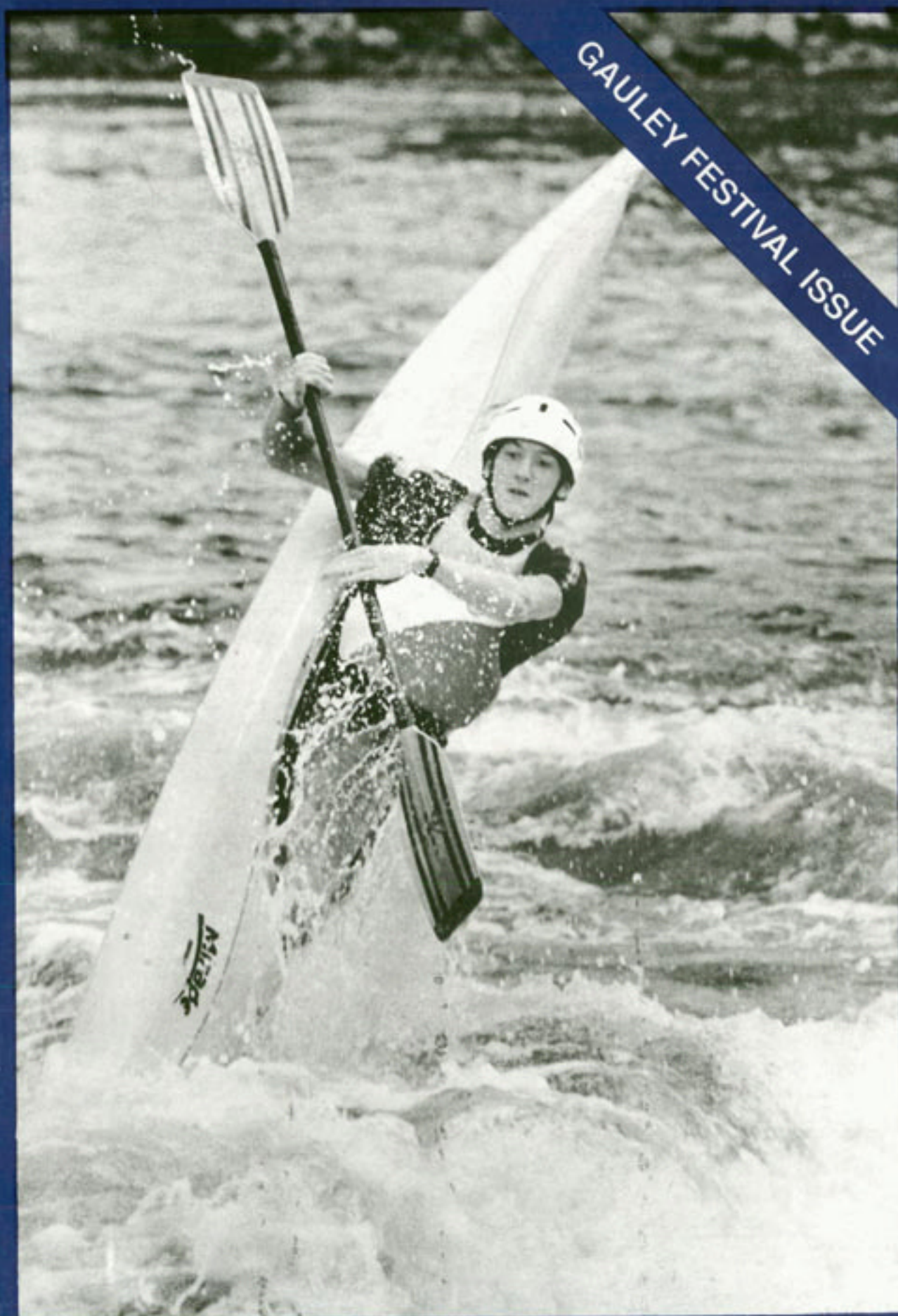


\$2.95
Newstand price

GAULEY FESTIVAL ISSUE

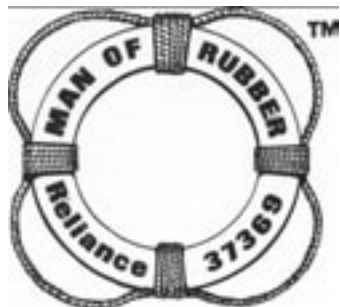


american whitewater

September October 1989

PROFESSIONAL DRY BAGS

BY



- * **INDUSTRIAL ziplock** type closure
- * **DURABLE Hypalon** coated nylon material
- * **QUICK** release buckles for easy entry
- * **STRONG 1"** nylon webbing

NEW DESIGN!



THE 1st MATE™

**EXCLUSIVE DUFFLE TYPE
DESIGN FEATURES FULL
LENGTH OPENING FOR
ULTIMATE ACCESS**

SIZES	
XS	6 X 12
S	7 1/2 X 15
M	9 1/2 X 20
L	12 X 26
XL	15 X 32

Standard Color - Yellow & Black
Medium and larger Bags Have Carry Handles

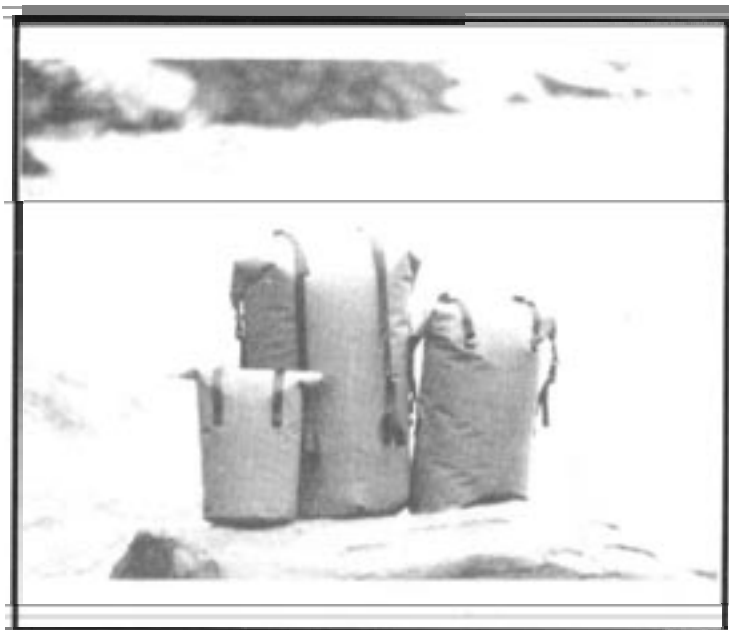
THE 2nd MATE™

**TRADITIONAL DESIGN FEATURES
A HEAVY DUTY BOTTOM**

SIZES	
S	9 1/2 X 16
M	14 X 24
L	17 X 30

Standard Color - Green & Black
Large Bags Have Portage Straps

Visit our booth at the Gauley Festival



CALL OR WRITE FOR A DEALER NEAREST YOU

615-338-2775

CRAFTED WITH PRIDE IN TENNESSEE. U.S.A.

September/October 1989
Volume XXXIV, No. 5

features

42 Gauley Season!

What with the increasing number of paddlers, hoards of rafters, a growing festival and new roads into the river, Gauley season is more of a carnival than a simple whitewater experience...but it's still the best show in town.

46 Whitewater Worlds

Stunning performances cap a superbly staged event on Maryland's Savage River.

By Mac Thornton

50 Tygart Tales

Face it...one stretch of whitewater looks pretty much like the next, even on a river with as much variety as West Virginia's Tygart. It's the people, tradition and history surrounding a river that make a river unique--and in that regard, the Tygart is a special place.

By Bob Gedekoh

departments

10 AWA Briefs

Noah International burned to ground...Product review of Perception's Corsica...AWA Directors meet

16 conservation Currents

Conservation hotspots for 1989...AWA strategy for upcoming year...Rep. Rahall comments on value of whitewater...Relicensing sites of hydro projects...Exemption bill for hydro plants dangerous to boaters...FERC throws obstacles before paddlers wishing to participate in relicensing

Safety Lines

32 Safety at the World Championships a result of years of planning

By Charlie Walbridge

37 Two more whitewater fatalities reported as 1989 proves a black year for paddlers

70 End Notes

Front cover: James Swedberg captures an ender by Lee Liebfarth on Canada's Ottawa River

Releases!

As I write this a steady late-July rain pounds down outside my window. Rain in July...amazing! Especially after the last two drought years.

Normally at this time of the year, I'm already sweating about water levels at West Virginia's Summersville Dam...will there be water for Gauley releases? And if there are no releases, what will happen to the AWA Gauley River Festival?

Sponsoring the festival is nerve-racking enough without facing the prospect of the Army Corps cancelling a release--as was the case in 1987.

But I'm happy and relieved to report that at this point, the forecast for water looks good. Unless there's a major catastrophe (like a Supernova of the sun evaporating the lake), we'll have releases as scheduled.

Which means this year, I'll be able to enjoy the river as well as the festival. See you there!



After nearly three years up at the American Whitewater editorial batter's box, a couple of pinch hitters have agreed to stand in and take a few swings for me.

Bob Gedekoh will assume responsibility for the November/December issue of American Whitewater while John Porterfield will oversee the January/February magazine.

Both men are well qualified. Bob has been a frequent contributor to American Whitewater and River Runner magazines while John is the co-author of a whitewater guidebook and a contributor to American Whitewater. But just as important--both are expert paddlers. We wouldn't want no wimpy boaters serving as editor of the world's best semi-professional whitewater magazine.

I'll still have my hand in production of the next two issues: I'll still layout the issues on my computer and oversee the printing. Maybe I'll even write something. But mostly I intend to hang out and recharge some batteries.

Serving as a one-man editorial staff is a rewarding and exhausting task, as I'm sure Bob and John will discover. I understand that some people actually do this as a full-time job, instead of an after-work hobby. It's easy to run low on enthusiasm after several years at the helm--but I hope to be back fresh and full of lies for the spring boating season.

American Whitewater Staff

Editor: Chris Koll, 7987 #5 Road W., Fabius, NY 13263
 Regional Edltors: Bob Gedekoh, John Porterfield, Forrest Callaway
 Membership Director: Marge Weaver, 146 N. Brockway, Palatine, IL 60067
 Advertising Director: Phyllis Horowitz W(914)679-2300 H(914)688-7401
 Conservation: Pope Barrow
 Safety: Charlie Walbridge
 Address Changes: Keith Morgan, 2601 Tanglewood Dr., Durham, NC 27705
 Missing Copies: Contact Peter Skinner, Box 272, W. Sand Lake, NY 12195
 American Whitewater is printed by the Hi-Neighbor, Cazenovia, NY. Laser printing by Syracuse Computer Store. All rights reserved.

RAMSEY OUTDOOR

Mad River Canoe

SAWYER aquaterra

- AVON
- SEA HYMPH
- OARS & PADDLES
- LIFE VESTS
- ATLANTIS
- PATAGONIA
- HENRILLOYD
- KOKATAT
- WATERPROOF STORAGE BAGS

FREE CATALOG
 CLOTHING-CAMPING-OUTDOOR
 926 Rt. 17 Paramus, NJ 07652
 SEND FOR CATALOG OR CALL (901) 261-5000

VISIT OUR 3 NJ STORES YOUR COMPLETE WATERSPORT SOURCE

Rt. 17, RAMSEY 9-9 AM, Mon-Thurs 327-8141
 Rt. 17, PARAMUS 9-9 AM, Mon-Thurs 261-5000
 Rt. 46, LIDGWOOD 9-9 AM, Mon-Thurs 584-7799

CANOES FOR VIRGINIA

- WHITEWATER
- RECREATION
- CRUISING
- SOLO SPORT
- SEA KAYAKS
- SQUIRT KAYAKS
- PLAY KAYAKS



Old Town • White • Mad River
 Dagger • Blue Hole • Curtis
 Mohawk • Sawyer • Perception
 Prijon • New Wave • Noah
 Aquaterra • Valley Canoe Products

*Call for a Price on a
 Kayak Shipped to You*

**BOB TAYLOR'S
 APPOMATTOX RIVER CO.,
 INC.**

610 N. Main St. Farmville, VA 23901
 804-392-6645

DRAGONFLY

"WHITEWATER SPORT KAYAK"

The DRAGONFLY is a stylish low profile white water play boat. The precise handling and control make it the choice of rodeo competitors, while the unparalleled stability, forgiving nature and large cockpit make the Dragonfly a **kayaking** school favorite. The crisp lines of the Dragonfly encourage sharp eddy turns, effortless **surfing** and contest winning enders.

The Dragonfly will handle 180 to 190 lbs. of boater with the same style and dexterity experienced by smaller **kayakers**. When control and performance count, the Dragonfly is your ticket to excitement!

Standard on the Dragonfly are laminated Hydrafoam pillars for greater compression resistance and patented **easy-lock Hydra** footbraces. A new rotomolded seat adds to the comfort of the roomy Dragonfly cockpit. **Mini-cell walls** are available as an option.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Design by Tom Derrer

Cockpit.....	2 by 16"	Length Overall.....	1 1'10"
Hull Weight.....	33 lbs.	*Waterline Length.....	10'
Volume.....	75 gallons	*Waterline Beam.....	23"
Colors.....	Red, Yellow, Blue, Orange and, Light Blue		

HYDRA TUF-LITE

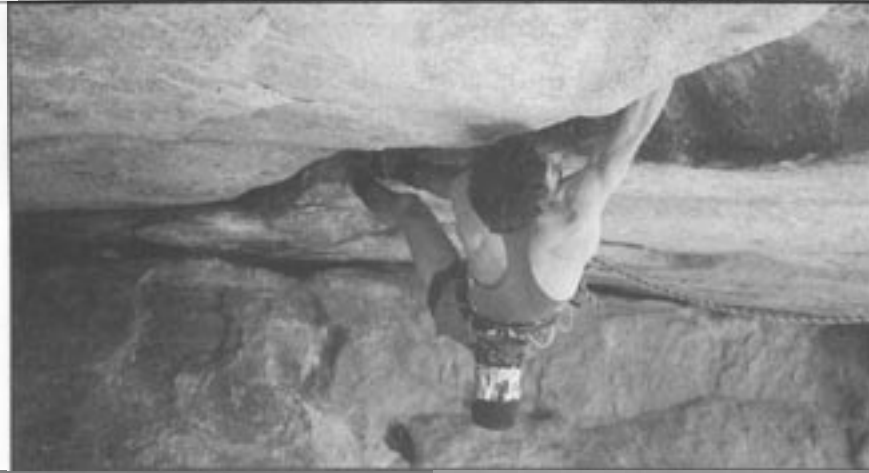
5061 South National Dr.

Fork's of the River Industrial Pk.

Knoxville, TN 37914

TOLL FREE (800) 537-8888 In TN (615) 522-9902

YOU GIVE IT 100%. WE GUARANTEE IT 100%.



When you push yourself to the limit, you need gear and clothing that are up to the challenge. At REI, our 100% guarantee ensures that every item you purchase at REI meets your high standards—or you can return it for a replacement or full refund. For over 50 years, REI has outfitted adventurers like you for the trails, slopes, rocks and water. As long as you're giving it your best, go with the **best—REI.**

Call or send for your free, full-color REI catalog packed with camping gear, hiking gear, tents, backpacks, clothing and accessories, plus REI membership information. Anyone can shop REI, but for the one-time \$10 fee, members receive a lifetime of benefits. In 1988, REI declared a 10.4% patronage dividend to REI members based on their regularly priced purchases.



FREE CATALOG
1-800-426-4840

Or write to: REI, DEPT. 5007,
P.O. Box 98127,
Seattle, WA 98138-0127
for your free REI catalog.



Quality Outdoor Gear and Clothing
Since 1938

Shop in stores in: Alaska: Anchorage • Arizona: Tempe • California: Berkeley, Carson, Citrus Heights, Cupertino, Orange, San Diego, San Dimas • Colorado: Denver • Massachusetts: Reading • Minnesota: Bloomington • New Mexico: Albuquerque • Oregon: Portland • Utah: Salt Lake City • Washington: Bellevue, Federal Way, Seattle, Spokane • Washington, D.C.-area: College Park, Maryland • Opening soon: New Rochelle, New York

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN WHITEWATER AFFILIATION?

The American Whitewater Affiliation (AWA) is a national organization with a membership of over 1300 whitewater boating enthusiasts and more than 50 local canoe club affiliates. The AWA was organized in 1961 to protect and enhance the recreational enjoyment of whitewater sports in America.

EDUCATION: Through publication of a bi-monthly journal, the AWA provides information and education about whitewater rivers, boating safety, technique, and equipment.

CONSERVATION: AWA maintains a national inventory of whitewater rivers, monitors potential threats to whitewater river resources through its "River Watch system, publishes information on river conservation, works with government agencies to protect and preserve free-flowing whitewater rivers, and provides technical advice to local groups regarding river management and river conservation. AWA also gives annual awards to individuals to recognize exceptional contributions to river conservation and an annual "hydromania" award to recognize the proposed hydroelectric power project which would be most destructive of whitewater.

EVENTS: AWA organizes sporting events, contests and festivals to raise funds for river conservation. Since 1986, AWA has been the principal sponsor of the annual Gauley River Festival in Summersville, West Virginia, the largest gathering of whitewater boaters in the nation, other than at international racing events.

SAFETY: AWA promotes paddling safety, publishes reports on whitewater accidents, and maintains both a uniform national ranking system for whitewater rivers (the International Scale of Whitewater Difficulty) and the internationally recognized AWA Safety Code.

ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSES: AWA was incorporated under Missouri non-profit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at 146 N. Brockway, Palatine Illinois, 60067. AWA has been granted tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service under section 401(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The charter includes the following purposes: encourage the exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of American recreational waterways or man-powered craft; protect the wilderness character of waterways through conservation of water, forests, parks, wildlife, and related resources; promote appreciation for the recreational value of wilderness cruising and of white-water sports.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: Except for membership services and the Executive Director position, all AWA operations, including publication of the bi-monthly magazine, are handled by volunteers.

AWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anita Adams

Route 2, Box 614
Princeton, WV 24740

Pope Barrow

136-13th Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Bob Gedekoh

Box 228, RD 4
Elizabeth, PA 15037

Dan Givens

Hanna-Wheeler & Associates
119 N. Second
Couer d'Alene, ID 83814

Bob Glanville

66 Deer Run
Glenwood, NY 14069

Diana Holder

Route 1 Box 90
Fairview Mt. Rd.
Reliance, TN 37369

Phyllis Horowitz

PO Box 329
Phoenicia, NY 12464

Sarah Lawrence

6660 Bacchi
Lotus, CA 95651

Tom McAndrew

5535 Ridge Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19128

John Porterfield

290 Prospect St.
Manchester, NH 03104

Pete Skinner

Box 272, Snyder Rd.
W. Sand Lake, NY 12195

Keith Thompson

1171 N. 10th St.
Laramie, WY 82070

Mac Thornton

322 10th St. S.E.
Washington, DC 20003

Executive Director

Risa Callaway

PO Box 375
Denver, NC 28037

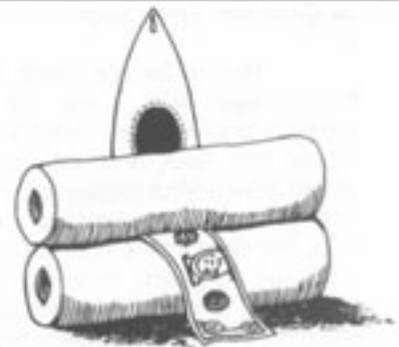
Treasurer

Claire Gesalman

6301 Hillcrest Place
Alexandria, VA 22312



Turn Your Old Boating Gear into \$!



The Whitewater Trader

A nationally distributed listing of classified ads for used whitewater equipment.

- Recreational Boaters •
- Commercial Outfitters •
- Buy, Sell or Trade •

For advertising and subscription information, contact:

THE WHITEWATER TRADER
Whitewater Service & Supply Co.
20 Wesser Creek Road
Bryson City, NC 28713
704-488-6525

letters to awa

Different brush

Dear Sir,

I read with interest Bruce Hare's letter about the problems he had paddling in Costa Rica with Rafael Gallo's company, Rios Tropicales. Rafael worked for me before starting his own company, and I know where Bruce Hare is coming from.

It is not fair, however, to tar all professional outfitters with the same brush. Costa Rica Expeditions did the original exploration of Costa Rica white-water in 1978, and we've been giving highly professional service to 1,000's of satisfied paddlers ever since.

Sincerely,
Michael S. Kaye, President
Costa Rica Expeditions

Knuckleheads II

To: Chris Koll, Editor AWA

Thanks for publishing AWA Knuckleheads letter. It was the only correct article AWA has printed regarding the Merrimack River race course project. This project destroyed the best sidesurfing play area in New Hampshire. Promises were made, none were kept, and objections from local paddlers were ignored. Now, our advice about restoring the area is being ignored. It is time for the responsible persons to remove the boulders placed and restore the area to its former condition and pray that the damage isn't irreversible. To the project leaders, the race course is all that matters. The political game being played out is to convince other boaters that they are trying to restore the area earnestly, while actually doing nothing worthwhile. The hope

is that people will soften and forget with time. Some of us will never forget.

Scott Nowak
Londonderry, NH

No knuckleheads

Dear Chris,

I do wish you had published a rebuttal alongside of Paul Janus' ridiculous and self-serving letter regarding the Merrimack River. Almost nothing in it was true and the "local boaters" he refers to are himself and a few others of a 165 member club plus all the rest of us.

Mark Citorowski has single-handedly turned Manchester into a safe and worthwhile site for boaters and had nothing to do with river bottom changes affecting the "hole" formed by the water main. Before he took out two truckloads of old iron, cable and rebar, I wouldn't let my sons use it. Janus implied some pristine setting, not an industrial mill site in a concrete setting!

Janus had done absolutely nothing positive for site--only use it--and apparently fears congestion. Not only that, "someone" continues to cut down the practice gates which Mark and others placed for use by all in gaining skill and control and which did not interfere with any of the normally used waves and eddies. Janus had previously agreed verbally to all changes done including all rock placement and leaving the "ugly concrete piers" (which, incidentally provide eddies that allow one to paddle back to the head of the rapid without getting out of one's boat).

These comments about the Merrimack site are completely irrational. Any ink you give him certainly does not serve the boating community.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Sindelar
Concord, NH

Editor's note: Since I have never boated the Merrimack, I have no official opinion regarding this apparent controversy. It is my policy to print every letter possible within space constraints. Publication does not indicate endorsement--I don't know who is right or wrong here.

However--it has come to my attention that individuals involved with restructuring the area have received unsigned obscene letters, apparently from paddlers objecting to the project. I'd reprint some of the letters, but the language offends even my stretched sense of propriety.

While I'm not taking sides in the issue, I'd welcome the opportunity to beat the snot out of the unsigned letter writer(s). Even though my brawling days are a few years in the past, I don't think I'd have any trouble punching out the little punk(s). Anyone who sends an unsigned obscene letter has got to be a gutless pussy.

Not slick

Dear Chris,

I already receive two slick, overdone journals (Outside and Canoe). Your articles appear to come from the real people I meet on the river. Don't change a thing. It's great!

Thanks,
Adam James

Editor's note: Gee, thanks Adam...I think. Actually, I try as hard as I can to succumbing to slickness. That's why I purposely leave a few typos and spelling errors in every issue. Believe me, it's not easy staying the best semi-professional whitewater magazine on the market.

Gallo responds

Dear Chris,

I would like to comment on Bruce Hare's letter concerning the book The Rivers of Costa Rica and my company, Rios Tropicales (American **White-water**, **May/June** 1989). It would appear that Mr. Hare's memory has failed him with regard to several aspects of his trips to Costa Rica, especially the episode at the Rio Sucio four years ago. In addition, I am surprised that a person who was provided with two complimentary trips to Costa Rica would express such venomous remarks in a public forum such as the AWA Journal.

The reason for the construction workers firing shots at the group, and the group later being pursued by the police, was due not to simple trespass around an official roadblock, but because Mr. Hare himself struck the guard. In defense of the level of services provided by the outfitter, it should be emphasized that this was not a standard commercial trip, but rather a bare-bones hair boaters' trip organized for the benefit of the participants. The commercial trips run by my company and by Costa Rica Expeditions are thoroughly professional, comparing favorably with any U.S. operation in quality of equipment, safety, food, and accommodations. Mr. Hare specifically criticized the quality of the boats used. Perhaps he should recall that he brought new Perception Dancers from the States with him.

A guided kayak or raft trip in Costa Rica through the services of Rios Tropicales or Costa Rica Expeditions (the competing operation, which is also listed in our guidebook) can be a great experience with few hassles. That is why the foremost outfitters in the U.S. and Canada use the services of the licensed commercial operators in Costa Rica. I don't believe that Sobek, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Arizona Raft Adventures, Mountain Travel, Journeys, Baja Expeditions, Madawaska Kanu Camp, and many others would chance

wining their reputations by offering tours through a company that offered anything less than superb service. These companies have been operating tours in Costa Rica for five years with considerable success, many return customers, and strong bookings for future trips.

While it is illegal to operate commercial trips in Costa Rica without a license, it is certainly possible for private boaters to visit Costa Rica for self-supported tours. In fact, I believe that the guidebook will make such trips much easier to accomplish by providing accurate information about put-ins and take-outs, gradients, degree of difficulty of the various segments of rivers, and general information about travel in Costa Rica.

Foreigners will find Costa Rica to be a country that is not only beautiful and blessed with an incredible abundance and variety of whitewater, but one whose people are warm and friendly to all visitors. As a country that has earned an international reputation for its devotion to peace and without a standing army, Costa Rica is a warm, friendly nation, but acts of violence such as those perpetrated by Mr. Hare are not welcomed.

Sincerely,
Rafael Gallo
Pavas, Costa Rica

No affiliation

Re: **May/June** American Whitewater letters

I agree that AWA should drop "Affiliation." Please pass the info on.

Phil Montgomery

WE DIDN'T SET OUT TO create the ultimate kayak school. It just happened. Originally our intent was to create the ultimate wilderness lodge. Kayaking was something we did just for fun. So much fun, in fact, we now offer the best instructional program available. Everything is first class.

Our physical plant consists of 40 acres completely surrounded by wilderness. Private ponds for instruction, private beaches and 1/4 of a mile of private river front on the emerald green California Salmon River are all located on the property.

Our instructors are well-known experts, our equipment (the best exclusively by Perception) and our lodge boasts numerous amenities including a spa, hot tub and Sauna and private decks in each room. Our teaching technique stresses safety, the proper stroke and an easy-to-learn formula.

We are dedicated to making this one of the great vacation experiences in your Color brochure available. Personal classes Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced



OTTER BAR LODGE
KAYAK SCHOOL

FORKS OF SALMON, CALIFORNIA 96031
(916) 462-4772

WATAUGA Laminates

JOIN THE SQUIRT BOAT REVOLUTION

■ We specialize in squirt boat construction. Each squirt boat is custom-built for the individual's size and weight. Wild and crazy graphics are available at no extra charge. Boats come complete with mini-cell walls and inside and outside seams.

