

**HOW IN THE HECK WILL I MOUNT MY RACK, WHEN THERE AIN'T RAIN GUTTERS NO MORE?** Time was, all cars had rain gutters, those marvelous little rims along the roof to which one could attach Quick 'n Easy clamps. A couple of two by fours and one had a really strong rack for canoes and kayaks. I own one of the strongest Quick 'n Easy racks in the world, made with 2X4 aluminum crossbars by John Helmlinger, former GCA president and master fabricator of WizBang roof racks. At my request, John included struts connecting the fore and aft racks, greatly increasing stability and reducing wrenching forces on the rain gutters. These racks are so strong that I recently carried five 4'X10' sheets of wallboard plus a 4X8 sheet of waferboard home from the lumberyard on my little VW Dasher wagon. That's about 350 pounds, and while VW warns against carrying more than 150 lbs on the roof, I have cheerfully exceeded this for 13+ years and 190,000 miles with no rain gutter distortion.

Over the last 10 years, rain gutters have virtually disappeared from new cars, and they are even starting to disappear from vans and a few RVs. Designers, in their copycat wisdom, have decided that rain gutters don't look modern, and cost a quarter mile per gallon in gas mileage. Enlightened consumers would never have made that decision.

Now I am starting to look at new cars again, and the picture for adequate racks is bleak. I don't want a van or a jeep, they weigh too much and punch a big hole in the air. And most sedans and wagons have no rain gutters and no other adequate base on which to mount racks. Yakima and Thule are offering custom-fitted racks for most of these cars, which usually rely on padded "feet" and tension hold-downs. The adequacy of these racks is limited by the strength of the underlying sheet metal. They are adequate for two or three kayaks, but for a couple of 90 pound canoes they are really a joke. If you own a set of such racks, I would urge that you add fore-and-aft struts of moderate stiffness. This will greatly decrease the cumulative metal fatigue on that sheet metal.

There are still a few new cars available with rain gutters. The Volvos and the VW Fox have traditional rain gutters. The VW Golf and Jetta have a modified plastic gutter which provides a solid mounting surface. I noticed the other day that the Mazda 626 appears to have a rain gutter, although it looks narrow and non-standard. The Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable station wagons have long plastic channels to which you could probably attach custom racks. Most station wagon racks are a flimsy joke, but a few cars such as my VW Quantum, the forthcoming VW Passat, the Audi wagon and the Peugeot wagons have heavy metal racks which extend through the roof and down into the roof pillars for excellent strength. Although these are often not mounted as far forward as one would like, the Quantum carries our fat Tripper without complaint. Crossbars can be added easily to such racks. This is sure a small selection of cars for serious paddlers.

Although one hates to make permanent changes to a car's body, even if one intends never to sell it but to drive it into the ground as I do, one option would be to attach broad metal or laminate mounting pads to the car's roof, using epoxy and pop rivets, or getting a body man to do a little welding. One might also look for cars with a relatively strong corner or fold along the roof line, like the Camry wagon. One could wax the paint or lay down some Saran, and then lay up a long and wide pad over the corner line using alternating layers of fiberglass and Kevlar. These could be padded on the underside, and then either homemade or commercial racks could be attached to them. It would be necessary to use Yakima-style hold-downs, and I would want fore-and-aft struts plus extra crossways stiffness to reduce stress on the pads.

If any of you have comments about the adequacy of the Yakima-Thule solution to mounting heavy boats on gutterless cars, I would like to hear them. I would also like to hear from anyone who has succeeded or failed with homemade or custom racks on gutterless cars. I wish there were a way we could get the word to the designers. --Gary DeBacher

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TIME LIMIT



# The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

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**ADDRESS CHANGE? SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEM?** Write to GCA Membership Chairperson, P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357. The editor does not do these things. Deadline for the next newsletter is the 15th! Send material to Gary DeBacher, 614 N. Superior, Decatur, GA 30033. Please use a decent ribbon and type border-to-border (zero margins) with indented paragraphs, and don't skip a line between paragraphs. This saves valuable space. Photos, cartoons, artwork, and clippings of interest to paddlers are also welcome. Ads are free for members selling used paddling equipment only. NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM, at the Atlanta Jewish Community Center at 1745 Peachtree Rd NE, Atlanta, just north of Brookwood Station next to an Int. House of Pancakes. Members and interested persons are invited to attend. If you wish to submit any matters for discussion or vote, call President Allen Hedden, 252-6167, so he can plan time on the agenda. **EDDYLINE LATE?** If your Eddyline has not arrived by the 15th, call GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz, 266-3734, so he can mail a replacement copy. Please make full use of the extended trip list from the previous month before you hit the panic switch, but if the schedule runs out before you get the latest copy, you can call the editor Gary DeBacher, 634-4651, for interim info to tide you over. Or you can just plan to work on the yard....

