



The Dragon's Tale

Friends of Dragon Run
PO Box 882
Gloucester, VA 23061

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Friends of Dragon Run, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation, protection, and encouragement of wise use of the Dragon Run and its watershed.

BATS: BE AFRAID!

Friends of Dragon Run Member Meeting Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 pm

Whether you love bats or fear them, you will want to attend Friends of Dragon Run's next meeting on February 26 at 7:00 pm. The presentation will be held at the Gloucester County Library Community Room located at 6920 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061. This is a free event open to the public.



Our guest speaker will be Bonnie Miles, a bat specialist and an active member of Bat Conservation International.



Bonnie will present both basic and little-known facts about bats. She will discuss how bats benefit our ecosystems, and she will emphasize the threats to survival that bats face today.

Bonnie will show many wonderful photos that will demonstrate how bats are beautiful, cute, not-so-cute, interesting, and unique.

For more information about this presentation or Friends of Dragon Run, please contact Janice Moore at President@dragonrun.org, or 703-217-0610.

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Roadside Trash Pickup February 29, 2020

Meet in the parking lot of Rappahannock Community College in Glenss. For more information, contact Hugh Markham at hughr.markham@gmail.com



\$35.00



New FODR items with logo. Check website @ www.dragonrun.org

PRESIDENT'S NOTE—2020 – *New Paddle Season, New Opportunities*

We are all looking forward to our 2020 Spring Paddle Season. The water levels in the Dragon look promising, and we want to start clearing our trails in early April and plan to start paddling with guests on April 11, 2020. We hope to fill all the available seats and make the reservation process easier for everyone involved. That's why we are trying out a new reservation system, which is explained in this issue of the newsletter. Our refund policy reflects our experience with guests who have tried to paddle but got rained out. Most of them remember that our paddle seasons are our principal fundraising activities, and they usually tell us to keep their donations.

Please join us at our next member meeting on February 26, at 7 pm in the Gloucester Library. Thanks to Bonnie Miles, who will present a program about bats and their little-known habits.

Thanks also to our newest Board member, Carol Kauffman, who has been a valuable member of our paddle crew and now joins in governing our organization.

We'd love to hear from you if you want to be a paddle crew or logistics crew member, write an article for the newsletter, or let us know about an event or help us to host a community event that would welcome FODR's participation.

Check out our 2020 Activities Calendar to find our other plans for 2020. If you like to plan ahead, the tentative dates for our Fall Paddle Season are October 16 through November 1, 2020.

Be sure to check our website <http://www.dragonrun.org/> and our Facebook page frequently. Remember that you can now pay your membership dues (whether joining for the first time or renewing your annual membership) and also order and pay for our new Dragon Run tee shirts, long-sleeved performance shirts, new quarter-zip long-sleeved performance shirts, new hoodies, and caps and bucket hats using our website and PayPal. You don't need to have a PayPal account; you can use any credit card.

Don't forget to send me an email at President@dragonrun.org, call me (703-217-0610), write me a letter (P.O. Box 247, Deltaville, VA 23043), or post a comment on our Facebook page and let me know what you are thinking. I hope to see or hear from you very soon!

Angry Beaver Awards



In this Newsletter, you'll find information about the Logistics Crew for the 2020 Spring Paddle Season. One of the nicest things about being on the logistics crew, in addition to working with Dave Rhodes and the other crew members, is the opportunity to earn an Angry Beaver Award. John Jensen was a 2018 recipient. The honorees for 2020 will be Jack Kauffman and Anne Atkins, stalwart members of the logistics crews during 2019. Join us for the awards presentations at our member meeting on February 26, 2020.



Logistics Crew Wanted for Spring 2020 Season

By Davis Rhodes

Our Spring 2020 Paddle Season will begin April 11, 2020 and end May 17, 2020. We will launch at Big Island and follow the trail down to Mascot. We will offer to take 12 paddlers every day, weather permitting. Would you be interested in serving as a member of the logistics crew to support those trips? You could qualify for an **Angry Beaver Award**. See photos and article in this newsletter.

