



The Buzz

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May 29, 2013

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May Is Experts Night

Experts Night is where Club members share their skills with other members. Please join in and share your skills, too. To date, the following PRSCers have volunteered (well, not exactly) to present at Experts Night:

Herschel Finch – spinner baits

Randy Chandler – top water baits

Jay Eiche – super flukes and Senkos

Bill Pearl – jet boat operation

Steve Kimm – fishing gear for the beginner

Jame Gold – fly fishing

Steve Adams – Tenkara fishing techniques

Mark Myers – knots (if able to attend)

Dan Grulke – rod repair. If your rod tip is broken, bring it and a new tip and Dan will help you fix it.

They will be located at stations around the room so that you can move to different locations to hear the presentations you are interested in.

May is Also Swap Night

In addition to the experts, we will lead off the evening with a reprise of our popular Swap Night from prior years. If you have gear you would like to sell or trade, bring it in and give a good deal to your fellow club members. Also, if you are looking to get a good deal on fishing items, come with cash and a willingness to negotiate.

Swappers may begin to set up at 6:30 and are welcome to begin swapping/selling as soon as they are ready. The activity will continue until 7:30, when we will start the regular meeting.

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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Next Meeting

Join Us Wednesday, June 26 for PRSC's next meeting. We will be having Boat Night. We are happy to host this fun event again. This meeting will be held at Riverbend Park, not at the Vienna Firehouse. More details to follow.

PRSC/Old Dominion Smallmouth Club Trip - Float Fish the James River

Saturday, June 8, 2013, 7:00am. James River State Park. This float trip will be on the James River and will involve camping for those interested. You can participate and not camp, or camp 1 or 2 nights. The float trip is Saturday. We will be staying at the James River State Park - at the Canoe Landing site. I have 3 sites reserved for both Friday and Saturday night. Those sites can accommodate 2 tents per site. The Old Dominion Smallmouth Club (ODSC) has sites in the same area reserved. So this is a cross club float with the Club from Richmond. For directions and information about the Park, see this link: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/jam.shtml. I will be at the campground on Friday, June 7th by 4pm. Feel free to join me that evening. If you are not camping, you need to be at the site by 7:00am for the float. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Kimm at sjkfishes@yahoo.com

Shenandoah River Events

The 2013 Shenandoah Riverside Festival

Fri, 06/14/2013 (All day) - Sat, 06/15/2013 (All day)

What makes the Shenandoah River Side Festival a must not miss is that not only do they cover a wide variety of music and have all weekend camping adventures, but also ALL the proceeds go to benefit the clean up of the mighty Shenandoah River. The proceeds from their first two events (totaling over \$15,000) made it possible for Earth Korps, (the Shenandoah's Keepers) to pull over 47,000 pounds of trash from the river. That's right folks, this is one true environmentally friendly event. Along with being environmentally friendly they are also family friendly so no excuses about not being able to come because of the kiddies! Address: 3322 Lockes Mill Rd, Berryville, Virginia 22611 U.S.A

Shenandoah River Rodeo

Sat, 07/13/2013 - 5:00pm - 8:00pm

The Shenandoah Riverkeeper will host the 6th Annual Shenandoah River Rodeo! Save the date for a day of fishing with our region's best fishing guides, and an evening of BBQ, music, door prizes and much more. And if you want a little more adventure, you can camp out, too!

Potomac Conservancy

Canal Stewards at Fletcher's Cove. Sunday, June 30 - 10am-12pm. Join us at Fletcher's Cove! We'll be meeting at 10 am at Fletcher's Cove to clean up the picnic area and surrounding trails. This cleanup is open to all ages, and we'll 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, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a site within the C & O Canal National Historical park. Contact Lien Vu at vu@potomac.org with any questions.

