



*Our 39<sup>th</sup> Year*  
**Coastal Ca. NEWS**

*Newsletter of Coastal Canoeists*

*Fall 2004*

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND ENJOYMENT OF WILDERNESS WATERWAYS

## Coastal Canoeists Bears the "OK" Stamp

*Les Fry*

He is recognized as the founder of Coastal Canoeists. He circulated the bulletin that summoned potential members to the organization meeting. He is OK Goodwin. The Newport News native, named for his mother's brother, Ollie King, prefers the simple sobriquet, OK.

His interest in canoeing stemmed from an extended stint as a Boy Scout and from the tall tales older brothers told. His very first boat, though, was a kayak. He built it from plans in *Boys Life*. Framed with slats the local lumber yard gave to gardeners (to support their beans and tomatoes), tacked together with roofing nails, covered with white duck, filled and finished with Red Lead, this was quite a craft. His paddle was a broom handle with parallel plywood blades screwed on.

*He is recognized as the founder of Coastal Canoeists. He circulated the bulletin that summoned potential members to the organization meeting. He is OK Goodwin.*

One thinks of Newport News as surrounded by water; but, for a 12-year-old kid to cart a boat from the heart of East End to the nearest accessible water, the beach at Camp Stuart, was some struggle. He did it several times.

*See "OK" page 3*



*O.K. Goodwin*

## Rescuers - Are You Liable?

*Rob Ault*

On May 28, 2004, two men got stranded on the James River while attempting to rescue a stranded swimmer. They needed rescuing themselves and some 20 firefighters and emergency medical personnel were involved in the rescue. Each man faces a \$100 fine for not wearing a life jacket when the James was above five feet, according

*See "Safety/Education" page 10*

## Larry Cornell

1947 - 2004

The club was saddened to learn of the passing of Larry Cornell. A Coastal since 1993, Larry coordinated trips and enthusiastically mentored many Coastals new to paddlesport. He enjoyed camping along with kayaking and loved riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Coastal Canoeists extends its sympathy to his wife and Coastal Gretchen.

## Everyone's Dues are Due

*Chuck Berkey*

The new Coastal dues process begins this Fall. Beginning now, all Coastals will pay their annual dues by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January each year. If your payment is not received by January 1, 2005 your name will not be included in the Roster. Also, beginning now there will be no bill cards or other reminders except for this article in the

*See "Dues Due" page 5*

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 Scott Wiggins, Editor

Coastal Canoeists, P. O. Box 566, Richmond, Va. 23218  
 www.coastals.org

**Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs**

Position	Name	Telephone	Email
President	Richard Walters		
Secretary	Dane Goins		
Treasurer	Dave Stockdill		
Director	Bernie Farmer		
Director	Doug Jessee		
Director	Cathleen Lowery		
Director	Alicia Jahsmann		
Director	Paul Helbert		
Director	Dave Stockdill		
CaNEWS	Scott Wiggins		
Conservation	David Bernard		
Cruise	Ken Dubel		
Membership	Chuck Berkey		
Multimedia	Susanne Smith		
Programs	Paul Helbert		
Raffle	Bernie Farmer		
Safety/Ed.	Rob Ault		
T-Shirt Sales	Cathleen Lowrey		
Webmaster	Angelo Sakellariou		

Coastal CaNEWS is a publication of Coastal Canoeists, Inc. The opinions expressed are those of the writers and, unless stated so, are not those of Coastal Canoeists, Inc.

The Editor encourages you to submit material. Written material should be submitted unformatted and electronically transmitted using WordPerfect, Word or Excel. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions. Photographs may be submitted hardcopy, but tiff, gif or jpeg formats are preferred.

Please submit your material to: Scott Wiggins, Editor, CaNEWS, 10413 Attems Way, Glen Allen, VA 23060-3773. Unless otherwise credited, the photography in CaNEWS is that of the editor.

**Submission Deadline Schedule**

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
Winter	December 1	Summer	June 1
Spring	March 1	Fall	September 1

**Membership in Coastal Canoeists**

Current Membership: 483 memberships, two more than the 481 memberships as of 10/03. Dues are submitted to Chuck Berkey, Membership Chair. Make your check payable to Coastal Canoeists. Mail to: Chuck Berkey, Membership Chair, 505 Winterberry Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22405-2060

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**Treasurer's Report**

Checking Account	\$3,261
Special Fund Account	\$10,564
Vanguard Fund	\$8,528
Total	\$22,353

**Giving Back**

We've all benefitted from the contributions of others to our club. Below are pressing needs where you can be a big help.

Club Need	Contact
Trip Coordinators	Ken Dubel
Quartermaster for Quarterly Meeting	Richard Walters
CaNEWS Writers and Reporters	Scott Wiggins

**Advertising in CaNEWS**

Advertisements must be sent in camera-ready format, pre-paid and received by the submission due dates.

Size	Dimensions	1 Issue	2 Issue	3 Issue	4 Issue
1/4 pg.	3.5 in x 4.25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$125
Roster	Contact Editor	\$100			

## OK from page 1

On one sunny summer day, OK paddled his kayak across Hampton Roads to the navy fleet anchorage on the Norfolk side (maybe two-and-a-half miles). He was piped aboard one of the ships for ice cream with some of the crew. Had his parents known of this adventure, he would have surely been in for paddling of another sort—ending his kayaking career right there.

The boat met an inglorious end, lacerating its bottom while crossing an oyster bed at low tide. It filled with water. He abandoned it. He never looked back.

His canoeing activity extended into an Explorer Post and a Sea Scout Ship. The post paddled about all of the rivers in Virginia's coastal plain, including the North Anna; the entire James, Iron Gate to the sea; and others. Members of the ship paddled extensively and competed in the Potomac River White Water Races. OK was hooked.

Upon graduating from high school in 1939 (39<sup>th</sup> in a class of 139), OK immediately followed his father and both older brothers into Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, where he was accepted into the Apprentice School. He had barely finished the five-year program when the Navy called, involving him in WWII. He trained in Aviation Radio and Radar, Aerial Gunnery, and Shore Patrol. He was mustered out after just over two years; and spent the next two at William and Mary, where he majored in math.

OK and Glenna Ruth Harrington were married just before Christmas in 1946. They were on their first canoe trip in early 1947, the Chickahominy, paddling upstream from Route 5 almost to the Lanexa Dam and back. The Pamunkey was their second trip. Then, around the beach at Gwynn's Island, through "the-hole-in-the-wall," and others—until it became a way of life.

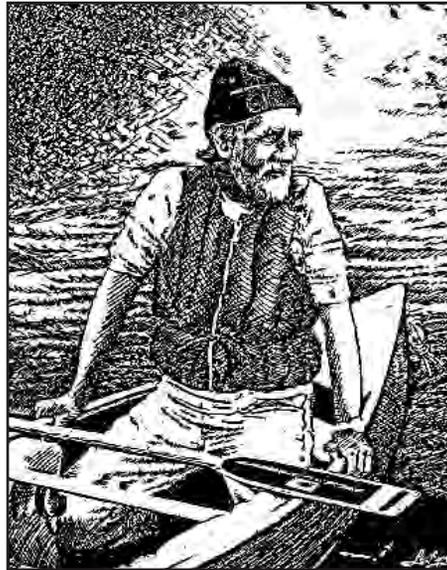
Meanwhile, back at NNS&DD, OK was teaching mechanical drawing, ship design, strength of materials, and basic naval architecture. The shipyard's Reproduction Department would later help Coastals get off the ground, printing the teaser issues of OK's *Coastal Canoeist* in 1964 to stimulate interest in the formation of the club.