■ Among the designs available are the Extra Jet, Prodigy, Jet, Surge and Rage.

■ Vacuum Bagged Epoxy/Kevlar Squirt Boats \$700.00.

■ Factory direct sales available if we don't have a dealer in your area.

■ Quick delivery

■ Call or write for a free brochure.

Dealer **Inquiries Invited**

WATAUGA LAMINATES

Rt. 4, Box 74

Banner Elk, NC 28604

704/963-4093

Boats. molds destroyed

Fire wipes out Noah kayaks

Vladimir Vahna, the Czechoslovakian emigre who founded Noah International and molded the company into the country's second-largest producer of kayaks, literally watched his dreams of carving a niche in the white-water market go up in smoke.

A swift fire, fueled by 600 plastic kayaks waiting to be shipped and flammable chemicals, leveled Noah's headquarters near Bryson City, NC in late July.

Destroyed in the fire were:

- 650 boat shells
- seats and bracing for 300 finished boats
- all old glass boat molds used in designing process
- current boat, seat and knee brace molds
- design work for a new boat scheduled for introduction in September
- computer and other office equipment and supplies

The total loss was estimated to be \$500,000. Unfortunately, Vahna's facilities were uninsured.

Ironically, prior to the disaster, Noah's business had never been better as the company projected a profit as of August. Now Vahna will probably need to declare bankruptcy.

Vahna speculated that the fire originated after his brother had been working on a glass boat for his son and let a jar with some catalyst remaining. Apparently, the jar was near remnants of a small cobalt spill from two years ago when Vladimir noticed the jar smoldering.

Since the fire had been by just a few days before, Vladimir was a little paranoid about a potential fire. There was flammable material around, but more significantly, a 500 gallon tank of propane.

It was nearly lunch time, so before everyone left, Vladimir put the



Stored outside his facility near Bryson City, NC, a veritable garden of Noah kayaks awaited shipment prior to the July blaze that leveled the facility. Fueled by flammable materials and a 500 gallon propane tank, the fire resulted in an explosion that hurled debris a half mile away and left hardly a pool of plastic in the former kayak garden.

jar in the middle of the concrete floor and instructed the last person out to check the jar before leaving. He also made sure he knew the location of the fire extinguisher.

Thirty minutes after leaving for lunch, the building for engulfed in flames. The propane tank exploded, sending shards of metal and pieces of the building as far as half a mile away. Flames were shooting higher than the surrounding trees, witnesses reported.

Because of the flammable materials, firefighters refrained from using water to subdue the blaze. Because of the toxic smoke produced by the blaze, seventeen local residents were temporarily evacuated. However, fortunately no injuries were reported and no significant damage was reported to surrounding property.

Vahna seems fatalistic about the event—even to the point of participating in a little black humor.

With curious passersby crowding up to roped-off area to view the damage, Vahna painted "Short look-- \$1.00" on a barrel supporting the barricades across the driveway.

And Vahna also supplied a jar of charred remains to the NOC store labeled "Instant Aeroquatics: Just add water...\$9.95"

Vahna is uncertain of future plans, contemplating working as a boat designer, teaching, or perhaps returning to Czechoslovakia.

But nevertheless, the kayak world has just lost one of its major suppliers of quality equipment and contributors to river conservation.

Product test**Corsica
rates
favorable
reviews****By Tom McAndrew**

"...Too round and big! You'll never enter that thing."

"...Only new paddlers will like that boat."

These were the initial reactions by my friends when they saw the Corsica. Were they surprised to see a 200 pound, experienced paddler virtually out of the water after entering in Perception's new design.

After a few hours in the Corsica, large-framed paddlers reviewing the boat acted as if they had found a plastic Shangrila. Each of them listed comfort as the boat's most important feature. One added that the thigh braces were the first that enabled him to really utilize his legs for boat control. Indeed, after reviewing the boat, he purchased one.

Smaller paddlers also liked the comfort, but felt the boat was too big to use on many rivers. They indicated an interest in an "XS" (smaller version), and Perception is considering developing such a boat.

The Corsica is 10'9 1/2" long and weighs 39 pounds. It features a substantial bow rocker and a well-rounded bow point. The cockpit is spacious and a large-cockpit sprayskirt is needed. The boat is 25 1/2" wide and exhibits a moderate chine.

This review reflects opinions from a diverse team of reviewers who ranged in height from 5'2" to 6'4" and in weight from 125 to 220 pounds.



Perception's new design--the Corsica--looks like a winner as a creek boat or simply a comfortable kayak for large paddlers.

The boat's short length and upturned bow enables one to easily surf short, steep waves. It rarely dives and when it does, you can lean way back on the stern deck, which is significantly lower than the bow deck. This feature may also be the reason that our 200-pound reviewer got back ends more easily than front ends!

In most holes the Corsica performed quite well. Since there are no hard edges to be caught by the water, the boat was quite stable in bigger holes. The short length combined with the raised bow enabled one to spin effortlessly at the edge of holes. The only problems were encountered in small, shallow, ledge holes where the boat's width caused it to bounce out.

The boat's ability to turn on its center point was an asset on steep creeks as well as in holes, allowing paddlers to spin around in short, narrow eddies. (Appropriately, the boat's name comes from an island boasting some of the best steep creeks in the world.) Even the heaviest paddlers found that the boat barely submerged after going over a ledge or a falls, and smaller paddlers felt very well protected. The rounded edges and high volume made

it seem impossible to vertically pin on most drops and the boat cruised easily down some quite technical streams.

While good for steep creekers and large-framed boaters, the Corsica is also viable for another class of boaters: those that no longer can get out very often because of other commitments. This group wants to run the tough rivers they used to, and get a high level of performance from their boat, but they are not in the condition they once were. With the Corsica they can paddle these rivers without spending the whole day upside-down in a low-volume, hard-railed boat.

Most of the reviewers felt the boat was slow, which the design suggests. However, as if to compensate, the boat tracks quite well, which was a surprise. It also held a good line while ferrying, though in big water it did get pushed sideways.

The grab loops are ergonomically designed for wrist comfort when portaging. This is interesting, but we wished they were larger to better facilitate bow and stern lines while "car-top portaging". Both ends feature two depressions so that you can retrofit a second grab loop if you so desire.

briefs

There is a recessed groove that extends for most of the length of the boat along each side. This protects the seat adjustment screws and provides additional strength and rigidity to the plastic. A few reviewers wished that Perception would round off the small edges of these grooves. Whenever the paddle was caught by the water, while surfing or hole playing, the paddler's thumb would get scraped by the groove's edges.

Perception's brochure for the Corsica mentions an optional "Biner-

Basket", which is an "in-deck mounted carabiner/safety rope assembly." This may be a great safety feature. Unfortunately, this option is not currently available, as they are still evaluating products to be used in this feature.

Some frustration was reported concerning efforts to empty water from the boat. Tilting the boat up-and-down left quite a bit of water inside. Perhaps something can be modified to improve this situation.

Overall, the Corsica is a good, very comfortable boat that satisfies the

needs of several types of paddlers. Beginners, steep creekers and occasional paddlers will love its versatility. Large paddlers will be ecstatic with its comfort. Small, experienced paddlers and squirters will like it on creeks, but may find it clumsy and somewhat awkward at other times. Perception should be commended for creating a boat with such a wide range of uses.

(Primary contributors to this review were Forrest Calloway and Rich Widman)

Directors meet, review policies

With members of American Whitewater Board of Directors geographically spread across the entire country, it's not surprising that the entire Board has never attempted to sit down in one place together.

But with the attraction of the World Whitewater Championships on the Savage River combined with the excellent natural-flow levels on the nearby Top and Upper Yough, a majority of the directors gathered their initial national meeting at Swallow Falls State Park in western Maryland.

The Directors addressed key issues facing American Whitewater: developing a plan for organizational growth; increasing membership; production of the journal; and formulating plans for priority conservation and fund-raising projects.

The Board approved a proposal by Mac Thornton to develop a network of regional American Whitewater representatives around the country. The duties of a regional rep would be alerting the organization of new or ongoing threats to local rivers, keeping local constituents apprised of American Whitewater activities, and soliciting articles and information to the journal.

Also on an organizational level, elections were held for several constitutional positions. Diana Holder of Tennessee was elected president; Sarah Lawrence of California was elected as secretary while Pope Barrow of Wash-

ington, D.C. was named conservation chairman.

In an effort to boost membership, approval was given to develop an American Whitewater video explaining the organization's activities. Also, pro-

grams to regain members who failed to renew were discussed.

As a method of redistributing responsibility for production of the journal, Bob Gedekoh and John Porterfield were named as co-editors.



We know you're tired of being wet and cold. That's why we made a one piece dry suit a two piece dry suit and a dry paddling jacket just for you! The material we use in all our quality dry paddling outfits is Navylon and all our seams are high frequency welded and have a lifetime guarantee. The soft, stretchy neck and wrist seals are comfortable, adjustable and replaceable, and designed to seal in the warmth and seal out the wet and cold. So paddle **BERMUDES** and keep the water **the river** — where it belongs!

Call or write today for a free 12 page color catalog and the name of your nearest BERMUDES dealer.

Bermudes, USA Inc. • 51 Milina Drive • Easthampton, NY 11937 • 516-324-8585

**NEW!
WAVE
KAYAK PRODUCTS**

A SPONSOR OF THE 1989 GAULEY FESTIVAL

**THE SOURCE FOR CUSTOM
BUILT BOATS**

Stop by and visit our booth at the Festival to see and discuss the many varieties of Squirt and River Running boats that we have available. We will be displaying designs by : Jim Snyder, Jess Whittmore, John Lawson, and John Schreiner.

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED:

NEW WAVE KAYAK PRODUCTS

2535 Roundtop Road

Middletown Pa. 17057

(717) 944 - 6320

Call or Write For FREE Brochure

Visit our booth at the Gauley festival

National newsletter features club info

Confluence, a quarterly newsletter featuring selected articles reprinted from the newsletters of over 100 local paddling clubs, is now being compiled by former AWA Board of Director Marge Cline.

As long-time editor of The Gradient, newsletter of the Chicago Whitewater Association, Cline has been involved newsletter exchanges with clubs across the country. While much of what appears in club newsletters is relevant to members only, the publications often contain articles of interests to the white-water community as a whole.

It is the intent of Confluence to track down those entertaining or informative articles to produce a grassroots paddling publication. No editing is done to articles used and an inexpensive cut and paste operation is used for layout and reproduction.

In addition to reprinted articles, the newsletter will include a feature a profile of a different paddling club with each issue. An inexpensive classified section for selling, trading or exchanging

equipment will also be offered.

A year subscription (four issues) is available for \$12 from Marge Cline, 1343 North Portage, Palatine, IL 60067. Issues will be mailed first-class.

Nominations for Directors, regional staff volunteers now being solicited

With annual elections for American Whitewater Board of Directors scheduled for the next issue of the Journal, executive director Risa Calloway is accepting nominations and recommendations of potential candidates.

The roles of responsibilities of a AWA Director have increased during the past five years, and candidates

must be willing to take an active part in AWA activities

In addition, the AWA is looking for regional conservation directors. Interested parties should contact Pope Barrow at the address included in the masthead.

CAMP MOR
WATER SPORTS HEADQUARTERS

OVER 50 CANOES AND KAYAKS ON DISPLAY

perception
aquaterra

WILDERNESS SYSTEMS

SEDA

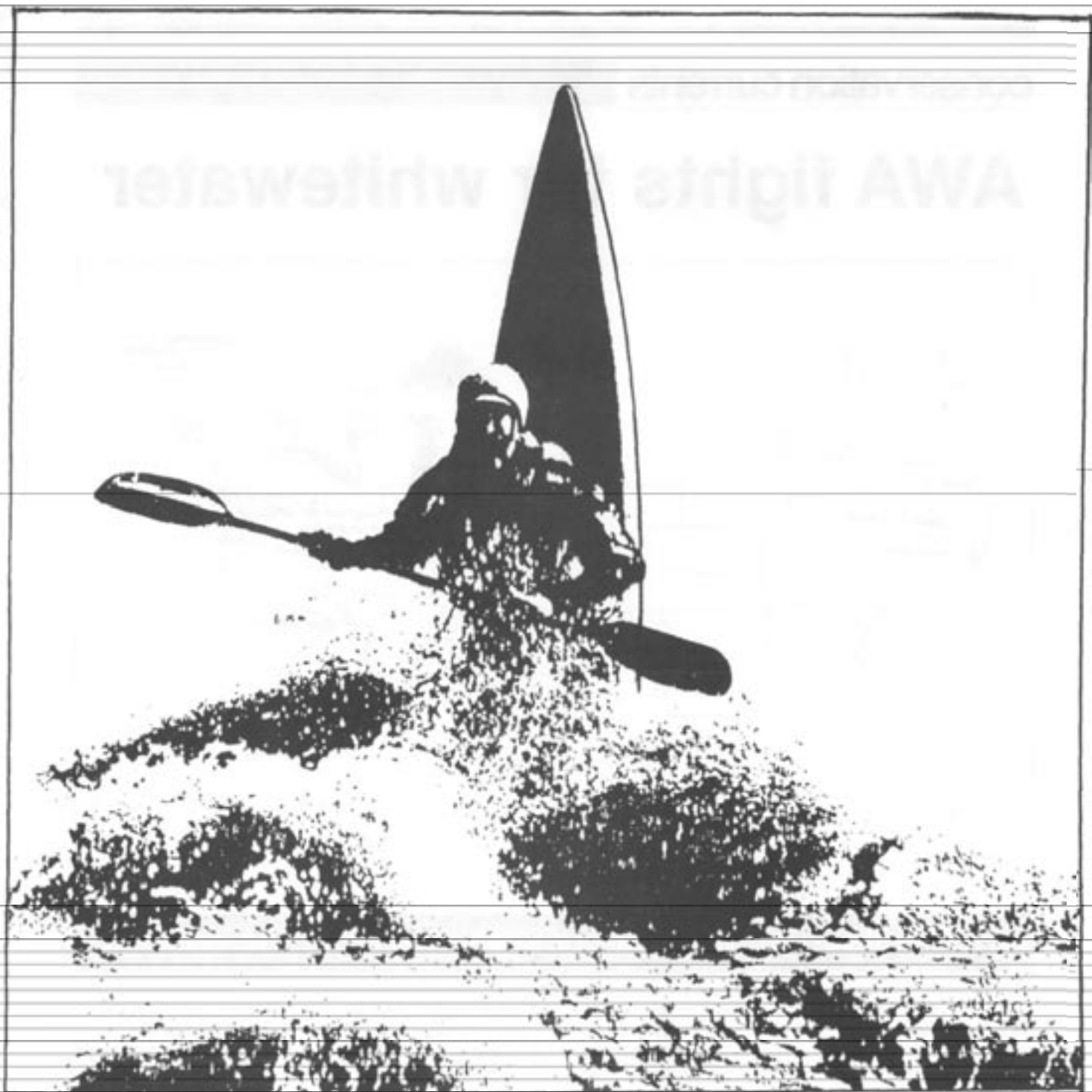
SPRAY SKIRTS
DRY BAGS
INFLATABLES
WET SUITS

Old Town

Coleman

WRITE OR PHONE FOR OUR **FREE DISCOUNT** CAMPING AND CLOTHING CATALOG

810-AWJ RT 17-N
PARAMUS, NJ 07653
PHONE (201) 445-5000



INFINITY

**INFINITY KAYAKS INC. • McCALL IDAHO
CALL FOR DEALER NEAREST YOU
(208) 634-7444**

AWA fights for whitewater



AWA conservation projects spread across the country

The American Whitewater Affiliation is fighting to preserve endangered whitewater across the nation. Here's a quick rundown of the whitewater hot spots of 1989:

North Fork of Payette (ID)

The AWA Hydromania Award this year went to the project proposed to be built by the GEM Irrigation district on the North Fork of the Payette in Idaho, one of the nations most treasured

whitewater rivers. The extremely dangerous and harmful project is backed financially by Idaho potato magnate J.R. Simplot, reportedly one of the richest men in the world. Details are in the Jan/Feb '89 issue of American Whitewater.

Klamath (OR)

Last year, AWA's Hydromania Award (given to the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon) spotlighted an outrageous project on Oregon's

Klamath River. Unfortunately, the city's Salt Caves proposal is still alive and kicking despite the bad publicity and the efforts of local river conservation groups to administer the coup de grace. The dam may be turned into a tunnel, but either way, a fabulous whitewater river would be desecrated.

Savage (MD)

A hydro proposal on the Savage River was still alive, but just barely, as of

this writing. Although the Savage has now attained astounding prominence and importance as the site of 1989 Whitewater World Championships, State officials have not yet agreed to set the river aside as protected from hydroelectric power projects. AWA, in cooperation with ACA and the Savage River Defense Fund, continues to work for permanent protection for the Savage.

Mongaup (NY)

Together with the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York, AWA filed formal legal papers in the case on New York's Mongaup River involving the so called Rio Project owned by Orange and Rockland Utilities and located 3 miles above the confluence with the Delaware River. AWA and the KCCNY demanded that the utility cease barring public access to the lower Mongaup. (If access were available, the lower Mongaup could offer excellent whitewater boating when the plant is generating with either or both turbines.)

James (VA)

Listed by American Rivers as one of American's 10 most endangered rivers, the whitewater section of the James through downtown Richmond is the victim of a virtual deluge of hydroelectric projects. AWA has protested 3 new proposed projects so far. The **Synergics** proposal to reopen the now-defunct 12th St plant would affect Pipeline Rapid and the City of Richmond proposal upstream at Hollywood Belle Isle would affect the popular Hollywood Rapid. AWA volunteer attorney Paul Flynn, with help from American Rivers and the Coastal Canoeists, has taken the lead in fighting these projects. Details are in the **Jan/Feb '89** issue of American Whitewater.

Chattooga (GA)

Rabun County Georgia has been considering a site near the Chattooga River for a new airport. AWA has joined with numerous other national and local organiza-

tions to pressure the country to take the Chattooga site out from consideration because of the effects of aircraft in the river corridor. Opposition has been intense and it now appears that the county will select another site in order to maintain the pristine quality of the Chattooga River. Details are in the **Jan/Feb '89** issue of American **Whitewater**.

More Wild and Scenic for West Virginia (WVa)

AWA Vice President Mac Thomson has been spearheading a project to have the National Forest Service study a number of tributaries of the Cheat, Gauley, and Potomac rivers in West Virginia for possible Federal Wild and Scenic designation. The rivers on the list include some whitewater favorites, such as the Blackwater, the Cranberry, and the Shaver's Fork. Over 20 other groups delivered a quality color-illustrated packet explaining the importance of these rivers to Dale Robertson, Chief of the Forest Service.

Upper Yough (MD)

The Deep Creek Lake Project, which provides whitewater releases all summer long for the Upper Yough is now up for relicensing. AWA has been in communication with the Pennsylvania Electric Company and with State and Federal officials to try to improve whitewater flows on this immensely popular stream. Meanwhile, AWA has been attempting to insure that the new State management plan for the Upper Yough does not result in unsafe and overcrowded condi-

tions. The river can be dangerous, especially when overcrowded. (One person died earlier this year at Lost and Found Rapid.) Details are in the **Jan/Feb '89** issue of American Whitewater.

Gauley (WVa)

The bill enacted last year including the Gauley River in America's newest National Recreation Area was too late to protect the Gauley River corridor from rampant bulldozing by commercial outfitters. USA Whitewater quietly constructed two new roads into the river corridor near Sweets Falls...just as the bill was nearing enactment. Now AWA is trying to get Congress to provide funds to the Park Service to undo the damage. Meanwhile, two proposed hydroelectric projects are still under consideration for construction at the base of **Summersville Dam**. These projects were exempted from the new law. (See the article in this issue by West Virginia Congressman Nick Rahall)

Lower Youghiogheny (PA)

Crowding problems persist on the Lower Youghiogheny in Western Pennsylvania. AWA has been supporting Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Club plan to have the Park administration adopt an interpretation of its regulations which would allow private river use during off-peak periods. So far we have been unable to obtain a positive response. Details are in the **March/April '89** issue of American **Whitewater**.

Ontonagon (MI)

AWA and American Riv-

ers filed a formal legal opposition to the Upper Peninsula Power Company's proposal to relicense the Bond Falls Project on the Ontonagon River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The two groups demanded that the power company's new license comply with a 1986 Federal law mandating that whitewater recreation and fishing be equal consideration with power production when a new license is issued for an existing project. Details are in the **Jan/Feb '89** issue of American Whitewater.

Arkansas (CO)

AWA has injected itself into the acrimonious controversy involving the Arkansas River in Colorado between Granite and Canyon City where various groups are debating the merits and demerits of turning control over the river over to the Colorado Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for intensive tourist-oriented management. (The river is now managed in part by the Federal Bureau of Land Management and in part not managed at all.) AWA has asked that whoever wins this fight should have an affirmative responsibility to protect the river from water projects and other forms of river abuse.

Almost all concerned groups are opposed to over-regulation of the river by the State Parks agency.

Niagara Gorge (NY)

In terms of State over-regulation, the situation at the Niagara Gorge takes it to the extreme. Despite fierce opposition (led by AWA director and attorney Bob Glanville) New York

conservation

State Department of Parks and Recreation has closed Niagara Gorge to whitewater boating. AWA sued the State agency, lost the suit, appealed, lost the appeal, and is now working to get the decision over turned in the NY State Assembly. The early skirmishes in this battle are described in the Sep/Oct '88 issue of American Whitewater.

North Fork of the Yuba (CA)

In response to appeals for help from local California groups AWA has filed motions at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission protesting a new hydroelectric project proposed by Sierra County for the North Fork of the Yuba. The project would be just upstream of the put-in Upper Run on the North Fork (13 miles of class IV-V water from Sierra City to Downieville).

Mokelumne (CA)

Together with several other groups (led by Friends of the River) AWA has protested the proposal by Amador County California to build the Devils

Nose/Cross County project on the North Fork and main stem of the Mokelumne River. AWA was formally allowed in to the case in May of this year to advocate protection of the Mokelumne's fabulous whitewater resources.

Black (NY)

Although the major battle for the Black River below Watertown seems to have been won, at least for the moment, AWA continues to work with the Glen Park company to implement the historic AWA-Glen Park agreement which provides whitewater flows. Meanwhile AWA is pressing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to reconsider Long Lake Energy's proposed Felts Mills project upstream. If built, the project would be the largest new hydro facility in New York State, and possibly the largest new project in the northeast.

Raquette (NY)

AWA is pressing State Department

of Environmental Conservation to stop the Adirondak Hydro's Sissonville Project and examining the relicensing of several Niagara Mohawk projects.

Beaver (NY), Dead (ME), West Branch of Penobscot (ME), Kennebec (ME), Deerfield (MA)

AWA expects the Beaver, Dead, West Branch of Penobscot, Kennebec, and Deerfield rivers (together with the Upper Youghiohgeny in Maryland, and the Ontonagon in Michigan, both described above) to be among the most critical whitewater rivers involved in relicensing. AWA has appealed the new FERC regulations on relicensing to make the job of handling these cases easier.

Smith (CA)

AWA is backing the proposal by California Congressman Tom Lantos to designate several sections of the Smith River as components of the Federal wild and scenic rivers system.



Kayaking

— Exhilaration on Whitewater —

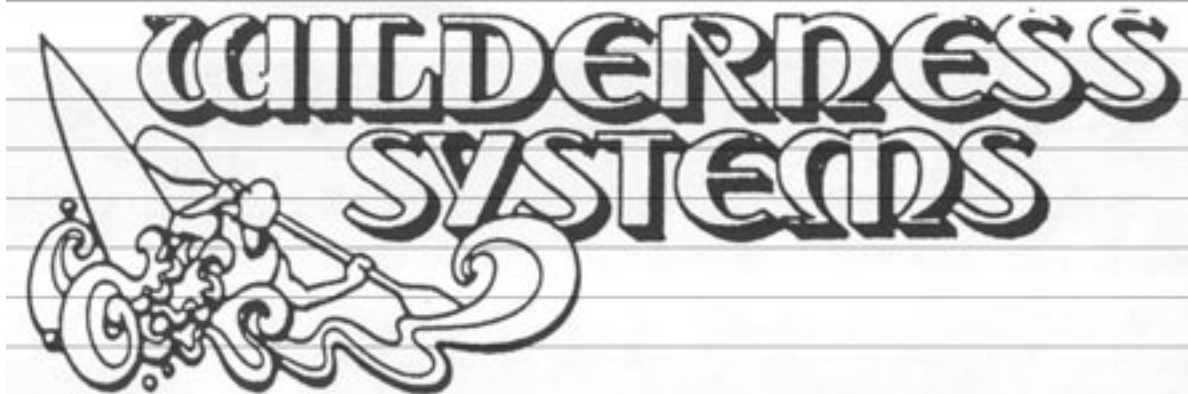
YOU'LL learn the basics in our beginner, clinics or fine tune your skills in our intermediate clinics. All clinics are taught by ACA certified instructors. One or two day clinics with classroom sessions, video tapes, and on river instruction.

We also offer canoe clinics for the canoeing enthusiast!
CALL US TODAY!
(717) 443-9532

CLINIC INFO
Send to: Whitewater Challengers
P.O. Box 8
White Haven, PA 18661

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone _____

Visit our booth
at the Gauley Festival



QUALITY OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

**SQUIRT BOATS, SEA KAYAKS,
EXPEDITION K-1 & C-1's**

All boats vacuum bagged with the best materials available. Dealers call 919-883-7410 — We deliver.

**1310 Starr Dr., High Point, NC 27260.
Designs by Wilderness Systems, Jess Whittamore, Wick Walker, Tom McEwan, and John Abbenhouse.**

The '89 **LAZER**



NEW FOR YOU IN '89

- Now molded in Colorado with crosslinked high density polyethylene for greater strength & durability.
- New lower adjustable seat for comfort & stability.
- New lower cockpit rim for increased flexibility.
- New knee & thigh brace for better fit & grip.
- New Velcro™ adjustable padded backstrap.

WAVE Sports, Inc.

P.O. Box 5207
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
(303)879-4371

Write or call for your nearest dealer

Conservation stragedy for 1989

By Pope Barrow, Mac Thornton, and Pete Skinner

American Whitewater is continuing its struggle to protect whitewater rivers throughout the country. With last year's exciting victory in the battle over the West Virginia Rivers bill now fading into history, we are moving on to a smorgasborg of promising new conservation projects.

The job ahead is formidable. The vast majority of whitewater rivers in the United States are exposed to potential river abuse in all its ugly forms; and several of the best whitewater runs in the nation

(the North Fork of the Payette in Idaho and the Klamath in Oregon) are in immediate danger of complete extinction. Still, we have high expectations. Appreciation for whitewater is growing by leaps and bounds throughout the country with new whitewater boaters added to our ranks almost daily. Even Vice President Quayle became a whitewater afficianado after enjoying an early summer raft trip down the New River Gorge. President Bush may be next!