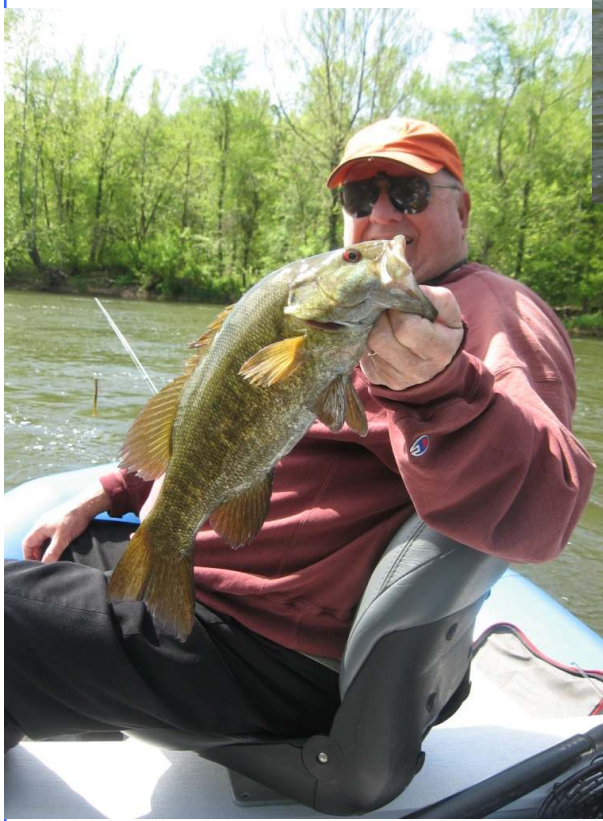
Best Day Ever Fishing

By Jack Cook

I just had the best day of fishing I've ever had. In fact, if I combined my previous best trips, they would not equal the day I had on Thursday, May 2nd, 2013. I caught two smallmouth bass that weighed over 5 lbs. The biggest was 5 lbs. 4 oz and measured 22" in length. I also caught another 3 fish that weighed over 4 lbs. each.

Obviously, there is more to this story than just the fish that I caught. Many of you know and have had the privilege to fish with famous Virginia smallmouth guide and fly tier Chuck Kraft. Chuck is no longer guiding for smallmouth and L. E. Rhodes is filling the gap. I was invited to accompany them on a trip on May 2nd. Chuck was showing L. E. the hot spots. Chuck knows them all, and if I had made a good cast to every spot that he pointed out, I don't know what my total catch would have been. But Chuck and I between us ended up with 10 fish over 4lbs. and we didn't count the number we had over 18".

For those of use who have missed fishing with Chuck, we have an excellent replacement in L.E. Rhodes of Hatchmatcher Guide Service. He can be reached at 434-286-3366 or 432-996-5506. Give him a call to set up a trip, you won't be disappointed.



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Fly Fishing 101 & 201

Fly Fishing 101

Learn fly-fishing basics in one of our free Fly Fishing 101 classes. Perfect for beginners of all ages, Fly Fishing 101 will provide you with free lessons on fly casting and outfit rigging.

Event Dates

April 20	May 4	May 25
April 21	May 5	May 26
April 27	May 18	June 8
April 28	May 19	June 9

Fly Fishing 201

If you've already completed Fly Fishing 101, you're ready for the next step. Join us for a short outing on local water for a chance to catch your first fish! A nominal fee for the outing may apply.

Event Dates

May 11	June 1	June 15
May 12	June 2	June 16

Upon completion of the course, you will receive special in-store offers valid toward purchase of Orvis products.



Free Trout Unlimited membership—a \$35 value.



Free membership to the Federation of Fly Fishers—a \$35 value.

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101



ORVIS
FLY FISHING
201

Important Smallmouth Bass Report

Editor's Note: Last month the Chesapeake Bay Foundation released an important report about the health of smallmouth bass in our area. The information below comes from the Foundation's website at <http://www.cbf.org/smallmouthbass>. The report can be downloaded there for free. Please share this important information with others.