Several from the former Sea Scouts and Explorers and a few like-minded paddlers

had organized the Point Breeze Canoe Club. Most of them would soon throw in with the new Coastal Canoeists.

OK reserved the conference room at the Peninsula Chapter, American Red Cross (ARC) on West Avenue in downtown Newport News for the evening of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1965. A dozen people attended. He presided as attendees directed he should publish one more newsletter to coax a larger number to come out and try again to organize.

Records show that next meeting—officially *the* organization meeting—was held on June 10, 1965. OK had left little to chance. The promotional newsletter, which he had dubbed *Coastal Canoeist*, he distributed to everyone he knew who owned a canoe and left a copy on the windshield of every car he saw with a canoe (or even



OK circa 1968 in his Grumman aluminum canoe

a rack). This edition reported a number of recent canoe trips, canoe race results, all manner of canoe and camping related items and the meeting announcement. It worked. Forty-six people packed the Red Cross meeting room.

Some, including OK, had been members of the American Canoe Association (ACA); but all agreed that a local club could do more for individual paddlers; i.e., organize trips and work out their logistics, offer hands-on instruction in canoeing and camping techniques, provide tips on equipment and local sources, encourage boating safety, and like that. They opted to organize on the spot, electing officers: Jay Burke, President; Bruce Walker, Secretary-Trea-

sure; Bob Sterling, Cruise Chairman; Jim Michie, Education Chairman; and Galen Moore, Conservation Chairman. OK was asked to extend his tenure with the newsletter, which became (and, in the minds of many, continues to be) the glue that binds the club. He served in that capacity for another three years.

From the newsletter's very first edition, OK had effectively hung a name on the club that would stick—Coastal Canoeists. He would very soon thereafter design the club emblem. (Also, his would be the winning design for the Coastals' "Free Spirit" T-shirt, in mid-2000.) At each meeting, he would share his experiences as a member of the D.C.-area's Canoe Cruisers Association (CCA), as a competitive paddler throughout the East, and as instructor and instructor-trainer with the ARC. He was able to involve members of the fledgling club on a number of CCA trips—a broadening experience for the many who participated.

OK became Safety Chairman of the American Whitewater Affiliation (AWA) in the '60s and wrote extensively for the *AWA Journal*. He had a lot of inter-organizational discussions with his opposite number in the ACA, Charlie Walbridge. They were both members of the safety task force advising the Coast Guard on its proposed, restrictive regulations on canoeists. With the help of their respective organizations and the mass of canoeists everywhere, the proposals never saw the light of day.

Shortly thereafter, OK applied for a grant from the USCG to develop a leaflet that would support the safety effort, which was becoming a national movement. *All You Ever Wanted to Know About Canoeing, Kayaking, and Rafting but Didn't Know Who to Ask* was completed in 1977. Though Coast Guard requirements were met, it was determined that the service was not mandated to produce such a piece. It may still be viable.

The Goodwins' daughters, Candy and Cindy, had been introduced to canoeing early on, joining in on many cruises and race weekends. They both became quite competent paddlers. They were along in 1967 on the European vacation, traveling with the U.S. Team to three preliminary races and the World Championship at Spindlruv Mlynn, Czechoslovakia (down-river) and Lipno, Czechoslovakia (slalom).

## OK

*from page 3*

Touring the Klepper plant at Rosenheim, Candy convinced OK she wanted to paddle a kayak. He gave in, hoping their teenage girls would be paddling with them more frequently. It was young Cindy who paddled the new boat above the Lipno race course. It was she who spent more time in the kayak when they returned home—including a lot of practice with the English gate and in pool slaloms. She got really good at it.

In 1971, Cindy was at Buena Vista, Colorado with a group of D.C. hopefuls to compete in the Slalom Nationals. She broke her only (left-handed) paddle in a practice run. Glenna got the distress call and was immediately on her way with a spare. Cindy was crowned National Champion (K1-W) in Whitewater Slalom. She won a place on the U.S. Team to the Munich Olympics at the Savage River tryouts in spring 1972. The Olympic competitions were held on a man-made course in Augsburg, 30 miles from Munich. Only one American placed; Jamie McEwan earned the Bronze. The awards ceremony suffered an interminable delay because organizers were so sure they wouldn't need a U.S. flag that they didn't have one immediately at hand.

OK was spending much of his time during this period in applying his knowledge of ship "lines" to boat design and fabrication. He quickly mastered the fiber glassing process and was soon providing hulls that would seriously challenge the Czechs, whose C-1s and C-2s were sweeping the field in world competition. Over the years, he designed, modified, built, and sold some 18 boats. Altogether, he has owned (for his own use) 21 boats—from the original canvas covered kayak to the current ABS Blue Hole—also including cedar and canvas, aluminum, birch bark, fiberglass, epoxy; downriver and slalom racers, and cruisers

OK and Glenna competed in many downriver and slalom races between 1966 and 1976. They occasionally won but always finished near the top in the East Coast rankings.

In one slalom race at Pennsylvania's World's End State Park, OK partnered with Al Douglas (also a Coastal, also of Newport News, also of the shipyard). They did fine on their practice run. On their first run that counted, they made a serious error. Al was

wrapped around the bow to his left; OK was desperately trying to brace on his right. They lost it. They DNF'd.

At the next Coastals meeting, a blow-up photo of their moment of glory was plastered on the wall. Impressive. Film footage of this episode later showed up in a presentation to the Coast Guard.

The Goodwins were both U.S. representatives to the International Canoe Federation for about a decade beginning in the mid '70s.

In 1978, they were invited by a couple of friends to join them in California in forming a whitewater rafting company. They thought it over for a few minutes and went for it. Both girls were married and they were free to go. He took early retirement; they packed, drove to Big Bar, and started exploring the rivers. It looked good. The company name was to be Whitewater King. They were well on their way to becoming the first rafting company to offer trips on the rivers of Northern California. However, friction soon developed, and the partnership was quickly dissolved. What to do?

They had sold the home in Virginia and bought property in Big Flat, a couple of miles from Big Bar. They had already bought much of the rafting equipment they needed. They had moved to California to have a rafting company, so they obstinately decided to do just that. They attracted several competent guides locally. They set up their own World of Whitewater and began running trips in 1979.

The Trinity River, that would become their bread-and-butter, was just across the road from their headquarters. The Sacramento (both above and below Lake Shasta), the Klamath, and the California Salmon all offered exciting and soon-to-become-popular trips.

The biggest problem WOW experienced was the limited season. Snowmelt and runoff from the Trinity Alps provided great water in June, July, and August (with maybe an extra week or two before and/or after in a good year). During the whitewater off-season, OK found it necessary to pick up where he'd left off in shipbuilding. Plying his other profession carried him to Puyallup, Or.; Metairie, La.; Annapolis, Md.; Pascagoula, Miss., Mere Point and Cundy's Harbor, Maine; Oakland, Benicia, Pacifica, and Vallejo, Calif.; Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.; and other shipbuilding centers here and in Canada.

