



## **GSP Raft Trip 25 The Duct Tape Anniversary**



They said it would never last. Long distance relationships never work out. They don't even like the same beer. Too diverse backgrounds. Too similar. They'll start fighting over money. They'll grow tired and bored. They'll get lazy. Sure paddling is exciting at the start but somebody is going to get hurt.

But here we are. Over 500 miles of river, 400 different kinds of beers (I don't even want to think about individual totals - not to mention assorted tequila, meads, ciders, cysers, sakes, wines, etc), 42 kids (not necessarily correlated to the previous list), 100 campfires, 4872 bags of ice, 6283 pounds of firewood, 273 dumb skits/songs and way too many stupid GSP tricks to count in the past 24 years culminating in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GSP Raft Trip and Camping Extravaganza, the Duct Tape Anniversary.

Hey, remember your first time... on the raft trip? You were probably nervous, scared, worried that someone would laugh at something you did that wasn't just right. Well, you can still get that sensation. Whether you've been every year, just once, or haven't been in forever (or ever), we want you to join us for a few days of mayhem, comradery, silliness and just plain fun in the mountains of West Virginia.

### ***The Big Flush (It can't possible rain any harder than this)-***

This year, those among us who still care about aquatic thrill seeking will be rafting the mighty New River Gorge (or if it's not so mighty...the Gauley?) on Sunday July 3. In keeping with tradition, we will be rafting with Mountain River Tours (mert), (now officially known as Adventures Mountain River to move up the alphabetical search chain). The trip includes a deluxe continental breakfast (three types of cereal - can you believe it?), scenic bus ride to AND from the the river, instructional lecture (Grab the rope, NOT the bag), reserved seating, skilled guide (not necessarily funny) and a rustic lunch at an impromptu riverside cafe. Last year saw the first assault of the Lower New by our very own 2nd generation home grown piglets. They all had a great time other than the slight trauma of a condiment shampoo. Minimum age is 12.

### ***Ducky Trip ( Do the Recircula-bob )-***

Friday, July 1 we will once again have the chance to ply the less intense Upper New River in solo or double dummies (inflatable kayaks) without the interference of those pesky guides - "Hey, I wonder what would happen if I run this rapid sideways?" Minimum age for this trip is 6 years old. Younger kids usually go in a double duck with a parent or responsible bigger person. This is also great opportunity for those with their own boats to provide entertainment for everyone else.

***Camping (It's 4:00 it must be time for rain)-***

Our home away from home in West Virginia will once again be Ray's Campground located a mile down Sunday Road from MRT headquarters. The cost of camping is \$8 per camper per night for campers 12 and over. Settle up at the camp office when you arrive or the first time that you are there at the same time as Ray or Dren. We generally occupy both sides of the road just beyond the office. The campfire is located between the volleyball court and shelter (behind the camp office) so keep that in mind when choosing your prime camping location (do I want to be near the action or the bathroom?). The slush fund of \$30 per adult will cover one cool gift, ice, charcoal (for the nightly communal grill), and firewood. There are some area hotels including the lodge at Hawk's Nest, but you are pretty much on your own for those arrangements.

***Provisions (I biked 500 miles for a light beer? )-***

While West Virginia isn't the malt beverage wasteland it once was, you are all encouraged to bring beers from your area's micro brewer's. There will be a shared cooler (thanks Deb!) to give everyone the chance to sample the wide variety of beers from around the country.

Saturday night we will once again be having the GSP Communal Feast. Plan on making an appetizer/salad/main course/dessert to share with everyone. All edibles are welcome, from the simple to the gourmet.

***Other fun (I didn't come to have fun, I came see my friends)-***

Although for years we have pretended that this is about rafting, all of us really know what we are there for; hanging out with our friends (under rain repellent dining flies) and acting silly around the campfire. Sure river activities provide a lot of the fodder for Darrell's song and it makes a better story to tell your non-GSP friends and co-workers. (What do you non-rafting people tell your friends anyway? "I'm going rafting in West Virginia. No, I don't like rafting. Actually, I haven't rafted in years" "So, you're going to drive 500 miles and spend a week in West Virginia, not rafting with your friends?")

Some of the group arrives as early a week before the rafting with a large contingent there by Thursday. The New River Gorge area of West Virginia is a great place to play outside with lots of places to go hiking, mountain biking and climbing. Not to mention the annual rock hopping, shin banging, playing in the water silliness expedition to Babcock State Park.

The campfires are the place to be after dark. Bring your instruments (musical that is), your skit material, popcorn, smok-y-links, lawn chair, marshmallows or whatever you need to survive a class five class campfire where we'll perform some GSP classics and try to stay on key. And if anyone was awake or sober enough to remember any classic skits, we may have some reprise performances.

So return your reservation form by May 12 (better yet send it today!) and get ready for yet another (or your first) annual GSP Raft Trip. Hey, it's been going for 25 years so it must be fun (or we're all easily amused). Remember this is the special 25th trip, the Duct Tape Anniversary, so there will be some special treats in store. Make sure to badger our friends who haven't attended in a few years to show for this one (please pass the word to anyone you suspect may not be on our lists). As always, remember to be there or be warm dry and comfortable.

**Reservation Form**

Please fill it in and send to us, at the address below, by **May 12, 2005**.

**SLUSH FUND:** All attending ADULTS – covers ice, charcoal, firewood and cool gift  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Attendees (include ages of freeloading youth and children):

**LOWER NEW:** Monday July 3, 6 Person Raft (Add \$10 for R4's).  
(The cost does NOT include the Slush Fund.)

Number of *ADULT RAFTERS* (18 and up): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$88 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *YOUTH RAFTERS* (12 to 17): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$83 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Frequent Rafter Redemptions: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$0 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names:

**DUCKIE TRIP** on the **UPPER NEW:** Friday, July 1

Number of *ADULTS*: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$56 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Boat Type (duckie, double duckie, raft):

Number of *YOUTHS* (7 - 17): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$36 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Boat Type:

Number with their *OWN BOAT*: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names:

**OTHER**

Number of extra cool gifts : \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Video/DVDs with both Duckie and Lower New Trip: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$26.50 each = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** (send the entire amount):..... \_\_\_\_\_

Use the back for button slogan suggestions, classic skit nominations, classic moment nominations or any other special needs or comments.

Make Check Payable to: Bob Safranek  
Send Checks to: Bob Safranek  
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