Angling for Healthier Rivers

The Link Between Smallmouth Bass Mortality and Disease and the Need to Reduce Water Pollution in Chesapeake Bay Tributaries

Summary

Over the last decade, one of the most prized freshwater sport-fish species—smallmouth bass—has suffered fish kills and perplexing illnesses in several Bay tributaries. These tributary rivers include the South Branch of the Potomac River in West Virginia, the Shenandoah and Cowpasture Rivers in Virginia, the Monocacy River in Maryland, and the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. In the Susquehanna River, smallmouth bass populations have plummeted, with catch rates of adults falling 80 percent between 2001 and 2005 in some areas. According to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the population has not recovered.

Smallmouth bass do not tolerate pollution well. Thus, they are an indicator of water quality. While the specific causes of the deaths and illnesses among smallmouth bass remain unclear, leading fisheries biologists studying the problem believe that a "perfect storm" of contributing factors has overwhelmed a sensitive species.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) compiled this report by interviewing five leading smallmouth bass experts and examining peer-reviewed journal articles, as well as reports from federal and state agencies. Some conclusions include:

Phosphorus and nitrogen pollution levels are high in many of the river segments where fish have died or become sick. In the Susquehanna River and tributaries, average phosphorus pollution levels in 12 of 24 sites monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey between 2007 and 2011 were among the worst in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. And 11 of these 24 sites had total nitrogen pollution levels that were among the worst in the region. ("Worst" is defined as ranking in the top third for levels of these pollutants among 65 sites studied in the Bay watershed). Some monitoring sites along the Monocacy River and the Potomac River and its tributaries also registered high levels of these pollutants.

Scientists believe that nitrogen and phosphorus pollution may be contributing to fish deaths and diseases in two ways. The first is by spurring the growth of parasites (myxozoans and trematodes) and their hosts (worms and snails). The second is by feeding algal blooms that raise pH levels and lower oxygen concentrations, stressing young smallmouth bass.

A type of parasite (*Myxobolus inornatus*) has been found in juvenile smallmouth bass that have been dying in the Susquehanna River. This parasite is similar to one that causes a deadly disease in trout. The parasite's possible host (a bottom-dwelling worm) may be encouraged by nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

Good Fishing, Catching?

By Wallace Harvey

On May 18th a group of hardy souls braved the elements to have a day on the water. Group Leader, yours truly, looked for anyone that wanted to float the South Fork of the Shenandoah River from Newport to White House. Four wonderful gentlemen joined me on that fateful day. Brian Batchelor, Bryan Lanier, Leon Kates and Marty Burkard were ready and anxious to brave the elements. I say that, as it was an overcast day with rain in the forecast. More on that later. The river was at a safe and quite good level. The flow rate was something else. Suffice to say the water was a flowing.

I need to mention that three mixed up souls signed up for the float but bowed out at the last minute. One claimed to be sick, another said he needed to do a lot for his daughter's wedding and a third claimed an infected toe. I can almost believe the infected toe, however the others need to get their priorities in order. Fishing must come first, right?

Anyway, we had a very nice day on the water. The rain held off until after lunch. Then it was light and nonthreatening. No thunder or lightening was seen or heard. To my surprise, the water was warmer than I expected. We had a lot of rain about a week before the float and the water had been up a lot and now was down. And, the weather was cool for the week preceding the float. The only problem was the rate of flow. It was a bit speedy. For an eight-mile float we finished in a record time of approximately 6 hours, including time for lunch. No one rushed, just the river was moving.

Fishing was OK, but nothing spectacular. The fish were scattered and holding up in calmer water. Just about every fish caught, and there were not that many, was along the bank in a calm pool, or behind structure out of the current. The largest fish caught was less than 12 inches. We had several in the 8 to 10 inch range, but nothing larger. I think I missed one or two larger fish, but never saw them. Bryan Lanier is an avid fly rod man. At one point he got desperate and put on a dry fly. To our surprise he caught two small brook trout. No one knew they would be this far down river. Perhaps the earlier rains had washed them down.