One summer, Candy and her husband, Ben Waits, went out to help with the family business, but decided one season was enough. Cindy and her husband, Ken Wall, tried it for a year-and-a-half, managing the place in OK's absences and struggling with the off-season. In 1983, they concluded that they needed to be back home in Virginia and left it all up to OK and Glenna.

They did well but it wasn't long before more established, more prestigious outfitters moved into their territory. More and more governmental controls were piled on. They soon had about all of the fun they could stand, and it was "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny" after the '85 river season.

OK went back to ship design, working in Newport News; St. Johns, New Brunswick; Tracy and Mississauga, Ontario; Pascagoula, Miss.; Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.; and ended his designing days on assignment to his original place of employment, Newport News Shipbuilding.

He was selected to be Safety Officer for the 1988 pre-Worlds and the World Championships (slalom) in 1989, both held on the Savage. He was fortunate to be associated with a great crew of river rescue people from New York State. At home, they provided safety on the Susquehanna, shepherding thousands of summer paddlers. Glenna was Chief Scorer of the events.

In his final retirement in 1996, OK assumed the life of a gentleman farmer on 55 acres in Calverton (post office, Catlett), Virginia. He and Glenna share their bucolic space with three-dozen head of Black Angus. Cindy and Ken live nearby, have raised a family and cattle, and both teach at Liberty High in Fauquier County. Candy and Ben and their family remain in the Hampton Roads area.

As recently as 2001 OK was still teaching canoeing in Liberty High's alternative sports program. He still gets out on a river occasionally, but is actively looking for a 50-pound boat that would make land transport easier.

Asked what's his favorite river, OK doesn't equivocate: "Four: The Nantahala in North Carolina and the Trinity in California both have so many memories. The Hell's Corner Gorge run on the Klamath is certainly the most demanding stretch of water that I have been on (even if I was guiding a raft). The Savage...for the times I watched Cindy run it in competition." **CCQuost ad nostrorsum faci per quod**

## Program

*Paul Helbert, Chair*  
*Ted McGarry, Co-chair*

**Fall Annual  
Meeting and Pig Roast  
Saturday, October 16 at  
Grove Hill Community  
Center  
Shenandoah, Va**

**Campgrounds** Your choice:  
**Riverside** (540.652.8174), \$21/group 4, on river right of Rt. 340 in Newport.  
**Dam Acres** (888.865.7222) terminus of Rt.617 off Rt.650 which connects to Rt.340 and Rt.340 bus. \$10+\$1/person.  
**Country Way** (888.765.7222) \$22/tent, off Rt.340 two miles north of Luray  
**Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Resort** (800.420.6679) \$41/group 2, \$6 extra person, off Rt.211 east of Luray.  
**10:30 a.m. Paddling.** Fall color peak on the beautiful South Fork of the Shenandoah River from Newport (Rt.340) to White House (Rt.211). Nine-mile novice trip with lunch stop. Meet at DGIF boat ramp at Newport. Trip leader to be announced. Check the Message Board for details.  
**4:00 p.m. Board Meeting**  
Grove Hill Community Center  
**5:30 p.m. Dinner.** Tom McCloud will prepare the pig. Dinner includes potatoes, onions, baked beans and rolls. The Club provides hot water, paper plates, utensils and cups. Members should bring their beverages. Additionally, if your last name ends with A-G, bring a desert; H-O, bring salad and dressing; P-Z, bring your favorite barbecue sauce. Volunteers needed for Friday night cooking, call Tom McCloud (999.999.999) and Saturday kitchen, call Andrea Jones.

**6:30 p.m. Business meeting** and election of officers.  
**6:45 p.m. Program.** "Petite Mecatina River, Canada. One Tough Canoe Trip in Wilderness Quebec" by Tom McCloud. You can read about the trip in the Winter 2004 CaNEWS. Come see the slides.  
**Directions.** Grove Hill Community Center is on Rt. 340 just north of Shenandoah, VA and beside an elementary school. The town of Shenandoah is located on the western side of the Blue Ridge between Elkton (Rt.33) and Luray (Rt.211)

## Dues Due

*from page 1*

Winter CaNEWS.

This year the dues will be prorated by month. This is the fairest way to assess dues to all members who have already paid for part of 2005. The table below indicates the amount you are to pay by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. To determine the amount you owe you must know the month you currently pay your dues. To determine this you look at the mailing label on your CaNEWS. To the right of your name is printed a month/year. Find this month/year in column 1 of the table below. The amount you are to pay is in column 2 (or if you pay for first class mail delivery use column 3).

If the year on your label is 0 or greater than 2005 you will not pay dues this Fall. Lifetime members, special friends and newsletter exchanges will have a 0 for the year. They do not pay dues. Those whose year is greater than 2005 have paid for multiple years and will not owe dues this Fall. Those who have paid for multiple years will receive an email or a letter when your dues come due.

During this transition and in the future the option to pay dues for multiple years is available. To pay for additional years add \$20.00 for each additional year (\$23.00 per year for the first class postage option).

Checks for dues should be made payable to Coastal Canoeists and mailed to: Chuck Berkey, Membership Chair, 505 Winterberry Dr. Fredericksburg, VA 22405.

Month/ year	Standard Dues	Dues for 1st Class Postage
6/2004	\$31.67	\$36.44
7/2004	\$30.00	\$34.52
8/2004	\$28.34	\$32.60
9/2004	\$26.67	\$30.68
10/2004	\$25.00	\$28.76
11/2004	\$23.34	\$26.84
12/2004	\$21.67	\$24.92
1/2005	\$20.00	\$23.00
2/2005	\$18.33	\$21.08
3/2005	\$16.66	\$19.16
4/2005	\$15.00	\$17.24
5/2005	\$13.33	\$15.32
6/2005	\$11.66	\$13.40
7/2005	\$10.00	\$11.48
8/2005	\$8.33	\$9.56
9/2005	\$6.66	\$7.64
10/2005	\$5.00	\$5.72
11/2005	\$3.33	\$3.80
12/2005	\$1.66	\$1.88

## Quartermaster

*Andrea Jones & Ginny Newton*

*Editor's Note: in the Summer 2004 issue, Andria and Ginny presented issues regarding the Quartermaster Position. This article re-iterates the options.*

Our committee wants to revive the tradition of prepared meals at the quarterly meetings. The problem is finding a club member who is willing to plan the meals, coordinate the arrival of the Chuck Wagon and prepare the meal at nearly all of the meetings. Very few members would be receptive to doing this. Therefore, we are recommending that a Quartermaster position be a compensated position. We offer several different options.

**Option 1:** Create a compensated position of Quartermaster (QM) who would be responsible for preparing a minimum of three meals per year at quarterly meetings. There would be a separate budget to include drink material, condiments and plasticware that are to be maintained / restocked as needed on the trailer. A collection box will be placed on the table at all meetings to ask members to help defray the costs of the meal preparation.

