

GSP Rafting 1989

Be there, or be warm, dry, and comfortable!

Yes, it's time to start getting fired up about rafting. It's less than three months to our annual hedonistic release of energy in the wilds of West Virginia. We have all 48 slots filled now, with four or five folks waiting in the wings (including some of the old favorites that were just a little too slow with their checkbooks!) It's possible that we'll a) get another raft or b) not be able to fit them; that decision will have to wait until later.

In the meantime, it's important for you to get me your check for the balance right away. Mountain River Tours needs the rest of our money by June 4th or we lose our reservations; so I'm going to ask that you have your money in my hot little hands by May 20th. This for two reasons: to give the folks on the waiting list a chance at a slot, and to make sure that I give the traditionally slow GSPs among you plenty of time to get your act together. (I'm not even going to mention U.S. Post Awful delays.)

Just to recap, the balance due is \$33, which includes five dollars for the slush fund, err, group expense fund. We'll be camping at Mountain Manor Campgrounds, in the same wonderful campground we had last year (and three years ago) - the site is reserved from July 3 to July 7, so you can plan to get there early and hike around for a few days if you like.

I haven't gotten as far as organizing travel coordinators yet. If you're willing to coordinate travel from your part of the country, please let me know. The next letter will have all the information (and should appear in your mailbox around June 15.) But to give you a rough idea, I expect to try to make it to MMC on the 3rd, with a stopoff in Cincinnati the night of the 2d (I'm sure my Mom will let us camp in the basement again), so those of you that still haven't made it to The Rookwood Pottery or The Blind Lemon will have yet another chance.

I would also like to get some idea about who will be bringing what sorts of camping equipment. Ken Long has volunteered to bring that nice barbecue grill again, and I'm sure he'll bring most everything else that we forget, but it would be nice to not put all the burden on him. A number of people have mentioned to me that they don't have access to a tent; if you're likely to have extra space in your tent, please let me know. If you have a lantern, plan to bring it (we need to keep the bears away, don't we RSK?) And, most importantly, don't forget to start stocking up on beer!

If you're going to drive, please have your vehicle checked out now. Breakdowns on the trip are a drag. Also, it's a great help to have a CB on the trip; it makes keeping everyone together much easier. If you don't have one, try to borrow one from a friend, or consider investing in one of the GE instant CBs (I have no affiliation with GE, the opinions expressed here are ... oh, sorry.)

It's still best to try to get in touch with me via electronic mail (pur-eel@purdue!cak or cak@purdue.ARPA) or via phone at the office (317/494-7759), during the afternoon or at home (743-6403) in the early morning between 7:30 and 8:30 AM, or evenings after 8PM. Or, at worst, through the Useless Postal Service:

GSP Rafting Central
321 Pearl Street, #1
W. Lafayette IN 47906

So get those checks in right away. If you're not going to use one of your deposit slots, please let me know right away so I can let someone on the waiting list breathe a sigh of relief. If someone you know is interested in coming along and hasn't contacted me, have him or her get in touch right away (but not send a deposit) and I'll see what can be done.

And now, a word from our sponsors...

Do you have a serious death wish?

Ken Long is trying to organize a trip to run the Upper Youghiogheny River around Memorial Day; he's inviting all GSPs with "a serious death wish" to get in touch with him. His phone number is (302) 998-4070.

See-ley! See-ley! See-ley!

It's not too early to think about running the Gauley in September! Last year, we left the deposit with MRT the day we rafted the New; if there's sufficient interest, we'll do that again. The cost is \$155 per person for a two day trip, which includes four meals *cooked by the guides* (a treat in itself), and the most demanding stretch of River in the Eastern United States. We'll make sure they have enough beer this year. Mountain River Tours requires that anyone who takes this trip have previous experience rafting on the New River or similar (Class V) water. The July trip will meet this requirement. Keep it in mind, especially if you really get off on the New. The Gauley is at least an order of magnitude better ride.

Get fired up!

Cheers,



Here's a list of the current holders of the 48 slots, just in case you were wondering.

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|----|--|------------------------------|
| 2 | Rick Adams + 1 | Phil Hochstettler |
| 4 | Tony & Michele Andrews | Bill Klaasen |
| 6 | Scot Aurenz + 1 | Rich Kulawiec |
| 7 | Robin Barnett | Deb Smith |
| 8 | Stacy Barnett | Ken Long |
| 10 | Bill & Stef Bean | Kris Meade |
| 11 | Ed Bronson | Debra Meinke |
| 12 | Eileen Gelblat | John Hayes (Guest of Meinke) |
| 14 | Carol Burnett + 1 | Wendy Nather |
| 15 | Paul Carlile | 38 Dan & Tammy Osborn |
| | Sue Strang | Barb Russell |
| | Kim Strang | Karen Russell |
| | Ray Clark | Ken Shoemaker |
| | Rick Erbland (Guest of Clark) | Mark Shoemaker |
| 21 | George Gobel + 1 | Kirk Smith |
| | Pete & Jill Hallenbeck | Tom Tengdin + 1 |
| | Steve & Gretchen Higgins | Jeff Treece |
| 27 | Nick & Wendy Bowen (Guests of Higgins) | 41 Don Wegeng |
| | | Chris Kent |