On a safety note, I learned one of the members of our group had never been down a river in a kayak. He had been on lakes, but it is not the same. This stretch is not particularly dangerous, but does have class II rapids. I gave some quick instructions and he agreed to follow me down the rapids. On the first set of rapids, he hung up on a rock. I was close by and hollered to him with some instructions. He followed what I said and came off the rock without incident. A bit more instruction and he came on down river without a problem. This is why we go in groups. Had he been alone, I'm sure he would have been in trouble. Although I am not a kayak man, I have been down the river with many and have learned a few tricks to keep one safe. As we all want to be safe on the river, we need to be aware of the new members and work together to be safe. All in all, it was a good day, despite the bit of rain and slow fishing. I look forward to the next trip and hope you will join us.

The gang. Who let them on the water? Photo by Wallace Harvey.



Snakehead Adventures on the Potomac

By Ernie Rojas

Editor's note: In May, Ernie Rojas got out a few times on the Potomac River with some friends for a few days of fishing. While out there, they managed to get into some snakeheads and was kind enough to share some pictures and information.

While bass fishing, we spooked a very large snakehead and I started to get excited. I wanted him. Andy's crew had caught a nice 6.5 pounder the day before.

I was throwing the Baby 1 minus and I got hit...not a slam but a solid take. I told the guys that I either had a record bass or a nice snakehead. I said that because the fish wasn't thrashing like a snakehead normally does. But as I got him closer, we saw a huge head and then we knew it was game on! The fish was not happy and was doing everything it could to get off the lure (which he had inhaled)! Andy did a great net job and I was exited!

When I got home, a couple of neighbors came over to watch the fileting. I tried to ice down the fish..... the neighbors got a thrill as the fish was still active with its sides missing.



Caught on May 4 in a creek off Belmont Bay on a Kinky Beaver, 5 lbs 8 oz



Caught on May 10 in Chicamuxen Creek on a Mann's Baby 1 minus, 13 lbs 9 oz



Big mouth.....with lure. Yes, that is a lure stuck way down its throat.

A monster on ice and waiting for the filet knife and the pan.



Fishing Adventures Way S

By John Lipetz

Fishing, snorkeling and the Caribbean lifestyle all add up to a wondrous adventure far from home. First let me say, if you can go – go. We were fortunate to be able to go to Belize over our family spring break. We had been planning a Caribbean vacation for three years. By planning I mean saving. We tend to decide destination specifics at the last minute. It works for us.

The travel there and back requires a day each way. According to the kids, it was a drive to the airport, two jet planes, one puddle jumper with eleven seats flying close enough to water to



Very nice Belize bonefish.



see schools of fish swimming below, and then an open boat ride over turtle grass flats filled with sting rays to our Villa. All in all, about eight hours of travel time with about two hours of layover or transfer times included.

What does Belize offer that is so great? Why would we go there vs. Jamaica, or the Virgin Islands, or one of the many smaller islands that are scattered through the bright blue sea? The simple answer is the fishing and snorkeling/diving are exceptional. Additionally, the population speaks English and everyone was very friendly, and the currency is always half of the US Dollar. The weather is like every other Caribbean place – warm and pleasant, sometimes breezy, sometimes humid, some rain showers. It depends on what time of the year you are visiting. It really is a gem of a find if you like to be outdoors.

John Lipetz with a nice fish.

outh of the Border in Belize

Once you get there it is as affordable as you wish to make it. The accommodations available in Belize can be as little as \$40 a day for a room in a B&B right on one of the many Bonefish flats all the way up to a 2nd mortgage for your own private island. We opted for a VRBO rental that was less expensive than a hotel room, but allowed us to have our whole family in one private space. We were on a large island off the main coast called Ambergris Caye, so food was expensive and the variety lacking. There are other food options we would opt for in the future.

