

# Fishin' Pole Packin Paddle

## 2015 Fall issue

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### President's Paddle: Tony Adams



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**Conservation:** Bill Tanger

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**Vice Presidents:**

Cooper, Bill Duncan, Erica Goode, & Bill  
Tanger

See FFV Web Page for ALL Officer &

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<http://www.floatfishermen.org>

FFV Annual Dues: \$20.00. Please contact  
your local chapter treasurer to pay dues.  
Some chapters have an additional chapter  
dues. If you are unsure who to contact,  
please contact the membership chairs  
above. Dues are due January 1 of each  
year.

Hello Fellow Floaters,

This writing will be brief as the main topic is  
about the winter meeting at Rucker's Run Saturday  
December 5<sup>th</sup>. At 11:00am.

I am hoping for a good turn out as I am going to  
call for a motion, discussion, and hopefully a vote  
regarding "Dog Control" and "Reasonable Quiet  
Hours" at our state and chapter events. There is  
MORE than enough reason for both... primarily  
driven by recent past events. Personally, the end  
game here is of basic decency and common sense;  
let alone general liability and common decency. It  
should not be a very complicated process folks. As  
usual, we will set the schedule for the 2016 season  
as well as budgetary agenda set forth by the Finance  
Committee.

I will also share to anyone interested how  
rewarding the Lockn' Music Festival is. Thank you  
very much Trey and Rick Mattox. What a STELLAR  
experience. I recommend and encourage the event  
for anyone as it is a FABULOUS music experience.  
Paddlers and music are just good bedfellows.

And finally...This is the official call for candidates  
for "office" in the Float Fishermen of Virginia. It is  
imperative we rotate fresh and new thinkers into  
our organization. Your President, for example, is  
working on his fourth year which is four times the  
"By-Law" mandate and twice the amended  
duration. I love the honor; happy to do the job;  
HOWEVER it is not the culture that this  
organization represents. Step up and I will support  
and advise happily. It is time guys.

Hope to see you at Rucker's Run and as usual...  
On Da' Rivah'! As Ginnie Peck reminds us...Keep  
Smilin' Life is Good!

El Guapo...

Tony



# Labor Day Meeting Minutes

**Sunday 9/5/15**

Minutes recorded by Bill Duncan, in the absence of Ginnie Peck

**A special thank you to Bill Duncan!! We appreciate your willingness to take the minutes in Ginnie's absence.**

**President:** Tony Adams opened the meeting.

**Treasurer:** Lisa Barbieri-O'Sullivan unable to attend. The treasurer's report was presented by Rick Mattox. The report was accepted by the membership.

**Secretary:** Ginnie Peck was unable to attend. The minutes, from the previous meeting, were accepted by the membership.

**Webmaster:** Traci Martin was unable to attend. Tony Adams complimented Traci Martin and Ginnie for an outstanding website.

**Membership Chair:** Scot McEwen unable to attend. There are 200 paid members reported at this time.

**Tony Adams:** Thanked Bill Tanger for the use of Solitude. Bill reminded the club to please leave the property and area as it was found.

**Conservation Chair:** Bill Tanger reported on the magnitude of the tick problem. Tony Adams spoke about tick removal.

# Labor Day Meeting Minutes (Cont.)

Bill Tanger gave Tony Adams an article about Swift Water Rescue that could be included in the FFV Newsletter.

Bill Tanger spoke about a person who worked on getting paddlers on a creek and being able to paddle through without trespassing. He also did the research on the laws affecting navigable streams and what constitutes a navigable stream. A navigable stream has a water shed of at least 5 square miles. Landowners could still try to block passage. Bill would like to figure out a way to recognize the three people involved in the case and nominate all 3 for Randy Carter Award.

Bill Tanger also spoke about Larry Hart from DGIF and his efforts to improve river access. He has really done great work for us. The Glasgow access point is now much safer. Bill also passed around a list of sites that have recently opened or have been improved recently, by DGIF.

