



Our 43rd Year Coastal CaNEWS

Newsletter of Coastal Canoeists

Summer 2008

Dedicated to the Preservation and Enjoyment of Wilderness Waterways

Les Fry

Les Fry, 86, passed away peacefully in his home on May 14, 2008 with his wife of 62 years at his side.

Mr. Fry, a native of Portsmouth, had worked as advertising visual communication professional since 1944. He was a former member and past chairman of the Portsmouth School Board. He had formerly edited the national magazine of his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Lambda.

He wrote and edited the "Port Advocate" for the Norfolk Junior Chamber of Commerce during the 1940's, and the monthly "Jaycee Journal" for the Portsmouth Jaycees from 1944 to 1952.

He and his wife were canoeing enthusiasts and he was a regular contributor to the "Coastal Canoeists Bulletin" and edited and wrote for the "Coastal CaNEWS" for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Louise Evans "Rusty" Fry; two daughters, Connie F. Cedarvall of Landrum, S.C., Jonnie F. Helfrich and husband Aaron of Springfield, OR; five grandchildren, Alan, Blake, Kate, Garrett, and Leah; and nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Mr. Fry's wishes, his body has been donated to the State Anatomical Program and there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a charity of ones choice. Foster Funeral Home, Portsmouth, is assisting the family.

Les Drifts Away

R. Steve Thomas, Jr.

My old friend, Les Fry, 86, passed away peacefully May 14, 2008 at his home in Portsmouth, VA. Rusty (Louise Evans Fry), his wife of 62 years was at his side. The hardest part of aging (I'm 82) is having old friends leave. Old paddling friends include John Van Luik, Sr., Ollie Fordham, Gil Lipton, Donny Gargis, Gene Derryberry and now Les.

I was asked to write some memories of him. I can't possibly include them all, but here is one not in his books. In June 1971 Les, Rusty, 7 year old daughter Jonnie and I were down in the Smokies for our annual Coastal's School's Out Special week of paddling. Les and I had heard of Chattooga III. The movie "Deliverance" publicized it. We decided to run it, just the two of us. This was a first trip for Coastals. So we take off and portaged around many of the drops we would run on later trips. We sidled up to Class III Keyhole Rapid and

See "Les Drifts Away" page 3



Les Fry

President 1967 and 1968

Reminiscences of Les

Tom McCloud

Before I ever met Les, I learned to know him not by paddling on the river, but from the articles and art in Coastal CaNews. His selection of topics showed who he was, with a strong interest in safety, in rope work and in river conservation issues. That distinctive drawing style was used not just to illustrate, but to educate. Les edited our newsletter for 17 years! Coastal CaNews was the finest paddling magazine in the country.

There was the traditional January Nottoway camper. I recall a cold miserable wet night, with a big fire built, wet snow falling, and how good the hot buttered rum, a Les signature, tasted.

In the old days, the Coastals would pull into a camping area and 'circle the wagons'. Les & Rusty's wagon for as long as anyone could remember was that light green Ford, with who-knows how many miles on it, into which four engines were eventually installed. And if you had not one but

TWO Grummans on top, you were really hot stuff. Les & Rusty often hauled their Grummans upright with firewood and other stuff transported inside. And in the evenings, inside the circle, there was the group pot luck supper, and big campfire.

On occasions I overheard typically young, male kayakers talking about this crazy old man they had seen standing up and paddling his Grumman down some difficult whitewater. I knew who they had seen. I followed Les down a number of rivers, such as the Nolichucky and the New River gorge with him standing up, using an extra long paddle, with catchers' shin guards bracing against the center thwart. On the 'Chucky he ran all the rapids standing except for kneeling to go through the Roostertail, back when the Roostertail Rock was nearer the center of the channel than it is today. I had to use everything I knew to get down that river, but Les made it look easy, standing.

And Les had a stubborn streak. He always said that when he couldn't load and unload his own
See "Reminiscences" page 3

Published Quarterly by Coastal Canoeists, Inc.
 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	Ray Williams		
Secretary	Barb Franko		
Treasurer	Gretchen Cornell		
Director	Val Puster		
Director	Martha James		
Director	ThomasBernadas		
Director	David Bradford		
Director	Terri Bsullak		
Director	Julie Wilson		
CaNEWS	Scott Wiggins		
Conservation	David Bernard		
Cruise	Ken Dubel		
Membership	Chuck Berkey		
Multimedia	Val Puster		
Programs	Mike Dean		
Safety/Ed.	Rob Ault		
T-Shirt Sales	Shawn Alexander		
Webmaster	Julie Wilson		

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. Please submit your material to: Scott Wiggins, Editor, *CaNEWS*

To Join Coastal Canoeists contact Chuck Berkey, Membership Chair. 505 Winterberry Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22405-2060

<i>Inside This Issue</i>	
Committee and Officer Reports	Page
Board of Directors Barb Franko	5
Conservation David Bernard	5
Cruise Ken Dubel	9
Membership Chuck Berkey	6
Programs Mike Dean	2
Recognition Alicia Jahsmann	6
Other	
FOLAR Steve Thomas	4
Les Fry	1
Les Drifts Away Steve Thomas	1
Nominating Committee Raymond Williams	2
Reminiscences of Les Tom McCloud	1
Les Fry Jim Michie	3
Parting Shot	10
Trip Report - Rappahannock Raymond Williams ..	8
Trip Report - Smokehole Tom McCloud	7
Trip Report - Tye Don Leeger	8



The Prez Sez

Raymond Williams

Back in the late 1960's before many of us started boating, and before some of our younger members were born, Les Fry served as president of the newly formed Coastal Canoeists club. He, along with others, helped build an active club that has promoted paddling and given many of us a good introduction to boating and whitewater as well as a strong community of paddlers and friends. When

I first joined the club in 1997, I did not know many of the early members, but I was grateful for the organization they had created.

