

Sixth Annual GSP Raft Trip 1986

"Fear and Loathing in West Virginia"

"It was Saturday afternoon, I think, when the brain fog had cleared enough for a long, clean focus on our situation - which had been drastically altered, at that point, by three nights of no sleep and a handful of spastic confrontations..."

Hunter S. Thompson

"Yo, Adrian!"

Ed Bronson

Once again it's time to dust off your pink flamingos and prepare to converge on a quiet, unsuspecting community in West Virginia. We (Michele and Tony Andrews) were drafted...uh, I mean volunteered to organize this year's trip.

In the same time, same place department: We'll be rafting on Saturday, the 5th of July, at 9:30. As always, we'll be camping at Mountain Manor Campgrounds. We've reserved the traditional large campground that we've had most years, so there will be plenty of room for cars, tents, volleyball, etc. The campsite is reserved from Wednesday the 2nd until Sunday the 6th, so those who want to arrive early will have a place to camp.

Last year several people expressed an interest in staying at one of the nearby motels on future trips. If you'd like to do this, let us know and we'll try to arrange a block of rooms (and possibly a group rate) if there's enough interest. If you have suggestions regarding the choice of motel, let us know that too.

This year the cost of the trip will be \$60.65 per person. This covers two things; the fee for rafting (\$55.65) (yes, this does include tax) and a slush-fund contribution to cover things such as postage, long distance phone calls, sedatives, and so on. In addition, camping will cost \$3.50 per person per night, which must be paid at the campground when you arrive. You must make your own arrangements for camping equipment, food, transportation, etc. You are welcome to invite your spouse (of course), friends, and other significant person(s) along for the trip. However, priority will be given to only one guest per GSP. Others will be allowed to attend if space is available. Please note:

- The minimum age for rafting on the New River is 14 years of age.
- Mountain River Tours will require you to sign a liability release form before being allowed on the river.

The money for the trip is due in two parts. A deposit of \$25 plus the slush fund money (a total of \$30) is due to us by February 21, with the remainder (\$30.65) due in June. (Make the checks out to Michele.) We have tentatively reserved 50 spots for the trip, with more available if needed. None of these spots will be saved for us if we don't provide the deposit on time. It may be possible to find spots for people after Feb. 21, but we can't make promises. We also can't promise that we'll be able to refund your deposit if you cancel from the trip. But we'll try, in either case.

4/19/86

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Once again, it's that time of year when GSPs nationwide begin to prepare for their annual rafting and beer drinking excursion to the wilds of West Virginia. Attendance is off somewhat this year, but still high enough to strike fear in the hearts of Summersville residents. We have 44 reservations right now, with a couple of possible cancellations yet to come. If you know of anyone still considering coming, it may not be too late. There are 6 spaces left in our time slot, so if we call soon enough they may still be available.

To make sure that we get all the spots we have reserved so far, we need to have the rest of our money to Mountain River Tours by June 4th. To allow for mail delays and the traditional procrastination we'd like to have the balance from everyone by May 20th. The balance due is \$30.65 (unless you've already paid in full). If the number of people on the trip drops below 42, the rate jumps up by about \$4 per person.

Travel plans are still pretty sketchy. If you are willing to help organize travel from your part of the country, let us know. Likewise, if you need a ride or someone to share camping equipment with, let us know and we'll try to help out. The camp site is reserved from Wednesday through Sunday. Michele and I plan to fly into Indy Tuesday, rent a van, and drive there Wednesday afternoon.

Our third and final letter will be sent out sometime around mid-June and will contain the usual maps, final travel plans, suggested equipment, and a final list of attendees.

On the next page is a list of who's coming so far. We've included home and work numbers so you can start coordinating travel plans. The area codes should tell you roughly who's where.

