

Fishin' Pole Pack & Paddle

SPRING 2015 ISSUE

President's Paddle Tony Adams



FFV Officers:

President: Tony Adams

Newsletter Editor: Taylor Adams

Secretary: Ginnie Peck

Treasurer: Lisa Barbieri-O'Sullivan

Co-Membership: Scott McEwen
& Ginnie Peck

Webmaster: Traci Martin

Asst Webmaster: Derek Glass

Conservation: Bill Tanger

Vice Presidents: Roc Cooper, Bill
Duncan, Erica Goode, & Bill Tanger

**FFV Web Page & E-mail Links to
Officers:**

<http://www.floatfishermen.org>

Greetings and Salutations,

I'm again happy to report that the organization is running smoothly with enthusiastic officers and systems well in place. The new website is generating very positive feedback and I believe it's going to be an effective multi-functional springboard in the very near future.

So far, the events held by different chapters have been for the most part quite successful. Spring Fling, according to the "Dickels", was a blast! Two Bobs demonstrated bobbing on the Rockfish and Sara supervised a hardy "field float". Douthat was flat out awesome with perfect weather and water for the Bull Pasture Gorge, Back Creek Gorge, the Jackson and the Goshen Ocean. Bomar showed very promising river reading leadership on the Maury with Patrick, as usual, demonstrating superior team spirit; and Mike Crowley reinvented the meaning of tenacity in the rapids. Well done guys! See Rick Mattox's article in this newsletter for more details. I'm hoping to show some video from the now-famous "Helmet Cam" with personal carnage on the Memorial Day Trip at the Slate River Property. Pete Van Demon reports that although the weather was just awful for the R-5 Headsuckin' about 100 folks turned out and said the food and band were terrific! He encourages anyone interested in seeing pictures and write ups on the event to request membership at the Randy Carter Facebook page. Finally, although our friend Bill Tanger cannot be at the Memorial Day float, I highly recommend viewing his articles included in the newsletter; valuable information on current projects!

That's the stuff gang! I am proud to be the Pres. of such a fine organization. And as always... Hope to see ya' on da' Rivah!

-Tony Adams, El Guapo



Kid Float 2015

Saturday June 6, 2015

Come join us for a fun day on the river! Charlottesville Parks and Rec has teamed up with the George Dickel Chapter of the Float Fisherman of Virginia, to host its 9th Annual Kid Float on the James River. The trip is designed to give city youth who have never canoed, the opportunity to paddle Virginia's largest river. We will paddle from Warren to Hatton on the James River in Scottsville, VA

Volunteers needed! Contact Erica Goode, goodee@charlottesville.org or 434.970.3572 if you are interested in paddling a child down the river. Please let us know if you have a boat and equipment, or if you need any of those items, which we will have plenty of. Please also let us know if you have extra boats, life jackets or paddles. Drinks, snacks, lunch and t-shirts are provided for all volunteers. Please send your shirt sizes to the above email by May 23rd. We will also be camping at Hatton on Friday and Saturday nights, I will send more details once you are signed up.

Thank You,
Erica Sims Goode
Charlottesville Parks & Recreation





Douthat Weekend 2015

Rick Mattox

The weekend of April 17th saw nineteen Creekers, Dickels, and Crickels gather at Douthat State Park in Alleghany County. The participants included Rock, Beth, Tony, Dee, John, Amena, Paddy O, Lisa, Mike, Anne, Bomar, Paul, Charley, Bob, Ginnie, Konrad, Lori, Rick and Debbi. This is an annual FFV event that has been going on for over 30 years now. This trip was particularly nice in that we were fortunate to enjoy the confluence of good weather, good water, and of course, good people. The weekend began with a stop along the way at the Bullpasture Gorge in Highland County. This bonus run included Paddy O, Bomar, Mike, and Rick. The river was running at about 400 CFS which would be close to 1 foot on a RC gauge. The score: One swim, one lost paddle, and one portage out of the Gorge. Saturday was our annual float down Back Creek; a beautiful stretch of river in Bath County. Both sides of the river are owned by the Boiling Springs Rod & Gun Club, requiring their permission to enter/paddle their property. We are fortunate in that the club has been very generous over the years in granting us permission to paddle one of the most beautiful and fun stretches of river in the state. Back Creek was running at about 700 CFS, which would also be close to 1 foot on a RC gauge.

