



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 25, Issue 6

June 27, 2012

Boat Night Returns

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
Capt. Charles Wright
July 25, 2012

Shenandoah Riverkeeper
River Rodeo
July 14, 2012

Potomac Conservancy
July, 2012

In This Issue

UPCOMING	P. 2
GOOD FISHING	P. 3
CREEL SURVEY	P. 4
POTOMAC RIVER TRIP	P. 6
PRSC ON THE WATER	P. 8
CONS. CORNER	P. 9
FISHING CONTEST	P. 10

Join Us June 27th for Boat Night at Riverbend Park

Boat Night has become a Club tradition. The event typically features an example of every type of boat used for river smallmouth fishing, from jet boats to pontoons, canoes and kayaks. After the popularity of last year's event, this year's event will return to [Riverbend Park](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/) in Great Falls, VA, offering the opportunity to see boats in their natural habitat and the potential to paddle or ride in some. This is a great opportunity to see a variety of different boats, see how they are outfitted, and talk to the owners. Also, the Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders will be joining us to provide some fly casting instruction. The event will start at 6:30 and we'll be grilling hamburgers, so come hungry! To the right is the picnic area we will be using. For more information on the park, go to

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/>.



Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>	
<p>President Steve Moore (h) (703) 494-8208 president@prsc.org</p> <p>Vice-President Randy Chandler (H) (301) 253-6092 vp@prsc.org</p> <p>Secretary Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org</p> <p>Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org</p> <p>Trip Coordinator Steve Adams (703) 409-3846 trip_coordinator@prsc.org</p> <p>Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org</p> <p>Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org</p> <p>Librarian Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org</p> <p>Additional Programs</p> <p>Fishing Contest Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403</p> <p>The Buzz Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org</p> <p>Merchandise Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org</p> <p>Past President Randy Chandler</p> <p>Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128</p>	<p>Potomac River Smallmouth Club - July 25, 2012</p> <p>Guest Speaker - Capt. Charles Wright - Vienna Firehouse, 7:30pm. Capt. Charles Wright is a professional fishing guide, outdoor writer, kayak expedition leader and naturalist interpretive guide. He was the guide for Steve Kopps' and Terry Cooney's Florida adventure, which was featured in an earlier issue of the Buzz this year. Please join us for what is sure to be an entertaining and informative presentation.</p> <p>Shenandoah Riverkeeper</p> <p>The 5th annual Shenandoah River Rodeo is quickly approaching!</p> <p>Saturday, July 14, 2012 - 5pm-9pm. Low Water Bridge Campground, 192 Panhandle Road (Route 613 off of Route 340), Bentonville, VA.</p> <p>The Shenandoah River Rodeo is a celebration of the Shenandoah Valley's best resource: the river! For four years, Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble has been bringing people together for an afternoon of live music, fishing, camping, and food! Check out this year's attractions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food & Drink: As always, Ara Moomijian will be cooking up a monster-sized BBQ! We'll also be serving beer and other drinks. • Live Music: We are pleased to bring you live music by Uncle Henry's Favorites. • Camping: Pitch a tent and stay overnight (or book a room at a nearby hotel). • This year we are featuring a Pre-Rodeo Flotilla! For \$50, you can spend the morning floating on the Shenandoah in a two person canoe. The flotilla will begin at 8:30 am and we will be traveling 3 miles down the river with the Downriver Canoe Company, Sign up at our website today! • "Rodeo" fishing: The rodeo gets its name from a fishing competition between the best guides in the Valley. You can fish all day with a guide to catch the most small-mouth bass and earn bragging rights over the other guides for the year. Contact Jeff to make arrangements. <p>Potomac Conservancy</p> <p>Canal Stewards at the River Center. Sunday, July 1, 2012, 10am - 12pm. River Center at Lock 8. They will be meeting to clean up the lockhouse area and the nearby tow-path. This cleanup is open to all ages, and they will provide all the necessary supplies - just wear clothes that can get dirty. This event is part of the National Park Service's Canal Stewards Program.</p> <p>For more information go to their website at www.potomac.org.</p>	

Good Fishing in May

By John Lipetz

May was a good month to John Lipetz and his family and friends. First, John caught a citation smallmouth (20 inches) and a 5 fish total catch of 89.5 inches on the Shenandoah. This was during a trip he did in the middle of the month. On another day in May, John, John's son Quinn, and fellow PRSC'ers Herschel Finch and Steve Kimm floated from State Park to Karo on the South Fork of the Shenandoah. Quinn caught his 1st ever citation smallmouth - also at 20 inches in length. This was a much prettier and healthier fish than John's earlier citation. See below and the PRSC on the Water section for photo's of the fish.



