

# FISHIN' POLE, PACK & PADDLE

FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA

WINTER 2014 ISSUE



## PRESIDENT'S PADDLE

Hi All,

I hope the holidays were good to you and the New Year is off to a great start. Right around the corner is the Douthat State Park Trip and I bet Back Creek has water. It has been an interesting winter so far with a fair amount of water this year. This trip is always a good time both on Back Creek and at the lodge at the top of the mountain at Douthat. Cabins are still available. Go to the Va. State park website to reserve. Very affordable and a great time! Contact Rick Mattox, RMATT@vafb.com for more information.

And speaking of adventures, please see the short piece about the Piney River further in this newsletter.

Here is where I want to reach out to anyone who thinks they would like to be an officer with the Float Fisherman of Virginia. We need someone for the office of Newsletter Editor by Memorial Day. Allison Herbert has done an incredible job of taking the newsletter to a new standard of excellence of which we are eternally grateful. This is a very important position and it is vital to our success. We are also looking for Vice Presidents as well as nominees for President.

### **Newsletter Duties are as follows:**

- Newsletter editor is responsible for the compilation, layout, printing and mailing of the newsletter. Mailing and printing expenses are covered by the organization. Receipts must be submitted to the treasurer for payment.
- Newsletters are published quarterly for Float Fishermen of Virginia. Articles and material for publication may be submitted to the newsletter editor. Preferred format: E-mail with attachments in Word, RTF, and/or JPEG. Dates for submitting material for publication: 1st of February, April, August and November.

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- Meeting minutes should be included in the Fall, Winter and Summer newsletters. The spring issue does not include meeting minutes as there is not a state meeting held prior to that issue. The secretary provides the meeting minutes for each issue.
- President's Paddle is to be included in every issue of the newsletter. Exceptions can be made, but it is recommended to include something from the president in each issue.
- Conservation report is included in every issue of the newsletter. Exceptions can be made, but it is recommended to include something from the conservation chair in each issue.
- Additional articles and images are included on an as needed basis.
- Prior to sending out the newsletter a copy of the latest newsletter, the membership roster is requested from the membership chair. Per the Memorial Day 2013 meeting it was discussed to only supply the roster twice per year, in February and August.

Finally, I would like to ask each and every member in the Float Fishermen to try to encourage someone to join our fun loving organization. I cannot imagine anyone not enjoying our state or chapter events and venues. If we all try we can not only increase our membership; we will increase the word of how enjoyable the experiences can be. Remember: "We Are Dedicated to the Protection of Virginia's Wild and Scenic Rivers".

Hugs to all and see you on 'da rivah!

Guap

# WINTER MEETING NOTES

December 7, 2013

**President: Tony Adams** ([president@floatfishermen.org](mailto:president@floatfishermen.org) / [antonadams@comcast.net](mailto:antonadams@comcast.net))

Meeting called to order by Tony. Welcome to the Slate River Property. Thank you to the slate members for the use of the property. We have a few new topics of discussion: will get to those later in the meeting.

**Secretary Report: Ginnie Peck** ([ginniepeck@gmail.com](mailto:ginniepeck@gmail.com) / [secretary@floatfishermen.org](mailto:secretary@floatfishermen.org))

1. The minutes from the Labor Day Meeting were posted on the FFV Webpage and printed in the Last newsletter.
2. Ginnie made a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Richard Ledbetter seconded the motion. There was no discussion to follow. Motion was carried.
3. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the FFV webpage in early January 2014. They will also appear in the 1st 2014 Fishin' Pole Pack & Paddle.

**Treasurer Report: Katherine Waller was unable to attend.** ([treasurer@floatfishermen.org](mailto:treasurer@floatfishermen.org))

1. Kitty Kimmel presented the report. A copy was passed out to the members present.

Report:

- a. Total Income from 7/31/13 - present: \$1,893.00
  - b. Total Expenses from 7/31/13 - present: \$2,199.14
  - c. Ending Balance for Checking (11/30/13): \$6,966.81
  - d. Total balance of CD's: \$8,545.37
  - e. Total Assets: \$15,512.18
2. Bill Tanger suggested that the Treasury report be presented according to the calendar year rather than from Labor Day to Labor Day each year. Since Katherine was not available to discuss the issue, it was tabled to the next meeting.
  3. Bill Tanger made a motion that we accept the Treasury Report as presented. Bob de Rossett seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion was carried.