|   |                             |                      |                       |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 13 Lower Conasauga                          | 1-2(3) easy intermediate    | Dave Richardson      | 431-9841              |
| Nantahala                                   | 2-3, int.                   | Bill Gay             | 482-8568              |
| Chattooga 4                                 | 3-5, expert                 | Allen Hedden         | 252-6167              |
| 14 Coopers Creek                            | 2+, technical, intermediate | Grant Luckhardt      | 373-2293              |
| (alternate: Upper Toccoa)                   |                             |                      |                       |
| Little River Canyon, 2 mile "upper" put in. |                             |                      |                       |
|   | 3-5, expert                 | Ted & Helen Sparks   | 205-236-4316          |
| 20 Nantahala                                | 2-3, int.                   | Susan McGilvary      | 242-9484              |
| Exploratory wildcard                        | 3-4, expert                 | Roger Nott           | *536-6923             |
| 21 Upper Toccoa                             | 1-2, trained beginner       | Walter Howard        | 422-3091              |
| Cartecay                                    | 2-3, intermediate           | Greg Hood            | 980-9703              |
| 27 Bushead Shoals                           | 1-2, trained beginner       | Jim Patsios          | W:477-9747            |
| 27-28 Nantahala                             | 2-3, intermediate           | Tom & Jean McCormick | 1-912-653-2012        |
| 28 Upper Tellico                            | 3-5, expert                 | Wayne & Susan Gentry | *654-2725             |
| Feb. 3 Broad                                | 1-2, trained beginner       | Jeff Engel           | *548-5015             |
| Cartecay                                    | 2-3, intermediate           | Haynes Johnson       | 971-1542              |
| 4 Chattooga 2                               | 1-2, trained beginner       | Julia Crosby         | 995-9434              |
| 10 Mild Card                                | 1-2, fairly easy            | Laura Jordan         | 1-803-836-8498        |
| Nantahala                                   | 2-3, intermediate           | Dave & Karla Bowman  | 923-0954              |
| 11 Etowah Tunnel of Love                    | PG-13 ++                    | John Bell            | W:422-1250 H:499-2168 |
| 17 Talking Rock                             | 1-2+, long. Easy interm.    | Gary DeBacher        | 634-4651              |
| Wild Card                                   | 2-3, intermediate           | Dewey Tate           | 355-5826              |
| Chattooga 3                                 | 3-4, advanced               | Jim Silavent         | 587-1172              |
| 18 Toccoa                                   | 1-2, trained beginner       | Allen Hedden         | 252-6167              |
| Upper Hooch                                 | 2-3, intermediate           | Gerard Aberson       | 971-5914              |
| 24 Cartecay                                 | 2-3, intermediate           | Hank Baudet          | 623-9230              |
| Tellico                                     | 3-4, advanced               | Scott Wilhelm        | 449-3835              |
| 25 Nantahala                                | 2-3, intermediate           | Bill Gay             | 482-8568              |

\* NOTE! You now must dial 1-404 for all area code 404 numbers outside your local area! The numbers marked by asterisks are outside the Atlanta metro area, so most GCA members will have to dial (mash) 1-404 to reach these numbers.

**MONDAY ROLLING PRACTICE** GCA/AWC rolling practice will be held 7-10 PM every Monday night at the Jesse Draper Boys Club Pool, 1462 Walker Avenue, College Park. There will be instruction in rolling K-1, C-1, C-2 and open canoe. So bring a clean boat, paddle, PFD, and \$4.00 admission to take advantage of this valuable club service. For information, call Allen Hedden at 573-6633 (days) or H:252-6167 (evenings).

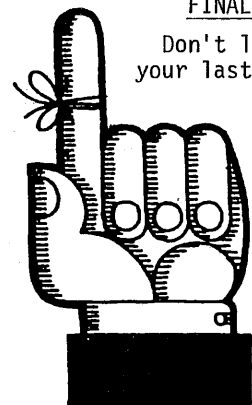
To volunteer to lead or coordinate trips, call Cruisemaster Barry Hahn at 252-9538

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Advance notice on the GCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING to occur sometime in February: there will be an EQUIPMENT RAFFLE to raise funds for Project RAFT, the international friendship project to bring Soviet and other rafting teams for competition next spring on the Nantahala and Ocoee rivers. Many of you heard Bunny Johns at last fall's general membership meeting when she described the first RAFT competition in the USSR, which was a great success. Raising financial support is crucial for supporting the overseas teams while they are in this area. The last time we held a raffle, it was also a great success, and lots of us bought some great outdoor gear at more-than-fair prices. Watch for further announcements and make a note not to miss the spring GCA meeting and raffle.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO WRITE to state legislators about Senate Bill 203, which affirms the right of paddlers to pass freely on Georgia rivers. See the revised article in this issue, which includes information on which representatives are serving metro Atlanta counties. Amongst the enclosed flyers is a sample letter which you can fill out and send, or you can write a letter adding your own thoughts on the issue. You can also contact House committee members by phone. **JUST DO IT!** This may be the only chance we have to get the legislature to give clear support to river rights. If this issue goes the wrong way, you and your paddling progeny may be real sorry later on. --Ed.

