

# GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

March, 1984

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 16, No.2

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 15th. Submit material to Gary DeBacher, CRM, 1441 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30322. 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 conservation clippings.

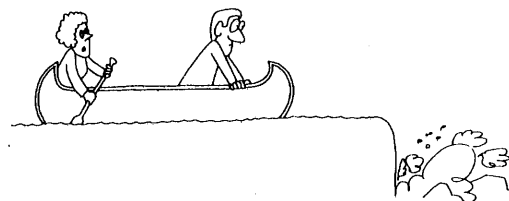
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NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM, AT THE GEORGIA CONSERVANCY HEADQUARTERS.

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## TRIP SCHEDULE:

- March 1 NOC Glacier Breaker slalom and wildwater races. Call NOC for details  
1 Etowah class I-II Jimmy Gunter 974-8681
- 7-8 St. Marys River 16 mile overnight. This river originates in the southern edge of Okefenokee, loops down into Florida, and then cuts back to enter the Atlantic just south of Cumberland Island. Trip leader is Hans Neuheuser, who is, as I understand it, the Georgia Conservancy's coastal director. Could be a real good trip. Call Hans at 912-355-4840 for more information.
- 7 Lazer Creek class I-II+ Gary DeBacher 634-4651  
8 Little River Canyon class III-IV Jack Weems 938-5263
- 14 Chattooga III or IV Dave Garrity O: 377-7850 H: 656-3968  
15 Chauga Gorge or lower Chauga " " "  
15 Chattooga II-III nonstop marathon--- we're preparing for the Helen to Atlanta race. If you intercept us at Sandy Ford, we may have sllowed down enough for you to tag along at a comfortable pace. Call Norm Reynolds (455-3498) or Peter Ilkon (373-7535).
- 15-16 Okefenokee trip, overnight, on water trail 5, the Suwanee canal.  
Lou Rosswaag 972-1351
- 21 Chattooga III class III-IV Jim Farr 634-2272  
22 French Broad, Hot Springs section, class III-IV Jerry Holladay  
h:688-1842 O: 688-8970
- 22 Cartecay class II-III Steve Hoberg 633-4609
- 28 Oconaluftee class II-III++ Roger Nott O: 1-532-5410  
29 Raven Fork class III-IV Roger Nott H: 1-536-6923  
28-29 Nantahala Spring Races call NOC for information.
- April 4 Flat Shoal Creek class II++ Doug Fortenberry 378-4159  
4-5 Probable Chattooga III/ lower Chauga weekend  
Don and Bettina George 1-787-9548



"Rapid! Rapid! Rapid! I wish you'd quit yelling 'rapid'. I'm paddling as fast as I can."

Mark Levine is cruismaster this year, and would sure appreciate volunteers who want to lead trips.

## PAY YOUR GCA DUES NOW!

Send \$10 to Hugh Stubbs-GCA, 1201 Timberland Dr., Marietta, GA 30067. (If you want an affiliate membership in the Georgia Wildlife Federation, include an additional \$3. Those who forwarded just \$2, please send the additional dollar to Hugh.)

PLEASE DON'T DELAY! Remember, the formal deadline is January 31, as usual.

THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING was well- attended, with lots of new faces and plenty of desserts. Dave Brown spoke to us about the Ocoee situation and asked us to help the Ocoee River Council twist TVA's political arm to either stop the flume project entirely or to reinstate plans for weekend recreational water releases without asinine million dollar compensation payments. Be sure to read the stuff on the Ocoee in this issue and get in on the drawing for a free Perception canoe or kayak by contributing to ORC and writing letters to politicians. Check out the details below.

## SAVE A RIVER--- WIN A BOAT

Here's how you can help save the Ocoee River for recreational paddling and also get in on a drawing for a Perception canoe or kayak. First, read the stuff in this issue to arm yourself with the facts. Second, send (at least) a \$5 contribution to the Ocoee River Council, Route 1, Ocoee, Tennessee 37361. Third, write a brief letter to one or more of the elected officials listed below. (Letters to your own congressman and senators would help also.) Finally, send copies of your contribution check and of each letter to Bill Masters, Perception Inc., Box 64, Liberty, SC 29657. For each letter you send, you will get one chance in a blind drawing for a Perception canoe or kayak of your choice. Do it now!