**Option 2:** Similar to Option 1, except that the position is a volunteer position and the QM is responsible for simply coordinating the meal using a potluck method – not preparing it – and maintaining the trailer.

**Option 3:** Sell the trailer and redistribute / sell the cooking utensils. Have only one meal per year in October. This would then put us all back to the time of each Board member (the program chair) having to haul lots of Coastal boxes to each meeting and back home again – which is the reason why the trailer was purchased in the first place.

**Option 4:** Find a volunteer who would be willing to keep the trailer on their property and pull it back and forth to meetings with little or no responsibility to keeping it stocked. If a volunteer isn't available, then it would be the responsibility of the program chair – who already has a lot of responsibility and unlikely to be willing to take this on.

We feel that retaining the trailer and creating a compensated position of Quartermaster is the best option available for our club to foster a more welcoming atmosphere for new members to appreciate what the club can offer to them and to provide more fellowship at the quarterly meetings within the club to retain existing club members.

## Board of Directors

*Dane Goins, Secretary*

**Date of Meeting:** July 17, 2004

**Location of Meeting:** Glen Maury Park, Buena Vista, Virginia

**Meeting Chaired By:** Richard Walters

**Meeting recorded by:** Dane Goins, Secretary

**Board members present:**

**Officers:** Richard Walters, Dave Stockdill, Dane Goins

**Members:** Doug Jessee, Alicia Jahsmann, Paul Helbert, Cathleen Lowery

**Committee Chairs:** Scott Wiggins, Chuck Berkey, Ken Dubel, Andrea Jones, Ted McGarry, Bernie Farmer, David Bernard, and Les Fry.

**Officer's reports:**

**President:** Richard Walters started the meeting with pomp and circumstance.

**Treasurer:** Dave Stockdill presented the club's balance sheet and Profit & Loss (P&L) statement. The Balance Sheet showed club holdings with a net profit of \$13.24 for the end of the 2Q04.

**Secretary:** Dane Goins read the last quarterly meeting notes and they were approved.

**Committee reports:**

**Ad hoc Committees:**

**CaNEWS Archive Committee:** Bill Gordon is to work with a club member on medical leave to put the entire library of CaNEWS onto CDs. The volunteer has not contacted Bill Gordon yet. There was no word from Charles Ware on copies being archived at the Virginia State Library in Richmond. Richard Walters asked for a volunteer to check into this and received no response.

**Quartermaster Committee:** Andrea Jones gave her findings on the quartermaster issue that prompted discussion. Three options were presented: 1) a paid quartermaster position that would be responsible for coordinating and preparing three meals per year at the club's quarterly meetings; 2) a minimally paid quartermaster position that would be responsible for coordinating only three meals per year at the club's quarterly meetings; 3) Sell the QM trailer, sell or distribute the cooking utensils. There were objections to paying a QM, however there was no solution on finding a volunteer for the job or in selling the trailer. Andrea Jones, Bernie Farmer, and Scott Wiggins will do an article in CaNEWS explaining the situation and asking for volunteers and/or solutions. Copies of Andrea's full report can be had by contacting her or the Secretary.

**Website:** The message board provider, Dream-Tools, is going out of business. Our contract with them ends September 30. The Webmaster has several alternatives and will pick one by the end of July as a replacement. Dave Stockdill will also share some freeware tools for the committee to evaluate.

**Audit Committee:** Audit successfully completed.

**Nominating:** Dave Stockdill reported we have three names on a list for potential replacement of Board Members' and one officer whose term is expiring this year. Anyone wishing to serve or nominate, please contact the nominating committee (Dave Stockdill, Bernie Farmer, Dane Goins).

**Roles Documentation:** Alicia Jahsmann reported completion.

**On-Going Committees:**

**CaNEWS:** Editor Scott Wiggins said the newsletter should remain at 16-pages per issue to control cost. The club brochures for paddling businesses distribution were in progress, with an estimated cost of \$700. They will be distributed among club members and water sports businesses.

**Conservation:** David Bernard comments on a \$500 was donated to the West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the Balcony Falls takeout situation are reported in his column. A brief comment was made by the Conservation Chair in reference to continuing working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's plan to implement a "polluter pays" program statewide. David also reported there was not much progress with VDOT and right-of-way definitions that allow access to rivers, such as the Moormans. Copies of David's full report can be had by contacting him or the Secretary.

**Membership:** Chuck Berkey reported that the club's membership was 466, up by 31 new members.

**Safety/Education:** Rob Ault gave an update on his classes.

**One-day Basic River Rescue Class,** Saturday, June 12, in Richmond. Ten students (both Coastals and non-Coastals) took the class.

**Half-day Rescue PFD Class,** Sunday, June 13, in Richmond. Six students took the class,

**Two-day River Rescue Class for Chesterfield** on Saturday and Sunday, August 14-15. Students can choose to take both days or only one day, based on their needs. First day is basic river rescue; second day is advanced river rescue.

Finally, there has been no progress on the trip leaders' conference. Ken Dubel doesn't feel one is necessary, and Rob does not have any time to devote to it. We haven't had one in years, and unless the majority of the board feels there is a compelling need for this, he suggests that we drop the idea.

In September, Rob will start night school to become a registered nurse and his time for the Safety Chair will be reduced and he is willing to step down.

**Programs:** The Program for fall meeting has not been set.

**Raffle:** Bernie Farmer noted that tonight's raffle included a new Mad River Explorer 15'8" Royalex canoe.

**Multimedia:** Dane Goins represented Susanne Smith and reported that delinquent members were contacted and had received 4 VHS tapes returned.

**Sales:** Cathleen Lowrey reported sales of \$167.50 from the last meeting

**Cruise:** Ken Dubel reported trip coordinator volunteerism off.

**Announcements:** None

**Motions adopted:** None

**Motions rejected:** None

**New Business:** Alicia Jahsmann brought up for discussion a program to help victims of vehicle break-in while paddling. The club member that was victimized would receive some limited assistance towards the capture of the perpetrator. The general opinion of the board was to drop the idea from further discussion.

**General items of note:** None

## Conservation

*David Barnard, Chair*

### COASTALS FIGHT ACID WASTE

In June, our club sent \$500 to the West Virginia Rivers Coalition to help fund an appeal of approval for a new coal mine that would provide a new source of acid runoff pollution in both the North Branch of the Potomac and in the Blackwater River. This "E-mine" (being the 5th in a series) of Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC is in Tucker County, WV on the eastern watershed divide.

Those who paddle and travel in this region know the red-stained banks and streambeds of creeks polluted by acid mine drainage (AMD). What has happened is this: underground mining exposed coal seams that release strong acid upon exposure to water and oxygen. Water flows into abandoned mines and the resulting acid flows out of old portals or into other aquifers. Attempts to stop the AMD by sealing the mine's exits usually fail, as the water in the mine pool accumulates and builds up pressure, which results in a catastrophic "blowout" or the release of water in a new higher outlet in a previously uncontaminated valley.

There has been some success in treating the AMD with a limestone slurry to neutralize the acid. This of course requires mining or quarrying of limestone and regular monitoring to match the acidity and volume of the AMD. Treatment is required for the long term, it is expensive and far from the ideal solution. Neither does it deal with metals such as selenium or aluminum in the runoff.