Bill Tanger: The Cushaw project is still in progress and is working on the access issue at Balcony Falls and the "Ironman" takeout. He talked about the Governor's interest in creating more access points to the Chesapeake Bay and rivers. The most important access point and access issue, at this time, should be Balcony Falls. You may get a ticket using the "Iron man" takeout. If anyone does, there should be a report on the site and laws surrounding the issue. There has never been anyone ID'd actually getting a ticket. This may just be Rail Road propaganda. The Appalachian Trail, Forestry Service, and DGIF are now all backing the Cushaw project. A complaint has been filed with the SCC about the safety of the access points. There are 5 point to cross over the tracks, we need one safe one. Everyone should be aware of the issue and are encouraged to speak with the State representatives.

**The meeting was adjourned.**



# Request to Stop DGIF Ticketing

**Bill Tanger**

Dear Bob:

Thanks for listening to my comments at the Advisory Committee meeting. We have over two dozen affiliates and they represent thousands of river users including boaters, fishers and hunters.

I appreciate your comment that you would look into this matter. As a DGIF supporter for over 40 years, I share with you our great concern over a declining constituency.

As I mentioned to you after the meeting, we had at least three cases of trespass tickets given by DGIF wardens – all thrown out of court. This did not give our fellow boaters a warm and fuzzy feeling about DGIF. Nor did it demonstrate good judgment by DGIF to the judge who tossed out the tickets.

As you know, boaters in Virginia have been trying for years to get the railroads to allow additional pedestrian crossings for access to rivers and streams. The railroads have been uncooperative, uncommunicative and generally hostile to these interests.

We are planning on purposely getting a ticket from the railroads at one of the Cushaw crossings and we would like to get it from the railroads and not DGIF.

We boaters would hope that DGIF would not be working for the railroad to give out tickets while the railroads refuse to address the issue of additional public crossings. We would like to see DGIF agree not to ticket or hassle those trying to cross the tracks to get to our rivers.

Please advise me as to where DGIF stands on this issue so I can inform FORVA constituents.

Sincerely,  
Bill Tanger  
Chair

# In Remembrance of Lindsay "Linny" Koenig



KOENIG, Lindsay Edward "Linny," 55, of Beaverdam, passed away on Monday, August 3, 2015. He was preceded in death by his sister, Laurel M. Koenig. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Mary Kay Koenig; parents, Edward and Rosewell Koenig; sister, Leslie Koenig-Stack (Frank Rizzo); nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews; his cat, Pumpkin; and many loving friends. Linny was a graduate of Benedictine High School, Class of 1978. He was employed by Bass Pro Shops, working in the marine electronics and boating departments. Linny and his wife enjoyed canoeing, fishing and boating. He loved anything that pertained to water. He was a loving husband, son and friend. Memorial contributions may be made to James River Association, [www.jamesriverassociation.org](http://www.jamesriverassociation.org) or American White Water, [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).



# Small Stream Navigation Now Possible

**Bill Tanger**

For decades, boaters have tried to get legal authority to boat smaller streams without much success. A couple of bills were attempted in 2013 and 2014, but were doomed to failure in the current legislature and didn't pass in the state senate. Meanwhile, three tenacious paddlers, Pete Katt, Steve Kvech, and Steve Powers, brainstormed on the issue.

Katt discovered a North Carolina ruling that allowed such boating, then Powers found a VMRC (Virginia Marine Resources Commission) policy document online that seemed to redefine navigability. The VMRC assumed a waterway was generally owned by the commonwealth and navigable based on a minimum of 5 square miles of watershed or a minimum of 5 cfs, until it could be proven otherwise. The three contacted Senator Dave Marsden (who sponsored the 2014 bill) about this VMRC definition and the North Carolina ruling.

