



Hello friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are all as excited as we are for the upcoming 29th annual outing to Hico, WV.

The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy has this to say about the Gravy Sucking Pigs (GSP). Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the Western Spiral arm of the galaxy, lies an insignificant blue green planet revolving ninety-eight million miles around a small yellow sun. It is on this obscure planet that a small band of ape-decedents decided to hurl themselves down a river in inflatable, makeshift rubber rafts.

Having lived through the experience, this small group went back to their perspective homes and told two friends about it, who told two friends, who told two friends, and so on, and so on. 29 years later this lemming-like pilgrimage is still going strong. As of note, The Guide points out that the trip itself has evolved into gathering of those that like to Eat, Drink, Hike, Drink, Horseback Ride, Eat, Hang Out in camp (Slug), Drink, Eat, and oh yah.... Raft.

So whether you like to slug it, play music, taste varieties of chocolate, cook, eat, imbibe various types of alcohol, Frisbee-Golf, hike, rock hop, and many other activities (and in-activities) this is the trip for you. Now is the time to get your reservations in.

Please note, for those of us rafting this year, we will be trying a different raft guide company. This was based on several reasons. First, there is still a discrepancy with MRT from last year's cost and use of frequent rafter points, and the cost of rafting with them this year. Second, Ray of Rays' Campground fully recommends The North American River Runners (NARR). Finally, many of the guides from MRT have now switched to NARR, and NARR was able to work with us on securing pricing that is comparable to the last couple years.

This year's excursion will take place on the Upper New (Ducky Trip) on Thursday, July 2nd and the Lower New on Saturday, July 4th (you must be 12 and older to raft the lower). Of course Friday, July 3rd will be the annual Pot Luck Dining experience.

**** Pricing for the raft trip is obviously based upon how many rafters, but for those who are on a budget, assuming we get around the same number of rafters as previous years here is the breakdown so far.**

Ducky: Piglets (5 and Up) – College (with ID) \$50

Ducky: Pigs \$79

Lower: Piglets (12 and Up) - College (with ID) R6 \$85

Lower: Pigs \$99

Hard-boat: \$25 includes transportation

****NOTE:** These prices may vary depending on the number of rafters. Normally this information is not relayed in the first letter and I wasn't sure about including it, but "The Wife Thing" vetoed my idea of not including sample pricing due to the economic concerns of today's environment. Pricing does not include dnr.

In order to help out the economy, Ray will be holding all prices steady from last year. Tent/RV Space: \$8 per person per night, Tent Rental: \$10 a night (2 Person Tent), \$20 a night (4 Person Tent), Cabin Rental: \$30 + tax a night, RV Electrical Hookup add \$5 a night.

Also note that we have not had any suggestions so far for an alcohol tasting this year so any suggestions of something we have not tried through the years would be greatly appreciated.

Lady and the Throw-Bag,
(Cathy and Jim Hands)

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