After the club gave me the honor of serving as President, I became better acquainted with Les. As was traditional, he drew my portrait for the CaNews and sent me the original, which I am honored to have. These portraits displayed one of Les' many talents and were one of the most visible of the contributions he made over the years.

Late in 2006, Les wrote me a thoughtful letter about the club and the best direction it should take. We corresponded several times about this, and his insights were invaluable. He also attended several board meetings and continued to present his ideas for making Coastals one of the best clubs in the country. We did not agree on every detail, but I was always impressed with the thought he put into issues, his candor, and his dedication to the Coastals community.

We lost Les recently, a sad day for our community. Although others knew him better than I, and we never had the chance to paddle together, I am grateful for the time I did have to know him. We shall miss him and his spirit. We honor him by remembering his legacy and the best traditions of our club.

Nominating Committee Set

Although summer hasn't arrived, yet, it's already time to start planning for next year's board of directors. Three members' terms end in 2008: Gretchen Cornell, Martha James, and Raymond Williams.

Alicia Jahsmann, Dave Stockdill, and Ginny Newton have agreed to serve as our nominating committee this year. If you are interested in serving on the board, or if you wish to recommend someone for the board, please contact one of them by mid-July.

The committee will announce its recommendations in the fall newsletter, and we will vote on these nominations during our fall meeting. During this meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Also, we can always use volunteers to serve as committee chairs or co-chairs. If you're interested in helping, please contact our President or a current committee chair. Currently, we need a programs chair to start with arrangements for our January, 2009 gathering.

2008 Summer Rendezvous

Saturday, July 12, 2008

Check website for updates

Place: Cave Mountain Lake at Natural Bridge Station, VA

Directions: Take exit 175 off Interstate 81 South of Natural Bridge. Go North on US 11 towards Natural Bridge. In Natural Bridge follow Route 130 East at the intersection with US Highway 11 (right turn at the Natural Bridge attraction parking lot). Continue on Route 130 East for approximately 4 miles to Natural Bridge Station. Turn right onto Route 759 and continue for approximately 3 miles. Turn right onto Route 781. The entrance for Cave Mountain Lake Recreation Area is 1.6 miles ahead.

Paddling: Check website **4:00 p.m. Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m. Social 6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner:** Everyone bring a main dish. If your last name ends with A-F, dessert; G-L, appetizer; M-R, side dish, S-Z salad **7:00 p.m. Meeting & Program:** Pigg River Dam Removal & Whitewater Park - Scott Martin, the Franklin County Director of Commerce & Leisure Services, will present a program on the Pigg River dam removal and creation of the Pigg River whitewater park. Scott will also discuss the success in establishing blueways on local rivers. Blueways create access points so that an entire river is accessible to paddlers.

Les Drifts Away

from page 1

scout it from our boats. There's a big rock with a tongue on the left and a tongue on the right. Les runs left. I run right. We collide after the rock and wipe out. So there we were; both swimming down an unknown river with no one to rescue us. Feeling foolish! I notice that Les is swimming and pulling his boat much faster than me and I yell to him. "How come you're so much faster?" He yells back "Because we better get to shore fast. There may be a humongous rapid just around the bend." I said "You are so fast because you don't have a paddle in one hand. You lost your paddle! I know because I have my paddle and yours in my right hand." Rule One: When you wipe out, hang on to your boat, if you can safely, and always hang on to your paddle.

Les was an excellent artist and his contributions to CaNEWS were great. Newer members to Coastals did not see his work done in the 70's and 80's. But if you will look at your recent copies of CaNEWS you will see his drawings of all the Club Presidents (Spring 2005), the Great Blue Heron, our Club logo, the "Steve Thomas Rope Trick" illustration in Fall 2006, one of his cartoons about the 1973 Gas Crisis along with his "Retrospective" article under his pseudonym of Charlie Random in Summer 2005

CaNEWS, and the scene on the Coastal's Tee Shirt. (Incidentally, Rusty wrote camp food articles as Helen deGalley).

I believe a good memorial will be to republish Les's cartoons. I will go through my collection of CaNEWS, which goes back to 1970 and copy Les's cartoons and send them to the Editor. He can republish some of them from time to time as he sees fit. Just look for the Les Fry signature in the bottom right corner or for a small canoe with CC wrapped around it.

