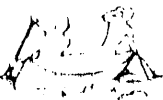


GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30357

March, 1980

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15, No. 3

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 15th. Submit material to Gary DeBacher, 1191 Conway Rd., Decatur, GA 30030. PLEASE TYPE BORDER TO BORDER (ZERO MARGINS) WITH INDENTED PARAGRAPHS AND NO VERTICAL SPACING BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS. This format makes it much easier for me to lay out the newsletter. Good, high contrast photos are also welcome, as well as pertinent conservation clippings from other publications. MAIL RETURNED FROM THE GCA? Maybe it's because the editor, stupid fellow that he is, has been putting the wrong ZIP code on the newsletter. The correct ZIP code is 30357. Sorry about that.

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF March, 7:30 PM IN FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

TRIPS FOR MARCH

March 1	Apalachee class I (II)	John Shumaker	874-6716 afternoons only
2	Nacoochee I-II	Jimmy Gunter	974-8681
8	K-1 Rolling Practice	See announcement below	
	Metro Chattahoochee, Powers Ferry to hwy 41. Maybe Sope Creek too.		
		John Shumaker	874-6716 afternoons only
	Chattooga III class III, IV	Allen Lewis	997-3051
	Ichetucknee River (FLA)	J. Gunter	974-8681
9	Okefenokee/ Suwannee Canal	J. Gunter	" " (Register early)
15	Flint-Yellowjacket Shoals class II-III	Jim Gurley	1-568-4354
16	Etowah class I-II	J. Gunter	974-8681
22	C-1 Rolling Practice	See announcement below	
	Metro Chattahoochee PF to hwy 41	John Shumaker	874-6716 afternoons only
	Oconaluftee class III	Roger Nott	1-536-6923
NC	Soco Creek (same day) cl. III	" "	" "
23	Raven Fork class III-IV	" "	" "
29	Mulberry Creek cl. I (II)	John Shumaker*	874-6716 afternoons only
	Lazer Creek class I-II	" "	" "

*If I can get free that Saturday, I may talk John into switching this trip onto Flat Shoals Creek. It is mostly flat, but has a half mile long class II shoal toward the end.- Ed.

THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING was well attended in spite of the editor's failing to include directions to the Atlanta Waterworks Lodge in the announcement. There were a lot of new faces there. An excellent Red Cross instructional film on whitewater basics was shown, as well as Hank Kanikaze Klausman's films of the Grand Canyon and Overflow Creek.

ROLLING PRACTICE FOR KAYAKS ONLY will take place from 8 to 10 AM on Saturday, March 8 at the Northside Family Branch YMCA, 3424 Roswell Rd. NW in Atlanta. Hank and David Klausman will be instructing. Hank asks that prospective registrants obtain a copy of Eric Evans' Kayaking at one of the area whitewater equipment stores. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER for this training session by calling John Shumaker at 874-6716, afternoons only. There will be a 15 boat limit, and unregistered boaters will not be admitted. A fee of \$2 will be charged to help cover the cost of the facility.

All kayaks should be cleaned inside and out. Tape a rubber ball or piece of Ethafoam on each end, and put tape over metal paddle tips to avoid marring pool walls. John Shumaker will relate other requirements when you pre-register.

C-1 ROLLING PRACTICE will take place from 8 to 10 AM on Saturday, March 22 at the Northside Family Branch YMCA, 3424 Roswell Rd. NW. No kayaks, and a 12 boat limit. There will be a charge of \$2. You may wish to read the sections on C-1 rolling in the Red Cross Canoeing Guide or in McNair's Basic River Canoeing. Boats must be clean inside and out, preferably with a piece of ethafoam or a rubber ball taped to each end. Tape paddle tips also. A mask or nose clips may be helpful. Register with Gary DeBacher, 288-1773.

K-1 trainees from the first rolling practice session reported to me that Hank and David Klausman did a really great job instructing, and that the session was very worthwhile. Only hope I can do as well with the C-1's. --Ed.

EDITOR APPEALS: Because of some extra things I will have to attend to, both at work and for my family, I will have less time than usual to work on the newsletter in the upcoming months. I really need some contributions from other GCA members to help keep up the quality and quantity of our publication. If you've been thinking of submitting something, now is the time to do it.

SOUTHEASTERN RACE RULES: Preliminary work has already started on the GCA sponsored Southeastern championship canoe and kayak races. John Shumaker has asked me, as boat inspector, to clarify the rules concerning championship and cruising classes in the downriver races.

