



The EDDY LINE

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Volume 34, No. 1

770-421-9729

January 1999

January GCA Meeting

Enjoy the tropics in front of a cozy winter fire at the January GCA meeting, Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Hills Community Center. Marvin Cole and Knox Worde will talk about and show slides from their October white water paddling trip to Costa Rica with NOC Adventure Travel. Join us for a winter get-away and lots of fun. Refreshments will be served; feel free to bring a snack to share.

To find the Garden Hills Community Center: From Peachtree Street, go east on East Wesley Road (8/10 mile south of the intersection of Peachtree and Roswell Road). Turn left on Rumson Road. Go about 100 yards to the first intersection and you will see the Community Center on the right.

See you there!!



What's Inside...

Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice will resume on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 beginning the first Monday in January, and running through the last Monday in March. Our host is the Warren Memorial Boys' and Girls' Club on Bern Street near Grant Park. Once again, the ACA carries our insurance for this event, and non-ACA members will be required to sign up for an ACA event membership at an additional cost of \$5.00 for the entire event (January thru March). This is in addition to the \$5.00 per session paid to defray pool rental expense.

PLEASE NOTE: No roll practice on King Day, January 18.

Revel Freeman is our Roll Practice Coordinator once again for the 1999 year. If you have questions about roll practice, or would like to volunteer to help, either with instruction or keeping track of money and waivers, call Revel at 404-261-8572. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

TO GET TO THE WARREN CLUB POOL: Go east on I-20 from downtown and exit at the Boulevard / Grant Park exit. Go right about 1/2 mile to Bern Street on the left (at a traffic light). Turn left and go about another 1/2 mile and you'll see a large brick building on the left at the corner of Bern and Marion Streets. Turn left. You are at the Warren Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear. Enter through the gate at the far end of the building to unload boats. Parking is available beside the building and in the lot across Marion Street.

BE SURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN. A hose is available at the door to rinse out river mud or cobwebs.

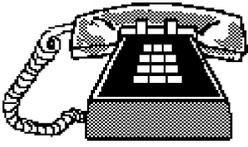


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HAPPY NEW YEAR — 1999!!!



Who Ya Gonna Call?

The following list is provided for your convenience:

For general information about the club - Call the club telephone

number, 770.421.9729, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

To volunteer to help with club activities - Call President David Martin at 404.351.8208 or contact the committee chairperson for your area of interest.

For information on payment of dues or membership status - Call Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

To sign up for a club trip - Call the trip coordinator at the number listed on the activity list.

To sign up to lead a club trip - Call Cruisemaster Jason Schnurr at 770.422.9962.

For change of address or for *Eddy Line* subscription

information - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

If you didn't receive your *Eddy Line* - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

For information on GCA clinics - Call the clinic coordinator listed on the clinic schedule, or call Training Director Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542.

For information on roll practice - Call Revel Freeman at 404.261.8572.

For information on placing want ads in *The Eddy Line* - Call Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318, or see "To place an ad" in the Want Ad section of *The Eddy Line*.

For information on commercial ads - Call Advertising Director Jim Kautz at 770.321.9826 or Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318.

For information on videos and books available from the GCA Library - Call GCA Librarian Tom Martin at 770.662.0058. ✂

Board of Directors Meetings

Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of even months (Feb., Apr., etc.). All members are encouraged to attend. The location is the Atlanta Jewish Community Center on Peachtree Street, beginning at 7:30 P.M. Ask at the front desk for the room location, as it varies from month to month. If you have an item for discussion, please call President David Martin at 404.351.8208 so he can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. ✂

GCA Executive Committee

President	David Martin
Vice President	Brannen Proctor
Secretary	Jim Harvey
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Tom Martin
Recreation Chair	Karla Bowman
Resource Development Chair	Debra Berry
River Protection Chair	Dan MacIntyre
Training Chair	Gina Johnson

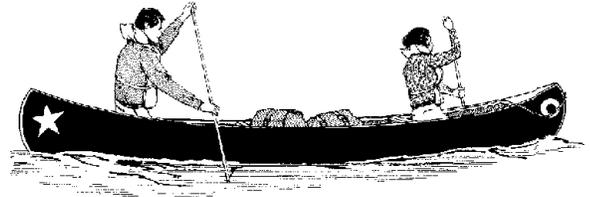
Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication in the next *Eddy Line* is the fifth of the month, i.e., for the January issue, material should be submitted no later than December fifth. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and want ads by the deadline or they MAY NOT be published in the next issue. To submit material via EMAIL, send to gacanoer@mindspring.com. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 5-1/4 or 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, or as a text file on a 3-1/2 inch high density MacIntosh formatted disk, and include a printed copy (Disks returned only if requested). To submit material via U.S. MAIL, send to: **Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, GA 30066**. All want ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Newsletter Editor **Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318** for questions. Thanks for your cooperation. ✂

The Eddy Line (USPS number pending), published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., publication address: 3060 Pharr Court North, #315, Atlanta, GA 30305. Members of the Georgia Canoeing Association subscribe to *The Eddy Line* (\$20.00 annually) through their dues. Nonmember subscriptions: \$30.00 annually, single copy \$3.00 (includes postage). Application to mail at periodicals-class postage rate is pending at Atlanta, GA. Copyright © 1999 by the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc. *The Eddy Line* is printed on paper with 20% recycled content. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Eddy Line*, c/o Georgia Canoeing Association, P.O.Box 7053, Atlanta, GA 30357. READERS: Send old and new addresses and an *Eddy Line* address label. Telephone 770.421.9729.