**Membership Report: Tim Stuller was unable to attend.** ([membership@floatfishermen.org](mailto:membership@floatfishermen.org))

1. The roster was not available.
2. Ginnie Peck requested that we have an updated roster placed on the member's list page every quarter.
3. Scott McEwen stated that he is working with Bob Born to update the Webpage and Member's List page.
4. Bill Tanger requested that the Member's list be e-mailed to members 1-2 times yearly.
5. It has also been requested that the Member's list be in a PDF file format.
6. Don Leeger stated that our By-Laws state that a current membership list is supposed to be provided yearly.
7. Scott McEwen agreed to work with Tim and Allison to get this updated and posted.
8. Tim Stuller will step down from his position as Membership chair.
9. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR.

**Newsletter Report: Allison Herbert** ([editor@floatfishermen.org](mailto:editor@floatfishermen.org))

1. The next newsletter is due to be sent out in February 2014.
2. Most newsletters are being sent via e-mail. There are some members that do not have e-mail or prefer to have them sent via US Mail.
3. Old newsletters: Allison has a collection of old newsletters, in a binder, dating back to 1976.
4. There are still a few large gaps between newsletters. Any members with a collection of old newsletters please contact Allison.
5. Allison is currently still working on having the newsletters scanned & placed on our webpage.
6. We are still having issues with members not receiving the newsletter.

## **Editor's Note**

*The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author and not necessarily those of FFV or its members. Articles and material for publication may be submitted to the FPP&P editor. Preferred format: E-mail with attachments in Word, RTF, and/or JPEG. Dates for submitting material for publication: 1st of February, April, August and November. The Editor reserves the right to edit as needed. Comments, criticism and compliments are always welcome.*

# WINTER MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

7. It is extremely important that the Chapter Treasurers get the appropriate information to Katherine, Tim & Allison.

8. *FYI: This portion was not a part of the Minutes taken @ the meeting.*

a. *Once Dues are paid, the chapter treasurer is to deposit the State portion of dues into the State*

*b. account and send the receipt to Katherine.*

c. *Please write the Chapter name on the receipt & the number of members paid.*

d. *Please send Tim & Allison an updated list indicating any changes to the list.*

e. *Information should include Chapter Name, Member's full Name, Address and/or e-mail & phone number.*

f. *Please indicate if the member is agreeable to receiving the newsletter via e-mail.*

9. Bill Tanger thanked Allison for her efforts with the newsletter & stated that it looks great & contains a lot of great information combined with stories from the membership.

10. Allison will be stepping down from the position of Newsletter as of Memorial Day 2014.

11. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER THE POSITION!!!!!!

**Webmaster: Bob Born ([webmaster@floatfishermen.org](mailto:webmaster@floatfishermen.org)) Bob was unable attend the meeting. He is still battling his illness. We are thinking of you Bob!!!!**

**Assistant Webmaster: Scott McEwen ([asstwebmaster@floatfishermen.org](mailto:asstwebmaster@floatfishermen.org))**

1. Scott & Tony are working together with Bob to renew update the Webpage. Progress will reported at the next meeting.

2. Please send any requests or inquiries to Scott or Bob.

**Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger ([conservation@floatfishermen.org](mailto:conservation@floatfishermen.org))**

1. Bill passed out a few publications for the members to browse.

2. The Chesapeake Bay Journal is a free publication with a wealth of information; you can send a request at [www.bayjournal.com](http://www.bayjournal.com). Old Dominion Sierran is a small newspaper sent out by the Sierra Club; send inquiries to [www.virginia.sierraclub.org](http://www.virginia.sierraclub.org). Nature Conservancy is a magazine; send inquiries to: [www.magazine.nature.org](http://www.magazine.nature.org).