Les published two books full of great river stories: *You Can't Get There From Here Except by Canoe* in 1999 and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the River* in 2007. These were both published by Blue Heron Publishers, 2008 Charleston Ave., Portsmouth VA 23704-5522. This is Les's home address and Rusty will be moving

soon to live with her daughter, Jonnie F. Helfrich in Springfield, OR. There may be only limited copies available of the books. I will check with Jonnie soon to see if additional copies of the two books are available. A notice will be published in a future issue of CaNEWS regarding the availability of the books. Editor: See Scott Broaddus' Article

Reminiscences

from page 1

canoe he was going to hang up the paddle. All of us who paddled with him would gladly have helped, but he wouldn't allow it. And we would have tandemed with him down the river to camp, but he wouldn't hear of it. And true to his word, he paddled into his 80's, then hung it up. The end of an era. Les will be remembered.....and missed.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the River

Les Fry

Book Review by Scott Broaddus

Les began paddling as a youngster and years later joined the Coastals in its first month in 1965. He has paddled very, very actively for four decades, some years missing only a few weekends in his boat. During that period, whitewater paddling became very popular. Paddlers around the country learned and developed more skills, safety and river lore by personal and shared experience. Much of it was included in Coastal CaNews issues during which time Les was the editor. Some snapshots of his and others experiences during that period were published (in 1999) in his first book *You Can't Get There From Here Except by Canoe* which includes over six dozen stories.

Les also published a follow up titled *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the River* containing over three dozen more tales. They are humorous, insightful and brief. The various subjects, being those often told around campfires, will interest all paddlers. The names have been changed to protect the guilty, but who knows, you might recognize a few from the experiences Les relates. The tales are time sensitive meaning they describe rivers, rapids putins, etc. as they were at the time. Like its predecessor, this book is well written easy reading, sort of like a Readers Digest for paddlers and campers.

Les died May 14, 2008.

To assist the family, I will be handling sales of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the River*. The price is \$12.95 including mailing or \$10 if picked up from me or at a quarterly meeting. Please note I will be out of town 6/17 through 7/6.



Les
Leading a carefully planned trip
Meant there was more class
Available to the weekend paddlers
Than the size of the rapids
Fry

Jim Michie

FOLAR

R. Steve Thomas, Jr.

In 1997, the National Park Service and the Crater Planning District, which includes Petersburg, VA and adjacent cities and counties, began a series of meetings to kick off an Appomattox River Corridor Plan. Its purpose was to establish trails (greenways) and river routes (blueways) along the 25 miles of the lower Appomattox from Lake Chesdin to its entry to the James River at Hopewell. Planning meetings 1997, 1998 and 1999 developed a regional committee of local representatives to develop greenways and blueways and to promote conservation, water quality and historical enlightenment.

The Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) was established in May 2000 and is made up of two representatives appointed by each of the six governing bodies along the river. This includes the counties of Dinwiddie, Chesterfield and Prince George and the cities of Colonial Heights, Petersburg and Hopewell. I am one of the two FOLAR Board members appointed by the Hopewell City Council. Our slogan, which was borrowed from the Coastal Canoeists, is the Conservation and Enjoyment of the Appomattox River.

FOLAR partners with Friends of the Upper Appomattox River (FUAR) centered in Farmville, with Friends of the Chesterfield Waterfront, and with the James River Association. Our goal has been to establish trails and parks to encourage folks to get out and enjoy the river, get much needed exercise to fight the obesity epidemic, and to educate adults and school kids in conservation, natural history and local history.

We hold two river cleanups each year. Old hands in the Coastals will recall that the club made three river cleanups in the 70s and 80s along the river near our canoe takeout at Campbell's Bridge. FOLAR is regional and we clean up all along the river. River cleanups are a good way to start teaching conservation and they introduce volunteers to the parks and trails we are developing.

FOLAR is a "working" committee. We have obtained grants from many sources for the new parks and trails. Board members and local volunteers have put in many hours of grant-matching work - cutting trails, hauling and spreading gravel on trails, cutting hazardous trees, and planting trees and grass. Two volunteers, a retired stone mason

and his wife built a stone bridge at the new Prince George Appomattox Park.

We have opened up a small riverside park in Hopewell, 200 yards north of the Beacon Theater. There is a sandy beach and shallows where you can wade out 100 yards.

We have developed a nature park on woodland that Prince George County owns on the Appomattox north of the Regional Jail and just west of the I-295 Bridge. We put in almost two miles of trails and installed an observation dock at the river. Prince George County is installing toilets and an access road for school buses and FOLAR is obtaining grants for a riverside pavilion, which will

trespassing and we cannot use it for a public path. We also intend to install step stones here to cross the creek. Another two miles of trail brings you to the main water barrier, the Pipeline Rapid.

FOLAR worked for three years to get enough grant money (\$115,000) to pay for the two bridges needed. We formed and poured concrete footings. We hauled and spread gravel for the bridge approaches and the connecting path across Battersea Island. The two bridges were fabricated of Corten steel, which does not need painting. The bridges were installed in October 2007. A 36-foot long bridge crosses the entrance to the Battersea

Canal and a 78-foot long arched bridge crosses the canal wall break that starts the Pipeline Rapid. I insisted that both bridges be high enough to allow a standing canoeist to pass through the rapid. My old friend Les Fry used to run the rapid standing and he is tall. I have named the arched bridge the "Les Fry Bridge." Both bridges are wheelchair accessible and there is a good graveled road the remaining 2000 feet to a safe parking lot at Campbell's Bridge.

Bring your family, park at Campbell's Bridge and walk up river a mile or two and return. Enjoy the riverside walk, the rapids, birds, wildflowers, and mill ruins, including the stone arches of the

Battersea Cotton Mill millrace. You can even fish a little.

Also try the Heritage Riverside Trail in Petersburg and the Prince George Nature Park north of the Regional Jail. Visit the river beach north of the Beacon Theater in Hopewell, then drive out to City Point, park at the James Riverfront Park and walk along the James River beach around Grant's Headquarters at Appomattox Manor and along the shore line of the mouth of the Appomattox River.