Upper Potomac River Smallmouth



Purpose: The Potomac River Smallmouth Club and the Maryland Bass Federation have partnered with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Inland Fisheries Division to conduct a creel survey of Potomac River bass fishermen. Inland Fisheries has many years of smallmouth bass population data, but we would like to improve our knowledge of angler catch and harvest rates. The data will aid in monitoring smallmouth population trends, harvest attitudes, and regulations.

The survey consists of a roving creel survey that provides boat, wading, and bank fishermen with a postage-paid survey card. At the conclusion of their fishing day, anglers will answer a few brief questions about their day's catch and drop the card in the mail. To improve participation, each returned card will make them eligible for a chance to win a \$50 cash prize; 10 prizes will be awarded.

Study Area: For the pilot project this year, the survey will begin in June and continue through October and extend from the Route 340 bridge near Harpers Ferry downstream to the lower end of the Seneca pool at Seneca Breaks, a distance of 39 miles. The survey area will be divided into two sections, (1) Rt 340 downstream to the Monocacy and from the (2) Monocacy downstream to Seneca Breaks. Future surveys will run through the entire fishing season March through October and sample other sections of the river.

Survey Methods: PRSC members have been asked to assist the MD DNR with distributing the creel cards to anglers. During the survey period (June through October) creel clerks should survey within each river section listed above *at least twice* each month. A total of 80 numbered, postage paid survey cards will be provided to the PRSC each month. Of these, approximately *40 cards per month should be allotted to each river section*. The number of cards provided can be modified as necessary. More frequent trips with fewer cards per trip can be done as well and would provide the most representative data. Surveys may be conducted on weekends or week days; weekends will encounter more anglers. Creel clerks can work singly or as a group and each member is encouraged to fish and complete a creel card for each of their trips. PRSC members should circle the PRSC logo at the bottom of the card before mailing. Surveys

Bass Creel Survey Field Protocols

conducted within each river section do not have to cover the entire section.

Float trips with kayaks/canoes or boats can be used to contact boating, wading, and bank anglers. Survey trips can be conducted any day of the week; weekends will encounter more anglers. Surveys can begin at any time of day, but arriving at an access point early or late will allow clerks to contact the greatest number of anglers as they begin or end their trips. Members without watercraft that wish to help can contact anglers at MD or VA boat ramps and provide them with a creel card.

Clerks should approach all anglers observed (boating, wading, bank), introduce themselves and explain the survey (suggested script provided). They should ask if the angler is fishing for bass, and if so, would they mind participating in the survey. Cards do not have to be given to fishermen clearly targeting other species. When a boat with more than one angler is encountered, ask each angler if they would participate and provide each one with a survey card. Once contacted, do not approach an angler again during the same day. However, the same angler could be approached again if encountered on another trip. Life Outdoors Unlimited guide service has requested that they not be contacted while on the water fishing.

Suggested script:

Good morning/afternoon. I'm doing a survey of bass fishermen for the Potomac River Smallmouth Club and the MD Department of Natural Resources. Are you fishing for bass today and would you mind participating in the survey? (If the answer is no then politely thank them for their time) We are interested in how many smallmouth bass you catch. At the end of your trip today, please complete this postage-paid survey card and drop it in the mail with your return address for a chance to win \$50. Be sure to fill out and return the card even if you didn't catch any bass; you are still eligible to win even if you caught no bass today. Thank you; your participation will help us manage the Potomac bass fishery.

