

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

SEPTEMBER 1975

NEWSLETTER

VOL. IX NO. 8

October Newsletter deadline:
SEPTEMBER 22. Send typed copy
if possible to:

Maureen Maloney
860 Franklin Road, S.E.
Apt. 117
Marietta, Georgia 30062

SEPTEMBER TRIP SCHEDULE

(Refer to GCA Directory or trip leaders for details)

- Sat. & Sun.
Aug. 9 & 10 Annual Hiwassee Races, Reliance, Tennessee.
- Wed., Sept. 3 Trip Leader Training Session, Fernbank Science Center,
Classroom 1, 7:30 p.m. (See August Newsletter for details)
- Sat., Sept. 6 Chattooga, Sec. II. Allen Lewis for details 363-3538.
- Sat., Sept. 6 Chattooga, Sec. IV. Tom Hamby, H:455-6743; O:529-8403.
- Sun., Sept. 7 Chattooga, Sec. III. Dale Bergen, 377-2970.
- Sun., Sept. 7 Etowah, Class I-II. Carter Fowlkes, 255-4110.
- Sat., Sept. 13 Upper Chattahoochee, Class II-III. Bronwyn Fowlkes, 255-4110.
(*Fowlkes Award*)
- Sat., Sept. 14 Broad, Class II. Jack Weems, 938-5263.
- Sat., Sept. 20 Nantahala, Class III. The Fowlkes, 255-4110.
- Sun., Sept. 21 Flint, Class II-III. Allen Lewis, 363-3538. Depending on
water level, this trip may be cancelled.
- Sat., Sept. 27 Chattooga, Sec. III. Allen Lewis, 363-3538.
- Sun., Sept. 28 Chattooga, Sec. II. Call Allen Lewis for details, 363-3538.
- Sun., Sept. 28 Chattooga, Sec. IV. Murray Johnson, 404/536-0991 (Gainesville)
- Sat., Oct. 4 General Membership Picnic and Elections Meeting,
Lake Allatoona, Georgia (see details inside).
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NOTE:

Pre-registration absolutely required for Chattooga III & IV trips.
Trip leaders reserve the right to screen all registrants and to deny
registration on grounds of inexperience or overcrowding.



NOMINEES FOR 1975-1976 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After careful consideration and deliberation, the Nominating Committee presents the following individuals as candidates for next years offices. Nominations may be proposed from the floor at the General Membership & Election Meeting on October 4th provided that prior consent has been obtained from individuals thus considered.

NOMINEES

President	-----	John Helmlinger
Vice President	-----	Murray Johnson
Treasurer	-----	Carter Fowlkes
Secretary	-----	Charlotte Little
Cruisemaster	-----	Don Norton
Newsletter Editor	-----	Carlton Shuford
Training Director	-----	Michael Rainey
Director-at-Large	-----	Herb Henry
Director-at-Large	-----	Hoppy Eager

In regard to the position of secretary, which was split into two offices last year in anticipation of an extraordinarily heavy workload but which, in fact, was never filled, the Nominating Committee felt that this office should be returned to a single function until such time as needed.

The Nominating Committee hopes you approve its slate of candidates and urges you to attend the October 4th meeting to cast your vote.

ANNUAL GCA BANQUET & ELECTIONS - OCTOBER 4

The annual GCA banquet has a new twist this year. We will be holding it at the Army Recreation Area at Lake Allatoona. This facility is located approximately 30 miles Northwest of Atlanta along Highway 41. The turn-off is to the right and is marked by a large black sign with gold letters, and a red, white and blue Army patch. Additional markers at the turn-off are a large white sign advertising Allatoona Campground and "B. Lloyd's" service station. After making the turn-off, follow the black and gold signs approximately 2 miles to the "Rec Area".

Bring your boat(s) for we intend to have races and contests such as paddling with hands only, gunnel jumping, short sprints, racing while keeping one gunnel 2" above the water line, etc. Expect a hilarious time! Another feature will be a swap/trade fair. This is designed for members to bring items associated with canoeing/kayaking for sale or trade.

Each family group should plan to bring one main course dish and one vegetable, salad or dessert dish. Singles may bring one dish of their choice. It is recommended that all dishes be ample enough to serve eight (8). Also, please bring .50¢ per person to cover the cost of plates, utensils, bread, soft drinks and napkins. Time: 2 p.m. until early evening.

In order that we may plan enough of these latter items, please indicate whether you are coming by sending the following form to:

Hoppy and Mary Eager
Route 2
Carlton, Georgia 30627

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP & ELECTIONS MEETING, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

(Name) _____ Plan to attend.