AWA Has A Special Interest

A recent study has identi-

fied over 1,000 organizations and groups throughout the nation now active in river conservation. Strange as it may seem, however, few of these organizations focus on whitewater. In fact, some avoid a purely whitewater orientation so as not to appear to be catering to narrow special interest. This is more or less predictable. After all, whitewater is a real rarity. Only 1% of America's total river mileage consists of class II or better whitewater. But that 1% of is AWA's special interest, and that 1% is where AWA puts its energies and effort. True, we have a narrow

focus, but we figure that at least 999 other organizations are available to handle flatwater issues.

Help from Some Key Allies

Although AWA is a national advocate exclusively for whitewater conservation, the job can't be done in isolation. AWA plugs away persistently to alert and sensitize other organizations to the plight of whitewater rivers. American Rivers, Inc., New York Audubon, and the Eastern Professional River Outfitters (EPRO) deserve special mention for their response to our pleas for help. The formidable legal skills of American River's



STAY WARM

Our **Farmer Bill's** are the best value farmer-style wetsuit on the market today. These suits are 1st quality, all seams are lock stitched with tape edge trim, and feature a snap and velcro shoulder entry entry on both shoulders to make the suit easy to get in and out of. YKK ankle zippers for easy entry. Unisex sizing. \$75.00

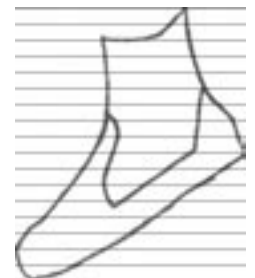
The **NRS Felt-Sole Wet Shoe** is best for traction on slippery river bottoms. We've improved it with an instep strap fastened with Velcro for a more secure fit. Outside zipper and 5mm thick Nylon-2 neoprene material, with vulcanized reinforcements toe and heel, make it comfortable and functional. \$41.50

Call us for full details and receive our full color holiday and spring catalogs.



Northwest River Supplies

CALL
1-800-635-5202



attorney, John Echeverria and lobbyist Kevin Coyle have given whitewater appreciators a big boost. Three cheers for them ! We hope to see more of the same...much more. NY Audubon, a major force in the relicensing battle, is also working on projects upstream of whitewater sites. On some key issues (such as last year's battle over the Gauley, Meadow, and Bluestone) EPRO, led by David Brown, has flexed some truly awesome political muscle.

With help from these allies and with funds from the Gauley Festival, with grants from far-signed businesses like Patagonia and R.E.I., with gifts from individual benefactors, and with membership dues, AWA is

waging war for whitewater from all possible angles.

The Top of Our Agenda: Star Wars

At the top of **AWA's** agenda is developing new techniques to get permanent recognition and protection for whitewater rivers. This scheme is the whitewater counterpart of the Strategic Defense Initiative (a.k.a "Star Wars"). The project is not limited to rivers qualified for inclusion in the Federal wild and scenic rivers system; it would cover all whitewater rivers with class II or better whitewater, even those which have little or no chance of ever being included in the wild and scenic system.

The US is now enjoying a temporary pause in the hy-

dromania boom which has plagued whitewater streams for the past 10 years. Current low oil prices are hurting hydro-power economics. The result is fewer new hydro-electric proposals. When oil prices climb again, our rivers will be facing an onslaught of new threats. AWA political strategists strongly believe that **now--** with the pressure for new dams easing off-- is the time to get the ball rolling. We need new river protection techniques which will work for all whitewater rivers.

Our starting point is the Nationwide Whitewater Inventory, a massive database documenting each whitewater river segment in America. AWA published

the first edition in early 1989 with funding from R.E.I. and help from hundreds of volunteers. The data is constantly being refined by whitewater experts across the country. Soon river maps will be added to the database. AWA uses the inventory to establish conservation priorities on a State and Federal basis. The inventory has been sent to State and Federal agencies to help them identify valuable whitewater resources. Ultimately we hope to have a National Register of Significant Whitewater Rivers established under Federal law, together with legal requirements protecting all important whitewater areas from unwise and unnecessary abuse. (The

NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER

US 19W Box 41, Bryson City, NC 28713
(704)488-2175

"The juilliard of whitewater." -Outside Magazine
The ultimate whitewater vacation is the proper balance of a great time and a good investment. In addition to sheer fun and learning excitement, here is what you will find at NOC:

- A professional staff of diverse talent and skill with experience gained on rivers throughout the U.S. and around the world.

- State-of-the-art canoeing and kayaking techniques.

- The latest in teaching tools, from videotaping to visualization.

- Old-fashioned personalized attention.

- A full schedule of courses March through October, including special classes for kids, women, and the handicapped.

- River Rescue and ACA Instructor Certification workshops.

- Custom programming for groups.

- A great vacation at a fair price.

Ask for our free, full color catalog.

Gravity Sports Films, Inc.

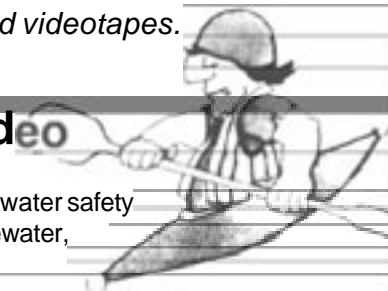
American Distributor of the best International
adventure films and videotapes.

New Release!!!

River Rescue: the video

by Les Bechdal & Anne R. Ford

The ultimate instructional video for whitewater safety has arrived! If you're serious about whitewater, this video is a must!



We have over 70 titles in our library in whitewater, skiing, climbing, mountainbiking and boardsailing.

Check your local outdoor retailer for our library

OR

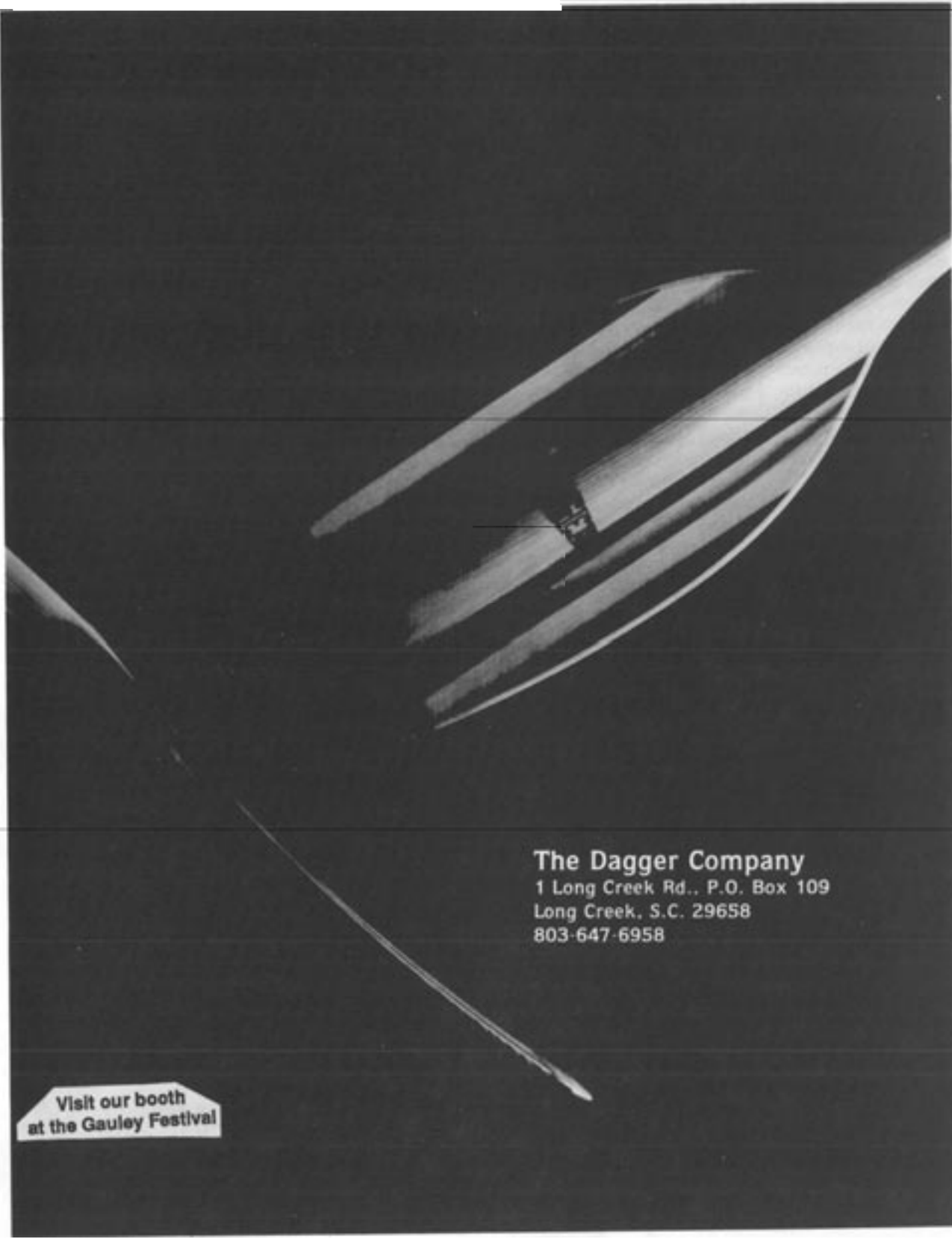
call or write for our FREE catalog



(800)346-4884

100 Broadway Jersey City, NJ 07306

Dealer Inquiries Welcome!



The Dagger Company

1 Long Creek Rd., P.O. Box 109
Long Creek, S.C. 29658
803-647-6958

Visit our booth
at the Gauley Festival

conservation

register proposal is explained in detail in the Jan/Feb '89 issue of American Whitewater.)

Relicensing Opportunities

Next on the AWA agenda is our effort to obtain whitewater flows and access for boating at old hydroelectric projects where the existing Federal license is expiring. These projects have to be relicensed in order to continue generating power under the same ownership. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to obtain agreements allowing whitewater boating at sites where it has been extremely limited or where it has never existed before. Hundreds of these sites exist. Several of the best whitewater runs in the

country are involved (such as the Upper Yough, the Kennebec, the Penobscot, etc.).

Almost 10% of AWA's entire annual budget for 1989 went into legal fees contesting new Federal rules on hydroelectric relicensing. The rules excluded river conservation groups from the critical decision-making process. AWA hired the legal top gun in the field, FERC expert Chuck McGraw, to fight the new this misguided process and obtain a fair opportunity for whitewater boaters to participate in relicensing.

On another front, AWA, together with NY Audubon, established an outreach program (the National Hydroelectric Relicensing Network) to help individuals

and groups throughout the nation take advantage of the relicensing opportunity.

Under the leadership of American River's expert lobbyist, Kevin Coyle, AWA pushed to obtain \$500,000 in new Federal money to allow the National Park Service to participate in the relicensing process as an advocate for river recreation, including whitewater. As of this writing, the \$500,000 was approved by the House of Representatives.

To help local river conservationists handle the complexities of relicensing, as well as with new hydro-power projects, AWA conservation volunteer, Pope Barrow, co-authored (with John Echeverria of American Rivers and

attorney, Richard Roos Collins) a new book explaining in detail on how river advocates can cope with hydroelectric power projects. The book will be published by Island Press in December of 1989.

Critical Issues Reach the Boiling Point in 1989

Plotting and planning permanent protection of whitewater rivers and gearing up for relicensing is only one facet of AWA's 1989 river conservation agenda. Critical conservation issues and river access problems involving whitewater rivers in at least 11 States simmered at the boiling point in 1989. AWA is dealing with many of these through publicity, political action, and--when the chips are down--through lawsuits.



Kirk Baker
Director

P.O. Box 1520
Aspen, Co.
81612

TEL (303) 925-6248

TEL (303) 925-4433

THE BEST IN BOATING SINCE 1971

*

"QUALITY WHITE WATER PRODUCTS"

AMERICAN

welding & mfg.

Aluminum rowing frames, camp
kitchens, dry boxes and tables.

Achilles & SOTAR inflatable boats and
FishRite aluminum boats & sleds.

(503) 773-5582

5179-C Crater Lake Hwy.
Central Point, OR 97502

Call or Write for our
Free River Equipment Catalog

The war is not over

By Congressman
Nick Rahall

On the wall in my office is a framed copy of a piece of parchment signed, on October 26, 1988, by former President Ronald **Regan**. His signature is at the end of a Congressionally enacted bill, the West Virginia National Interest River Conservation Act, which I shepherded through the 100th Congress.



West Virginia congressman Nick Rahall backpaddles while a passenger on an oar-rigged raft on one of the Mountaineer State's primo whitewater rivers.

THE XL 13

MOHAWK'S NEW SOLO WHITEWATER OPEN PLAYBOAT



Photo courtesy of Perrot's Canoes, Summit Hill, PA

List Price
\$675.00
Plus Freight

XL 13 Length 13'3" Depth 15" Width 32 1/2" Weight 55 lbs. approx.

The XL 13's unique high-volume flared ends above the waterline create a boat that is extremely dry. The sleek entry at and below the waterline results in a boat that is easy to paddle and quick to accelerate. The short length (13'3") and round bilges blend in to flared sides forward and aft resulting in a boat that can turn on a dime, is stable side-surfing and easy to roll.

Like all of our Royalex® boats, the XL 13 has extra reinforcement in the ends, stiff bottoms, plastic decks and PVC gunwale with aluminum inserts. This canoe is whitewater durable.

MOHAWK CANOES • 963 N. Highway 427 • Longwood, FL 32750 • (407) 834-3233

conservation

With one swoop of a pen, the President's signature on this bill established the largest network of federally protected rivers in the East by designating the premier whitewater segments of the Gauley and Meadow Rivers as a National Recreation Area, a segment of the Bluestone River as a National Scenic River and combining them with the New River Gorge National River. "For the benefit of present and future generations," states the new law.

All of the various guide books invoke descriptions of the Gauley River, and the word 'awesome' is often employed. While I have run many rivers in the country, I always come back to the

Gauley because its whitewater defies any preconceived notions. It is awesome. Its legendary

water enthusiasts nationwide.

An then, there is the Meadow. With a

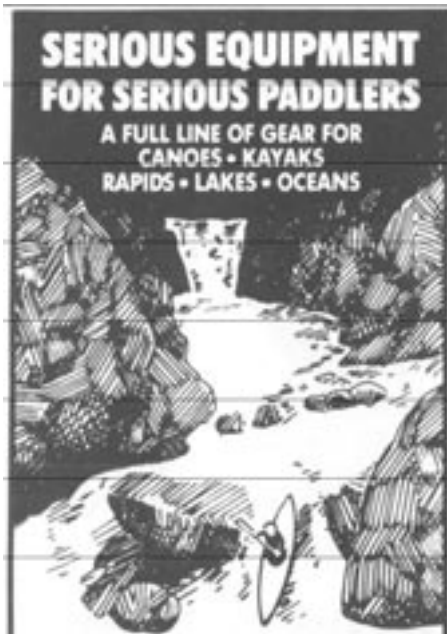
surpasses all other rivers in the region. The New, of course, speaks for itself. Often called the "Grand Canyon of the East", the New River is the granddaddy of big, powerful eastern whitewater and was designated as a unit of the National Park System back in 1978.

The enactment of the West Virginia Rivers bill one year ago gave us the greatest victory yet in the battle for the Gauley by placing the river's whitewater segment under the protection of the national park service. This is extremely important because the United States is slowly by surely losing some of its most pristine while rivers and streams to small hydroelectricpower and

.....
"If we are to maintain the recreational values of many of our rivers, simply put, this hydroelectric madness must stop."

rapids such as Iron Ring, Lost Paddle, and Pure Screaming Hell make it one of the most intoxicating river runs in the country. But the river's raw and unadulterated power has some surprising subtleties. This, coupled with the Gauley River Gorge's luxuriant forest cover topped by lofting rock outcrops and palisades has made the Gauley a mecca for white-


reputation as being the 'forbidden fruit of eastern whitewater' the lower Meadow contains cascading whitewater and boulder strewn descents flowing through a primitive and heavily forested valley. Meanwhile, the lower Bluestone is perhaps the best kept recreational secret in the East. It is a misty river, and in many ways its natural beauty




Featuring quality products from Perception, Aquaterra, Extrasport, Voyageurs, Pacific Water Sports, Blue Puma, Body Glove, Werner and more.

Write for our FREE Catalog of River Gear. Dealers: Ask about our Rescue Bags, Sprayskirts, and Pogies.

WILDWATER DESIGNS
 230 PENLLYN PIKE, PENLLYN, PA 19422
 215-646-5034



SEDA



1969 - 1989

20 Years of Canoeing & Kayaking Excitement



CANOES
 WHITEWATER KAYAKS
 OCEAN KAYAKS

Plus a complete accessory line

SEDA is the one with experience!

Write or call for free catalog

SEDA PRODUCTS, P.O. Box 997
Chula Vista, CA, 92012
Tel: 619/425-3223

YAKIMA. FOR THE COMPULSIVE OVERACHIEVER

We're like you. Always doing the best we can. Then going ourselves one better.

That's why we always refine Yakima refinements. Like our new 6 millimeter skewer.

Mountain bikes are transported over rough territory. So we provide extra heavy duty

hardware. The new skewers aren't

only bump-proof. They're bullet-proof. An obvious benefit for road bike enthusiasts, too.

We're also really up on our new tie-down wheel buckle. Which borrows the latest ski boot technology. So it looks great. And works even better.

We affectionately call our brand, new krayton-lined, adjustable kayak saddles TLCs.

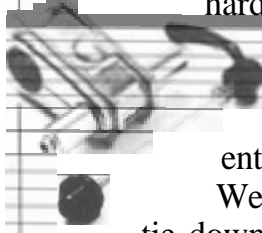
Because they grip your kayak or rowing shell without

deforming it. And prevent

any lateral motion.

Like us, we know you'll never be satisfied with just one sport. But it's good to know you only need one rack. For everything from bikes and boards to boats and skis. A Yakima.

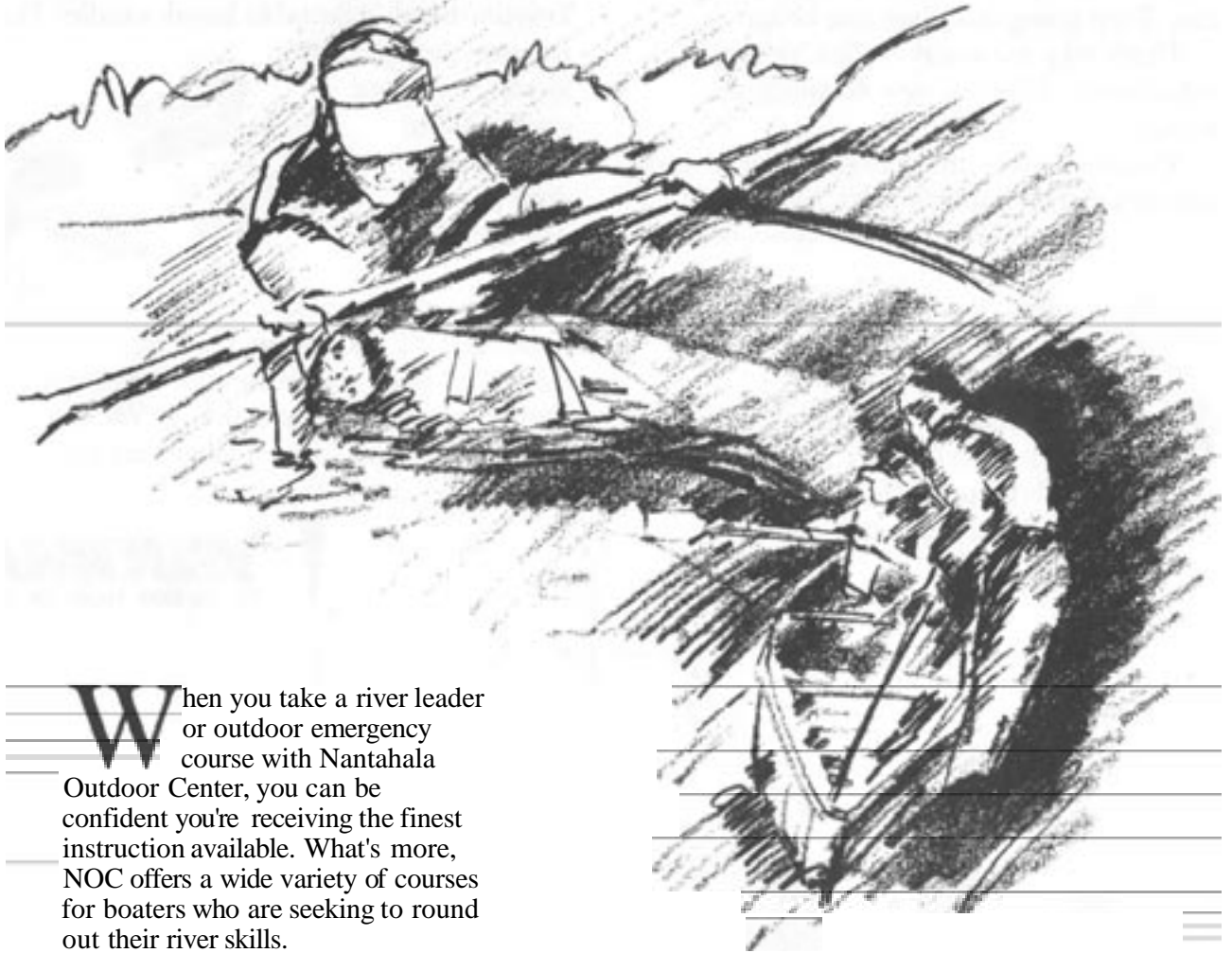
Made by compulsive overachievers for compulsive overachievers.



YAKIMA
P.O. Box 4899, Arcata, CA 95521



Sharpen Your River Leader Skills



When you take a river leader or outdoor emergency course with Nantahala Outdoor Center, you can be confident you're receiving the finest instruction available. What's more, NOC offers a wide variety of courses for boaters who are seeking to round out their river skills.

For example, if you're seeking certification in flatwater, moving water or whitewater canoeing and kayaking, you'll want to enroll in one of our ACA Instructor Workshops. And if you spend a lot of time on the river or in the wilderness, our River Rescue and Wilderness First Responder courses are invaluable.

To find out more about the courses we offer, just call or write us. We think you'll agree that if you're looking to sharpen your skills, NOC is the place to come.



Nantahala Outdoor Center

US 19W Box 41 Bryson City, NC 28713 (704) 488-2175

RIVER RUNNER



EXCITEMENT...

- : up-to-the-minute competition coverage...
- : olympic whitewater news...
- : profiles of world-class paddlers...
- : rodeo news and updates...
- : first descent accounts...

TRAVEL...

- : river towns...exotic and close-to-home destinations...
- : the best U.S. rivers...
- : tips on international travel...
- : little known paddling opportunities...

INFORMATION...

- news of river issues...
- tips on equipment...
- technique specials...
- first-person special reports...
- updates on river conservation...
- comprehensive events calendar...



'89 World's

FUN...

- : kayaking...canoeing...
- : rafting...everything for the complete paddler...
- : river action all year long...
- : the unusual and unique...dynamic photo features...
- : quality journalism...

ADVENTURE...

- expeditions around the world...
- wilderness travel...
- the thrill and excitement of wildlife in the field...
- nature up close



SUBSCRIBE!

Save over 50% off the newsstand price*. Subscribe to River Runner Magazine today and save.

Yes, I want River Runner Magazine delivered to my home.

1 yr. - \$15.00 2 yrs. - \$25.00

3 yrs. - \$30.00* (over 50% savings)

Canadian subscribers, add \$4 per year.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED BILL ME

VISA MASTERCARD

SIGNATURE _____

CARD NO. / EXP. DATE _____

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your first issue. Foreign subscribers add \$12 per year for surface mail, or \$27 per year for airmail. Offer expires 4/93.

conservation

other types of developments. With respect to the Gauley, faced with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to install a hydroelectric power generating facility at the Summersville Dam, we have also gained the enactment of federal laws making whitewater recreation a specific authorization for the project. In fact, we even placed in federal law the fall whitewater release schedule! To top it all off, just last year, we extended the whitewater project purpose provision to Army Corps' dams on the Youghiogheny, Lehigh, Savage, and North Branch of the Potomac.

Yet, while battles have been won, the war is not over. A cruel hoax is being

perpetrated on the American people by speculators in hydroelectric power. If we are to maintain the recreational values of many of our rivers,

the legislation such as the West Virginia Rivers bill and the whitewater project purpose authorizations gave those of us seeking to

underpinning on which to make your claim. But it is going to take your active and persistent efforts to make it all come together.

"A cruel hoax is being perpetrated on the American people by speculators in hydroelectric power."

In other words, we cannot simply rest on our laurels. A great deal of work remains to be done in order to ensure the proper implementation of these new laws by the Federal

simply put, this hydropower madness must stop.

Even the Gauley River remains subject to the threat of private hydropower developments. Currently pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are two proposals to build electric generating stations at the base of the Summersville Dam.

The enactment of

protect these rivers an edge, but do not insure the achievement of our goal. For example, just because a law was enacted saying that whitewater recreation is a legitimate purpose of these projects does not mean that the Corps is going to be your best friend. What the law does is give you some legal standing before the Corps. It gives you a statutory

agencies involved.

Let us continue to work to ensure that the opening passage of the West Virginia rivers bill, "for the benefit of present and future generations", rings true.



Performance
 - is the mark
 A great CANOE

Whitesell Piranha—First & Only Caroe
 Niagara Gorge, North Fork of Payette, Great Falls, Potomac, Big Splat—W. VA. Guinness Book of World Records
 Class III? Sure! Designed to maximize your abilities!
 Piranha "Oullitted" Custom for You \$1099
 Be Your Best
 Canoes by Whitesell, Ltd
 (404) 325-5330, 2362-R Dresden Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341

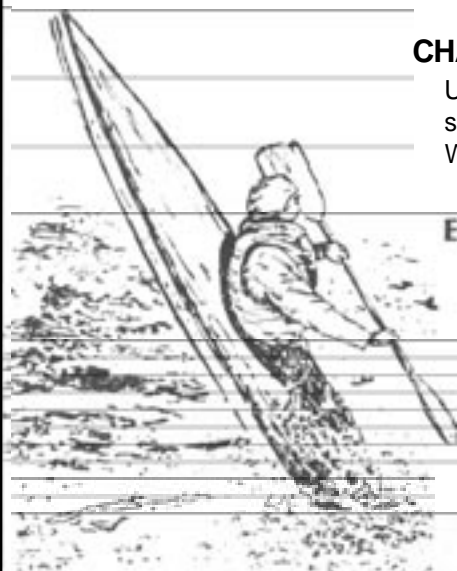
FREE! WHITEWATER EQUIPMENT CATALOG



CASCADE OUTFITTERS
 A T ■ ■ ■ Quality River ■ ■ ■
 PO Box 209 • Springfield, OR 97477
 503 (747-2272)
 Toll-Free Order Line 1-800-223-7238

RIVER RUNNER WORKOUT

45 min Videotape



CHALLENGING:

Upper Body exercise routine specifically designed for White Water Paddlers.