You can contact us at home (303-530-5142) or at work (Michele - 499-3713, Tony - 442-8280 (after May 5th)). And mail those checks to:

GSP Rafting Central  
5902E Gunbarrel Ave.  
Boulder, CO 80301

4/19/86

<u>NAME</u>	<u>WORK PHONE</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>
Bill & Stephanie Bean	314-233-7856 (Bill)	314-968-3452
Bill Klaasen ( & Alynn Gentry)	317-494-3384	317-743-8116
Chris Kent	317-494-7759	317-463-7507
Christy Bean		312-327-1708
Dan Brunner (& guest)	313-244-2765	313-663-4335
David Stevens		317-497-2440
Deb Smith	317-359-1113	317-875-9151
Don Wegeng	716-422-7343	716-482-1723
Ed Bronson	317-494-3504	317-742-0920
Eileen Gelblat	312-979-4082	312-355-7916
George Goble (& guest)	317-494-3545	317-463-2672
Ken Long (& Lynn Todd)		302-998-4070
Ken Shoemaker	408-987-7206	408-255-4550
Linda Shoemaker		317-495-5632
Kirk Smith	317-494-7878	317-743-9059
Kris Meade		415-322-2092
Malcolm Slaney	415-496-4669	415-322-2092
Maria Thompson		
Melora Shultz	802-871-3217	802-893-2951
Paul Carlile & Sue Strang	802-769-3137 (pc)	802-863-1059
Pete & Jill Hallenbeck	919-541-7413 (jill)	919-493-4333
Phil Hochstetler ( & Sandy Baldrige)	503-627-9811	503-591-7680
Renee Gelblat		215-877-5483
Rich Kulawiec	317-494-7957 x247	317-743-6535
Sarah Martin		919-848-9099
Steve & Gretchen Higgins		914-462-1317
Susan Gottschlich		
Susan Rodgers	317-494-7807	317-463-1603
Tom & Lynn Uban		317-463-0007
Tom Tengdin (& guest)	317-497-0309	317-447-9672
Tony & Michele Andrews	303-530-6605	303-530-5142
Tracey Baker		314-756-7521

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I Think We're All Bozos on This Bus

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Back From the Shadows Again...

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Here we go again, pack up the tents, bug repellant and beer for another trip to the wilds of West Virginia. The letters from the last two years say something about how we have to enjoy this now before we get old & decrepit. We say baloney!! You're always young if you're a GSP. (If you believe that last bit, read on!!)

That Was Our Final Ground Stop...

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Camping this year as always is at Mountain Manor Campground. (See maps at back of this letter.) We have reserved the campsite from Wednesday July 2 until Sunday July 6. The cost of camping is \$3.50 per day per person. You should check in at the office when you arrive and they'll give you a tag for your car and collect your moneys. We have the same camp site as most of the previous years, complete with volleyball net, fire ring and barbecue pit.

MMC provides showers, latrines (two varieties) and water at central locations. You'll need to bring your own food, beer and toiletries. The phone number at MMC is 304-872-4220 and our contact there is Pat Murphy.

Just Climb Aboard That 01' Yellow Rubber Line...

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Transportation to W. Va. is up to YOU. If you're still not sure how you're getting there or with whom, give us a call and we'll try to play match maker. RSK is organizing travel from the midwest so you might want to get in touch with him.

If you are driving, here are some words for the wise: 1. check your spare tire (the one in the trunk not around your waist) 2. get a CB if possible 3. check your fluid levels - oil, windshield washer, water, beer... 4. it always helps if you can travel with at least one other car in case of breakdown, although caravans of more than three vehicles tend to induce severe brain seizures.

Finally, if you're flying into Charleston, let us know so that someone can be there to pick you up. If you're traveling by some other strange method (malcolm & kds!) keep in touch so we know you're still alive.

Prepare Yourselves for a Period of Simulated Exhilaration...

