

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

DECEMBER 1975

NEWSLETTER

VOL. IX NO. 11

January Newsletter Deadline:
DECEMBER 17. Send typed copy
(if possible) to:

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MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE: GCA dues for 1976 are due by January 31, 1976. They must be paid by this date to be included in the 1976 Directory. Dues are \$7.50 per family or \$9.50 if you want to be a member of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. Please send dues, along with any change of address or phone number to ATTN: Treasurer, P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

There are no scheduled trips for December, but there will probably be some of those who are hardy who never stop. The weather surely has been fantastic this fall for paddling, as some of the trip reports show.

Talking Rock Creek - October 18

Friday's rain left Talking Rock at 2.5, nearly off the gauge though still within its banks. Most of the class I's in the first 8 miles were washed out; just as well, as we needed the fast current to make up some lost time. Then came the payoff: Cave Bluff rapid in such water was a class III, the chute at 10 miles looked like Roller Coaster, and just downstream another always-tricky rapid was pushing class III. Bailing and merriment continued amidst big waves almost to mile 14. There the new Coosawattee reregulation reservoir, now operating more or less, added still water and slucky banks to an already unpleasant final 1.5 miles. Next time I promise we'll try the jeep road takeout at mile 14. (Then I can add the 3 good miles above 156. We need a good 17 mile run...)

The 5 tandems completing the run in 6 hours performed very creditably with no upsets. Michael Harper and Bert Trapeni, both novices, did well under the tutelage of Les Schaum and George Creel, respectively, and all this in keeled Grummans! Also ran: Yvonne and Earl Moore, Rod Hynson and Randy Espy, and Eleanor DeBacher and the Australian Bush. My highest praise, though, goes to a tandem crew which after only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, saw they couldn't handle it and cheerfully took out, arguing not a word with the trip leader. This was a welcome contrast after many recent occurrences of people exaggerating their own ability, spoiling trips, and risking lives. The essence of whitewater expertise is to recognize your own limitations and to act accordingly.

-- Gary DeBacher

Chattooga III - October 25

It's really amazing how the rainfall has been way above average this year, giving us plenty of water -- yet the weather has really cooperated for us on the trips. But this day on the Chattooga with the warm blue sky, the colorful autumn leaves, and the cold, clear water (1.98) -- couldn't have been much better.

Everything went smoothly too. The few wipeouts we had were very well taken care of. When we got to Bull Sluice most of us were satisfied with a respectful gaze from the rock. But what does Dale Bergen do after his second wipeout? He goes back and makes a nice run on his third attempt. Hoppy Eager also made an excellent run of the Sluice in his C-1.

C1: Hoppy Eager, Bill Crowley; C10: Allen Lewis, Doug Wilson, George Baughman, Tom Green, Paul Spitzer; C-20: Mr. and Mrs. John Brower, Dale and Gwen Bergen, Porter Blakemore and Mary Eager; K-1: John Hicks, Martha Hicks, Robin Oscar, Jeff Viehmeyer. --Allen Lewis

Flint - November 9

We paddled from Sprewell Bluff to PoBiddy Road in four hours. It remained cloudy all day, but the air was really warm -- it must have been about 68°. The rain in that last mile was nice too. The river was medium-low: at 8.24. This is enough water for a pleasant run, but Yellow Jacket Shoals is quite tame at this level -- a real disappointment for at least a couple of paddlers. Yellow Jacket Shoals doesn't get wild until the level approached 9 feet. Paddlers were: K-1: Earl Metzger; C-1: Bronwyn Fowlkes, Ken McAmis; C-10: Polly Heyward, Allen Lewis; C-20: Dick and Bobby Dumbleton, Kathy and Carlton Shuford, Suzie Helmlinger and her mother Mrs. Blanchard, Doug Merriman and Afton Helmlinger; C-40: Peter, Andy, Dina, and John Helmlinger.