FINAL NOTICE!

Don't let this be  
your last "Eddy Line"



A Reminder —  
Dues are Due!

In March of 1989, the GCA river rights committee instigated an information gathering meeting with the three rafting companies now permitted to operate on the Chattooga river. This action was taken to avoid a possible confrontation which some thought may occur stemming from a Forest Service decision to allow the outfitters additional user days on the Chattooga and a major effort led by other parties to request an official appeal of this decision. The products that have evolved from this meeting are (a) the establishment of a group consisting of prominent members of rafting companies and several paddling organizations including the GCA to communicate our concerns to the Forest Service and to each other and (b) the conducting of "The Chattooga River: Wild and Scenic into the 21st Century", a symposium to be held at Clemson University on March 3-4, 1990. The expressed purpose of the symposium will be to study two primary questions, (1) What is the daily carrying capacity of the Chattooga to maintain the wilderness experience it now offers and, (2) How should this number be shared by all of the different interest groups who float the river.

At the December board meeting, an election was held to select GCA delegates to the Symposium. They are Mark Levine, Doug Klaucke, Allen Hedden and Brad Nichol. Alternates are Carol Mercer, Mary Trauner and Louise Klaucke. These people are your representatives. If you have an opinion regarding the two aforementioned questions, please contact one of them and let them know your feelings.

The Symposium is open to the public up to the seating capacity of the Clemson Auditorium and by preregistration only. A registration form is enclosed in the Eddyline. Preregistration will allow you access to two of the three sessions with an opportunity to hear expert speakers from all over the country. But hurry, registration is closing fast.

APALACHEE RIVER, June 25, 1989

It's dismal midwinter with the threat of hypothermia lurking just outside the thin skin of your boat. Here's a cautionary tale from a milder (but not kinder nor gentler) time.

Ah, lovely June. The previous week we had had a great time paddling the Upper Hooch. The weather was warm, the sun shone magnificently and the rhododendrons were in bloom. There were four of us plus a stout dog in two canoes. Should we repeat that experience on the Hooch or try something new? The urge to quest into the unknown proved too much for me so we headed towards the Apalachee, a little known river which meanders south between Atlanta and Athens.

Having a strong preference for uncrowded rivers, I chose the upper portion of the Apalachee because, according to Sehlinger and Otey, this section is navigable during high water but "seldom traveled by boaters". I hadn't yet learned that S & O's writing merits the same degree of scrutiny as a contract from a used car dealer.

Putting in at GA 11, the first part of the day went reasonably well. The river is narrow here but certainly deep enough following last spring's rains. The weather was balmy, and we played in some pools along the way. There were however, a large number of deadfalls which proved particularly annoying for the other boat carrying our canine companion.

Midafternoon we hit an unpleasant surprise: a strand of barbed wire strung across the river at gut level. This was the first of four such signs of the territorial imperative that we encountered. And the deadfalls continued. Then the river's velocity diminished as the Apalachee became several branches meandering slowly through a swamp. We had to scout the most likely looking channel while portaging over the unremitting deadfalls. The going grew increasingly abrasive as, clad in only swimsuits and shorts, we pulled the canoes through seas of sawgrass. And yes, Virginia, there are leeches in this part of the country. Needless to say, our progress slowed considerably.

I began to worry as the sun set (remember this was June and it stayed light until 9 P.M.) and we still had not reached the takeout at Treadwell Bridge Road. (That name is misleading: this isolated deadend dirt path hasn't seen a bridge for years, so we had nothing to use as a landmark in the dark). Spending the night on this buggy river, especially without any gear, would indeed be midsummer madness. Peering ahead in the gloom, we hoped that there was no more barbed wire across the stream. We paddled the last twenty minutes in pitch blackness, plowing through low hanging webs and branches. Seeing what appeared to be a clearing in the woods, the other canoe made for it, on the chance that it might lead to civilization. Luckily, there in the gloom was my truck. We had barely survived the canoe trip to hell. --- Jay Palmer

In case you missed last months hot RIVER RIGHTS article, here it is again with two changes. First, former committee member James Biasco has split to a new job in Washington D.C. Good luck Jim! Our new committee member is Susan Jones. Welcome Susan! Secondly, the representatives county(ies) have been added.