If you would like to help in clean ups and work projects you can join FOLAR by writing to FOLAR, 1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg, VA 23805 and asking for an application. We will notify you of work opportunities.



Battersea Dam and Island

W. Walton

be used as an outdoor classroom for school kids. We will teach natural history and conservation. If we can train children in ways to reduce the silt and the nitrogen that is fouling our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, we will all benefit.

My main interest has been in developing a riverside trail along the seven mile Fall Line of the Appomattox from Lake Chesdin to Campbell's Bridge in Petersburg. I would like for everyone to enjoy the river as much as I have in approximately 200 canoe trips down the Fall Line since I came to the area in 1964. The Fall Line Trail begins at Ferndale Park on Route 600 across the river from Matoaca. You can walk downstream (east) following a track road or fishermen's trails about two miles to the first water crossing where the old Navigation Canal breaks out into the river. You now need to wade across this 18" deep run; however, FOLAR plans to install step stones here. Walk east another two miles to Rohoic Creek near the Dominion Power sub station. The creek is about two feet deep and can be waded in summer. Currently, folks go onto the Southside Railway track and cross the creek on the railroad, but this is



Board of Directors

Barb Franko

COASTALS QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 19th, 2008

Madison Fire Dept., Madison, VA

Attending: Mike Dean, Raymond Williams, Martha James, Chuck Berkey, Val Puster, David Bernard, Barb Franko, Terri Bsullak, Rob Ault, George Bowles

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS:

President's report: The Dept. of Games and Inland Fisheries has requested assistance with area bird surveys. Raymond Williams posted this information on the Coastals website under the Community Forum, titled "Paddlers Wanted to Help with Bird Survey in June". Excerpt from post: "We are seeking experienced paddlers to match up with experienced birders along individual survey routes. Each route will be surveyed once during the month of June starting in the early morning (official sunrise). Scheduling of surveys within this time period is flexible and is left up to you. Please visit <http://fredvso.umwblogs.org> for detailed information on the surveys and survey routes and to sign up." Raymond also stated that he has had several groups who found the Coastals through the website contact him for more information about Coastals.

Treasurer's Report: Gretchen distributed Balance Sheet as of April 15, 2008 (\$31,682 in checking, savings and investments) and Profit and Loss Statement for period January 1 through April 15, 2008 (\$3,715 dues collected, \$3,428 net income after expenses).

Conservation Committee Report: David Bernard reported that he would like to have comments and suggestions for distributing the \$1,000 allocated for conservation in the budget. He suggested several agencies, including Friends of the Cheat, Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), James River Association, Friends of the Rappahannock, National Committee for New River, Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Dan River Basin Association, Virginia Conservation Network, JROC, and Concerned Citizens of Giles County (CCGC). Barb suggested Rivanna Conservation Society (RCS), in Charlottesville. The decision was made to designate 5 of these agencies for immediate \$100 donations: RCS, SELC, Dan River, CCGC and JROC. The remaining \$500 will be awarded later in the year.

Cruise Report: Ken Dubel reported in absentia: "We're cruising! New volunteers are always welcome."

Membership Report: Chuck Berkey reported that all non-renewing members have been deleted from the membership list, leaving 337 members. The remaining members have received their 2008 Coastals directory. He also reported that 78 members have chosen to receive CaNEWS via email, there are 17 new members and 68 members failed to renew their membership. 68 members have paid since Jan 18th, 30 paid through internet.

Multi-media: Val Puster has agreed to take over

the multimedia library from Martha.

Programs: Mike Dean is open to suggestions for the Summer Program, to be held at Cave Mountain Lake. Possible suggestion included the Blueways program. The fall program will feature the Friends of the Cheat. Discussion of the Winter Program included films from the Paddling Film Festival. There is also the possibility of a gear swap at one of these gatherings. Mike would also appreciate help on the actual day of the Quarterly gatherings, as it is sometimes difficult for him to attend.

Recognition: Alicia Jahsmann (not present at meeting) held a clean-up on the Maury River on April 12th, and held a pot luck dinner to recognize and thank the volunteers.

Safety Committee: Rob Ault reported that his schedule was not set yet, but that he will post the safety classes online as soon as he knows his schedule. He has two copies of "The Drowning Machine", a video/DVD about lowhead dams, if anyone is interested in a copy. Rob suggested that we purchase CPR microshields and space blankets, both inexpensive but highly useful safety items that could possibly be awarded / given to trip leaders in appreciation of their service. Discussion followed regarding possible safety programs before or during the quarterly gatherings.

Store: Martha James reported that she has sold eight T-shirts, four decals and three hats. A suggestion was made that these be made available to purchase online. There is an option of submitting a design to Café Press, who will make the T-shirt and ship to the purchaser.

Webmaster: Julie Wilson reported in absentia: "Dynamic web content (things that change like links, trips, meetings, multimedia) is now in Google documents so the people who manage that information can update without having to go through me. A blog for the conservation section now exists and David (Bernard) and Ginny (Newton) have access. A flickr account for Coastals photos has been made that everyone on the board can update. Coastals members may also submit photos from their flickr account to the Coastals flickr group. I'm still working on options for a member's only area."

