

## Info on Smallie Trip

The area in front of the campsite is full of rocks, ledges and pools and is one of the best fishing spots on the river. It is easily wadable under normal water conditions...i.e. about 2' on the USGS Gauge on the S. Fork at Jefferson.

However, some of the pools can be deep. It would not be unreasonable to wade this area wearing a life jacket. If the water is reasonably clear, you can see where to wade and where not to wade, if you are wearing polarized sunglasses.

If using a canoe, kayak, or pontoon...it is probably feasible to launch right at the campsite and actually work your way up stream and fish; or work your way back and forth across the area...without actually having to float downstream or run a shuttle

From the Confluence, or the bridge just upstream of the Confluence on the N. Fork, it is only a about a 1.5 mile float back downstream to the Zaloos Campsite. Since the road parallels the river in this stretch, it is an easy option to shuttle boats to the put-in, using personal trucks/trailers....probably 2 or more times a day.

For a longer float, the river from the Campsite to the 93 Bridge take-out is about 5 miles....pretty much an all day float. Although personal vehicles could run this shuttle (most easily done with pickups and utility trailers), the easier option is probably to ask Riverside to meet folks at the take out; load their boats on his trailer and take them upstream to the put-in.... That way, whenever you get back to the take-out, your vehicle is there and you can take as long to float as you want.

Zaloos may also be willing to run commercial shuttles...but their base of operations is quite a few miles away on the S. Fork....

The closest stores that may have beer and some food are at Rivercamp USA (maybe) at the Kings Creek Access, across the river from Riverside Canoe and Tube Rental; and at Stateline Grocery, at the state line on Highway 16. Life will be easier if you bring everything you might want.

A variety of topwater popping bugs and flies (I like size 4...) , and streamers like Woolly Buggers Crayfish patterns, Clouser Minnows etc. will work well. It's also worthwhile to bring a spinning rod with spinnerbaits etc. and rubber stuff like Senkos, Lizards, and curly tail jigs and tube jigs.

Bring a first aid kit with Neosporin/polysporin etc....and treat even minor cuts and scrapes....

An NC license is accepted even in the New in Virginia in this section, due to a reciprocal agreement.

Be prepared for thunderstorms....have a rain jacket or poncho and be prepared to get off the water and "hunker" down away from tall trees etc. etc.

Cell phones may or may not work. Have waterproof bags or boxes to insure they stay dry.

Have extra car keys hidden on your vehicle, in your wallet etc. ...and make sure keys are absolutely, 100% secure on the river....

## The First Float....

So, you've decided to do your first float trip on the river with your own boat, or rent a canoe or kayak from one of our New River outfitters...and give it a try...either just to see if you want to continue to do this and chase smallmouth bass etc thru the summer...or maybe you are thinking about buying something. Here's some helpful guidance before you take that first paddle stroke....

A little **research on paddling strokes and techniques** is a really good idea for canoe or kayaks....as well as a little study on what to do if you capsize. It's all over the internet...or one of the books by Cliff Jacobsen.

Perhaps purchase **your own life jacket**, that you will wear, and with some pockets for sunscreen, fly box, and other accessories....so you don't have to go crawling and leaning around to reach a tackle bag...twisting and leaning in a watercraft can lead to an unexpected dunking...all dunkings and capsizes are unexpected. It can happen to veteran paddlers. Be prepared!

Don't lose that paddle! Have a piece of cord, or **paddle leash**, to tether your paddle to your boat....or have a spare paddle. You'd be surprised how often your paddle can escape you on the river. Lose your means of propulsion at the start of a 7 mile float...and it can be a very loooong day.

**Anything of value**, that needs to stay dry should be **in a legitimate waterproof case or dry bag...secured to the boat.** And...make sure your car keys are **absolutely 100% secure** in a zip pocket or cord around your neck...and have a spare hidden on the car. Yep...seen folks loose their keys and no spare. You know the name of the creek...

A couple of 15-20' sections of 3/8 --1/2 **floating rope** (poly rope from Lowes or Home Depot)....primarily to tie to the boat and to tie around your waist or clip to your belt when you want to get out and stretch, or to wade and fish. Don't want your boat to blow away and drift downstream...yep...seen it happen...not a pretty sight....same creek name...

Put the **boat in the water, floating**, before you get in...don't try to keep part of it resting on the bank and push off. It's unstable and damages the boat. Getting out?...turn the boat sideways to the bank/beach and get out. Don't try to power the boat up onto the sand

and rocks... It won't work and it's more unstable. Have the entire boat floating when you get in and out. Maybe have one person hold it stable while you get in.... Research how to get in and out of various types of watercraft. In a canoe, have a hand on each gunnel...and place a foot in the centerline...

If you have read up on anchoring, and you are comfortable with the process, then bring an anchor suitable for a canoe or yak...in the type of water you are floating. If you haven't studied up on anchoring, leave it at home and plan to rest the boat against a rock, ledge, shoal, bush etc. to hold it in position when you want to fish a spot. A mesh bag, filled with a few rocks makes a decent, temporary anchor...and no weight to transport home. Or a sash weight. Or a 5lb dumbbell.

