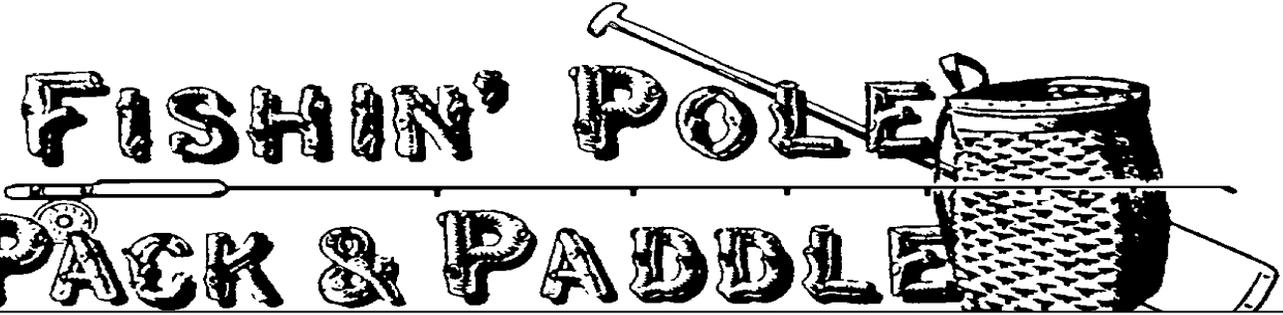


FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE



Float Fishermen of Virginia -!- Special Double Issue -!- Winter/Spring & Spring/Summer - 2007, No. 1&2

Inside this Special *twofer* Issue

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***Memorial Day Weekend
Business Meeting
Camping & Float***



***Rappahannock River Rat
Rehabilitation Retreat***

[a.k.a. R5]

2007



~ Directions on back page ~

The President's Paddle

Happy Spring!

The paddling season has started. For those die hards the season has never ended. I finally had the opportunity to paddle the Big Back Creek Gorge, on March 17 of this year. There was a lot of water and even a few snowflakes throughout the day. Bill Britton and I joined a few Scott's Creek members, Rick Mattox, Brian Vande Sande and Roc Willoughby. Thank you, for letting us tag along, we both had a great time!

Memorial weekend is approaching quickly. Please let me know of any issues you would like to add to the agenda. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, I would really like to encourage each member to help clean up each river as we go along. Every little bit helps.

Erica Sims, from the Dickel Chapter, is heading up a Kid Float, for the children in Charlottesville. This float is scheduled for June 12. There will be 10-20 children signing up for this float. Any volunteers to help out would be greatly appreciated. These are children that have never been in a canoe before. This is a great opportunity to reach out to our surrounding area. There will be an update, concerning the project, at the Memorial Meeting.

I would also like to thank Don Sims, for stepping in at the December meeting. He agreed to run the meeting for me, in my absence. I look forward to seeing all of you on the river.

Ginnie



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WINTER BUSINESS MEETING



Cumberland State Forest Headquarters. The Winter FFV business meeting was called to order Saturday afternoon, December 2nd, at 2:00 p.m. by Don Simms, acting in place of President Ginny Peck, who was unable to attend due to illness.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the Labor Day Meeting were approved as published in the newsletter (FPP&P 2006 #3)

Treasurer's Report

As of November 30, 2006:

FFV General Account	\$3,748.54
Certificate of Deposit	\$7,262.14.

Newsletter Editor Report

As of the date of this meeting, 266 newsletters have been mailed. Articles are always being accepted for use in the newsletter. Please submit any articles you would like to see published to Bob Pillow via email. In response to a query, members were reminded that the Officers are listed in each newsletter, page 2.

Membership

Our membership rolls currently have 275 dues-paying members. There have been no updates since October. Several addresses are currently out of date, and need to be revised. There was a lengthy discussion attempting to decide whether the number of newsletters mailed, or the 2006/2007 roster should be considered for an actual count when conversations concerning representation of FFV are held.

- There was a motion to establish a committee consisting of one person from each chapter to determine the appropriate language for the membership. Motion passed.
- There was a motion for the Membership Chair to convene the committee. Motion passed.

Continued on page 3...

...continued from page 2

Webmaster's Report

It is time to update the website ID and password information. The Membership Chair will email this information to Bob Born, and everyone should be receiving updated information. All Chapters need to have a representative contact Bob Born concerning Chapter web page updates.

