



G E O R G I A C A N O E I N G A S S O C I A T I O N

January 1974

NEWSLETTER

Volume VIII, No. 1

Deadline for the February newsletter is February 15. Mail copy to:

Mary Catherine Ahlberg
3624 Chelsea Crescent Drive, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30319
Res. 252-7748

Please check your name and mailing address as listed on your newsletter envelope and report any errors to Phyllis Crowley, 5808 O'Hara Drive, Stone Mountain, Ga 30083

1974 DUES ARE NOW DUE!

It's time to pay 1974 family dues to the GCA. Your membership renewal form is printed at the back of this month's newsletter. Please fill it out with your name and current mailing address and send it with a check for \$5.00 payable to the Georgia Canoeing Association. Make the check for \$6.00 if you wish to affiliate with the Georgia Wildlife Federation and National Wildlife Federation and mail it to Bill Crowley, 5080 O'Hara Drive, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083. See GCA Annual Meeting Notes for details on GWF and NWF affiliation. Deadline for renewal is March 31 in order to get your name in the directory. Don't miss a good impromptu trip because your friends couldn't reach you.

NOTES FROM YOUR CRUISEMASTER

It looks like a busy, interesting and fun summer ahead of us. We have many rivers scheduled with a consequent need for many trip leaders. Being fairly new in the club, I am not acquainted with some of you who have led trips in the past or are otherwise well qualified to lead. Fortunately, I have been able to acquire a list of names from my predecessors and will be in touch with you during the course of the year requesting your help. The obvious cooperation to date has been heartening. Volunteer leaders, please contact me!

In spite of the fuel shortage, we intend to pursue essentially the same number of outings as last year. Car pooling will be an important factor if we are to carry this out successfully. This makes advance registration with the trip leader even more important, so you are encouraged to register early for the trip you join. ---Dale Bergen

ROLLING SESSIONS

Remember that rolling sessions are being held each Friday night from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Samuel Jones Boys' Club on East Lake Drive in Decatur, off College Drive south of Agnes Scott College. Come learn to roll your Kayak or C-1 or be entertained by your friends. Boats must be cleaned inside and out before entering the pool area.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

At the last meeting, your Executive Committee mapped out plans for the coming year. Our main job was to outline a tentative schedule of river trips for 1974. This schedule is enclosed on the back of the green sheet, and we hope that it is representative of your canoeing interests. It was developed primarily from the results of a questionnaire sent out last year which indicated that the majority of our members are interested in easy to intermediate whitewater trips. We added our most popular family float and advanced whitewater trips to round out the schedule. One of the main points that we would like to make about our schedule is that it is only tentative and has great flexibility. We welcome and solicit suggestions from anyone regarding other rivers that might be added. In fact, other trips will automatically be added to the schedule in the monthly newsletter if interested members volunteer as trip leaders. I hear that the North Fork of the East Branch of Big Hungry Polecat Creek has some good whitewater. Does anybody know the put-in and take-out?

The Executive Committee plans to meet on the second Thursday of each odd month. The location will be announced in the newsletter. These business meetings are open to all GCA members. If you have an idea or suggestion that you feel should be incorporated into our program for the year, please come or contact one of your officers prior to the meeting so that it can be discussed.

We have found that our members prefer getting together on the river to formal club meetings; however, we do plan quarterly meetings. We hope to have interesting and informative programs and ask for your suggestions. As usual we will have some entertaining slides and movies along with the more entertaining narrations and remarks. We hope to hear again from the masterful Bob "Submarine" Goeke, glibly assisted by Claude Terry.

The GCA Membership Directory, which proved so useful last year, will be expanded this year into a handbook including some useful information for canoeists. Again, your suggestions on what material to include in this booklet are needed.

We hope that you like the schedule and will take full advantage of your GCA membership. Remember, there are no beginner trips in cold weather. The difficulty rating of even our easiest streams is greatly increased by a sharp decrease in temperature. I was recently on a trip in 38-degree cloudy weather when one of our most experienced members in full wet-suit gear was forced to leave the river because he had lost the use of his arms due to the cold.