If you are interested and qualified, you will need to complete a questionnaire and indicate which days you are available to serve, which days you cannot serve, and whether you can fill in on short notice for a crew member who has an emergency.

We will have an orientation/training session on April 4, 2020 to acquaint you with the trail, how the trips are run, and what we expect of logistics crewmembers. Attending a training session is mandatory, even if you attended training for other paddle seasons. Although the logistics crew members do not paddle with the guests, they are essential to EMS procedures, first aid procedures, launching and takeout points and safety areas for emphasis with guests.

There are a few things to consider about the logistics crew duties before you sign up. You should have a trailer hitch on your vehicle or know how to drive one, be in good health, agile and experienced enough

to adjust boats to suit participants, help to launch the paddlers and help them out of the water at the end of their paddle, and generally support the paddlers before and after they paddle the Dragon. It's especially important that you are in good enough physical shape to help with loading and transporting kayaks and equipment and taking care of our trailer.

So far, all of our crewmembers have loved their jobs. They are essential to the success of our paddle season, they get to meet many people, they can spend time at Big Island as often as they want, and they have the satisfaction of showing the Dragon to our guest paddlers. There's no better place to be than the Dragon in the spring.

If you would like to sign up or get more information, **contact Davis Rhodes no later than February 24, 2020 by email at sdrhodes16@gmail.com**. You will receive a questionnaire to complete and return as soon as possible. If you cannot attend the mandatory training session on April 4, let us know and we will make every effort to schedule a makeup training session.



New Options for Paddle Reservations

As we prepare for the 2020 Spring Paddle Season, your Board decided to offer additional options for making reservations, collecting donations, and a refund policy, as an experiment to make things easier for paddlers and for the volunteers who oversee reservations and cancellations and also collect donations. Here are the changes that we will try this season. We look forward to your feedback as we work on continuous improvement of our fundraising efforts.

For groups of 8 or more, a pre-season sign-up option will be available beginning on Friday, February 21 at 9 am. These reservations will be **limited to weekdays**. A donation for everyone in the group will be due on or before Friday, February 28. If the donation is made, the reserved seats will be removed from the calendar when reservations open on March 1. If the donation is not made, no reservation will be made. See the refund policy below.

For individuals and groups of 7 persons or less, reservations will open on FODR's website on March 1, 2020 at 9 am, on a first-come-first-served basis. Donations for every individual or person in a group must be paid at the time of reservation. Without a donation, no reservation will be made. This also applies to groups of 8 or more seeking reservations on weekend dates. See the refund policy below.

For the few people who made a reservation and also made a donation for the Fall 2019 paddle season that was cancelled, you will be contacted individually about making your reservation for the Spring 2020 Paddle Season.

Our refund policy reflects our experience with guests who have tried to paddle but got rained out. Most of them remember that our paddle seasons are our principal fundraising activities, and they usually tell us to keep their donations. We will offer refunds only when FODR has to cancel a paddle (usually because of thunderstorms or steady rain).

Any questions? Contact FODR at President@dragonrun.org.

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Marsha Carlton	2020		832-661-5783	carltonhouse80@gmail.com
John Jensen	2020	P.O. Box 573, Aylett, VA 23009-0573	H-804-769-1565 C-703-402-7097	hopesdadjohn@aol.com
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Katie Hawks	2020	P.O. Box 1615, Warsaw, VA 22572	804-313-7501	khawks@lanklegal.com
Kevin Howe	2020	379 Waterbury Rd, Kilmarnock VA 22482	571-232-4592	juniper@erols.com
Anne Ducey-Ortiz	2021	389 Wading Creek Rd., Dutton, VA 23050	804-725-1259	aduceyortiz@earthlink.net
Carol Kauffman	2021	7089 Caffee Creek Ln Gloucester, VA 23061	267-733-3667	Vegan4peace3@comcast.net
S. Davis Rhodes	2021	3004 Luxford Court, Chesapeake, VA 23321-5760	757-484-9522	s.d.rhodes@verizon.net sdrhodes16@gmail.com

Paddle Crew Wanted for Spring 2020 Season

By Jeff Wright

Our Spring Paddle Season will begin April 11, 2020 and end May 17, 2020. We will launch at Big Island and follow the water trail down to Mascot. We will offer to take 12 paddlers every day, weather permitting.