Promotions: George Bowles reported that a Digital Picture Frame has been purchased to display pictures at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports in Charlottesville. If this is successful, more frames may be purchased for tables at events. George has posted a request for volunteers to attend and man a Coastals table (with the Coastals business cards and banner) at several outdoor events in Virginia – in the Community Forum, titled "2008 River Festivals and Events". He is also requesting interesting paddling/ river / safety stories that Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine may be interested in publishing.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Names of possible new members for the nominating committee (to identify and approach possible new board members) were discussed. Once these persons have accepted the position, we will post the results.

Possible article for CaNEWS: Paddling trip eti-

quette (how to make friends, call in time, help out with shuttle, etc.)

Meeting adjourned. Pot Luck dinner with great food and even better desserts followed.

PROGRAM: Wildlife Center of Central Virginia presented their "Birds of Prey" program. Gretchen from the Center brought a Hawk, a Kestrel, a Barred Owl. She told the group about these birds and their stories, and answered many questions from the group. It was an extremely interesting, informative and enjoyable program.

Conservation

David Bernard



River Access at Risk - Do Your Part
www.americanwhitewater.org June 6, 2008

By Kevin Colburn

Rejoice, boating season is in full swing! Unless you live in the southern Appalachians, rivers are flowing at great levels across the nation. For many of us it has been a long winter and the paddling community is brimming with enthusiasm. Unfortunately this enthusiasm can cause problems if it is not saved for the river. AW has been getting reports of river access closures and threats of access closures in several locations around the nation - because of paddlers driving too fast on private roads or through small communities, leaving gates open and other oversights.

The best way to solve an access issue is to not cause one in the first place! We encourage paddlers to have unfathomable amounts of fun this spring, while respectfully sharing the road, the river, and public access areas.

American Whitewater asks paddlers to use the following common sense guidelines when traveling to and using river access areas:

- * Drive courteously and within the speed limit. Paddlers should always remember that we have large neon signs on the tops of our vehicles that let everyone know that we are boaters. Thus, paddlers have a responsibility to be good ambassadors for the paddling community while driving in their cars. Good driving etiquette, particularly in residential areas and on small and/or dirt roads, is essential for maintaining positive relationships with those that live near paddling destinations.

- * Park in designated areas making sure to not block driveways or interfere with traffic.

- * Change clothes discretely.

- * Do not play loud music.

- * Follow the laws and rules of the area that you are using.

- * Consider taking a few minutes to pick up litter left by others.

Membership

Chuck Berkey

NEW MEMBERS

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

Appomattox River Company
Largest Paddlesports Store in the USA
 Over 1,000 canoes & kayaks in stock



Main Store Farmville VA (800) 442-4837
 Stores also in:
 Midlothian VA (804) 887-1558
 Yorktown/Kin Creek (757) 890-0500
 Check out our special deals, and
 used canoes & kayaks on our website
www.paddleva.com
 We ship to the 48 states



Recognition

Alicia Jahsmann

On 4/12/08, we had 14 Coastals meet to pick up trash along Goshen Pass. I think we got 23 bags. We were treated with warm temps and hopefully some good karma for future excursions. We also enjoyed a cookout lunch, thanks to the club. This was the 2nd (annual?) Trash Picker-Upper Recognition Luncheon.

The fine volunteers were: Raymond Williams, John Sills, Ken Dubel, Terri Bsulak, Stephanie Bertram, Steve Cates, Dick Pierce, Jill Fisk, Stan Heatwole, Bill Hamill, Dave Stockdill, Jackie Ireland, Glenn Rose and yours truly.

We were able to have two trips on the Maury, even though the Pass was on the low side. Kudos to Jackie for her 1st time thru Devil's Kitchen and in fine form. She also had the best line at Corner. Thomas & Emily made it in time to join Terri's trip below Rockbridge Baths. Stephanie graciously helped the lower Maury trip with shuttle (what a gal, comes to pick up trash & doesn't even get to paddle).

Thanks to all for coming out - my neighbor expressed appreciation at seeing all the orange bags and I was pleased and proud to tell him my paddling club had done it.



Remnants of an old aqueduct located on Rohoic Creek (see FOLAR page 4) W.Walton

T R I P R E P O R T S

Smokehole 2008

Tom McCloud

Easter came early this year, a week earlier than the very cold and snowy Smokehole week-end of 2007. But a bit of good luck brought rain mid-week, so we had nice water levels and choices of many different river sections for March 21-23.

After meeting at Yokum's Store at Mouth of Seneca on Friday, it was with some misgiving that I turned the group around to drive east again, for an hour, to float the Moorefield. Since it was a sunny day and we had the time and the inclination to see some new river miles, we launched from the next bridge up-river from the usual put-in, close to Ft. Seybert. The Moorefield gage read ~ 3.7ft. Our group consisted of all canoes: Tom Cole, Scott Broadus, Bob Kimmel, Ken Tarkin, Nate Houser and me. From the whitewater standpoint, these upper 2 miles were unremarkable, but we did see ducks and geese, great blue heron, deer, and a red fox - so really fine wildlife viewing right from the start. The first rock garden downriver from the new CR3 Bridge was enjoyable, as always, and we continued to paddle a couple more miles before stopping for lunch. It would have been easy to lay on a rock in the sun and take a nap on this pleasant 55 degree afternoon.