Cruising boats are those clearly designed for general use rather than for racing. Some fairly fast boats may be quite legal for the cruising class, such as the Blue Hole MGA or the Keewaydin 16. To add interest to the race this year, we are hoping to have either manufacturer-sponsored medals or special awards for some of the very common ABS whitewater designs, such as the standard 16' Blue Hole. This will give paddlers of slower cruising boats a better chance for an award. All cruising class boats must meet the USCA/ACA standard for marathon cruising length to width ratio. Certain very fast cruisers closely resembling downriver racing designs may be put in the championship class at the discretion of the boat inspector. Examples would be the Grumman 18' FRP or the Jensen 18' cruiser. And in general, if you're very experienced, highly trained and out for blood, don't show up at boat inspection with an ultra-fast cruiser, or a sense of justice may force me to put you in the championship class.

Downriver championship boats may be no longer than 18' 6", and must meet the USCA/ACA rule for marathon championship boats with respect to ratio of length to width at the 4" waterline. Examples of boats which will run in this class include the Mad River TW Special, Sawyer Charger, Mad River Screamer, and Jensen WW.

In either class, decks may not exceed 30" in length. Outwales, whether original or added, can be no wider than 1.5 inches. Added flotation should not exceed 10 cubic feet, and should not be placed such that it tends to prevent water from entering the boat. I have tried in the past two years to interpret the flotation rules broadly for the cruising class so as to avoid making people do drastic last minute alterations on boats and flotation. I have been accepting standard center float blocks, even when they stick somewhat above the gunwales, as long as they're around 10 cubic feet and don't prevent water from slipping in next to the gunwale.

As for the open boat slalom race, in the past two years we have had two classes, one for high rocker boats of all lengths like the Perception HD or Mad River ME which are designed with slalom performance in mind, and one for low rocker canoes of all lengths which are designed for general use. Note that I said for all lengths. A 17 foot Grumman and a 14 foot Old Town would both run in the low rocker class. The 13 foot Perception HD and the 15'6" Mad River would both run in the high rocker class. In my own opinion, this has promoted the fairest competition. Some people would like to see us switch to the ACA rules, which are according to length but make no distinction as to the extent of rocker and consequent maneuverability. The result of such a change would be that owners of Blue Holes and the like would have little chance for a medal. All awards would tend to go to owners of the more specialized high rocker slalom boats. So as of this date, I am still planning to split the class according to rocker, ignoring length.

Unfortunately, the ACA open boat championship rules don't make much sense. They have a long and a short class for slalom, and a short, medium, and long class for downriver. This may make some sense at the Nationals, where all competitors expect to have to buy specialized racing boats to have a chance at winning. But at the Southeasterns, we try to have some classes where good paddlers in general purpose boats have a chance for an award. That's why we have never slavishly copied ACA rules, and have changed our own rules from time to time to meet changing conditions, such as the advent of high rocker open boats. Maybe in a few years all open boat paddlers will be using high rocker boats for whitewater. Then we'll change the rules again, perhaps splitting the slalom class by length like the ACA. The purpose behind any set of good rules for boat classification is to produce better competition. ---Gary DeBacher

GCA membership chairperson Nancy Wylie is currently reviewing the newsletter address list, removing deadbeats and culling out duplicate names and addresses. She is doing a very careful address check using the old list, addresses from checks for dues, and return addresses on the envelopes in which the dues arrived. If any two of these agree, that is assumed to be your correct address. Obviously this system is not perfect, so a few of you may start missing newsletters as of next month. When this happens, don't contact the editor! He is almost sure to lose or ignore your complaint. Just call or write Nancy Wylie (256-1172; 4245 Rickenbacker Way, Atl., GA 30342) and she will correct the problem.

GCA newsletter ad policy. I do not intend to solicit ads for the coming year's newsletters, since they have tended to be a lot of work to paste up and often push us into a higher postage bracket. If ads are submitted, the charge will probably be an exorbitant \$100 per year or \$15 per issue for a quarter page. We are grateful to our advertisers for placing ads with us during the past year, but the rates simply have to be set higher to justify the extra costs of printing and mailing. Ads for the GCA Guidebook are being capably handled by guidebook editor George Neill, and the rates will be more moderate, since there will be only one printing. Commercial advertisers may also buy typed ads in the want ad section of the newsletter. The rate depends on the ad, but a very brief listing would be only \$5. ---Ed.