Belize offers some of the best fishing available with or without the need to hire guides. We were able to fish the flats right out front of our Villa and catch Bonefish, Barracuda, Blue and Yellow Tail Jacks as well as Snapper, Grouper, and Grunts right off the piers. A short ½ mile walk had us fishing a Back Bay filled with Tarpon (Hooked two – lost two), Snook, and Bonefish and small Barracuda. Guides were available for as little as \$275 for 2 people for a half day of guided fishing. We fished every day, but not all day every day.

If there was anything better than the fishing there it would be the snorkeling and diving. The barrier reef was about 300 yards off the beach with access by kayak or boat. We snorkeled often and were able to see everything from small butterfly fish and lionfish to large rays and sharks up to 14 feet long.

In synopsis, Belize offers great fishing and snorkeling with friendly people in a beautiful setting. If you go you should catch fish, swim with sharks, and as the locals say, “Drink a Belikin!”

Quinn Lipetz with a colorful trigger fish.



John's son Quinn Lipetz with a nice fish of his own.



Trip Report: S. Fork, SL

By Mark Obrinsky

It began as a great raffle prize – a guided fishing trip! But newly-reinstalled PRSC President John Lipetz had the great idea of expanding it into a club trip. So on May 5, five boats with

seven anglers floated the three mile stretch of the South Fork from Hazard Mill to the low water bridge in Bentonville. Terry Cooney, Chip Comstock, and Bill Owensby fished from their kayaks, while I fished from the front seat of John's pontoon boat and Quinn Lipetz did the same from Steve Kimm's pontoon.

The weather cooperated – it was sunny and cool to start, with temperatures rising to around 60 degrees by after-



The group getting ready to hit the water. Smallmouth beware.

noon. Recent rains had given the river a little stain. I didn't check the water temperature, but it was warm enough for a little wet wading, but perhaps a bit cooler than ideal to get the fish as active as we might have liked.

A brave man wading this early in the season. Hope those waders are insulated...or that he's wearing multiple layers.



henandoah, May 5, 2013

Everyone caught good fish. There were plenty of 13-15 inch fish to go around, with a few larger than that. The big fish of the day was Quinn's 18-inch smallie, which he fooled with a Jack's worm even before we got the boats in the water. Plastics of various types worked pretty well throughout the day, but patterns were hard to come by. Every time we'd catch a few in a row and think we were on to something, they'd stop biting just as quickly. But that just made the ones we caught more rewarding.

Family responsibilities dictated a relatively short fishing day, at least by some standards – about six hours or so. This is a great stretch when you have less time than you'd like. But there are enough first-rate spots that you could also fish dawn-to-dusk on a summer day and still wished you'd had more time. It's not a large river in this area though, so you don't want too many boats out there together. Actually, now that I think about it, this is a terrible stretch of river to fish, hardly any smallmouth at all. Go fish somewhere else!

Steve Kimm working the oars while Quinn Lipetz holds up a great river smallmouth that he caught.



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.

Potomac River Shad.



Sarah Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

4 lbs. Susky Smallmouth.



Phil Maisel. Photo by unknown.

Everglades Speckled Trout on a Fly Rod.



Jamie Gold. Photo by John Lipetz.

Nice Everglades Red Fish.



John Lipetz. Photo by Jamie Gold.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Seems like I just wrote to the club about the issue of fracking out here in the upper Chesapeake Watershed but a quick recap is in order I think. We've been keeping an eye on some local and out of state energy companies who have been quietly obtaining development lease options on various parcels of land in Rockingham and Shenandoah Counties in preparation for maybe, possibly one day, sinking some test wells to see if horizontal hydraulic fracturing would be a viable option in the area. Of course, Jeff Kelble and the Potomac/Shenandoah Riverkeeper organizations have been watching these guys like a hawk. The actual drilling they wanted to do was going to first, need County zoning changes, and in some cases, federal approval to sink wells on Federal property. To be specific, they were licking their chops over the prospect of being permitted to drill in the George Washington National Forest.