- *There was a motion to buy two (2) copies of Dreamweaver software at \$25 per copy to keep the web page current, and give FFV more options for the web page. Motion passed.*

Conservation Chair

River Conservation Discussion:

The Healthy River Initiative – The State has \$281 million dollars put aside for river cleanup. There is no set limit to how long there is to spend this money, however, most will go for sewer treatment. The search for permanent funding for river preservation is still being conducted.

Proposed King William Reservoir – In September, the State Water Control Board denied the extension for Newport News. The Mattoponi Indian Reservation lawsuit against Newport News was dismissed, however, the lawsuit in Virginia Circuit Court remains.

The Pig River Project – Work is being conducted to remove a dam, and put in a white water park for boaters.

The Maury River – There has also been discussion about trying to remove the Jordan Point Dam in Lexington.

The New River – Witt River Bend Park now has permanent restrooms, a paved parking lot, and a new river access point. It is handicapped accessible, and the gravel loop is almost finished.

River Access Discussion:

The James River - Dominion Virginia Power, FFV, and FORVA had a meeting with CSX Railroad on November 17, 2006 to discuss the Balcony Falls takeout. They are making progress in relocating the takeout and are looking for legislative support for the ongoing issue of crossing the railroad, etc. The hope is that an “at-grade crossing” will be approved. The Department of Conservation and

Recreation (DCR) wants help in obtaining permission for pedestrians to pass over the railroad crossing.

The Gauley River - Currently there are timber appraisals being performed.

The Jackson River – There are several plots of land for sale.

The Randy Carter Award

After a vote from the membership, it was decided that FORVA would receive the Randy Carter Award for 2006.

FFV Foundation

The minutes of the September meeting of the Foundation are in the newsletter. The river access survey is still in progress

- *There was a motion for the current President of FFV to be on the Foundation Board. Motion passed.*

Old Business

Brochure: It was decided that the mailing address would be removed from the FFV brochure to make room for Chapter addresses. The yellow FFV logo will replace the 2 green logos currently on the front and back of the brochure. Copies of the brochure are being donated so that Chapters can distribute them as needed.

American Whitewater: Discussion was held concerning FFV's membership of this organization, and Chapters/Members receiving a discount, due to the fact that our membership is not very familiar with this organization.

New Business

Goose Creek – There is land for sale near the gauging station. Discussion was held concerning the landowner who has over 30 polluted acres that is adversely affecting the river.

- *There was a motion to add FFV's name to an EPA report on River Erosion Protection on Goose Creek. Motion Passed.*

Upcoming Floats

Memorial Day Float – The float will be held at R5 on the weekend of May 25-28, 2007. The Scott's Creek Chapter will be cooking. There will be a \$5 per person river tax for the weekend. There is a \$500 budget for the Porta-Johns and \$500 for food.

Summer Float – This float will be held at Witt River Bend Park from July 20-22, 2007. FFV will rent 2 Porta-Johns and there will be a \$2 river tax collected and donated to the Park. No group meal is being prepared.

Labor Day Float – This float will be held at Solitude from August 31-September 3, 2007. There will be a \$5 river tax. The Roanoke and Dickel Chapters have been provided a \$500 budget for food, and \$500 for Porta Johns.

Donations

\$300 has been set aside to be donated to the Forest Service for the use of the facility for our winter meeting. It was also decided that \$75 would be donated to American Rivers and \$75 to FORVA.

Please see the web page and calendar for a listing of upcoming events. The meeting was promptly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Brian T. Vande Sande



Anglin's

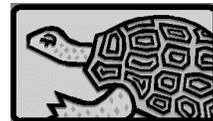
in the

Archives



Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle ~ Winter/Spring 2002

Stewed Coots and Cooter Stew ~ Bob DeRosset



A few years back, Pete VanDeman said the trouble with old guys is " they just sit around and talk about how great it was". He's right, of course, and one of these days, he's going to find himself sitting around someone else's campfire and talking about how great it was. When it happens, he will have become another old guy boring his listeners.