Funding of treatment of AMD, as well as other coal mine related problems, is supposed to be covered by a tax assessed on coal production in the 1977 Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act (SMCRA). But the money has fallen far short of needs, and much of the available money is kept in DC to present the appearance of a smaller Federal budget deficit. West Virginia alone needs another \$1.2 billion to complete projects already planned and more complaints of new mine problems come in regularly.

SMCRA also forbids the opening of any new mine that would cause acid mine drainage requiring long-term (more than 17 years) treatment. Mettiki Coal LLC claims its treatment plan to inject limestone into the sealed and flooded mine pool would eliminate AMD within 17 years. They have limited and selected scientific evidence to show this would happen and experience shows the

likelihood of creating another big problem, even as old mine problems remain. Mettiki's E-mine may be more likely to cause acidic runoff because of the use of long-wall mining, a process by which the entire coal seam is removed, leaving no support underground and inevitably leading to subsidence of the geologic layers above. Then water from creeks and springs and aquifers can run into the broken layers below and then into contact with the coal seams.

West Virginia Rivers Coalition is using Coastals' and other contributions to obtain expert scientific testimony to refute the Mettiki claims that were accepted by West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. It is our goal to have clean water for outdoor recreation and for other uses. This mine would affect water in the Blackwater River, Blackfork River, and Cheat River on the western slope and the popular North Branch of the Potomac release and the Potomac mainstem and Chesapeake Bay on the eastern side. If allowed to open, the E-mine could reopen an unfortunate chapter in water pollution and a legacy of costly clean-up.

### BALCONY FALLS TAKEOUT

Dominion Virginia Power's application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to re-license Cushaw Dam, which creates the lake at the end of the Balcony Falls run on James River, includes this: "Specifically, Dominion will consider the CSX culvert location identified during the FERC scoping meeting visit as a possible take out point for recreation paddlers. Dominion will conduct a conceptual study to determine what is needed to develop the site. The conceptual study will identify both opportunities and potential constraints, routing from the river to Route 501 and construction and maintenance costs. Dominion will also identify other potential egress sites upstream of the head pond based on USGS maps and site reconnaissance. For each potential site, Dominion will undertake a conceptual study similar to the CSX site. Dominion will also evaluate the Glasgow ingress point and perform a conceptual study to identify what is needed to improve the site."

The document goes on to say a study will be conducted to determine river usage in July and August. However, visits there July 17 and August 7 were not counted as far as I know. Coastals are supporting the Float Fishermen of Virginia and Friends of

the Rivers of Virginia in this effort to secure a new takeout at the end of the whitewater of Balcony Falls. Jeff Wold of FFV says he hasn't seen the count taking place either.

CSX has yet to make a positive response to our requests for cooperation. CSX has letters from both Sen. Steve Newman, Republican of Lynchburg, and Sen. John Edwards, Democrat of Roanoke, asking for such cooperation. Other state and local officials have also asked CSX to help. If you want to ask your state senator or representative to assist to have CSX respond to reasonable access requests, contact your conservation chair for more information.

### BIG REED ISLAND CREEK GORGE ACCESS & EROSION ISSUE

A late June run down Big Reed Island Creek's gorge section revealed a problem - the takeout access road was badly eroded and barely passable for 4WD vehicles. A logging operation had messed things up badly.

Calls to a local VDOT official and the Carroll County administrator revealed some useful information for all such problems in Virginia. Old public roads in Virginia can be either "discontinued" or "abandoned," with the agreement of VDOT and the county board of supervisors. Discontinued roads are no longer maintained by VDOT, but they are open to the public. Abandoned roads go back to the property owners who owned the land before a road was built.

Our particular road was discontinued. Therefore it is still open for use as a public access road.

Virginia Division of Forestry will assist loggers and landowners to plan a logging operation for maximum efficiency and least environmental damage. Loggers and landowners are not required to use this free consultation, and fewer than 2% do. However, if a logging operation is causing erosion into a stream, the logger is required to correct the problem, and may be liable for fines. In this case, the Carroll County administrator called the local VDOF forester, and emailed me that the forester had checked it out and was requiring the logger to put crushed stone on the road.

Therefore, if your paddling, hiking or other outdoor trip reveals a logging scene that is causing erosion into a stream, the local forester would like to hear of the problem and he or she will have the right to enter the property, assess the situation and insist on corrective action.

## **Membership**

*Chuck Berkey, Chair*

Membership information is removed from the online version of CaNEWS.

**Membership**  
*Chuck Berkey, Chair*

## Safety/Education

Rob Ault, Chair

an article in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

And the stranded swimmer they set out to rescue? That person was brought to shore by a passing kayaker, according to the *Times-Dispatch*.

Was that passing kayaker at risk legally? Probably not, assuming the kayaker followed some basic rules.

First, let me say that I am not a lawyer nor have I been involved in any litigation over rescues, but I am a certified swift water rescue instructor and this generally accepted information is what I teach in my classes.

### Richmond River Ordinances

The two would-be-rescuers got in legal trouble because they weren't wearing PFDs. For those readers who don't know, the City of Richmond has some unusual ordinances for the river within city limits.

First, when the river is at or above five feet on the Westham gauge, anyone on the river must wear a PFD. Second, when the river is at or above nine feet on the Westham gauge, the river is closed to recreational users without a permit. The permit is issued by the city fire department and costs \$10 for two years. Boaters

must sign a form saying they've paddled rivers of equal or greater difficulty than the James at nine feet and that they will paddle in parties of at least three with at least one throw bag and one first aid kit for the group.

So, we can be pretty certain that the kayaker who helped the swimmer to shore was wearing a PFD and was not breaking any Richmond ordinances. But that doesn't mean he couldn't face legal liability.

### Duty to Act

First, did that kayaker have a duty to act? No, he didn't, so he could have paddled downstream without offering any help and been free from any liability. Failure to act when you have a legal duty to act does make you liable.

But what's a "duty to act"? Simply, it's when you're in a role that has some responsibility and where others have an expectation of your role. For example, if you're a Boy Scout leader, you have a legal duty to act if your Scouts need aid. Or if you're a guide for a raft company, you have a duty to act if your customers need help. (The guide, however, has no legal duty to help the tubers who just got trashed in Hollywood.)

For us as Coastals members, we don't have a legal duty to act on our personal paddling trips, including club trips. One reason we have "trip coordinators" instead of "trip leaders" is to avoid legal risk. There should be NO expectation by any Coastals member that the trip coordinator is legally responsible for the participants' well-being. Coastals members participate willingly with no expectation of the trip coordi-

Samaritan Law is particularly strong (Code of Virginia, Section 8.01-225, chapter 493).

Essentially, you're free from liability if you voluntarily help someone and aren't "grossly negligent."

### When can you get in trouble?

Despite the Good Samaritan Law, it is possible to get in trouble if you make some BIG mistakes.

You can get in trouble if you're grossly negligent. Gross negligence is "any action or an omission in reckless disregard of the consequences to the safety or property of another." Generally, the failure to act as a reasonable and prudent person would under similar circumstances is considered negligence, and gross negligence goes well beyond that.