Thank you for assisting the MD DNR with this project. For questions/comments, please contact me at the information below:

John Mullican, MD DNR Inland Fisheries, Lewistown Work Center, 10932 Putman Road, Thurmont, MD 21788, 301-898-5443, jmullican@dnr.state.md.us

Float Trip - Brunswick

By Steve Moore and Jamie Gold

June 9, 2012 was supposed to be the day we had a informal fishing contest with the Old Dominion smallmouth club launching out of New Brunswick campground. Unfortunately, life got in the way and most of their members had to cancel. Undeterred, a number of intrepid club members pressed on to take advantage of the great weather and the opportunity to get onto the river with perfect water conditions.

We launched out of the Brunswick town boat launch under the bridge early on Saturday morning. Well... not that early. We linked up at eight o'clock, loaded up canoes, pontoon boats and kayaks and then executed a quick shuttle to leave most of the vehicles at the new Maryland Point of Rocks launch.

Speaking of the Point of Rocks launch, it is a first class facility. The DNR created an expanded lot with plenty of large parking spots to accommodate boats with trailers. The concrete ramp allows side-by-side trailer-based launches. The only drawback is that there is no sandy area for canoes or kayaks to push off. You end up scraping the bottom of your boat on the concrete or risk near death teetering on the large rocks that protect the launch from erosion.

Anyway, Dave Post joined me in my canoe and we moved out smartly from Brunswick, scattering across the wide river. The demographic of the river bottom in the Brunswick area does not offer much diversity. Although there are scattered rocks and ledges with associated deep holding areas, most of the bottom is covered with cobble and sand. I caught two smallmouth just downstream of the first set of large rocks and thought that it was going to be a banner day. After all, the sun was high in the bright blue sky, I had caught two fish in the first half-hour and was with friends – what could be better? My immediate good luck was confirmed by other anglers who made radio calls indicating that they also had early hookups in contradiction to Ken Penrod's mantra that sunny, bluebird day weather forebodes a bad day. Based on his extensive experience, he believes overcast and cloudy weather is optimum.

It turns out that he is right – the fishing could have been better although my final count was 13 decent fish by the end of the day with the other guys reporting similar good fortune. I don't normally count fish, but the Maryland DNR is conducting an angler survey to assess catch rates on the Upper Potomac between the 340 bridge and Seneca Breaks far downstream. They are asking anglers to keep track of how many smallmouth bass they catch want to know if fish are larger or smaller than 12 inches. In addition, the DNR is curious about whether anglers keep fish or practice catch and release. If you fish the Upper Potomac, you may be approached by volunteer offering a blue prepaid postcard for you to use to record your results. Please do so as it will



The Gang at the boat launch. Photo by Steve Kimm.



Jamie Gold trying to fly fish. Photo by Steve Moore.

ck to Point of Rocks

allow Maryland to manage the upper river better.

Back to fishing. We motored and drifted along the Virginia shoreline. I had wade fished the Maryland shore as part of the research for my book, but had not floated this section of the river before. I wanted to take the opportunity to see how the Virginia shoreline compared to Maryland. Frankly, between the launch and Lander, it's all about the same with a characteristically empty river bottom made interesting by random collections of rocks. Below Lander, there is a stark difference between the two sides of the river. While the Maryland side has plenty of rocks protecting deep runs and cuts, the Virginia shore remains sandy and covered with cobble. It's much shallower on the Virginia edge and, if you beach your canoe or kayak, you can wade extensively towards the main channel of the river. However, it is a better use of your fishing time to do the same thing on the Maryland side since the structure promises better results. The challenge on the Maryland side is there are deep cuts between some of the rock ledges that require you to repeatedly pull your boat onto the rocks or, if attacking the river from the shore, returning to the shore, moving downstream and making another attack.

Dave and I ended up spending a lot of time wandering around within the 1 mile below Lander. In fact, he waded the Virginia shoreline for almost half mile before we rejoined in the canoe. While he was moving down the Virginia shoreline, I was dashing back and forth across the river to likely looking rock outcropping in search of that magic place.

