

## By Popular Demand...

We present the 15th Annual GSP Tent City Beer Revival, Food Fest, and Total Whitewater Experience.

We warned you last year but you didn't listen. Ten more years and it's #25!

## Coincidence? We Think Not.

Setting out to make the What To Bring List led me to a box of old letters in search of an old GSP second letter. I found Ken Long's from 1989. And it was deja vu all over again.

Look at these eerie facts:

Raft Day 1989: Monday July 3	Raft Day 1995: Monday July 3
"Ken" has three letters	"Dan" has three letters
In 1989 a principal theme of the trip was Beer	In 1995 a principal theme of the trip is Beer
"Iowa" begins with "I"	"Indiana" begins with "I"
In 1989, Ken was ready with extra supplies for the supply-lorn	In 1995, Ken will be ready with extra supplies for the supply-lorn

Coincidence? We think not.

## Where To Go

Our campsite is, as it has been for several years, the Mountain River Tours campground in Hico , WV. It is off the south side of U.S. 60 just east of (within sight of) U.S. 19.

The Mountain River Tours rafting operation is nearby on the other side of U.S. 19. Turn north off U.S. 60 onto Sunday Road and follow to MRT. Note: Exact starting times for the Sunday (piglet) and Monday (main) raft trips are subject to change as of this writing. We'll let you know on site.

In the 1989 letter you could find an excellent set of maps. In this 1995 letter you will find the same excellent set of maps, updated slightly for 1995 and re-duplicated. Ah, technology.

Local attractions of past and present interest include Babcock State Park (hiking, rock-hopping, horseback riding), the Summersville Lake recreation area (swimming), the Monongahela National Forest (further to the east), craft and quilt shopping (warning: quilts can cost more than rafting), the New River Gorge Bridge visitors' center at the north end of the U.S. 19 bridge, and various spots along the lower New for watching the duckies and kayaks and rafts go by. Folks have recently found some other swimming holes but I haven't visited them so I can't tell you where they are. Ask around.

Are you looking for evening entertainment? Try the GSP campsite on Sunday evening....

## **You're Hungry...So Am I**

GSPs love to cook and to eat, not necessarily in that order. There are some official scheduled food activities to be aware of. You're on your own for food otherwise.

On Sunday July 2, beginning late in the afternoon around 5 PM and continuing until we're all stuffed, we'll have the food fest -- a grand communal wing/chili/cookie/or-whatever-else-you'd-care-to-bring pitch-in. The idea, following past "wing" and "chili" events, is to bring a hearty quantity of a single dish of your choice, then wander amongst your old and new friends and sample what they have to offer.

On Monday July 3, those who are paid Monday rafters get three meals, sort of. MRT offers some snacks and coffee in the morning. Drink coffee only if you like peeing in the river. The trip itself includes a hearty sandwich lunch with an amazing array of condiments. Then, there's a free hamburger/hotdog/apple pie dinner at MRT shortly following the trip. This is a good thing. You don't want to cook after rafting. Those who are not paid Monday rafters can buy into the MRT dinner for \$8.

On Tuesday July 4, we will set out some milk, fruit, and cereal at 6 AM for anyone who needs to hit the road early (or just can't sleep). This is the "getaway breakfast." No extra charge.

I didn't know it when I packed my coolers for my first GSP adventure in 1983 but...they do have grocery stores in West Virginia. (To the tune of Paul Simon's "Graceland:" I'm going to Foodland Foodland da-da-da, da-da-da de-dum-dum.) Actually I may be the only one who still goes to Foodland with that spiffy Kroger available in (or is it past?) Fayetteville (south several miles on U.S. 19). But Foodland (E. 2 mi. on U.S. 60) is still closest.

There are restaurants too. The nearest Dairy Queens are in Ansted (take 60 east) and Summersville (take 19 north). Which one is closer as the crow flies? Who cares? There's a Pizza Hut somewhere south on U.S. 19 and one in Summersville too, and the Pancake House (exact name unknown) south on U.S. 19.

## **You're Thirsty Too**

We have tried to mention Beer on almost every page of this letter lest anyone forget the reverence with which most of us treat this elixir.

The tradition is to bring some interesting beer produced near your home locality. Absent that just bring beer. Ample communal icing-down facilities will be provided (including ice).

## **What To Bring**

I've edited Ken's list for 1995. Note the new hierarchical, encapsulated, Object-Oriented structure (with a little multiple inheritance thrown in for you OO weenies). We apologize if newer technologies have not been instantiated; no constructors were available. (What?)

## Beer

Good or Bad Beer, Domestic or Imported Beer, Local or Homebrewed Beer, Large or Small Beer, Light or Dark Beer, Barley or Wheat Beer, in glass or metal containers

## Hiking Supplies (if you plan to hike)

Bug Spray, Water Bottle, Compass, Beer, Day Pack, Snacks, Hats, Sunglasses, Hiking Shoes Eating Supplies Outdoor Kitchen Stuff, Groceries (available locally!), Cash (for Pizza Hut or DQ or Pancake House etc. when it pours rain or you just can't take it anymore), Beer, One Great Dish for Sunday dinner (note: don't bring too much of it...you're not trying to serve the whole group!)