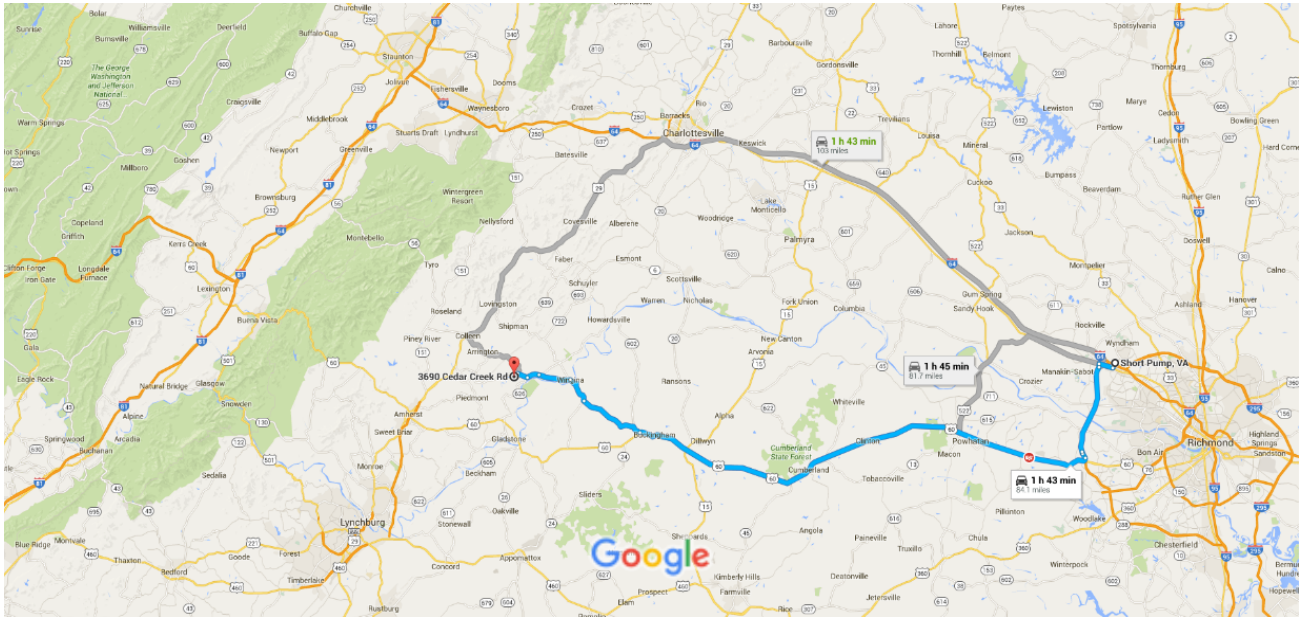
Marsden then approached VMRC and asked for a letter evaluating a list of creeks and rivers of varying size where boaters were in current or potential conflict with property owners. The boaters provided put-in and take-out information and documented that they were boatable. The VMRC then wrote a letter ruling that those streams were, in fact, navigable until proven otherwise. This was a delightful outcome, but made the boaters a bit anxious since it had not been tested on a contested stream.

Katt, Kvech, and Powers then contacted the Craig County Commonwealth Attorney who eventually decided he would not prosecute paddlers for criminal trespass for paddling Johns Creek if a landowner decided to bring charges. There is still a chance, however, that a landowner might file a civil lawsuit against boaters, so paddlers are urged to use caution, act responsibly, and not trespass on any private property.

Paddlers need to understand that they cannot get out of their boats onto private property for access, to scout, or for any other reason. So do not paddle a stream that is above your ability and find you have to hike out across someone's property. The tenacious three, Katt, Kvech, and Powers, urge all to carry a copy of the VMRC letter and the list of navigable small streams.