ADDRESSES ON NEXT PAGE---

Here are the priority people to write:

1. Senator Howard Baker, 4123 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
2. Senator Jim Sasser, 405 Russell Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
3. Representative Marilyn Lloyd Bouquard, 206 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.
4. Governor Lamar Alexander, State Capital Building, Nashville, Tennessee 37219

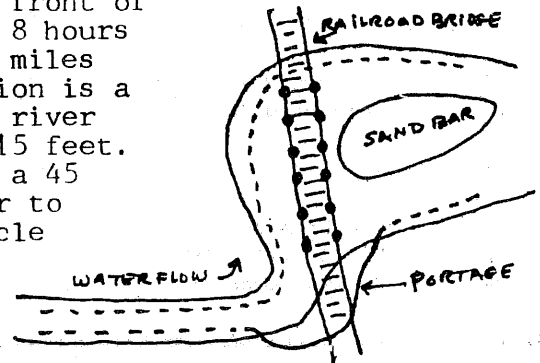
East Fork, Little River- Saturday, Feb. 14. A completely successful club trip on the East Fork is a rare event. Last time I tried, we ended up hiking the river bed, which on a 15 mile run is no joke!

This time there was plenty of water, a prevailing tail wind from the northeast, and no cause for complaint. We had just four open boats, Don and Bettina George, Roger Nott, Jim Farr and myself. After waiting a decent interval for some no-shows, we ran the 16 mile shuttle on the east rim road of Lookout Mountain and put in just below Lake Lohusage at around 10:30. Nearly all the action on the East Fork comes in the first 6 miles. For a predominantly class II run, it offers an extraordinarily large number of opportunities to lose your boat or yourself. In addition to several brush thickets with fast moving blind channels, there are a couple of marginal class II rapids about 4 miles down which have a history of breaking boats in two. Fortunately, everyone in our group ran these neatly.

Soon we were on the "flat" section, coasting over the long pools and occasional shoals. The East Fork had that characteristic blue-green color for which the Little River is justifiably admired, but was a little cloudy from the week's rains. We were surprised to find that the West Fork, a stream of similar size which enters about 8 miles down, was running full but crystal clear. For the next half mile the waters ran unmixed, cloudy on the east side and clear on the west. Roger and I speculated about whether there was any "right" water level at which one could run the West Fork, which is rockier and rather steep. No particular need, I argued. It's been done before, but the rapids are messy and the trail offers a more relaxed view of things.

Late in the run there was a little unofficial racing as we put unaccustomed muscles to the test. But nobody seemed too worn out when we reached the takeout. Maybe we'll do it again some year. ---Gary DeBacher

OGEECHEE RIVER EXPLORATION, Ga. 119 to Ga. 204: Three GCA canoes explored 24 miles of the lower Ogeechee River on an overnight trip Jan. 24-25. The weather was crisp and sunny with highs in the 60s and lows in the upper 20s. The water was low but swift in places and sandbar campsites were abundant at this level. Ducks, sandhill cranes and an occasional sleepy sunning turtle added interest to this pretty stretch of the Ogeechee. A hawk struck and carried off a fluttering bat only 20 or so feet in front of the lead canoe. Paddling time for this stretch was 8 hours and the group easily made 3 m.p.h., pitching camp 9 miles from the put-in. The only real hazard in this section is a railroad bridge (sketch at right) which crosses the river at an angle. The bridge posts are spaced every 10-15 feet. The water flows through the double sets of posts at a 45 degree angle. It would be hazardous at higher water to maneuver canoes loaded with gear through this obstacle course. I recommend scouting it first and possibly portaging it on the right. Paddlers on this trip were trip leader Russ Koester and Lee Verhine in a MGA Blue Hole Galt; Rich and Lori Cole in a Mad River Explorer, and Ron, Jean and Hugh Skelton in a Mad River TW Special.--Russ Koester



FOR SALE: Open canoe paddles: 62" Norse-\$35, 60" Perception-\$35, 60" Mohawk-\$5.  
All in good condition. Call Russ Koester at 233-4093.

Trip Report: Upper Hooch, 2/7/81. This was the weekend before all the rain. It is the first time in years I haven't used a bailer. More water gets in the boat in Okefenokee, from switching sides to keep the critters from biting the paddle. Only reason I want to put this in is to warn everyone that the tree that has been in the river for a couple years at the head of the first island at Buck Shoals has rolled over, and is partially blocking the channel. It also appears about to roll some more, which could be even more hazardous. If you get there and can see the tree, approach it with caution. If you can't see it I would strongly advise scouting below, especially if the water is up at all. Trip consisted of Bud Bland in OC1, Stan Landers and partner Butch, a pit bull with an excellent disposition, but a lousy brace, in OC2, and me. Big group!  
Norm Reynolds



# Ocoee river council

Route 1, • Ocoee, Tennessee 37361 • Phone (615) 338-8619

## TVA Project Threatens Ocoee River Whitewater

The Ocoee River in Polk County, Tennessee is one of the State's most unique natural endowments: a haven for whitewater recreation in the East and a major stimulus to the tourist industry of East Tennessee. No other river in the East offers the degree of challenge, safety, ease of access and consistent water-flow found on the Ocoee. Despite these credits, the Tennessee Valley Authority, according to current plans, will dry up the Ocoee with an exorbitant hydro project that will divert water around the riverbed through a 4.5 mile-long wooden flume.