I finally found it next to the Maryland side in one of those deep cuts. I flipped out a long cast with a 6 inch worm and had an immediate hit as soon as it splashed onto the water. With the rod tip deeply bent and the canoe acting as a drag, I worked the fish closer and closer. Since the water was cloudy on the Maryland side, it was not until the fish came close to the boat that I could see it was a nice smallie. Steve Adams was nearby, witnessed the action and pulled his inflatable canoe over to a nearby rock to take a picture and record the moment for prosperity. Unfortunately, all he had was his smart phone wrapped in a waterproof bag. No problem, I flipped my waterproof camera over to him only to see it careen off his cooler and disappear into the murky water. I instantly wrote off the camera as a lost cause. Steve peered over the side and saw the camera sitting precariously at the end of a rock ledge. We quickly teamed up to make a recovery. He pushed a paddle to me, I held on and slipped into the water, took a long lean and a grab with my net to snag the wayward object. Success!

As a result of the time spent wading and wondering, Dave and I were not able to fish the lower part of the river at all. As time ran out, we pushed the canoe down to my favorite spot at the last break in Paton Island that allows transit from Maryland to Virginia. Crisis! What used to be a 20 foot deep sweet spot was filled in with sand. The high bank with its tall tree that used to stand proud as the landmark had collapsed and ruined the hole. I really felt bad for Dave since I had talked up this spot all day long with the promise that he would be able to pull a 16 inch fish out of that spot. With a shrug and a look at the clock, we realized it was time to link up with the rest of the guys at the take-out and quickly pushed our way downstream to end the day happy and satisfied.

As a side note, there is no reason that you need to wait for friends with shuttles to fish from Lander to Point of Rocks. If you drop a bike at Point of Rocks and lock it to a tree, you can boat your way down, leave your buddy with the gear and ride the bike back to your vehicle at Lander. It's only about a 3 mile bike ride and that goes very quickly on the smooth towpath.



Dave Post wade fishing. Photo by Steve Moore.



Steve Adams. Photo by Steve Moore.

PRSC On the Water

By: Jamie Gold

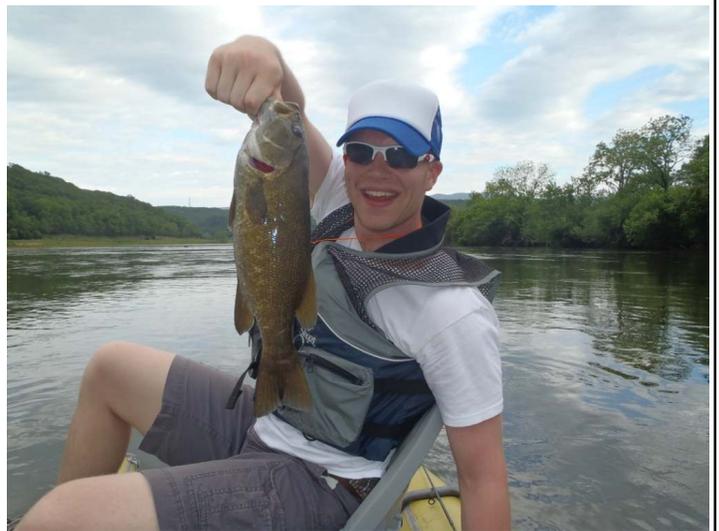
Members of PRSC have been busy this past month catching and photographing some awesome fish. Enjoy, and feel free to submit pictures of fish that you've caught for next month's Buzz.

16" Shenandoah River Smallmouth.



Quinn Lipetz. Photo by John Lipetz.

17" Shenandoah River Smallmouth.



