Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle Winter 2018

Greetings Everyone,

We are amidst the full throws of Winter at the moment and it has certainly been a cold one so far. Between biting winds and ice covered rivers, paddling has been more than a little difficult lately. We’ve seen a little rain and even a few snow showers but its going to take a lot more to get the water tables back up to where they should be. Last year was a year of extremes for us ranging from torrential rains in the Spring to near drought conditions through the Summer and 2016 wasn’t much better. I’m hopeful that this year will be a banner year for us with steady rains and lots of days spent on the river. Fingers crossed.

That being said, everyone be sure to congratulate Thomas Baker on taking the first official "unintentional swim" of the year on January 14th on the Staunton River. While I can joke about Tom’s swim I would like to give a word of warning to anyone else who is thinking about braving the cold to get out on the water. No matter what your skill level please remember that we are all just between swims and Hypothermia is a very real threat. The high temperature for the day will only last for several hours and once the sun starts dropping the temperature will as well. If you do not have the proper gear for cold weather paddling (i.e.-a wetsuit or dry suit) then it is best to hold off until warm weather arrives. Don’t worry, Spring will be here before you know it!....Seriously, it can't stay this cold forever, right....right?

I’m happy to say that the Winter meeting had the best turnout I’ve seen in years and we’re able to accomplish everything on the agenda. Among the changes this year I'm happy to announce that we will be holding a 50/50 raffle at the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends with the drawings to be held at the Sunday morning meetings. Take a gander at the attached Event Calendar to see where the club will be throughout the year and come out to enjoy the fun! And remember folks, the more the merrier, friends and guests are always welcome at Float Fishermen events.

P.S.- It's that magical time of year again, contact your Chapter Treasurer to pay your annual dues. Thanks!
See you downstream.

-Ryan Bomar
Pigg River Dam Removal: The dam is out! The river runs free. Four FFV members did a first run of the restored river to see how floatable it might be. It is not! We spent 5 hours cutting a path through strainers with chainsaw and clippers. What a mess! So it will take more chainsaw trips to actually make the river runnable. For now, do not attempt to float it! If you would like to volunteer to cut out trees, let me know. We are monitoring the results of the dam removal for the next 5 years. --- Bill

James River – Balcony Falls Take-out: FORVA continues work to develop access to the James River below Balcony Falls. Dominion is re-doing the MOA that requires approval from DCR to allow Dominion to disperse funds directly to FORVA before funds can be spent. This would be a huge step forward. --- Bill Tanger, Tom Miller & Howard Kirkland

Roanoke River - Rutrough Point Erosion: Preparing to start work on 200 feet more of rock wall to reduce the erosion and sedimentation problem. The first phase is working well! --- Bill

New River - Price Park: The FORVA 50 acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County is being developed. A new footbridge across Walls Branch was recently completed by the Va Tech Cadets. More improvements to take place with the Cadets volunteer labor on April 7, in case you want to join us. --- Randi Lemmon, Rick Roth and Bill Tanger

Roanoke River - Blueway: FORVA is co-chair of the Roanoke River Blueway Committee, now with an interactive website. Our first brochure should be done by March 1. It is really looking good. Roanoke will be one of the few cities to have both a greenway and a blueway. Much of the greenway runs along the blueway! --- Bill

Big Otter River: We are looking at a possible new access on the Big Otter. The owner has not paid taxes on the property since 2014, so the county just turned the file over to a collection agency, which is phase 2 of the process of selling the property. The collection agency now has until January 1, 2020, to collect. If taxes cannot be collected, the property is turned back over to Bedford County to be auctioned off. The assessed value of the property is $15,000. I think it could be purchased for somewhat less, but boaters should think about purchasing this key access property. --- Bill Tanger
2017 FFV winter Meeting Minutes
Saturday December 2, 2017
By: Ginnie Peck / FFV Secretary

President: Ryan Bomar called the meeting to order and thanked the property owners for the use of the Slate River Property.

Secretary: Ginnie Peck made a motion to accept the Labor Day meeting Minutes as printed in the Fall Newsletter. Charlie Safely seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Motion Carried.


Membership is down; which is our largest source of income. Discussion included setting up booths at functions around the state. Bateau Festival, etc.

Our largest expense every year has been a $500 for a band twice yearly. Unrealistic to continue to spend money on extras, to include a band, until we increase membership.

Ginnie Peck made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Rick Mattox seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Motion Carried.

Tom Baker recommended we establish a protocol for Chapter Treasurer’s to deposit State Dues. It has become confusing.

Ginnie Peck agreed to re-send the written protocol established to the Chapter Treasurers.

Tom Baker has agreed to stay on as FFV State Treasurer. (THANK YOU, TOM)

Webmaster: Traci Martin stated that all domains are up to date.
All incoming emails, for potential membership interest are forwarded to the President.

Reminder: Send all trip information and PICS to Traci; she will post them on the Web. traci.martin1970@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Scott McEwen reported 159 paid members for 2017. There are 11 members paid in advance for 2018. 

