

# Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle

## Winter 2021

### FFV State Officers

President: Tyler Willoughby

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Vice Presidents:

- Tony Adams: [antonadams@comcast.net](mailto:antonadams@comcast.net)
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- Erica Goode: [Ericagoode10@gmail.com](mailto:Ericagoode10@gmail.com)
- Bill Tanger: [riverdancer1943@gmail.com](mailto:riverdancer1943@gmail.com)

Secretary: Loren Jacobs

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State Treasurer: Bryon Jones

[gbj67@aol.com](mailto:gbj67@aol.com)

Membership Chair: Scott McEwen

[ffvbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:ffvbusiness@gmail.com)

Co-Membership Chair: Ginnie Peck

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Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger

[riverdancer1943@gmail.com](mailto:riverdancer1943@gmail.com)

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

### Chapter Treasurers:

George Dickel Chapter: Ginnie Peck

[dickels.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:dickels.treasurer@gmail.com)

Randy Carter Chapter: Ed Galloway

[ewgalloway@verizon.net](mailto:ewgalloway@verizon.net)

Roanoke Valley Chapter: Bill Tanger

[riverdancer1943@gmail.com](mailto:riverdancer1943@gmail.com)

Scotts Creek Chapter: Katherine Waller

[kswaller@hotmail.com](mailto:kswaller@hotmail.com)

Steve Keller Chapter: Bill Chambers

[wchambers72@Verizon.net](mailto:wchambers72@Verizon.net)

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

Greetings Fellow Paddlers,

Happy New Year! Let's have a better new year. Some things will change but hopefully we can all work together to make this a better club this year and meet some new people and new friends. I am looking into camping with the Blue Ridge Mountain Paddlers and the Creek Freaks for July with a dam control release. Having been in touch with Brian Williams I am looking to check out a camp spot and some of the rivers he can put us on in his area. These paddlers are looking to meet us and explore some rivers that we know like the Rockfish, Slate and the James in our area. Opening up new avenues of river protection and awareness along with some river safety. We will have more details in the next newsletter.

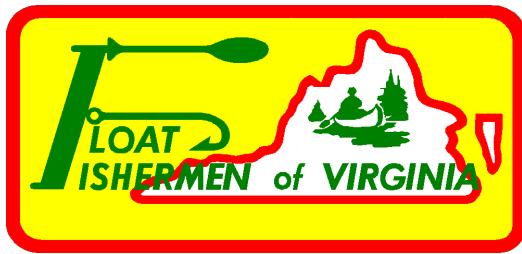
Anyone that wants to go to Douthat this year may want to check for accommodations in the cabins or with Rick Mattox for rooms at the Douthat Main Lodge.

Congratulations again to Michael Powell for his rescue award from the FFV. Well deserved. If anyone knows of someone needing recognition for a river rescue or conservation, please let me know. Let's recognize these fine people, people like us.

I have been working on a little stream over the winter almost ready to open it for paddling. Anyone interested, call me. Really beautiful. This is what we do.

Paddle safely. Peace out.

Your pals, Rock and Bear

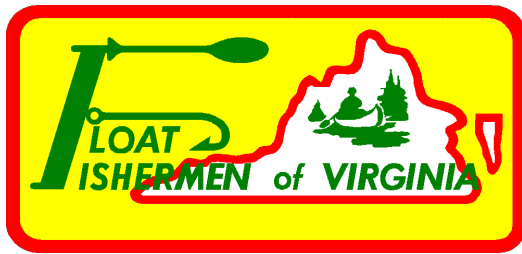


## River Access Fees Update Bill Tanger

In lieu of the usual Currents & Eddies section of our newsletter, Conservation Chair Bill Tanger wanted to update members on the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) River Access fees battle. The following documents outline the work FFV, FORVA and others are doing to resolve this issue.

### **Budget Amendment**

Notwithstanding § 29.1-113 of the Code of Virginia, access fees at boat ramps owned or managed by the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) shall not be assessed prior to July 1, 2022.



# River Access Fees Update

## Bill Tanger

**River Access Fee Update – 1/10/21**

January 10, 2021

### **Fellow river users, floaters, boaters, etc:**

This is an update on where we are in our effort to get the river access fee ended.

We have a team of individuals and groups working on this, especially FORVA, Float Fishermen, Blue Ridge River Runners, Creek Freaks and members of Coastals and Canoe Cruisers.