EXCITING:

National Wildwater Championship and North American Whitewater Rodeo footage featuring members of the U.S. Wildwater Team.

MOTIVATING:

Comments from World Champion Paddlers such as Jon Lugbill, Cathy Hearn, David Hearn and Leslie Klein.

5% of the sale price of this tape will be donated to the U.S. Whitewater Team!

Write to - **River Runner Workout**
 327  East Vine St, Lexington, KY 40507
 (606) 255-9049

River Equipment Distributors INC.

INFLATABLE KAYAKS AND RAFTS
The best offering of boats and accessories
in the Eastern U.S.
WRITE FOR YOUR FREE CATALOG TODAY!

903 Alton Parkway ■ Birmingham, Alabama 35210 ■ 205/833-3564

World-class safety



*By Charlie Walbridge
AWA Safety Chairman*

Three years ago the Savage River was selected by the International Canoe Federation as the site of the '89 World Whitewater Championships. As a former racer who had competed on the Savage many times, I knew that I wanted to become involved. When I began paddling, everybody raced--and we all looked to Europe for the latest in equipment and technique. This event would be symbolic of our sport's growth and achievement over the past decade. It would also be a great opportunity for those of us who tried for the U.S. Team and missed to become involved with a world-class event.

I always has a lot more interest in working safety at races than in the other available jobs. For one thing, gate judging bores me to tears. For another, a safety assignment leaves plenty of time for river running. The Savage, despite what you may have heard, is a very playable river to those skilled enough to catch the many one and two boat eddies which line its course. I was especially pleased when I learned that I would be working with O.K. Goodwin, the former AWA Safety Chairman whose writings laid the groundwork for much of what I do today.

The first question was how to do the job. The Europeans have always used frogmen who had little exposure to paddling and sometimes rescued racers who did not really need help. This made them extremely unpopular among U.S. competitors, since some of those "rescued" might have completed their runs.

In a wildwater race, moreover,

many of the rescue stations would be accessible only by boat. The Competition Committee decided to rely on a team of individual whitewater paddlers, skilled in rescue and interested in donating their time to this event. Letters were sent to contacts in the area's largest clubs soliciting people with rescue skills. Two groups, the Upper Delaware River Patrol (Team Delaware) and rescue trainers from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Team Ohio) responded strongly, forming the bulk of our group. They were augmented by skilled volunteers from other organizations who signed up individually.

Because of highway construction, opposition by fishing interests and burnout on the part of race organizers, there had not been a race on the Savage for some years. Two races held in 1987 in atrocious rainy weather showed us how far we had to go. O.K. Goodwin and Team Delaware (lead by Dick Rhodes) were assigned to wver slalom. Team Ohio (lead by Emily King) worked with me' to handle wildwater. Our job was relatively easy; find the best spots to protect the racers, make estimates of our manpower and material needs for the organizing committee, and learn the needs of the racers and the ways of the river. Those who had never seen the Savage, and even those of us who had, were reminded once again of the speed and power of its icy water. Those who had left wld-weather gear at home would not do so again!

The organizing committee, World Championships, Inc., faced a greater challenge. They had to prepare the area not only for the 300+ competitors we expected but also for the 9,000+ spectators, coaches, exhibitors, vendors, volunteers and support personnel who would arrive each day. The bussing schedule alone required thirty school busses, the entire fleet from both Garret and Allegheny Counties! The State of

Maryland put the National Guard and Department of Natural Resources to work, spending millions on site improvements. Each **time** we arrived the race area had been upgraded further. and traffic flow, food, communications. and other amenities improved beyond our wildest expectations.

Security was tight; the river and the road along it was closed to private paddlers and most traffic. Much of this was essential given the importance of the event and the numbers of people requiring access. Those of us who had been accustomed to driving up, camping, and putting in had to adapt. I'd have to give special credit to Executive Director **Don Storck**, who took time from his many responsibilities to solve numerous access problems for the safety crew. Without him we would have **spent** more time walking than working!

At the end of the first year we knew what we needed. Wildwater safety could be provided by six teams of four people each located at the Upper Bridge, Piedmont Dam, Lower Slalom Course, Triple Drop, Memorial Rock, and First Island. For the last 2.5 miles the water was easier, and the racers would be on their own.

The slalom course could be covered by fifteen people, armed with throw ropes and spread out over the course. In addition, two tethered rafts, on loan from Appalachian Whitewater and manned by teams of three, were set up above **L'hota's** Rock and House Rock. both sites of previous pinning incidents. Although the rafts were never needed, it felt **good** to have them there. A tethered raft which could sweep across the entire width of the river was set up below the finish to gather floating equipment and serve as back-up. Randy Smith of Richmond, Va., a rescue trainer and an experienced rigger, set up the rafts and trained team Delaware personnel in its use. His specialized knowledge and equipment was donated to the race, and was a great asset to our team.

Over the winter, letters flew back and forth. Additional site clearing was needed so that rescuers would function effectively on the river right



Tethered by a rope system, the raft could swoop across the Savage to assist racers requiring help.

shore, where race support was to be set up and spectators were not allowed. Communications, limited to a few **short-range walkie-talkies**, had to be improved. Matters of housing, feeding, vehicle passes, and storage had to be hashed out. A sizeable bureaucracy had developed, but it was a benign one. We all wanted to put on a world-class event in 1989.

The Pre-Worlds was held in June 1988 in the midst of a searing drought and heat wave. The lake was low and water was in short supply. This created intense pressure to run the races on time in order to finish before the water ran out. As Randy Smith set up his rigging, I was introduced to the radios provided by Motorola. We had enough that each work group could have one, a big improvement over past years when most of my time was spent running up and down the banks "passing the word" to the troops.

But while the radios covered the slalom course quite effectively, the six-mile long wildwater course which twisted down a narrow mountain corridor was a different question! During that event, my Jeep Cherokee, loaded with a raft **and** paddles and **carrying** myself and a Team Ohio **EMT**, became

the "safety base". We drove up and **down** the Savage River Road, dodging spectator busses and cop cars, looking for places where we could make radio **contact** with each of our river teams. If we had to, we were prepared to ferry medical help across the river or transport an **injured** paddler back to the road without disrupting the event.

In a wildwater race, the only thing that matters to a competitor is crossing start and finish lines upright. Competitors may make a self-rescue after a flip, get back in their boats, and continue racing. Any help, even if it is unwanted, disqualifies them. Our teams were instructed not to assist unless the person called for help, was separated from his gear, or was in obvious distress. If there was any question, a safety boater would be dispatched to "shadow" the potential victim until their needs became clear. If a person was helped and would not **f i s h** the race, this information was relayed to the finish.

This produced some tricky judgement calls for Team Ohio as several athletes, wearing little more than **lycra** or polypropylene, found themselves in the 42 degree water of the Savage. All were recovered without incident except for a New **Zealand**

safety



woman who found herself caught in some netting left at the lower bridge by the Maryland Fisheries people seeking to determine the effects of releases on fish. Although badly cut up, she was

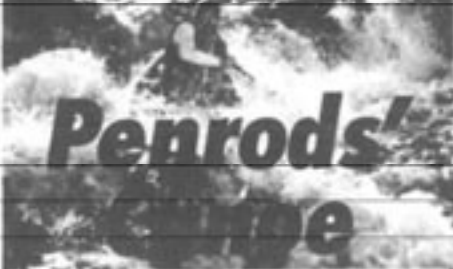
able to self-rescue from this unmarked hazard.

At the slalom course. Team Delaware were facing a challenge of a different order. O.K. **Goodwin**, a fix-

ture at Savage Races during the seventies and the father of world-class K-1W racer **Cindy Goodwin**, instructed the team to "know when to throw them, and know when to hold them!" a premature heave could entangle a **rolling** racer, **leading** to protests and embarrassment for the host country. everyone was a skilled throw line **user**, but **making** an accurate toss between the slalom wires **criss-crossing** the river added to the challenge. Once or twice the rope went over the wires and got snagged in the gates! The radio crackled impatiently and the race was held up until they could be freed; with water at a premium, this was the wrong mistake to make! Fortunately, each rope came off quickly, and the event held to its schedule.

With three races under our belt, everyone connected with the Worlds was confident that we would put on a world-class event. So much to do and to think about! I knew that the weaker federations like Mexico, Brazil, Costa

**Take Whitewater
Open Canoeing
to your Limits!**



No matter what your needs in whitewater play boats, we have a canoe for you.

- 8 Models in solo, tandem, 3 position (solo or tandem)
- **Outfitted** or **do-it-yourself**
- **Mohawk, Dagger, and our own ash-trimmed** Dart series

Write or call for an **informative guide.**

R.D.1, Box 93
Summit Hill, PA 15958
(814) 487-4164

PADDLERS!

Free Issue

To add to your paddling enjoyment, *CANOE* would like to send you a FREE issue of *CANOE* magazine. *CANOE* is North America's #1 Resource for Canoeing and Kayaking — the magazine that takes you to the wild places, the quiet places, the symphony of mountain and river, the heat of competition...plus reviews of latest equipment, accessories, techniques, fitness...and much more!

YES, please send me my FREE issue of *CANOE*, and enter my trial subscription — a total of 6 issues for \$14.97, for which I will be billed. If I am not completely satisfied I may simply write "cancel" on the invoice and pass my sample issue on to a friend with no obligation.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue. Add \$3 per year for Canadian subscriptions. Other foreign subscriptions are \$48 per year (airmail), cash payment in U.S. currency.

canoe
MAGAZINE

Call 1-800-MY-CANOE or send coupon to: *CANOE* magazine, PO Box 10748, Des Moines, IA 50347.





EXTRASPORT®

**IMITATED BUT
UNEQUALLED**

Equipment Standard

- INTERIOR SAFETY BELT
LOOPS
- LASH-TAB-KNIFE-LOOP
- HIGH FLOTATION - HIGH
COMFORT
- EXPEDITION PROVEN
EXCELLENCE

**HI-FLOAT
ROGUE
GOLD LABEL**

only from **EXTRASPORT**
THE ORIGINAL™

Send for free information to:
P.O. Box 371025 Miami, FL 33137



JOIN US FOR A WHITEWATER VACATION!



NADAWASKA KANU CENTRE

CANADA'S FIRST WHITE WATER SCHOOL FOR KAYAKS AND CANOES

Box 635, Barry's Bay, Ontario KOJ1B0

Summer: (613) 756-3620
Winter: (416) 447-8845

safety

Rica and Japan, absent from the previous events, would be with us in '89. This would mean many more racers than in previous years, when only the elite whitewater nations attended. But our teams had been doing two or three assists per event, and were anxious for more business.

The World Championships in 1989 was a two-week event, the first week for Wildwater, and the second for slalom. The two teams, which worked together in previous years, would now be split so as to cover all on-water activities without making excessive demands on each volunteer's time. We later found out that this was the first time that practice sessions had ever been so covered at a World Championships.

1989 also produced the wettest June in thirty years! But with rain continuing through the week and clearing up in time for the timed runs each Friday it seemed that God was on our side...unless you happened to have been in our drenched and soggy campground at Jennings Randolph Lake at midweek! During the cold, rainy week before the Wildwater event, Team Ohio boaters were the only non-racing paddlers on the river. Split into six groups, they circulated between the rescue stations and tried to keep warm.

The first day was the most exciting. The river was running higher than expected and a modification of the slot in the dam left a vicious hole at the base. We had twelve assists that day, including two members of our own team at the slot. I went to a team meeting to discuss the water level and dam modification, but fortunately the problem had already been recognized.

Each day when the humid Appalachian air met the icy Savage River flow a thick mist developed which hung over all the practice sessions. Sometimes you couldn't see twenty yards ahead! This made it hard for racers and safety boaters alike. I've run the river over fifty times and raced it extensively, but sometimes I just didn't know where I was! For the foreign competitors, learning the river must have been hellish. Wildwater boats move fast and are hard to maneuver, so racers must plan their

SPECIAL • OFFER

HELP SAVE OUR WATERWAYS

Order the 1990 River Runner or 1990 Sea Kayaking Calendar and Sandpiper Publishing will donate \$2.00 on every calendar sold to:

AMERICAN WHITEWATER AFFILIATION

Offer good only on retail orders. ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THIS COUPON. Expires Dec 31, 1989


Name _____

Address _____

	Qty	Unit Price	Total
1990 River Runner Calendar		\$9.95	
1990 Sea Kayaking Calendar		\$9.95	
Calif. residents add 60¢ sales tax per calendar			
Shipping: \$2.50 for 1st calendar plus 85¢ ea. additional			
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Send Check or money order to:

SANDPIPER PUBLISHING, P.O. Box, 5143, Stateline, N.V 89449



w a t e r
SPORTSWEAR

5350 Ericson Way, Arcata Ca 95521 707-822-7621

Where's there's water you'll find Kokatat.
Look for us at your local dealer or write us for our latest brochure.

Work in paddling paradise

Diagnostic Radiologist with interventional/MR skills, in Johnson City, TN. Thirty minutes from put-in for Nolichucky Gorge, Doe Gorge and forty-five minutes to Watauga Gorge. One hour to Big Laurel, one and one half hours to Wilson Creek. Three hours to Gauley or Obed System and three and one half hours to Ocoee.

Excellent salary. Partnership at two years. Must expand to three person group. One member currently paddles all of the above, but not as much as he would like. Other current partner is a triathlon person. Opening needed to be filled one year ago. Liberal vacation schedule.

APPLY TO: Dr. David Archie

Not because you want to be different...

Because you want to be BETTER!

Caper and Encore. Two new solo playboats designed to encourage, not prohibit, proper paddling technique. Whitewater canoes for paddlers, not floaters. Call or write for free catalog featuring all five Dagger models.



Dagger
CANOE COMPANY, INC.

P.O. Box 1500 • Harriman, Tennessee 37748 • 615/882-0404

safety

route well in advance. Not being able to see far ahead is a real handicap.

Even under the best circumstances, it is hard for paddlers at cruising speed to stay out of their way. With the swirling mist, they appeared suddenly like headlights around a blind curve, **sending** mobile safety workers scrambling for shore. Despite the misgivings of the British and **German** waches, there were no collisions with any members of the safety team. The athletes gradually got used to us and began to welcome our presence,

I spend less time on the water than I would have liked. As team leader, during the day I solved problems. Where were the radios? They would not arrive until Thursday. Could I get **administration** to tell the **M.P.'s** that our parking passes were good for the lots at the top of the course? Yes, but it took two tries to find the right person. Where are the Extrasport World Championship Rescue Life Vests which would be distributed to the team? In the rescue shed. What was the **combination** for the lock? And what about volunteers whose names had been somehow "lost" and were being denied passes? Thankfully, at the end of each day I could leave all this behind me when I "swept the river" from top to bottom.

The new bright red Extrasport "Ranger" life vests, actually **HiFloats** (tm) with a built-in quick-release strap, arrived the next day. The company had donated sixty of these jackets to test the new design, and soon became the insignia of the safety team. By race day we also had the new Motorola radios. On our channel we would talk to anyone from start to finish. What a joy after years of static and hassle. The start of the first race was delayed for an hour because, as it turned out, the damkeeper did not have the necessary pass! Turned away by humorless State Police Guards, he had to go out to a pay phone and **call** the race organizers for help. In the meantime, Team Ohio boaters did not have enough water to go to their stations. But to our relief, the water finally rose.

The race was on! Each station had a start list, so racers were tracked from station to station. I sat in the **ve-**

of the river worker's day was Tony

Stroi's single-handed rescue of an en-
tire C-2 team. He threw one bag to catch
the first paddler, then another to hold
the second and the boat. The rest was
routine, allowing everyone to enjoy the
race.

Too soon it was all over, and
we were watching fireworks at the final
party on Deep Creek Lake. For those of
you who saw the events on TV, you got
some of the high points. But I still don't
understand why NBC ignored the sil-
ver and bronze medal performances of
the USA's Dana Chladek and Cathy
Hearn-Halter. To watch the TV, you'd
think all racers were male canoeists!
We saw it all up close from the inside,
and were proud to have been able to
lend a hand.

Whitewater fatalities

1989 death toll mounts

Kayaker on Tuckasegee R.
A Greenville, TN, drowned in
the Tuckasegee River after his kayak
became entangled in a heavy, 18-inch
wide conveyor belt that had apparently
been washed into the river during heavy
rains in early July.


Roger Stallings was kayaking
with a group of people from the Nan-
tahala Outdoor Center accompanied
by three instructors below the Dillsboro
Dam on the Tuckasegee.
After Stallings first pinned on
the conveyor belt, his boat lifted into an
under position. The NOC instructors

shout "safety base", and listened to
the radio. A racer failed to appear, so
we headed down the road looking for
Number 165 and found him, a soggy
and disheartened Australian who needed
a lift back to the finish line. A bit more
quiet and the radio cracked again. Boat
over in Triple Drop! Amazingly, he
swam to shore, got back in, and contin-
ued. Another boat over! This one was
rescued quickly; Safety Base hustled
down the river but the disgusted con-
ductor refused a ride and plodded off
up the road towards the start.
Stalom was to be the premier
event because it is so easy to watch.
True to form, it rained the entire week.
During the daily practice sessions, I am
Delaware made numerous rescues and
got to know many of the competitors
well. We were impressed by the guts
and perseverance of the Russians,
Mexicans, Costa Ricans and Brazilians.
I couldn't help thinking that this is how
the Americans must have looked in the
early '60s when we showed up at Spit-

feel good.
The weather lifted just in time
for the main event. The race course was
tough. Gate 1, set in the far right breach
of the dam where nobody went in the
'70s, demanded confidence and aggres-
sive paddling. It was quite a display of
paddling for a sell-out crowd of 8,000
people who lined the banks to witness
the final run. Ironically, the worst in-
jury of the week involved a spectator,
who was sitting on a railing when a tree
came crashing down on her. Another
tree-fan, climbing in a restricted area,
grabbed hold of a dead six-inch diam-
eter trunk and broke it off at the stump.
Knocked unconscious, the victim fell
eight feet onto solid rock. Fortunately,
Hal Hughes, an EMT-3 from New York,
was only a few feet away from the
scene. Over treatment was a real possi-
bility as three doctors arrived within
minutes. She was evacuated to Cum-
berland by helicopter where she was
found to have several cracked verte-
brae and a concussion. The high point

KEEL-HAULERS OUTFITTERS
 -PERCEPTION-HYDRA-PRISON-HARMONY-MOHAWK-
 -YAKIMA-BODY GLOVE-BERMUDEZ-HELLY HANSEN-
 -KOKATAT-SILVER CREEK-EXTRASPORT-SEDA-
 -DISCOUNT PRICES - FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE-
 -CALL OR WRITE FOR A FREE CATALOG-
 30940 LORAIN RD. NORTH OLMSTEAD, OH 44070
 (216) 779-4545

NORSE PADDLE COMPANY
WHITEWATER
CANOE & KAYAK PADDLES
 ● performance you demand
 ● durability you want
 ● value that makes \$ sense
 (Call or write for information & outfitters in your area:
 RD1, Spring Mills, PA 16875 814-472-8844)





Welcome to the future...

introducing

James Snyder's

The Squirt Book

Illustrated by W. Nealy



Finally, an illustrated technical manual for learning the Art of Squirt Kayaking. Author James Snyder takes you step by step through every important phare of Squirtsport from its early history to today's most advanced moves. With his unique four dimensional drawing style, outlaw cartoonist W. Nealy reveals each step critical to learning even the most complex move sequences.

With lots of philosophy and humour included at No Extra Cost to you, we think you'll agree that The Squirt Book represents the most significant advance in whitewater boating since the invention of Duct Tape! It's tubular, it's gnarly. It is way far out! Available this Fall at fine outdoor retailers and bookstores nationwide. West Coast too, dudes!

Or order by mail from:
N.O.C. Outfitters Store
US 19-W, Box 41
Bryson City, NC 28713

ONLY \$12.95

[NC residents add 5% tax
TN residents add 5½% tax]

actual illustrations...



The Eternal Juggling Act



RIVERSPORT

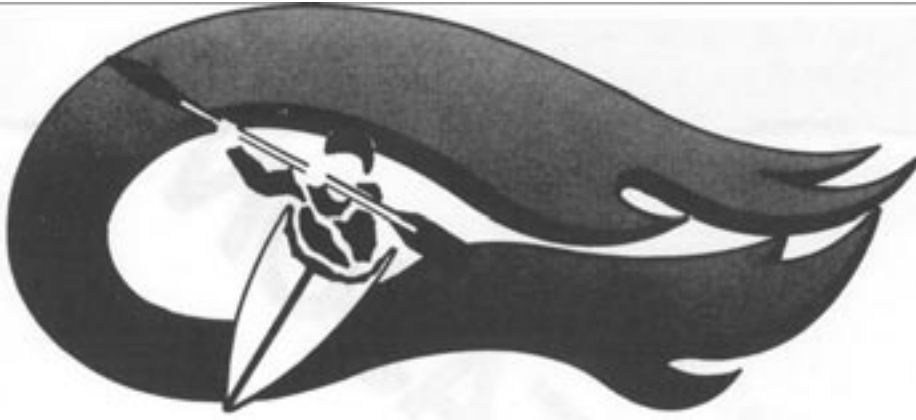


Learn with the best
Featuring top instructors
Advanced teaching techniques
The best water anywhere
From the mild Middle **Yough**
To the popular Lower **Yough**
To the world-famous Upper **Yough** (Class V)
Also featuring a paddler's camp
A well-stocked whitewater specialty shop
And a one week summer kid's camp
Call or write for details

Visit our booth
at the Gauley Festival

WHITEWATER PRO SHOP - SCHOOL OF PADDLING - WHITEWATER RENTALS - RIVERFRONT CAMP

213 Yough Street
Confluence, PA 15424
(814)395-5744



Specialists in Water Sports Apparel

Featuring...

- ✱ **Drysuits**
- ✱ **Paddle Jackets**
- ✱ **Hi-Tec Accessories**



Send for free color catalog **with dealer** nearest you. 1 (800)535-3565

COLORADO KAYAK

PO Box 3059 Buena Vista, Colorado 81211

GET READY FOR THE CANOE SEASON WITH ADK CANOE GUIDES

- **Adirondack Canoe Waters - North Flow**
More than 700 miles of canoe routes in the St. Lawrence/Lake Champlain drainage basins, and more than 30 rivers in the north and central Adirondack Park.
- **Adirondack Canoe Waters - South & West Flow**
Covering the Black River, Mohawk River, and Upper Hudson River basins. A must for whitewater paddlers.

To order, call the Adirondack Mountain Club (518) 793-7737

VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED



FREE RIVER SUPPLIES CATALOG

CALL OR WRITE TODAY FOR
YOUR FREE CATALOG OF
CLOTHING, CAMPING AND RIVER
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT.

Please send my free catalog.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

1-800-247-6068

Wyoming River Raiders

"WORLD'S FRIENDLIEST RIVER SUPPLY COMPANY"
601 WYOMING BLVD., CASPER, WY 82609
IN WYOMING CALL COLLECT (307) 235-8624



reacted quickly and got a rope onto the kayak while Stallings was attempting to stay above the water and push himself off the conveyor. However, the victim disappeared under the water and was only briefly seen again near a submerged tree.

One section of the belt, about 40 feet long, **was** winched to shore. Rescuers estimated it weighed well over 100 **pounds**.

The incident stands as the tenth reported Eastern whitewater fatality to date in 1989 involving hardboats or rafts. The shocking number of deaths significantly surpasses past single-year fatalities.

High-water conditions throughout the East during the early portion of the paddling season after two years of drought may partially explain the increase in accidents.

Commercial outfitter cited after Bluestone death

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has charged a **Fayette** County rafting company with 16 misdemeanor counts in connection with the drowning of a 62-year-old Raleigh, NC **man**.

Adventures, **Inc.** of Lansing was accused of inadequately training guides, action that the DNR said led to the death of Allen Beavers on the rain-swollen Bluestone River near the **Mer-**cer-Summers County line.

The company's owner, Eddie Lilly, had 30 days to prove why his license shouldn't be suspended or revoked.

The **DNR's** law enforcement division plans to file criminal charges against Lilly.

According to D M records, 14 people have died in West Virginia whitewater accidents since 1971.



GAULEY SEASON '89

End of a decade of change

by Ron Burke

The nineteen-eighties are marked as a decade of change for Gauley River whitewater.

Like most boaters, I vividly remember my first Gauley season. Early in the decade, it hardly resembled the assembly of paddlers and rafters that now gather annually below Summersville Dam...

Only a pair of lonely traffic lights intruded upon Route 19 as it shanked south from the interstate. In the late-night dark, I twice drove past the road to the dam. The highway was deserted, its shoulders empty--no motels, stores or gas stations to stop and ask directions.

I finally found myself in the parking lot below the dam. A small collection of cars topped with the reassuring outline of racks and boats were parked at

the end of the cul de sac. In the glow of my headlights, I could see a few tents scattered about on the grassy shoulder of the gravel.

I awoke to find the parking lot enveloped in the thick mist billowing up from outflow tubes at the base of the dam. The morning sun had yet to rise above the surrounding hills and the September air remained chilly.

From the east end of the lot came the drone of generators and the hiss of blowers as outfitters commenced inflating their rafts. More cars bearing kayak trickled down the hill to the dam and the lot gradually filled, although there seemed to be space for even the late-comers.

I strolled down the middle of the gravel lot, between the two rows of vehicles. Paddlers were busy unloading boats, slipping into neoprene, or orchestrating shuttle

arrangements. I was surprised to see that almost every face looked familiar. And as a Gauley initiate, I got the feeling I was about to be admitted into a special, private club.

That feeling was reinforced during the initial Gauley River Festivals. Sponsored by the Citizens for the Gauley River during the bleak days when the Army Corps threatened to dewater half of the Upper Gauley, the early festivals were small, personal affairs.

Maybe a couple hundred paddlers would gather around a couple kegs of beer, listen to some blue-grass music, award some door prizes and mingle in general. By the end of the evening, you would have either seen or met everyone else at the festival. It was more of a family reunion than a fund-

G AULEY SEASON '89

raiser.

I've returned to the Gauley every autumn since those initial years. So has practically every other boater that I've ever paddled with. For an Eastern boater, missing a Gauley season is akin to not coming home for Christmas.

But each season, the Summersville area seems a little different--changes hardly noticeable by themselves--but now at the end of the decade the Gauley scene has been significantly altered.

Route 19 is no longer a barren section of asphalt stretching south from Summersville. A burgeoning tourist trade, spurred by the whitewater industry, has encouraged development of motels, restaurants, service stations and convenience stores along the highway.

On release weekends, thousands of rafters and hundreds of boaters descend upon the area. The parking lot at the dam fills early and a line of cars, marshalled by Army Corps personnel, forms at the top of the dam waiting for an opportunity to approach the put-in and unload boats. Boaters are zipped in and out of the parking lot with all possible dispatch to avoid

congestion.