Two examples of gross negligence include abandonment and acting beyond your skill level. Abandonment means that you start to render aid but stop without a good reason. Good reasons to stop aid include exhaustion, risk of injury or death to yourself, being relieved of your duties by someone with equal or greater skill or completing the aid. Acting beyond your skill level generally refers to performing a medical act beyond your training (since there aren't standardized paddling or swift water rescue skill levels in the U.S.).



Rob Ault coaches Bev Fry in Rob's June Rescue-PFC class. Photo: John Devlin

nator other than setting a meeting time.

The trip coordinator might have a moral obligation to help, but not a legal duty to act. Many of us have helped other boaters on the river because it was the right thing to do, but it wasn't a legal requirement. In a Coastals' swift rescue class, however, as the instructor, I would have a legal duty to act if my students needed help.

### Good Samaritan Law

Despite not having a duty to act, the kayaker on May 28 chose to act, and his efforts could've made him liable.

In the United States, if you decide to help someone, the Good Samaritan Law protects you from legal liability. All 50 states have some version of this law, and Virginia's Good

### What's this mean to paddlers?

Our anonymous kayaker successfully rescued the stranded swimmer, so there was no abandonment. And a reasonable and prudent paddler would've acted similarly in the same circumstance, so there was no chance of negligence. So this paddler didn't incur any liability. (And personally, I'd like to thank this kayaker for doing the right thing and making our sport look good.

For the rest of us as paddlers, we should feel good about our legal protection if we choose to render aid to someone on the water. The Good Samaritan Law doesn't mean that we can't be sued, but it does set such high standards of proof that a successful lawsuit is unlikely.

# T e c h n i q u e

FOR THE BEGINNING BOATER:

## Downstream

### The Easy Way

by Charlie Random

At this year's Nelson Downriver Race on the Tye River, I was tooling along, not racing really, just taking advantage of the race's easy putin/takeout/shuttle arrangements and plenty of safety help along the way. I stopped to take pictures at a couple of the best rapids. Stopped to help a lady in distress, retrieved her paddle, saw her on her way.

Yet, at the picnic that followed at the finish line, three of the racers made a point of telling me they'd learned a lot in following me through some of the rapids (before passing me)—different racers at different rapids. How could this be?

In the weeks since, I've studied some of the newer paddlers and concluded that there was a dearth of fundamental instruction somewhere along the way. There are those among us who apparently picked up paddling on their own, without benefit of guidance from the more experienced. Maybe I can be of some help.

What follows is in no wise meant to be of any aid to the kayacrobats who get their jollies running hundred-foot falls. Rather, it'll cover some of the *most basic* elements of reading and running whitewater in an open canoe. These will be a lot of truisms that may not have occurred to the self-taught—racers or not. Essentially, techniques that get a boat down the river the *fastest* work equally well to get a boat downstream the *easiest*.

- Let the water do most of the work
- Seek out the fastest water. Forget what the geometry teacher told you about "a straight line and two points." Sure, it's the shortest distance but, on the river, it can be anything but the fastest (or easiest) line to follow.
- The *fastest* water is in the *outside* of a turn (but so is most of the debris, so be careful of possible strainers).
- The *fastest* water in any drop is *closest to the largest boulder*. Hug it closely as you pass.
- The *fastest* water is marked by the *longest trail of white* below the drop.

- Stand when approaching a drop, if it can be done comfortably and safely. It's easier to read the water and chart the best course from up there.

- Reading water is mostly a matter of observing carefully the patterns on the water's surface, indicating rocks at or near the surface. Rather than attempting to run straight downstream paralleling the shoreline, if the patterns indicate the current is making abrupt turns, *go with the flow*. You'll both pick up speed and avoid rocks.

- Connect the Vs—the V patterns pointing downstream. Move from one V to the next.

- Avoid the V that points upstream. There's a rock hidden in its apex.

- *Be aggressive!* Don't expect to drift the best way through a chute. If you don't take charge of the situation, the river surely will.

As with 'most all rules, there are exceptions. Only through practice and experience can the beginning boater learn when the rules apply. But don't be hesitant to ask other paddlers along the way. I never met one yet who doesn't want to see everyone get more enjoyment from paddlesports. cc

## NEW RAPID RATING SYSTEM

Someone asked an anonymous boater about his Class IV comfort level and he answered something along the lines of "I'm comfortable that I can usually find an eddy to swim to." Thus, the interviewer was inspired to offer this...International Scale of River Difficulty:

**Class I:** Easy Fast moving water with ripples and small waves. Swimming is pleasant, shore easily reached. A nice break from paddling. Almost all gear and equipment is recovered. Boat slightly scratched.

**Class II:** Novice: Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels that are evident without scouting. Swimming to eddies requires moderate effort. Climbing out of river may involve slippery rocks and shrub induced lacerations. Paddles travel great distance downstream requiring lengthy walk. Something unimportant is missing. Boat hits submerged rock leaving visible dent on frame or new gash in plastic.

**Class III:** Intermediate: Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be

difficult to avoid. Water is swallowed. Legs are ground repeatedly against sharp, pointy rocks. Difficult decision to stay with boat results in moment of terror when swimmer realizes they are downstream of boat. Paddle is re-circulated in small hole way upstream. All personal possessions are removed from boat and floated in different directions. Paddling partners run along riverbank shouting helpful instructions. Boat is munched against large boulder hard enough to leave series of deep gouges. Sunglasses fall off.

**Class IV:** Advanced: Water is generally lots colder than Class III. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise swimming in turbulent water. Swimming may require 'must' moves above dangerous hazards. 'Must' moves are downgraded to 'strongly recommended' after they are missed. Sensation of disbelief experienced while about to swim large drops. Frantic swimming towards shore is alternated with frantic swimming away from shore to avoid strainers. Rocks are clung to with death grip. Paddle is completely forgotten. One shoe is removed. Hydraulic pressure permanently removes waterproof box with all the really important stuff. Paddle partners running along stream look genuinely concerned while lofting throw ropes 20 feet behind swimmer. Paddle partners stare slack-jawed and point in amazement at boat that is finally pinned by major feature. Contact lenses are moved to rear of eyeballs.

**Class V:** Expert: The water in this rapid is usually under 42 degrees F. Most gear is destroyed on rocks within minutes if not seconds. If the boat survives, it is need of about three days of repair. There is no swimming, only frantic movements to keep from becoming one with the rocks and to get a breath from time to time. Terror and panic sets in as you realize your paddle partners don't have a chance in hell of reaching you. You come to a true understanding of the terms maytagging and pinballing. That hole that looked like nothing when scouted, has a hydraulic that holds you under the water until your lungs are close to bursting. You come out only to realize you still have 75% of the rapid left to swim. Swim to the eddy? What %^&\*\*\* eddy!? This

See "New Rapid Rating" page 12

# T r i p   R e p o r t s

## WV Creeking

*Vic Gilchrist*

The check to rejoin the Coastals after a leave of absence of roughly 15 years had barely cleared the bank when I learned of a first timers trip down the New River Gorge just days away. Seemed like a great way to introduce Gray, my 15-year-old son, to big water in West Virginia. As it would work out, it was going to a bit longer before we'd get to the New due to the rain that was beginning to hammer West Virginia. Lynn Aycock, trip leader, advised me that the official Coastals first timers' trip was off but that a group would still be assembling to take advantage of whatever might be running. Seemed good to me.

