



Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle (Fall 2025)

FFV State Officers

President: Herb Coleman

herb@clachanproperties.com

Vice Presidents:

- Tony Adams: antonadams@comcast.net
- Bill Duncan: wduncan311@yahoo.com
- Rick Mattox:
rickmattoxrva@outlook.com
- Ginnie Peck: ginniepeck@gmail.com
- Bill Tanger: riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Secretary: Lauren Jacobs

lorenjacobs32@yahoo.com

State Treasurer: Mitch Sims

mitchsims@yahoo.com

Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail deposit amounts to Mitch, each time you deposit in State Account.

Membership Chair: Erica Goode

**Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail updated membership info to Erica @:

ffvbusiness@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Gabby Safley

gabby.safley@gmail.com

Webmaster: Traci Martin

traci.martin1970@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger

riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Annual Dues: Due January each year

- \$20.00 per Individual or per Family (spouse & children 0-18)
- Individual chapters may have additional annual dues.
- Contact your CHAPTER Treasurer to pay dues
- Please, DO NOT send dues to Membership Chair or State Treasurer

Chapter Treasurers:

George Dickel Chapter: Ginnie Peck

dickels.treasurer@gmail.com

Randy Carter Chapter: Ed Galloway

ewgalloway@verizon.net

Roanoke Valley Chapter: Bill Tanger

riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Scotts Creek Chapter: Rick Mattox

rickmattoxrva@outlook.com

Steve Keller Chapter: INACTIVE Contact Ginnie

President's Paddle

Hello FFV family!!

Man what a scorcher this summer has been. Hope everyone is staying cool. The Memorial Day float at R5 this year was terrific. The water level couldn't have been better. The music by Patrick Olivia knocked it out of the park again. And of course seeing everyone enjoy the weekend both paddling and socializing is what it's all about.

Reminder, the Labor Day Float will be at the Dierkes property at Bent Creek. We've got live music planned for Saturday night. Also for those interested, we'll be visiting the Allen's Creek property for a tour. Can't wait to see what Bill Tanger's team has been able to complete. Let's hope the weather cooperates with some great water levels and milder temps.

I want to give Erica Goode and her team a shout out for all the work they put into making the Kids Float a huge success. I know both the kids and the volunteers had a blast. Thanks to all that helped make this event a truly special and memorable day.

On a housekeeping note, I'm happy to report we had two scholarship applicants, Aiden Cullis and Jacob Bender. The Foundation Board voted to award each with a \$2000 check. Good luck to you both in your future endeavors!! The Foundation Board also voted to honor Greg Velzy with the Randy Carter award. Greg has been a long time employee of Chesterfield Parks and Rec and has been a devoted steward of the James River thru Richmond.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Labor Day float. Don't hesitate to reach out with ideas or feedback. And remember to bring a friend.

See everyone soon!!



Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2025

9:04 a.m.

Courtesy of Rick Mattox

Call to order: Herb Coleman

Herb called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Secretary Report (Approve Minutes):

Loren Jacobs

Motion to approve the minutes of the Memorial weekend meeting as published in the summer newsletter was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mitch Sims

The Treasurer's Report showed receipts of \$255 since Memorial Day and Disbursements \$1,732. Mitch indicated that FFV spent \$2,000 more through Labor Day last year. Motion was made and passed to increase dues to \$25 in 2026. Various suggestions were made on ways to increase revenue and decrease expenses. We will ask Traci to research options for hosting our website. We are currently paying \$500 for hosting our website, That cost has gone up substantially and seems excessive for hosting our site.

Membership Report: Erica Goode

It was reported that we currently have 152 members. Ginny is working with Erica to hand off membership to Erica. Chapter membership spreadsheets will be sent to chapter treasurers for reporting 2026 dues paying members.

Newsletter Report: Gabby Safley

Gabby is seeking feedback on pros and cons on the newsletter. Please send articles and photos.

Webmaster Report: Traci Martin

Traci will research options for hosting the FFV website.

Conservation Chair Report: Bill Tanger:

No tires bill – The bill introduced last year was referred to DEQ to study. Last year's sponsor of the bill is no longer willing to sponsor the bill. Mr. Tanger is currently looking for a sponsor in the House of Delegates. A bottle bill is being introduced in the next session of the General Assembly. Bill suggested that FFV send a letter in support of the bill. A letter has been sent to Delegate Glass on behalf of the Roanoke Chapter of FFV. Bill reported that he is currently working on 3 river access sites mainly in Franklin County.

FFVA Foundation Report: Bill Tanger

Two scholarship recipients were awarded \$2,000 each.

Allen's Creek Update: Bill Tanger

Bill reported that work is on-going at Allen's Creek. The house now has water, electric with hot showers as well as a new deck and porch.

Randy Carter Award: Rick Mattox

Rick reported that Greg Velzy was awarded the FFV Randy Carter Award for his efforts in promoting the James River over the past 28 years through various organizations as well as Chesterfield Parks and Recreation where he is employed.