Once virtually inaccessible, the river corridor has been opened at more points. Originally, a paddler was forced to choose between Peters Creek or Swiss as a takeout. Then Appalachian Wildwater developed an access point. Then the steep carry up the trail at Panther Creek became popular. And now, USA White-water is building roads to the river just below Sweets Falls.

A flood of new boaters arrive each year to test the Gauley. Once frightened away by stories of the Gauley's difficulty, increasing numbers of advanced-intermediate boaters are attempting the run.

And the Gauley Festival, under the auspices of the AWA, has altered its image. With the addition of the White-water Marketplace, improved entertainment and varied activities, the Festival has attracted record numbers of participants.

The unfortunate consequence of these changes is a diminished sense of community once associated with Gauley Season. The common rallying points where boaters once would gather and socialize have vanished.

In the past, boaters would plan

to "meet on the Gauley" with full confidence that their paths would cross while camping at the dam, loitering at the put-in, driving a shuttle, paddling on the river or celebrating at the festival. Now, a rendezvous must be more detailed.

Essentially, the Gauley community has grown from a small town to a city. And like life in a city, you often don't know your neighbors.

But this essay is not meant as a eulogy to paddling "the way it used to be" on the Gauley. The AWA and the Citizens for the Gauley River both share part of the responsibility for the explosive growth of paddling on the Gauley due to their promotion of the popular Gauley Festival.

And without the extensive recreational use of this wonderful natural resource, West Virginia congressman Nick Rahall would have been unable to push his West Virginia Rivers Bill--legislation that protects the Gauley from future development--through Washington D.C.

Call it an ironic paradox: the 1980s were a decade of change so that the river can remain unchanged in the future.

Duckie capitol of the world?

A new phenomenon is making an appearance on the Gauley: Rubber Duckies. First came fishermen and trappers, then kayaks and canoes. Next, the rafting craze. Now it's the Invasion of the Rubber Duckies. As each new fad made its appearance, the old timers grumbled and complained before adjusting to the new scene. But Rubber Duckies...will they ever be accepted?

Regarded by some as the ultimate wussie boat, Rubber Duckies certainly have a long way to go in the image department. But despite their clumsy appearance--or maybe because of it--one Gauley outfitter, Imre Szilagyi of USA Whitewater, believes Duckies are the wave of the future. Szilagyi envisions the Gauley as the Rubber Duckie capitol of the East. Each year his flotilla of Rubber Duckies grows larger and larger.

With Duckies, 21 days of big water during the fall drawdowns are no longer a critical necessity. Duckies like just a few CFS during summer months. And if the water is low enough, virtually any bozo can paddle a Duckie. Skilled boaters and guides need not apply. With

this combination of features, can commercial success be far behind?

Although Duckies are almost invisible during the fall release, the Duckie Invasion has made a big impact on the Gauley. They are here in the summer...and they have left a trail...or rather a road.

Duckies are notoriously hard to paddle long distances. The Upper Gauley is too long for the average Duckieite. So, USA Whitewater solved this problem with a bulldozer.

As reported in the May/June issue of American Whitewater, two new roads have been built in the Gauley corridor near Sweets Falls. One of these, the Meadow Creek Road to Sweets Falls, is a Duckie take-out.

According to Szilagyi, the road is needed to allow short upper Gauley trips for Duckies and to provide better rescue in case of accidents at that location. Apparently, flopping out-of-control over Sweets Falls could be hazardous to your health.

Improved Gauley Festival planned

The annual Gauley River Festival, sponsored by the AWA, will be held September 16, 1989 at a new location--the New River Gorge Campground (NRGC).

The NRGC, located off Route 19 on the left (headed south) one mile north of the New River Gorge Bridge, offers four times the space as the festival's previous site which translates into more room for parking, exhibits and camping and revelry in general. Look for signs marking the festival grounds.

A donation of \$5.00 (proceeds utilized by the AWA for river conservation projects) will be charged at the gate. The festival kicks off at 5 p.m.

This year's festival features some changes, some additions and some of the same attractions that have made the festival the East's most popular whitewater gathering.

The primary improvement is a change in the situation which contributed to the long lines waiting for food that occurred at last year's festival. Dinner is not included in the price of admission this year, and consequently we've been able to reduce the charge at the gate.

However, private concessionaires will be on hand serving a variety of foods throughout the evening. The new arrangement promised to offer hungry paddlers a better variety of food, beverage and dessert as well as eliminate the delays that plagued the festival last year.

The beer concession will be handled by Tom Koontz, manager of the NRGC. He is well prepared and organized for a mob of thirsty paddlers. As he has been extremely helpful and supportive of the festival, boaters are encouraged to keep this concession busy.

On stage, the festival will spotlight some great musical entertainment. Folksinger Renee **Brouder** is back by popular demand after appearing last year. She is lauded for her river-related compositions.

Making their first appearance at the Gauley River Festival is a pair of Blues musicians, Nat Reese and Bob



McGraw. They will perform a special style of Blues--a mix of Delta Blues from Louisiana with country music influence: West Virginia Mine Blues. They are veterans of many performances and are guaranteed to be dynamic.

The feature band is a premier rock 'n roll ensemble from southern West Virginia. Making their Gauley Festival premier is the Michael James Gang who will appear for three hour-long sets. A pumped-up jam time is on tap.

For more cheap thrill and chills, plan to witness or participate in the Tug-of-war and/or Beer Chugging Contest. Registration forms for the events have been sent to raft companies, paddling clubs and individuals. If you are interested in participating and did not get a pre-registration form, you can receive **information** from Anita Adams, Route 2, Box 614, Princeton, WV 24740 or sign-up at the AWA booth before 7 p.m. on Festival day.

Once again, the Festival Marketplace will be a star attraction with whitewater manufacturers and retailers showing the latest in boating equipment. The Marketplace will be ongoing through the night and there is bound to be some Festival night specials.

Also ongoing through the evening will be the popular AWA Silent Auction and Raffle. Every year paddlers find the best deals available for equipment and clothing and this season will be no different. And remember--proceeds go towards keeping our whitewater flowing.

Speaking of whitewater, Festival night will feature continuous whitewater videos on a large screen. There will be numerous films--too many to mention by name. No whitewater junkie will go away disappointed.

After hours of imbibing at the Festival, celebrants are encouraged to **camp** on the Festival grounds. A nominal camping fee of **\$2.00** per person will be due Sunday morning, payable at the NRGC **store/office**. This is half the normal fee to camp, so please be honest.

Camping reservations are not required, however, the NRGC is available throughout the rest of Gauley season. If you want to make reservations for nights other than the Festival, its phone number is **(304)658-9926**.

We've enjoyed the best whitewater season the Southeast has seen in years and the Festival promises to serve as a fitting grand finale.

Gauley horror story

Taking a swim... at the worst spot in the river!

By Steve Groetzinger

In my eleven years of boating, through the use of turkey maneuvers, bozo moves and occasional lapses of concentration, I have managed to amass a fairly impressive repertoire of "epic swims". It is still quite easy, however, to decide which of these was the most memorable.

For several seasons after my first run on the Gauley, this river had a way of giving me the "butterflies" at the put-in. In 1982, no sooner had I grown comfortable with this stream, than I had the unsettling experience of helping to carry out the body of a **kayaker** who drowned at Initiation Rapid, the first major drop on the Gauley. He had eddied out on river right just above the main drop. Unfortunately, this eddy feeds into a sluice which mostly empties into a toilet bowl **suckhole** which disappears under a very large rock. This experience left me with put-in jitters for at least another season thereafter.

It was a warm, sunny October morning and I was feeling very laid back as I climbed into my kayak and shoved out onto the Gauley River. Many of my paddling friends were here: Tom Beres, Bob Harvey, his son, Alex and Bob Miller, the unflappable open-boater. Cindy, my wife of less than four months, and a beginner kayaker was **riding** in a raft with several of our friends on an accompanying commercial raft trip.

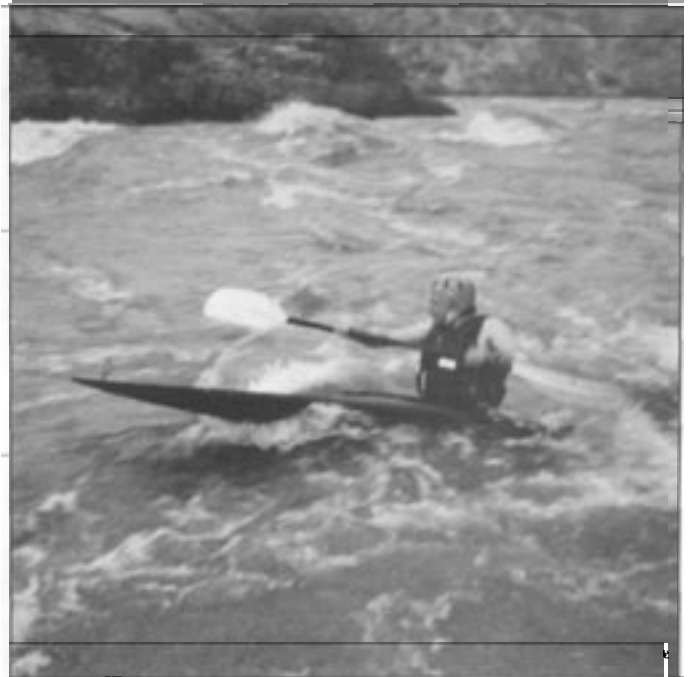
The rafts headed downstream as we **hardboaters** played and acclimated ourselves to this wonderful river. As we approached Initiation, I was as comfortable as a human can be, sort

chit-chatting with Bob Miller as we reached the top drop of the rapid. In an instant, my calm demure was totally destroyed when I realized that I was in the far right eddy above Initiation!

My first thought was, as the Talking Heads sang, "How did I get here?" This is an absolutely **horrible** place to be and any idiot knows not to go near the right side! The fatal accident that happened here flashed through my mind. The boater and his boat were sucked vertically into the hole and under the **rock**, disappearing for the rest of the day. I figured the only **thing** I could do was to paddle hard and hope that I could bounce over that death trap hole.

I realized that this strategy was a **semi-failure** as the front of my kayak slammed into rock and pinned. The tremendous amount of water pouring over my back and neck created a three foot rooster-tall. My boat was slightly bent and the extreme water pressure was pushing me down into the boat, making it difficult for me to peel myself out of the **cockpit**. Nevertheless, it was easy to remain calm. I could breathe with no trouble and the water was particularly warm. So long as I made no sudden movements, by boat was not going to slip into that dreaded hole in the rock and my friends were already **attempting** to get a rope to me.

This rescue was not a simple



Steve Groetzinger, at a less frantic moment.

task. Initiation is a steep drop with lots of weird currents at the bottom and there was only one skinny rock from which to throw a rope. Alex Harvey was amazing. He somehow paddled through a whirlpool and slithered up this steep rock and then managed to throw a rope right to me. I gingerly pulled myself out of the boat, being cautious to not fall into any holes.

This is where my luck really **turned** bad. The **rock** was unbelievably slippery and my feet came out from under me. I immediately fell right into that hole that I was so wowed about. I knew this was getting to be serious stuff!

At this instant, my **brain** went into that "supercomputer" mode that you hear about when people get into dangerous situations. In **hindsight**, this was the most amazing thing about this horrifying experience. Somehow, as if someone reprogrammed a portion of my brain to take control, every single synapse was energized with one goal in mind: survival.

At this point, I was several feet under water and could not breathe. The water pressure was pushing down on my head with the force of a hurricane. *please turn to page 68*



Savage River notes:

- *Lugbill dominates...*
- *Tough placement of gate one proves costly to kayakers...*
- *U.S. Wildwater team blanked...*
- *The "other" river at the Worlds*

Right: France's Miriam Jerusalem took gold in K-1W. Below: Jon Lugbill dominates C-1 field. Don Coachran photos



Lugbill's 'perfect' run earns fifth world title

By *Mac Thornton*

Jon **Lugbill** became the first paddler ever to win five individual world titles with a convincing C-1 victory on the Savage River. Lugbill's winning time of **205.04** seconds was an astonishing **12** seconds faster than Davey **Hearn**, who collected his fifth silver behind **Lugbill** in this event.

Neither **Lugbill** nor **Hearn** had a penalty of any sort on their runs. After the first run, **Lugbill** stood in first place with a solid time of **212.13**, easily good enough for the gold. But Jon said later, "I knew I had a better **run** inside me. I just let it rip." His second run was as perfect as any spectator will likely ever see: aggressive, precise, obviously a gear faster than anyone else.

The middle of the course had a difficult sequence of two downstream gates (**16** and **17**) leading to an upstream Gate **18**. The typical racer reached into the eddy at Gate **18** to spin his boat, one or two strokes up through the gate, and another stroke out into the current to get going downstream again. **Lugbill** handled Gate **18** with two strokes: he reached **into** the eddy to **simultaneously** spin and pull up through the gate, and one more stroke to spin back heading downstream.

You could tell the paddlers in the crowd from the nonpaddlers: the paddlers were the ones with jaws agape as **Lugbill** flew past. U.S. Team Coach Bill Endicott was also impressed. "He's the paddler of the **century**, the greatest athlete in the history of our sport. And I'm just happy to live in the same century he does."

Davey **Hearn's** performance (**217.01**) suffered **only** in **comparison** with **Lugbill's**. Davey had to endure



Don Cochran photo

Davey Hearn used a solid second run to finish securely in second place.

endless questions about how it felt to be second again to his teammate and training partner. Graceful as always, Davey doesn't let it show that were it not for **Lugbill**, he would be a six-time world champ. (**Hearn** won the gold in **1985**, and was second to **Lugbill** in **1979**, **1981**, **1983**, **1987** and **1989**.)

Third place in **C-1** eluded U.S. racer Jed Prentice by less than two sec-

onds to Frenchman Thierry **Humeau** (**226.52**).

The **U.S.** team also scored big in the women's kayak event, as Dana Chladek and Cathy **Hearn** paddled through a foggy downpour to take second and third, while Myriam **Jerusalmi** of France took first. Cathy's medal was particularly remarkable, since she had been hampered all spring by a

rotator cuff injury. In 1979, she turned the Jonquiere, Quebec Worlds on its ear with three golds, but had only won one medal since. "I'm not washed up yet," she exclaimed. Dana's chance for the gold vanished with a touch at Gate 19, a downstream gate set sideways to the current at the **entry** to a midstream eddy.

Things did not go so well in the men's C-2 competition. Jamie **McEwan** and **Lecky** Haller were second in the 1987 World's and were the favorite on the Savage. However, the pair missed a gate on their **Fit** run (50 second penalty), and accumulated three five second penalties on their second run. Although their second **run** was the best raw time of the day (234.10), the fifteen seconds in penalties put them in fourth place. On the other hand, the C-2 pair of Joe **Jacobi** and Scott **Strausbaugh** finished in fifth place, an impressive performance for a pair of young C-2ers.

In the team events, the U.S. took the gold in the **C-1** event, as expected, and the **K-1** women took a silver. The French took two golds in the team events, giving them seven medals in the slalom events. The U.S. team had six slalom medals.

The State of Maryland and the race organizers earned lots of kudos for the site improvements and the handling of the events. There were no significant snafus and few complaints. Coach Endicott said, "Now the Europeans are saying we have the best site in the world."

State Senator John Bambacus, head of the committee which produced the events, quickly announced plans to try to put the Savage on the World Cup circuit, and to enter a bid for the 1995 World's. These developments should help the continuing battle by paddlers affiliated with the Savage River Defense Fund to kill hydropower proposals for the Savage.

Difficult first gate penalizes kayakers

By: Mac Thornton

Gate One of the World Championship slalom course on the Savage River was the toughest first gate on any Championship course in memory. The Gate 1 judges were kept busy calling penalties, and an apparently bum call here cost the United States **whitewater** team its first medal ever in men's kayak.

Those who have run the Savage are familiar with its continuous, mostly Class III nature. However, there is one place that gives most paddlers a chill at the old Piedmont Dam, a **five-foot** high structure which is broken out on the far right side. Most paddlers opt to plunge over the face of the dam, although most of the current sluices around the right abutment in a screaming left hand turn, featuring two pinning **rocks**. Here is where the mischievous race organizers placed Gate 1.

U.S. kayaker Rich Weiss will not soon forget Gate One. The U.S. has never won a medal in men's kayak, and Rich was our top prospect, having finished sixth in 1987 in France. On his **first** run in the Savage World's, he had what **can** only be described as a career run -- the hot, clean (penalty-free) **run** a racer often dreams about but rarely achieves. He was clean almost. The word came down from Gate One that the judges had assessed a five second penalty for a pole touch. Even with the penalty, Rich Weiss' **run** was so good (adjusted time = 203.77 seconds) that his name stood at the top of the leader board after everyone had had their **first runs**. Spectators dared to **think**: a gold for the U.S.A.?

On the second **run**, three **kayakers** edged just ahead of Rich's time with clean **runs** of 203.28, 203.39 and 203.55. Rich himself slipped up at a couple of gates on his second run, leaving him out of the money.

Then came Britain's Richard **Fox**, three-time world champion, who

stood at 206.08 going into his second run. Fox charged into the breakout at the **Dam** and slammed into the inside pole at Gate 1. At that point, Fox said he was convinced he could not win, "but I just put it out of my mind." From that point, what followed was one the most superlative kayak **runs** of all time. Fox is known as a master at working a river's currents and features; while **Lugbill** overpowers a river. Fox finesses it. For example, Gate 10 is an upstream gate on river right, and Gate 11 is a downstream gate almost directly across the turbulent Savage. Most racers come up through Gate 10 **flailing** away to ferry across. But Fox was cool and smooth; after coming up through Gate 10, he hesitated a fraction of a second to await the optimum alignment of his boat to the current. A pair of fast strokes, and Fox shot across the river, through Gate **II**, spinning around for Gate 12.

Fox' raw **time** was 193.61, and with five seconds added for the penalty at Gate 1, his adjusted time of 198.61 still won the gold with almost five seconds to spare.

Thereplays of the NBC "Sports-world" tapes show that Rich Weiss should have had the silver, a scant .16 seconds behind Fox. That would have been the result but for Weiss' penalty call on Gate 1. Viewed in slow motion, the tape shows that Weiss' boat kicked up a globule of water in the violent approach to Gate 1, and the water hit the inside gate pole. Weiss' body clears the gate, but the pole swing draws the penalty call.

There were no sour grapes from Weiss. He entered a formal protest, but when it became clear the call would not be changed, he withdrew his protest, and has had no **complaint**. "That's the way it goes," he said, although you **could** see the disappointment etched **on** his face. A class guy is Rich Weiss.

Fishburn fourth

U.S. blanked in wildwater

By: Mac Thornton

As of ten years ago, the Europeans enjoyed a New York Yankees style dominance in both slalom and wildwater world competition. However, in 1979 in Jonquiere, Quebec, the U.S. slalom team toppled the European dynasty in the slalom events. In recent times, the Europeans have remained ascendent in wildwater, but there were high hopes for a breakthrough in the wildwater events on the Savage.

Well, there is no joy in Maryland. The U.S. wildwater team struck out.

Jon Fishburn came to the Savage as the only male U.S. wildwater kayaker ever to win a medal in World competition, having won a bronze in Germany in 1985. Fishburn came close on the Savage. He finished fourth, an aggravating seven tenths of a second behind the bronze medalist from France. In a race that took over 22 minutes down the cold, crashing Savage River course, seven tenths of a second is darn close.

Things looked good for Andy Bridge in the C-1 wildwater event. He finished second in this event in last year's Pre-Worlds on the Savage, and had over 100 practice runs on the Savage to his credit. Andy's time in the Worlds was 2 seconds better than his second-place time last year in the Pre-Worlds. "But everyone else got faster, too," he said. Bridge finished a disappointing seventh.

Yugoslavia was the big winner in the individual wildwater events, with golds in men's C-1 and C-2, and the French dominated the team events with three golds and a silver in the four team events. Yugoslavia is the site of next year's Pre-Worlds and the 1991 Worlds. Then, there are the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. For our wildwater racers, there is always next year.



Don Cochran photo

The Top Yough

The Worlds "other" river

During the early part of the weeks preceding both the wildwater and slalom events of the World Championships on the Savage River, the skies opened up over western Maryland and drenched the rugged area with several inches of rain.

If race organizers were apprehensive that the weather might hold down attendance--they were right to be concerned. But not for the usual reasons.

Because by race days, the clouds had cleared and conditions for spectating were near perfect. But with the numerous whitewater rivers in Maryland and neighboring West Virginia flowing at optimum levels, paddlers were faced with the wrenching decision of attending the Worlds or spending an afternoon on the Cheat, Tygart, Youghiogheny or Blackwater.

Fortunately, many boaters had the opportunity to do both.

Starting at Maryland's Swallow Falls State Park, less than half an hour from the site of the Worlds, the Youghiogheny River abruptly drops 60 feet at Swallow Falls and continues to descend at nearly 100 feet per mile for the next three miles. Known as the Top Yough, the stretch offers continuous class IV-V rapids that can be completed in under 90 minutes by experienced paddlers.

Its accessibility and length made the Top Yough a popular meeting place for boaters after a day at the Worlds. Taking advantage of the long June evenings, the parking lot at Swallow Falls was filled with shuttle vehicles throughout the twilight hours.

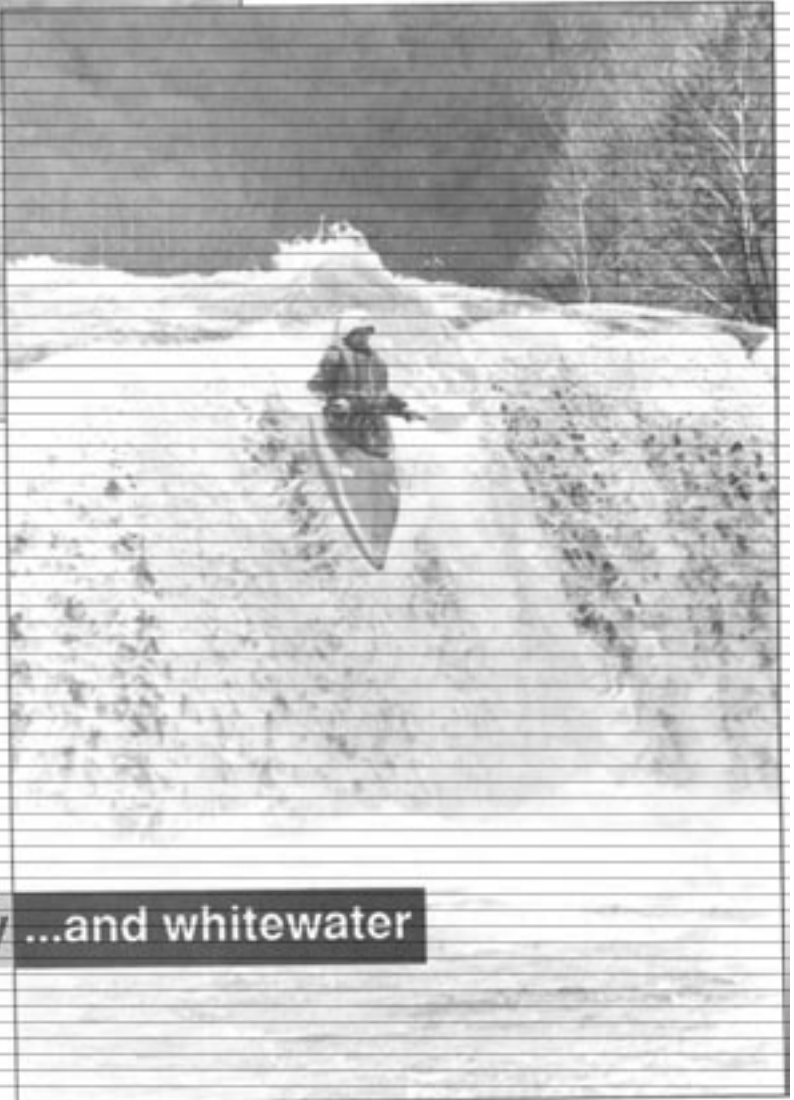
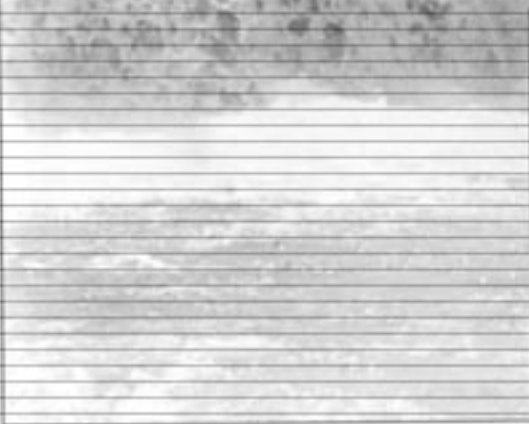
It may have been the busiest weekend the Top Yough has ever seen. Unlike its downriver brother--the Upper Yough--the Top is not influenced by a hydroelectric release. In fact, the Top's

please turn to page 68



TYGART ALES

By Bob Gedekoh



A river rich in history ...and whitewater

And then we reached Hard Tongue Falls. "Drop straight down this chute," Dean said, gesturing to river left,"then turn to the right and brace into the pillow on your left. No problem. Just follow me." Simple enough...we didn't even hesitate.

Dean disappeared over the edge and it was my turn. I drove towards the brink of the sluice, certain that I had the situation well in hand.

Wrong. I don't remember exactly what went through my head in the instant between when I spotted the monstrous white mountain of water and when I hit it. I must have been thinking about Dean's instructions, since I managed the mandatory left brace and bounced down the ten foot oblique wall of water into the sanctuary of the eddy in the center of the river.

I was still agog when Ray careened into the eddy. He eyes were nearly as big as the holes that suddenly seemed ready to swallow us whole.

I was beginning to wish that I had read the guidebook more carefully. I was beginning to wonder if I should have listened to the club elders and stayed on the Lower **Yough** practicing eddy turns. I was beginning to suspect that Dean and Harvey really were dangerous acquaintances. I was beginning to suspect that they were both crazy.

But the Tygart worked its magic on me that day. Ray and I followed Dean and Harvey down crystalline wave trains, **skirting** greedy hydraulics and rocks. We followed them through the serpentine course of **S Turn**...still one of my favorite rapids on earth.

We even convinced Dean to let us scout Shoulder Snapper...though he was right...the route was simple and direct...no problem if you just "Follow me."

By the end of the day I was hooked on paddling with Dean...he has since led me down countless rivers...but I was also hooked on the Tygart, an infatuation to which there seems to be no cure.

Since then I have paddled the Tygart Gorge, the Arden Section, the Loop, Valley Falls, the Middle Fork, and several other small Tygart tributaries at every conceivable level. But trips to the Tygart's Valley River, for that is

its proper name, are still a treat. I have not grown tired of it, because I've discovered that there is a lot more to the Tygart than class four and five whitewater.

Tygart's Valley is a special place, with a history as wild and tumult-

uous as the Gorge at ten feet. And the Valley is home to lots of fascinating people. Hanging around Belington or Phillippi or Arden can be just as much fun as paddling the river. The Tygart has lot more to offer than whitewater, if you take the time to look for it.