(Number) _____ of family or guests.

Please send this form to:

Hoppy and Mary Eager
Route 2
Carlton, Georgia 30627

WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

TRIP REPORTS

It is unfortunate that so many trip leaders feel it is unnecessary to submit trip reports. It is discouraging and disappointing, especially as the trip reports provide the only real entertainment value of the newsletter. I hope trip leaders will try to be more conscientious in the future.

Nantahala, July 26

After several "misques" on when the water would be turned on, (it appears the powerhouse people gave different information) the group got in the water around 12:45. The only problem was that everyone else had been stacked at the put-in waiting for water all morning also. It was wall-to-wall boats and rafts. Ideally, anyone seeing this situation would have waited until it cleared to proceed. This is like leading a thirsting horse to water and then forbidding him/her to drink. We did wait for a few minutes, but when it appeared the stream of other boats and rafters would never end, we decided to wedge ourselves in among them and hope for the best. The problems of bank-to-bank boats for the first few miles was compounded by a heavy fog on the river which limited visibility to less than 74 ft. in some places. I was kicking myself for not waiting longer when all of a sudden we broke out of the pack and the fog. This was not done by speed, but by the intrepid ability of our group, as our competition was capsizing, dumping water or clinging to the nearest tree limb all about us. Our sweep, Jack Weems, did some good sweeping for other than our group also, and we thank him. The rest of the trip was beautiful, as usual, and almost everyone ran the fall successfully. The group consisted of--K-1: Don Simmons, Mark & Mike Blanchfield; Cd-1: Jack Weems, Gary Debacher, Bronwyn Fowlkes; Co-1: Allen and Malcom Lewis, Polly Heyward; Co-2: Doug Merriman/Eileen Lange, Dumas Ponder/son, Arthur Hammond/friend, Joe & Pat Blanchfield and John Helmlinger/son.
John Helmlinger

Upper Chattahoochee, Aug. 3
David Garrity.

Upper Chattahoochee, Aug. 9
Vickie Becker.

Etowah, Aug. 10
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Nolichucky, Aug. 9-10
A pretty good handful of GCA's best paddlers joined a TSRA trip on the Nolichucky river in North Carolina on Saturday, and although the river was a low 750 cfs, everyone had a very enjoyable run. There are three major rapids, the middle one a 1/3 mile Class III. We think we have over-crowding on our trips! TSRA had 43 boats in their group.
On Sunday, GCA paddlers ran the French Broad at 2300 cfs. The French Broad is a very wide river with huge standing waves..not quite so technical as the Nolichucky..but both rivers should be paddled by experts only.
Paddling were: Palma & Tom Moye, Craig & Scott Pendergrast, Benson Crawford, Joe Stubs, Ken Strickland, Murray Johnson, Dave Truran, Clyde Woolsey, and Tom Hamby who was there with a Carolina Sierra Club group.

Flint, Aug. 16
The gauge was at 8.1...a low but comfortable level. It's usually a little bit lower at this time of year, but we've been blessed with some rain in that part of the state. The cloud cover made an extremely hot day not too bad. Although the river was low, the chute at Yellow Jacket Shoals did a good job of bringing it all together into a lively change of pace. It also provided us with an additional bonus of three spectacular wipe-outs. We made the 11-mile trip from Sprewell Bluff to Pobiddy Road in four hours.
Co-1: Wayne Drummond, Malcolm Lewis, Allen Lewis and David Schlesinger;
Co-2: Lynwood Fiedler and John Mason, Randy Esty and Rod Henson, Tom Jeans and Earl Main; K-1: Bill Roberts; Folboat: Ralph Smith. Allen Lewis

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DENVER CONSTRUCTING FIRST WHITEWATER CHUTE

A water reclamation project on the South Platte River in the heart of Denver, in cooperation with the Colorado White Water Association, is going to provide lucky local paddlers with 500 ft. of Class III rapids. While 500 ft. doesn't sound like much, conical constructions (called berms) in the chute will cause waves and eddies and will enable paddlers to work their way back upstream without having to take out. Removable slalom gates will also be included.
See American Whitewater, July/August 1975 issue for more detail.

OCOEE REPORT REVISED...

Based on the report in the August Newsletter, Ray Stang and Falma Moye among others, went up to the Ocoee only to find that the newsletter information was incorrect. I sincerely apologize to anyone thus inconvenienced. In addition to personal observations over a period of many months (during which visits there was sufficient water for a very good run), my information came from a personal conversation with the manager of Powerhouse #3, and included assurance of a permanent 1470 cfs flow. I do apologize that this information was erroneous. I am printing below a letter from Ray Stang to me.