One of the things us old guys talk about is tales of Guys Who Knew What They Were (or are) Doing. I've been fortunate in being around a lot of Guys Who Knew What They Were Doing. On the culinary side, this includes Peter Pine, who one Sunday morning camping on the riverbank, turned out made-from-scratch eggs benedict. Jack Albert's comment was "that was good; may I have some more, without the yellow gravy?" A current example is Jim Garner, turning out what my son, who's eaten a lot of friend fish on two continents, says is the best fried fish he's ever had.

On my first trip to David's Creek, some of the Guys Who Knew What They Were Doing (the ring leader may have been Tatnall Hurt) put out a trot line and served up really good catfish for Sunday morning breakfast. Caught along with the catfish was a snarling, hissing, ready-to-sever-digits Chelydra Serpentina. This one didn't make the morning menu.

Snappers, or Cooters, can grow to about 50 pounds, and as far as I am concerned, are not to be messed with. My first riverine contact with Cooters and Guys Who Knew What They Were Doing came in '40 or '41 while drifting down the Neuse River in johnboats with Billy Russ and his friends who were fishing along the banks. When a snapping turtle sunning himself on a log came into range, Mr. Russ shot him. I guess fishermen in the '40s thought the turtles ate the fish they wanted to catch and considered them pests. One deceased Cooter was put in with the fish to be cleaned and eaten later.

Supper was fried fish and Cooter Stew. I suppose it was delicious, but back then, I considered the greatest of gourmet meals to be a two-cent Baby Ruth Bar and a Coke over crushed ice, so I can't remember how it tasted or was cooked. I haven't seen Billy since high school, but last I heard, and this was years ago, he was skipper of a nuclear submarine.

Carroll Robinson of York, SC, is a 75 year-old Guy Who Knows What He Is Doing, He is a fisherman and a NASCAR fan who still works full time as a welder in a local steel mill. Following is a recipe for Cooter Stew by way of Mr. Robinson's son-in-law who works for the Charlotte Observer, where I found this recipe.

Cooter Stew

Implements:

- One 55gallon drum or empty pickup truck bed, for containing the Cooter,
- One machete or well-sharpened cane knife,
- One two-pound ball peen hammer,
- One set of industrial strength vise grips or channel lock pliers, (The above three tools induce Mr. Cooter to leave his shell)
- One cast iron pot,
- Cast iron skillet and associated cooking tools.

Ingredients (Serves 6-8)

- 2 to 3 pounds Cooter (substitute dark-meat chicken, catfish, veal or all three),
- 2 quarts water,
- 4 tablespoons cooking oil,
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour,
- 2 big onions, peeled and chopped,
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic,
- 1 small can tomato paste,
- 3/4 cup chopped celery,
- 1 cup green spring onion tops,
- 1 pinch each paprika and cayenne,
- 4 bay leaves,
- 1 1/4cup good sherry, not cooking sherry,
- 1 tablespoon molasses or brown sugar,
- 6 to 8 boiled eggs, chopped,
- 3 potatoes, peeled and cubed seasoned salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste,
- 1/4 cup cooked, crumbled bacon.

Robinson says "It's a lot easier cooking in the kitchen but something like Cooter Stew deserves a cast iron pot over an open fire. On a cool Fall evening with some hot corn bread and a bowl of Cooter Stew - man, that's some good eating".

Cooking

- Cover meat well with water and parboil over medium heat for 20 minutes. Set aside to cool and then trim to small chunks. Skim fat from broth and set aside.
- Heat oil to just short of smoking. Stir in flour and cook, stirring constantly for 15-20 minutes to make a dark roux. Add big onions, garlic and tomato paste. Add 4 cups of reserved broth and meat and cook 30 minutes over medium to high heat. Add celery, spring onions, seasonings, bay leaves, sherry and molasses or brown sugar and cook 30 minutes. Add water to thin stew, if needed.
- Add chopped eggs and cook 1 1/2 hours. Add potatoes and cook 20-30 minutes longer, until potatoes are tender. Taste and add seasoned salt and pepper. Remove bay leaves. Sprinkle bacon over top.

Serve

- In large, bowls with a salad on the side and hot bread, preferably corn bread made in a black iron skillet.

Continued on page 5...