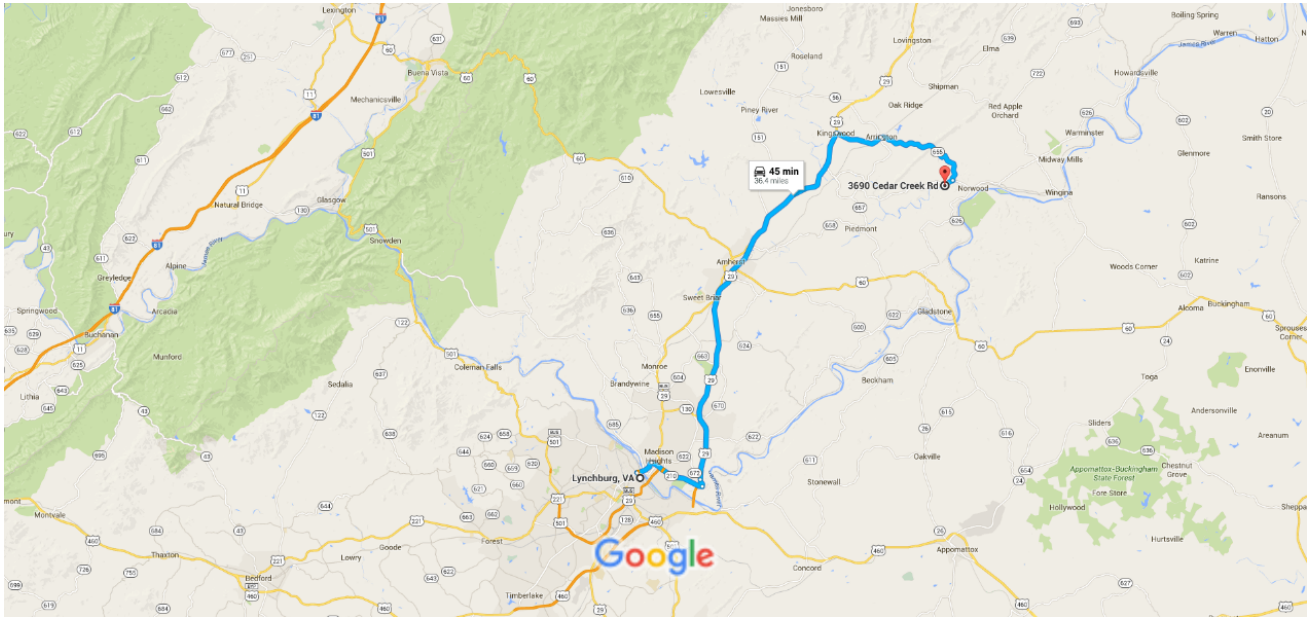
And I urge you to thank these intrepid river detectives who broke the case for small stream paddling. Keep a low profile, shop in the locality of the stream, be respectful of property owners, and be safe!

# Directions to 2015 Winter meeting @ Rucker's Run (Shortpump) Saturday December 5, 2015 @ 11:00am



1. Head southwest on N Gayton Rd toward State Rte F-100
2. Follow VA-288 and US-60 W to VA-56 W in 4
3. Turn right onto US-250 W/W Broad St
4. Turn left onto the VA-288 S ramp to Chesterfield
5. Merge onto VA-288
6. Use the right lane to take the U.S. 60/ Midlothian Turnpike exit toward Midlothian/Powhatan
7. Use the middle lane to continue toward US-60 W/Midlothian Turnpike
8. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for U.S. 60 W/Powhatan and merge onto US-60 W/Midlothian Turnpike
9. Continue on VA-56 W. Take State Rte 647 to State Rte 654 in Lovingson
10. Turn right onto VA-56 W
11. Slight right onto State Rte 604/ VA-56 W
12. Turn left onto State Rte 647
13. Continue onto State Rte 626
14. Turn right onto State Rte 655
15. Turn left onto State Rte 654