I was worried that there might be too much water for the New and Gauley but not enough for anything smaller, but that proved to be for nothing. Friday night the rain

poured over West Virginia. The Meadow came out of its banks and the Cranberry rose well above their normal levels. As a result, a group of 15 or so met at the Cherry River, just downstream of Richwood. The Cherry that day seemed to carry more volume than the New normally would. Even its tributaries seemed high. We checked the gauge on the Laurel Fork just upstream of where we met and despite finding it a bit higher than normal (3.75?) by standards of those who had run it before, decided to put on. The rain had stopped for the most part but there was no sign of sunlight. The overcast skies and mist in the air made the air temperature, holding at a stingy 58 degrees, seem quite a bit lower. The more experienced members of our group had brought appropriate gear for the unseasonable conditions and were dressed appropriately. Your writer had not and as a result was lightly chilled by the end of the day.

I remember little of the details of the river other than it picked up in busyness and intensity as we made our way down. The trip included 2 shredders, 1 run by Doug and

Beth Cox, the other by Ken and James, both having traveled to the area from just outside Toronto, Canada. Alicia Jahsmann, Lynn Aycock, Liz Garland, Taylor Smith, Todd Pitzenberger and Deven Lively ran open boats. Kayakers included your scribe, son Gray, Dave McFadden, Deborah, and Dave Kessman. I don't remember any swims but I do remember several long class IV rapids in the second half of the river. Seeing my son backendered in the first drop of one of these, and then seeing him make his roll, left me quite relieved. By the time we got off, I was more than ready for dry clothes and full force on the car's heater. Others however were ready for more paddling and we



Photo by Ken Miner

headed over to the North Fork for four or so miles of that stream. There were enough weenies like me to be able to take care of the shuttle while the rest made their way down the stream in fairly good time. The Ken/James shredder team converted to a tandem open boat for this run and ran into no difficulties.

After making a small dent in what was enough food to feed the entire Coastals membership at Lynn's house that evening, we got moving earlier the next morning to head to the Cranberry. Joining the entire group from the previous day were John VanLuik, Tim Spangler, and someone whose name I did not remember. The river read 4.6 feet, the water was clear, the temperature was up in the mid 60's, and the sun was mostly out. I had never run this before and can honestly say it was the best stretch of river I've ever been on. The scenery is pristine, the water clean, the action busy, and the gradient steep but not scary. A few of us scouted S-Turn and the rapid was run with few incidents. We managed to be on the road by 3 and were home by a reasonable hour. Many thanks to Lynn's leadership for the weekend, especially for providing creeks to paddle which rarely run in the summer.

## Balcony Falls

*Vickie Kave*

On June 12, Balcony Falls provided the scene for eleven boaters to be together, have fun and keep our skills honed. This section of the James as always, with its minimal spots for penalties, provided many opportunities to play, practice and just have fun. The water level, at its normal spring level, created great play spots. The day was over cast, warm and we had no wind!!!!!!!!!!!!!!(which always makes the last section to the take out miserable). Afterwards we all met at a small Glasgow restaurant for nourishment and beverage. Over all a GREAT day on the river.

Kudos to Regina O'Donnell for leading the trip (who was also organizing her daughter's birthday party on the next day.) OC1 paddlers: Richard Walters, John Sills, Alicia Jahsmann, Dave Lewis, Richard Mellon, George Westerlund, Regina O'Donnell, and Vickie Kave. K1 paddlers were: Ken Dubel, Mike Smith & Robert Hamill.

## “New” Rapid Rating

*from page 11*

rapid usually lasts a mile or more. Hydraulic pressure within the first few seconds, removes everything that can come off your body. This includes gloves, shoes, neoprene socks, sunglasses, hats, and clothing. The rocks take care of your fingers, toes, and ears. That \$900.00 dry suit, well it might hold up to the rocks. Your paddle is trash. If there is a strainer, well, just hope it is old and rotten so it breaks. Paddle Partners on shore are frantically trying to run and keep up with you. Their horror is reflected in their faces as they stare at how you are being tossed around! They are hoping to remember how to do CPR. They also really hope the cooler with the beer is still intact. They are going to need a cold one by the time you get out! Climbing out of this happens after the rapid is over. You will probably need the help of a backboard, cervical collar and Z-rig. Even though you have broken bones, lacerations, puncture wounds, missing digits & ears, and a concussion, you won't feel much because you will have severe hypothermia. Enjoy your time in the hospital...with the time you take recovering, you won't get another vacation for 3 years.

**Class VI: World Class...** Not recommended for swimming.

# T r i p   R e p o r t s

## Upper New River

*Raymond Williams*

The trip coordinators were Dave Lewis, OC1 and Raymond Williams, K1. Participants included Bucky Moore, OC1; Doug Perkins, Gail Perkins, Thomas Bernardas, Stephanie Bertram, K1 (both days). Heather Kartchner, Rick Oylar, Steve Huntley, K1 (Saturday). Pat Williams, inflatable K1 (Sunday). Julie Wilson shuttle help.

With the heavy rains, the New had been running high, so Dave and I were checking the gauges wondering if we would have to relocate the trip like last year. Fortunately the level had dropped to 8.4 at Thurmond by Saturday, which is a perfect level for the McCreery – Thurmond section.

This was the first time for several participants and others had only run this section at low water. At 8 feet plus, the upper New has some big wave trains. Everyone handled the big water well, leaning forward, digging in paddles, and keeping loose hips. Some faces showed serious concentration in the wave trains only to erupt into grins after emerging unscathed. To keep her adrenaline rush under control in the big waves, Heather kept chanting, “Hot dog” and “How sweet” or something like that. I’m not a great lip reader, so I could have misinterpreted.

Others learned the hard way the importance of keeping your mouth closed in big water.

Everyone had good lines and challenged themselves in the rapids. Doug, Thomas, and Rick tried catching some of the waves on the fly to surf. There aren’t many eddies at 8 feet. Even Dave Lewis took the hero route at one ledge.

Congratulations to Steve on his first combat roll. Steve and Thomas both hit combat rolls in an effort to avoid writing the trip report. Fortunately, someone eventually swam; however, Dave and I instituted a new Coastals’ tradition. First swimmer can buy the trip leaders dessert in exchange for one of them writing the report. We had two more swims, one in a very big swirly eddy line. In all three cases, everyone reacted quickly to tow swimmer and boat to shore.

Although cloudy, the day was pleasant, and with so much current in the flat water,

we could enjoy each other’s company and not feel worn out from paddling at the end of the day. The group paddled well together, and it was quickly obvious that everyone was ready to have fun on this trip. Several commented that it was like riding a roller coaster. Bucky ran clean lines and Stephanie had a big grin on her face after every rapid, especially when she found out that she wouldn’t have to write the trip report.

Towards the end of the first day, I announced, “Everyone run this rapid backwards” and a few adventurous kayakers did. Special commendations to Gail and Thomas for going stern first through most of the wave train. However, on Sunday, when I challenged everyone to twirl their paddle through a rapid there were no takers.