Drifting, floating and catching and landing fish all at the same time is tough...if you hook up (or get hung up) you'll want to stop your drift. Best is to stop and fish.... rest the boat against a rock or ledge or shoal to fish an area...or get out and wade...**use the rope!**

If you plan to wade much...**wear good shoes** or better still your felt-soled wading boots. Flip flops and sandals usually don't offer much foot protection.

On your first trip or two, **keep the gear to a minimum** e.g. do you really need a cooler with ice...and that full-sized tackle bag. And if you don't want to chase it downstream, **tie it to the boat**...more cord or rope

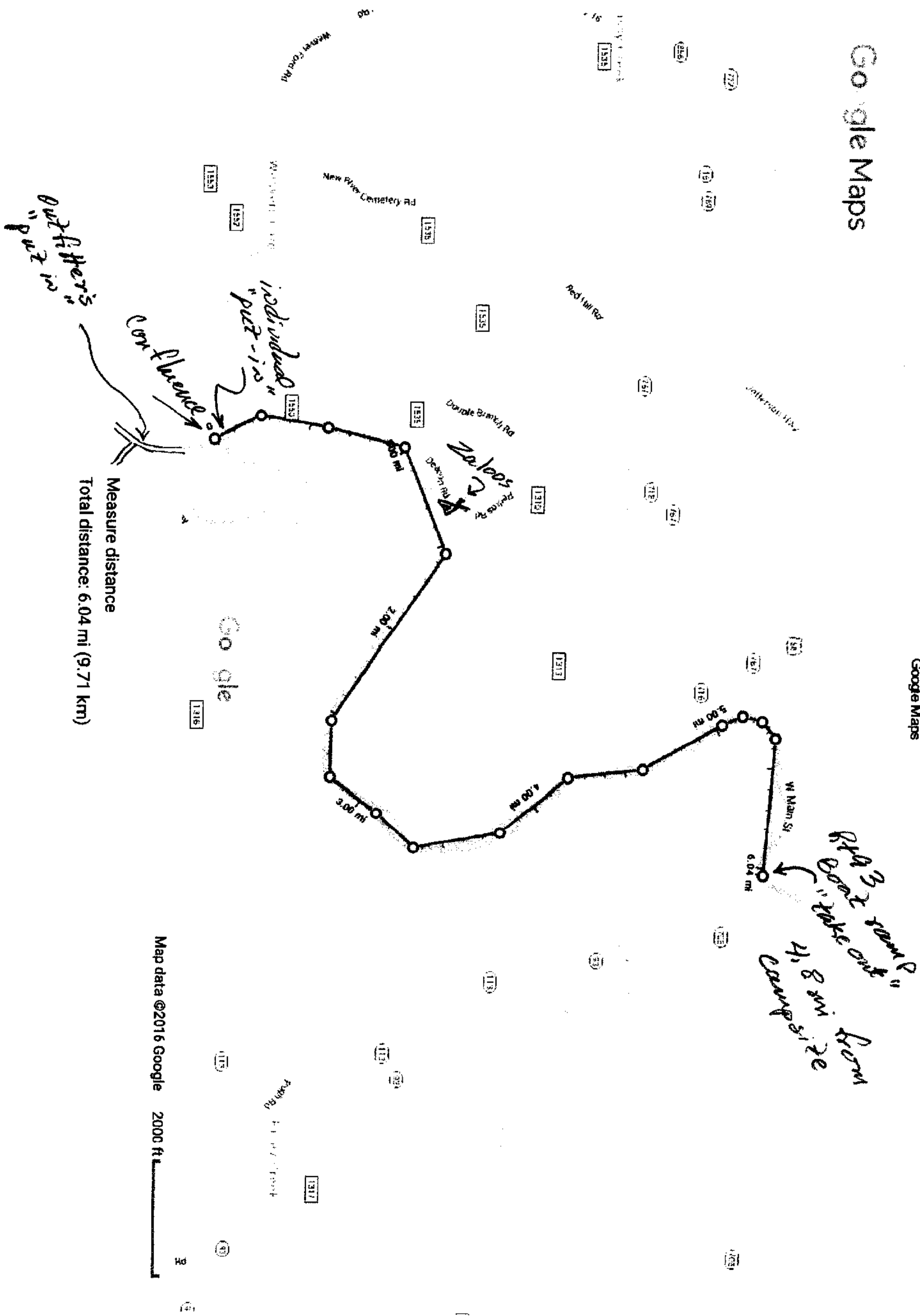
A simple first aid kit with **antibiotic cream...and clean water or peroxide** to flush a cut. there's some weird stuff living in our waters... I know of at least 2 serious episodes from cuts while paddling...

And maybe a simple folding seat e.g. Crazy Creek chair to supplement a crappy or non-existent seat in a sit on top kayak or strap to a canoe seat for some back support.

For rentals...I wholeheartedly recommend Riverside Canoe and Tube Rental in Crumpler, NC...on the S. Fork of the New. Friendly folks who are use to shuttling anglers.

# Google Maps

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Measure distance  
 Total distance: 6.04 mi (9.71 km)

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