

Dedicated to the Preservation and



Enjoyment of our Wildwaters

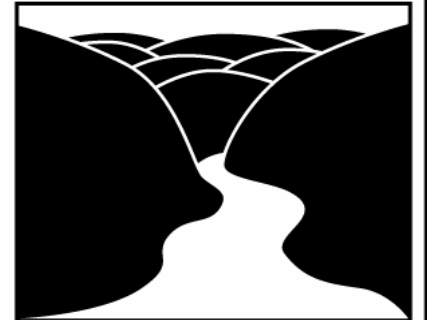
Blue Ridge River Runner

FEBRUARY 2004

CELEBRATE A FRESH YEAR OF PADDLING WITH YOUR BRRR BUDS AT THE APRIL CLUB MEETING (FEBRUARY 18)!

Big Lick Tropical Grill in Lynchburg is the place, 6:30 pm on February 18 is the time...all that's required now is **YOU!** If recent trends continue, 2004 should be a watershed (pun intended) year for paddling, so come to the River Runners' February 2004 club meeting, find out more about the upcoming roll sessions, and choose from among the slate of river trips scheduled. The Bullpasture, Back Creek, Elk, Cranberry, Cheat, Tye, Maury, Laurel Fork, Back Fork, and South Branch of the Potomac are all among the B.R. (Bill of Rivers) for this spring—

BLUE RIDGE



RIVER RUNNERS

Journal of the
Blue Ridge River Runners

c/o Jim Glidewell
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Lynch Station, VA 24571
ON THE INTERNET: www.brrr.ws

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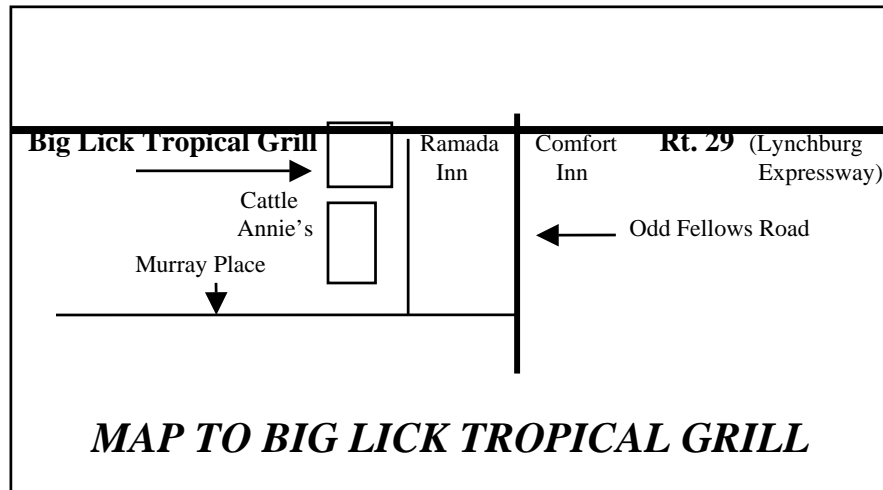
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IMPORTANT NOTICE:



YOUR CLUB DUES ARE DUE!

Attention all BRRR members...or will it be **former** members? Yes, it's getting down to crunch time again, and unfortunately a high percentage of folks have thus far neglected to pay their dues for 2004. The benefits of membership are many, and the \$10 per year dues fee (individual membership, \$15 for family) is a steal, especially compared to membership in similar organizations such as:

- Coastal Canoeists (\$20 for individual membership)
- American Whitewater (\$25 for individual membership)
- Carolina Canoe Club (\$15 for individual membership)

While the failure of so many to pay dues is no doubt the result of simple oversight, it would be a shame to miss out on the many benefits of club membership. However, if we do not hear from you by the end of February, this will be your **final** newsletter—no exceptions! Come on, write that check now and mail it to:

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

Also, please be sure to include on the payment check your current mailing address, telephone number and email address so that the club can keep its records up to date and the newsletter coming to your mailbox without interruption.

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.

"Where he was from, the word river meant rocks and moss and the sound of white water moving fast under the spell of a great deal of collected gravity."

*--Charles Frazier,
Cold Mountain*

2004 Roll Sessions

Jim Tennant has again arranged for roll sessions at the Sweet Briar College pool. The schedule is as follows:

Session 1 - 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Sunday, February 8, 2004

Session 2 - 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday, February 21, 2004

Session 3 - 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Sunday, March 7, 2004

Our lifeguard will be Ms. Candice Viar. She will open and close the pool for us. During the 8th and 21st February sessions, we will share the pool with lap swimmers for the 1st hour.

Participants in the roll sessions will have to sign the BRRR/Sweetbriar liability release form. We will ask an \$8 donation for all participants 18 and older.

Please remember to clean your boat. Foreign matter introduced into the pool has a less than beneficial effect on the filtration system.