-- Allen Lewis

Nantahala - November 1

The Nantahala trip scheduled for November 1 drew a record number of registrants - three, including the leader. After a few tries at getting up a trip on something, I learned of an impromptu trip on the Upper Chattahoochee. Ruth Skaggs and her friends Larry Pulaski, Michelle and Ron Hickman, and Maureen Maloney and Steve Cantrell, all in open boats let Ken McAmis and me barge in on their trip. The river was about two feet, but it was the clearest I've ever seen it. Every rock and speck of gold in the river sand was visible. The autumn color was fading, but the weather was so nice that we all paddled in shirt sleeves. The trip was leisurely and uneventful, and we all enjoyed the unusual November weather. -- Bronwyn Fowlkes

French Broad and Nolichucky - November 14, 15, 16

Michael Rainey, Vick Kilgore and myself left Atlanta late Thursday evening and arrived in North Carolina about 4½ hours later. We got up Friday to be greeted by 2 to 4" of snow with a chill factor of 10°. It was a little too cold to do any paddling, but we did scout some on Laurel Creek, which looked very impressive. Saturday morning there was a heat wave - it reached a high of 45°. Since it was too warm to go scouting we paddled down the French Broad. Sunday it got really warm with a high in the sixties. Michael, Steve Waldrep, Ted (name unknown, and I went to the Nolichucky. It was running about 2250 CFS, which is great. At this level it is not a river for open boats or beginners. The river runs through a gorge with mountain sides 800 to 1000 feet high. We would like to thank Steve Waldrep for leading us down this beautiful river.

-- Don Norton

Hudson - November 16

We scarred a great blue heron most of the way down the river by stages. Some folks collected beaver wood. Saw some icicles hanging off a rock, but it got warm enough to shed outer clothing. Large spiders hung by strands near the water; do they thus avoid freezing at night? The leaves were mostly down, revealing a lot of holly and mistletoe. How many canoeing days till Christmas? A lot like this one, I hope. Good high-normal water: lots of choices where to run but no rapids washed out. Barb Osgood tried solo paddling quite successfully, even after trading the Blue Hole back to Tom Dallinger for a keeled Alumacraft. Jim Barrows brought his new Mad River Malecite for an inaugural river run. Very nice boat, I tried it. Les Schaum also ran Co-1, while Stacey and Bileen Lange ran tandem. -- Gary DeBacher

Upper Chattahoochee - November 16

Gauge: 2.4 Air temp: 69°-54° F Water temp: 48° F

A trip on the Toccoa was scheduled, but a much better river was chosen as an alternate. Then when everyone cancelled out on that one too, I joined up with Roger Nott and Bill Hansen on an Upper Chattahoochee trip. We paddled from Georgia 115 to the confluence of Mossy Creek which is about 5½ miles below Duncan Bridge. We found two Class I rapids, two Class II rapids, one Class ½ rapid, and two large ripples below Duncan Bridge. The take-out road is Class IV in dry weather. -- Allen Lewis

River Exploration

More amazing than the number and quality of this year's new discoveries is their previous anonymity. How could Talking Rock and Amicalola have remained unknown to us for so long? Were earlier map readers fooled by the appellation "creek"? A quick finger count indicates 7 or 8 new runs. Some you'll want to run again and again, others like the Oconee above Lake Sinclair you may be content to see just once or twice, but there is not a dull river in the bunch. The many who have helped explore were listed in previous reports; my thanks to all of them. One other deserves our thanks, Steve Johnson, once a GCA member but now active primarily in Sierra Club. Back in 1970 Steve canoed almost every river and creek of consequence in Georgia. Steve had kept extensive notes and kindly lent them to us so that Anna Belle Clöse could copy them for our future use. Besides being an interesting chronicle of the sorrows and joys of this (usually) solitary explorer, they are a gold mine of information for all Georgia canoeists and were instrumental in our explorations of the Hudson and the Laurens Shoals section of the Oconee.