3. Water Quality from storm water run off: This is an active issue in the state of Virginia.

a. Every county in Virginia must pass the storm runoff quality & regulations.

b. Many cities & Counties are at the beginning stages of

forming a storm water management program.

c. Personal quality control and regulation is encouraged.

d. Don Leeger asked if cattle discharge and access to rivers is being looked at in regards to the Storm water runoff.

e. Bill Tanger replied that it is not illegal to allow cattle into the rivers and streams. There are programs for funding & education available to farmers.

4. Emerging Contaminations: There are new contaminants that have come to light that were not previously tested for because they were unknown contaminants. Contaminants include: Medical chemicals and drugs that get thrown out or flushed. Arsenic in chicken feed waste seeps into the ground water.

5. River Access:

a. The James River Blueway: There are new access points @ Gala & access @ Glasgow & Alpine have been improved greatly.

b. Cushaw Project (below Balcony Falls):

1. Due to the number of tickets issued to boaters by the Park Service for using the Appalachian Trail parking area. This was not intended for boaters.

2. Many boaters choosing to use the "Ironman" takeout above the Appalachian Trail Parking lot are being ticketed for illegally crossing the railroad tracks. This access point is very difficult and dangerous.

3. Currently the only DGIF approved Access/Landing is below the AT parking area. This parking area is small and easily filled early in the day.

4. This gives us an opportunity to address the need for additional access points. Currently the plan is to acquire approval from CSX to grant access to the "Ironman" takeout. If you are interested please contact Bill Tanger.

c. Roanoke River access: This has been a huge success. FFV was one of the donors to get this project up & running.

1. There is a Pay Post at the access. The honor system is used.

2. The Pay Post has taken in over \$4000.00 since it was installed.

3. All money collected goes back into this access point. Is a great idea for other access points around the state.

d. The Howardsville Landing on the James has been delisted. It is no longer open to the public.

1. The property owners on each side have become very difficult to deal with.

2. There is a legal State Right of Way. Bob Peck & Bill Tanger will look into this and report back to us.

*continued on page 4*

# WINTER MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

3. This is a great project for all of us to come together on. In this case there may be power in numbers.

## **Foundation Report: Bill Tanger**

1. Randy Carter Award: The Bio's were sent out to the members.  
a. Bill Tanger made a motion to accept George Santucci for the award. Bob Peck seconded the motion. Discussion: It was mentioned that Roc Willoughby had nominated a candidate; however a bio was not available for review. It was agreed that Ralph White is an excellent Candidate for the award & he will be nominated again next year. A vote was taken & George Santucci will be awarded the Randy Carter Award.

b. Members are encouraged to nominate any worthy candidates for the Annual award. Please present a bio by the Labor Day meeting. The vote takes place at the Winter Meeting every year.

2. Property for sale: APCO has a piece of property for sale. They are not in a hurry to sell. There is not a road to the property, access via river only. Please contact Bill Tanger for more information.

## **Finances Report: Bill Tanger**

3. Finance Committee:

a. Bill Tanger made a motion that we form a Finance Committee to look at our income and expenditures for FFV in 2014. Scott McEwen seconded the motion.

b. Discussion: Rick Mattox stated that the budget is usually mapped out at the Winter Meeting. A budget proposal for 2014 may be difficult.

c. Bill Tanger has budget recommendations: The recommendations will be posted with the minutes from this meeting. The plan is take our income and align it with our expenses & adjust accordingly.  
d. The question: 'How did we spend more than we brought in this past year?' was asked.

1. Simply put, we voted to spend more money last year due to the "Tax Scare" last year.

2. Currently our Tax Exempt status remains the same. The issues have been resolved with the IRS. Please contact Kitty with inquiries.

3. There was also a double payment for the Kid Float this last year because the 2012 Kid Float receipts had not been turned in yet. Usually FFV pays for the lunches for the Kid Float (approx \$750).

4. In 2013 we donated \$1000.00. We also donated more to FORVA, American White Water & American Rivers. We also paid \$700.00 each for music for Memorial Day & Labor Day weekends.