The paddlers: Rock, John, Bomar, Paddy O, Charley, Paul, Mike, Ginnie, Tony, and Rick. Thanks to Bob and Lisa for providing free shuttle service. The score: five swims. The guilty shall remain anonymous, except for those of us there to enjoy the entertainment. We then headed next door and took advantage of a 2 for 1 special and paddled the Jackson River through the Richardson Gorge (same take out as Back Creek), which was also running around 1 foot on a RC gauge. The score: 2 swims. Each evening the crowd would gather at the Douthat Lodge, a beautiful six bedroom log structure at the top of the State Park, for some good old fashion FFV partying. Through the technological magic of GoPro and water proof helmet cams, we were able to re-live the day's river adventures. Finally on Sunday, Bomar, John, Rock, and Rick headed for the "Goshen Ocean" on the Maury River. The Maury was running around 800 CFS or 1.8 feet on a RC Gauge, a very fun and exciting level. The Score: 1 swim. The final tally for the weekend: 19 people, 4 rivers in 3 days, 9 swims, 1 lost paddle, 1 portage out of the gorge and a lifetime of memories.



FORVA River Currents

Bill Tanger

James River - Howardsville Landing: After major hellraising by FORVA, DGIF has reopened this river access. We are working on resolving remaining issues and improving it further. --- Tom Miller, Karen Firehock and Bill Tanger

James River - Cushaw Take-out Access: FORVA filed a complaint with the SCC arguing that one designated railroad crossing would be much safer than a half-dozen that are unauthorized. Virginia Public Safety Commission is now reviewing rail safety issues and SCC authority. --- Bill Tanger & Juanita Callis

Roanoke River Gorge Put-in: We proposed a plan to the NPS to improve the put-in just below Niagara Dam. We are laying out trail details now to show the NPS. --- Bill Tanger

Pigg River - Dam Removal/Recreation: Working on the Pigg River dam removal with the USFWS, Franklin County and the town of Rocky Mount. Hydrologic study just started. Sediment fate study starting in May. --- Bill Tanger

Roanoke River - Rutrough Point Erosion: A \$10,000 erosion control project is getting started, using fees from the paypost at the point and a DEQ grant. --- Bill Tanger

New River - Price Park: A 50-acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County is being created by FORVA. We have a parking area, Eagle Scout footbridge and kiosk, and a mile long hiking/biking trail. --- Randi Lemmon and Bill Tanger

Blackwater River - Mitigation Bank easement: We plan to hold a land bank easement on a property that borders the Blue Ridge Parkway and is the headwaters for the Blackwater River in Franklin County. --- Randi, Rick and Bill

Roanoke River - Blueway: FORVA has been instrumental in creating the Roanoke River Blueway, now with an interactive website and soon to have a new logo, guidebook, mapbook and kiosks. --- Bill Tanger

Invasive Species: FORVA has been instrumental in getting the VA Invasive Species Advisory Committee to look at support for the Invasive Species Prevention Act now before Congress. Support of the bill will be discussed at a May 13 meeting.



VDOT Role in Sediment Problems

Bill Tanger

A proposal to fix sediment problems in Virginia

One of the biggest pollutants in Virginia is sediment in our waters. One of the two leading pollutants driving state storm water ordinances is sediment. Virginia's TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) initiative, under the Clean Water Act, cites sediment as one of the top three pollutants... and the largest polluter in Virginia of sediment is VDOT.