---Cleve Tedford

ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS

The club has a project of compiling standard write-ups of the rivers we commonly run. These river descriptions would be included in our club directory and monthly newsletters. The Executive Committee will accumulate everyone's contributions and assimilate them to derive a description for each river. The write-ups should include such information as location of the river, time and distance from Atlanta, class of rapids, particular hazards, length of the run, and any other salient information. Please compose a description of your favorite river(s) and mail to Dale Bergen, 491 Durand Drive, N. E., Atlanta 30307.

GCA VOTES TO AFFILIATE WITH GEORGIA AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

At the annual GCA meeting at Camp Chattahoochee, the club voted to affiliate with the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation. As a GCA member, you have the opportunity of joining the GWF and NWF through GCA by adding an additional dollar to your 1974 GCA dues. (This is optional for each member.)

The extra dollar will entitle you to receive 12 issues of Georgia Out-of-Doors, the outstanding monthly newspaper of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, which features conservation news on the national, regional, and state levels as well as articles and photographs of hunting, fishing, canoeing, and other outdoor sports (a \$5.00 value). In addition, you will be able to purchase optional low-cost group health insurance through GWF, insurance which covers pre-existing medical conditions and will pay your hospital bills resulting from canoeing or camping accidents, for instance (should you be so unlucky).

Affiliation with GWF and NWF gives GCA a voice in Georgia's largest federation of outdoor recreationists (GWF) and the world's largest private citizen's conservation organization (NWF) with 3½ million members in affiliated groups.

NWF services to local affiliates include Washington legislative and legal staffs, conservation education publications, and land donation assistance to governmental agencies, all of which may be useful to us in saving Georgia's canoeing rivers. GWF can also help us with the Georgia General Assembly in conservation issues through the services of GCA member Jim Morrison, who is the executive director of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. If you have further questions, feel free to call Jim at the Federation's state office in Decatur (243-1401) or at his home (939-4753).

LOCUST FORK SLALOM AND DOWNRIVER RACE, April 6, 7

We just got word from Carter Martin that the NARRA (North Alabama River Runners Association) is again sponsoring the Locust Fork Race. The race will be held the weekend of April 6-7 on the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River near Blountsville, Alabama. You will recognize Blountsville as the place where the world's record for seesawing was recently broken. Last year's race was very well organized and a lot of fun for everyone who attended. The open canoe downriver race was won by Ron Johnson of the GCA. In fact, because of high water conditions, Ron was the only open canoeist to enter. At normal water levels, however, this river is well suited for a downriver race for both open canoes and decked craft. Anyone interested should write Carter for entry forms at: 2602 Scenic Dr., S.E., Huntsville, Alabama.---Cleve Tedford

WANT ADS

For Sale: One (1) new Norse 81" right-hand control Spoon Blade Kayak Paddle---\$30. Call Harry Collins at 366-4315 after 6 p.m.

For Sale: Used Old Town Junior, fairly good condition, with 19-inch waist sprayskirt, seat, and thigh braces. Patched--\$125; unpatched, \$100. John Kennedy, Jr., Nantahala Outdoor Center, Star Route, Bryson City, North Carolina 28713. Phone 704-488-6407.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Carolina Whitewater by Bob Benner gives information on gradient, difficulty, distance, estimated paddling time, scenery and water quality of sections of some 892 miles of waterways including 40 streams in Western Carolina, 2 in Tennessee and the Chattooga between Georgia and South Carolina. Includes put-in and take-out points, possible difficulties and minimum and maximum water levels (also gauge locations). Available for \$5 from Pisgah Providers, P. O. Box 101, Morganton, N. C. 28655

TRIP REPORTS

LITTLE RIVER CANYON

On the Saturday before New Year's Day, a party of ten boats (four open canoes and six kayaks) ran approximately 7 miles of the Little River Canyon in Alabama. This is a difficult river with Class III, IV, and V rapids and definitely should be attempted only by experienced boaters.

The put-in for this trip is at the chair-lift and is the most arduous put-in on any of the rivers regularly run by the GCA. We actually had to rope our open canoes off the side of what was nearly a cliff. In retrospect a slightly easier approach could have been used, but this required the same long and physically demanding carry. Boaters should allow 1½ to 2 hours for the put-in and car shuttle.

Open canoes should be prepared to portage one or maybe two rapids. One of these is a Class V with a difficult approach and a double drop with a hydraulic at the bottom of each drop.