...continued from page 4

Some Musings

1. Beware of any food ingredient that arrives snarling.
2. The best turtle soup I've ever had was at Carvel Hall, now demolished. It was called terrapin soup. The turtle soup at Gallatoire's in New Orleans is recommended.
3. Ms. Rombauer, in the Joy of Cooking, is a font of turtle-cooking lore. For example, she suggests ridding the turtle of waste and pollution by putting it in a deep, open box with a dish of water and feeding it for a week or so on 3 or 4 small handouts of ground meat. On the other hand, she suggests beheading snappers immediately, since she characterizes them as short-tempered and capable of inflicting nasty bites. She then further says that if you have occasion to handle 300-pound sea turtles in your kitchen, the greenish meat from the top shell is preferable to the whitish meat from the bottom shell. Terrapin is the choicest for all turtle meat, she says, but only the female of the species weighing less than 3 pounds, males being unacceptably tough.
4. Maybe we should solicit stories about Guys Who Know What They're Doing for the newsletter, which has had so few articles sent in for publication.
5. Maybe we should solicit stories about Guys Who Haven't a Clue for the newsletter. One of the inhabitants of Bent Creek comes to mind. He made a famous trip down the Rappahannock which began at Opal with the purchase of a new Old Town Tripper, continued at the Route 29 put-in at Remington in high water and concluded at the Kelly's Ford Bridge take-out with the canoe completely gutted and not enough left to secure to the racks. The remains were duct-taped to the car and returned to Scott's for any possible repair. His name will not be mentioned.

Welcome New FFV Members...

Randy Carter Chapter

- Dave Dillon, Ashland
- Joseph and Shannon Craft, Midland
- Shawn Drawdy, The Plains
- Brad Pearson, Stephens City
- Kevin Birocco, Williamsburg

George Dickle Chapter

- Keane and Bill Britton, Providence Forge

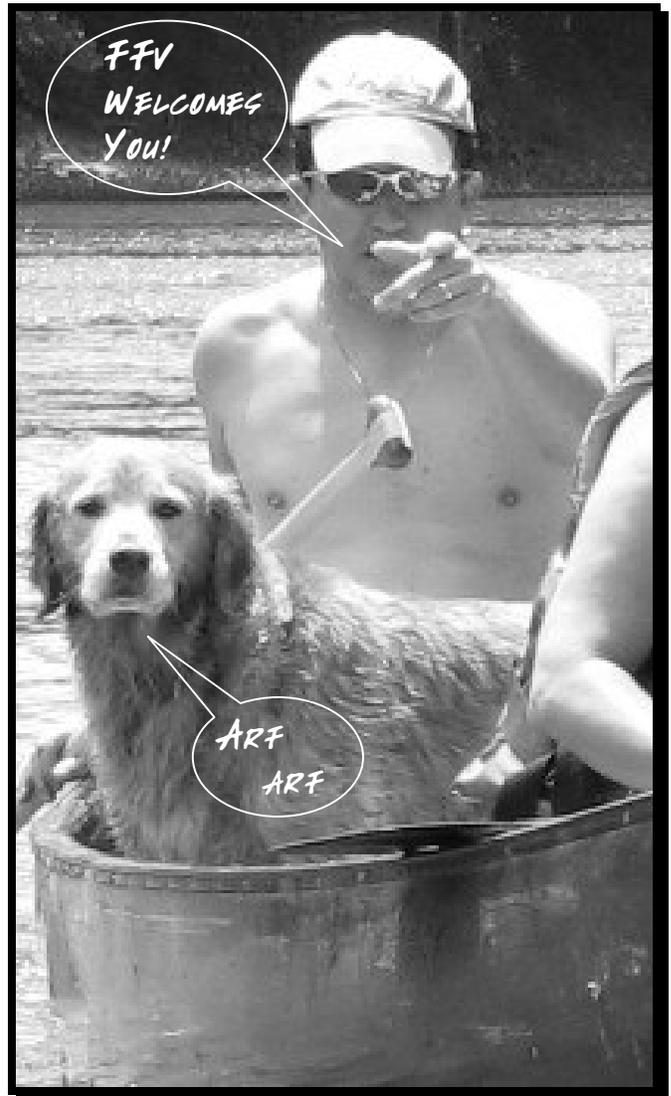
Roanoke Valley Chapter

- Hayward and Cathy Wray, Bedford
- Mark Hutcherson, Fincastle
- Dave Cohan, Roanoke
- Glenn E. Lilly, Roanoke
- Lisa P. Mann, Roanoke
- Cheryl Marek, Salem
- Emily Mason, Roanoke

These are all the new members reported the editor in the last several months, Apologies to those who may have been missed, and welcome to all!