The Georgia Canoeing Association River Rights Committee, headed by Carol Mercer, would like to work to influence passage of Senate Bill 203 and any other related river bills. This bill reaffirms our right of passage on state rivers. Toward this end we are encouraging letters in support of this bill be sent to all members of the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as telephone calls. Write your own letter or feel free to use the enclosed form letter. On all letters put the committee members name, your name, address, county of residence, date and signature on the letter and mail it to the committee members. For phone calls, please state your name, county and that you are in favor of Senate Bill 203. See below for name, addresses and telephone numbers of committee members.

We would also like to work with not only the GCA, but others who are interested and are in favor of this bill. We are planning to organize a "telephone tree" to distribute information on the bill when the legislature is in session and as information becomes available. If any of you would like to work with us and be a part of the "telephone tree" please call me or the other committee members.

Chairperson: Carol Mercer (404) 373-6683  
Member: Susan Jones (404) 377-3223  
Member: Rhett Smith (404) 493-6472

Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources

(note: 1. All telephone area codes are 404.  
2. For city use: Atlanta, GA 30334.  
3. County in parenthesis is not part of address.)

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Marvin Adams (656-0254)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 601<br>(Upson)                       | Dean Alford (656-0314)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 611<br>(DeKalb, Rockdale)                         | Denny M. Dobbs (656-0325)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 612<br>(Newton)                                    |
| Frank I. Bailey, Jr. (656-0325)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 612<br>(Clayton)             | Fisher Barfoot (656-0325)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 612<br>(Montgomery, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler) | James M. Floyd (656-0116)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 409<br>(Liberty)                                   |
| Mike Barnett (656-0137)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 412<br>(Gwinnett)                    | Keith R. Breedlove (656-0137)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 412<br>(Gwinnett)                          | Bob Hanner (656-5069)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 401<br>(Calhoun, Clay, Lee, Terrell)                   |
| Floyd M. Buford, Jr. (656-0188)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 504<br>(Bibb)                | Don Cheeks (656-0188)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 504<br>(Richmond)                                  | Mary Jeanette Jamieson (656-0287)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 607<br>(Banks, Habersham, Stephens, White) |
| Terry L. Coleman (656-5103)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 133<br>(Dodge, Laurens, Telfair) | Grace W. Davis (656-6372)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 511<br>(Fulton)                                | Bobby Long (656-0254)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 601<br>(Decatur, Grady, Thomas)                        |
| Jimmy Lord (656-7149)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 228A<br>(Baldwin, Johnson, Washington) | Ronald Fennel (656-7859)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 512<br>(Glynn)                                  | John M. Lupton (656-3996)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 613<br>(Fulton)                                    |
| Robert L. Patten (656-5912)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 220A<br>(Lanier, Lowndes)        | Jim Tyson Griffin (656-0116)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 409<br>(Whitfield)                          | DuBose Porter (656-0314)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 611<br>(Laurens)                                    |
| Henry L. Reaves (656-5122)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 228<br>(Brooks, Echols, Lowndes)  | Paul W. Heard Jr. (656-0109)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 408<br>(Fayette)                            | Doug Teper (656-5108)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 614<br>(DeKalb)  |
|   |   | Bob Lane (656-0325)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 612<br>(Bulloch, Screven)                                |
|   |   | Tom Wilder (656-0137)<br>Legislative Office Bldg, Room 412<br>(Cobb)  |

For Sale: Perception Blazer kayak---Easy to paddle, medium volume boat good for larger paddler or beginner: \$325. Old Town Kennebec---16 foot tandem whitewater playboat: \$400. Some equipment available. Steve Cramer, 633-7707.

For Sale: K1, AQUATEK, BLAZER, 208 cm Perception paddle, skirt, float bags, and cockpit travel cover. Perfect starter boat. \$340.00 for all. Doug Wells, work: 447-2439 home: 995-0947.

PLEASE DON'T PUT ME THROUGH DEMILLE AGAIN DEPT. A hapless paddler, who went abroad to remain anon, writes that large trips can be unwieldy. One trip was of two minds, some to play forever, others to get on down to road. Several wanting off by 4 were on and on, even after leaving players to their holes. The 'Nator flitted to and fro, polled who would stay and who would go. The last was first, the first was last, as lead boat played and sweep boat passed. (My feet show it: Longfellows.) Anon coordinates himself, betimes, and says, why not impose order from above, with sign up lists segmented into 10s to make just-sized groups of like mind and purpose. Plus a statement of the lack of liability, responsibility, and common sense of trip coordinators. I think I saw a form like that once. The thought is sound. While still on solid ground, find out who wants off and when, put the Type A paddlers in one group, the Type Bs in another. Beavers and Otters, Tuna and Dolphins. Yuppies and Yippies. Apollonian and Dionysian. You get the idea. Divide and concur. The mind boggles at the thought. --Ed.