

Dedicated to the Preservation and



Enjoyment of our Wildwaters

# Blue Ridge River Runner

AUGUST 2004

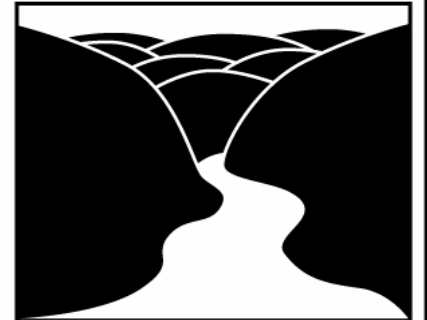
## COMING THIS WEEKEND TO A RIVER (SORT OF) NEAR YOU: THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WEST VIRGINIA WHITEWATER EXTRAVAGANZA

Don't miss this year's installment of the timeless club classic! Come make the most of the dog days of summer on West Virginia's perennially exciting New River Gorge this weekend, August 14-15, at Mountain Rivers (AKA Ray's place) in strategically situated Hico, WVA. Take advantage of the club's rafts or paddle your own boat, the choice is yours...see page 2 for more details.

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## BLUE RIDGE



## RIVER RUNNERS

### Journal of the Blue Ridge River Runners

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## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WEST VIRGINIA WHITEWATER EXTRAVAGANZA: AUGUST 14-15, 2004

We will be camping (as usual) at Ray's Place in Hico, West Virginia. If you don't know where Hico is, it's just east of Anstead. Got that? Check out the map on the Back Page for more directions, just remember that after crossing U.S. 19, begin looking on the right for Sunday Road. It's easy to miss.

We have not checked the camping fees recently, but they are usually around \$7 per person per night. Be sure to register at the office. Ray St. Clair gets irate when he thinks a boater is trying to stiff him.

Breakfast and dinner may be available at the campground if enough folks show an interest, so if you plan to eat onsite you are encouraged to contact co-trip leader **David Morgan** at **434-993-3288**. Dren St. Clair cooks a mean country breakfast, with eggs, meat, fried potatoes, coffee, milk, juice, and simply heavenly biscuits. And the prices are very reasonable. With enough interest Saturday night dinner will again be prepared by our Campground Hosts, Ray and Dren St. Clair. The price per person will be around \$7-\$8. There will be the usual festivities and customary raffle, as well as the August general membership meeting. Bring lots of money, and check the club web site ([www.brrr.ws](http://www.brrr.ws)) for further updates as plans are finalized.

Saturday and Sunday, we will be paddling the New River Gorge, which is rated class III-IV, but may be tougher, depending upon water levels. The trip will last three to five hours, excluding shuttle time. You may paddle your own boat, or ride one of the five or six rafts we have available. We also have paddles and a limited number of helmets and PFDs. If you have your own paddle, PFD and/or helmet, please bring them. Also bring your own food and beverages. Be prepared to get wet, even to swim. Sunblock and sunglasses are highly recommended.

We will convene early Saturday and Sunday mornings (around 8:00 AM) and arrange for setting the shuttle and for transporting the victims to the put-in. Please be ready to leave (with all the stuff you will be needing) immediately thereafter. There will be enough delays without you forgetting your stuff, like you did last year, Dude.

Any questions? Contact the trip leaders, **David Morgan (434-993-3288)** or **Howard Kirkland** at **434-332-4839 (Home), 434-528-0505 (Work),** or **434-941-1225 (Cell)**.

### **HOW TO GET THERE**

Mountain Rivers Campground (also known as Ray's Place) is located on Sunday Road in Hico, West Virginia. The driving time from Lynchburg is three to four hours. The highway quality ranges from fair to excellent; the scenery is mostly very nice.

From Lynchburg, take US rt. 460 west to Bonsack. Take US 221 Alt. north to Cloverdale. Take US 220 west to Iron Gate. Take I-64 west to Sam Black Church, WV.

From Madison Heights, take US rt. 29 north to VA rt. 130 west (Elon Road). Or, from Lynchburg, take US 501 north to Buena Vista. Take US rt. 60 west to I-81 between Buena Vista and Lexington. Take I-81 north to the junction with I-64. Take I-64 west to Sam Black Church, WV.

From Sam Black Church, Take US rt. 60 west to Hico, WV, to the intersection of US 60 and 19. From this intersection, go west on US rt. 60 about 50 yards. Turn right on Sunday Road (county road 4), which is the first paved road on the right. Follow Sunday Road approximately three miles. Ray's Place is on the left; follow the gravel drive about 300 yards to the campground office on the right. Check in with Ray St. Clair; he'll collect the camping fees and direct you to our area. See you there! (**See map on Back Page**)

# BRRR IDAHO 2004 TRIP REPORT

by David Morgan

1700, 18 Jun 04 – Howard Kirkland, Danny Booker, and I (David Morgan) departed Howard's house for Stanley ID and the nearby main and Middle Fork of the Salmon.