A paddler descends into the maw of Wells Falls on the Tygart's Arden section.

ORIGINS

The headwaters of the Tygart lie high in the Appalachians near Snowshoe Ski Resort, adjacent to those of the Elk and the Shaver's Fork of the Cheat. Near its origin the Tygart flows through Mingo Flats and Valley Head, sites of Indian encampments. The river meanders gently through an increasingly wide and verdant valley towards Elkins.

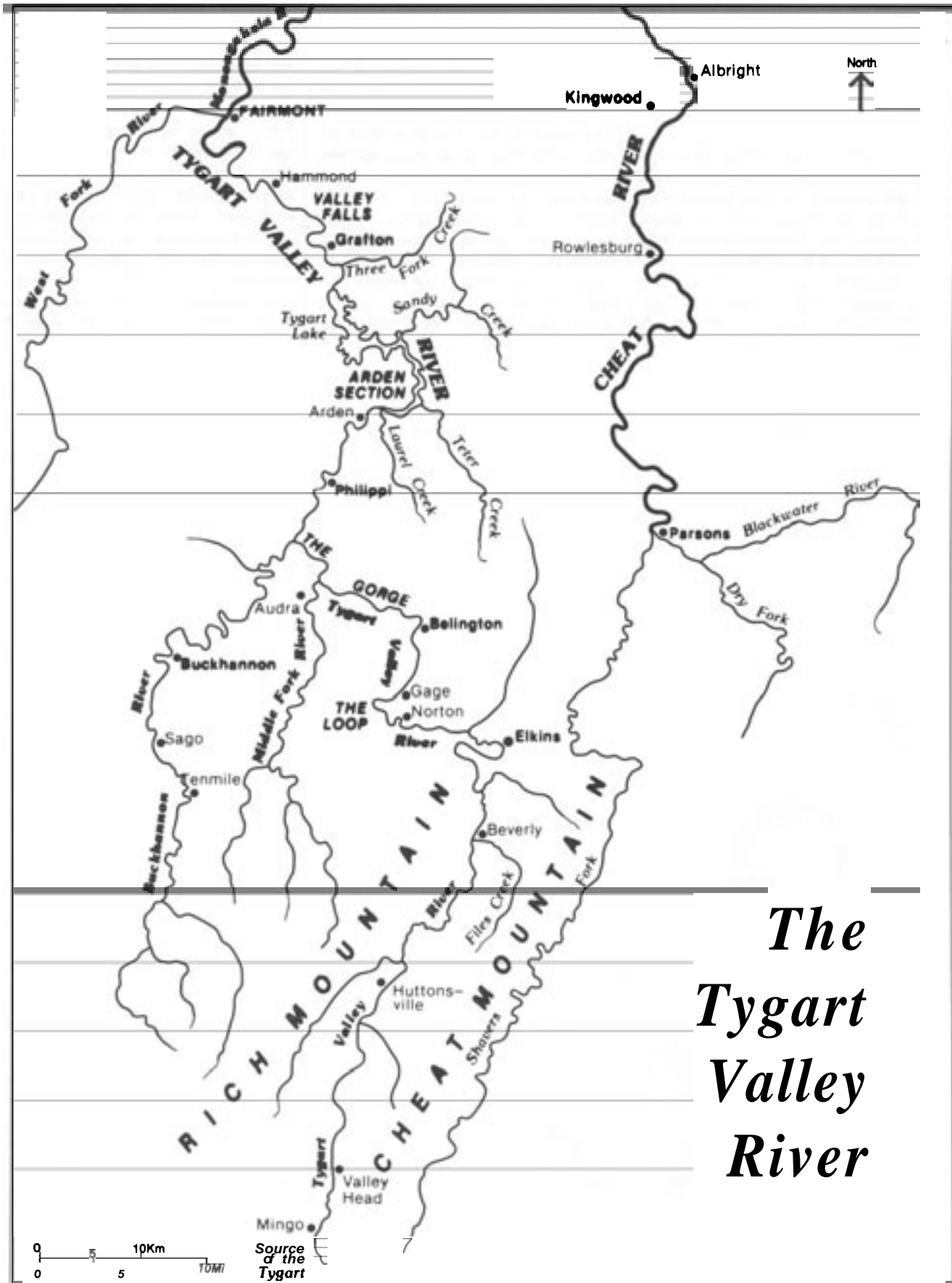
The Shaver's Fork of the Cheat parallels the Tygart to the east all the way to Elkins, the magnificent Cheat Mountain range effectively separating the two watersheds. To the west the Tygart's Valley is bounded by Rich Mountain.

The river is small and docile here, perhaps at high levels of interest to canoeists, but with little to offer whitewater enthusiasts. The tributaries near the headwaters are for the most part too small for even steep creek navigation. Nonetheless, whitewater connoisseurs often traverse this region

on their way to the Shaver's Fork. And this part of Tygart's Valley is one of the most beautiful regions in West Virginia, a gentle, bucolic oasis nestled in the middle of some of the Appalachians' most rugged terrain.

There is much of historic interest as well. The Civil War Battle at Rich Mountain was fought here, and both armies maintained headquarters in Tygart's Valley. Veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil War lie in well-kept cemeteries along Route 219. And the first, albeit ill-fated, English settlement west of the Alleghenies was located near what is now the village of Beverly.

Here the families of Robert Files and David Tygart settled in 1753, having crossed the mountains from the vicinity of the South Fork of the Potomac. While little is known about Tygart's motivation for entering the wilderness, old records document that Files had a history of legal difficulties,



The Tygart Valley River

0 5 10 Km
0 5 10 MI

Source of the Tygart

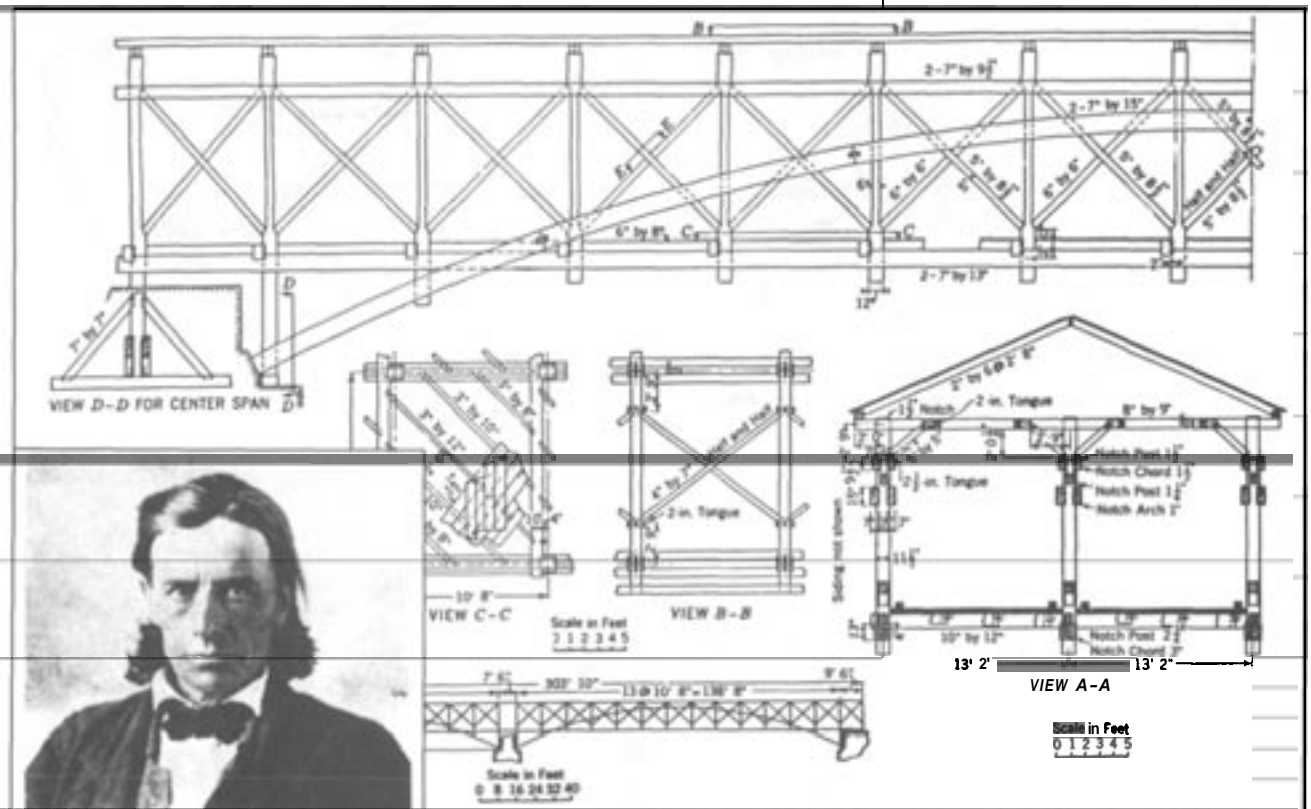
first in Pennsylvania, then later in Virginia. Unfortunately for Files, he led his family from the frying pan into the fire.

At first the Valley must have seemed a paradise on earth to these intrepid pioneers, the river bottom wide and fertile, the woods filled with game. But the families had unwisely built their homesteads next to the Old Seneca Trail, an important Indian thoroughfare, and their intrusion did not pass unnoticed. Neither family managed to raise enough corn to see them through the winter and they had resolved to return east, but ironically, just before the date of their departure, the Indians attacked the Files' homestead.

Files, his wife, and five of his children, the youngest a boy of ten, were all tomahawked to death. Only his eldest son, who was away from the cabin at the time of the attack but who witnessed the slaughter, survived. He led the youth runner to the Tygart cabin, warning them of the imminent danger and allowing them to escape back across Cheat Mountain. Eighteen years would pass before the English would inhabit the region again...though the Valley, and its river, came to bear the name of David Tygart.

Not have those who perished been forgotten, a tributary of the river draining off Cheat Mountain near Be-

erly bears the name File's Creek. File's Creek Road, which parallels this stream, serves as an access to the magnificent Forest Service lands atop Cheat Mountain. It is possible to ascend to the very crest of the ridge, then follow it for a number of miles. To the right the views of Tygart's Valley are breathtaking, a turn to the left will lead to the Shaver's Fork of the Cheat. But beware, the elevation is over 3800 and the road is often blocked with snow through mid April. Along the crest of the ridge the road eventually intersects Route 250. A four mile, 4% winding grade leads back to the Tygart River at Huttonsville.



HALLIE'S TALES



Huttonsville's claim to notoriety is the state prison, located along the river, but there other points of interest as well. At least two rambling Victorian homes are being converted into bed and breakfasts. One of them, the Cardinal Inn, was built in 1901 and has been restored by Eunice Kwasniewski, an expatriate from up-

state New York who fell in love with West Virginia. The inn has been popular with skiers staying in the area.

"We haven't had many whitewater boaters here yet," Eunice observed. "but they'd sure be welcome."

The Huttonsville General Store has changed little since the day it opened, nearly one hundred years ago. With



.....
*Wells Falls on the Arden section:
 although the hole at the bottom looks
 particularly ominous, the hydraulic
 generally spits paddlers free as shown in
 this series of photos.*

well worn hardwood floors, an ornate tin ceiling and hand-crafted counters full of canned goods, penny candies, ammunition, nuts and bolts, miners' belts, garden seeds and dry goods, the store represents a nineteenth century institution that has by no means outlived its usefulness. **Surveying** the contents I concluded that if the store didn't have it, you probably didn't need it.

The General Store may call to mind days gone by, but the proprietors are not without a streak of modern humor. A baseball cap on sale bears the complaint "206 Joints in My Body and None in my Pocket", while a sweatshirt in the front window showing two bears gnawing on human bones is **inscribed**, "Send more tourists to West Virginia...the last ones were delicious."

I asked the lady behind the counter about the local history and she promptly referred me just up the road to the stately home of Hallie **Hutton**, the grand dame of local society and a wealth of information **regarding Tygart's Valley**.

Hallie, a handsome woman of indeterminate age...the one question she slyly evaded..., greeted me at the door with a mischievous smile and escorted me into her parlor, while her **terrier**, nicknamed **E.F.Hutton**, yapped at my heels.

"Don't let E.F. worry you". Hallie grinned. "he's a little dog and don't bite much."



E.F.'s teeth looked plenty big to me, but eventually he settled protectively in his mistress's lap. eyeing me warily while Hallie spun her tales. And what tales they were, ranging from the days when the first pioneers crossed the Appalachians right down to yesterday's news.

Hallie's late husband, Henry **C.**, was a fifth generation descendent of Jonathan **Hutton**, who founded **Huttonsville** in the late eighteenth century. Hallie was born a Dyer, a descendent of one of the first families to settle in neighboring Pendleton County.

"My great-great grandfather.

James Dyer, was kidnapped at the massacre at Fort Seybert on April 28, 1758. He was only fourteen when **Kilbuck** and his band of Shawnees carried him off," Hallie recalls matter-of-factly. "They would have killed him too, except he had dark hair and was a fast runner. James was held captive for more than two years and during that **time** they made him run the gauntlet many times against other captives. The loser always got his brains bashed out with a tomahawk."

"That would certainly motivate you to run fast." I observed.

"Yes, James hated to be part of

it but he had no choice. So one day when he got to the end of the line he just kept ~~going~~ and they never caught him. Came back home all the way from what is now **Chillicothe, Ohio.**"

Not bad for a sixteen year old **kid**, I thought, but Hallie's story wasn't over.

"**Kilbuck** had taken James's older sister too, Sarah Howes. The Indians spared her life because she had red hair and they thought her a goddess." Hallie paused for a moment, interjecting that red hair has appeared sporadically throughout her family ~~tree~~ ever since.

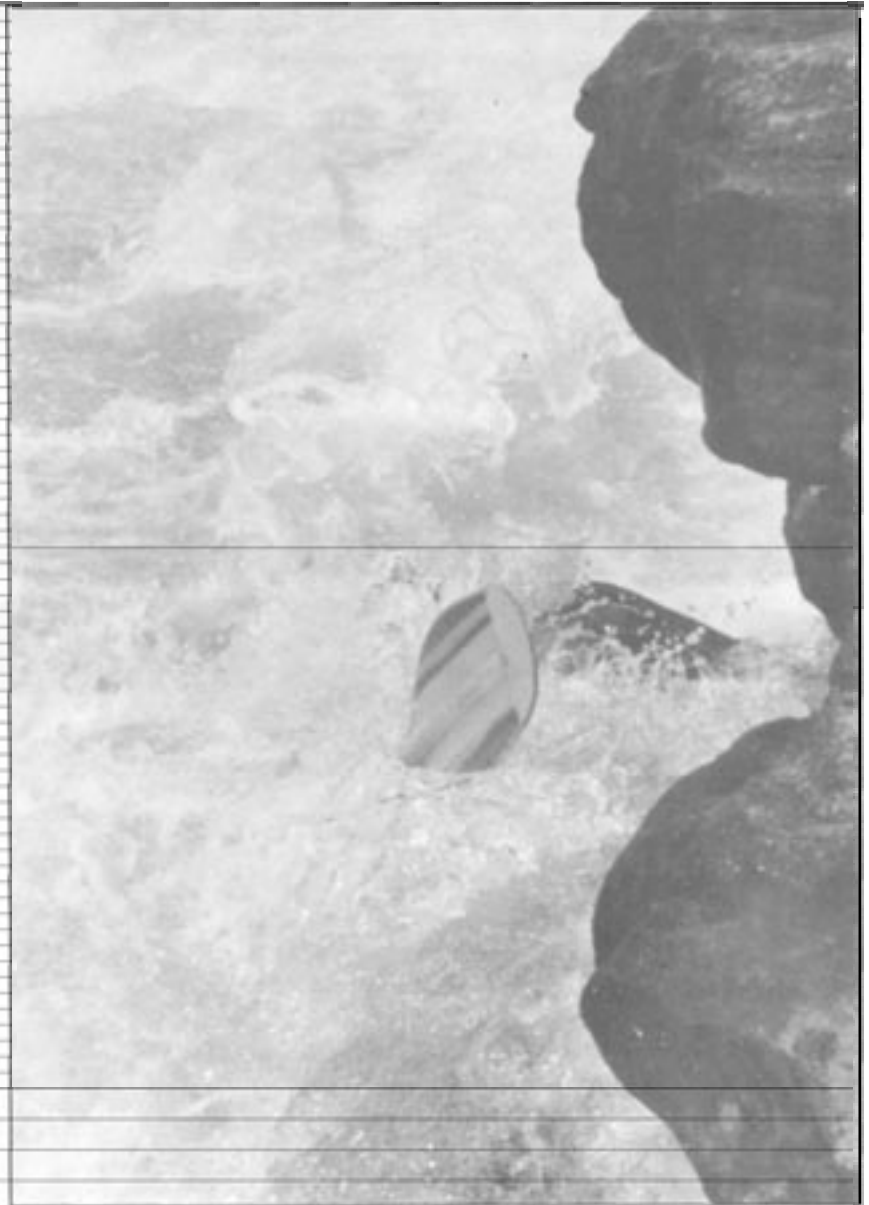
"Before James ran off, he told Sarah he would return for her...and he kept that promise...rescuing her from captivity a year and a half later. The Indians taught James a lot, and it proved of service later when he used to sneak behind enemy **lines** to steal **munition.**"

It wasn't clear to me whether this was during the French and Indian War or the Revolutionary War, and I never did find out because Hallie immediately launched into another story...about a convict who escaped from state prison up the river and raped and murdered a local woman.

"Got her when she went to the barn to milk the cows...slit her throat and stuffed her in a manger". Hallie concluded, but I never did find out whether this had happened last week or **fifty** years ago because Hallie soon had me engrossed in the story of her daughter's birth.

Hallie's daughter was **born** prematurely, and according to Hallie. she spent the **first** three months of her life **in** an incubator. "Only weighed a pound and a half and now she stands six feet tall and is forty nine years old." This is the only clue that I will receive regarding Hallie's age.

Before I left Hallie showed me notebooks **full** of historical and genealogical materials that she and her husband had collected over the years as they traveled the local countryside, talking to other older West Virginians. People like Mrs. **Hutton** represent living links to the past, and I drove away I hoped that someone with more time and ability than me would spend some time with Hallie soon and record her knowledge **properly.**



Bravely exploring the underside of the Undercut Ledge on the Arden section of the Tygart, this paddler demonstrates underwater spelunking. He washed free seconds later.

THE LOOP

The **first** significant whitewater on the Tygart lies between the small towns of Norton and Gage. For five miles the river meanders away from Route 33, creating the Tygart Loop.

Unfortunately boaters looking for the class four and five action promised by **Burrell** and **Davidsons'** popular

guidebook are in for a disappointment. The Loop is mostly class two and three...on club weekends intermediates can perfect their **skills** here, while their more experienced comrades tackle the Middle Fork or the Gorge.

At higher levels the Loop is a good place to get the feel of big water. The gradient is **25 feet/mile**, about ten

less than on the Gorge downstream. There are some interesting wave trains and novices may want to scout a few rapids, most notably the Twin Giants, midway through the run.

Here the current flushes from left to right toward two large boulders set on pedestals; at some levels there is risk of entrapment and less confident boaters may wish to portage. Once the river rejoins the road it becomes placid again, flowing gently through the town of Belington toward its more exciting engagement in the Tygart Gorge.

THE GORGE

Between Belington and Phillipi the Tygart plunges through a serene, uninhabited valley. This is arguably the most popular section of the river for whitewater recreation. It remains one of my favorite runs in West Virginia. Admittedly, paddling the Gorge these days is not quite as thrilling as that first trip with Dean and Harvey, but on spring days when the Cheat Canyon is mobbed with rafts and hard boaters, the Gorge offers a welcome, uncluttered alternative.

A few outfitters raft the Gorge occasionally, but because the river rises and falls unpredictably, scheduling trips is difficult. For this reason, it seems unlikely that the Gorge will fall victim to commercial overuse.

Several miles of flatwater lie at either end of the Gorge, though this can be minimized if you put in at Papa Weese's Fishing Camp and take-out at the mouth of the Buckhannon. There is about eight miles of class 3-5 whitewater here. The difficulty of the run depends on the level of the river. The Gorge is scarcely negotiable when the river is less than 3.5 feet at Belington, and most regulars consider four a minimum level.

At more than five feet many will portage or select alternate routes through Keyhole and Hard Tongue Falls at the onset of the run. Six feet used to be considered a high water run, but in recent years parties of advanced boaters who know the river have tackled the Gorge at higher and higher levels. Above



Shoulder-snayver in the Gorge section.

Eight feet some of the major rapids flush out, but a few potentially lethal holes appear and any swim is likely to be long and result in lost equipment. At levels above five feet it is more fun to skip the Upper Gorge and paddle the Middle Fork into the Lower Gorge.

One of the most interesting rapids on the river, S Turn, lies about two miles below the mouth of the Middle Fork. The rapid lies just beyond a ninety degree bend toward river left. S Turn is steep and boulder choked and the action is fast and furious. At low to moderate levels the classic route begins at right center. The boater then paddles down a sluice to river left, then cuts back hard to the right after clearing a couple of steep hydraulics. After passing to the right of a large boulder near the bottom, the turbulent water spins back to the left into a long pool. Sounds complicated, but fortunately the current does most of the work.

At high levels S the timid can sneak S Turn down the far right, while more daring boaters enter from left center, then head right, avoiding a dangerous trap between two large boulders on the bottom left. Burrell and Davidson report a 25 foot drop here over 75 yards and at higher level S Turn merits a class 5.

Beyond the pool at the bottom lies Shoulder Snapper, perhaps the most notorious rapid in the Gorge. The steep,

shallow descent down right center is particularly treacherous at lower levels.

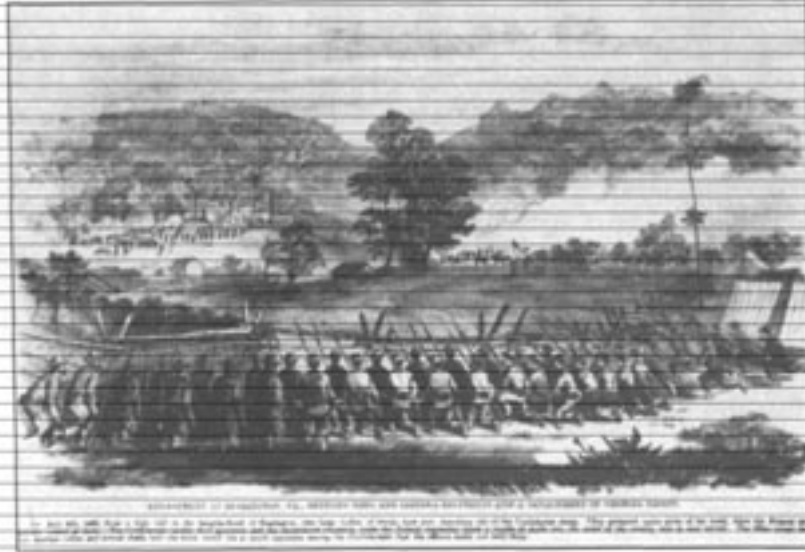
At higher levels a stupendous hole forms on river left that must be avoided at all cost and the correct route leads directly into a large exploding wave. This merits a scout for all newcomers.

A number of other steep, powerful rapids follow in the next two miles, many featuring big, smooth surfing waves. But keep your eyes open, because to keep things interesting, there are a few holes hidden in those hills.

BELINGTON BATTLES

The first Battle of Belington began on July 7th, 1861 and ended on July 12. For six days the Confederates, under the command of General Robert Seldon Garnett, and the Union Forces, under General Thomas A. Morris, skirmished on the banks of the Tygart. Several Union soldiers from Ohio and Indiana were killed. But the rebel forces were ultimately driven out of the Valley, leaving the locals, many of whom sympathized with the South, under the control of Union forces for the rest of the war.

General Garnett survived the



Above: Union soldiers engage the first Virginia Regiment during the six-day skirmish at Belington. Right: General Robert Seldon Garnett, commander of the Confederate forces at Belington



skirmish at Belington but only by one day. He was killed in the midst of retreat on July 13 near the town of Parsons on the Cheat.

The rebels had their revenge at the Second Battle of Belington, fought one early spring day in 1862. During this confrontation the north was represented by a battalion of kayakers from the Three Rivers Paddling Club in Pittsburgh. The south was represented by the Belington Little League Association.

Having spent an exhausting day paddling the Tygart Loop and Gorge, not far from deceptively affable town, the northern forces reconnoitered on a streetcorner, and sent out experienced scouts in search of a likely pizza parlor. They failed to anticipate the cunning of their southern opponents, who had prepared a clever ambush in the guise of a fund raising dinner for the Little League at the community hall.

Soon the entire TRPC contingent marched proudly into the enemy headquarters, and seated themselves around a large table, anticipating the home cooked meal that was to come. And so the noose was tightened.

For this was to be no ordinary fundraiser and this was to be no ordinary meal. This was the famed Beling-

ton Ramp Festival ...and it was ramps that the naive northerners would be eating. Ramp salads and ramps and potatoes and ramps and ham and boiled ramps and even ramp desserts. The southern forces were not armed with muskets or bayonets or cannons. They were armed with ramps.

You think you might have heard of ramps...but you're not sure? I doubt it. Either you know what a ramp is or you don't. There is no in between. Tangle with a ramp once and you will never forget it.

A ramp is a kind of wild onion...or maybe a wild garlic...or maybe a wild scallion...or maybe an alien life form that escaped from the Little Shop of Horrors.

West Virginians extol the virtues of the ramp. They are delicious.

The purge your system. Drive the bad humors out of your blood. On early spring days West Virginians forage through the woods collecting burlap sacks full of ramps.

Then they haul them back to town and feed them to unsuspecting northerners.

Ramps are tricky things. Camouflaged with salad dressing or ham or gravy they don't taste half bad. Don't get me wrong...they don't taste half good either. They just taste sort of...strong. But when you're sitting at a table surrounded by West Virginia Little League mothers proud of all their ramp specialties and they tell you to eat those ramps...you eat. You choke those suckers down. You even tell those ladies how good those ramps are. And you assume that those ladies are smiling because you like their ramps.

But they're really smiling because they're remembering the occupation of Belington and they know that soon the south shall have some measure of revenge.

For to say that a ramp has purgative powers is a gigantic understatement. A soup made of milk of magnesia, metamucil and Ex-Lax would be mild by comparison. Those who feast on the ramp are guaranteed a case of the gruesome green grizzlies.

But that is not the worst of it. The essence of the ramp experience is the smell. Ramps in the wild are pungent. But the nectar of the ramp, filtered through the bloodstream of the human, takes on a life of its own. The soul of the ramp becomes a part of you. It exudes from your pores and penetrates your clothing and there is no getting rid of it. No shower or bath can wash it off. No deodorant can staunch its flow. No cologne can cover it up.

Four or five days later, back in Pittsburgh, at work or on the job, you find yourself a social pariah, sitting alone, collecting strange and pitying looks from former friends and colleagues. It will be some time before you will be welcomed back into polite society.