Membership Amendment: This was not discussed at the FFV Meeting. The total paid membership for 2017 increased to 162, before the end of December.

Scott has asked that the Chapter Treasurers please use the format/protocol established. It can become very difficult to make updates to the Master List when everyone uses a different format. It is very helpful to highlight any changes, since the previous update, to the current list submitted.

We are also asking Chapter Treasurers to please reach out to members that have not paid dues by April 1st each year, via email. People are busy in their own lives. A friendly reminder can help increase our dues collection.

Newsletter Editor: Taylor Adams is passing the torch to Vera Houghton. She will jump right in and begin with the Winter 2018 Newsletter.

Taylor thanked everyone for their support and is looking forward to seeing everyone on the river.

Vera Houghton: vhought@verizon.net

Old Business: Herb Coleman is still working on the rough draft of the Scholarship Fund. He is working with an attorney and hopes to have it together to present next year. He will keep us posted.

New business:

Ryan Bomar made a motion to hold a canoe raffle as a fundraiser. Much discussion followed in regards to the cost of the boat versus ticket sales. Ginnie Peck asked Ryan to formally withdraw his motion. Ryan Bomar withdrew his motion to hold a canoe raffle. He will investigate costs and report back to the finance committee.

Tony Adams made a motion to hold a 50/50 raffle at the State Events. Bill Duncan seconded the motion. Discussion: Ginnie & Traci have raffle tickets & will provide them for the events. Motion Carried.
2018 Events Planning:
1. Fool’s Float: 3/30/18 – 4/1/18 hosted by Ryan Bomar on his property. River determined by water levels. Pedlar v Balcony Falls run. This will be a Blue Moon weekend. Info to be posted on the Webpage. southernboy4u07@aol.com
2. Dickel Spring Fling: 4/13/18 – 4/15/18 on the Rockfish river. Camping at Sara & Kathleen’s property. Contact Ginnie Peck: ginniepeck@gmail.com
3. Douthat State Park: 4/20/18 – 4/22/18. Contact Rick Mattox for details. rdmattox@verizon.net
4. Cajun weekend at R5: 4/27/18 – 4/29/18. Contact Ed Galloway for information: ewgalloway@verizon.net This is a fund raiser; purchase tickets in advance. This event sells out every year.

Rick Mattox made a motion to accept the offer to have the Memorial Weekend at R5. Tony Adams seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Motion Carried.

Ginnie Peck made a motion to have 6 Porta johns with 1 cleanout on Saturday. Rick Mattox seconded the motion. Discussion included that the contact at R5 should investigate cost and determine if 5 or 6 porta johns is appropriate. Motion was carried.

6. Bateau Festival: June 16 – June 23 2018. $25.00 for the week or $5 per night
Google: Bateau Festival

Rock Willoughby made a motion to have the event at SRPI. Ginnie Peck seconded the motion. No discussion to follow. Motion Carried.

Ginnie Peck made a motion that we have 3 porta Johns with 1 cleanout on Saturday. Ryan Bomar seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Motion Carried. Ginnie will order the Porta Johns.
8. Dickel Bash: 10/6/18 – 10/8/18 at the Slate River Properties. Contact Ginnie Peck: ginniepeck@gmail.com
9. Winter Meeting: Saturday 12/1/18 at the Slate River Properties. Meeting begins at 1:00pm.
10. Fruitcake Float: 1/1/2019
Contact Konrad Zeller

Adjourn meeting: Tony Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Safely seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Motion Carried.
2018 Events Schedule

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southernboy4u07@aol.com

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5. **Memorial Day Weekend Event:** 5/25/18 – 5/28/18 at R5. Information will be posted on the Web.

6. **Bateau Festival:** 6/16/18 – 6/23/18. $25.00 for the week or $5 per night Google: Bateau Festival

7. **Labor Day Weekend Event:** 8/31/18 – 9/3/18 at the Slate River Property. Info to be posted on the Webpage.

8. **Dickel Bash:** 10/6/18 – 10/8/18 at the Slate River Properties. Contact Ginnie Peck: ginniepeck@gmail.com

9. **Winter Meeting:** Saturday 12/1/18 at the Slate River Properties. Meeting begins at 1:00pm.

10. **Fruitcake Float:** 1/1/19 
Contact Konrad Zeller
The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author’s and not necessarily those of FFV or its members. The editor is responsible for editing the content of the newsletter and its construction. Members are responsible for providing content. Please send submissions to the editor via email attachment. The following formats are preferred: Word, RFT, and/or JPEG. The newsletter goes out quarterly: Feb 1, May 1, August 1, Nov 1. **All Submissions MUST be received by the 15th of the preceding month.**

**If you receive this newsletter via US Mail, we do not have a current email address for you. Contact your local treasurer or the Membership Chair to update your information.**

FFV Membership Chair  
794 Farrar Bridge Lane  
Shipman, VA 22971