

Viking Views

SEPTEMBER 1998

WHITewater FESTIVALS

It's that time of year, the time to hit some of the primo whitewater rivers with hundreds of your closet buddies. Two of the festivals are in our region and draw a good group of Vikings each year.

Gauley River Festival, Saturday, September 26. 5:30 p.m to Midnight at Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park, Route 19, Summersville, WV. Camping Friday and Saturday nights; food on Saturday night with live music, auction, equipment sales, and lots of great boating related activity. And of course paddling throughout the weekend on the Gauley, the New and other watersheds in the area. Link up with your friends for a super weekend, the proceeds of which go to benefit river conservation efforts.

Russell Fork Rendezvous., October 2 - 4. Taking place during the first weekend of release from the Flannagan Dam, the Rendezvous is centered at Kiwanas Park in Haysi, VA. This relatively young event is held, "to celebrate the value and beauty of the Russell Fork River, the mountains, and the people who live there." The famous Class V Gorge section of the Russell Fork is bracketed by class II-III runs all which feature spectacular scenery. Food will be served and live music will be featured at the event. For additional information, check out the RFRR page via the BWA webpage at www.surfbwa.org or contact Rendezvous organizer Brent Austin, PO Box 23837, Lexington, KY 40523, phone 606-278-2011 or email russellfork98@surfbwa.org

VIKING CALENDAR

Tuesdays through the Sept 22:
Paddle and roll sessions at the lake at Long Run Park. Time 7:00 to 8:30.

Sept 5 - 7 -- Labor Day weekend trip planned by David Ackerman to West Virginia. The New probable with other nearby WV whitewater possible. Contact David at 485-1471.

Sept 21 -- Viking meeting at TGI Fridays. Business meeting at 7:30 but come early for dinner with fellow club members.

Sept 26 -- Gauley Festival, Summersville, WV. A great time in West Virginia; raffles, auctions, music and paddling too. See article this issue.

Oct 3 - 4 -- Russell Fork Rendezvous. Boat, bike, hike, climb. Camping near Haysi, VA. See article this issue.

Oct. 9 - 11 -- Ocoee Rodeo. To be held on the Upper Ocoee, so you can go watch or paddle the Lower, or both.

Oct 19 -- Viking meeting at TGI Fridays. Business meeting at 7:30 but come early for dinner with fellow club members.

Oct 31 -- NOC Fall Fling. Lot of sales, trading and paddling on the Nantahala or nearby.

Nov 16 -- Viking meeting at TGI Fridays. Annual meeting including elections.

Dec 4 - 5 -- Cumberland below the Falls. The annual draw-down of Lake Cumberland exposes the maximum rapids. Full moon so we may see a moonbow. Contact Charlie or Frank.

Date uncertain -- Fall overnight canoe camping trip. If interested in planning a trip, contact Robert Meisburg at 361-5984.

Gauley Festival Volunteers needed

from Barry Grimes

The Gauley Festival is Sept. 26, 1998 and the BWA and the NPFf have been showing videos there since the beginning of time. I hope we will be able to continue but to do so will require your participation and a small amount of time on Saturday, September 26 from about 6pm-11pm to help out.

If you would like to volunteer to help out please contact me ASAP! Don't worry if you have never done this before - if you can change tapes in a VCR and take money from the sale of NPFf videos WE NEED YOU!!!

To volunteer to help with the NPFf, contact:
Barry Grimes
1999 NPFf Coordinator
124 Hilltop Dr.
Richmond, Ky 40475
home phone) 606-623-9067 work phone:
606-323-8193
e-mail) bagrim1@pop.uky.edu
NPFf) <http://www.surfbwa.org/npff>

To volunteer to help with the Festival itself, contact:
Joe Greiner
home phone: 919-847-4704
email) joekayak@worldnet.att.net

Fall '98 Gauley release dates

from Barry Grimes

In case anyone was wondering , the 1998 Gauley release dates are all four day (Friday-Monday) weekends:

September 11 - 14, 18 - 21, 25 - 28
October 2 - 5, 9 - 12, 17 - 18

Check out the AW's Gauley Festival web page at:
http://www.awa.org/awa/events/98GF_page1.html

New River

Borrowed from the GCA

Between David Ackerman's planned Labor Day trip and the Gauley festival, you might be wondering about the paddling possibilities if you have not yet experienced the Mountain State's whitewater. The New River in the fall might be worth a try.

Typically running below zero on the Fayette Station gauge in the fall of the year, the canyon of the New offers a less intimidating look at the river for WV first timers. If you feel confident on the Ocoee, you can probably paddle the New at this level. While it still has big, powerful rapids, the water is warm and recovery pools wait at the bottom of the rapids.

And if you're not quite ready for the canyon, there are sections upstream that are fun but not as awesome.