We're planning to explore a few more rivers in the next several months, so if you're an experienced paddler and fascinated by the unknown, get in touch. -- Gary DeBacher

Gauley Wildwater Race

The annual Gauley Wildwater Race was held Sunday, September 21. While most rivers were low, a release of 2500 cfs from Summerville Dam provided excellent water for the race. Four Class 4 rapids plus several smaller ones were encountered over the five mile race course. A small (only 36), but lively, field of paddlers participated. GCA paddlers took two first places: Dave Jones in the hotly contested K-1 Downriver class and Joe Stubbs in K-1 cruising.

-- Joe Stubbs

Notes from the Annual Picnic - October 4

The following officers were elected October 4 for the 1976 term:
 President - John Helmlinger
 Vice-President - Murray Johnson
 Secretary - Charlotte Little
 Treasurer - Carter Fowlkes
 Cruise Master - Don Norton
 Directors-at-Large:
 Hoppy Eager
 Herb Henry

Here are the results of the "races" held at the Picnic: (winners only)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>C-1</u>	<u>K-1</u>
Gunnel Jump	Earl Ferguson		
Hands Only	Herb Henry	Hoppy Eager	Jon Blackburn
Cross Side Paddle	Herb Henry	Bronwyn Fowlkes	Jeff Viehmeyer
	The Eagers		
Rolling		Bill Crowley	Johnny Stephenson
Backwards Race	Herb Henry	Hoppy Eager	Johnny Stephenson
One arm w/ paddle	Herb Henry	Bill Crowley	Jeff Viehmeyer
Bow Paddle	Earl Ferguson		
Upside down		Bill Crowley	Johnny Stephenson
Submarine (full of water)		Bill Crowley	Johnny Stephenson

Those of us who participated really had fun. Maybe next year the weather will be better and more "nuts" will join in the fun.

Results of the River Popularity Survey -- Allen Lewis

The following came from a poll of sixteen paddlers who responded to a questionnaire handed out at the Annual Banquet. Each had 10 votes to distribute to their four favorite rivers accordingly: 4,3,2,1.

<u>River</u>	<u>Votes*</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	
1. Nantahala	41 (13)	25.6	Note: An interesting point is that only the Nantahala, Chattooga III, & Upper Hooch received votes from a majority of paddlers, but almost <u>all</u> rivers received at least one vote.
2. Chattooga III	39 (12)	24.4	
3. Upper Chattahoochee	21 (9)	13.1	
4. Chattooga IV	11 (3)	6.9	
5. Cartecay	7 (4)	4.4	
6. Broad	7 (3)	4.4	
7. Etowah	6 (4)	3.8	
8. Obed/Emory	6 (3)	3.8	
9. Nacoochee Chattahoochee	4 (1)	2.5	
10. Hiwassee	3 (3)	1.9	
11. Chauga	3 (2)	1.9	
12. Little River (Ala.)	3 (2)	1.9	
13. Conasauga	2 (1)	1.2	
14. Flint	2 (1)	1.2	
15. Talking Rock Creek	2 (1)	1.2	
16. Tellico	2 (1)	1.2	
17. Toccoa	1 (1)	0.6	
	160	100.0	

*Number in parenthesis indicates number of paddlers voting on the river.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

For Sale:

Just breaking even: Brand new modified Hahn C-1, epoxy with ethafoam walls. Comes with Norse paddle and plenty of patching material. \$180. Mr. or Mrs. Loehle: 633-5639.

For Sale:

'73 Jeep CJ-5. 6 cyl. with canoe rack. Mark Warren. 262-1967 8:30 - 4:30.

For Sale:

16' ABS Royalex Indian Brand Canoe. Never again this cheap. \$250. Murray Johnson. 532-4567 or 536-0991(Gainesville).

For Sale:

Green Blue Hole canoe. \$350. G.G. Stephenson. 471-3235.

For Sale:

Like new Iliad kayak paddle, 83", right hand control, spoon blade, neoprene coated shaft, \$50. Joe Stubbs, 546-9261.

For Sale:

55" Clement Paddle, 10" blade. Fiberglassed shaft and blade tip. Used once. \$25. Herb Henry. Winterville, Ga. 742-8396.

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