Our original plan to run the Jarbidge/Bruneau River in southwestern Idaho had been changed due to low water (Jarbidge/Bruneau was running well below the BLM recommended minimum of 500 cfs and even further below the American Whitewater recommended minimum of 700 cfs).

For the initial part of our journey, we followed our traditional, high-speed, low-congestion, and good-grade route via US460 west to US220 junction at Bonsack VA, US220 north to I64 junction at Clifton Forge VA, I64 west to I70 junction west of St Louis MO, I70 west to I29 bypass east of Kansas City MO, I29 north to IA2 exit just north of MO/IA state line, IA/NE2 west to I80 junction west of Lincoln NE, and I80 west to US191 junction at Rock Springs WY.

At Rock Springs WY, we departed our traditional route and took US191 north toward Jackson WY with the intent of beginning our adventures on the Snake southwest of Jackson.

2300, 19 Jun 04 – Stopped at a wayside on US191 about an hour south of Jackson WY and got some sleep.

0600, 20 Jun 04 – Departed wayside and headed for Jackson WY. To our surprise, there was snow on the mountains and water racing across the long broad valley forming the upper watershed for the Hoback River. By the time the Hoback reached its confluence with the Snake south of Jackson, it was a respectable whitewater stream.

On arriving at Jackson, we got some breakfast and shopped at a local outfitting store. Howard, as always, came away with additional cam straps.

1000, 20 Jun 04 – Put in on Table West to Sheep Gulch section of Snake. It was cold and Snake was running much higher than when we ran this section in 2001. Howard ran his kayak and Danny and I ran the Revolution. While there were many good wave trains, only rapid of significance was something locals call Lunch Counter. Here this high-volume river drops through a 20 foot wide slot between two low rock tables and opens into a large pool. Nice set of waves and holes is created in the slot which measures maybe 40 foot in length. It was probably a good class IV with some interesting crab boils along the right wall.

1200, 20 Jun 04 – Took off Snake and headed west on US26 toward Idaho Falls ID. At Idaho Falls, took US20 to junction with US93 at Arco ID, US93 north to Spur Springs Road about 15 miles south of Challis ID, Spur Springs Road west to junction with ID75 near Clayton ID, and ID75 on west up main Salmon to Stanley ID. Trip down Spur Springs Road was interesting as it was one of those "Oracle finds" and it took us through some unexpectedly arid country and along a section of the East Fork of the Salmon.

## ***DIRECTORY UPDATES***

### **New Members**

Mason Basten  
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Richmond, VA 23227

### **Address changes**

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**Continued from Page 3**

1700, 20 Jun 04 – Arrived Stanley ID. Met our other participant, Travis Graham, and discussed our plans. Group was not keen on my idea of waiting at Boundary Creek for a Middle Fork cancellation so we decided to run the Yankee Fork and main Salmon east of Stanley the next day.

0900, 21 Jun 04 – Departed Stanley ID for the Yankee Fork by way of the Ranger station located a few miles south of Stanley.

0940, 21 Jun 04 – Danny and I put Howard and Travis in on Yankee Fork just downstream from gold dredge tailings. They had a two mile run on a nice little class II/III stream down to the confluence with the main Salmon at Sunbeam. Howard, Danny and I left Travis to fish at the confluence and headed up river to put in on the main Salmon.

As Danny and I drove from the put in on the Yankee Fork to the confluence with the main Salmon, I almost got a close up photo of a western tanager. The western tanager has a red head, yellow body, and black outer wings. They were all over the area around the lower end of the Yankee Fork. I probably saw four or five in the short time we were there. I have still to see a scarlet tanager which, according to the birder books, lives here in central VA.

1100, 21 Jun 04 – We put in on main Salmon just above Shotgun Rapid. Shotgun is a lovely little class IV. It is followed a couple of miles downstream by the rapid at the Sunbeam dam break. Danny was starting to form an intimate relationship with the hole located in the center of this rapid before I pulled him out. I can't take a lot of credit here. After all, my side of boat is attached to his. Remainder of eight mile run was quick and included a nice  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile class III gorge.

1400, 21 Jun 04 – Took out at Terry's Landing and moved back to Stanley ID where we bought supplies for an overnigher on Bear Valley Creek/Middle Fork of Salmon above Dagger Falls.