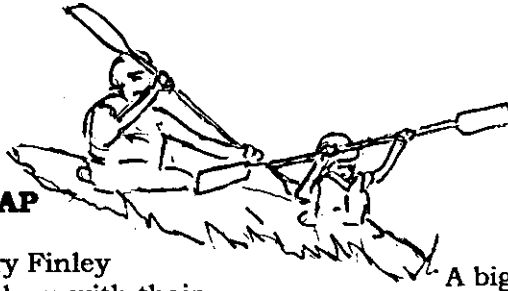
Where is Haysi?

About twelve miles east of Breaks Interstate park which is about four hours east of Louisville. Going there is relatively straightforward: East on I-64 to the Mountain Parkway near Winchester, KY. Follow the Mtn Pkwy to KY 114 at Salyersville, then on to Prestonburg where you join up with US460 east which you take to just southwest of Pikeville at Shelbiana, where you continue on KY 80 to the Virginia border where the road becomes VA 80 (and you pass Breaks Interstate park). Before you know it, you're at Haysi. Just like the other festivals, Brent Austin needs volunteers to help with the Russell Fork Rendezvous activities. Give him a call.

Elkhorn Access

If you are planning on paddling the whitewater section of the Elkhorn, do NOT consider parking or taking out at the traditional spot. Parking has been prohibited in this area. See the August minutes regarding efforts to resolve this impasse.

PICNIC RECAP



Perry and Perry Finley really wowed them with their paddling prowess on the Ocoee all through the picnic weekend. Perry III kept his face clean in the bow position of their Duo while Perry II kept the helm. To quote Valerie Vantrees: "Several of us had the good fortune to witness Perry and his 7 yr old son, also Perry, surf up a storm in Hell Hole in their duo (K2). And after lots of cheers and whistles, were given a standing ovation by the Hell Hole crowd. Life is good."

Saturday dinner got accolades from the thirty plus people who partook. Thirteen were AWOL, starring Bull Sluice in the eye at dinnertime. Valerie left her blue Lafuma chair next to the "cook stove" area. If anybody picked it up, let her know. A number of families were in attendance, all age groups represented. The younger set enjoyed a Saturday evening swim in the mild Ocoee water behind the OAR campground.

Rivers in the area were sampled; the Ocoee got most of the action but groups went to the Hiwassee, Nantahala and Chatooga. Drue and Violet Rice get recognition for paddling in the most states over the weekend -- TN, GA, SC, NC. Don Coaplen and JoAnn Fisher demonstrated their versatility by paddling the Ocoee in a tandem canoe.

A lucky thirteen boaters got to experience Section 3 of the Chatooga at low water (1.1'). It was sort of like running Gonzo Shoals six times but then it got shallow. Nonetheless, the named rapids were great fun and the scenery was outstanding.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. And the younger Perry slept well on the drive home.

Thanks Dagger

A big thank you goes out to Dagger for making our summer raffle possible. And the winner is ... Willy Witt, who we hear will be the proud owner of a new Redline from Dagger. Elsie Miller finished second in the drawing but we all know that Elsie is tops. Of course, River Conservation is the big winner as the proceeds of the raffle are to be donated to that cause. See the meeting minutes for more information.

Safety Lines -- River Courtesy

There have been a number of stories recently on the Internet, in club newsletters and word of mouth about playboaters not giving way to down river boats, boaters going off and leaving another boater in distress, and otherwise not considering their fellow boaters.

The AWA safety Code talks about courtesy. Some of the stuff is really good. Following are just a few of the basic items:

1. Do not cut in front of a boater running a drop.
2. Each boater keeps the boater behind him in sight; stop to assist if necessary (keep watch on your buddy /wingman and make sure he or she is safe before you peel off to the next surfing wave).
3. Although all boaters should have self-rescue skills, if you come upon a swimmer, or pinned boat, or other problem, lend a helping hand if you can do so safely.
4. Know the river signals (in the AWA safety Code)
5. The boat in the current has the right of way (besides, the boater coming down the rapid may be slightly out of control and might run over you if you peel in front of it. (Be nice.)

Safety First

Robt. Metsburg

MINUTES OF MEETING - AUGUST 17, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by President Johnny Sena at TGI Friday's. It was moved and seconded to dispense with the reading of past minutes.

The group of members and guests introduced themselves: Johnny Sena, new member Conrad Hahn, Charlie Buccola, Dale Perry, Dave Ackerman, guest Bill Lynch, president of BWA, new member Sam Bracken, Ann and Frank Weider, their daughter and son-in-law guests Pam and Dean Orvis, Mark Atkinson and Mike Roberts. Sam Bracken described finding the Club through our new Web page.

Old Business:

The Dagger boat raffle earned us about \$605. It was won by Willie Witt of BWA who chose a Redline. Some discussion ensued as to how to distribute the proceeds, with the following deserving organizations mentioned: Scotts Gulf, WVa Rivers Coalition, Russell Fork and the Elkhorn Coalition. There was mention of need and the impact of our donation. The motion was made and seconded, then amended, to earmark \$250 to WVRC, \$250 to Russell Fork, \$100 for the Elkhorn Coalition. A motion was then made by Frank and seconded to table these discussions until we receive a Treasurer's report from Violet Rice.