Meeting Minutes Cont.

August 31, 2025

9:04 a.m.

Courtesy of Rick Mattox

Election of Officers and Directors:

The current slate of officers and directors was unanimously re-elected.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Thanks to Erica for lining up the music for Saturday night's enjoyment. Thanks to Jim Dierkes for allowing the FFV to invade his property. Thanks to James River State Park for providing passes for FFV to shuttle vehicles in the park.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

HELP WANTED

After graciously volunteering to be the FFV treasurer the past few years, Mitch Sims would like to pass that responsibility to someone else in the organization.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to serve as the FFV treasurer, please notify Herb Coleman (herb@clachanproperties.com) or Mitch Sims (mitchsims@yahoo.com).



How to Rescue a Broached Canoe

Courtesy of Bill Tanger

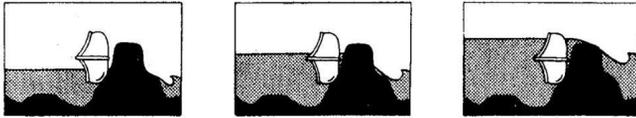
HOW TO RESCUE A BROACHED CANOE

...also known as "The Steve Thomas Rope Trick"

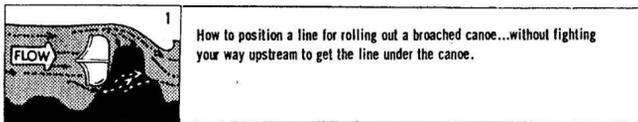
published as a Safety Service of  COASTAL CANOEISTS

R. Steve Thomas, Jr., of Hopewell, Virginia, is quick to disclaim originating this rescue technique. But, Coastal Canoeists who have seen him in action in such an emergency situation must regard him as the system's most experienced practitioner.

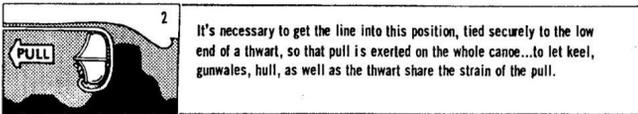
Stated simply, it helps the boat roll, dump itself and come up empty; thus avoiding the necessity of lifting any water. The trick is in getting the line in the proper position to do the most good (and the least damage) most easily. The more quickly rescue can be effected the better are the chances of success.



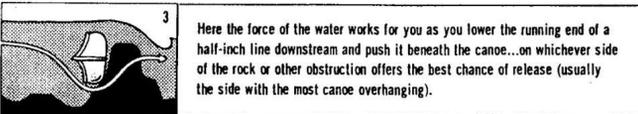
The illustrations below show the boat fully submerged (such luck). This technique, however, is effective in any situation in which the boat is deep enough or the water has force enough to preclude simply lifting the boat out.



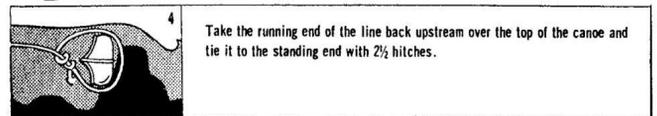
1 How to position a line for rolling out a broached canoe...without fighting your way upstream to get the line under the canoe.



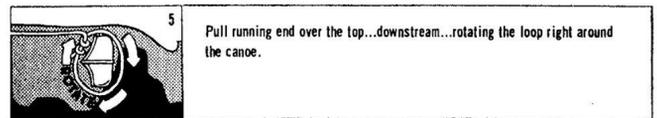
2 It's necessary to get the line into this position, tied securely to the low end of a thwart, so that pull is exerted on the whole canoe...to let keel, gunwales, hull, as well as the thwart share the strain of the pull.



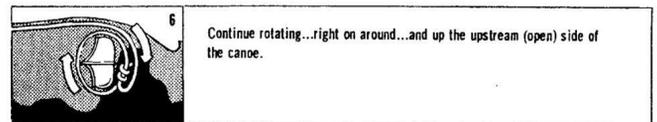
3 Here the force of the water works for you as you lower the running end of a half-inch line downstream and push it beneath the canoe...on whichever side of the rock or other obstruction offers the best chance of release (usually the side with the most canoe overhanging).



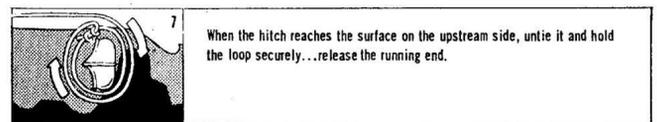
4 Take the running end of the line back upstream over the top of the canoe and tie it to the standing end with 2½ hitches.



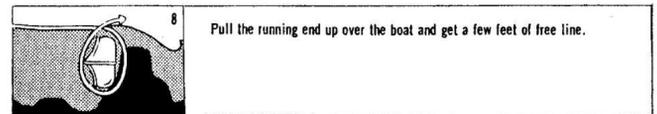
5 Pull running end over the top...downstream...rotating the loop right around the canoe.



