



Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle Spring 2018

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Annual Dues: Due January each year

- \$20.00 per Individual or per Family (spouse & children 0-18)
- Individual chapters may have additional annual dues.
- Contact your CHAPTER Treasurer to pay dues.
- Please, DO NOT send dues to Membership Chair or State Treasurer

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** No Internet Access & need to contact your Chapter Treasurer to pay dues: Please call Ginnie Peck @ 434-962-3224 **

Greetings All,

I'm happy to say that Spring has finally sprung and Winter is behind us for another year. It's been a strange start to the year weather wise. This April I've seen snow, torrential rains, a tornado and temperatures into the 80's all in the same week. Mother Nature is certainly trying to keep us guessing.

I hope everyone is excited for the Memorial Day Weekend camp out taking place May 25th-28th. We will be staying at the R-5 property on the Rappahannock River this year near Remington. I would like to say Thank You to all of the property owners for welcoming us back. R-5 is a great venue with lots of room to spread out and easy riverfront access. Fingers crossed we will have good water levels and lots of sunshine. So load up the boats, pile everyone in the car and come on out and join us.

One more reminder before I go, we are still in need of a State Treasurer. If you or anyone you know is interested then please contact me or any of the other officers and let us know. Thanks!

See you downstream!
- Ryan Bomar



Courtesy of William Tanger

Currents & Eddies from FORVA newsletter

April 14, 2018

Back Creek: Jae Valley Park: FORVA & FFV have created a 3 acre riverside park along Back Creek in Roanoke County. Ribbon cutting April 20, 2018. Great new access to Back Creek. Beautiful remote pristine section. It runs into Roanoke River 4 miles downstream --- Bill

James River – Balcony Falls Take-out: FORVA continues work to develop a new takeout on the James River below Balcony Falls.

Dominion has agreed to disburse their access funds directly to FORVA, instead of through DCR. Huge step forward. --- Bill Tanger, Tom Miller & Howard Kirkland

Pigg River Dam Removal: The dam is breached! The river runs free. Except for strainers! Caution! FFV members did an exploration run of the restored river to see how floatable it might be. It is not! 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. Just finished our first annual report on monitoring the dam removal. --- Bill

New River - Price Park: The 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. We have just started a Friends of Price Park group with about 12 members so far.---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 printed by May 1. I will bring copies to our meets. 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 River near Rt 460. 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 December 31, 2019, 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 less, but boaters should think about purchasing this key access property.

--- Bill Tanger, Lee Williams, Ray Tucker and Mick Overstreet



2018 Douthat Event By Tony Adams

Douthat State Park/Back Creek... A Moving post Card!

Having been on rivers since I was a child, there have been invariably many scenes along the way worthy of magazine or 'Postcard' status...I can think of many over the years of paddling.

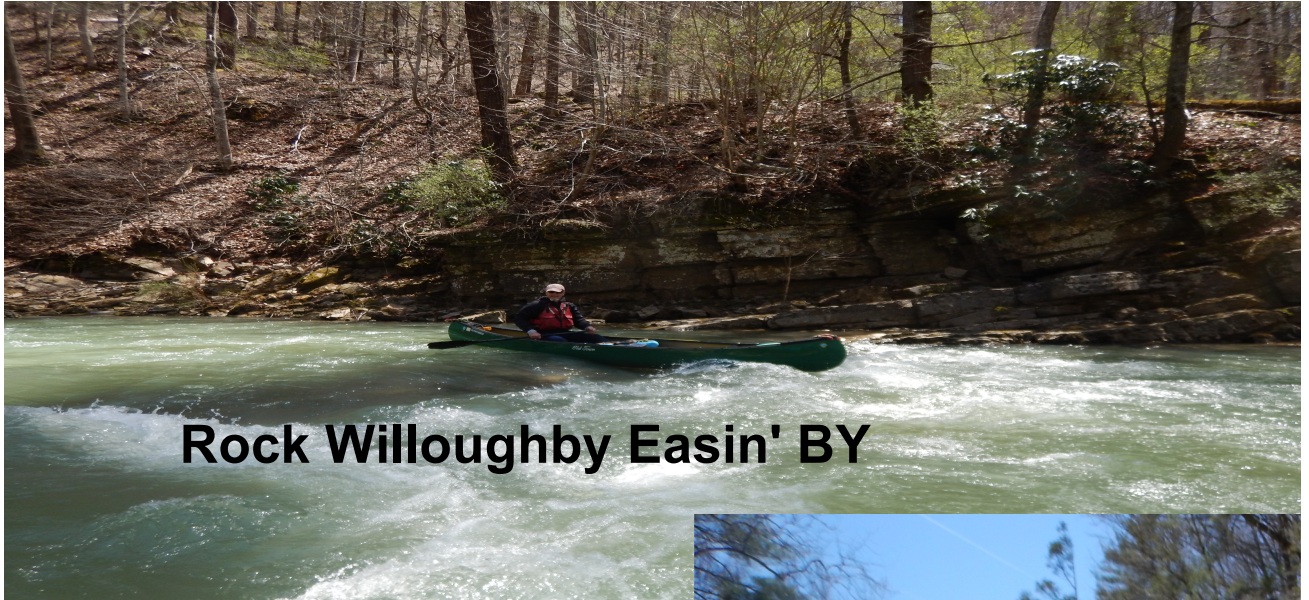
Back Creek, though, is special. We've seen the extremes of water conditions but the one constant is the river's scenery. The river meanders through a gorge and seems to have walls, at times, a hundred feet high with all manner of beautiful plants and trees, endless class two rapids and some significant ledges that can fool the best of 'em.