### **What we have done:**

- Drafted up reasons showing why HB1604 is a bad bill, in the form of a Points Paper or a Press Release. Disseminated our points to many elected officials and jurisdictions.
- Obtained a Resolution of Opposition from one county with several more soon to be completed.
- Developed a budget amendment that would postpone enactment of the bill for a year. This would allow for a study of the need, costs, benefits, and impacts of the bill.
- Got four delegates to put the budget amendment into the legislative process.
- Got one senator to put the same amendment in on the senate side of the legislature.
- Researched federal law and developed a letter from a FORVA attorney opining that the bill is in violation of federal law.
- Gotten word out to river groups alerting all to the impacts of the bill.

### **What we need to do:**

- Continue to reach out to our county supervisors to get more resolutions of opposition. These can come from towns, cities or counties.
- Reach out to our state delegates and senators to show why HB1604 should be undone.
- Ask our delegates and senators to support the budget amendment now and to support a proper study and evaluation of HB1604 later.
- Reach out to the media to educate all about the negatives and problems with HB1604.
- Reach out to our fellow river users, river outfitters and conservationists to show how HB1604 is a detriment to our public, our economy and the environment by reducing river access and use and therefore reducing more eyes on the river for river protection.

### **The Goal: elimination of the river access fee.**

Hopefully with a year's delay, we can educate our elected officials and gather enough support for a new bill in 2022. One that will then allow us to address any needs for river access with input from all of us who use the resources.

----- Bill Tanger, Chair, FORVA

# PRESS RELEASE

## DWR River Access Fees Are Not Needed

January 21, 2021

On December 8, 2020, the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) released a press notice that a new river access fee would go into effect on January 1, 2021.

This was shocking news to many river users, such as paddlers, tubers, kayakers, and many others. The bill was not known to DWR's own Citizen Advisory Committee, nor has it been properly vetted by the public or constituents of DWR.

River users have grave doubts about the fairness and effectiveness of this fee and it could alienate thousands of citizens who desire access to the rivers of Virginia.

### Specific Concerns about the DWR boat ramp fee include:

- 1. It is not in the public interest:** The addition of a new fee to existing access sites could alienate businesses and political jurisdictions, as well as the paddling public. Many jurisdictions have allowed DWR access ramps to be built or managed based on the assumption that there would not be a tax or fee on their users. The number of jurisdictions objecting to this fee is increasing as they become aware of it.
- 2. No demonstrated need for additional funds.** DWR receives substantial funding from federal programs and state taxes such as the Watercraft Sales and Use tax (\$10 million in 2020). We estimate the total dollars available annually for river access to be approximately \$15 million. DWR has not shown the need for more money and the Department of Planning and Budget did not estimate the economic impact. DWR did not ask for this fee and they did not support it.
- 3. Cost/Benefit to Virginia:** The addition of a new access fee on river users could be a detriment to the economic benefits of tourism and outdoor recreation. A cost/benefit study should be conducted before such a fee is adopted or other options are considered. The last attempt by DWR to tax paddlers was a 1993 plan to register canoes, kayaks, rafts, tubes, and anything that floats. An economic study showed that the administrative costs would exceed the income and DWR dropped the plan.
- 4. Economic justice:** This fee will impact lower income people much more than others, especially those with limited access to our rivers. Its impact on all river users should be evaluated prior to implementation.
- 5. Inadequate public notice and lack of public input:** This bill was not vetted by paddlers or others who would be impacted directly. It was not discussed or reviewed by the DWR Citizen Advisory Committee or user groups. Due to Covid-19 and the lack of awareness by river users until the December 8 announcement, DWR should convene the stakeholders to

review this and other options. Greater public notice and comment should be provided to give adequate transparency to the citizens.

6. **Encourages trespass, damages, and hazards:** This plan encourages people to circumvent the fees by using unauthorized access on private property, with potential property damage, hazardous parking and exposure to swift currents on entering a river.
7. **River Access Fee may be a violation of federal law:** Similar fee proposals in other states have been dropped due to concern about violating federal code 33 U.S.C. (5)b which “preempts states from imposing fees on vessels (or passengers) operating on navigable waters of the United States.” An inquiry has been submitted to the Virginia Attorney General.