We need a club representative on-site to collect donations and signatures and to inspect boats. Anyone caring to volunteer, give Dave Morgan a call. Also, if there are any open boaters who'd like some expert coaching and tips on rolling, club open boat master Jim Tennant will be on hand for the March 7 session, **IF** he is notified in advance by those wishing to attend the session. The canoe rolling session will be only by specific request in advance to Jim at 434-525-1860 (phone) or email at Jackalope96@aol.com

GRANDPA'S A PROUD PADDLER!

Club members Carl and Donnalynn Davis are the proud grandparents of a beautiful new granddaughter, Hannah Faith Johnson, born January 9 at 9:36 p.m. (6 lbs. 9 oz., 19.5 inches long). Parents are Holly and Brian. Mom and baby are doing just fine.

FROM THE PREZ:

BRRR Defense Fund

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the BRRR Defense Fund used for Dave Morgan's legal expenses regarding the "Commercial trip without license" charge in West Virginia. Dave Hawkins located and assisted a West Virginia attorney, Mr. Kevin Burgess, who was able to get the charge dismissed the day before the scheduled court appearance. So, thanks to all who helped with their donations and moral support.

BRRR Christmas Party

The BRRR Christmas Party held the evening of December 13, 2003 at Danny Booker's house was well attended by about 30 BRRR folks. The food was great and we enjoyed another Dirty Santa session. While the festivities were cut short by the arrival of freezing rain, a good time was had by all. Hopefully we can talk Danny into letting us use his place again next year.

--David Morgan,
AKA Buchux

2004 BRRR TRIP SCHEDULE

For information about club trips or to coordinate one, call **Don Morrison** at 434-993-2940 or **Howard Kirkland** at 434-332-4839 (evenings) or 434-528-0505 (daytime). *Specific details will be announced by the Trip Coordinators and are subject to change.*

TRIP/EVENT	DATE/LEVEL	COORDINATOR/PHONE
Roll Session #1 at Sweet Briar College Pool Adults \$8—bring a clean boat!	February 8 2 pm to 6 pm	Jim Tennant 434-525-1860
February 2004 BRRR membership meeting —Big Lick Tropical Grill, Lynchburg.	February 18 6:30 pm	David Morgan 434-993-3288
Roll Session #2 at Sweet Briar College Pool Adults \$8—don't forget your offside roll!	February 21 2 pm to 6 pm	Jim Tennant 434-525-1860
Roll Session #3 at Sweet Briar College Pool Adults \$8—got that hands roll down yet?	March 7 2 pm to 6 pm	Jim Tennant 434-525-1860
2004 Highland Co. Maple Syrup Festival Williamsville, VA—a time-honored favorite, featuring the Bullpasture R. and/or Back Creek.	March 13-14 and March 20-21 Novice-Intermed.	Danny Booker 434-933-8078
2004 Webster Wildwater Weekend River Festival —Webster Springs, WVA. WVA's Fruitbasket region is your playground. Levels permitting, the Elk, Cranberry, Williams, Back Fork, and others await the dip of your paddle!	April 2-4 Novice-Advanced	Randy Couch 434-386-5721
Northeast WVA Rivers —paddle Smokehole and Hopeville Canyons of the South Branch Potomac, and/or Laurel Fork of the Cheat.	April 9-10 Intermediate-Advanced	Neil DeJarnette 434-929-0152
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	May 1 and/or May 2	Neil DeJarnette 434-929-0152

water levels.

Interm-Advanced

**DESPERATE DAVE MORGAN'S
BRUSH WITH THE LAW, Part II:
"The Return of the River King"**

by Howard Kirkland

*Editor's Note: Check out Part I of Desperate Dave's woeful tale of bureaucratic river harassment in the October 2003 issue of **Blue Ridge River Runner**.*

Final Disposition:

On Tuesday, October 27, David Morgan received notice from his attorney that the Prosecuting Attorney had reviewed all the relevant information, and having determined that David (and BRRR) were operating within the law, moved to dismiss the charges.

David received a refund of \$125.00 of the \$1000.00 retainer; his defense cost BRRR \$875.00. This does not include Dave's and Danny's expenses or time lost from work. On the positive side, BRRR can continue to furnish rafts for members' trips in West Virginia, and to accept voluntary contributions from participants.

When future raft trips to West Virginia are planned, it is imperative that all participants understand that no fees are charged for use of the rafts, but that voluntary contributions are accepted to defray the cost of raft and equipment repairs and replacement. The suggested levels of contribution are \$20 for members, and \$25 for non-members, per person per day. Guides receive no pay.

If anyone participating in a raft trip, and is confronted by any official while on the river, it is important that he be told that the trip is a private trip; that the rafts belong to BRRR, and that participants are making voluntary contributions to BRRR to defray the raft and equipment costs.

Flood

I can hear

The rush and surge of raging waters from far off mouths

The groan of the rising stream

The gurgle of river-banks dying,

Trees ravaged and drowning.

I can hear

The crash and thud of wailing rocks from bruised mountains,

The whines of the crashing stones,

The brutal blasts of plunging pebbles gasping for unfound air.

-- Teri Gamble

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