

Re: SHUTTLE NOT AVAILABLE FOR 2013 CHEAT CANYON RACE

Attention Cheat Canyon Racers,

On Friday, May 3rd, the Cheat Canyon Race will head into its 18th year. Since Rob Voyhees organized the very first race in 1996, the race has been fortunate to receive world class support from the paddling community. There have been hundreds of volunteers and companies who have stepped up over the years to provide registration, race bibs, insurance, safety, time keeping, food, parking, shuttle, beverages, t-shirts, prizes, and the list goes on. Throughout the years, the Cheat Race has survived with the times. One element of the race that has become increasingly more difficult to coordinate is the race shuttle.

Trying to move almost 200 racers and safety boaters from the Jenkinsburg Bridge back to Albright at dusk on a Friday evening IS difficult.

When the Cheat Race started in 1996, the Cheat River was a thriving River Trip destination. Six companies were rafting the river on a regular basis and the companies always seemed to have a few extra buses and trucks with drivers willing to help. Today, in 2013, we aren't so fortunate. Only one company remains based on the Cheat River that has vehicles available for shuttle. Furthermore, long time professional shuttle runner Glenn Miller stopped his services a few years ago.

Finding vehicles willing to drive into Jenkinsburg at dusk on a Friday evening has become increasingly difficult, and we regret to inform you that the majority of our vehicular support to get 200 boats and rafts back to Albright is not available this year. We have tried to fill this gap the past few months, spending hours on the phone searching, but we just cannot guarantee that we can get all racers back. We don't have the vehicles.

We want this race to continue, as it's one of the longest running river races in the country. We don't want this one issue to ruin what is still a great race. So we are sending out this message to the racing community to ask for help this year. We need racers to help by running their own shuttles. Transportation is only available for emergency purposes.

We are currently working on solutions for parking at the takeout and will continue to work on solutions to this problem for next year.

We thank you for your help and understanding,

Rick Gusic and Kevin Ryan
Race Directors

Please direct all questions or comments to Kevin at Kevin-at-cheat.org or Rick at rick-at-thompsonusic.com