

Dedicated to the Preservation and



Enjoyment of our wildwaters

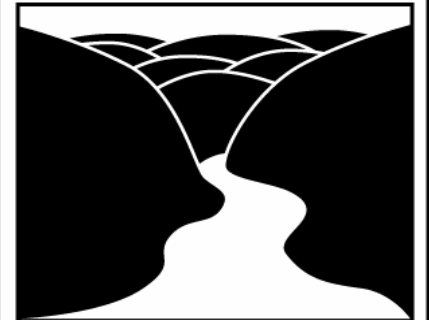
Blue Ridge River Runner

APRIL 2004

SPRING IS IN THE AIR... ARE YOU ON THE WATER?

If not (or even if so), come to the April BRRR club meeting on Wednesday, April 21st at 6:30pm and make plans to be. Big Lick Tropical Grill (see map on Page 2) will again be the place, all that's required now is your presence to make the event a success. Spring rains have finally begun in earnest! The proof: at press time, April 13, Goshen Pass of the Maury is running at a beefy 2,200 cfs—the temptation of which is the chief reason that I'm forced to offer the membership a meager 4-page newsletter (my sincere apologies on that account, though an additional submission or two would surely have increased its length). Well, it's time now to get wet...see you all at Big Lick!

BLUE RIDGE



RIVER RUNNERS

Journal of the
Blue Ridge River Runners

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

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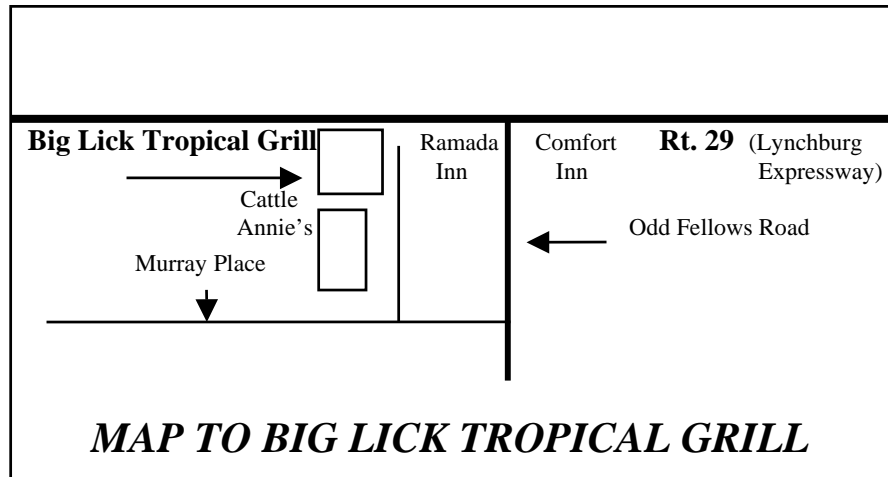
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PROPOSED: NEW BALCONY FALLS TAKEOUT!

By Howard Kirkland

Bill Tanger, Chairman of **Friends of the Rivers of Virginia** (FORVA) is spearheading an effort to get CSX Transportation to allow boaters to take out upstream of the lake at Snowden, thus eliminating 1.6 miles of flat water paddling. The proposed takeout would utilize an existing 10' diameter galvanized corrugated steel culvert under the railroad, leading from the river's edge to an existing Forest Service road and a level area that would accommodate parking.

Think what this means to us paddlers! No more Iron Man Takeout! No more flat water!. No more steep muddy banks to scramble up! No more hassles from the Railroad Police! No more struggling to find a parking space at Snowden!

The Railroad has thus far shown no interest in the proposed project, despite the fact that they have been unable to halt the boaters and

fishermen who trespass on the railroad property by the hundreds each week, and despite the potential liability issues that would arise should someone get hurt crossing their tracks. It is obvious that a lot of pressure needs to be brought to bear on CSX if this dream is to come true. Several old friends, and even some new ones, have written letters in support of this effort. We need your help in getting the Railroad to realize that under the proposed plan, everyone comes out a winner; the costs to them would be minimal, and the benefits to all concerned would be enormous. Do you know any City, County, State or Federal officials who would be willing to write a letter of support? Would **you** be willing to write a letter? Contact **Bill Tanger** at:

FORVA
PO Box 1750
Roanoke, VA 24008

REQUIEM FOR A FRIEND

by Justin Farrar

Dear fellow paddlers,

It is with great sadness and great sympathy that I have to report the following accident:

Yesterday, Saturday April 3, 2004, at roughly 2:32 PM EST, the paddling world lost a great friend.

