

Green race takes place in Western NC

The annual race occurred last Saturday and was witnessed by numerous BC students

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Contributor

Since 1996, the Green River in Western NC has provided entertainment and challenge for hundreds of paddling and outdoors enthusiasts each year through the Green River Narrows Race. The race is well known throughout the paddling community and attracts racers from far and wide in an attempt to win this contest of skill and determination. They do this by paddling the

1 mile long section of mostly class 5 rapids in the fastest time possible. This year's race attracted over 500 spectators, who hiked the ~2 miles in, or braved the river and paddled in. A handful of members of the BC Outing and Paddling Clubs as well as a decent number of other BC students attended. A field of over 150 challengers with a huge variety of boats and paddles were released one at a time each minute starting at noon, with the last racer finishing around 3. This year's winners broke 5 out of the 7 records with the fastest time being 4 minutes 18 seconds by Andrew Holcombe who was paddling a Dagger Green Boat.

This was my first time attending the Green Race, and I can say it was well worth

it because I had a blast and got to spend the day chilling by a river, on a day with great weather, with some really chill people. If you even have a mild interest in paddling and don't mind the hike in, the race is an awesome way to spend a Saturday each Fall not just for the opportunity to see and cheer on (or harass) world class paddlers as they style (or are owned by) one of the toughest rivers in the southeast, but the time hanging out with folks also makes it extremely worthwhile. So next year grab a backpack with a lunch and something to drink and head out to the Green River Narrows Race. It's got to be better than sleeping all day nursing that ill begotten hangover or doing homework.

In this issue...

NEWS:

Q 'N' A.....	2
Professor to read poetry	2
Disc Golf	3
SLS Conference	3

OPINION:

New reasons to be embarassed to be a Duke B-ball fan	4
Holiday blending	4

MISC./ARTS & LIFE:

Comic by Dabney Farmer.....	5
Women's Soccer	6
5 Dollar word	6
Comic by Karam Boeshaar.....	6
Schpedoinkle	7
Award winning poet	7

ODDS AND ENDS:

American Hero.....	8
Your Horoscope.....	8



Above Left: Brevard students sit above a rapid waiting on racers to come past.



Below Left: One of the racers navigates a rapid in hopes of winning the Green