At the Landslide rapid we pulled over on the right, 100 feet above the rapid, to scout. Winter winds had piled leaves deeply here, and it was like sinking into deep powder snow, and treacherous footing, to get to the scouting point. After a look to confirm the slot was open, we all ran through with no trouble. Further down is the second narrow slot. The scout revealed it to have a branch caught in the rocks very near the slot. We carefully approached, and ran through anyway. Tom Cole said he wouldn't have run it except that he saw us all do it. After loading up at Milam bridge, we drove only a few miles south to Camp Run, a forest service primitive camping area, (Seneca Shadows was still closed), which we had to ourselves, built a big campfire, and after supper, slept a peaceful night.

Morning was cool and somewhat overcast. After breakfast and talking over plans for the day, I drove back to Yokum's while the others drove a shorter distance into the Smokehole canyon. At Yokum's, only Jeff Cessna, OC-1, showed up, so the two of us crossed the North Fork at Cabins bridge, drove over the mountaintop on Smokehole road, and joined the others, who had already unloaded and run the shuttle. We launched from Eagle Rock on the Upper Smokehole canyon section, as the big Landslide rapid above there has timber caught in it again. The water level was very nice, 3.4 ft. at Franklin. The river was heavily populated by pickup trucks and trout fishermen. Near the little store were two guys with a huge lens, who were taking pictures of bald eagles. The birds were so far away I had trouble seeing them, but the photos were good. We progressed quickly downriver, as

the sun made short appearances thru a mostly cloudy sky. Past the low water bridge we pulled over to the right and walked to the 'picnic ground', only to find that the tables had been removed. Not only that, but two sections of the railing around the pavilion had been sawed out to remove the tables! Forest service? Theft? I don't know. And so as we sat cross-legged on the concrete, eating lunch, the sky got very dark, the wind picked up, and it started to rain, with a few wet snowflakes mixed in. Fortunately, this storm passed quickly, and by the time we were afloat again it was somewhat brighter and dry. A few cold gusts of wind hit us during the remaining river miles, but there were also brief periods of sunshine.

After completing the float to Big Bend, and loading up, almost as an afterthought we checked to see if the Big Bend campground was open, and to my surprise, it was, so we took the group site and set up for the night. There was a lot of winter-felled wood lying around, so another big campfire was built. That morning I had purchased two barbequed chicken halves, wrapped in aluminum foil, from some kids who said they were raising money for their baseball team to make a trip to Cooperstown. Laid near the fire and well heated through, they turned out to be scrumptious. The fire kept us warm until past 9:00 p.m., when the talk was over, and all turned in. A clear sky allowed the temperature to fall, and there was frost on the hulls in the morning.

Sunday morning was bright and cold. We placed boats and gear at the Big Bend launch and drove all vehicles to Petersburg. Nobody new showed up there, so all the drivers piled into a single truck for the return shuttle. With the clear blue water

at a very nice six feet on the Petersburg gage, we made fast progress down into the canyon. Soon we spotted a juvenile bald eagle, and then two more, and maybe others, though we can't be sure if there were three or five of them, but no adults. Other wildlife included squirrels, groundhog, deer, great blue herons, and near the end, one white egret. The sun was mostly bright with only occasional cold wind. The air temperature was 50 during the afternoon, so properly dressed for paddling, we were very comfortable. But there were few signs of spring in the canyon this year. In only one place were there a few flowers of the white moss phlox in bloom. We ran through Chimney Rock Slide Rapid and then pulled over for lunch. With old tires lying around, I had an opportunity to experiment, so pulled a reciprocating saw out of the drybag, and tried a couple different blades to see what would cut the tire in half. The biggest problem was the vibration of the rubber. If you could stop that, you could cut through even a steel belted tire in no time at all. Cutting tires into two or three pieces would make it easy to haul them out as part of a river cleanup trip, and now I think I know how to do that.

We floated on and enjoyed the remaining river miles, viewing the cliffs and surroundings and arrived in Petersburg at 3:30. But, I missed the usual greeting given by hundreds of cliff swallows, since they had not yet returned.

So despite the cool temperature, it was really a very nice Smokehole 2008. There was water aplenty, sun and good company. We saw a few new river miles and a lot of wildlife. Plenty of good reasons to do it again next year.



Bob Kimmel hitting an eddy at Landslide Rapid on the Moorfield

T. McCloud

T R I P R E P O R T S

If You Can't Remember Your Last Swim

Don Leeger

Some of us are retired and that allows us to paddle any day of the week; others have to play hooky. On Wednesday the ninth of April, three of us retired types got together with two others who decided the call of the river was stronger than the call to work! Ginny who lives out in beautiful Nelson County wanted to paddle through a section of the Tye River where a dam was recently removed near Rt.29. Just to make the trip more interesting a section of the Piney River was added. This was a few days before the Piney River Mini Triathlon. It was decided to use the same put-in they would be using three days later – Roses Mill (Route 674). That would give us three miles on the Piney and seven miles on the Tye with a takeout at the Phoenix Bridge (Route 654), for a total of about 10 miles.

Those participating were John Brandt (OK1), Martha James (OC1), Don Leeger (OC1), Ginny Newton (K1) and Jenny Wiley (OC1).

After running the shuttle and waiting for Jenny to put air bags in her canoe, the put-in at Roses Mill was an easy one. The Piney is a little more than a large creek at this level and barely wide enough to turn around a 16-foot canoe. The Piney was very enjoyable. I had never done this section. There were numerous small drops and the water at this time of year was very cold. I found that out when I led the group through one of the Class II rapids and hit a rock. The pool at the bottom was deep. I couldn't touch the bottom. It wasn't for lack of trying! Due to the cold water, no air bags and not wearing a wet suit, I needed some assistance getting my gear to shore. As soon as I was out of the water, I started warming up quickly. I did remember to wear non-cotton clothing and I was glad I left my hearing aids in the car. As we continued down the Piney, I realized that I couldn't remember the last time I took a swim, so I guess it was my turn. Next time, I will take my old H2 Pro with air bags and wear a helmet and a wet suit.

