Fire Escape the first two days and walked the third because it just seemed like a "skinny" level. Not everyone will exercise that same judgment and I have said for decades now that the rapid needs more than just 800 to make it a more reasonable run. Just saying...again.

The water quality was not great the first day on Friday, but it got better as the weekend went on. I saw quite a few paddlers out there all three days, the heaviest use day being Saturday. Ratliff Hole got slammed and overwhelmed the camping. Friday I personally saw at least 25 paddlers in the gorge. Sunday saw good use with many paddlers up and on the river early. I was off the river by 1:00 and home by dark.

I certainly enjoyed the three day weekend and there was a lot of interest in the three day weekend idea. On that note, there was some confusion about when the next three day event would be with some folks thinking there would be one next weekend as well. I

## Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

clarified that it would be the fourth weekend. I do think it would help to get this information circulated now in the public so we can get the best traction for this extra release weekend.

I would be interested to hear if there were any issues, complaints or concerns from the lake, marina or any fishing folks out there. I did not see anybody fishing in the gorge, but did see some hikers in and around El Horrendo and Climax. Beautiful weekend for outdoors folks.

Thanks and I look forward to the next weekend and hope we get a little bump in water to pad things out a bit more at a few rapids. Rain in the forecast might help that.

Btw, it looks like your email list has some old and out-dated addresses on there. I have deleted some and added some...I am quite sure there were others at our last meeting that are not on this email list though...

Brent Austin

**October 14, 2019**

Here is another email I sent to the Army Corp just now...

Hi Kevin,

Here is a follow up to my email last week. This past weekend, a two day release, the turnout was noticeably smaller than the weekend before with the three day weekend. The river gage level was substantially similar to last weekend with levels appearing to be in the low 800s. Water temperatures were warm and pleasant. This past Saturday, I did two runs down the gorge and noticed that the crowds were dramatically smaller on both runs. Lots of folks were walking Fist I observed, perhaps in response to last week's swim there. On Sunday, while the day was beautiful and sunny and in the low 70s, the weekend traffic was significantly less than the weekend before. I sat at Climax with just a few friends for an hour and did not see anyone come through. So far, I have paddled every release these past two weekends this fall and observed the traffic on the river and without question, the biggest crowd was the three day weekend. We will see how the next two weekends unfold and I will keep you all in the loop of any significant events I observe on the river this season. Hope you find this helpful. Brent



preparing for a world class race. Brent

## October 21, 2019

Here is another...

Kevin,

I have added Charles Goad to this email...

The third weekend was less crowded than the prior two. So far, the first weekend was the biggest crowd this year. Ratliff Hole was well used this past weekend, but still less crowded than the prior two weekends. The weather was chilly at night, but the day time temperatures were close to 70 and pleasant. I paddled both days and the first day felt about like the same level as the past two weekends with under 830 in the gorge. On Sunday, with the rain, it was over 830 and felt like about 850 or so going over the Fire Escape at Fist. That little bit extra made that line much more friendly. The crowd in the gorge was also pretty thin compared to the past two weekends. I am unaware of any un-toward incidents in the gorge this weekend. I would also estimate about half as much as last weekend and maybe a fourth of the crowd that was present for the first weekend. What I was hearing over the weekend was that folks were saving up to come to the three day weekend with extra water next weekend. I believe we will see a large crowd show up this next weekend for that reason. It seems pretty clear that an extra day is boon for drawing paddlers to the area thus far. I will follow up next week to comment. Brent

## October 29, 2019

Here is my last email to the ACOE after the past weekend.

Hi Kevin

As a follow up to the final three day weekend, I can say it was a huge draw with folks coming from all over the world to get a Friday lap in and prepare for the Lord of the Fork Race, which continues to draw top athletes from all over the planet. I was out there and can tell you that the 1000 cfs level continues to be the preferred level for the folks that attended this past weekend. A bit pushier than 800, it absolutely makes the Fire Escape at Fist safer and the rest of the course is very manageable. I understand we had over 80 racers, a large number of female racers and there was a very large crowd at Climax watching. Weather was in the 60s and spitting rain on us in the afternoon and evening with high winds taking place at the Rendezvous site. I would estimate between 300 and 400 folks at the Rendezvous despite the weather and Jackson Kayak pulled in with a crowd that reveled well into the night with music coming from a nearby stage where Dane Jackson accepted the first prize for the fastest time in the Lord of the Fork race.

Thanks for the extra water. It went to good use and supported a lot of folks coming into the area a day early and safely

## Cheoah this weekend

### November 05, 2019

Well, hello lonely BWA Forum land! Since the rain event from last weekend in the Smokies quickly faded and natural flow is not on the immediate horizon, I am planning on a trip to the good ole Cheoah this Saturday, the 9th. I told Leland I would meet him at the lake take-out at noon and roll to the top for one lap. He knows how Kentuckians roll if eyes seeing this post want to join us. I probably will day trip it from Nippur since the hot tub is kinda sweet on chilly nights after paddling a really fun river. But, I also could be persuaded to camp and do another run on Sunday, if it runs, which I think I understand that it does... Brent

### November 07, 2019

Sounds awesome Brent! Wish I could join! sad smiley I'll be back someday...