Of the ten boats that started, only four finished. Four kayaks carried out after five boats went down in the second rapid, a good Class III on the left bank, approximately ¼ to ½ mile from the put-in. One open canoe was destroyed when it wrapped around a small tree growing in the river. At this point another kayak carried.

In spite of these difficulties, the excellent rapids made the trip well worth it. However, individuals attempting this river should be proficient in high water conditions. An adequate brace is a must for both canoeists and kayakers.

I would like to know if any of the members have run any of the river above the chair-lift.---David Garrity

TOCCOA RIVER, OCTOBER 28, 1973

It was the sort of day that inspires one to stay topside. Before the shuttle was completed, those who huddled in the rain by their canoes at Deep Hole, watching the Toccoa rise from wading to floating depth, were soggy, chilly and cheerful---setting the tenor for the day. Although it stopped raining only occasionally, spirits remained high. And though we had to eat quickly at the lunch stop to beat the rain to our food, we'll long remember the hearty laughter that rose from one group who were seemingly unaware of the inclement weather. In fact, a canoe or two tended to laze along as though it were a balmy summer day.

It would be wonderful if all trips could culminate as this one did. We were made welcome at the charming A-frame cabin of Betsey and Bernie Holland up-river from Dial. Family members and chauffeur friends who had not been with us on the Toccoa joined us at the Hollands' to share hot dogs and other goodies and to complete the evening's camaraderie. We basked in the luxury of hot showers, getting into dry clothes and then relaxing in the congenial atmosphere provided by our hosts. On behalf of the 25 or so folks who were present, we extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the Hollands.---A. B. Close

FEBRUARY TRIPS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1974

FLINT RIVER (Sprewell Bluff to Pobiddy Road)

This trip is approximately 10 miles long and consists primarily of very scenic flat water with the exception of a series of Class III rapids nearly 1½ miles long. This series includes Yellow Jacket Shoals which ends in an interesting five-foot ledge. This is a very good run when the water is high, as it should be at this time of year. Participants should have whitewater experience and should come prepared for cold water and cold weather.

MEET: In Thomaston at 9 a.m. sharp to arrange the shuttle

PREREGISTER: With David Garrity. Call 634-1847 after 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1974

LITTLE RIVER (ALABAMA) Class III-IV

This river is situated in the scenic Little River Canyon near Fort Payne, Alabama, about 2½ hours (130 miles) from Atlanta. It offers a lot of Nantahala-type action with two major drops that can be portaged. This is a run for experienced boaters only. Open boats can negotiate the course although they should have flotation. Wet suits are of course a must this time of year. Hikers can follow the river and watch the action--bring cameras! The trip is about seven miles long. One note: the put-in requires a quarter-mile carry (or drag) down the canyon side. However, the take-out is very convenient. Whether you're hiking or boating, you'll want to return to this beautiful river canyon again. Be on the look-out for a navigational hazard--a horseshoe-shaped Grumman that scored a ringer on a tree.

PREREGISTER: With Clyde Woolsey at 766-8771 before Friday, February 15.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1974

CARTECAY (Class II-III)

The Cartecay is a small, intimate, fast-flowing river comparable to the Chestatee in volume of water. It has its beginning high on the Blueridge and flows west to the town of Ellijay in Gilmer County where it empties into the Ellijay River to form the Coosawattee.

The 11-mile stretch of river between the put-in point near where Georgia 52 crosses the Cartecay 5 miles east of Ellijay to the take-out at the gauging station on 52 just outside of Ellijay contains 6 major rapids. These begin immediately after passing the first noticeable island on the run and consist of four Class II and two Class III rapids.

The two Class III's, which should be scouted, are twisting drops over ledges through powerful currents into big but friendly soue holes. The Class II's are longer runs with less violent currents.

The last five miles of this run contain no rapids. Fortunately, however, this is compensated for by the beautiful scenery and solitude of this mountain stream which shows little evidence of the hand of man. The river flows through a wild area with few, if any, take-out or emergency walk-out points.

The Cartecay runs off fast and may be run only during and after periods of heavy rain. Minimum flow for this run is 1.80 on the gauge 1½ miles above Ellijay on Georgia 52. Optimum conditions are around 2.50. This is not a trip for beginners; however, portages are possible. No limit on boats, but preregistration is required.

PREREGISTER: With Tom Hamby at 981-1499.

