

# Free State Fly Fisher South Fork Shenandoah River Outings

**Where:** South Fork Shenandoah River, Virginia

**When:** Tuesday, June 25 and Saturday, June 29, 2019

**Meeting Location/Time:** 'Park & Ride' at the intersection of Route 424 and Route 50 in Davidsonville, Maryland at 5:45 AM for a departure time of 6:00 AM. **Please call (410-268-5226) or email ([richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com)) Rich Batiuk several days in advance of the trip if you plan to go on this outing and let him know on which date you will be going. You will be responsible for making your own canoe or kayak reservations for that outing date prior to the outing.**

**Species of Interest:** Smallmouth bass, green ear sunfish, bluegills, and rock or red-eye bass. There are large catfish and carp in the river which can be caught on flies.

**Equipment Needed:** 5-7 weight fly rod, floating weight forward line, spare spool with a sinking tip line, waders (or plan to wet wade with wading boots), wading staff, seat cushion (optional), small anchor or 30' length of rope to tie on a rock to act as an anchor (strongly recommended). [Note: the outing leader usually brings at least two rods, one set for popper action and one set up for subsurface, if not 3-4 rods, two lighter weights and two heavier weights to casting bigger poppers and weighted streamers as you will be fishing very different structures, habitats and waters as you float the river.]

**Recommended Flies:** Bring your favorite smallmouth bass flies, including: Clousers, Joe Bruce's bulletheads, Sneaky Pete's, blue colored poppers, Wooly buggers, crawfish imitations, dragonfly and damselfly imitations, leech and hellgrammite imitations, and (of course!) Ken Moser's infamous 'Fly Alternative'. For the green ear sunfish, bluegills and rock bass, bring an assortment of smaller poppers, spiders, Joe Bruce's panfish bullethead flies, and girdle bugs.

**Fishing Licenses Required:** Virginia License (non-tidal). You can purchase a license from the Front Royal Canoe, our canoe outfitters, but strongly recommend you purchase your license on-line prior to the outing to save time.

**Other Instructions:** Bring something to eat and drink for lunch and to snack on during the float trip as between canoeing/kayaking and wade fishing you will be thirsty and hungry. We get on the river about 9 AM in the morning and will be floating, wading and fishing until around 4-5 PM that evening.

**Outing Coordinator:** Rich Batiuk

**Contact Information:** 410-268-5226 (home) 410-507-0785 (cell) [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com)  
Please call the home phone number and leaving a message before calling the cell phone as you are much more likely to reach Rich that way.

**Trip Logistics:** This early summer float trip down the South Fork Shenandoah River is a long-held FSFF club outing dating back more than three decades. We use Front Royal Canoe located at 8567 Stonewall Jackson Highway, Front Royal, VA 22630 and accessible at 800-270-8808 and [www.frontroyaloutdoors.com](http://www.frontroyaloutdoors.com) as our outfitter. They offer a multitude of different length float trips down the river. When we arrive at the outfitters, we will sign waivers, pay for Virginia fishing licenses as needed, and select which float trip we want. The outfitter will bus us to the put-in point and make arrangements for pick up times as well as provide for our canoes/kayaks, paddles, and lifejackets. Plan to meet at the Route 50/Route 424 Park 'n Ride and we will car pool from there as needed and desired.

**You are responsible for making your own canoe or kayak reservations for the outing date you plan to participate in prior to the outing.** You can call Front Royal Canoe or make your reservation on-line via their website listed above. If you are reserving a canoe, please make arrangements for a partner to join you. If you don't have a fishing partner, we can partner up members when we meet at the Park 'n Ride that morning.

**Directions:** Take Interstate 66 West from Washington DC to Exit 13 (Linden Road/Front Royal) Take U.S. Route 55 West into Front Royal. At the fourth traffic light inside of Front Royal, take a left onto U.S. Route 340 South (Stonewall Jackson Highway). Front Royal Canoe is on the right hand side approximately 3 miles past the entrance to the Shenandoah National Park/Skyline Drive at 8567 Stonewall Jackson Highway. Look for their highway sign with the red canoe on top.

**Please do be safe out there as it is your responsibility to stay within your capabilities and practice water safety at all times:** On all FSFF sponsored outings, please do be safe out there as it is your responsibility to stay within your capabilities and practice water safety at all time. Check with the above listed outing coordinator for more information on the fishing conditions if you have any concerns or questions. Most importantly, enjoy the fellowship of your fellow members through fly fishing and tight lines!