This year's trip was what one might say: Perfect?!? Brilliant blue sky, temps in fifty's and a good six inches to a foot more water than we were expecting. The color was a version of seafoam/turquoise. Like a moving postcard...

Many thanks to Rick Mattox for putting together yet another opportunity for us to be on a true 'Jewel' of a river!



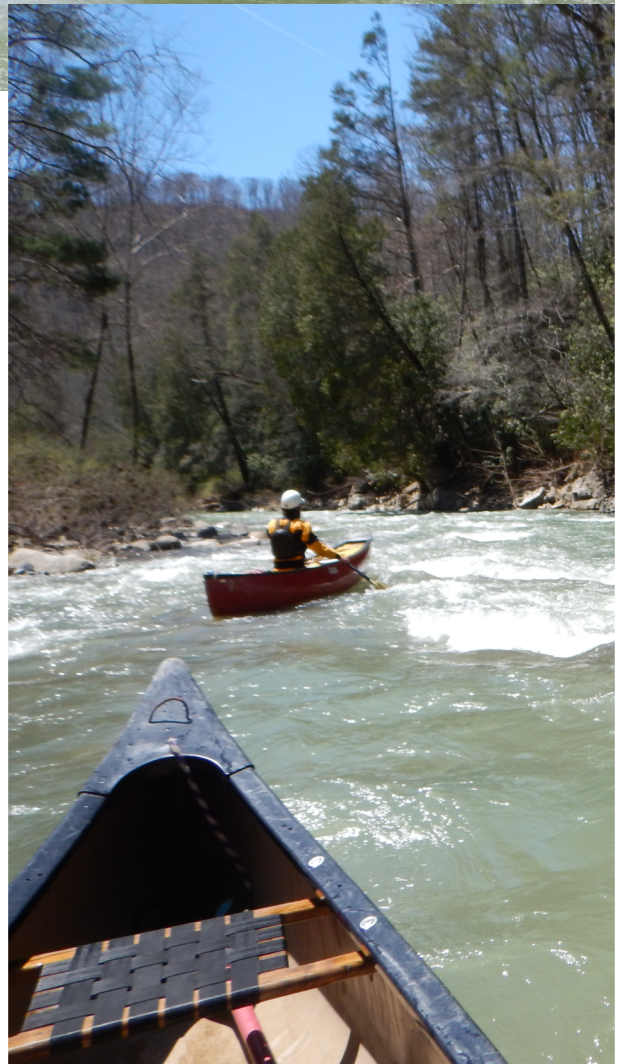
Douthat Pictures



Rock Willoughby Easin' BY



**Rick, Bomar and Tony
on the river!**





Editor's Note

I am new to Kayaking and found some good information on White Water Safety on the American Whitewater Organization's web site. Check out their web site for additional information at www.americanwhitewater.org!

Personal Preparedness and Responsibility

Be a competent swimmer, with the ability to handle yourself underwater.

Wear a life jacket. a snugly-fitting vest-type life preserver offers back and shoulder protection as well as the flotation needed to swim safely in whitewater.

Wear a solid, correctly-fitted helmet when upsets are likely. This is essential in kayaks or covered canoes, and recommended for open canoeists using thigh straps and rafters running steep drops.

Do not boat out of control. Your skills should be sufficient to stop or reach shore before reaching danger. Do not enter a rapid unless you are reasonably sure that you can run it safely or swim it without injury.

Whitewater rivers contain many hazards which are not always easily recognized. The following are the most frequent killers.

High Water. The river's speed and power increase tremendously as the flow increases, raising the difficulty of most rapids. Rescue becomes progressively harder as the water rises, adding to the danger. Floating debris and strainers make even an easy rapid quite hazardous. It is often misleading to judge the river level at the put in, Since a small rise in a wide, shallow place will be multiplied many times where the river narrows. Use reliable gauge information whenever possible, and be aware that sun on snowpack, hard rain, and upstream dam releases may greatly increase the flow.

Cold. Cold drains your strength and robs you of the ability to make sound decisions on matters affecting your survival. Cold-water immersion, because of the initial shock and the rapid heat loss which follows, is especially dangerous. Dress appropriately for bad weather or sudden immersion in the water. When the water temperature is less than 50 degrees F., a wetsuit or dry suit is essential for protection if you swim. Next best is wool or pile clothing under a waterproof shell. In this case, you should also carry waterproof matches and a change of clothing in a waterproof bag.

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.

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