

# GSP XXX



**Pigs, Piglets, countrymen, lend me your ears!**

We prepare to embark upon yet another journey...

West Virginia, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the GSP Raft Trip.  
Its continuing mission, to explore strange new beverages,  
To seek out new camp life and new campfire incarnations,  
To boldly raft where no one (or perhaps a whole bunch) have gone before!

That's right GSP's, it's time to get ready for the 30th Annual GSP Raft Trip - The Pearl Anniversary!  
"They've Gone Pearl!!!" It's true, this year will mark the 30th episode of the GSP Raft Trip, in case you old-timers weren't feeling old enough already. ☺ Oh sure, most of us know the story of how it all began, but what group of our colorful and vibrant history doesn't deserve its own opening credits theme song (and by that I mean one of those tunes that will be stuck in your head for weeks, nay years, to come)? So with that in mind I give you this new GSP musical intro. The music accompanying these lyrics will come instantly to most of you simply by reading, but for those who need a hint, one word: "Brady".

"The Story"

Here's the story of a man named Slaney,  
Who'd been rafting before but not a lot.  
And then one day, he got a phone call,  
Could you help fill some empty raft spots?

Here's the story, of Slaney's buddies,  
Who were busy with things like school and brew.  
Most of them were double E's, like their buddy,  
Yet they knew little 'bout The New.

Till the day these would-be paddlers met the river,  
Little did they know they'd be making history.  
That this group would somehow form a family.  
That's the way we all became the GSP's.  
The GSP's, The GSP's.  
That's the way we became the GSP's!



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So, for GSP XXX, since the 4th of July falls on a Sunday this year, the national holiday when government workers and most of the rest of us get a day off work will be Monday July 5th. With that in mind, the 2010 GSP trip dates have been scheduled as follows:

Friday 7/2 – Upper New Ducky Trip (min. age 5 in a double ducky w/adult, min. age 10 in a single)  
Saturday 7/3 - Pot-luck dinner  
Sunday 7/4 - Lower New Raft Trip (min. age 12)

That's right, as long as we're going to WV, we figured, what the heck, why don't we go rafting while we're there? We'll be rafting with NARR (North American River Runners [www.narr.com](http://www.narr.com)) again this year after a successful inaugural trip with them last year, thanks to Ray's recommendation.

So, I think you all know the routine by now, but just in case the Alzheimer's is setting in, or you're new to all this and someone who calls themselves a "GSP" has shared this with you, allow me to elaborate a bit.

## **Rafting:**

The Ducky Trip on the mild "Upper" section of the New River offers pleasant class 1-2 rapids with one optional class 3 rapid and is run in 1 or 2 person inflatable "Ducky" kayaks. This trip is great for kids, those looking for a less intense ride or warm-up for the main raft trip, or kayakers with their own hard boat. The main raft trip is run in "R6" rafts carrying 6 rafters + a guide on the class 3-5 "Lower" section of the New River. This is world-class whitewater folks and a ton of fun, but if you've never done it, have no fear, no rafting experience is required, the raft guides know their stuff and will do everything in their power to keep you safe and having fun.

## **Accommodations:**

As usual, we'll be congregating at Ray's Campground again in beautiful Hico, WV. Ray offers plenty of space for tent camping but also has a limited number of RV sites with hook-ups and primitive cabins available for rent. Ray's wife Dren just confirmed their 2010 prices will be: \$8.50/person/night (kids 12 & under free), cabins are an additional \$34/night, RV sites w/electric add \$5.50/night, or tents are also available to rent. Reservations are highly recommended for cabins or RV sites with hook-ups. Some GSP's will likely begin arriving in camp on Sun. 6/27, and others will filter in throughout the week as schedules permit.

## **Non-rafting Activities:**

Around camp you'll find much hospitality. (Would we really keep coming back all these years to raft the same darn river, or for some of us, *not* raft the same darn river, if we didn't all have a good time hanging out with this bunch?) Share the nightly GSP "Rambo" grill, partake in various 'tasting' events, hang out around the communal campfire and take in the crazy antics, play or listen to some live music (bring your instrument!), and bring a dish and join us on 7/3 for the pot-luck dinner. The 'slush fund' fee of \$32/adult covers charcoal for the Rambo grill, firewood for the communal campfire, all the ice your cooler will need, and one "cool gift" for you!

Outside of camp the New River Gorge area offers all sorts of outdoor activities, such as hiking, mountain biking, climbing/rappelling, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, going to the beach at Summersville Lake, spelunking, geo-caching, horseback riding, frisbee golf, and the list goes on. Or for those into shopping, check out the shops in nearby Fayetteville or ask Ray where to find the best yard sales. Every day people head out of camp to do one thing or another, so ask around, maybe others are interested in the same activities you are!