Editor

"Editor, GCA Newsletter:

"I would like to relate to you some facts concerning the Ocoee River. As was stated in the August GCA Newsletter, the Ocoee dams (#2 and #3) are generating 925-1470 cfs. However, this does not mean that you can paddle it, as was erroneously reported. "The Ocoee #2 dam is 4.6 miles above the #2 powerhouse. The set-up is similar to the Nantahala in that the water travels down a wooden trough to the powerhouse, taking advantage of the terrain to get a 250 ft. fall from a 30 ft. dam. The kayak run is between the dam and the powerhouse. There is no water in the riverbed when the powerhouses are generating equally. The river cannot be run when Ocoee #3 is generating at peak capacity (1470 cfs) and #2 is at peak capacity (925 cfs), with 545 cfs spilling over #2 dam and traveling down the riverbed. This is not enough water for a good run. "The river can only be run when:

1. There is a breakdown of Ocoee #2 and a continued power generation from Ocoee #3.
2. Spring rains cause the flood gates to open on Ocoee #3.
3. During the first two weeks of September, weekdays only. During this time 900 to 1400 cfs may be spilled by Ocoee #3 for yearly maintenance of the power plants... Sincerely, Ray Stang."

Relative to the September maintenance schedule (item no. 3 above) the latest TVA information is that the flume will be out of operation between September 8 and 18. This means that most of the water will flow on the river except for those periods when the flume needs to be dampened to protect its structure. I am advised by Harry Lewis of the TVA that this will be an ideal time FOR EXPERT DECKED BOATERS ONLY to run the Ocoee. River will be running between 900 and 1400 cfs...probably the lower figure. Check with Harry Lewis a day or so ahead of the date you wish to run to find out when the flume will be filled for its protective wetting. Except for that time, ideal conditions will exist for a stimulating run. Open boats can only run when cfs is 400 or less, in the opinion of Harry Lewis.

HIWASSEE RACES, AUGUST 30-31

Plan your Labor Day weekend for the Hiwassee Races. This annual event should prove to be better than ever. The race is designed primarily for open boats, however decked boaters should plan to come. There will be slaloms on Saturday and downriver on Sunday.

Registration will be accepted up to one hour before the races start, or contact Murray Johnson.

This will be a wonderful place to spend the Labor Day weekend with friends, boating, sun and lots of fun. Come on out and show everyone what the GCA paddlers can do! The Hiwassee is a perfect river for beginning racers.

TRIP LEADER TRAINING SESSION, WED., SEPT. 3

This training session is very important both to, and for, everyone. Please plan to attend.

Place: Fernbank Science Center, Classroom 1. Time: 7:30 p.m.

Dale Cooper, M.D., Atlanta, drowned on Monday, August 11, on the Nantahala River. Dr. Cooper and a friend were paddling tandem in an open canoe, and were accompanied by another companion in an inflatable kayak.

The open canoe capsized at a place known as "the ledges". This is an area with diagonal ledges on the left side of the river and a swift, deep channel on the right. Dr. Cooper apparently tried to stand up in the river and his foot was caught on a rock. His partner had floated downstream and was rescued by the companion in the rubber kayak. These two proceeded to rescue the canoe and wait for Dr. Cooper to float on down. When he did not arrive, the two friends went back up to see what had happened. Aid was then enlisted from the Outdoor Center.

A member of the rescue team reports what probably happened. After the canoe flipped, Dr. Cooper tried to walk to shore instead of properly swimming through the rapid. He was a novice to whitewater and did not realize that the dark smooth tongue of water indicated deep fast currents. As he tried to work his way to shore, his left foot was caught in a crack in the rock and the swift currents pushed him over. Apparently Dr. Cooper was facing upstream, for he was face up in the current. Dr. Cooper had been wearing a "horsecollar" life preserver while paddling. However, by the time the rescue team arrived, it had been pulled off by the current.

The rescue party tried swimming to the victim to free his foot, but without success. Finally a rope was secured to his arm and it took five men to pull him loose. An attempt was made to revive him, but to no avail.

This is the second tragedy this season in which the victim's foot was caught by a rock. Such a senseless death can be avoided. It is imperative that when you swim a rapid, KEEP YOUR FEET HIGH! Many of our rivers have ledges and shelves that are natural traps for low feet. It is a natural tendency to try to stand up and walk to shore, but don't; stay on your back, feet downstream, and swim to shore. There are several safety factors which should be remembered while on a river:

1. If you capsize and must swim a rapid, keep your feet high and swim on your back.
2. When in a party of boaters, remember the people first. Equipment will eventually come to rest. Be aware of your companions at all times.
3. Secure your life jacket tightly.
4. Whatever your situation is, DON'T PANIC! A cool head can save a life.