Back in Belington the Little League Association members are laughing. Laughing and toasting the south and eating pizza with the ghost of General Robert Seldon Garnett.

Pizza... no doubt, garnished with ramps.

MIDDLE FORK

The two largest tributaries of the **Tygart**, the Middle Fork and the Buckhannon, both provide several miles of class four whitewater of interest to boaters.

Of the two, the Middle Fork, which empties into the Tygart midway through the **Gorge**, is the more popular. Those who paddle the Middle Fork must cruise the remainder of the Gorge, including **S Turn** and Shoulder Snapper, to reach an acceptable take-out.

Since the Middle Fork is usually negotiable only when the Tygart is running at five feet or greater in Belington, a **Middle Fork/Lower Gorge** trip offers two distinct river experiences. The **first** is a steep, technical descent, the second, a wild, high volume ride down rolling wave trains **skirting** large rocks and ominous holes.

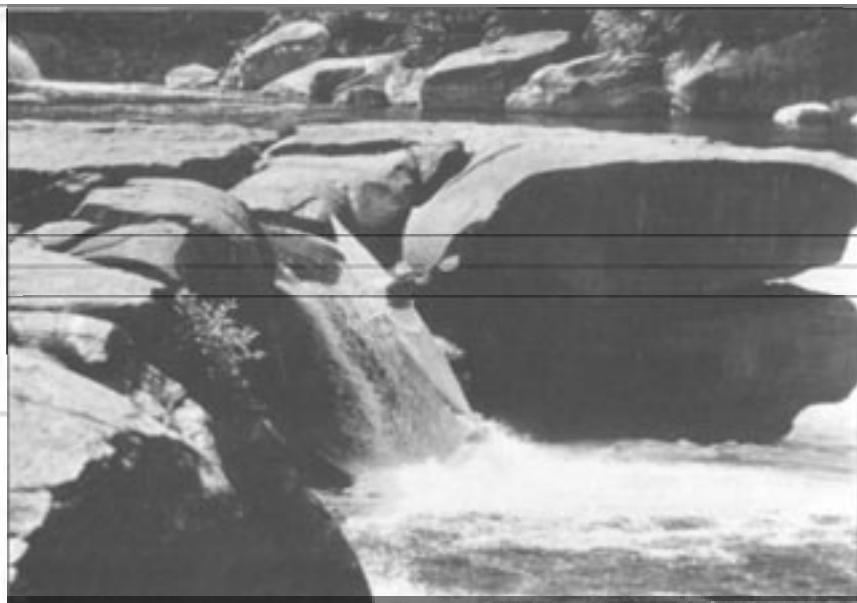
Boaters access the Middle Fork at Audra State Park, a gem of a facility that offers superb camping. Hiking trails meander through the rhododendron and hemlock forests and pass beneath several dramatically undercut cliffs. A natural **swimming** area is popular with campers in summer, when water temperatures reach a tolerable level. It is the kind of place shuttle bunnies love.

The staff of the park has been remarkably hospitable to paddlers, going out of their way to accommodate groups and to facilitate early spring paddling.

The five mile section of the Middle Fork upstream of the park features class two water with several ledges that might prove tricky at higher levels. **This** pristine section of the Middle Fork is often used to introduce beginners to whitewater **since** it starts out flat and gets more difficult as you go.

But most Middle Fork paddlers come for the six miles of class three and four water that lies between the Audra bridge and the **Tygart**. The Middle Fork is best gauged on site since the distribution of rainfall in the mountains is **often** sporadic and the correlation with **gauge** at Belington is tentative at best.

The rapid under the bridge, usually run down the right, is one of the bonier on the river. If you can negotiate



*Valley Falls, a series of steep drops that comprise the **final** stretch of the Tygart's whitewater, can be run with the appropriate water levels.*

this there is probably enough water. If the rapid looks juicy, with large pillows and holes, the remainder of the run is likely to be lively. At low water pinning is a distinct possibility downstream; at **very** high levels the lower portion of the Middle Fork is continuous and approaches class five status.

Midway through the run a **wavetrain** ends in a sizeable but benign **surfing** hole bound to please both novice and expert hotdogs. Not far downstream a slide on river right terminates in a large stopper. Several large boulders lie in perilous proximity. Most boaters punch the edge of the hole on the right, but this is a struggle since the current drives to the left.

After several technical rock gardens one reaches the two most difficult drops on the **Middle Fork**. The first of these, Triple Drop, can be identified by a gigantic boulder at the bottom on river right. Scout this three tiered rapid. The left side looks inviting, but several expert boaters have experienced vertical pins here.

At low to medium levels the plunge down right center between padded rocks and pourovers requires finesse and strength. At high water it is a flush.

The last major rapid, not far upstream of the Tygart, involves a slide

on river left that feeds into a nasty oblique hydraulic that flips the unwary. Failure to catch the small eddies on either side of this hydraulic can lead to trouble. Immediately downstream on the left the river takes another drop, then **turns** ninety degrees to the right in front of an undercut.

At higher levels this can be avoided by **ferrying** to the center of the river through a narrow sneak chute just below the oblique hole. The remainder of the rapid can be negotiated down the right...but be wary of subtle pinning situations.

The Middle Fork is a challenging **run** with a maximum gradient of 80 **feet/mile**. West Virginia boaters consider it a qualifying cruise for the Upper **Yough** or Big Sandy.

BUCKHANNON

The Buckhannon, the other major Tygart tributary, empties into the river at the end of the Gorge. Some boaters use this as a take-out for the Gorge, hiking about a mile up the Buckhannon on the railroad tracks to a small covered bridge. There are several interesting class three rapids on this short stretch of river, but unfortunately

the Buckhannon is flat for nearly forty miles above the bridge.

Which is not to say that this Tygart tributary is a bust. Upstream of the town of Buckhannon lies four miles of eclectic class four to five whitewater. This section, between Tennile and Sago, is paddled infrequently for several reasons. In many respects it is comparable to the Middle Fork...but the Middle Fork is more accessible and, coupled with the Lower Gorge, is longer. The Buckhannon must be **run** at high water and it drops quickly. To make matters worse it is easy to get lost on the shuttle, which meanders over several mountains on gravel roads.

These roads are so steep that it is not obvious on first inspection that they can be traversed in a two wheel drive vehicle. **On** my second trip to the Buckhannon we launched four kayaks over the hood of a Reliant station wagon onto a nearly vertical downgrade. They bounced and clattered down the road for some distance...much to the amusement of a group of locals in a passing pickup.

The residents of the Buckhannon valley are friendly but rough and tumble. No doubt they inherit this trait from the original settlers of the area, the notorious Pringle brothers.

John and Samuel Pringle were deserters from the English garrison at Fort **Pitt** who took up residence in a hollow sycamore along the Buckhannon in 1764. They lived in the tree for four years, spending their time hunting, trapping and dodging the law. Somehow they managed to entice a number of other settlers **from** the South Fork Valley to join them in 1768 and the town of Buckhannon was born. Presumably the newcomers found trees of their own to inhabit. At any rate the new settlement was apparently lively. Famed Methodist Bishop and circuit rider Francis **Ashbury** visited the community not long after it was founded and commented in his diary that the residents were "enthusiastic" but that saving their souls would "take quite a lot of work".

The Buckhannon between **Tennile** and Sago is boulder strewn and steep. Scouting is usually necessary because the routes change dramatically at different water levels and

because no one really paddles the river often enough to know it well.

There are a number of subtle but dangerous traps; siphons, undercuts and strainers. Good boat control is a must. Once we nearly lost an acquaintance who disappeared into a dead end sluice in the midst of a technical rock garden. We could hear him calling for help but we couldn't figure out where he was.

Fortunately he managed to extract himself and ferry to safety...but we all arrived at the bottom of that rapid wide-eyed. We paused there, congratulating ourselves on having survived this menace.

Imagine then our surprise when three whooping and howling drunken tubers bounced nonchalantly down through the rapid and joined us in the eddy. No guide books, no helmets, no life preservers...and they were having one hell of a good time.

"Nothing to it", one of the brawny tubers grinned. "we do it all the time."

"Maybe we should tell them that what they're doing isn't safe," one of my comrades whispered.

"Tell them that they should at least wear life preservers." another added.

I took a closer look at them. They looked pretty big and plenty tough. I wouldn't have been a bit surprised if their name was Pringle. And they didn't look like they would appreciate our expertise.

"You tell them anything you want," I said as I peeled out of the eddy. "Maybe I'll see you in Sago. Then again, maybe not."

My friends hesitated for a moment, then judiciously followed me down the river.

PHILLIPI

Sometimes when we paddle the Tygart Gorge we bypass the usual takeouts and cruise into **Phillipi**. Below the mouth of the **Buckhannon** the river is mostly flat and many of the hillsides have been stripped. Some have been effectively graded and replanted, others not. It is a good place to

study the effects of surface mining on the land.

The picturesque town of **Phillipi** is the home of **Alderson** Broaddus University. Phillipi is notable in two respects. It was the site of the **first** land battle of the Civil War. And then there is the covered bridge.

The battle at Phillipi on June 3, 1861 represented the **first** confrontation between Union and Confederate forces on land. Though historically important, it was a relatively ignominious affair. A Union soldier from Indiana named Charles Denger shot himself in the leg while fording a creek on the way to the battle and bled to death. He was in fact, the only man to die as a result of the affair.

Three young local women, Mrs. George Whitescarver, Miss Mollie **McLeod** and Miss Johnson, passed through Union lines the day **before** the battle and rode into Phillipi, warning the rebel forces of the impending Union attack.

The **first** shot was fired by another feisty local woman, **Mrs. Thomas Humphreys**, in an attempt to alert the Confederates of the approach of the Union forces. In spite of all these warnings the Confederates, under General George Porterfield, were quickly routed from their position in the **town**, fleeing in a state of panic and disarray.

Excited by the retreat, two of the commanding Union officers, Colonel "Old Ben" Kelley and Colonel Frederick Lander, followed in hot pursuit, apparently hoping to singlehandedly capture the entire Confederate force. Lander had a flair for the spectacular. He had explored the far west, was an expert mountain climber and had been involved in a least one duel with Bowie knives.

Unfortunately for Kelley one of the fleeing rebels, a man named **Simms**, paused long enough to turn and send a slug into his chest.

Lander then captured the offending rebel, then had to protect him from **Kelley's** men, who wanted to hang him **on** the spot. Simms escaped the rope only because the wounded Kelley interceded on his behalf. Miraculously Kelley **survived** and was back in the saddle within three weeks.

Two southern soldiers were

not as fortunate. J.E. Hanger and Captain Fauntelroy Dangerfield both had legs amputated as a result of injuries sustained at Phillipi. Fauntelroy's leg was amputated using a carpenter's saw and a butcher knife. The saw is now a treasured possession of a family residing in Parsons. The whereabouts of the leg are unknown.

Hanger ultimately made his fortune as a result of his misfortune. The artificial leg that he designed for himself proved so effective that he was commissioned to make similar prostheses for others. By the time of his death his company was manufacturing artificial limbs throughout the United States as well as in England and France.

But perhaps the most intriguing piece of Phillipi's Civil War history involves a mysterious, clandestine meeting reportedly held in the middle of the covered bridge two days after the battle.

At precisely five o'clock on June 5, two troops of calvary galloped towards the bridge. Those from the north wore the blue, those from the south were clad in gray. The respective ends of the bridge were effectively sealed off by the strangely silent soldiers, who stood at disciplined attention. Villagers were ordered to their homes and no one was permitted near the bridge.

But, unbeknownst to the soldiers, two fifteen year old boys, Chick Simons and Shelton Reger, were hiding within the rafters of the bridge. Transcripts of their story are periodically republished in the local papers and merit repeating here.

At 5:30 two black coaches, each drawn by four horse teams, approached the bridge, one from the north and one from the south. The horses showed signs of hard driving and the blinds on the windows of the coaches were tightly buckled. The coaches disappeared into the bridge.

Simons later reported that he and his friend were "scared right out of our britches." According to Simons a man got out of the surrey that came from the north, "the tallest man I ever seed, for when he got out of the surrey I thought his high stovepipe hat was going to knock me right off my rafter."

"Then he took off his hat and bent over and went through the braces

between the lanes of the bridge and got into the other surrey. There was a lighted lantern in this surrey and when he opened the door I seed his, the tall man's, face. He was awful ugly and had a fringe of whiskers around his jaw."

"After a while the tall man got out of the other man's surrey. His shoulders seemed to be slumped over. As if he was powerful tired. I seed his face good and danged iffen he didnt look like he was going to cry. He sorter hesitated, then he looked into the other surrey and said something about may-God-forgive-our something or other and he hoped somebody would have mercy on somebody's souls-or-other. And then he turned back and slowly climbed into his own surrey."

At six o'clock the two carriages emerged from the bridge and roared off in the directions from which they had came.

Did the two boys really witness a rendezvous between Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis? A desperate last-straw effort to stave off the Civil War. Historians doubt the veracity of the boys' report, maybe with good reason. Simons once said that his friend Shelton Reger would tell the story better than he because "he recollects better than me so many of the important things about it that didnt happen."

But consider this. If such a meeting did not occur, what did Lincoln mean when he said to Seward, "I humbled myself and my county before a proud and resolute man; I can do no more. This war must go on to its inevitable sad conclusion."?

And what did Jefferson Davis mean when he said to Lee, "My mission was a failure, General. The minds of the North and the minds of the south can meet only upon one common ground, the battlefield."?

Draw your own conclusions. I, for one, like to think that the ghosts of Davis and Lincoln visit the bridge at Phillipi still.

The bridge is still Phillipi's most memorable feature. A double lane covered bridge that spans the Tygart, it was designed by Lemuel Chenoweth, a resident of Tygart's Valley, and built in 1851 and 1852 in the middle of a typhoid epidemic. The bridge has sur-

vived the Civil War, ice jams, floods, the onslaught of tractor trailers, and, this spring, a catastrophic fire which destroyed its superstructure but left its roadbed intact. Amazingly enough the Bridge is still in use, and within a year or two it should be restored to all of its historic splendor.

FYGART SCENE

In the late 70s and early 80s the tiny town of Albright on the Cheat seemed to many of us to be the center of the whitewater universe. Hundreds of eastern kayakers honed their skills on the Cheat Canyon. Albright played host to master boaters such as the Snyder brothers, John Regan, Roger Zbel and Mykl Messer. Albright developed a distinct boating culture, and these were its high priests.

But there was another boating culture developing concurrently, unbeknownst to many of us, less than fifty miles away, in the village of Arden on the Tygart River. And though the Arden crowd never achieved the notoriety of their northern neighbors, they were and still are very accomplished waters...with a tradition and a history of exploits uniquely their own.

While the Cheat was overrun with rafting outfitters, the Arden stretch of the Tygart was initially the domain of one company, Rough Run Outfitters. It was Rough Run that attracted young Josh Hubbard to Arden, and he soon became one of their top guides and the premiere kayaker at Arden.

Hubbard, a native of D.C., had cut his teeth as a raft guide on the Potomac and Shenandoah at Harper's Ferry while in his early teens. But he found the big water on the Tygart more to his liking and soon he settled in Arden. Hubbard was among the first to run a number of the steep, small tributaries that pour into the Tygart below Arden, including Teeter Creek and the class 6 Laurel Fork of the Tygart. Josh also pushed the limits on high water runs on both the Tygart Gorge and the Arden Section.

Today Hubbard is co-manager for Tygart operations for Rough Run and he probably knows and loves the

Tygart better than any other boater.

This, in spite of the fact that the Tygart nearly claimed his life.

March **31,1984**. Josh remembers the exact date. **Hubbard** and company were **paddling** the Tygart Gorge at eight feet...high water. Not many kayakers have seen the Upper Gorge at that level. Not many kayakers should. The usual route down the left side of Hard Tongue Falls looks terminal. Many competent class five boaters portage the rapid at this level.

But there is another route through Hard Tongue at high water, a precipitous and intricate slide down the right. A slide past a subtle jumble of rocks that is, in fact, a death trap.

In **1984 Hubbard** was pioneering that route. He paddled his kayak over the ledge and down the slide, then came to a sudden, bone-jarring halt, vertically pinned with the flow of the Tygart pouring over his back and head. The force of the water hyperextended his knees; five years later Josh still feels the pain when he walks.

He struggled for a time but there seemed to be no means of escape.

"I didn't know what else to do so I stuck my hand up and waved goodbye to the world. Not long after that I blacked out"

Fortunately for **Hubbard** his brother, Zack, and his friend, Steve Ware, managed to extract him from the boat and wrestle him to shore.

"I dont know how long I was under, probably five to seven minutes. The fact that the water was so cold saved me."

Josh **Hubbard** came as close to dying on the river as anyone could come. His **friends** administered CPR on the scene and Josh spent three days in an intensive care unit and a week in the hospital at Phillipi. His knee injuries were severe and for a time he had an intermittent heart arrhythmia.

But, not **being** one to hold a grudge, Josh **Hubbard** wasted no time in getting back to the Tygart. He has since run the Gorge at ten feet and the Arden Section at a phenomenal sixteen feet. He has his eyes on a few tiny Tygart tributaries that no one has run yet.

And though he occasionally guides on the Cheat and Upper Yough, Josh **Hubbard** calls the Tygart home.

ARDEN SECTION

The Tygart has little gradient between Phillipi and Arden, but in the eight miles between Arden and the headwaters of the Tygart Lake the river drops at a respectable **25 feet/mile**. Because this portion of the river includes the flow from the Middle Fork and the **Buckhannon**, it can be paddled at almost any level. The Tygart is **pool-drop** here and the temperament of the rapids changes dramatically depending on water levels.

Although relatively easy at low water several rapids become decidedly unpleasant. The first five miles can be scouted from a dirt road on river right. About two miles below Arden the Tygart courses over a steep river wide ledge. At low to moderate levels there is a sluice in the middle with a large hydraulic at its base. Much of the current slides to the left under an immense rock known as the Shoulder Blade. This in unnerving, but can be negotiated by advanced boaters. At high water there is a sneak to the right.

Not far downstream lies a multi-channeled ledge with a potent recycle. Next comes Moat's Falls. a twenty foot river wide rapid that would be a spectacular attraction were it not for the generations of wllge students and locals that have graffitied the rocks with spray paint.

A large peninsula of rock extends out from river right. At low water one discovers that it is, in fact, an arch, and that a good portion of the current flows beneath it. Several of us once paddled under the arch at very low water on a dare. It wasn't a very bright idea. A log might well have found its way under the arch, resulting in a deadly trap. At higher levels the water flowing under the arch creates a dangerous siphon which is not apparent to the casual observer.

The channel of water that passes beneath the arch pools on the right side of the river, then drops through a serpentine, severely undercut sluice not worth considering.

On the opposite side of the river lies another shallow and turbulent class six sluice that screams over a series of jagged ledges. The potential

for decapitation here is great, but it has been navigated at least once, by my friends George Mower and Jim Goddard. I mention this as a tribute to their **courage,not** their **common** sense.

The center channel drops vertically about fifteen feet. When the river is running less than four feet on the Phillipi gauge this is essentially a rock drop. At levels much greater than five feet the recycle at the base merits consideration.

Although this is a relatively easy falls to run it is scary. Not far to the left of the appropriate route the water tumbles onto rock. And the river is extremely wide here and there are few landmarks to outline the correct approach. The landmarks that can be identified while scouting seem to disappear at boat level.

The fact that the boater is in the middle of the river, with class 6 rapids along both banks, adds to the hysteria. And to top things off there is another rapid just below the small pool at the base of the falls. As seen from the approach this creates the illusion that the falls is much higher than it is. Small wonder that Moat's Falls is often portaged.

The next rapid of consequence consists of a series of powerful exploding waves and holes at high water. At low water large boulders are uncovered and the rapid becomes quite technical...perhaps the most difficult spot on the Arden section. At any level this merits a scout.

Several miles downstream lies Well's Falls, described by **Burrell** and Davidsons' guide as "the most powerful, **runnable** rapid in the entire **Monongahela** basin". Here the Tygart is deflected to the left by a jumble of rocks extending out from the right shore. The flow then **turns** back to the right and plummets dramatically through several large waves and stoppers. At the bottom the river drops abruptly into an exploding white wall of water. It goes without saying that this should be scouted and that there are levels when this is best portaged.

If one maintains the **correct** alignment it is possible to blow through the left side of the monster. If not, a backender **and/or** a **meegasurf and/or** a swim are likely. Fortunately there is a generous pool below Well's Falls, and

to make matters even better, a natural stone staircase on river right which makes it easy to carry back up and do it again.

Below Well's Falls there may or may not be several more rapids before the take-out at Cove Run, depending on the draw down of the lake. At low water the banks here are steep, desolate mud slides, a sad reminder of the damage the Corp of Engineers can wreck on a river.

VALLEY FALLS

At the Corp dam at Grafton has by no means tamed the mighty Tygart. Ten miles downstream at Valley Falls State Park the river mounts a final, dramatic one and one-half mile exhibition of defiance before joining the West Fork River at Fairmont to form the Monongahela.

Even expert boaters should consider a visit to Valley Falls a sight-seeing expedition when the river is running high. And since the Corp controls the release from the dam, the flow is by no means predictable.

In flood this section of the Tygart is a maelstrom. The river is channeled between two steep hillsides and drops 100 feet in two miles. Meg-hydraulics form at the bottoms of the slides and falls, monstrous swells of water appear and disappear, explosion waves collapse upon themselves. The river is spectacular, but to anyone but the suicidal, unrunnable.

At lower summer levels, however, a great deal of fun can be had here...albeit reckless fun. The first two rapids, essentially multi-channeled river wide ledges, have provided an initiation to falls running to many local boaters. But beware, some of the channels are not clean, and others have a potent recycle, especially when the Tygart is running at more than a minimal level.

The first ledge is usually run on river left as a vertical fifteen foot drop. The lip is shaped a bit like a horseshoe, and it is best to avoid the central crease unless you have a pathologic need to do "tricks" at the bottom. I have seen rafts run the sliding chute on river right, but not kayaks, and I for one would not want to be the first.

The next river wide ledge is not quite as high, perhaps twelve feet. A narrow sluice near the right center between two boulders is the usual approach to the vertical drop. Those who flip are sometimes pulled back against the rock wall to their left and forced to swim to extract themselves.

The corresponding channel on river left is beautiful, but does not appear to be clean.

The rangers at Valley Falls, once enthusiastic about kayaking within the park and tolerant of falls running, have reportedly become less so in re-

cent years. Some boaters are putting in upstream of the park boundaries in hopes of avoiding confrontation.

Below the second falls lies a technical class four, followed by a dangerous rock garden ripe with pinning potential that is considered a class six. This is a dangerous spot that changes dramatically at different levels and must be scouted and/or portaged.

Several more class three and four rapids follow within the next mile and then, alas, the Tygart's gradient is spent.

ENDERS AND RECIRCULATION

Near the end of the Tygart Gorge lies Instant Ender...one of the quintessential kayak play spots in the Appalachians. Anyone who cant ender here should be sentenced to life in a very tiny squirt boat.

Front enders, back enders, prouettes...you name it.

One of my good friends, Tom Ordons, a fanatic when it comes to play boating, has been known to spend hours here, literally ending his brains out. This from a bank vice president...it kind of makes you wonder...

But the whole of Tygart's Valley River is a lot like Instant Ender on a warm spring day...it's hard to get enough

of it. The people, the history, the scenery and the whitewater are all very special...small wonder the Tygart keeps me coming back for more.

The author would like to thank the members of the Barbour and Randolph County Historical Societies for their help in the preparation of this manuscript.



FERC places roadblocks in relicensing participation

On May 17, 1989, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued its final rule governing relicensing procedures for all hydro projects in the U.S. This rule put an end to months of speculation among river activists (who commented and argued with the proposed draft much earlier) about how we would be permitted to play a role in relicensing the hundreds of America's existing hydro facilities.

Public Participation

We wanted FERC to enfranchise us as a full partner in the relicensing of these plants--on a par say, with state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. That way, a better balance could be struck during relicensing between fishing interests and paddling interests.

Well, we, the public, got blown away. FERC decided that, Yes, the public can have a say in relicensing, but (there is always that "but") it can have a say ONLY ONCE! The public gets a chance to speak at one joint (agency/owner) public meeting at the beginning of the state agency/project owner consultation process.

This paltry opportunity to convince owners to change their operations and design will probably be relatively useless, that is if paddlers even learn that such a meeting has been sched-

uled! You see, FERC decreed that the owner must, at least 14 days before the meeting "publish notice, at least once, of the purpose, location, and timing of the joint meeting, in a daily or weekly newspaper in the county or counties in which the existina project...are situated." (emphasis added) Clearly, if the interested paddlers don't live in the area of the project, they won't learn about the upcoming meeting.

But, it could have been much worse. Commissioner Trabant, obviously a disagreeable soul, stated in his dissent to the majority opinion that involving the public in relicensing would:

"...likely have a chilling effect on open and candid exchanges between resource agencies and the applicant. [already too cheeky] In addition, such a procedure will encourage posturing by various interest groups [like AWA...] and resource agencies for the respective constituencies....Including private organizations with narrow parochial concerns at this stage of the process also clearly risks meetings that will be too large and unwieldy to control with numerous requests for otherwise unjustified studies and analysis. [like whitewater feasibility studies]"

(bracketed text added)

Consultation

The decision set up a three level process where the state resource agencies meet in secret with the project owners to decide what the final license should provide for. Three levels of consultation were defined--two of which pre-date filing of the final draft license application--the beginning of the formal public intervention process.

Stage 1

A. The owner holds the public joint meeting and makes a transcript or audio recording of the gathering;

B. The owner sends FERC and the resource agency a packet of general information about the project engineering, operations, local natural resources and streamflow information;

C. 60 days later, the resource agencies must send the owner a list of studies they want done.

D. Unless they dispute the need for the study, the applicant must undertake the study.

Stage 2

A. The owner sends the resource agencies copies of the results of the studies it undertook;

B. The owner send the resource agencies copies of the draft license application for their review alone;

C. The resource agencies have 90 days to comment on the application;

D. The owner may file their draft application after their last joint meeting between the resource agencies.

Stage 3

A. The owner files their final draft license application with FERC;

B. The public, resource agencies and competing applicants will have at least 30 days to intervene in the formal licensing proceeding.

It's not too hard to see what FERC wants. They want the public to stay out of the licensing process until after all the loose ends are cleaned up and after bilateral agreements are struck with state resource agencies. This is bad news for paddlers, since most state resource agencies and the owners rarely are friends of the paddling community. If the fish agencies have their way, all the water in an impoundment would be bled away in minimum flows instead of pulse flows for whitewater flushes. Unfortunately, it will be an uphill battle for paddlers in the formal licensing process when the state agencies are already aligned with the owner.

Confidentiality

Just to make sure that paddlers and competi-

tors for the site license (some competing applicants might offer paddlers a better deal--they shouldn't be written off), FERC shielded the consultation process from outside scrutiny. FERC states that companies can request FERC confidentiality of all consultation materials, until at least the proposed license is filed.