This year a new activity will be open to the public for the first time ever. My NARR contact told me the Nat'l Park Service and area outfitters are teaming up to offer New River Gorge visitors the chance to walk across the canyon on a 24" wide catwalk 850' above the river. The catwalk is an existing part of the New River Gorge Bridge structure that runs the entire 3,030' length of the Bridge. A catwalk tour of the highest vehicular bridge in North America and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest single span arch bridge in the World should truly be a unique experience. Some preliminary details: Tour takes 2-3 hrs, costs \$69/person (no group discounts), participants must be: 48"+ tall, age 10+, weigh 310lbs. or less. See [www.bridgewalk.com](http://www.bridgewalk.com) Perhaps we could set up a group tour on 7/1 or 7/3? Let me know if and how many of you would be interested and if either 7/1 or 7/3 would NOT work for you.

## **Get the word out! Y'all come back now, ya hear?**

For those of you who haven't made it to WV in a while, on behalf of all GSP's I'd like to encourage you to try to find a way to join us again this year for GSP XXX, the 30<sup>th</sup> annual GSP Raft Trip. We'd love to see some faces we haven't seen in a while! If those folks you've brought in the past or the person who first invited you hasn't attended recently, give them a call and get them back to WV with us again this year! But let us also not forget that each of us were once invited by someone else, and if not for that gesture, you may never have become a GSP. So, while we love for this annual pilgrimage to be a reunion of old friends, don't forget we're also still waiting to meet those new GSP's you just haven't managed to bring to WV yet! Hey, we can always use more fodder for campfire skits and songs!

So, there's only one thing left to do, fill out and return the attached reservation form to me with your payment! If you just can't send the payment yet, please at least send me the completed form as soon as possible by mail, e-mail, or fax so I can begin to get a better headcount. Thanks, and I look forward to seeing everyone in WV!!

Your humble 2010 Organizer,  
Gene Cowen

**RESERVATION FORM**

**List Names of all Attendees** (Include ages of kids 17 & under):

**SLUSH FUND:** Includes ice, charcoal, firewood, and 1 cool gift.

Total number of Attending Adults (age 18+, including college students): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$32 each = \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note:* Lower New & Upper New costs listed below do NOT include the Slush Fund, but DO include \$5/person as a tip for the raft guides. We all usually tip our guides \$5/person anyway, so I'm collecting this up front and **I** will pay all the raft guides after each trip to save everyone the hassle of bringing cash with them.

**LOWER NEW:** Sunday July 4, 6 Person Raft (Contact me if interested in 4 person raft)

Number of *RAFTERS* (12 and up): (payment received by 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$104 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *RAFTERS* (12 and up): (payment received after 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$115 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names:

**DUCKIE TRIP** on the **UPPER NEW:** Friday July 2

Number of *ADULTS*: (payment received by 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$104 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *ADULTS*: (payment received after 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$115 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Boat Type (duckie, double duckie, raft):

Number of *YOUTHS* (5-17, or student <25 w/valid ID): (pymt by 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$61 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *YOUTHS* (5-17, or student <25 w/valid ID): (pymt > 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$70 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Boat Type: (Include copy of college student I.D.)

Number with their *OWN BOAT*: (payment received by 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number with their *OWN BOAT*: (payment received after 6/1/10) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each = \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes boat transport, lunch, & tip)

Names:

**OTHER**

Number of extra cool gifts: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of DVD Videos with both Duckie and Lower New Trips: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 each = \_\_\_\_\_

(\$30 DVD price requires min. group order qty. of 8, final price will depend on actual order qty. We can also pay a pkg price of \$325 and get up to 30 DVD copies, which could significantly lower per/copy price with increased orders. I'll tally video orders until ~ 6/21 then determine final price, and if it will be >\$30 I'll contact everyone who ordered to confirm their order before placing NARR order.)

**TOTAL** (send the entire amount):..... \_\_\_\_\_

Please send form & full payment or at minimum \$25/rafter/trip deposit by **5/5/10**. Full payment must be received by me by **6/1/10** to receive lowest listed raft trip prices and ensure sufficient cool gift quantities.

Send Form with Check Payable to: Gene Cowen H: (843)-875-6468  
541 King Charles Circle C: (843)-875-4390  
Summerville, SC 29485 Fax: (305)-832-0475

Have any button slogan suggestions, group activity suggestions, or any other comments/questions?

Interested in the Bridge Walk Tour? How many people? \_\_\_\_\_ 7/1 ok?(Y/N) ; 7/3 ok?(Y/N)

E-mail: [badger1991@earthlink.net](mailto:badger1991@earthlink.net) or [gene@gsp.org](mailto:gene@gsp.org)

Ray's Campground: (304)-658-4386 [www.rayscampground.com](http://www.rayscampground.com)