Good safety practices cannot be emphasized strongly enough. It is very easy to overlook safety procedures. The thought in everyone's mind is that this is an easy river..nothing can happen. This unfortunate accident disproves that. It is not just the novice who is killed. Sadly enough, it can happen to anyone.
Palma Moye, Safety Chrmn.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES FOR RIVERS

After reading recently that several of our members tried to run a dam (not too successfully), I decided that a review of general safety rules is in order. Good judgement is a prerequisite to safety. Personal preparedness and awareness of river hazards are necessary for safe boating.

1. Be a competent swimmer.
2. Wear a life jacket.
3. Keep your craft under control. Do not run a rapid unless you are reasonably sure you can safely negotiate it or swim the entire rapid in event of capsize.
4. River Hazards to recognize:
 - a) High Water - Fast and powerful; rescue is often difficult.
 - b) Cold - Saps strength quickly; dress for the weather.
 - c) Obstacles - Brush, fallen trees, bridge pilings. The river flows through this; a body won't!
 - d) Weirs, Reversals and souse holes - the water drops over an obstacle, then rolls back on itself. Dams are among the most dangerous because there is usually not an open end to wash out of. Learn to recognize "keepers" and avoid them.
5. Never boat alone; keep the other members of your party in sight.
6. Don't boat beyond your ability; be aware of what each river is rated and do not exceed your skills.

Boating should be fun -- but THINK SAFETY!

Palma Moye, Safety Chairman

LETTERS NEEDED TO URGE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES ON NANTAHALA RIVER

Your letters are urgently needed NOW to support a task force which has recently organized to study development of recreational potentials on Swain County rivers, particularly the Nantahala.

At a recent meeting attended by a very impressive list of individuals and agencies, Payson Kennedy presented a statement of problems which need to be solved, including guarantee of water and sanitary facilities. Funds do exist for this purpose and it is up to river users from North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee to encourage a positive reaction from the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Nantahala Power Company, and the U.S. Forest Service, etc. to make the kinds of decisions which will benefit all interested parties.

In addition to your senators and congressmen, please also write or send copies to the TVA, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, attention: Thomas Ramke, R.B. Ferguson and Robert Shelton.

WRITE NOW!

WRITE NOW!

WRITE NOW!

WRITE NOW!

FRENCH BROAD KICK-OFF

Our friend Harry Lewis of the TVA has invited GCA paddlers to a kick-off program on the French Broad River in North Carolina on Saturday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. Similar invitations have been extended to all other area clubs and conservation groups. The purpose of this program is to highlight the efforts TVA will be making to clean up and improve many of our popular rivers with specified funds, and they wish to encourage the help and support and awareness of all of us who are interested in the welfare of our rivers.

A crew of clean-up men has been hired for the 13th, so this is not a clean-up cruise for paddlers. We have simply been invited to paddle the Class II 5-6 miles from the Redmon Dam (2 miles south of Marshall, N.C.) to Bernard.

The French Broad will be a new river experience for many GCA paddlers and you may not wish to pass up this opportunity.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE:

Prijon Special slalom, patched \$125.
Vector with spray skirt & air bags, \$125.
Must sell. Ken Zaloudek 262-7341.

FOR SALE:

Prijon Special Slalom, patched but good condition; excellent for beginners, \$125. Paddle, \$15.
Maureen Maloney 427-1049.

FOR SALE:

Seda Cobra C-2 Slalom, \$150.
Lettman Mark I-Hipp, \$65.00
Ray Stang, 252-8688 evenings.

FOR SALE: GREAT BUY!

Prijon kayak, paddle, spray skirt, float bags, \$215. Also available life jacket and helmet.
Other great buys include back pack, small frame, ideal for child or small adult, \$20; Jerry stoves (use Butane cartridges) \$4 each;
One pr. men's boots, Raichle, sz.9, used once or twice.
Palma Moye, 872-6398 nites, or 656-3214 (after Sept. 7).

WANT TO BUILD FOR SALE & EVALUATION:

20 boats, either C-1 or K-1 kits. Lay-ups would all be epoxy resin, some with all glass, others glass and nylon. All boats minimum strength equal to any factory model. Cost to GCA members only \$190 for evaluation. Kits consist of two halves seamed, plus seat, all cloth no mat, average wgt. 32 lbs.
Bill Masters, Fiberglass Technology P.O. Box 64, Liberty, S.C. 29657.
Bus. 803/843-9996; H: 803/843-9516.