5. We also donated \$500.00 to Kitty for Tax courses taken.

6. Of note: Our membership is also down; which is our main source of income.

e. Vote: The motion to form a Finance Committee was carried.

f. Volunteers for the committee include: Bill Tanger, Ginnie Peck, Tony Adams, Kathleen O'Farrell & Rick Mattox.

## **Old Business:**

Officers for next year needed.

1. We need a President and 1-2 Vice Presidents. Please contact Ginnie Peck or Brian Van de Sande if you are interested. \*\*Please note that Tony is willing to stay on board as President if needed.\*\*

## **New Business:**

1. A 50/50 raffle, to bring in money to help cover our events, was discussed. Ginnie Peck & Patrick O'Sullivan volunteered to run the raffle Memorial weekend.

2. The drawing will be held at the end of the meeting on after the meeting. If this goes well we will have another Labor Day Weekend.

## **Schedule & Budget for 2014:**

1. Douthat State Park: Big Back Creek Gorge April 4-6, 2014: Contact Rick Mattox

2. April 12, 2014: Scott McGowen & Corinne Mohler getting married.

3. R5 Cajun Weekend: April 25 - 27, 2014 / Rappahannock River / Tickets are \$30.00 for the weekend...TICKETS GO FAST!!! / Dinner & band Saturday night / Contact Randy Carter Chapter (Pete VanDemon)

4. Dickel Spring Fling: May 2 - 4 / Rockfish River / Kathleen & Sara Property on the Rockfish / Bring a covered dish to share for Saturday night

5. Memorial Weekend: May 25 - 26, 2014 / R5 on the Rappahannock River / Contact Pete VanDemon

a. Porta Johns: Budget \$800.00 / 5 Portalettes with 1 cleanout over the weekend / Pete VanDemon to order

b. Potluck Dinner Saturday night / Bring a covered dish to share / Might be a good idea for each chapter to organize who is bringing what within that chapter

c. Music: Budget \$500.00 / Bob Peck will speak to Timi Ryalls & Harry Faulkner / FYI: Timi & Harry are available for this event..YEY!

d. River Tax: Kathleen made a motion to up the River Tax to \$10.00 per person & \$20.00 per family / John Grubb seconded the motion / To be collected by each chapter & turned in after the meeting on Sunday.

e. Discussion included mentioning that we are cutting our

# WINTER MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

## **FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA STATE OFFICERS**

### **President**

Tony Adams

president@floatfishermen.org

### **Vice Presidents**

Bill Duncan

Ken Ingram

Erica Sims Goode

Roc Cooper

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### **Webmaster**

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### **Assistant Webmaster**

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### **Newsletter**

Allison Herbert

editor@floatfishermen.org

budget for next year, therefore should not have to double up on the river tax. We are also implementing a Finance Committee to assess our budget.

f. The motion was carried with 2 votes against.

g. There will be a swap meet this weekend. If you have any camping or canoeing gear that you would like to purge, now is the time.

6. Kids Float: Saturday June 7, 2014 / Contact Erica Goode @ / A reminder will go out to all in early spring.

a. River: James from Warren Ferry to Hatten Ferry

b. Budget: Rick made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Kid Float / Allison seconded the motion / Motion was carried with 1 vote against.

c. We need volunteers to take a child down the river. If you do not have a canoe, we will find you one. Provide your own PFD & paddle / Paddles & lifejackets are provided for the kids via CP&R.

7. Mimosa Float: June 14, 2014 on the Rockfish River @ Sara & Kathleen property

a. Camping 6/13/14 - 6/15/14 / River tax \$5.00 - \$10.00 per person for Porta John depending on numbers.

b. Electrical hook-ups are available: there may be an extra fee for electric / check with Sara & Kathleen / Bring a covered dish to share for Saturday night.

8. Safety & Rescue Day: July 12, 2014 / This is a prospective event that the Dickel chapter is working on with C-ville Parks & Rec. Details about the event will be presented in the spring.