GSP Rafting 1985

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"It is difficult to find in life any event which so effectually condenses intense nervous sensation into the shortest possible space of time as does the work of shooting, or running an immense rapid. There is no toil, no heart breaking labour about it, but as much coolness, dexterity, and skill as man can throw into the work of hand, eye, and head; knowledge of when to strike and how to do it; knowledge of water and rock, and of the one hundred combinations which rock and water can assume - for these two things, rock and water, taken in the abstract, fail as completely to convey any idea of their fierce embracings in the throes of a rapid as the fire burning quietly in a drawing-room fireplace fails to convey the idea of a house wrapped and sheeted in flames."

Sir William Francis Butler (1872)

That's right, it's time once again to plan to spend your Fourth of July weekend with the Purdue GSPs, dodging mosquitos, raindrops, rapids and Frisbees (not to mention bottle rockets and empty beer bottles.) The task of organizing this year's extravaganza has fallen to me (Chris Kent) - so far it's been exciting. By all reports, it will become more so!

The date remains generally the same. We'll be rafting on Saturday, the 6th of July, on the late trip (so we can all be reasonably alive by the time we have to hit the water.) We'll be camping at Mountain Manor Campgrounds, as in years past. I have reserved the same large campground that we had last year (and in '82), so there will be plenty of room for cars, tents, volleyball, etc. The campsite is reserved from Wednesday the 3rd until Sunday the 7th, so those who can take off early from work on the 3rd will have a place to camp when they arrive. 6

This year the cost of the trip will be \$58 per person. This covers two things, the fee for rafting (\$53) and some overhead (\$5) for such things as postage, long distance phone calls, and so on. In addition, camping will cost \$3.50 per person per night, which you must pay at the campground when you arrive. Also, you must make your own arrangements for camping equipment, food, transportation, etc. You are welcome to invite your spouse (of course), friends, and other significant person(s) along for the trip. However, priority will be given to only one guest per GSP. Others will be allowed to attend if space is available. Also be advised that

- the minimum age for rafting on the New River is 14 years of age
- Mountain River Tours will require you to sign a liability release form before being allowed on the river.

The money for the trip is due in two parts. A deposit of \$25 is due to me by March 1, with the remainder due in June. (Make the checks out to me.) I have tentatively reserved 48 spots for the trip, with more available if needed. **None** of these spots will be saved for us if we don't provide the deposit on time. It may be possible to find spots for people after March 1, but I can't make any promises. I also can't promise that I'll be able to refund your deposit if you cancel from the trip. But I'll try, in either case.

For those of you that haven't rafted with us before, a bit of background: this is the fifth year that the Purdue GSPs will assemble in the wilds of West Virginia for their annual 4th of July gathering. The highlight of the trip is rafting the New River with Mountain River Tours, but hiking, camping, and drinking are all important parts of the outing.

The New River is located in southern West Virginia, near the towns of Hico and Summersville. It is a protected river, which means that it is illegal to do anything which will spoil its natural setting (and that we won't be seeing piles of litter on the banks, or soda cans floating by.) The rapids we'll run are anything from tiny ripples to Class V monsters! The terrain in this part of W. Virginia is quite rough and not well suited for agriculture. It is a beautiful place.

Mountain River Tours is one of the oldest companies running the New, and their guides are experienced and a lot of fun; they are confident in their guiding and make even the most awesome rapids seem reasonably safe. They know our group from previous years and enjoy our return. *Outside* Magazine recently rated MRT's lunch the best on the river.

Transportation is up to you, but there are usually several groups leaving from the West Lafayette area, a large group from the Northeast, and some other small groups. American Airlines is offering cheap fares from San Francisco to Chicago (\$230 at last count) so you GSPs in the real world out on the West Coast don't have an excuse for not showing up this year!

Get in touch with me at:

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321 Pearl Street, #1
W. Lafayette IN 47906

or call at (317) 494-7759 (work) or 743-6403 (home). Or, you can send electronic mail (probably the most reliable method of reaching me) to cak@purdue.EDU, or pur-ee!purdue!cak.

Please, when you send your deposit, also include your current address and telephone information (very important, in case there are problems) and where you plan to come from for the trip, so we can organize groups.

So get those checks in the mail! If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to get some of the promotional material from Mountain River Tours or Mountain Manor Campgrounds, feel free to get in touch.

Cheers,



P.S. Malcolm Slaney, Ed Bronson and I have pictures from previous raft trips. If you're just not sure, ask one of us to see them. You'll be convinced.