River groups are seeking a budget amendment that would postpone enactment of this new fee on river access until a study can be done to analyze the need, costs, benefits and impacts on the public

For further information contact:



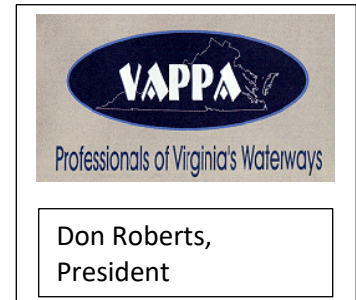
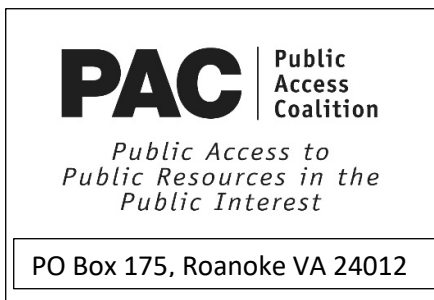
Bill Tanger, Conservation Chair, FFV  
Rock Willoughby, President  
Cell: 540-266-0237  
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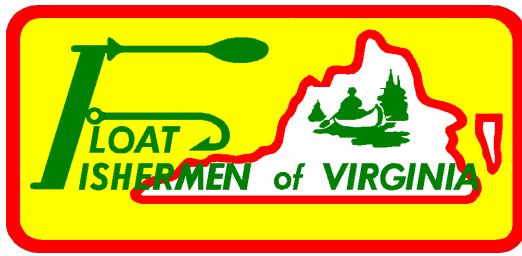


David Bruce, President  
Howard Kirkland, Cons. Chair  
Cell: 434-426-5700



Pat Williams, President  
Ray Williams, Treasurer  
Cell: 540-630-1897





# Happy Semi-Centennial FFV !

## Courtesy of R.E.B Stewart

In January, FFV turned fifty! Let's celebrate all those years of great fishing, paddling, river bank camping, river conservation projects, and lasting friendships. We should begin to plan for the next fifty.

FFV is a totally unique organization. There is no other like it in America. Who else has fought to protect the environment and water quality of our rivers and protect them from useless and destructive pollution and pork barrel Corps of Engineers' dams?

We worked hard to kill Corps dams on the Rappahannock, New, and Craig Creek. Another big victory came when we helped to save the Staunton from an electric co-op dam. All of these projects were based on bogus loss to benefits ratios which we worked to expose.

The Salem Church dam on the Rappahannock was our biggest victory. The Corps proposed a dam that would flood thousands of remote near-wilderness acres. Our analysis showed that the Corp's projected benefits were, as usual, overestimated, and the costs were underestimated.

To prove our findings, we brought in experts to testify at a seminar at Historic Trinity Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. The Corps was invited but did not "officially" attend. However, three of their engineers were caught slipping in through the parish house kitchen. We embarrassed and humiliated them by pointing them out to the standing room only audience of dam opponents. All of the major sportsmen and conservation clubs were there.

In a pre-conference interview, a TV reporter asked the question I was hoping for: "Why are you having this meeting in Portsmouth, which is almost 200 miles from the proposed dam site?" I replied: "Because Trinity Church is just down the street from Senator Billy Spong's home and former law office."

I had to explain that Spong was the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee which provided funding for Corps projects. Spong was not at the church but senior staffers were. They took lots of notes.

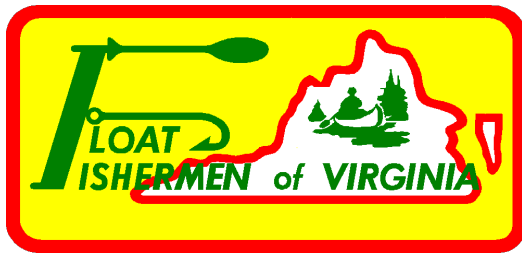
All of the media folks were there. We got lots of publicity—and all favorable.

We soon got a call from Rap supporters in Fredericksburg—led by legendary canoeist and author, Randy Carter. They wanted advice on presenting their own meeting, which they did shortly thereafter. Some of their leaders had been at our Trinity meeting.

The Corps showed up at the Fredericksburg meeting. Their plan was attacked by many other well-informed opponents. Spong staffers were there.

I remember the AP article on the front page of the Norfolk Virginian Pilot: "Spong: Dam Plan not Prudent or Desirable." It was never funded nor were the dams on the New and Craig Creek. I may be wrong, but I don't recall many major Corps dams being built since. One notable augmentation." That boiled down to releasing lake water to dilute pollution downstream—but that's another story.