## Outdoor Kitchen Stuff

Cookstove (don't buy one if you don't have one...there'll be others present), Cooler, Plates, Bowls, Cutlery, Stuff You Can Buy Locally Or Borrow If You Don't Bring

## Stuff You Can Buy Locally Or Borrow If You Don't Bring

Kitchen Stuff (salt/pepper, other condiments, cups, paper towels, coffee gear, trash bags, bottle opener, can opener, dishwashing supplies, large container for water from the not-so-nearby spigot), Nonfood Items (Suntan Lotion, DuctTape, Tools, Fuel for cookstoves and lanterns, dining fly, etc.)

## Clothing & Related

Clothes (include at least one "chilly" outfit for evening wear), Swimsuit, Hats, Towels, Clothesline (rope) (haven't seen many of these the past few years; maybe we all own more than one towel now)

## River Supplies

Waterproof Suntan Lotion, River Shoes (required) (soakable old tennies), Swimsuit, Sunglasses, Croakies (for glasses)

## Outdoor Sleeping Stuff

Tent or Modest Pop-Up Camper, Ground Liner for Tent, Sleeping Bag or Blankets, Air Mattress or other source of softness Light Flashlight (you will need this), batteries, Lantern (optional) Personal Hygiene Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Flipflops; NO shavers, hair dryers, or other appearance-related items

## Otherwise Useless Items

Props (if you are planning to entertain everyone the night before the raft trip), Raft Decorations, Suburban Accoutrements (not all of which are useless)

## Suburban Accoutrements

Lawn Ornaments (a tradition!), Lawn Chairs (for sitting around the campfire if you're too late -- or your butt is too tender -- to get a stump or a picnic table seat)

## **Other Tips For The Unwashed**

It will be hot and it will be cold. It will be sunny and it will rain. Plan accordingly. That means bring warm and cool clothes, bring a plastic groundcloth for your tent, be sure your tent is waterproofed if new, etc. If it is cloudy or cool the day of the raft trip, rent a paddle jacket (or bring one).

Here are a few things you don't have to bring or buy. Tables (there are plenty of picnic tables). Grills (the Rambo grill will be in operation). Ice (the slush fund covers this). Firewood for campfires (ditto).

P.S. About the multiple inheritance thing: made you look! You OO weenie.

## **Recipes**

We have received 30 recipes to date from 13 people, plus another 14 excellent ones from an old GSP digest. Thank you thank you thank you! As soon as we have about 60 to 80 recipes we will feel ready to publish them in cook book form. So: SEND MORE RECIPES or bring more to WV. Hint #1: Bring the recipe for whatever you are bringing or cooking for the Sunday food fest. Hint #2: None of the 13 people sent more than 4 recipes, so 4 is now the *de facto* limit per person unless you are Julia Child.

## **Homebrew Tasting**

Don't forget the homebrew tasting, now scheduled for Saturday evening. We'll plan to start around 8 PM, while there's still some natural light (!). Coordinate with Don Wegeng on site if you are bringing homebrew. (I wanted to ask Don about his preferred time but as I write this he and several other GSP brewers are at the American Homebrewing conference. Wow. Hey...my expectations are growing!)

## **Videos**

Ten people have signed up for videos. This would make the cost \$27.50 per video per the previously published formula of \$15 plus \$125/n -- still a bargain compared to individual pricing. You videophiles will need to fork over an additional \$7.50 each to claim yours...unless, as seems reasonably likely, you or MRT or the River Itself can persuade some other folks to buy them on site. Then the price will go down.

## **Ducky Trip**

Rich Kulawiec is again organizing a ducky trip. As of this writing he is shooting for Sunday July 2. Contact Rich directly (and soon) if you are interested: (610) 459-0356; rsk@gynko.circ.upenn.edu.

## **Child Care**

If you want to arrange child care with Dren and her helpers then you should call her at some point before or during the weekend. For Monday (the main trip) it often makes sense to get a group together then call her to save the legwork for some folks. Anyone who wants to find out who else has contacted me about this is welcome to contact me about this.

## **Important Phone Numbers**

Dan Brunner (GSP Rafting 1995 Executive Director) Work: (317) 466-0664, Home: (317) 253-7613  
Mountain River Tours: (800) 822-1386, (304) 658-5286  
Ray St. Clair (campground manager) and Dren St. Clair (child care): (304) 658-4386

## **The River Gods Are Smiling...**

...for the time being. Heh heh heh. We'll see you in West Virginia!

## **Roster**

Below is the roster as of mid-June. Use it however you wish (but don't sell it to AT&T, Sprint, or MCI, please.) People have used this information in the past to coordinate transportation and to keep in touch during non-interesting parts of the year. By the way the organizing has generated updated street and e-mail addresses for many people not on the roster (lost souls who did not sign up this year). These lists can be provided on request. Special thanks to all the folks who helped with tracking people down.

## **The Ducky Trip**

Here is the e-mail Rich Kulawiec sent out on June 7 about the Ducky Trip:

FYI: I'm putting the ducky trip details together today and tomorrow; looks like it'll probably be Saturday ('cause the kids' trip is Sunday and the RT itself is on Monday). I spoke to Paul Carlile last night and he reported that some friends of his rafted the New at 7' (that's seven FEET) a couple of weeks ago.....of course, it'll probably return to a sane level by the time we get there.

---Rsk

Rich's phone number is (610) 459-0356.