### Why is the Ocoee a priceless recreational resource?

1. The Ocoee cannot be replaced. The Ocoee has consistent, class III to IV whitewater that runs even in late summer. The Ocoee is accessible to a broad spectrum of recreationists, from the beginner in a guided raft to the expert in kayak. In 1980 there were over 50,000 visits to the river and, since 1977, over 110,000 recreationalists have enjoyed the river's raw energy.
2. Site of world class whitewater racing competition. The high quality of Ocoee whitewater is exemplified by its selection for 6 races of national prominence in the last 4 years. The 1978 Wildwater Nationals were held on the Ocoee, and it has been mentioned as an appropriate site for the world Championships in whitewater slalom racing. The annual Spring Race is scheduled for April 5-6.
3. Continued whitewater recreation on the Ocoee will not result in power shortages. With a generating capacity of 17,000 to 19,000 kw out of a total system capacity of over 30,000,000 kw, Ocoee No. 2 Hydro Plant will represent less than .0006 of the TVA's total system capacity. Furthermore, in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Authority admits that the amount of hydro power produced at Ocoee No. 2 is insignificant to power rates (FEIS, pg. C-33, #13.). The power produced at Ocoee No. 2 is not critical to the power supply of the local area. The Copper Basin area is connected to the Appalachia grid by one 161 kv line, which ensures an adequate supply of power when Ocoee No. 2 is not operating. Ocoee No. 3 and Blue Ridge also provide power to the area.

### The Ocoee No. 2 Hydro Plant: Flume Line Folly?

To return Ocoee No. 2 to a generating capacity of 17,000 to 19,000 kw, the Authority is spending in excess of 26 million

dollars. That's \$1,526 per kw. By comparison, construction costs of Sequoyah, Watts Ear, and Bellefonte nuclear plants are \$864, \$874, and \$1,261 per kw of generating capacity. The money to build Ocoee No.2 comes from power revenues. Though the power benefits at Ocoee No. 2 are not sufficient to effect power rates, the exorbitant cost of the project will certainly give rates some measure of upward momentum.

The high cost of Ocoee No.2 results from the TVA's decision to rebuild the 4.5 mile-long wooden flume to divert water around the riverbed. Originally constructed in 1913, the flume line is being rebuilt from 4.5 million board feet of yellow pine, the inside facing of which is tongue and groove construction. TVA justified rebuilding the flume on the basis of estimated construction costs of \$14.7 million dollars (1979). Now cost estimates for project completion are in excess of \$26 million, and do not include cost escalations due to project delays.

At least part of the justification for replacing the flume line is related to the "major disadvantage" of removal of "this significant historic and engineering feature" ( FEIS, pg. C-33). That's not adequate justification for this high cost, high maintenance mode of diversion. Therefore, the justification for completing this project, as conceived, warrants review.

Status of Options to Save the Ocoee.

In 1980 TVA asked for a 5 million dollar appropriation from Congress to reimburse the Power Division for the cost of replacing the power lost during recreational releases. That appropriation was denied and Congress said that "users" should pay for reimbursement. The collection of user fees is impractical, since TVA wants \$358,000 for 82 days of recreation in 1983. By 1990, the price would be \$613,549.

We question the necessity for reimbursing the Authority for water releases (when water flows down the riverbed it does not go into the flume line and through the powerhouse). Since the lost power benefits are not sufficient to adversely effect power rates, no reservoirs are lowered at the expense of recreation, and the benefits to the economy and quality of life are high with continued recreation on the river, we ask that the project be declared "multiple purpose" and water be returned to the riverbed a minimum of 82 days per year, without reimbursement. As well, ORC feels that it is to the advantage of the TVA rate-payer to have the cost/benefit ratio of the project recalculated using current cost estimates, as part of a review of the justification for completing the project.

What You Can Do To Help Save the Ocoee.

- \*\*\*\*\*Take five minutes to write a brief letter to elected officials.
- \*\*\*\*\*Organize a phone tree of letter writers in your locality to
- \*\*\*\*\*direct letters to elected officials at key times. Simply state: that the Ocoee is a national recreational resource; that it cannot be replaced; and that whitewater recreation on the Ocoee is deserving of preservation by whatever legislative action is appropriate.

- If you wish to coordinate letters in your area, send your name, address and phone number to ORC. We'll keep you informed. Write:
1. Senator Howard Baker, 4123 Dirksen Senate Offc. Bldg., Wash, DC 20510
  2. Senator Jim Sasser, 405 Russell Bldg., Wash, DC 20510
  3. Rep. Marilyn Lloyd Bouquard, 208 Cannon House Offc. Bldg., Wash. DC 20515
  4. Gov. Lamar Alexander, State Capital Bldg., Nashville, Tenn. 37219

The Ocoee River Council is a non-profit corporation established to preserve the Ocoee for whitewater recreation. This work is supported by your contribution. Please send one.