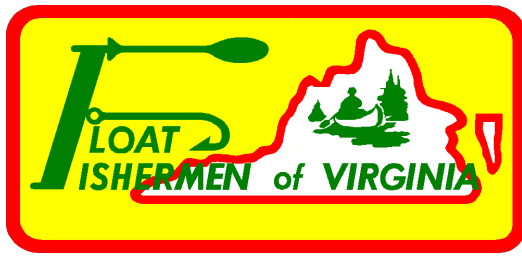
FFV was also heavily involved in working with localities and the General Assembly to protect many rivers in the Virginia Scenic Rivers system.



## Happy Semi-Centennial FFV ! Courtesy of R.E.B Stewart

In the future, look forward to FFV stories like the founding of the Randy Carter Conservationist of the Year, the V.I.P. Legislator's Float, and the founding of Virginia Hunting and Fishing Day, which was the first state celebration of the congressionally declared national holiday.

FFV has made its mark on Virginia and America over its last fifty years. Let's do more in the next fifty.



# Trip Notes

## Courtesy of Sherman Banford

Upper James – June 24-27 2020

When the US border closed due to COVID 19, I had to cancel a planned trip on the Restigouche River in Canada. Instead, I decided to canoe as much of the James River as I had time to do this summer.

On June 24-27 I canoed the Cowpasture River from the Walton Tract (GWNF) to Snowden. Beta my faithful (woods-loving not-water-loving) beagle joined me.

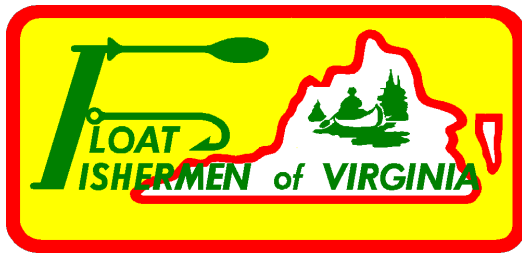
A “cut-off low” weather system dumped rain in the area the week before and by the week of the trip, conditions were good on both the Cowpasture and the James. There were plenty of blue skies and I saw mergansers, ospreys and lots of other wildlife along the way. I loved the backdrop of Rough Mountain Wilderness and Beards Mountain roadless area.

My friend David Garland joined me in a kayak at Gala. We wove through the dramatic water gap at Eagle Rock, around the horseshoe bends below that, and ate takeout food from the Buchanan Grill. From there, we joined a group of FFV members on their way to the camp at Solitude on the 26th.

After dinner and camping at Solitude, we left for Snowden on the 27th. The James River Face Wilderness and gorge were spectacular. I took a spill on Balcony Falls – chalk it up to inexperience and lack of float bags – but no injuries and the gear was safely retrieved, if a little wet and a little beat-up.







# Trip Notes

## Courtesy of Sherman Banford

Middle James – July 13-16 2020

Unexpectedly, finding myself with more time to paddle this summer, in July I went on a solo canoe trip from Scottsville to Powhatan State Park.

This summer, I found no one willing to shuttle me here, except Maiden Voyage outfitters (in a double cab truck for COVID social distancing), but for all the effort involved in planning, I considered myself fortunate to be able to spend more time on the river.

The tranquility and beauty of this section of the river exceeded my expectations. On the first evening I camped at Hardware River wildlife management area. In the evening I was able to explore this river on foot, finding myself in a deep gorge with maidenhair fern, wild ginger and other plants more reminiscent of an Appalachian cove forest than the Piedmont.

The next day, I passed by the Seven Islands, numerous other islands, sandy bars, forests, sleepy Slate River, some type of large facility under construction on the south side of the river, and some small cliffs, before arriving at Cartersville. I was able to reserve a room at Newstead Manor and explored the ante bellum history of the town that evening.

As I headed southeast from Cartersville in the morning, the river was wide and winds buffeted me. After a few small riffles in this section of the river, I arrived at Powhatan State Park, where I camped, after taking out. This relatively new park is dominated by cornfields but there are some very nice trails, too, like the Gold Dust Trail.