~ SPECIAL INSERT ~

This issue contains a special insert listing all members as of April 2007. The roster is continual changing as new members come on board, so check with the Membership Chair or your local chapter for the latest.



Minutes of the "Lock 14 Meeting with CSX" 11/17/06

Cushaw Project News

Attendees: David Farley, CSX; Jim Thornton, Dominion Power; Sarah Christian, Amherst County; Bill Tanger, FORVA; Jeff Wold, FFV; (James Adams and Steve Kessler, DGIF, attended first part of meeting).

Bob Munson was ill and unable to attend and had representatives from the DGIF attend in his stead. James Adams expressed the opinion of the Commonwealth that Virginia wanted to see this crossing developed. David made the observation that there was a lot of train traffic at this site. Jim commented that Dominion's estimates were approximately 17 trains during a 24-hour period. Sarah pointed out that Amherst County was very interested in seeing the lock 14 takeout become a reality.

The status of the crossing was discussed as to whether it would be public or private. David made the comment that a public crossing would be much better in the eyes of the railroad. FORVA and FFV will pursue this determination with DCR. If the crossing is public, crossing gates will not necessarily be required but trains will have to blow their whistle. Will the whistle be a problem with the James River Face Wilderness? Will check Forest Service.

David made the comment that while the current railroad crossings constitute a trespass situation, one central designated crossing would definitely be better. David made the point that the DOT normally determines the status of a crossing (active or passive) to determine if crossing gates are needed. The hardware for gates is \$75,000 to \$100,000 without installation. Bill suggested that gates were not needed and that signage would be all that is required. Bill pointed out that under current Virginia law (20-109), the railroad would have less liability if they went along with this proposal. David made the point that we should try to get VDOT to take the crossing into their public system. This is common practice in West Virginia. Bill will discuss with Mike McCormack of VDOT. David asked the group who would be responsible for maintenance of the crossing site if developed. Bill stated that FORVA would hold the Forest Service use permit and that the Float Fishermen, Blue Ridge River Runners, and Coastal Canoeists would help out with the maintenance.

The photos of current pedestrian crossings in other locations in Virginia were discussed. The photos showing the current parking situation were discussed and it was pointed out that the AT parking had many boater vehicles. David asked what would prevent boaters from using the current unsanctioned crossings if we were to open up an official crossing at lock 14. Bill stated that "no one in their right mind" would paddle farther down the river in flat water to take out.

David asked how boaters would know where the new take out site is located. Bill responded that current sites are not marked and they have no trouble finding them. The new site will be marked and its location will be posted at the put-in as well as written up in newsletters etc. Bill made the point that the line of site up and down the railroad tracks is quite good at the Lock 14 site. David took photographs at this location. Some of the current unsanctioned crossing sites were visited and photographed.

In summary, Bill and Jeff emphasized the three major points:

- 1) CSX would have much less liability with one designated at-grade crossing rather than multiple unofficial crossings.
- 2) The lock 14 crossing will be much safer than the current situation.
- 3) A designated crossing is in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Wold, FFV and Bill Tanger, FORVA



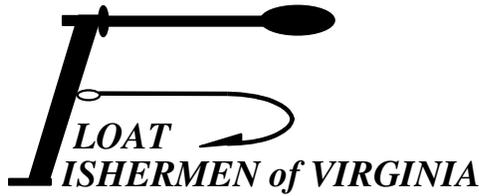
Memorial Day Weekend @ R5 : 2006



***R5** has great campsites, a sheltered meeting space, and easy river access. Located just below the town of Remington, the run from R5 to Kelly's Ford is an easy shuttle, and provides a little bit of everything on the water, including Sandy Beach Rapids, a great to stop for lunch, and watch for swimmers.*