9. Labor Day Weekend: August 29 - September 1, 2014 / Solitude on the James River / contact Bill Tanger

a. Porta John Budget: 6 Porta Johns / \$800.00 / Bill Tanger to arrange

b. Potluck Dinner Saturday night / Bring a covered dish to share / Again, organization with each chapter may be helpful.

c. Music Budget (\$500.00): This has been tabled to the Memorial Weekend Meeting / Patrick & Bomar will inquire with a local band and report back to us.

d. River Tax: \$10.00 per person & \$20.00 per family / To be collected by each chapter & turned in after meeting on Sunday.

10. Wounded Warrior Float: Patrick, Ginnie, Erica & Traci are trying to organize a float for Veterans.

a. We are in the beginning phase and report back soon.

b. Tentative Date: September 13, 2014 / James River from Warren ferry to Hatten Ferry

c. We hope an organizational meeting in January to get the ball rolling.

d. The plan is to template the event after the Kid Float & partner with C-ville Parks & Rec.

11. Dickel Bash: September 26 - 28 / Location to be announced.

12. Dickel Halloween Float: Saturday October 25, 2014 / Location to be announced.

13. FFV Winter Meeting: Saturday December 6, 2014 / Location to be announced.

Donations: There was a discussion to pull back on donations this year. \$50.00 to American Whitewater & \$100.00 to FORVA / The finance committee will report back with suggestions.

Adjourn the Meeting: Ginnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting / Kitty seconded the motion / Meeting adjourned.

# OTHER NEWS

## FORVA RE-STARTS THE CUSHAW PROJECT

After a long, several years wait for the Glasgow access improvements to be completed, we have decided to move forward with our re-start for the Cushaw Project, the goal being a better take-out below Balcony. The Glasgow improvements are somewhat bogged down in bureaucratic red tape, but at least the way is clear to use the new put-in that is directly on the James.

### First step: apply to DCR

The process set up by the legislature to apply for an at-grade crossing starts with a "Letter of Intent," which is really a form that calls for nine different subjects to be addressed. Then the application goes to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Jennifer Wampler is the point person at DCR. After DCR reviews the application, and if it is approved by DCR, it then goes to CSX.

### Lock 14 is the first choice:

We are submitting a request for an at-grade crossing at Lock 14, which is a nice old historic canal lock in excellent shape. Much of it is covered with brush and needs work. Interested?

We plan to do a gravel road off Rt 501 that would run down to the track but not cross it. There will be parking at the top of the hill but only a turnaround at the bottom for loading boats.

### CSX has argued liability, but has none:

Our last major work on this project was legislative. We added language to the Virginia code that made it crystal clear that railroads would be exempt from lawsuits if they allowed the public to cross their tracks. It remains to be seen if CSX has digested the new code and will recognize that liability issues are no more. Their lawyers will not likely accept this as it reduces their work load.

### Cost of development?

We have estimated the cost of the project will be about \$200,000. Currently, we have \$165,000 in funds available from Dominion Power. So expect a major fundraising effort if we get the nod from CSX for the crossing.

### Support Grows:

Our newest letter of support for the project comes from Friends of the Roanoke River, as of January 7, 2014. In February, we will solicit a support letter from the Botetourt County Blueway Committee. If you know of other organizations or companies that would do a letter, please let me know.

### How to Help:

Contact Bill Tanger: Email address: [bill.tanger@verizon.net](mailto:bill.tanger@verizon.net). Home: 540-366-2228. Cell: 540-266-0237.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Submitted by Kathleen O' Farrell on behalf of Margaret Fitch*  
Judith Rose Wysong, better known as Judy or "Weed Butt" by some, left this world on Tuesday, February 4th. Judy's role in life was taking care of others, be they people or animals. She grew up in Miami, FL, where she spent many hours as a candy striper, an experience that led her to pursue a career in the medical field. Judy moved to Charlottesville in 1998 to work as an Oncology Specialist Nurse at the University of Virginia hospital. She quickly adopted Charlottesville as her "home" and loved the people and the area. A dedicated and caring nurse, Judy was also the most unselfish person in the world and an avid animal lover who would take in sick or injured animals and find homes for them after rehabilitation. Judy had a heart bigger than that tiny body and was always helping anyone she felt needed her. She had a beautiful passion for writing poetry but Judy's happy place was on the river with her friends. She was always on the Appomattox River clean up with Bill and Jay. She was often seen asleep in her car after a 12 hour shift, waking up ready to party at a Dickel Bash or an R-5 event. Judy loved country music concerts, traveling to Pennsylvania for music festivals, and meeting her friends at Durty Nelly's Pub listening to Tim and Steve play. Judy, our angel here on earth, we will miss you. We plan a Celebration of Life at a later date as a potluck party on the river. Judy would love it! More to come.