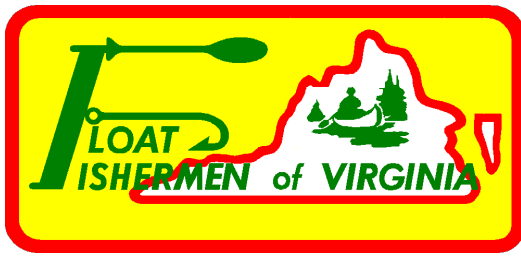
Cowpasture River



James River



James River



# Trip Notes

## Courtesy of Sherman Banford



Hardware River



Seven Islands



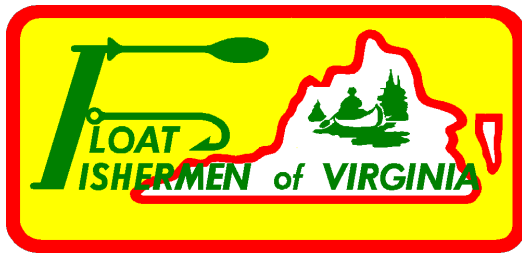
Middle James



Cliffs Near Cartersville



Upper James  
Photo by D. Garland



# Pigg River Chainsaw Event

## Courtesy of Bill Tanger

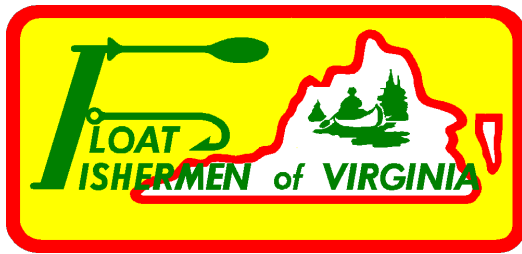
Paddleheads:

Here are a few shots of our work to remove the logjam #3 from the Pigg River. We did end up cutting a channel on river left that is boatable, but it is hard to tell how long it might stay open. In any case, thanks should go to Ray Williams for the photos, and to Bill Tanger, Mike Byrd, Duck Stanley and Jim Pickel for the chainsaw work.

We will return to the logjam this spring, I am sure, when the water warms up some.



Pickel, Duck, Bill & Byrd cleaning up debris on the Pigg River.



# December Meeting Minutes

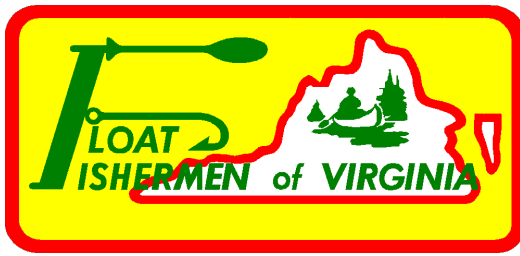
## Courtesy of Rick Mattox

Float Fishermen of Virginia  
Business Meeting Minutes  
12/5/2020

- **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by president Rock at 11:05 AM. Rock thanked all present for attending the meeting.
- **Secretary Report:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Labor Day meeting as published in the Fall newsletter.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bryon Jones reported an ending balance is \$11,972.74. Down slightly since Labor Day, but up for the year. This is an increase of \$480 year to date. In addition, the 2 CDs have a combined balance of \$8,627. The combined balance for the checking account and 2 CDs is \$20,600.
- **Membership Report:** No report
- **Newsletter Report:** Jaime has seamlessly taken over newsletter responsibilities from Vera. Thanks to both Vera and Jaime for handling this important responsibility.

Any and all articles and photos are welcomed and should be forwarded to Jaime Baird.

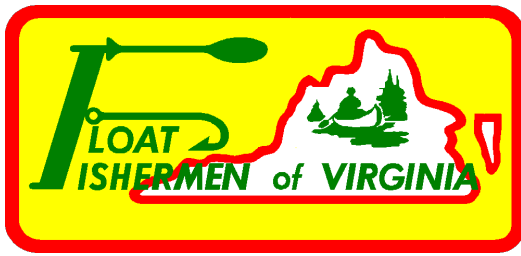
- **Webmaster Report:** No report  
Rick Mattox reminded the membership that Loren Jacobs has established a FFV Facebook group. She continues to post interesting and related articles, videos, photos, etc. This is also an excellent tool to communicate upcoming events, floats, etc.
- **Conservation Chair Report:** No report
- **FFV Foundation Report:** The first Herb Coleman, Jr. Scholarship Award was awarded to Silas Pearson in the amount of \$2,000.
- **Trip Schedule:**
  - **Back Creek/Douthat State Park:** April 16 to 18.
  - **Dickel Spring Fling:** April 9 to 11 at the Pecks' property
  - **R5 Cajun Weekend:** RC Members only in 2021
  - **Memorial Weekend:** 5/28 to 5/31
    - Location: R5 (Kelly's Ford section of the Rappahannock River)



# December Meeting Minutes

## Courtesy of Rick Mattox

- Port-o-johns: \$600 budgeted; Ed Galloway was volunteered to make arrangements
  - Band/Dinner: \$500 budgeted. Timi Ryalls was contacted by Ginnie Peck. He confirmed his availability to perform that Saturday night.
  