Some cool dry air moved in Saturday night, which made for a perfect evening around the campfire and for great sleeping weather. The campfire conversation was lively, ranging from paddling stories to Julie’s travels in Lebanon. Sunday was sunny and in the 70’s, ideal paddling weather. We took our time running the Thurmond – Cunard section, with a leisurely lunch at Surprise watching rafts run the rapid. There were a couple of spectacular flips. At 7.14 on the Thurmond gauge, the wave was big.

Pat and Thomas enjoyed Surprise so much that they carried up and ran it a second time. Raymond walked up to an eddy, then walked back again after sending his boat down so the group could participate in an impromptu rescue clinic, a technique he picked up from Glenn Carlson.

A special thank you to Julie Wilson for helping with the shuttle on both days, and to Dave and Steve for helping on Sunday, even though they didn’t paddle. We were able to leave all the vehicles at the take-out and not have to do that long shuttle drive twice.

I had a great weekend paddling. My first taste of West Virginia boating was on a Coastals Upper New trip in 1997, where I made some great friends and practiced swimming. Now it’s a joy to share the river with other first timers and see the nervousness at the top of the rapid turn into excitement at the bottom.

## San Juan

*Dane Goins*

My third trip to the San Juan River in southeast Utah occurred April 25 - May 4. Coastals Earl Martin and Barry Spence and Richmond friend Jay Rohrer joined (K1) me on this trip. Additionally, our trip included two tandem canoes with folks from Boston and two kayakers from Jackson, Wyoming. Pierce Nelson’s Moab Rafting Company again provided raft support. We launched on April 25 for our 8-day, 83-mile journey, Bluff to Clay Hills.

The actual entry point is Sand Island Boat Ramp, 27 miles from Mexican Hat. The river flows between five and seven miles per hour making it easy to paddle and at the same time missing some of the historic sites. The section between Sand Island and Clay Hills is littered with Anasazi ruins, petroglyphs, and pictographs. The first nine miles are in a wide canyon with green flora that contrasts with pink and reddish geologic outcrops. A narrow canyon starts around mile 10. Mile 11.5 brought us to the first of the few significant rapids named “Four Foot”. This rapid is a Class III by Eastern standards. Out west, it’s a Class II. Six miles downstream is “Eight Foot” rapid, a solid Class III and about 75 yards long. Our group successfully negotiated these rapids.

Further downstream, we encountered Ledge Rapid, Gypsum Creek Rapid, and Ross Rapid, all Class II+. At mile 63.5 we encountered the largest whitewater of the trip, Government Rapid. Government is a Class III+ and several of our group chose to portage. The run is technical with a narrow path between boulders and holes with fast current. After Government Rapid comes Slickhorn Canyon, in which we encountered the last rapid of the trip. That rapid was a mild Class II. The river slowed for the remaining 15 miles.

For those interesting in doing this trip, you need to know the whitewater is not intense. Lots of wave fields and a few technical rapids keep it interesting. It is the scenery that will make you appreciate being there. It is very similar to the Colorado River’s Marble Canyon in Grand Canyon National Park. Plenty of hiking, bird watching, archeology, geology, and animals will keep your interest during the trip.

# Coastals Being Coastals

## *Don's Annual Shenandoah River Ice Cream Run*

*On July 10, Don Kain led 22 Coastals in 18 boats on his annual Shenandoah River trip. The day was warm & cloudy with light rain at the takeout. Water level was great. Participants included: Roger (Keith) Johnson & his two sons, Daryl & Lori Beck, Ginny Newton, Greg Duvall & his son Michael, Terri Bsullak & guest, Barbara Franko & her daughter, Kurt Erickson, Joey DiMeglio, Andy Lee, Martha James, Mary Harlan, Jann Ross, Richard & Booper Walters, Scott & Carol Wiggins & Bill Sanders.*

*Photographs were taken by Don except, of course, the picture of Don himself which was taken by the Editor.*



*Keith Johnson and his sons*



*Scott and Carol Wiggins & Rusty*



*Daryl and Lori Beck*



*Mary Ann Harlan*



*Don Kain*

*Got a Picture of Coastals Being Coastals? Send it to the Editor. You'll see it here.*

## Cruise Schedule

### Ken Dubel, Chair

*The rules are few but very important*

Coastal Trips are for Coastal members only. We encourage you to join our club and participate in our trips. Participants assume full responsibility for their personal safety. Coastal Canoeists, Inc. assumes no responsibility for your safety, skill level or any other factors affecting trips.

Trip Coordinators only facilitate trips. Email or call the coordinator before 9:30 p.m., Thursday prior to the trip. You cannot bring unexpected guests. You must self-rate your real skills for any trip. To assist you in selecting a trip, trips are rated according to the AWA Safety Code for Class I-VI rivers.

Trip updates can be found on [www.coastals.org](http://www.coastals.org).



Date	#	River	Rated	Coordinator	Email	Telephone	Comments
10/9		Pound River Russell Fork	I	David Bernard			Joint trip w/Monocacy. Dam release.
10/9		Garlic Festival near Balcony/Gauley Release	All / A	For	Your		
10/16	1	Quarterly meeting, South Fork Shenandoah, Newport to Luray	All	Doug Jessee	Post on Coastals' message board		Fall colors, Shenandoah valley, national forest, pig roast, ....
10/23	2	Bill Gordon's 28th annual lower Youghiogheny trip	I/A	Bill Gordon			The name really says it all.
10/23	2.1	South Anna	N/I	Martha James			Fun easy whitewater a little north of Richmond
10/30	3	Lower Maury, James at Balcony Falls, or Lower Tye	N	Jenny Wiley			Paddle Saturday, hike on Sunday
11/6	4	Tohickon	I/A	Gene Langlinais			Dam release guarantees cold water on this fast little creek near Philly
11/6	4.1	Staunton River Camper, Long Island to Brookneal	I	Doug Jessee	Post on Coastals' message board		A scenic camper with some fun chutes.
11/13	5	Slate, Hardware, Rockfish	N/I	Jenny Wiley			Dealer's choice depend- ing on where the water is
11/20	6	Nottoway River, Purdy to Jarrett, Sunday only	N	Doug Jessee	Message Board		A pleasant float with an interesting ledge in the middle of the trip. Sunday only
11/20	6.1	Buffalo Creek, Goshen Pass	I/A	Alicia Jahsmann			May we have a wet Fall please?
11/27	7	Shenandoah / Potomac Harpers Ferry area Thanksgiving weekend	I	Ken Dubel			Exact location will de- pend on water and who wants to go
12/4	8	Moormans, Appomattox, North Anna, James	I	Jenny Wiley			Intermediate rating is because it may be a bit chilly by now
1/1	9	Chilly Chili paddle, Richmond	I	Jim and Becky Blake			Ring in the New Year with Becky and Jim!

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*Michael Duvall displays his technique on Don Kain's Shenandoah River Trip - photo by Don*

**Scott Wiggins**  
**Editor**  
**Coastal CaNEWS**  
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**Quarterly Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 16**  
**See Page 5 for Details**

**Dated Material: Please Expedite!**