Although state agencies are not bound by FERC confidentiality, their points of view toward

paddlers will probably convince them to bottle up the consultation activities as well.

AWA/AR/NWF Rehearing

Motion

In conjunction with American Rivers and the National Wildlife Federation, AWA hired top legal gun, Chuck McGraw to gussy up a massive motion for rehearing, an action needed to permit later litigation about the rules. In its thick filing, AWA argued that the public had a right

to participate alongside of the state resource agencies and make the final license application reflect more points of view than just the fish agency's. We also requested FERC make many other changes which will open the process up more to the public.

But stay tuned, who knows what FERC will decide. It could get worse, instead of better. Rest assured, however, AWA will be watching and responding.

At the very least, write AWA's national relicensing project coordinator, Ron Dodson, NYS Audubon Society, RD #2, Box 131, Selkirk, NY 12158 for our relicensing guidance packet. Call the owner of the project you are interested in and find out when the public joint meeting is to be held and participate. If the meeting was held, ask for the transcript and send your comments in ASAP. At least get the process started.

Relicensing sites listed by state

The following are rivers and streams on which hydroelectric plants are undergoing relicensing, organized by state. (##) means several projects are involved. (####) means many sites are involved. Many other projects, although quite old, are undergoing licensing for the first time (a few are so noted), but are hard to identify. Those projects whose license came due in 1988 are not mentioned (about 5 projects). It is probably too late to do much about these.

NORTHEAST
Massachusetts

Connecticut River in Hampden, Holyoke, and Franklin counties (##)
Merrimack in Essex County
Deerfield in Franklin County (##)
Westfield River in Hampden County

Maryland

Youghiogheny, (Upper) in Garrett County (Deep Creek Lake)

Maine

Penobscot, West Branch in Penobscot County (####)
Presumpscot in Cumberland County (##)
Piscataquis in Penobscot County
Androscoggin in Franklin, Androscoggin & Oxford Counties (####)
Kennebec in Somerset & Kennebec Counties

Saco in York County
Stillwater in Penobscot County
Sebasticook in Kennebec County
Messalonskee River in Kennebec County

New Hampshire

Connecticut River in Coos County

Pemigewassetin Grafton County
Androscoggin River in Coos County (####)
Dead River

New York

Hudson River in Warren & Saratoga Counties (##)
Sacandagain Saratoga County (NIMO's Stewarts Bridge & E.J. West)
Raquette in St. Lawrence County (####)
Beaver in Lewis & Herkimer Counties (####)
Oswego in Oswego County (##)
Black River in Jefferson County (##)

Genesee in Monro County

Seneca in Seneca County
Mohawk in Schenectady County
Salmon River near Pulaski (new license - old plant)
St. Regis near Potsdam (new license - old plants)
Mongaup River near Port Jarvis (new license - old plant)

Vermont

Otter Creek in Addison & Rutland Counties (##)
Passumpsic in Caledonia County (##)
Winooski in Chittenden County
Clyde in Orleans County (##)
Deerfield in Windham County
Black River in Windsor County
Ottawaquechee River in Windsor County

SOUTH

Alabama

Tallapoosa River in Elmore County

Georgia

Oconee River in Baldwin County
Tugaloo in Habersham & Rabun Counties
Chattahoochee in Troup County

Tallulah in Rabun County (##)
Ocmulgee in Butts County
Savannah River in Columbia County

North Carolina

Yadkin River in Forsythe County
Little in Transylvania County
Catawba, S. Fork in Gaston County

South Carolina

Broad River in Chester, Richland & Cherokee Counties (####)
Saluda River in Greenville and Anderson Counties

Virginia

Roanoke River in Roanoke County
Shenandoah, S. Fork in Page County (##)
Shenandoah in Warren County
New River in Carroll County (##)
James in Bedford County (##)
Potomac River in Jefferson County
Cheat River in Preston County

MIDWEST

Illinois

Rock River in Lee and Winnebago Counties
St. Joseph River in Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties

Michigan

Black & Cheboygan Rivers in Cheboygan County
Menominee in Dickinson & Menominee Counties (####)
St. Joseph in St. Joseph County
Ontonagon in Ontonagon County
Montreal in Gogebic County
Manistee in Manistee County
Escanaba River in Delta County (##)
Muskegon River in Newaygo & Mecosta Counties (##)

Thunder Bay River in **Alpena** County (##)
 Au Sable in **Alcona** & **Oscoda** Counties (####)
 Sturgeon River in **Baraga** County **Minnesota**
 Crow Wing River in Morrison County
 Mississippi in Hennepin, Crow Wing & **Itasca** Counties (##)
 St. Louis in Carlton County (##)
 Prairie River in **Itasca** County **Missouri**
 White River in Taney County
 Niangua River in **Camden** County **Wisconsin**
 Wisconsin River in Adams, Portage, Vilas, Marathon, Wood & Lincoln Counties (####)
 Oconto in Oconto County (##)
 Chippewa in Chippewa & Eau Claire Counties (##)
 Fox in Outagamie & Winnebago Counties (####)
 Menominee in **Marinette** County
 Peshtigo in Marinette County (####)
 Namekagon in Sawyer County
 White in **Ashland** County
 Waupaca in Waupaca County
 Rock River in Rock County (##)
 Tomahawk in Lincoln County
 Iron River in **Bayfield** County
 Flambeau in Rusk County (##)
 Flambeau, N. Fork in Price County (####)

WEST
Alaska

Beaver Falls Creek in Ketchikan Division (##)

Ketchikan Creek in Ketchikan Division
Arizona
 Fossil Creek in Yavapai County
California
 San Joaquin in Fresno County (1989 - soon!) (##)
 Tule River, N. & M. Forks in Tulare County (1989 - soon!) (##)
 Willow Creek, N. Fork in **Madera** County (1989 - soon!) (##)
 Mill Cr. & Santa **Ana** River in **San Bernadino** County (####)
 Kern in Kern County
 Yuba in Yuba County
 Hat & Pit Creeks in Shasta County (##)
 Kern, N. Fork in Kern County
 Angels & Clovey Creeks in Calaveras County (##)
Colorado
 Fall Creek and Eagle River in Eagle County
 Arkansas River in Chaffee County (##)
 Clear Creek, S. Fork in Clear Creek County
Idaho
 Snake River in **Gooding**, Ada, Owyhee & Twin Falls Counties (####)
 Moyie in Boundary County (##)
 Bear River in Franklin County
Montana
 Swan River in Flathead County
 Missouri River in Cascade, Lewis and Clark Counties (####)
 Madison River in Madison County
 Clark Fork & Pend Oreille Rivers in Missoula County

Nevada
 Leidy Creek in Esmeralda County
Oregon
 Umpqua, North Fork in Douglas County (####)
 Clearwater River in Douglas County (##)
 Hood River in Hood River County
 Rock Creek and Powder River in Baker County
Mackenzie in Lane County (##)
 Deschutes in Deschutes County
Utah
 Yellowstone in **Duchesne** County
 Spring & Hubble Creeks in Utah County
 Big Cottonwood Creek in Salt Lake County
 Monroe Creek and Sevier River in Sevier County
 Snake Creek in **Wasatch** County
 Beaver River in Beaver County
 Ogden River in Weber County
 American Fork in Utah County
 Bear River in Utah County
Washington
 Keeney Creek & Nooksack, N. Fork in **Whatcom** County
 Nisqually River in **Thuston** County (##)
 Colville in Stevens County
 Snoqualmie in King County (##)
 Newhalem Creek & Skagit River in Whatcom County
 Wisconsin River in Adams County
Wyoming
 Strawberry Creek & Salt River in Lincoln County

Hydro exemption bill opposed

A bill currently pending in Congress designed to protect owners of pre-1935 hydro plants from competition could prove disastrous for whitewater boating as well as other forms of river recreation at approximately 350 dam sites across the nation.

Unlike most dam owners, the pre-1935 owners can refuse to meet the modern federal environmental and recreational requirements unless a competitor, with a better plan for overall use of the stream, applies for a Federal License at the site.

If a competitor

does apply for a license at the same site, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) serves as an arbiter-deciding which faction presents a better overall use of the resource.

FERC has historically favored the existing owner--but should the newcomer get the nod for the license, the existing utility would be forced to sell the facility and buy back power from the new owner.

On the surface, the possibility of a competitor "claim-jumping" an existing owner's dam site seems unfair. But on close inspection, the proposed

legislation that would forever immunize these pre-1935 sites from competition also contains glaring inequities.

For over 50 years, these 350 projects have exploited water resources without regard to the potential of recreational opportunities. The only window paddlers have to gain favorable access or release provisions within a project area is when a competitor challenges an existing claim.

In a better world, pre-1935 plants should be forced to examine recreational opportunities **without** a competitor filing for a li-

cense. But for now, that situation provides paddlers their only chance for equal consideration of the water resource...and the proposed bill would end even that opportunity.

A prime example of how this bill can hurt whitewater boaters is a project owned by Orange and **Rockland** on the Mongaup River. Orange and **Rockland** has barred access to paddlers for decades, even though its regular releases provide a potential recreational opportunity for paddlers. Recently, a competitor--**Rio Hydroelectric Associates**--has filed for a license on



CUSTOM WOOD PADDLES
Squirt Sticks S.O. Terriks
Canoe Paddles

NEW WAVE KAYAKS

RAPIDSTYLE
Wild New Colors for River Wear

EXTRASPORT
Life Jackets & Polypro

SYNTHETIC PADDLES
S-Glass, Graphite, Take-A-Parts
Custom Work Available

LAZER KAYAKS

BERMUDES DRY SUITS
24-hr. Seal Repair Service

PERCEPTION - OKESPOR
Spray Skirts, Pile & Footwear

1692 Second Street Pike
Richboro, PA 18954

(215) 598-3669

Gidewinder

PADDLES

conservation

the site, and finally the desires of boaters starting to be addressed. Should this bill be passed, Orange and Rockland would have no motivation to change its restrictive policies.

Ironically, Orange and Rockland will testify before the subcommittee in its initial hearings. Chances are, subcommittee members will receive an earful of how the "claim-jumpers" are unfair to the utility

without a mention of how O&R for years refused to talk to recreational interests who wished to share its lucrative resource.

The subcommittee is chaired by New Jersey's Bill Bradley. Paddlers are urged to write him and advise him that:

1. You enjoy recreational use of rivers, and you oppose the bill (S. 635) to eliminate competition for licenses on pre-1935 dams.

2. You oppose giving pre-1935 dam owners a perpetual government-granted monopoly.

3. If a pre-1935 hydro facility is inefficiently operated, FERC should retain its authority to reassign the license to a more efficient user.

4. The Federal Power Act requires FERC, in hydro licenses, to give "equal consideration" to the "protection of recreational opportunities," and the preservation of other aspects of environmental

quality." This **equal consideration** is presently required for all hydro projects.

Other members of the subcommittee include: Kent Conrad (ND) Dale Bumpers (AR) Wendell H. Ford (KY) Howard M. Metzenbaum (OH) Timothy Wirth (CO) Daniel J. Evans (WA) Mark O. Hatfield (OR) Frank H. Murkowski (AK) Malcom Wallop (WY) Don Nickles (OK)

...swim cont.

Fortunately. I thought, I still have the rope! I began to try to climb out of this hole in the rock but the force of the water was impossible to combat. I could not move.

I stopped to think, still holding my breath. How could this happen? Was I trying hard enough? Did I not realize how important it was for me to get out of this thing? Remember what happened to that other guy a few years ago? I thought, "You just have to try harder. Steve". I really tried with all my might this time but my efforts were absolutely fruitless.

It was time to stop and think. If I panicked at this moment, it would be all over. Strength was not going to get me out of this predicament alive and I had to spend whatever time I had left thinking up a strategy. Something dawned on me. Maybe this is one of those dreams where at the last instant, I take a gasp and wake up. It sure seemed real but just in case, I tried to suck in a minute amount of water to test this hypothesis.

The dream theory was wrong. This was the real thing. Suppose I just wait for the other guys to get onto the rock where Alex was holding the rope? With enough of them up there, surely they could pull me out of this. I began to wonder what they were doing up there and would only picture the pandemonium. But there was no way that they were going to get through that whirlpool and onto that little rock in time to pull me up alive. What was I going to do?

I grew despondent. I began to feel sorry for myself and wondered how painful this was going to be. What were my friends thinking up there? What was Cindy going to say when she heard? How would she take it and what kind of fix am I leaving her in? What a jerk I must be. I threw away a pretty good life doing something stupid. Kayaking is great but it wasn't worth this.

All these thoughts probably happened over a span of thirty seconds, the longest thirty seconds I have ever known. Then a critical new idea came to me. Where does all this water go? It must come out somewhere! Why not just let go of this rope? Suppose the

hole is smaller than me? I'd be finished for certain. Then again if I just hang on this rope, I will eventually pass out and I would rather try to squeeze through a hole in the rock when I am conscious.

It became clear that this was my only choice. I would curl into a ball and let go of the rope. If I felt myself hitting rocks, I would try different positions and maybe one of them would produce the optimum shape to slip through this theoretical life-saving hole.

I let go of the rope.

Meanwhile, topside, Alex felt the rope suddenly slacken and pulling with all of his might, fell backwards off the rock. My friends told me he turned white as a sheet, thinking that the rescue attempt had come to a tragic conclusion.

In an instant, I saw daylight. I flushed under that rock lie a supersonic jet and this was the most beautiful sunlight I had ever seen. Unfortunately, this scene was not quite over. Upon exit from the rock, I got caught in a hydraulic and went for a long series of somersaults. In spite of this, I had a smile on my face. All I had to do is dive down and I'd be out of this thing. It worked and I was able to savor the tastiest breath of air I have ever known! The ordeal was over.

I guess kayaking is worth it after all. Yes, I still enjoy the Gauley and no. I never get near the right side of Initiation.

(Note: First of an occasional series on epic swims. An article on your big swim would be appreciated, both to promote safety and to entertain our readers. Concentrate your article on the decision-making processes you went through during the incident, as well as the reasons why you were swimming in the first place. Send your article to THE BIG SWIM, c/o Mac Thornton, 322 10th St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003).

Top Yough cont...

takeout is near where the release from Deep Creek Lake dumps into the river.

Consequently, the Top can only be run when the natural flow is at a suitable level--limiting the run to local paddlers who can take advantage of favorable water conditions. But by a particular stroke of luck, the Top was at an optimal level during the weekend of

the Worlds.

Because of its proximity to the Upper, the most common question asked about the Top section is how does it compare with the classic rapids downstream?

In a word--favorably,

The Top always has less water than the Upper and tends not to be as pushy. And its gradient doesn't quite match the Upper so there aren't the number of big drops. But similarities between the two runs--steep, technical rapids obstructed with large boulders, blind drops and fast, continuous water--are obvious. After all, only four miles of flat water separate the take-out of the Top and the put-in to the Upper at Sang Run.

Taken as a whole, most veterans of both runs claim the Upper is a tad more difficult than the Top. But they are quick to note that the Top boasts a rapid as challenging--and dangerous--as anything on the Upper: Suckhole.

At Suckhole, a rock barrage extends from the right bank forming a strong eddy. Most of the river flows left, smashes up on a large pillow rock, and then plummets down over a series of boulder-obstructed drops--each with a strong hydraulic.

The rapid gains its name from an under-the-surface sluice midway out in the rock barrage. An unwary paddler entering the eddy can actually be sucked toward and supposedly into the undercut.

One of the legends of the Top Yough--and it can be authenticated--involves one of the early expeditions down the Top. A paddler came out of his boat and vanished into the suckhole.

His companions were frantic. They climbed over the rock barrage, but could not find a trace. After a half an hour, they were ready to abandon the search. Too distraught to paddle, they prepared to hike out when they heard a faint, "Help! Help!" emanating from the boulders.

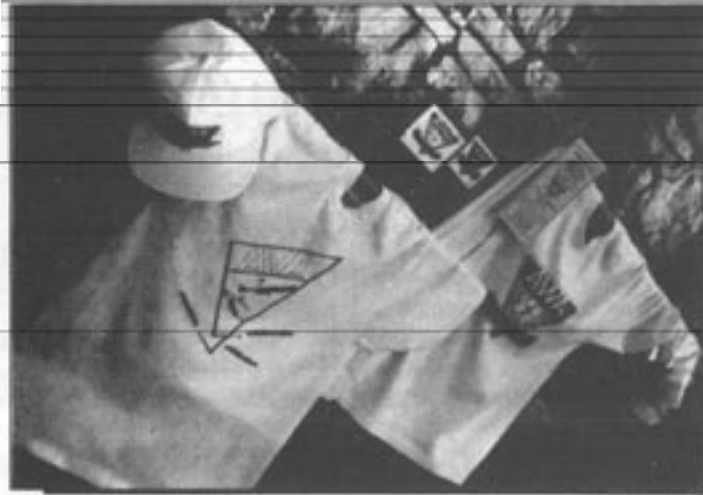
Trapped in an air-pocket under the rock, their friend was still alive. They snaked a rope threw a narrow crevice and eventually extricated him.

Boaters on the Top Yough during the Worlds weekend didn't encounter such epic difficulties. But no one left disappointed.

AWA T-Shirts...AWA river hats...Embroidered patches...waterproof decals

Be a slave to fashion

AWA river gear identifies you as a member of the bizarre subculture known as a white-water addict. Buy a shirt or hat today. See how quickly friends and family shun you.



Order your gear here

		size	total
T-shirts, AWA logo: short sleeve (S,M) long sleeve (M,L,XL)	8.00112.00		
T-shirts, Bold New Look: short sleeve (M,L,XL) long sleeve (M,L,XL)	8.00112.00		
AWA River Caps	8.00		
AWA Embroidered Patches	1.00		
AWA Waterproof Decals	.50		
total order			

mail order with check to AWA, PO Box 375, Denver, NC 28037--NC residents add 5% sales tax

Don't be sticky...

Let \$15 find a *hole* in your pocket

The AWA is fighting to save our whitewater resources. You can help. Your \$15 membership fee is funneled directly into our effective river conservation actions. Plus—every member receives a subscription to American Whitewater...the best semi-professional white-water magazine in the world!



Join the AWA today and receive ***American Whitewater*** at home

Yes, I want to join the AWA and receive a subscription to American Whitewater. I've enclosed my tax-deductible contribution of \$15 (\$18 Canada, \$25 overseas) to help conserve our whitewater resources and promote river safety.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to AWA, 146 N. Brockway, Palatine, IL 60067

Deprogramming a whitewater cultist

The trap was cunningly laid. I didn't stand a chance. My captors knew what buttons to push. What bait to use.

They caught my attention as I stumbled out of a bar. Tacked on a telephone pole was a poster that read "Free beer--all night" with an arrow pointing down a dark alley.

Any reservations I felt as I groped down the black cul de sac evaporated when I encountered a second sign lit by a dim light bulb: "Free buffet--all you can eat." Another arrow directed me further down the alley.

At the end of the passageway sat a large cage--the kind used to live-trap bears and similar-sized animals. The door to the cage was open, but held ajar by a slender trip-wire.

I snorted to myself: "Huh, just because I'm a boater, do they really think the promise of free beer and food will induce me to crawl in there?"

Then I saw the final poster. "Wet T-shirt contest tonight!" I dove through the door and remembered no more.

At first I thought my girlfriend was playing funny games again with those NRS two-foot straps. But as my mind gradually cleared. I realized I was bound hand and foot to a couch--the kind found in a psychiatrist's office. A gentleman in a white smock stood before me, a clipboard in hand.

"Where am I," I mumbled. "Where's the beer...the food..the girls?"

"All of your questions will be answered in good time." he replied. "But first, I have some queries of my own. Is it true you often wear a neoprene skirt?"

After I nodded an affirmative, he murmured something about "evidence of gender confusion" and scrawled notes on the pad.

"And is it also true that you travel with a marauding band of individuals, all in similar attire, eating, driving, sleeping and recreating together week after week?"

Again--a yes. This time he knotted his brow, muttering "devotion to clannish cult" as he scribbled on the board. Then he held up a color photograph.

"Now, does *this* outrageous design--with obvious Satanic overtones--appear on the deck of your boat?"

"Don't know," I said. "Is that a shot of my Demon or Vampire?"

The gent appeared a little shaken. His hand shook as he feverishly scrawled more notes.

"One last question." he said. "taking a step back from the couch. "Am I correct in understanding that the kind of paddle you use is a..."

"Slasher." I said with my best Jack Nickelson leer. And that was enough to convince the man in the coat. He quickly crossed the room to a red telephone, picked up the receiver, and spoke tersely into the line:

"Better send in the deprogrammers. We've got a bad one."

So that's how I disappeared from the whitewater scene for six weeks. My friends figured I had found a steady girl...or a real job. But no. I was getting deprogrammed--saved from the devil. voodoo whitewater cult.

It wasn't pretty.

First they tried to strip away my present identity by ripping off all the labels from my clothing. Scraps of cloth bearing the words "Patagonia", "Stolquist", "Kokatat" and "Extra Sport" flew in the breeze.

The next step was to completely neutralize my mind and body. I was forced to read flatwater canoeing articles by Harry Roberts that appeared in Canoe Magazine. They made me memorize the AWA Safety Code. They even made me read all the pamphlets included with a Perception kayak when you buy a boat.

With my brain turned to mush. they tried to do the same to my body. I was fed nothing but oat bran, tofu and decaffeinated cola. Within two weeks. I was reduced to a husk of my former

magnificent self.

It was while I was in this pitiful condition, they to alter my patterns of behavior through negative reinforcement. In layman's terms, they tried to break my habit by rubbing my nose in the sport's fecal matter.

They drove me to Canada's Ottawa River to make me paddle all the flatwater--then carry the few rapids. Then to the Lower Yough, where I was forced to wait in line for three hours and then refused the opportunity to even paddle the Loop.

Our next stop was the Lehigh River where I was forced to endure the humiliation of boating a class II river in an Eclipse--the old Perception boat big enough to bathe a hippo in--while wearing a Hi-Float PFD and paddling with a synthetic stick with my name printed prominently on the blade.

During the endless driving, I was never permitted to rest. A specially fitted pair of earphones constantly repeated a selection entitled "Life and Squirting: The Metaphysical Theories of J i i y Snyder" until I was babbling gibberish about "charcs, clueing, subbing-out and screwing-up" right along with the tape.

And just when I thought the torture could not be more fiendish, they hit me with the clincher. I was named as a trip leader on Pennsylvania's Slippery Rock for a group of 20 from a large Ohio paddling club.

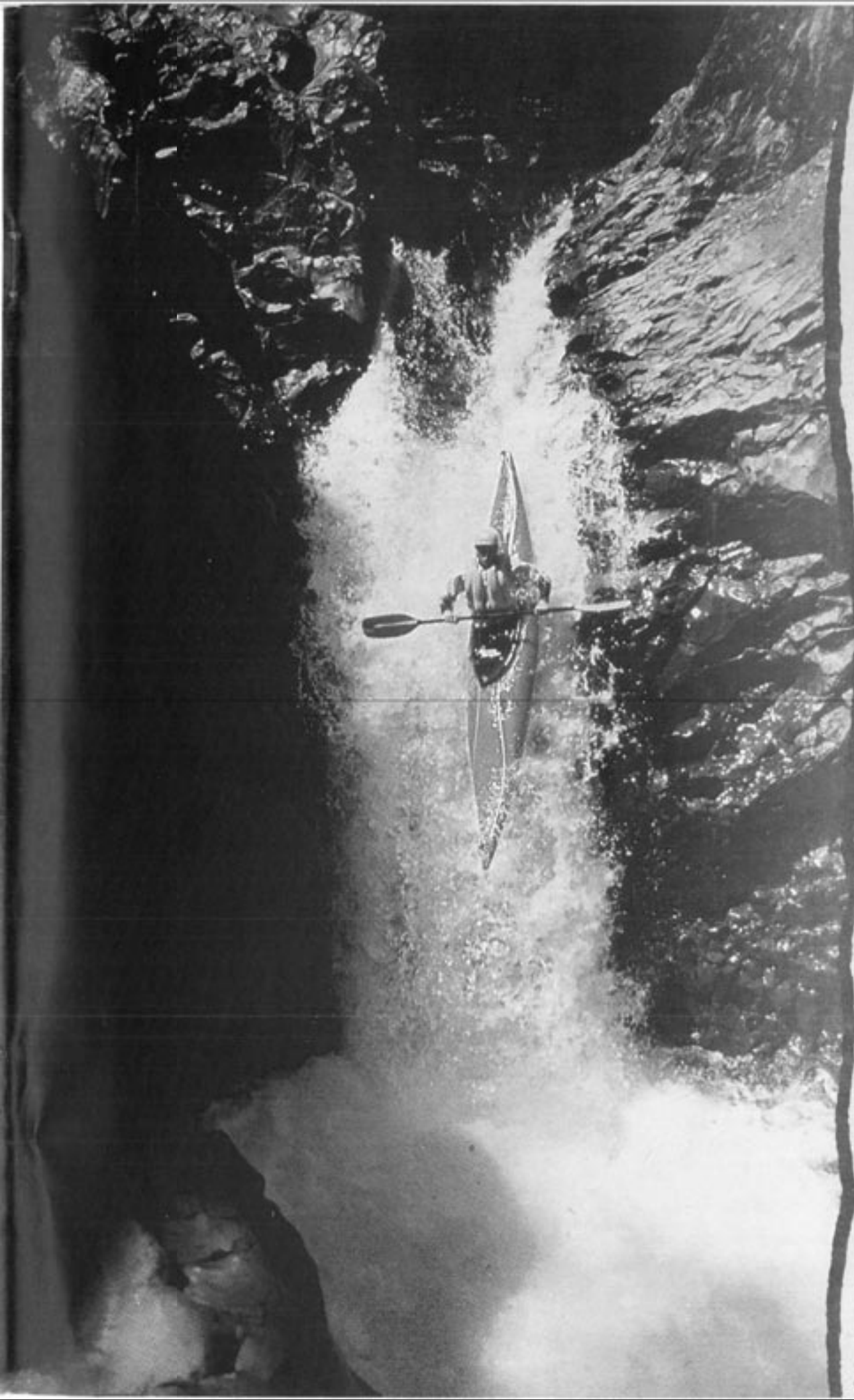
That did it. I was a broken man, ready to take up wind-surfing.

So why am I now back in my old haunts, hanging out with the same band of scummers? Like a relocated bear. I crawled out of that cage and high-tailed straight back' to my former territory.

I guess the deprogrammers forgot a simple fact--for brainwashing to work you first need a subject with a brain.

Now, where the hell is that beer, food..and the girls?

by Gary Carlson



*Take
me
to
the
river ...*

*drop
me
in
the
water ...*

Phil DeRiemer, Siete
Tazas, Rio Claro, Chile.
Photo by Lars Holbek.
Kayak by Perception.

1110 Powdersville Road,
Easley, South Carolina 29640.
(803) 859-7518



perception



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Journal
Brockway
me, IL 60067

Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT
BULK RATE
Permit No. 9
West Sand Lake
NY 12196