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Ah, the raft trip itself. We are rafting on Saturday, July 5 at 9:30. We MUST be at Mountain River Tours by 9:00. Some info for first time rafters: MRT uses 8 man (or woman) rafts with a guide in

each raft. MRT requires that we all sign a release form. We'll have that form at the campsite friday night when we go over the raft assignments. As usual, the raft assignments are not set in stone and trading is welcome. Depending on the weather, you'll want to bring appropriate clothing for the raft trip. MRT provides helmets & life jackets but you may wish to rent their paddle jackets or wet suits. If it is a sunny day you can get by with shorts, T-shirt, sneakers AND SUN SCREEN!!

Was That Simulated, D'You Suppose?  
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What a ride! The morning is nice. We float along for a while, admiring the scenery and getting to know the feel of the river. The first rapid is called "Surprise" and it is. MRT puts on a pretty good spread for lunch. After lunch is when the real fun starts - the bulk of the Class IV and V rapids hit then. (A light lunch is therefore recommended)

Well Mr. President, Its the Bees And Spiders Again...  
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If you have allergies to bee stings, poison ivy or any other creature of the wild, you'll want to bring necessary medications. EVERYONE will want to bring sun screen. A couple of days of hiking and a day on the river exposes you to lots of rays.

C'mon, Squeeze the Wheeze...  
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A special note to our rain dancers. If there is to be a repeat performance this year, please make it Thursday night so that the rain comes on Friday and not Saturday like it did last year.

A final reminder... you all know the rule, everyone brings beer from their part of the country. Now if we can just find a sacrificial rental car to turn into a cooler...

Gird Your Grid For a Big One...  
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You may notice a couple of new maps at the end of this letter. Many thanks to RSK for gathering together several sources to create these new maps. We think they cover most all of the GSP points of interest. Again, thanks Rich.

Together, We Made Enough Noise To Keep The Wolves Awake...

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Camping. You'll want to bring the usual camping gear. A lot depends on how much you like to "rough it". Here is a general list of what you'll need.

_____ Tent	_____ Raingear
_____ Sleeping bag	_____ Extra blankets & pillow
_____ Towel	_____ Shoes for rafting
_____ Plastic bags	_____ Shoes for hiking
_____ Clothes (!!)	_____ Cooking gear
_____ Cooler	_____ Lantern & flashlight
_____ Camera	_____ Suntan lotion
_____ Bug repelant	_____ Swimsuit
_____ First Aid Kit	_____ Motor-operated pushover

We will provide charcoal and some ice from the slush fund money.

It's kinda hard to know what kind of clothing to bring. The weather can change at a moment's notice and you better believe it can rain in West Virginia. Your best bet is to bring everything. You'll probably need warm clothes for the evenings and cool clothes for during the day.

You can reach us any of the following ways:

Home phone:	303-530-5142	Home address:	5902E Gunbarrel Ave
Michele/work:	303-499-3713		Boulder, CO 80301
Tony/work:	303-442-8182	E-mail:	pur-ee!spar!wldrdg!tony