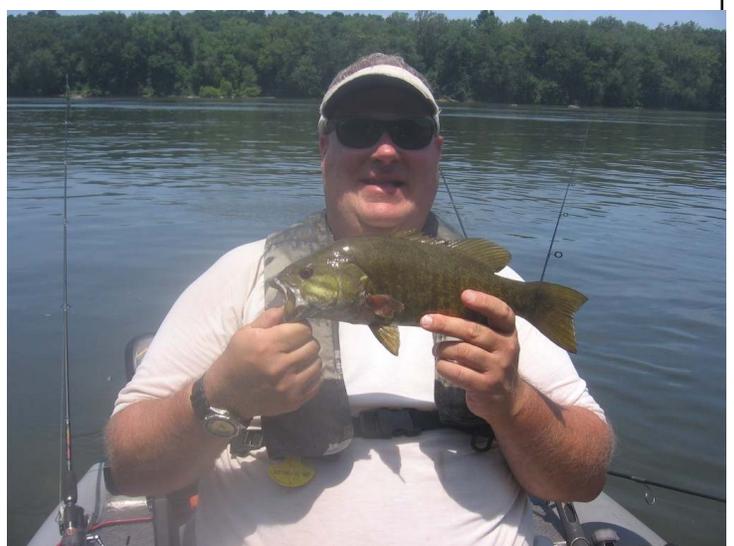
Taylor. Photo by John Lipetz.

South Fork Shenandoah River Smallmouth.



Photo by Bill Millhouser.

Healthy and feisty Potomac River Smallmouth.



Steve Kimm. Photo by Jamie Gold.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I was in Ohio this past weekend for a little R & R and hanging with some of the “old guard” of Riversmallies.com that I haven’t seen for at least 2 years, and some of them for 3 years. It was good to see those guys and to check out what they’re paddling these days. Paint Creek, Rocky Fork, and the Darby are all small water flows and canoes and kayaks are the vessel of choice out there. Paint Creek reminds me a lot of the north fork of the Shenandoah River. It’s low volume, shallow, but unlike the Doah, it’s decorated its entire length with these huge gravel bars at just about every bend and creek mouth that makes it ideal for doing over-nighters, which most of these guys do on a regular basis.

Every guy there was paddling either a sit on top kayak, or a canoe. The transition to SOTs is just about complete among the guys I fish with. The SOT just seems to have more advantages than disadvantages for fishing if you paddle a kayak. I can think of only one guy (club member, kinda vertically challenged and makes a wicked hair jig) that still clings to his sit in kayaks. But I think what was most interesting was the steps and adjustments almost all the guys have made to leave less of an impact on the river and the environment, and it got me to thinking. We all bring our trash out with us, and we don’t throw used up plastic baits in the water, but there’s a lot of other stuff we can do as well.

I think just about everyone I’ve fished with in the club has seen my hydration pack that hangs on the bag of my kayak seat. I started using one of them when my son gave me one several years ago. I fill it up the night before and place it in the fridge. It’s cold by the next morning, and since the pack cover itself is insulated, it stays pretty cold all day long. No need for a cooler with multiple plastic bottles of water and I don’t have to fumble around looking for a bottle of water...that’s gotten hot sitting the sun in the tank well or at my feet. I just reach beside me for the hose and I have water when I need it. If I want Gatorade or something like that at lunch, I buy large bottles at the grocery store and fill my 24oz (BPA-free) water bottle and place that in the small insulated cooler bag I carry lunch in. I figure on a full day’s float during high summer...I figure I keep approximately 4 empty water bottles out of the landfill per trip.

One of the Ohio guys had the sweetest setup for a full-sized canoe I think I’ve seen in a long time. He’s had to make special provisions in his Mad River Canoe for his year old, Sheppard/Lab mix “river dog”. Cooper may be only a year old but has been well trained. Andy uses him as forward ballast in the canoe so he’s not had to relocate the rear seat. With Cooper up front, the canoe trims just right since Cooper goes about 60 lbs. But rod tips need to be protected from Cooper’s occasional exuberance up front, so Andy repurposed some of those old black plastic tubes that golfers use to use in their golf bags to keep their clubs from becoming jammed all up in the bottom of the bag. He zip-tied them just under the gunwales on either side just past the center portage yoke. When he’s not using the rods, rather than lay them on the bottom of the boat to be stepped on by, or possibly hooking, the dog or scratched up, he slides the tips into the tubes and bungees the butt ends to the portage yoke. BTW...his portage yoke is padded with the tanned hide of a big Ohio whitetail he shot when he was a teenager, which is very cool in my book. He also uses an old porch rug up front for Cooper to lay on.