# PINNED ON THE PINEY

*submitted by Tony Adams*

Let me tell you about a little trip we took on the Piney River. It was running with plenty to keep your attention. Patrick O'Sullivan, Rick Mattox, Ryan Bomar, Tyler Willoughby, Charley Safely and I put in at State route 666 just off of route 151. Yes, the Devil was drinking strong rum that day. It was fortuitous to things to come. The rapids were challenging and at times, endless. Yours truly found himself ahead of the group trying to reset my 'helmet cam' when a serious "strainer" situation presented itself. A tree was completely across the river and at river left where I was, laid the main trunk. My effort to ride on to it perpendicularly and throw the boat over failed and my boat stayed on the Piney for six days pinned under the trunk. It was pulled out from under



*The recovery crew is: (left to right) Ryan Tucker, Brian Roberts, Patrick O'Sullivan, Charlie Safley, "Rock Willoughby". All photos submitted by Tony Adams*

me like the hand of god reaching under that tree and just plain swiping it away. I felt strongly that going with it would be the end of my days so I "hugged" that tree and managed to get to shore. The video, still running, captured the whole event where only two words were spoken. "Oh ----". Not another word. The event was a reminder of two Huge points: Always stay with the group, and NEVER try to negotiate a strainer. The physics behind surface obstructed water is 100% doom! I will remember. Needless to say the trip was a hoot and my boat may be repaired thanks to the recovery crew the following week.





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## SPECIAL NOTICE

*If you have received a printed copy of this newsletter, we do not have an email address on file for you OR you have elected to receive your newsletter by standard mail. If you would like to receive future issues of the newsletter via email, please send your address to your local chapter treasurer or to our state membership chair at [membership@floatfishermen.org](mailto:membership@floatfishermen.org).*

**No action is needed if you prefer to continue receiving your newsletter via standard mail.**

## NEW RIVER PROJECTS

*submitted by Bill Tanger*

**James River Cushaw Take-out Access:** Moving forward on a better take-out below Balcony Falls. The application for an at-grade crossing was submitted on January 10 and a site visit was held on February 11. See article elsewhere for details.

**Dam Removal/Recreation:** Working on the Pigg River dam removal. We have two dam removal estimates in hand and another due shortly. We have developed a grant proposal and will first seek funds from hurricane mitigation funds. We are working with the USFWS, Franklin County and the town of Rocky Mount.

**Dam Safety:** We put up two dam safety signs just upstream of the Pigg River Power Dam. Since work may soon be starting on the removal of this dam, we wanted to get our signs in place. At the moment, a huge logjam stops boaters well before the dam.

**James River Howardsville Access:** DGIF has delisted this river access. We are working on either adopting the access or improving it to the point that DGIF will re-list the access point. Tom Miller and Bill Tanger are working this one.

**Roanoke River Rutrough Point Access:** Over 2000 paid visitors so far! Roanoke County has just obtained a long-term lease on Explore Park, which includes Rutrough Point. We are working on improving the put-in upstream just below Niagara Dam.

**Menhaden issue:** Tom Miller is doing follow-up on the menhaden issue. The Atlantic Coast Fisheries Commission has voted to order a 20% reduction in the menhaden catch. Tom is working on getting the menhaden management into the hands of the VMRC instead of the legislature.

**Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards:** Patti Jackson is on the DEQ committee to review the standards and will be reporting back to us on this issue.

**Price Park:** A 45 acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County now has a temporary footbridge. We have improved the parking area. Also got the assessed value put under a forestry land use program, reducing the taxes to \$121 yearly. Now have an Eagle Scout to do a footbridge and another to do a kiosk. Randi Lemmon and Bill Tanger are on this task.

# WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE RIVER IN 2014!