Sediment is flushed into our waters from countless VDOT roads built to the standards of yesteryear. When VDOT took over the maintenance of county roads in 1932, it inherited roads built willy-nilly in the days of primitive or non-existent engineering standards. So VDOT now owns roads that are causing sediment pollution and are now VDOT's responsibility.

For example, Roanoke County has a long list of sediment problems, many of which are caused by VDOT roads. The list has over 200 problem sites, with an estimated repair cost of over \$3.5 million. The proper nexus for this matter is VDOT. Only VDOT can manage to fix sediment problems statewide with any sort of long-term reliability and integrity. VDOT has two budgets, construction and maintenance. This falls under maintenance.

Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA) believes that legislation should be introduced to set aside one-half of one percent of the maintenance budget (roughly \$10 million) each year to address the sediment problems from older roads. Such a dedicated fund would at least provide a starting fund for these orphaned roads needing help.

A sediment fix fund dedicated to addressing the biggest offending sediment sites that have gone begging for decades would benefit both the storm water problems and the TMDL problems, and it can be done with no increase in budget; rather a re-allocation with funds dedicated to this problem.

The solution to sediment pollution in storm water, TMDL's, and many sites that have been inadequate for decades is a bill in Virginia's legislature to focus on these orphaned roads. It will take time, but the problem can be fixed. We encourage legislators to address this problem now. Let's get started.



Carnage Corner

In low-water volume situations it is possible to self-rescue in the middle of a rapid, but this means you have to stand up on something in running water. This is not a very good idea because you never know when your foot may be grabbed and you keep going... and that is a PROBLEM. i.e. broken leg, maybe even a bleeder. Now, you must get people to get YOU out of that situation. On a higher-volume situation like the Maurey or James or any other large-volume rapid situation for that matter, this is an absolute NO-NO! Feet up, release boat and stay upriver of it, never let go of paddle, and work to a pool or eddy. TTFN



FFV EVENTS

2015 Trip Schedule

See Web Page for details

- **Memorial Weekend:** 5/22/15 - 5/25/15 at Slate River Property
- **Kid Float:** 6/6/15 on the James
- **Dickel Summer Float:** TBA
- **Labor Day Weekend:** 9/4/15 - 9/7/15 at Solitude on the James
- **Veteran Heroes Float:** Prospective Date 9/18/15
- **Dickel Bash:** TBA
- **Winter Meeting:** 12/5/15 at Ruckers Run on the Tye River
- **Fruitcake Float:** 1/1/16 TBA

Many FFV'ers paddle year round. Please check out the Chapter Facebook pages for any upcoming trips. Most trips are planned only a few days in advance, with details posted on Facebook.

Search the following to find chapters on Facebook:

George Dickel Chapter: FFV George Dickel Chapter

Randy Carter Chapter: FFV Randy Carter Chapter

Roanoke Valley Chapter: Float Fishermen of Virginia - Roanoke Valley Chapter

Scotts Creek Chapter: Scotts Creek Chapter of Float Fishermen of VA

Directions to Slate River Property / Memorial Weekend

From Richmond:

Take Route 6 River Road West (from downtown that's 64 West to the Oilville exit South on 617 Oilville Road, right on 250 West Broad Street Road, Left on 632 Fairgrounds Road, right on Route 6, go West), follow to Fork Union, stay straight on Route 15 James Madison Hwy, cross the James, after roughly 1.5 mi. take a right on Route 652 and cross the Slate River. Driveway will be first left.

From Charlottesville:

Take Route 20 South through Scottsville and across the James River. Turn Left onto Route 652 (Bridgeport Road). Follow approximately 9 miles and turn right into field. If you cross the Slate river, you have gone a half mile too far.

From Lynchburg:

Take Route 60 East to Route 15 (James Madison Highway) North. Turn left on Route 652 (Bridgeport road) at Arvon. Route 652 and cross the Slate River. Driveway will be first left.

Google Directions / Address
10330 Bridgeport Road
Arvon, VA 23004



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
Membership Chair
794 Farrar Bridge Lane
Shipman, VA 22971