1700, 21 Jun 04 – Arrived Dagger Falls CG. While Danny and I were watching Dagger Falls, we saw salmon jump. I had seen them jump on my first trip out in 1978 and had never expected to see it again. Apparently the salmon are making a comeback.

Once Danny and I had our tent setup later that evening, I deployed the stealth cot for the first time. Danny and I had seen one deployed by an aging commercial guide, i.e., late 40ish, on the rocky beach at Trail Camp bar the previous September. I had decided then one was in my future. Danny, it appears, was a little slow when it comes to assessing the potential of new technology.

1100, 22 Jun 04 – Departed Dagger Falls CG for Bear Valley Creek Bridge after servicing Howard's vehicle with an oil change and air filter cleaning. While waiting for the oil to drain, Danny and I checked out the thermal vent on Dagger Creek located about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile upstream of the Dagger Falls CG. Danny had to give pool a try. When he got out, I offered him a piece of fresh mint to kill the sulfur odor but he declined.

1200, 22 Jun 04 – Arrived Bear Valley Creek Bridge and began process of outfitting BB-61 (the Iowa-class, 16 foot, self-bailing raft Howard, Danny and I purchased last year at the Cheat Fest) and both Shredders for an overnigher on the approximately 20-mile run from Bear Valley Bridge on Bear Valley Creek to Dagger Falls on the Middle Fork of the Salmon.

1500, 22 Jun 04 – Pushed off from Bear Valley Bridge landing. This was the first field test of the recently designed and fabricated rowing frame on the BB-61. Outfitting included new dry box, a couple of 120+

quart plus coolers, Howard's fire box (served as emergency anchor), cooking equipment, food, chairs, tents, sleeping bags, clothing, etc. This was to be full up operational test.

1700, 22 Jun 04 – Arrived Bear Valley Creek Hot Spring (located about 3 ½ miles downstream from Fir Creek CG). Tom Woodward and I had discovered this spring on a float in 1996. We camped downstream of the first thermal vent and, while setting up the camp, discovered an even larger thermal vent about 50 yards downstream of the initial vent. This second vent fed a stream which contained at least one Olympic-sized hot pool and several slightly smaller one. Needless to say, Danny and Howard were in hot-spring, hog heaven. Danny cooked a nice meal and we enjoyed our evening at the hot spring. Even a yearling moose came through and provided a photo op.

1000, 23 Jun 04 – Departed camp at Bear Valley Creek Hot Spring. In about a mile we were at the confluence with Marsh Creek. This confluence forms the Middle Fork of the Salmon. With this addition water, remaining 12 miles to Dagger Falls was almost continuous class III with a class IV alluvial bar about two miles up from the Dagger Falls CG take out.

1300, 23 Jun 04 – Arrived Dagger Falls CG. While Howard and Travis ran shuttle, Danny and I moved gear from river to parking area. This was not a gear-humper friendly take out. This one-hour work out lugging gear up the bank was to color many decisions made on the remainder of the trip. In plain words, Danny and I did not want to do it again. As Danny and I humped, I kept recalling passages from S.L.A Marshall's excellent little book, "The Soldier's Load and the Mobility of a Nation." Funny what you think about when dragging the fire pan, aka emergency anchor, up a bank.

1500, 23 Jun 04 – Departed Dagger Falls CG for Cascade ID, the hard way. Majority of 100 mile trip was on unimproved Forest Service road, i.e., dirt or worst. Trip included one heck of a switched-back down grade near Warm Lake ID.

1700, 23 Jun 04 – Arrived Cascade ID and had dinner. If you are ever this way, wait until you get to McCall, 30 miles up the road, before you have dinner.

2000, 23 Jun 04 – Camped at a Forest Service CG just short of New Meadow ID. I deployed the stealth cot once again. However, by this time, enemy surveillance resources were beginning to at least be able to tell the stealth cot was in the immediate area but still could not deploy effective counter-measures, i.e., Danny was still sleeping on the hard, hard ground with only a foam pad.