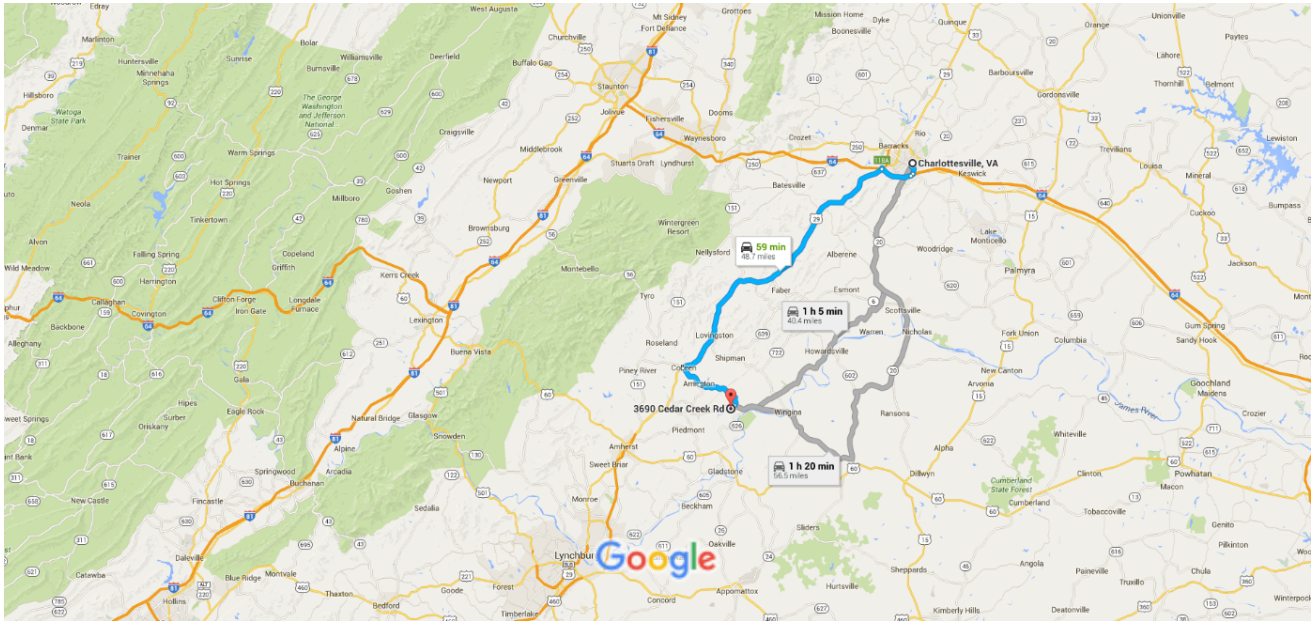
# Directions to 2015 Winter meeting @ Rucker's Run (Lynchburg) Saturday December 5, 2015 @ 11:00am



1. Get on US-29 N in 1 from VA-163 N and VA-210 E
2. Head northeast on 10th St toward Main St
3. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto Main St
4. Turn right onto VA-163 N/Fifth St
5. Turn right onto VA-210 E/Old Town Connector
6. Turn left to merge onto US-29 N toward Amherst
7. Merge onto US-29 N
8. Follow State Rte 665 and State Rte 654
9. Turn right onto State Rte 665
10. Turn right onto State Rte 655
11. Turn left to stay on State Rte 655
12. Turn right onto State Rte 654



# Directions to 2015 Winter meeting @ Rucker's Run (Charlottesville) Saturday December 5, 2015 @ 11:00am



1. Get on I-64 W in Scottsville from VA-20 S
2. Head east toward E Market St
3. Turn right onto E Market St
4. Turn right onto 9th St NE
5. Continue onto Avon St
6. Turn left onto VA-20 S/Monticello Ave
7. Use the right lane to take the ramp onto I-64 W
8. Follow US-29 S to State Rte 655 in Lovingson
9. Merge onto I-64 W
10. Take exit 118A to merge onto US-29 S toward Lynchburg
11. Follow State Rte 655 to State Rte 654
12. Turn left onto State Rte 655
13. Turn left to stay on State Rte 655
14. Turn right onto State Rte 654

# Editor's Note

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.**

**Float Fishermen of Virginia  
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