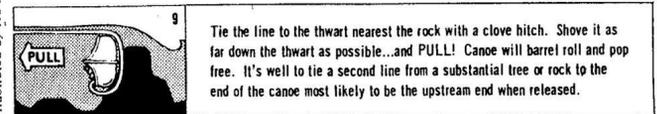
6 Continue rotating...right on around...and up the upstream (open) side of the canoe.



7 When the hitch reaches the surface on the upstream side, untie it and hold the loop securely...release the running end.



8 Pull the running end up over the boat and get a few feet of free line.



9 Tie the line to the thwart nearest the rock with a clove hitch. Shove it as far down the thwart as possible...and PULL! Canoe will barrel roll and pop free. It's well to tie a second line from a substantial tree or rock to the end of the canoe most likely to be the upstream end when released.

Illustrated by Les Fry



James River earns a ‘B’ in 2025 report: progress upstream, but tidal areas lag behind

Author: Jordie Clark

Published: October 24, 2025

The James River continues to make steady progress, but experts say keeping it healthy will require renewed investment and community action.

A new report from the James River Association (JRA) gives the river an overall grade of B, or 68 percent, in its 2025 State of the James report, a slight decline from the last assessment in 2023.

The biannual report grades the river’s health across a range of indicators, including water quality, fish and wildlife populations, and restoration efforts.

From one of the nation’s most polluted rivers to a comeback story

JRA President and CEO Bill Street says the river’s comeback is remarkable considering its polluted past.

“Fifty years ago, the governor of Virginia had to shut down the entire tidal James River because of a toxic insecticide,” Street said.

“Back then, the river was considered one of the most polluted in the country. To see it now at a B, with people enjoying it again and wildlife returning, that’s a major success story.”

Over the decades, conservation programs and stricter pollution controls have helped revive the river, bringing back bald eagles, sturgeon, and other species once considered gone from the region.

Warning signs downstream

Despite progress, the 2025 report highlights several areas of concern, particularly in the tidal sections near Hampton Roads, where the James River empties into the Chesapeake Bay.

Street says water quality and wildlife indicators have dropped sharply in those areas.



James River earns a 'B' in 2025 report: progress upstream, but tidal areas lag behind Cont.

Author: Jordie Clark

Published: October 24, 2025

“We’ve seen improvements upstream, but underwater grasses, oysters, and striped bass are all struggling,” he said. “The lower James receives all the pollution from upstream, so it takes longer to recover.”

The river’s overall score dipped five points, largely due to declines in oyster populations, underwater grasses, and juvenile shad. The tidal water quality grade also fell, signaling the need for continued restoration efforts in coastal communities.

Climate change making progress harder

The report warns that climate change, population growth, and land-use changes are compounding the challenges of river restoration.

“It’s as if we’re paddling against the current,” Street said. “Climate change is making it harder to make progress, which is why continued investment and community action are critical.”

JRA says state funding for clean water programs, especially those that help farmers reduce runoff, has been key to improvements upstream. But they say those benefits take time to flow downstream.

Local solutions and community action

Street says local engagement is crucial to maintaining progress.

“Everyone really can make an impact,” he said. “We have programs like River Homes and Living Shorelines where people can get involved; planting marsh grasses, building oyster reefs, or simply reducing water and energy use. It all adds up.”

In Hampton Roads, one major project drawing attention is the SWIFT initiative by the Hampton Roads Sanitation District.



James River earns a 'B' in 2025 report: progress upstream, but tidal areas lag behind Cont.

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The system treats wastewater to drinking standards and re-injects it into the groundwater aquifer, removing pollutants from the James River and replenishing local water supplies.

Street calls SWIFT “a model example” of how science and innovation can help sustain both the environment and the community.

Looking ahead: The push for an ‘A’ river

The James River Association says if Virginia meets its pollution reduction and wildlife restoration goals, the river could one day earn a grade of A, an achievement that would mark one of the greatest environmental recoveries in U.S. history.

“Wouldn’t that be an amazing thing, to take what was once one of the most polluted rivers in the country and bring it to a grade A?” Street said. “It would show the world how an ecosystem can come back from the brink.”

The association hopes the report not only measures progress but also inspires Virginians to take part in protecting their waterways.

“We all have an impact on the river,” Street added. “But we can determine what that impact is, and we can all make a difference.”

Editor's Note

The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author's and not necessarily those of FFV or its members. The editor is responsible for editing the content of the newsletter and its construction. Members are responsible for providing content. Please send submissions to the editor via email attachment. The following formats are preferred: Word, RFT, and/or JPEG. The newsletter goes out quarterly: Feb 1, May 1, August 1, Nov 1. **All Submissions MUST be received by the 15th of the preceding month.**

If you receive this newsletter via US Mail, we do not have a current email address for you. Contact your local treasurer or the Membership Chair to update your information.

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