

# The Tire-less James

Sept. 30, 2017

Only tires that are reasonably clean and free of debris & sediment will be accepted by the tire recycler. Please remove as much sediment and debris from each tire **before** loading into a boat.

o **Float Plan:** Know your complete route, bring [map](#), communicate your plan and return time to a trusted family member or friend. Map available here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1Xw-RtjPnAlZboEsFwGkXCK9KGgE&usp=sharing>

(bookmark it on your cellphone)

o **Trash Bags** Heavy-duty trash bags are required for collection of all non-tire trash. Bags will be supplied prior to departure.

o **First Aid Kit** (in waterproof container). Some common issues: cuts, punctures, scrapes, sun burn, back strain.

o **Food/Water/Snacks** (high calorie food will keep you warmest. Bring MORE than you expect that you might need. Bring at least 1/2-gallon of drinking water per person.)

o **Cell phone & camera** (fully charged and in a waterproof container...double-bagged ziplock works)

o **Anchor** (A makeshift anchor will conveniently hold your boat in place while removing tires from the riverbed. Tie a 10-15 ft. length of durable line to the handle of a plastic milk jug. Fill the jug with small river rocks. Ta-da!)

o **Sturdy work gloves and shoes** (sandals & bare hands are a very bad idea...many tires contain sharp steel belts. Please wear closed-toe shoes)

o **Boats/paddles/life vests/safety gear** (per state law requirement). This equipment will be provided for volunteers who pre-register. Supply is limited, first come-first served.

o **Weather-appropriate clothing** (check [weather forecast](#) and monitor for changing conditions...cool temps and wind gusts are likely. Carry a warm hat. Synthetic clothing materials are *always* better than cotton.)

o **1 Complete change of clothes per participant** (waterproofed/bagged. Head-to-toe. Be Prepared: Assume that everyone will become soaked/cold/wet during the course of the event.)

o **Equipment for tire extraction** (optional but very helpful: long metal pry bar, round-point shovel)

o **Large sponge or cup** (to bail water from boat...very helpful when boat is loaded with tires)

o **Camping gear:** If you plan to camp overnight, please bring all of your own camping gear.

Be careful **loading tires** into and out of boats: Use & encourage proper lifting techniques and ask for help with large tires. Do not wipe your **hands** along the inside or outside of tires. Some tires have wire cores/steel belts that have been exposed. They can be very sharp and cut skin.

**James River Association (jetboat driver) contact:**

**Pat Calvert, text or cell: (434) 964-7635** (text likely to be more dependable in areas w/ minimal cell reception)

**Emergency contact: 911**

## **Tips on Processes**

Do not load a boat to the point that it cannot safely be maneuvered. Fill and distribute tires until boat is full to a safe & manageable level, then complete your float. Rome wasn't built in a day. Tires should be transferred over to a batteau whenever possible.

### **Removing an embedded tire**

Pick your battles wisely...if you choose to extract an embedded tire then proceed using a well-determined and safe system:

1. Use shovel to clear one edge of a buried tire.
2. Use the pry bar to get under the tire from the inside using leverage and *water current as your help* and slowly wiggle the tire back and forth (do not try to get it all at once...instead try many small attempts).
3. Once freed, then clean out the tire. Use the water current to help flush out sand, stones, shells, etc.
4. *Let the river do the hard work:* Two (more for larger tires) people standing so that the current runs between them as they rock the tire back and forth while most of the tire is under the water (tire weighs less when underwater). With each rocking motion, a small section on the downstream side of the tire raises so that the water can get to the inside of the tire, creating a cavation in the tire and helping to dislodge the debris inside.
5. After the tire is empty of debris and performing the same process to get the water out, lift the tire up to the canoe slowly and with as much help as needed (large tractor tires can take up to 6 people).
6. Remember some things we will not be able to get, a challenge though it is and hard to leave it behind.

**Please take photos and forward to [pcalvert@jra.org](mailto:pcalvert@jra.org) at the conclusion of the trip.**

**Thank you for your service!**