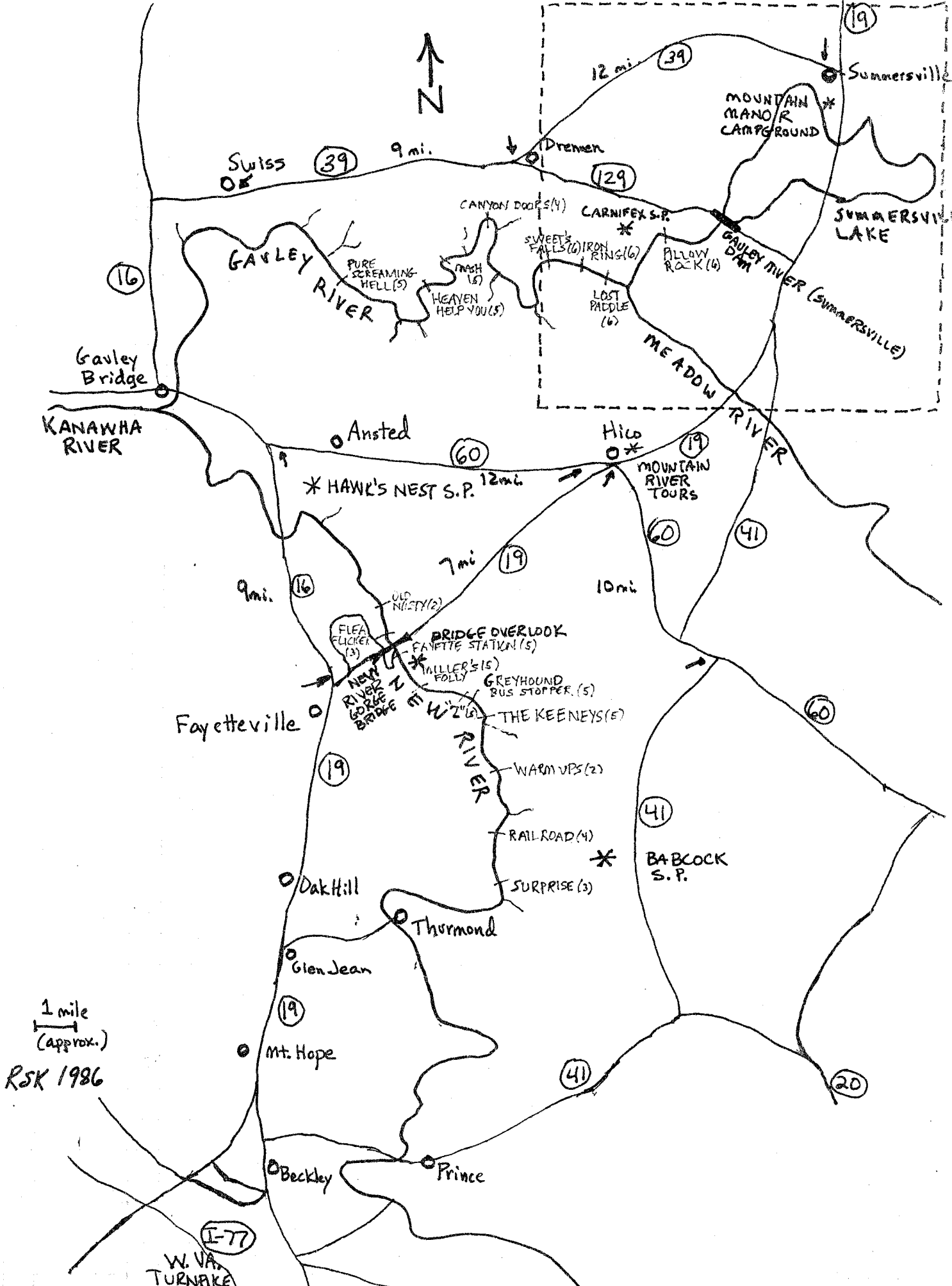
Hello, We're Glad You Made It...

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Your fellow campers and rafters will be:

Kirk Smith	317-743-9059
Tom & Lynn Uban	217-359-2807
Ed Bronson	317-742-0920
Eileen Gelblat	312-355-7916
Renee Gelblat	215-877-5483
Maria Thompson	312-357-4668
Pete & Jill Hallenbeck	919-493-4333
Tom Tengdin & guest	317-447-9672
Bill & Steph Bean	314-968-3452
Don Wegeng	716-482-1723
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Melora Shultz	802-655-3102
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David Stevens	317-497-2440
Susan Rodger	317-463-1603
Sarah Martin	919-848-9099
Jeff Treece	317-463-7473
Mark O'Neill & Kathy Wocjik	
Greg & Karen Boebinger	617-391-7124
Tracey Baker	314-756-7521
Sandy Tucker & Sam Blanchard	317-463-7436
Tony & Michele Andrews	303-530-5142

We will have a total of 44 people rafting this year. Down a little from previous years but a good turn out none the less.