Would you be interested in guiding our guests on those trips? If so, you will need to complete a questionnaire and indicate which days you are available to serve, which days you cannot serve, and whether you can fill in on short notice for a crew member who has an emergency. Crew must be willing to commit to crew duties for a minimum of three days during the Spring Paddle Season.

We will have an orientation/training session on 4 April to acquaint you with the trail, how the trips are run, and what we expect of crewmembers. Attending a training session is mandatory. The reason for mandatory training, in a word, is safety. The training consists mainly of: rescuing and restoring to their kayaks paddlers who have fallen into the water, EMS procedures, crew coordination, first aid procedures, takeout points and bottom of the Dragon Run characteristics, beaver dams, dam procedures, low water procedures, cold water procedures, safety areas for emphasis with guests, features of the route, water characteristics of the trail, and support for the trail guide's narrative.

There are a few things to consider about the crew duties before you sign up. You should be in good health, able to get in and out of a kayak on your own, agile and experienced enough to adjust boats to suit guests, provide assistance to those needing help maneuvering their kayaks, helping them through obstructions when necessary, and rescuing paddlers in the rare instance when they have fallen into the Dragon. You should be able to swim and be able to work in chest high water. You should also be in good enough physical shape to help with transporting kayaks and equipment. Not everyone is expected to load kayaks on the trailer, but you should consider other jobs like cleaning out the boats, rescuing a paddler who falls in the water, and helping participants get in and out of the kayaks. If you would prefer to help with the kayaks and the logistics, rather than paddle with our guests, just let us know because we need volunteers for that, too.

So far, all our crewmembers have loved their jobs. They get to meet many people, paddle the Dragon quite often, and show the Dragon to our guest paddlers. Most of all, they enjoy observing the subtle changes that occur on the river each day. There's no better place to be than the Dragon in the Spring.

If you would like to sign up or get more information, **contact Jeff Wright no later than 24 February 2020** by email at pec11908@mac.com. You will receive a questionnaire to complete and return as soon as possible. If you cannot attend the mandatory training session on 4 April, let us know and we will make every effort to schedule a makeup training session.

New FODR Board Member: Carol Kauffman

Carol Kauffman and her husband, Jack, retired to Gloucester from southeast Pennsylvania in 2018. They found a spectacular home on Caffee Creek right next door to the infamous Teta Kain! Carol has a bachelors degree in education and taught in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and homeschooled their son, Noah. She enjoys paddle boarding and kayaking. It is FODR's good fortune that Carol served many times on the FODR paddle crew during the 2019 spring paddle season and has also participated in trash pickups, kayak cleanup days, and is always willing to pitch in to help where needed. She was elected to the FODR Board of Directors November 2019 and just attended her first board meeting as a voting member. Some of Carol's many interests include hiking, gardening, environmental issues, vegan cooking, and traveling. She is currently studying to become a Middle Peninsula Master Naturalist. Contact Carol at vegan4peace3@comcast.net.

Don't Forget to Renew Your FODR Membership

Many thanks to the members who have already responded by used our website and PayPal or sent checks for their dues. Special thanks to several members who donated at the \$1,000 level to become Lifetime Members.

This past fall, FODR implemented an annual membership renewal plan based on the calendar year. Membership starts on January 1 and expires December 31.

Individuals who joined during the last quarter of the year have already paid 2020 annual membership dues. Everyone else should pay 2020 dues as soon as possible.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, go to <https://www.dragonrun.org/join>. Or complete the form below and mail it with your check to: Friends of Dragon Run, PO Box 882, Gloucester, VA 23061

Name	
Address	
Email	
Phone	
City, State, Zip	

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