The rest of the trip was uneventful as we wound our way through the small channels between the rocks. The water level was low. When we arrived at the Tye River Depot, the Randy Carter gage told us we were paddling at canoe zero. (This gauge needs to be repainted; it is very difficult to read.)

The last 4 miles were very enjoyable and went by very quickly. At the end we did the reverse shuttle to pick up Jenny's vehicle at Roses mill. There, Connie Roussos and others who were preparing for the Mini Triathlon greeted us.

Spring Fling on the Rappahannock

Raymond Williams

Despite low water; eight showed at the Madison VFD for our spring trip looking to paddle. They were Tom McCloud, Joey DiMeglio, Terri Bsulak, Bob Kimmel (OC-1) and Lee Keller, Barb Franko, Raymond Williams, and Jann Ross (K-1). Although unable to boat, David Bernard coordinated the trip and showed up to help run shuttle, thus earning major karma points.

While waiting for the shuttle run, we picked up at least four bags of trash, which David hauled away before commencing his hiking trip for the day. The first small rapid looked boney from the bridge, but there was enough water to run it



Martha James, John Brandt, Jenny Wiley and Ginny Newton on the Tye River D.Leeger

without scraping, although a few folks bounced off a rock or two. The gauge reading was just below 3.5 at Remington, which is below the AW minimum, but if there is enough water to paddle through the first rapid, then the other rapids have more water in them.

Tom McCloud set a brisk pace through the flat water. The weather was sunny and warm, and the spring buds and flowers were showing so it was a scenic three miles until we finally reached the riffles and small rock gardens that mark the beginning of the rapids section. During this time, we passed two couples who were floating in canoes, with one person fly fishing. We also passed two pairs of anglers in canoes. Other than that we had the river to ourselves until just above the rapids where we encountered a large group of young teens taking a canoe clinic. They were inexperienced, but seemed to be enjoying themselves. Perhaps they were future Coastals in the group.

We negotiated the small rock gardens without much difficulty, a scrape here and there before

arriving at the Sandy Beach rapid, which features a class II chute through several boulders on river right. The bottom wave featured good surfing, which several boaters enjoyed while the rest ate lunch on the beach at river right. While eating, we hoped to see the clinic or the couples show up to run the rapid and perhaps provide entertaining carnage, but neither group arrived.

Following lunch, several of our group practiced catching eddies and making attainment moves in some of the smaller rapids. Near the end we reached a rapid that Ed Grove says is called Piggly-Wiggly by old timers; not being an old timer, I couldn't verify that. We took the more difficult line in the far left channel which involved several sharp turns in a 3-4 foot drop to avoid a few rocks. The line challenged several in the group, but

everyone made it through upright without incident.

On our way to the take out, we passed a family enjoying a cook-out and fishing from a sand bar on river left. The take out proved to be one of the biggest challenges of the day. Consisting of large wooden steps and a boat slide, it ends at least three feet above the water. Climbing out of a boat and onto the steps provided a bit of a workout.

We ended with plenty of time to make the board meeting or shop for dinner for the meal. The Madison VFD is a new building with an excellent meeting room and kitchen. John Fray, the facilities manager, was very helpful with getting us situated, including showing non-board members the lounge area where they could relax

in comfort while the board met.

Gretchen, from the Virginia Wildlife Center, presented an informative and enjoyable program on raptors, featuring three guests: a hawk, kestrel, and owl. They behaved well.

Throughout the day, we heard reports of rain west of the Blue Ridge, especially around Blacksburg. Following the meeting, several members planned to drive to West Virginia for a week of boating. Others were hoping the rain would arrive and bring up some local runs. I was heading to the James above Buchanan for a float trip on Sunday. As the last of our club left the VFD, a few drops began to fall sporadically and turned into a downpour as I crossed Afton Mountain on I-64. By Sunday, the James was up, but the weather was sunny. The rain returned Sunday night and Monday. By noon Jennings Creek (near Arcadia on the James) had enough water to run. It would have been great to have had that water on Friday and Saturday for the streams of Madison County, but even without much water, it was a fun weekend.