Wes

### November 10, 2019

Sorry you missed it Wes. It was a nice robust 1200 cfs level out there and a pretty day too. In the mid fifties. Lots of folks out on the river. I saw Robert Watts, Magic Mike and Sarah Leach at the take out after my run, but no other Kentuckians. Wassup with that? It was super sweet and fluffy out there yesterday for sure. I paddled with Leland and Andria and Eric HF for a quick lap, top to bottom in about an hour and a half. No one was at the put in around 1:45 and we caught up and passed some pretty big crowds at Bear Creek Falls. It was awesome and we were on our way home by 3:30. Now we need some rain... Brent

# Eddy Lines of Interest

## BWA Steering Committee Meeting

501 (C) (3) Public Charity-EIN: 82-3598723

September 3rd, 2019 7:30PM

Ethereal Brewing, 1224 Manchester St, Lexington, Ky 40504

Non-Committee Members in Attendance: 2

Meeting called to order by Robert Watts @ 8:00pm

OLD BUSINESS: No Old business items to discuss

New BUSINESS:

Russell Fork Rendezvous event for 2019.

Donation of \$500.00 to event from BWA

Motion 1st: Robert Watts : Motion 2nd : Hanley Loller : Votes in Favor: 8

Motion for \$500.00 to Russell Fork Rendezvous : Passes

Russell Fork Rendezvous event for 2019

Loan of \$ 500.00 from BWA to Rendezvous

Motion 1st: Robert Watts: Motion 2nd: Kyle Koeberlein

Motion tabled until vote at BWA club meeting 09/10/2019

President: Robert Watts

•Motion to bring BWA.org and Related websites under the wing of the BWA instead of reimbursing Hanley Loller each year. Keep renewal on yearly basis and email contact for dns lookups/website registration will point to treasurer@bwa.org

Motion 1st Robert Watts: Motion 2nd : Brian Storz : Motion

Vote: 9 motion passes

Budget Estimate: \$ 1k for BWA 2020 Summer Party

Vice-President : Hanley Loller

•Budget Estimate for Spring Clinic 2020 \$1500.00

Secretary: Walt Hummel: Absent

•Treasurer: Kyle Koeberlein

•BWA balance approx. \$5,95.00

NPFF Director : Gina Cunningham

•\$6k in account, Needs no funds from BWA currently.

Program Director : Sandra Brodus

•Total projected budget \$956.00

\$600.00 Holiday Party 2019, \$300.00 AW acres cookout 2020,

\$7.00 for a drink for each month's speaker at club meeting.

Safety Officer: Sarah Leach

•Total projected budget \$2,000

Pool rentals for roll clinics

Conservation Officer: Brian Storz

•Asked for a Motion that all BWA events that are funded are itemized to account for where the money is spent on what item(s). This will help limit clubs exposure to lawsuits due to sponsored events where alcohol is present. After discussion, item tabled to look at how maybe making this a bylaw instead of a motion in steering committee.

Budget Estimate: \$700.00 total : Red River Cleanup \$200.00

Ducky repairs

Beginner Trips (2x) \$250.00

•Newsletter Editor: Don Spangler -Absent

•Membership Coordinator: Will Samples

•Has spent 75.00 on postage for parking passing for 2019/2020

Elkhorn Forks access.

Motion from Sarah Leach , 2nd from Kyle Koberlein for reimbursement of postage.

Web Meister: Joe Wheatley- Absent

•Gear Meister : Kris Mullins Working with Sandra Brodus on Gear Swap, BWA October 2019 club meeting.

Member At Large: Dave Forman

Recorded Minutes for this meeting.

Adjournment-Robert Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9/3/2019 at 9:25PM and it was seconded by Hanley Loller.

## Steering Committee Meeting 2019/10/02

Membership coordinator:

~100 unrenewed memberships

Safety Officer:

\$176 per night for georgetown pool

Considering fundraising options

Program Director:

Whitewater SUP Program was a success

Gear Swap Program is this month

Secretary

Nothing

Treasurer

\$3500 to spend with expectation that \$130/month go to expenses

NPFF Director

Equipment for roadshow is organized

Member at Large

President

## Old Business

### New Business

Sarah Leach- Motion for up to \$500 for Roll

Sessions in November and December

Second by Walt Hummel/ passed by acclamation

Sandra Broadus- Motion to setup Automatic renewal for membership dues.

Second by Sarah Leach

Robert Watts- Amendment: this change pending approval by Officers Will Samples /Hanley Loller

Second By Walt Hummel

Amendment Adopted/Motion passed

Robert Watts- Motion up to \$500 for Christmas Party

Second by Kyle Koeberlain/Motion passed

Gina Cunningham

Dave Foreman- Motion to Adjourn

Seconded by Robert Watts /Motion Passed

## General Meeting Minutes 10/8/19

### New Business:

- Sara (Safety Officer) stated that roll sessions for November will be at the Georgetown Pool. Requested \$28.00 to support pool sessions.

- Motion made to authorize an additional \$28 for roll sessions, motion seconded

-- No discussion, motion passed, no dissenting votes

Announcements:

- Bob discussed Russell Fork Rendezvous

Meeting Adjourned

Walt