Next month, the National Forest Service will render their decision on whether they will permit this drilling to be done on the tiny sliver of the Marcellus Shale that runs under the national forest in Virginia. The forest service and the state of Virginia have been inundated with letters from citizens about this matter. To date, 54,000+ comments have been made to the state of Virginia about this issue. The drinking water of 260,000 Virginians would be directly affected so you would expect that anything that may have an adverse effect on their lives like that would generate a LOT of comments. So far, public opinion is running 2-1 against permitting this drilling from going forward.

Most of the time I'm not very optimistic of slowing down big energy when they get coupled with compliant county and state governments, but it would seem public opinion is having an effect.

From the website www.oldsouthhigh.com:

Richard Thompson, Carrizo's vice-president for investor relations, told *Old South High* that the company will not* renew any of the remaining five-year leases it holds in the county. The most recent leases were purchased in 2009, and will expire in 2014. Thompson said the combination of local pushback and low natural gas prices prompted the company to turn its attention completely away from Rockingham County for the foreseeable future. The company was also disappointed with the results of a gas well it drilled in Hardy County, W.Va., just north of Bergton in the same geology that underlies western Virginia. (The closest cluster of productive gas wells in West Virginia is nearly 100 miles west of Rockingham County.)

This is huge when one of the largest companies involved in the business decides to back off due to public opinion and take the loss of allowing these drilling permits they already have to expire. That's a LOT of money to leave on the table due to public opinion...and you helped make it happen. If you wrote to ANY federal agency, county official, a local newspaper, or the VA Townhall website in opposition, YOU had a hand in this. You should be very proud.

And I want to personally thank every one of you. Because the bottom line for me is this: that's where my drinking water ultimately comes from, the rain water runoff and headwater springs that flow off Massanutten Mountain, the Alleghenies, and surrounding ridges. The Shenandoah and Potomac rivers have a hard enough time with all the added nutrients, pollutants, substandard water treatment plants, bio-solid spreading, etc etc. Imagine if they had to start out with a host of carcinogenic chemicals as part of their makeup.

So thank you one and all.

* highlighting added by article's author.

PRSC
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Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture that I received this month. At the end of April through early May a group of us did a fishing trip to the Everglades. This is Doug Marshall with a very nice Black Drum he caught while kayak fishing. The June issue of the *Buzz* will have a full write up and more pictures from the trip.



2013 Contest Results

May 2013 Report By Wallace Harvey

I am shocked that no one has been fishing this past month! Can this be true? No one has made a report since the last meeting. We had lots of guys talking about having been fishing, but no one reports any new entrants in our contest. All the nice weather we have had must have prompted someone to enjoy time on the water. Sorry guys, shad do not count. We need smallies.

There is one brave sole in the Potomac River Smallmouth Club. Jack Cook, our fearless speaker last month has been on the water. He reports fishing on Section II. His biggest fish was 18 inches, and has a best total of 72.5 inches. He also went on Section III for a total of 79.5 inches. Not enough to take the lead, but it is nice to hear what is going on out there. Thank you Jack!

As I write this we are having a bit of cool snap, but the weather is to improve shortly. By the time you read this, I will have led a group of wonderful fishermen down the Shenandoah South Fork. Hopefully, I'll get some pictures and a story for you on our trip. The recent rains, three inches at home, have swollen the rivers and they should be at a good level for the trip. With cooperation of the weather, I am looking for a great trip and good fishing. *Virginia Wildlife Magazine* reports that the Shenandoah should be good fishing this year. Let's see more of you out there.

2013 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: Jay Eiche, 21.5"

Section 1, Best 5 Fish:

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl, 18"

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 80"

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl, 20.5"

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 92.5"

Largest on Fly:

New Member:

William Shriver Award: Jay Eiche, 21.5"

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.