Ken Willis another old hand on the river who started out as one of the pioneering white water freaks back in the mid 70s. Ken is mostly a fisherman these days and I thought he’d be one of the last people you’d see in a sit on top kayak. But even Ken is paddling a Liquid Logic SOT these days. Ken is also big on environmental issues and likes to reuse, repurpose and recycle everything he can. One neat thing Ken does concerns his anchoring system. He fills a net bag with rounded stones he gathers from the numerous gravel bars on southern Ohio rivers. He then attaches an anchor line to one end of the bag, and another line, smaller in diameter...and different color... to the other end. Both ends are open on the bag but the heavier line closes the top and is the anchor line. The smaller line ties up the bottom of the bag using a slip knot. If it ever gets hung up, he just pulls the smaller line, the knot slips out and deposits the stones on the bottom, and Ken gets his bag back. The cool part is he hasn’t left a big old cast iron dumb-bell on the bottom to rust away depositing all that metal in the river.

So what’s YOUR neat idea that’s cool, cheap, and keeps unnecessary trash or materials out of the river or environment? If I get enough cool ideas, we’ll have to do another column like this one to share them.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

PRSC would like to thank the following for contributing to Member Night and being friends of PRSC.



Big Time BBQ (Scott Cocherell)



WALT'S POPPERS

Handmade Virginia Popping Bugs



PRSC Wishes to Thank our Recent Speakers

September 2011 - Walt Cary of Walt's Poppers

October 2011 - Capt. Steve Chaconas,
www.nationalbass.com/steve.htm

January 2012 - Brent Walls, Upper Potomac River
 Manager

February 2012 - William Heresniak,
www.easterntrophies.com

April 2012 - Capt. Steve Chaconas

May 2012 - Richard Martin, Potomac Paddlesports

2012 Contest Results

June 2012 Report By Wallace Harvey

It was a warm summer's morning when we started down the Potomac River going from Brunswick to Point of Rocks. What a beautiful day with a few clouds and a gentle breeze. Fishing was wonderful. Catching was not bad either. I got a 16" Smallie and several more were caught in the 15" to 16" range. I can't remember all the details, but plastics were the norm and best bait that day. Thanks to Steve Moore, our President and fearless leader, for a great day on the river.

Steve Adams lead an equally nice day on the Shenandoah River a couple weeks earlier where I got 14" to come in second to Marty Burkard with is 16" smallie. Steve matched my 14" fish. We had another fine day of fishing and some reasonable catching. Unfortunately, no one on either trip recorded enough to best those listed in our contest. However, this will not prevent us from trying again. Have you been lately? What have you caught?

Randy Chandler is apparently our fishing master. He won several categories last year and is the only person so far that has totals in all three sections of the Potomac River. Therefore, he is our only entrant in the William Schriver Award. Every month we keep reporting that Randy has done it again. Surely some one is willing to challenge Randy. Let's not let him walk away with it all again this year. Give us a call and let us know what you are doing. We love to hear from you!

2012 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: Jeff Kelble, 21"

Section 1, Best 5 Fish: Mike Harmon, 79"

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Larry DiJoseph, 22"

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 87.5"

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Bob Ward, 21"

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 86.5"

Largest on Fly:

New Member:

William Schriver Award: Randy Chandler,
 235.5"

Grover Cleveland Award:

The Potomac River Smallmouth Club was founded in 1988 as a non-profit recreational club in accordance with IRS section 501(c)(7). Dues are \$35/year. Monthly meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Vienna Volunteer Firehouse. Club by-laws and member rosters are published once a year and available during meetings or upon request. The Club newsletter, "The Buzz", is emailed to all members prior to each month's meeting and is available at local fishing/tackle shops. Articles, photographs and general information relating to smallmouth bass fishing are solicited. The Buzz reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Observations, conclusions and opinions expressed in The Buzz are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club, its officers, or the editor. All materials submitted become the property of the club. Every effort will be made to return photographs at the monthly meetings, however the printing process occasionally results in the destruction of a photograph. Send copies and make sure YOU have the negative.