My friend and I ventured out to wild, and wonderful West Virginia for a weekend chalked full of whitewater action. The first River on our agenda was the Williams, at the confluence at Tea Creek. We arrived at 12:35 PM EST, with snow on the ground and steadily coming down. The outside air temperature was 38F and the water temperature about 40F. The risk of hypothermia was high, the risk was well calculated. My friend and I were outfitted for cold weather paddling. The water appeared too low to run, even though AW said it was flowing, we decided to drive the length of the Williams and scout it from the truck. We decided that it was enough water to run, so at 01:15 PM EST we put on. After running the first couple of miles, my friend and I were excited at how well the run was and at our teamwork to get down the river. It was not long after our celebration that the accident occurred.

My friend and I were approaching mile marker four, which is where there is a tricky rapid with two lines. My friend and I decided to run the not so easy line through the boulder garden. We eddied out on river right and planned on ferrying across the lip of the drop and down the chute of the main drop. A little bit of last minute apprehension caused me to pin on the middle rock. Pinned with no where to go, I was nervous. If I was to flip upstream the situation would have gotten worse, so I tried to lean against the rock and have it pillow me around. With no avail I did not move. That is when my friend jumped in and helped me. I took my friend and wedged him between a rock and used him as leverage to push myself up and over the rock. As I dropped over the rock my friend slipped from my hands, he was lodged in the rock. I flipped upside down mid drop and hand rolled. It was after the rapid that I flipped and had to wet exit. After we rescued my boat, my friend was able to escape from the rock and floated down stream. We were unable to catch up with him. After about a thirty minute search we were unable to find him.

It was then that I realized that I lost my dearest friend forever. I knew him for about two years. He was given to me from a friend. The best paddle I ever had. I had to walk back to the truck in shame, knowing he gave his all for me. I drove up and down the river bank looking for him.

He lived a very adventurous life, short but sweet unlike this obituary. He deserves it, you see boats , women, gear, life jackets, and helmets come and go but your paddle stays the same.

He was born in Orlando, Fl. Dec. 25,2001 to the proud parent of Justin O. Farrar. He spent two years in Florida and just moved to Lynchburg, VA after his parents divorced. He saw many rivers, too bad the Williams was his last. He experienced many wonderful trips down the Nantahala, Bullpasture, Back Creek, Top Gauley, Williams, Back Fork of the Elk, Dry Fork of the Cheat, Middle Meadow, and the James. There will be no remembrance service for my dear friend. In lieu of flowers the family is taking donations towards the purchase of a new friend.

The next you see your paddle, give it a kiss, it may be your last time together.

RENT A RAFT TODAY!

BRRR own three rafts that are available to members. A small donation is solicited (not required) from anyone riding the rafts. This is the biggest fund raiser for the organization, and is another service that we offer to our members. Rafts must be reserved in advance through the raft custodian, Danny Booker (434-933-8078). Helmets, lifejackets and paddles are provided with the rafts.

<i>TRIP/EVENT</i>	<i>DATE/LEVEL</i>	<i>COORDINATOR/PHONE</i>
April 2004 BRRR membership meeting —Big Lick Tropical Grill, Lynchburg.	April 21 6:30 pm	David Morgan 434-993-3288
2004 Cheat River Festival —Albright, WVA. Great sales, great tunes, great rivers—a club tradition continues...	May 1-2 Intermediate-Advanced	Jeff Oxley 434-525-5434
Backyard Rivers —James River watershed: Piney, Tye or Maury Rivers, depending on water levels.	May 1 and/or May 2 Interm-Advanced	Neil DeJarnette 434-929-0152
Lower Youghiogheny R. —Allen Pritchett's annual odyssey, a club favorite.	May 21-23 All (rafts will be available)	Allen Pritchett 434-929-2702
Fourth Annual BRRR Western Rivers Extravaganza —Idaho's Jarbridge and Bruneau Rivers are the targets. Come for the whole 2 weeks, or less as your schedule dictates. See the club web site or the next issue of BRRR newsletter for additional details.	June 19-July 4 All (rafts will be available)	Dave Morgan 434-993-3288 Howard Kirkland 434-332-4839 (Home), 434-528-0505 (Work), 434-941-1225 (Cell)

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