## BRRR TRIP SCHEDULE

<i>TRIP/EVENT</i>	<i>DATE/LEVEL</i>	<i>COORDINATOR/PHONE</i>
<b>BRRR West Virginia Whitewater Extravaganza</b> —Mountain Rivers Campground, Hico, WVA. An annual favorite! Our August general membership meeting will be conducted Saturday night as well	<b>August 14-15</b>  All levels (rafts will be available)	<b>Dave Morgan</b> 434-993-3288 or <b>Howard Kirkland</b> 434-332-4839 (Home), 434-528-0505 (Work), 434-941-1225 (Cell)
<b>2004 Nantahala Outdoor Center Guest Appreciation Festival</b> —Wesser, NC. The Autumn classic returns! Unearth a great deal at the flea market, and paddle the Nanty, Ocoee, Chattooga and more (water levels permitting, of course).	<b>October 29-31</b> Novice-Adv. (rafts will be available)	<b>Jim Glidewell</b> 434-369-7104

0800, 24 Jun 04 – Departed CG and moved on to New Meadow ID for breakfast. After breakfast it was north toward the main Salmon at Riggins ID. On the way, we discovered the Little Salmon. Howard and Travis ran a one mile stretch of Hazard Creek, a Little Salmon trib, and about eight miles of the Little Salmon. Danny and I ran shuttle and took photos. Howard and Travis reported it as a solid class IV run.

You don't drown by  
falling into water,  
you drown by staying  
there  
--Robert Allen

1300, 24 Jun 04 – Toured fish hatchery on Rapid River.

Take our word for it, no matter how much you need money, you don't want to be a fish-fin clipper. Production bonus does not kick in until you get the first 9,000 clipped. At the confluence of the Rapid River and the Little Salmon, Nez Perce were selling salmon at \$20 per fish.

1600, 24 Jun 04 – Scouted up main Salmon from Riggins ID to Vinegar Creek. Decided not worth doing even though guidebook rates it at class III/IV run.

1800, 24 Jun 04 – Departed Riggins ID for Moscow ID and a visit to NRS. Visited Nez Perce battlefield near White Bird in route.

2200, 24 Jun 04 – Arrived at Moscow ID and obtained motel room.

0900, 25 Jun 04 – Shopped NRS and other outfitting stores in Moscow ID.

1400, 25 Jun 04 – Departed Moscow ID for North Fork of Clearwater, the hard way.

1600, 25 Jun 04 – Visited Elk Creek Falls near Elk City ID. Trail to falls was long and up hill both ways. Weather was hot. Even so, falls were worth it.

2000, 25 Jun 04 – Arrived Granddad Bridge on North Fork of Clearwater.

2100, 25 Jun 04 – Began journey down road to HELL (A full-length feature movie is being made about this adventure. You will just have to wait for it.)

0100, 26 Jun 04 – After extracting ourselves from road to HELL without the aid of engineering tools, i.e., pick, shovel, axe, explosives, etc; camped along road to Headquarters ID.

0800, 26 Jun 04 – Departed camp along road to Headquarters ID and went to Pierce ID for breakfast and gas. After breakfast we moved to Quartz Creek on North Fork of Clearwater. Howard, Danny and I ran a section of the North Fork above Quartz Creek in the BB-61 (without gear). This six mile trip included a good class IV and many class IIIs. We left Irish Railroad Rapid, the class IV+ a mile or so up from our put in, for another day.

0900, 27 Jun 04 – Travis departed for Boise ID leaving Howard, Danny and I to run the BB-61 from Quartz Creek to Aquarius CG about 10 miles downstream. Trip contained several good class IIIs. I got many good photos.

0900, 28 Jun 04 – Departed camp on Quartz Creek and headed for the Lochsa. A few words about the North Fork of the Clearwater area. It is about as remote as you get in the lower 48 and all national forest. Logging operations have been going on here since the early 1900s. It is so remote and unpopulated, Danny and I swear we heard Big Foot scream the night we camped along the road to Headquarters. Next

morning Danny described all the strategies he had considered for our defense. I told him I had not worried since I was sure I could have out run him.

1200, 28 Jun 04 – Stopped for lunch and supplies in Kamiah ID. Kamiah ID is in the heart of the Nez Perce rez and, as does any self-respecting rez town, it has a casino.

1400, 28 Jun 04 – Arrived at the whitewater section of the Lochsa, i.e., between MM 110 and 138. Scouted both sections and decided to do the upper section the next day. Checked out Weir Hot Spring and camped at a Forest Service CG along Lochsa.

1000, 29 Jun 04 – Howard and Danny put BB-61 in on Lochsa at MM 138 river access. I proceeded to run shuttle and take photos.

1200, 29 Jun 04 – Howard and Danny took off the Lochsa at MM 130. Danny reported the section of the Lochsa about a mile up from the take out as the most exciting whitewater he had ever experienced in a raft.

1400, 29 Jun 04 – Arrived Lolo MT. After a quick lunch, headed south on US93 toward Salmon ID.

