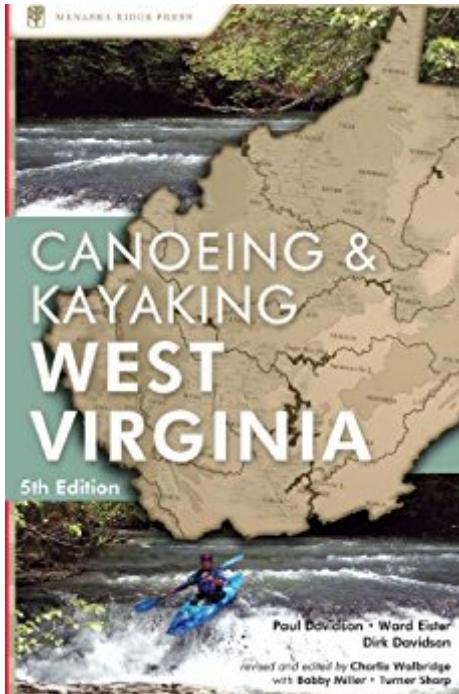


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# Canoeing & Kayaking West Virginia (Canoe And Kayak Series)



## **Synopsis**

Canoeing & Kayaking West Virginia is the definitive guide to whitewater in the Mountain State. More than 40 years after the initial printing, this book continues to bring paddlers the best of West Virginia's waters: from classics rivers, such as the Gauley, the New, and the Tygart, to steep creeks like North Fork of Blackwater and Meadow River. At-a-glance information for each river section helps boaters pick rivers to match their ability and current weather conditions, while river descriptions, gauge and shuttle route information provide additional critical information. Whether boating in kayaks, canoes, or sit-on-tops, paddlers will find more than enough rivers to fit their interest or skill level. In addition, literary interludes scattered throughout each book will invoke the spirit of paddling, encouraging readers' contemplation of past and future trips. Appendices include websites, gauge information, and safety information, making this book a valuable resource in planning out the next trip.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I just recently discovered this book when a friend loaned it to me, and I can't wait to order my copy. This is a nice reference book that will stay on my coffee table from April to September. I do a lot of

canoeing/fishing on the rivers in the summer, and this book has already led me to a lot of great floats that I didn't know about, even though I'm a native West Virginian. It's not going to tell you what to expect around every bend, but it does list the more notable areas of each river, including the dangers and problems you may encounter. The first section of the book has basic information on canoeing and kayaking, terms and definitions, dealing with locals, phone numbers and other sources of information, and more (Much of this is written in a humorous way, reminding me somewhat of Pat McManus). The book then lists each river basin, and after a short description of the area and a little history, it breaks it up into sections. The layout for each section is as follows:

- 1. TABLE - Contains capacities and ratings of the section including rapid classes, river gradient, water volume, scenery rating, time of trip, and river level.
- 2. MAPS - List of the names of the USGS maps and county maps that cover the section area.
- 3. DESCRIPTION - Describes the river, the scenery, and any other noteworthy aspects of the trip.
- 4. DIFFICULTIES - Notes any dangerous areas or other problems you may encounter along the way.
- 5. SHUTTLE - Suggests put-in and take-out spots or if there are any shuttle services provided.
- 6. GAUGE - Notes locations of river level gauges, phone numbers to call for river level information, or just basic references to gauge the level of the river for navigability. (I especially like this.)

In the description of "A C+K Guide to WV, 5th ed.", it notes that 'many a copy of former editions spent significant amounts of time in the glove boxes of WV paddler's vehicles'. Mine certainly did. On my bookshelves, I have two copies of the 1st edition that did just that. In their heyday, they were planning documents, starting points, where the hell are we shuttle directions, warnings, inspirations and diaries. Their physical condition suffered for their service, but both have survived. I moved to West Virginia in 1973 to attend WVU. Being an avid canoeist since my Boy Scout days, I was easily smitten by the added versatility of the kayak in running whitewater. So, through the WVU Outings Club, I hooked up with a couple of kayakers, or rather, whitewater fanatics. This was 'the book'. The first edition, titled "Wildwater West Virginia" was written by Paul Davidson and Bob Burrell. Not only did they write the guide, but they did much of the research for the information it contained. No one was ever surprised to find one or both on the water, sometimes miles away from a road or access point. In winter, one would show up at our pool sessions at the WVU natatorium, where we duct taped split tennis balls to the ends our kayaks and choked on the chlorined water, happily eskimo rolling. Long story short, these guys lived what they wrote. Their descriptions were right on. The writing was unabashed, somewhat conspiratorial, and downright clever and funny at times. While the book never made any sales records, since back in the seventy's the whitewater kayaking world

was a small one, it was a treasure to any who wished to explore the incredible variety of whitewater in West Virginia. Now, over thirty years later, the guide is in its fifth edition.

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