DETAILED MAP

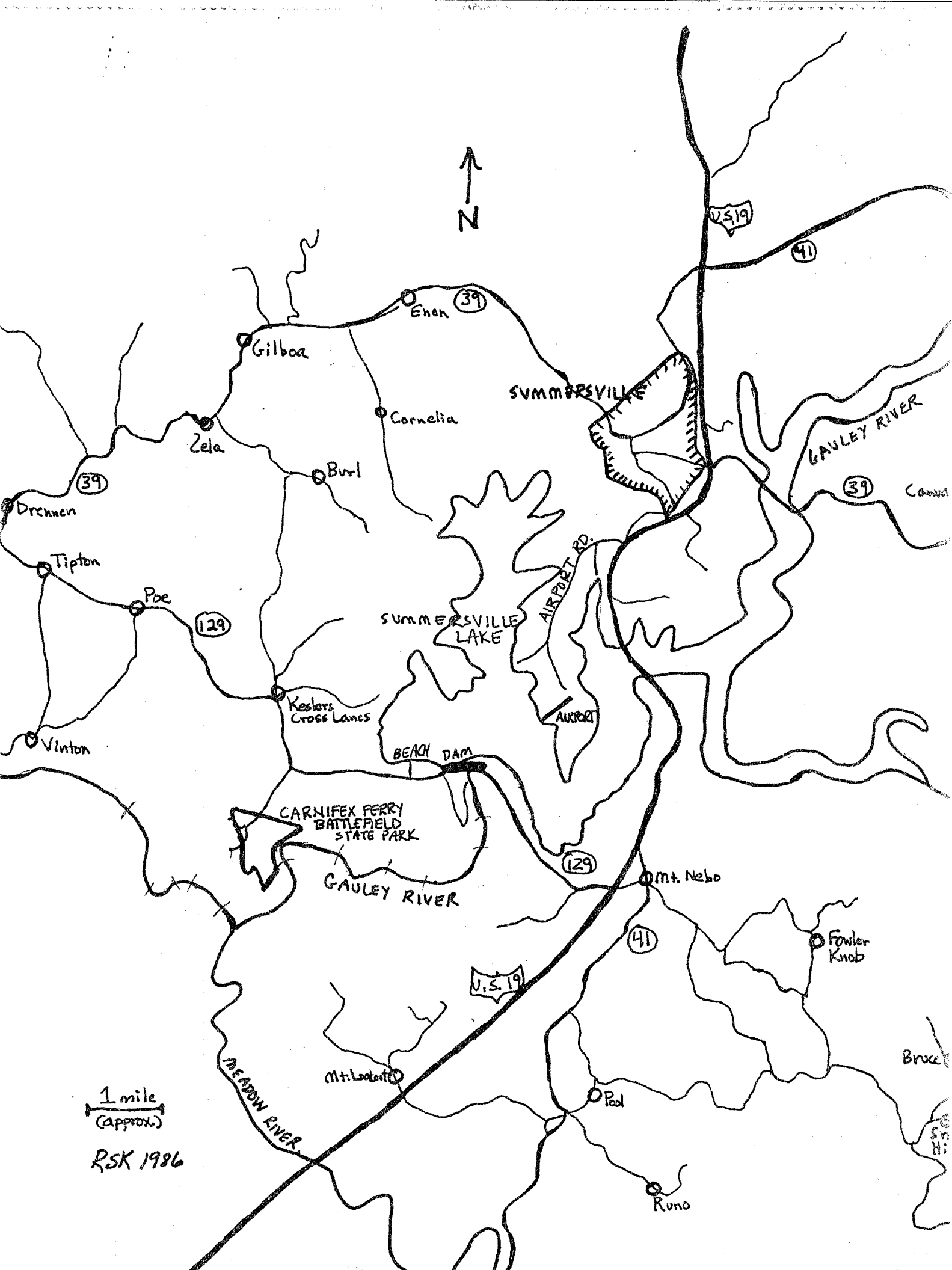


1 mile (approx.)

RSK 1986

I-77  
W. VA. TURNPIKE





1 mile  
(approx.)

RSK 1986