CRUISE SCHEDULE

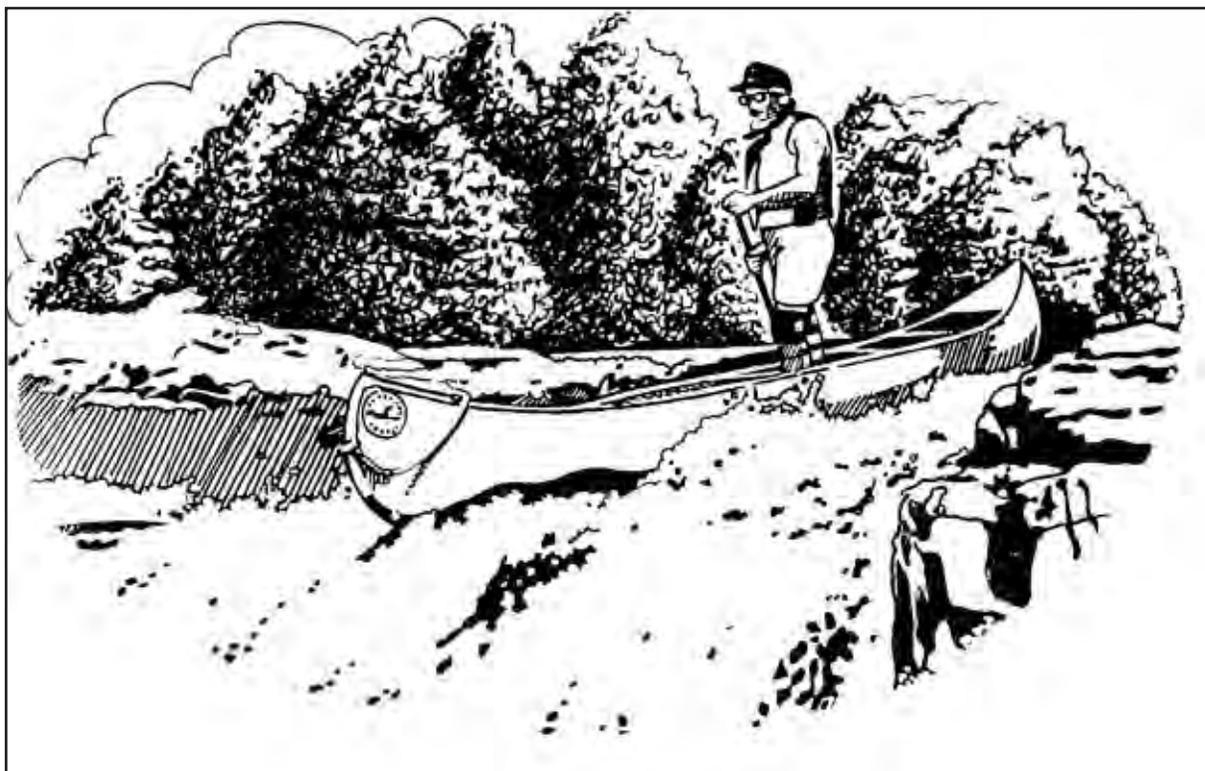
Ken Dubel

The rules are few, but very important: Coastals trips are intended primarily for club members. However, visitors are invited to check us out! Paddling can be quite dangerous. All trip participants assume full responsibility for their own safety. The coordinator only organizes the trip. Paddlers must self-rate themselves for these trips. Difficulty ratings are intended as a rough guide and are subject to error. You are expected to research an unfamiliar river yourself. Please don't just "show up". Please don't bring unexpected guests. Please don't endanger yourself and the group by paddling a trip that you are not prepared for. **Please contact the trip coordinator by 9:00 p.m. Thursday to confirm you are going.**

Date	River	Rate	Coordinator	Contact
7/12	Beginner playboat clinic	I	Dave Kessmann	
7/12	Quarterly gathering James River at Balcony Falls (Buena Vista)	All	Ted McGarry & Caroline Meehan	
7/19/26	Open			
8/2	Yorktown Sea Kayak	N/I	Richard Walters	
8/2	Aluminum only James Pony Pasture to Tredagar & beyond (Richmond)	N/I	Scott Broaddus	
8/9	Yough & Loll! (Paddle & NOT concert, Lower Yough (PA)	I/A	Sejal	
8/9	12th annual James at Seven Islands (well south of Charlottesville, canoes only)	N	Ted McGarry & Caroline Meehan	
8/9	New River Gorge rafting (WV)	All	Richard Walters	
8/16	James River at Balcony Falls (towards Lynchburg)	N/I	Ginny Newton	
8/16	Potomac - Mather Gorge or Little Falls with the author of the guidebooks (DC)	I	Ed Grove	
8/16	North Anna (North of Richmond)	I	Doug Jessee	
8/23	Ottawa River (Canada)	A	Scott Wagner	
8/23	Rapidan to Rappahannock (west of Fredericksburg)	I	Doug Jessee	
8/30	New River Rendezvous multi-club (WV)	All	Ken Dubel	
9/6	Gwynns Island Sea Kayak	N	Richard Walters	
9/6	7th annual South Fork Shenandoah Ice Cream run (Luray)	N	Barb Franko	
9/6	Haw River and Rocky River (NC), sections TBA	I	Doug Jessee	
9/13	Upper and Lower James (Richmond)	N/ I, I	Richard Walters	
9/20	4th annual New River Gorge 1st timers at Gauleyfest (WV)	A	Dave Kessmann	
9/27	Lower Gauley 1st timers (WV)	A	Gene Langlinais	
10/4	Upper Yough, Upper Yough, Upper Gauley, Upper Gauley (MD & WV)	A/E	Dave Kessmann	
10/4	Mobjack Bay Sea Kayak	I	Richard Walters	
10/11	Flowing flatwater on the eastern shore (MD / DE)	N/I	Ed Evangelidi	
10/11	False Cape State Park sea kayak	N/I	Richard Walters	
10/11	Upper Russell Fork, Nolichucky Gorge (extreme SW VA / TN)	I, I/A	David Bernard	

P
A
R
T
I
N
G

S
H
O
T



*Les Fry
1922 - 2008*

**Chuck Berkey
Membership Chair
Coastal CaNEWS
505 Winterberry Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22405-2060**

**Quarterly Rendezvous
Saturday, July 12
See Page 2 for Details**

Dated Material: Please Expedite!