Opposite Extremes: the Savannah and the upper Soque.

I began this paddling season on the first weekend in February with sub-freezing trips on one of Georgia's largest rivers, the Savannah, and on one of the smaller runnable mountain streams, the upper Soque. Roger Nott's trip report for the Soque is elsewhere in this issue. I can confirm that this is one of the best class I-II runs in north Georgia, even with a lot of tree portages and shallow water. It may not stay that way for too many more years, since along the left bank of the best section, there were 63 little wooden signs, evidently marking off cabin sites. The fate of the Savannah is even worse: in a few years, the last remaining section above the Fall Line will be inundated behind the Richard B. Russell Dam. Reece Turrentine will be writing about this section in a forthcoming issue of Brown's Guide. Although the stream gradient is not high, the enormous volume of water which flows when power is generated upstream causes some powerful waves in the shoals and makes paddling on the flat sections strictly optional. We took out at the bridge just upstream of Trotters Shoals, which was probably just as well, since it looked so long and wavy that I doubt my little 13' open boat could have made it without swamping. ---Gary DeBacher

Upper Soque - February 2, 1980: Considering that this trip was mistakenly billed as on "Sequoia Creek," I was wondering whether or not anyone would register. The no shows missed a really fine trip on this very beautiful, Class II stream northwest of Clarksville. Gary DeBacher, John Shumaker and I paddled open canoes from Oakey Mt. Church Rd. to the Hwy 197 bridge, 5 mi. north of Clarksville, the same section described in detail in the March, 1979 Newsletter. There had been a severe ice storm in the area two days earlier, so thus there were numerous downed trees spanning the river. A good gully-washer or two ought to clear all but 3 or 4. We all agreed the beauty of the sparkling, ice-laden trees more than compensated for the occasional inconvenience (and cold feet) caused by the fallen trees. Other highlights to this wilderness run: crystalline, 32 degree water; 4 deer which crossed the river immediately in front of us; 3 bomber-like wild turkeys flushed from roosts high overhead; hundreds of trout; more rapids per mile than any other Junior Intermediate stream listed in the GCA Guidebook; John's toe-warming fire at the lunch stop; no wind and a cloudless sky; no spills. Gary, whose holly filled Mad River looked more like a floating window box than a canoe, promised more GCA trips on the Soque this year. John wanted to return the next day. The Upper Soque should be runnable Feb. through May. The Hwy 115 gauge on the Chattahoochee read 2.30 this day, a low, but quite ample level; due to the trees and comparatively small rapids, the run would probably be safer and more enjoyable at lower levels (e.g. 2.0 to 3.0) which wouldn't wash out the smaller rapids. - Roger Nott -

FOR SALE: Open fiberglass canoe, 16', Mohawk, yellow, good condition, \$175. Mold for French Downriver C-2, epoxy with support braces, \$250. Kayaks, epoxy-poly-glass construction, experienced on many rivers, choice of several, \$125 each. Doug Woodward 921-5481(H) 447-2375(W).

Mid-Winter Poverty Sale of Used Equipment:

Mad River Explorer (ABS) with block, red, good condition. \$375.
 " " " " " " " " , needs work.....\$125.
 Dagger Canoe Paddles, all lengths, with Dynel socks. \$30 each
 Stearns "Deliverance" model PFD's, all sizes. \$22.50 each

--Steve Scarborough (404) 782-4921
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Pictures of rolling practice, by John Shumaker



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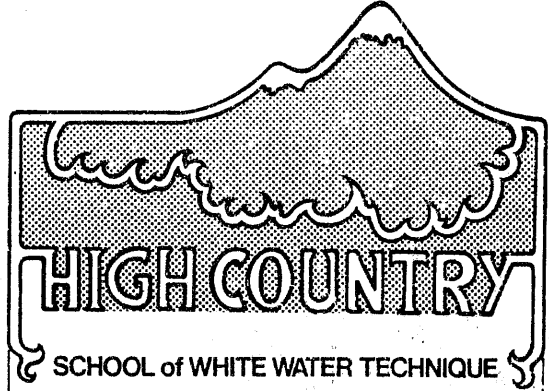
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Little known fact: sometimes Atlanta gets twice as much rain as the mountains. Notwithstanding my premature remarks on the first page, actual inspection of mountain streams on 1-19-80 indicates that they have not received 2" of rain and are not particularly high.