Johnny briefly touched upon the apparent success of our Web page.

Frank Weider reported on the findings of Mylar business card possibilities: \$150/500 and most places will not produce them. It was recommended by Dave Ackerman to proceed with paper cards, Johnny volunteering to handle the production. The Weiders volunteered their phone number for listing on the card.

Concerning the Long Run summer sessions - there will be 2 more: Aug. 25, Johnny; Sept. 1, Dave Ackerman.

Swiftwater Rescue Clinics were discussed: Dave reported NOC's beginner and advanced classes

for \$175 which includes instruction and meals. Frank reported on the approach taken by Chicago Whitewater Association for rescue clinic classes. Charlie mentioned the GA Canoe Assoc. holding a clinic. Dave volunteered to check on the possibility of NOC conducting a 1999 clinic for Viking members.

New Business:

Bill Lynch, President of BWA, invited Vikings to the BWA annual reunion and party at OAR campground, Aug. 28-30. Dinner is pot-luck; camping fee is \$10/adult. Also mentioned was the Russell Fork Rendezvous, Oct. 2-4. There is a link on the BWA Web page: www.surfbwa.org.

Bill Lynch also informed us of the newly forming Elkhorn Coalition with 2 members from each area club. Charlie suggested Mike Roberts as our Club representative with Mike recruiting another Club member. Or anyone may volunteer, someone ideally with a longer paddling history on the Elkhorn. Frank made the motion to accept Mike as our rep and it was seconded.

Mark Atkinson is now the keeper of our Club raft but is missing helmets, patch kits, etc. WHERE ARE THE RAFT'S ACCESSORIES? Call Mark if you have them; Club possessions have become widely dispersed.

Dave A. touched upon the desirability of a consistent meeting place, to attract more members to meetings and to make it easier for new members to find us. A vote was taken to meet at TGI Friday's every 3rd. Monday of every month. The ayes had it with Ann Weider dissenting.

Dave volunteered to call all pool venues mentioned for possible winter sessions. Briefly touched upon was the idea for beginners' development help in summers. Charlie told of the EPA mailing to Viking that requested all clubs adopt a watershed. He then passed out newsletters from various clubs/organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM. Respectfully submitted, Ann Weider

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Add the following to your membership directory. And give them a call the next time you've got a paddling trip planned:

Phillip & Venus Comett III
1303 N. Miles
Elizabethtown, KY 42710
(502) 769-9012

Robert P. And Karen Grewe
3028 Pebblebrook
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
(812) 285-9077

David & Marie Hendrich
Rothrock Mill Rd # 6105
Depauw, In 47115-9509
(812) 347-2894

Stephanie Jones
1898 Tyler lane
Louisville, Ky 40205-2817
(502) 458-1898

Gemma Kanzler
321 Watt St
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
(812) 285-0856

Steve & Susan Keith
8509 Sugar Plum Rd
Louisville, KY 40219

Bob Kuprion
2025 Lakeside Dr.
Louisville, Ky 40205-2128
(502) 452-9747

Scott Newsome
Brain Andriot
128 Breckenridge Ln
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 893-5746

Bruce Olliff
1110 Bluegrass Trail
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Gedimas & Melissa Zilinskas
4021 S. 3rd St #3
Louisville, KY 40214
(502) 361-1797

If we have missed anyone or if any of this information is incorrect, please advise the Club Secretary, Ann Weider, (502) 244-5475.

Anyplace Wild

If you haven't already discovered it, there is a great outdoors program on each Wednesday night from 9:00 to 10:00 on PBS, KET2, channel 15. The program is a descendant of the original *Trailside* program, and features some paddlesport episodes. On September 2, the show hosts will be kayaking Section 4 of the Chatooga. The episodes will probably repeat later in the season.

WEBSITE A-BUILDING

Check out our Website at:
www.vikingcanooclub.org

FOR SALE

Dagger Cascade C-1 for sale or trade for a Dagger Blast kayak (for daughter). Price \$450 including two float bags and a new spray skirt. Robert Meisburg at 361-5984.

CLUB RAFT & DUCKIE

New point of contact

The Club raft and duckie are available for use by members. To reserve either of them contact the gear meister Mark Atkinson at 812-923-3371. The charge for use is \$7 per paddler. The user is responsible for arranging the pickup and return of the equipment. Persons paddling in the raft must be members of Viking Canoe Club, having signed the waiver included on the application. There are paddles, helmets and a couple of PFDs available for use with the raft if needed. All gear is to be returned promptly after use, which leads us to



STRAY GEAR NEEDS TO COME HOME

Some of the ancillary equipment for use with the raft (pump, helmets, etc.) needs to be turned in to Mark. Give him a call immediately to make arrangements to get it gathered up for the next user.

VIKING CANOE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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