THE 1974 SEASON OF THE

G E O R G I A C A N O E I N G A S S O C I A T I O N

AND

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL FOR CANOEISTS

1974 Officers

President - Cleve Tedford
7545 Mt. Vernon Road
Dunwoody, Ga.
394-7983
458-5670 (until Feb. 24)

Vice-Pres. - Bob Goeke
Secretary - Maureen Maloney
Treasurer - Bill Crowley
5808 O'Hara Drive
Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083

Cruisemaster - Dale Bergen

Newsletter Editor -

Directors-at-Large
- Anna Belle Close
- Ross Wilson

Mary Catherine Ahlberg
3624 Chelsea Crescent Dr., N. E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30319
Res. 252-7748

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership is open to individuals 18 years and older, although younger individuals can readily join through the family unit (i. e., the father/mother joins, making the child a de facto member), and junior participation is encouraged. Annual dues are \$5.00, payable before April 1. (Dues are \$6.00 if you wish to be affiliated with the Georgia Wildlife Federation and National Wildlife Federation)

One of the values of membership is the canoeing newsletter published monthly during the canoeing season and containing trip announcements and reports, as well as pertinent tips about equipment and techniques. One issue will be issued gratis to non-members who are considering joining the Association. If you wish to join the Georgia Canoeing Association, return the form below or a facsimile to the address indicated or directly to the home of the treasurer. Please make checks payable to Georgia Canoeing Association.

1974 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me and the members of my family listed as GCA members for 1974.

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Annual Dues: \$5.00 (\$6.00 including optional affiliation with Georgia Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation)

Make checks payable to the Georgia Canoeing Association and mail to: Georgia Canoeing Association, Attn: Treasurer, P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta 30083

TENTATIVE RIVER SCHEDULE FOR 1974

(Subject to change; check the Monthly Newsletter for details)

February	9	Flint	July	4-7	Gauley & New (rafts, too)
	16-17	Little River, Ala.			Camping Trip
	23	Cartecay		6	Nantahala
March	2-3	Chestatee & Alcovy		14	Chattahoochee (Upper)
	9-10	Tellico & Obed		15	Chattahoochee (Lower)
	15	Spring Meeting		20	Training Session--Intermed. on Chattooga, 3
	16	Chattahoochee, Nachoochee		21	Chattooga, 2 & 4
	17	Upper Chattahoochee		27	Toccoa
	23	Etowah		28	Etowah
	30	Chattooga, 3			
	30-31	Petersburg Race	Aug.	3	Hiwassee
	31	Chattooga, 2 & 4		10-11	Nantahala Races (national)
April	6	Conasauga		17	Chattooga, 3
	7	Hiwassee & Jacks		18	Chattooga, 2 & 4
	13	Dogwood Festival Race		24	Chattahoochee, Nachoochee
	11-14	TSRA Whitewater Instructor Seminar		25	Chattahoochee (Upper)
	20	Coosawatee		31	Hiwassee Races
	21	Broad	Sept.	1	" "
	27	Chattooga, 3		7	Nantahala
	28	Chattooga, 2 & 4		14	Chattooga, 3
May	3	GCA Club Meeting		15	Chattooga, 2 & 4
	4-5	Training Session		20	GCA Club Meeting
	11	Toccoa		21	Toccoa
	12	Upper Chattahoochee		22	Etowah
	18	Nantahala		28	Nantahala
	19	Little Tennessee	Oct.	5	Upper Chattahoochee
	25-26	Coosawatee Camping Trip		6	Alcovy
	27	French Broad		12	Broad
June	1	Flint		19	Chattooga, 3
	2	Upper Chattahoochee		20	Chattooga, 2 & 4
	8	Nantahala		27	Etowah
	9	Broad	Nov.	2	Nantahala
	15-16	Nantahala Races (S' eastern)		9	Chattooga, 3
	22-23	Chattooga All-Clubs Invitational		10	Chattooga, 2 & 4
	29	Toccoa		16	Upper Chattahoochee
	30	Etowah		23	Broad
				28-30	Florida Springs weekend
			Dec.	6	Club Dinner

PREREGISTRATION WITH TRIP LEADER REQUIRED ON MOST TRIPS. SEE MONTHLY NEWS-
LETTER FOR TRIP LEADER'S NAME AND PHONE NUMBER.