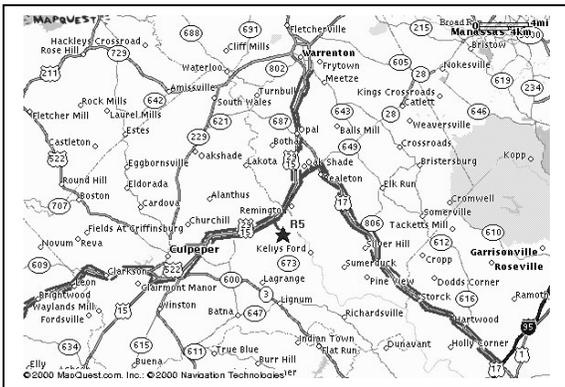
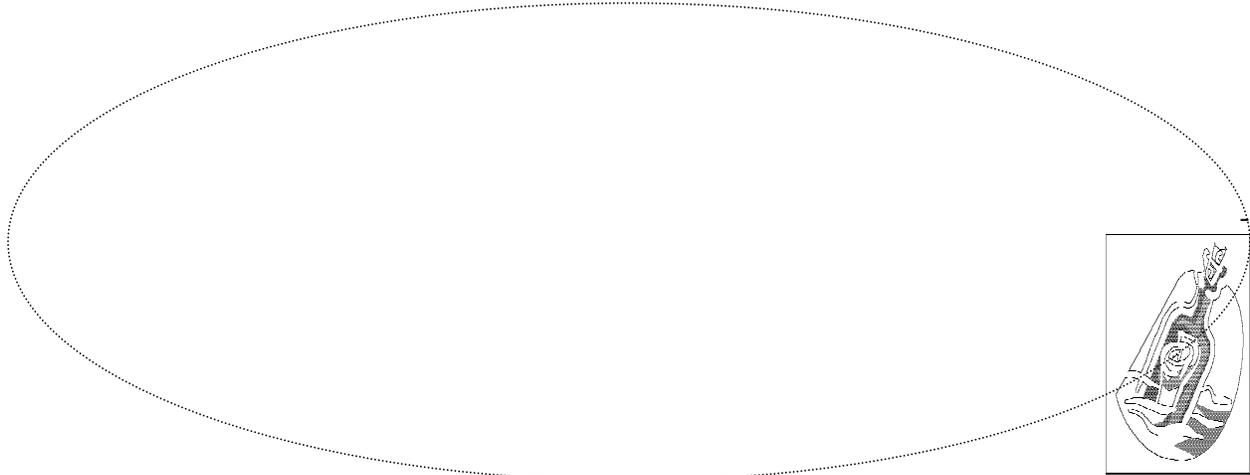


...see you @ R5 Memorial Day Weekend, 2007



**LOAT
FISHERMEN of VIRGINIA**

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From Charlottesville:
 Take US 29 North to Culpepper.
 Just before Remington, take Bus. 29/15, *see below*...

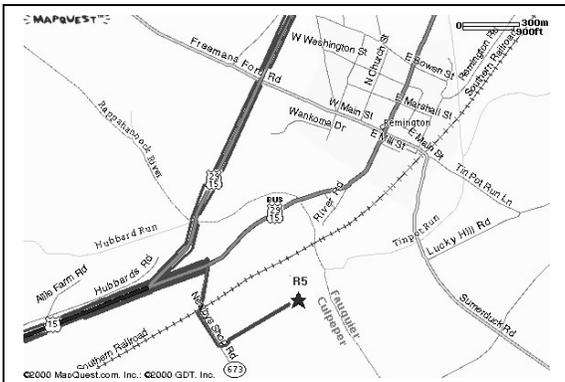
From Fredericksburg:
 Take US 17 West toward Warrenton.
 At Bealeton LEFT on SR 28 to US 29/15.
 Turn LEFT on US 29/15(South) past Remington.
 Turn LEFT after crossing Rappahannock River onto Bus. 29/15, *see below*...

From Warrenton:
 US 29 South toward Charlottesville.
 Turn LEFT after crossing Rappahannock River onto Bus. 29/15, *see below*...

...from Bus. 29/15:
 Turn RIGHT on SR 673(<.25 mile).
 Turn LEFT into the campground, <.5 mile after railroad crossing.



Directions to R5



2007 State Floats & Meetings

Memorial Day Weekend Float & Meeting
 May 25-28 @ R5 on the Rappahannock

Summer Float
 July 23-23 @ Whitt-Riverbend Park on the New

Labor Day Weekend Float & Meeting
 August 31-September 3 @ Solitude on the James

Winter Meeting
 December 1 @ Cumberland