  - **Labor Day Weekend: 9/3 to 9/6**
    - Location: Solitude – Rock will contact Mr. Tanger to request permission
    - Port-o-johns: \$600 budgeted; Rock will contact Mr. Tanger about port-o-johns as well as cutting the field
    - Band/Dinner: Shane Markham will be asked to play that Saturday night. Budget: \$500
  
  - **Old Business:** Nothing discussed
  
  - **New Business:** Rick Mattox brought up the bylaws requirement that a nominating committee present a slate of officers to be voted on at the Labor Day meeting. Tony Adams will chair the nominating committee. Ginnie Peck volunteered to assist. We have gotten away from this requirement the past few years. It is important that all officer positions are locked down prior to our Labor Day Annual Meeting for consideration by the membership.
- Jaime will get a proposal for FFV t-shirts. We will look at pricing and make a decision on the number of shirts. We hope to have the FFV t-shirts available for sale at the Memorial weekend gathering.
- The Winter business meeting will be at the Slate River property on December 4 at 11:00.
- Rock presented an award to Michael Powell for a river rescue of his dad Bill. Great job and congratulations Michael!
- Upon motion and second, the meeting adjourned just after 12:00.

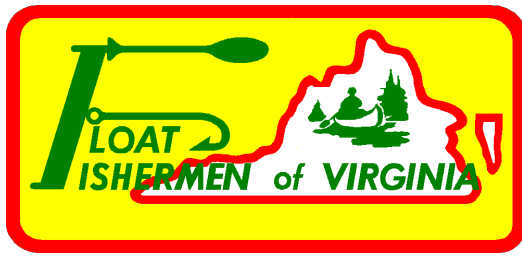


# December Meeting Minutes

## Courtesy of Rick Mattox



Rock Willoughby presenting an award to Michael Powell for a river rescue of his dad Bill. Great job and congratulations Michael!



# Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle Trip Schedule

## 2021 Trip and Event Schedule

### **Dickel Spring Fling:**

April 9 to 11 at the Pecks' property

GPS Address: 794 Farrar Bridge Lane, Shipman VA 22971

Contact: Ginnie Peck [ginniepeck@gmail.com](mailto:ginniepeck@gmail.com)

### **Back Creek/Douthat State Park:**

April 16 to 18

Contact: Rock Willoughby [willoughby3@hotmail.com](mailto:willoughby3@hotmail.com)

### **Memorial Weekend:**

5/28 to 5/31

Location: R5 (Kelly's Ford section of the Rappahannock River)

GPS Address: 13300 Newby's School Road, Remington, VA 22734

Contact: Don Leeger [donleeger@aol.com](mailto:donleeger@aol.com)

### **Labor Day Weekend:**

9/3 to 9/6

Location: Solitude

GPS Address: 1571 Solitude Road, Buchanan, VA 24066

Contact: Bill Tanger [riverdancer1943@gmail.com](mailto:riverdancer1943@gmail.com)

# Editor's Note

## FFV Membership Chair - Seeking a Volunteer

**FFV is seeking a new membership chair. Duties include:**

1. Obtain updates membership list from chapter treasurers within a week or 2 of the newsletter going out. Best to e-mail treasurers about 3-4 weeks before newsletter going out for changes.
2. Update membership list in the eGoogle drive account
3. Update e-mail contact list in the FFV Business gmail account
4. Clean-up any e-mails that are bounced back, after the newsletter goes out.
5. Maintain a master copy of the membership list
6. Archive the master list in the google drive at the end of each year.

For any questions about the position, please contact Ginnie Peck at [ginniepeck@gmail.com](mailto:ginniepeck@gmail.com).

## T-Shirts! And More...

FFV is in the process of producing new t-shirts (and possibly more!) that we hope to have available for purchase at the Memorial Day event at R5. We would love to hear from you! As a relatively new member to FFV, I haven't seen a lot of the merchandise that has been produced in the past. If you have a favorite FFV t-shirt, or sticker, or some other awesome paddler swag, please send me pictures! You can email me at [jaimenbaird@gmail.com](mailto:jaimenbaird@gmail.com) or text me at 845.464.6855. If you text me, please include who you are in the message.

Also, please send me articles and pictures to include in the next Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle Newsletter!

See you on the river! -Jaime Baird, FFV Newsletter Editor

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 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