1830, 29 Jun 04 – Arrived Elk Bend ID. Parked at a Forest Service parking area and began hike in search of Gold Bug Ridge Hot Spring. Jeff, who we had met on the Lochsa, had told us of this spring and had given us the approximate distance to it. Turns out trail to hot spring is about 2 ½ miles one way with the last ½ mile being up a 45 degree talus slope. By the time we got back to the parking area, we had experienced a brief 5 minutes in a warmish pool, swarms of marsh mosquitoes, a rattlesnake, darkness, and a drenching thunderstorm. Ah, never a dull, or dry, moment on one of our expeditions.

2300, 29 Jun 04 – Arrived Challis ID, ate a late dinner, and got a motel for the night.

1000, 30 Jun 04 – After a nice breakfast, departed Challis ID. We backtracked about 16 miles on US93 and took the road up the Pahsimeroi River valley. I wanted to do this since this was the only road access from the Snake River plain to the Salmon system I had not taken. We were on the return run for home.

1300, 30 Jun 04 – Picked up US91 off I15 south of Pocatello ID. We were searching for the site of the Lake Bonneville Flood. What we immediately found was a road sign for Virginia. We thought for a minute this must be the short-cut of short-cuts. You know, stable worm hole or maybe even some quantum effect. However, it was to no avail. While we did pass through Richmond and Smithfield a few miles further down the road, it was still 40 hours before we got home.

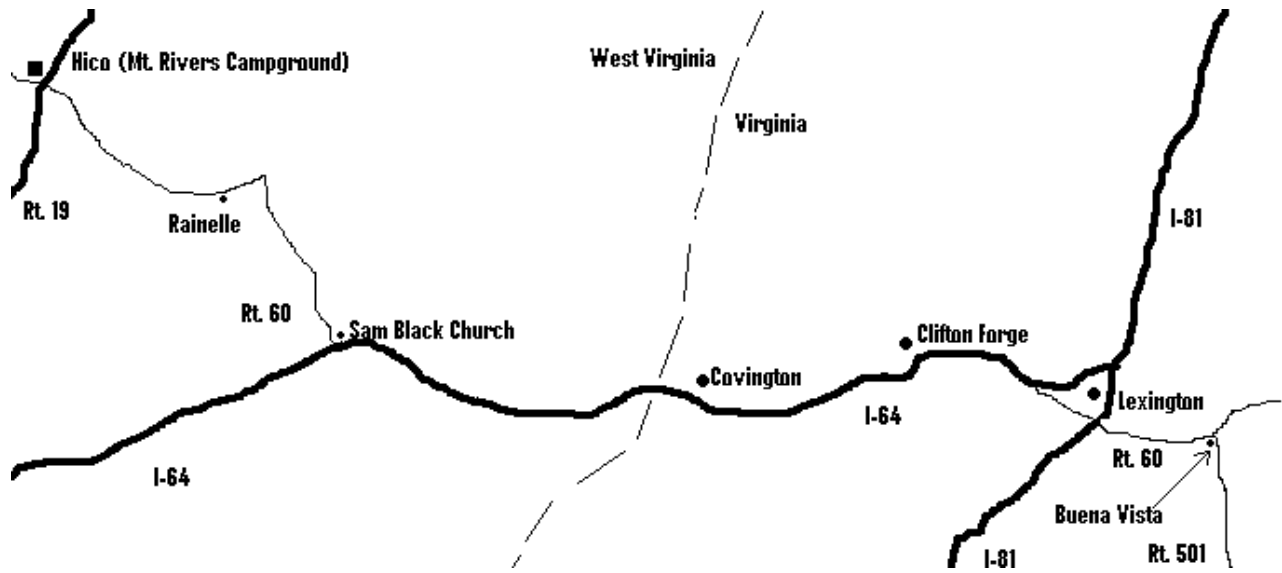
1400, 30 Jun 04 – Stopped Red Rock Pass. According to sign, this was site where Lake Bonneville overflowed about 14,500 years ago and for sometime formed a river many times larger in volume than the Amazon.

1500, 30 Jun 04 – Started up Logan River east out of Logan UT. Followed road along river through a beautiful limestone canyon and up over a pass overlooking Bear Lake.

1700, 30 Jun 04 – Experienced a sheep jam as we worked our way around the south end of Bear Lake.

1830, 30 Jun 04 – Stopped and visited the Fossil Butte Visitors Center in western WY. Headed for home.

1000, 2 Jul 04 – Arrived at Howard's house. Except for a side trip to a sporting goods store in Valparaiso IL that Howard wanted to visit, the trip was uneventful.



## Map to Mountain Rivers Campground (Hico, WVA)

**Blue Ridge River Runners**  
**342 Old Pocket Road**  
**Lynch Station, VA 24571**