Views and opinions expressed in articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official views and policies of the club. Articles and trip reports are edited only for grammar, punctuation, spelling, vulgar or obscene language, and to fit in allocated space. No substantive changes are made in any material published herein. *Eddy Line* material published herein and not individually designated as copyrighted by other than the GCA may be copied, reprinted, republished or otherwise disseminated to other paddling organizations having a newsletter exchange agreement with GCA. Proper credit should be given.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



January

1	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Tom Martin	770.662.0058
2	Mountain Town Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Dave Chaney	770.973.7910
9	Upper Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Hank Baudet	706.492.4318
9	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Patrick Gourley	770.422.1689
16	Santa Fe (FL)	Smooth Water	Liz Carter	770.967.0318
			Sheila Small	770.772.7146
16	Chattahoochee Belton Bridge	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Gary Gaines	770.532.9588
17	Ichetucknee (FL)	Smooth Water	Liz Carter	770.967.0318
			Sheila Small	770.772.7146
17	South Sauty Creek (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.820.1127
18	Little River Canyon (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.820.1127
21	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun!!	Garden Hills Community Center —	Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
23	Middle Tellico	Class 2-3+ Intermediate	Warren Piper	770.934.6971
23	Leaders Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
24	Leaders Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
30	Talking Rock Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Alan Reaid	770.974.4581

February

4	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited		Location to be announced	
6	Leaders Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
6	Tallulah	Class 1-2(3) Trained Beginner +	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
7	Chattahoochee (Note 1)	Class 1 Easy Beginner	Tom Martin	770.662.0058
13	Town Creek (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.820.1127
13	Lower Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Griffin	770.498.3695
13	Leaders Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
14	S. Sauty Creek (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.820.1127
18	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun!!	Garden Hills Community Center —	Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
20	Etowah - Hightower Section	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
20	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Patrick Gourley	770.422.1689
20	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Warren Piper	770.934.6971
27	S. Sauty Creek (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
28	S. Sauty Creek (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269

Note 1: Afternoon trip. Buford Dam section.

Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

Training Trips are a combination of recreation and training designed to attract those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors, practicing what you learned in the clinic and expanding your skill level.

To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Call the Cruisemaster, Jason Schnurr, at 770.422.9962. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flat water to class 5 white water. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

Chattooga Trips are limited to 12 boats on ANY section on ANY trip, club trip or private (USFS regulation). Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

Roll Practice: Monday nights 7-9 P.M. January thru March at the Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club pool. Revel Freeman - 404.261.8572.

GCA Library Items Available

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Tom Martin at 770.662.0058 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling.

Any / all donations or loans to the library are welcome. (Please, no bootleg video copies.) Send them to:

Tom Martin
6339 Danbury Lane
Norcross, GA 30093

The following items are currently available:

Videos:

A Second Helping - A Review of Kayak Basics
Canoes by Whitesell
Cold, Wet & Alive
Faultline (Will Reeves)
First Descents (North Fork Payette)
Heads Up, River Rescue
Introduction to Canoeing
Kayak Handling - The Basic Strokes
Only Nolan (Canoe Technique)
Path of the Paddle: Quietwater

Path of the Paddle: Whitewater Plunge!
Prijon Wildplay Wildwasser Sport Retendo
Solo Playboating!
Take the Wild Ride
Tallulah Gorge (Rob Maxwell)
The C-1 Challenge
The Kayaker's Edge
The Open Canoe Roll (Bob Foote)
Ultimate Canoe (Niagara Gorge & Other Rivers - Whitesell)
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)
We Come to Play (Orosi) Whitesell
Whitewater Groove
Books:
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I and II
ACA Canoeing & Kayaking Instructors Guide
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida
Alabama Canoe Rides
AMC White Water Handbook
American Red DCross Canoeing & Kayaking
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed/Emory Watershed
Basic River Canoeing
Boundary Waters I&II
California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers

Canoe Racing
Canoeing Wild Rivers
Cumberland River Basic Canoe Trail Guide
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement
Idaho Whitewater
Kentucky Wild Rivers
Missouri Ozark Waterways
Northern Georgia Canoe Guide
Ohio County Maps & Recreational Guide
Paddle America (Guide to trips & outfitters)
Paddle to the Amazon - The World's Longest Canoe Trip
Path of the Paddle
Pole, paddle & Portage
River Rescue
River's End (Stories)
Song of the Paddle
Southeastern Whitewater
Tennessee Canoe Guide
The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North Georgia Mountains
The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande
They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?
White Water Tales of Terror
White Water Trips (British Columbia & Washington)
Wildwater West Virginia
Youghiogheny

Announcements

GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing about 216 subscribers.

Thanks to Mike Kaplan and our friends at Kaplan Communications (an Internet Access Provider) for providing software and server space for the GCA email list.

Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gacanoes@kapcom.com" you automatically reach all subscribers to the list with the message. Anyone can use the address — it's just another email address — and all subscribers will get the email. The list is an "open list", i.e., anyone can subscribe to it mechanically by sending an email to "majordomo@kapcom.com" and on the first line of the body of the message type:

subscribe gacanoes

You will receive a verification that you are subscribed and a welcome message with instructions on how to unsubscribe and various other commands available through the service. Be sure to save this information for future reference.

All GCA announcements and forwarded email from other sources concerning new river access issues, late



breaking news items of interest to the paddling community, etc., will be sent out via the GCA email list at gacanoes@kapcom.com. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe to the list using the above instructions. Also, don't be shy about using the list to send out or to request information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

By the way, should you change or lose your email ID, please take a minute to "unsubscribe" your old ID and/or to "subscribe" your new one. ✂

GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.mindspring.com/~gacanoes>. We are adding information and links of value to paddlers with each update. Send your ideas for updates to Susan Glinert Stevens: sglinert@aol.com. ✂

Weekday Paddlers

There has been good response to the request to develop a list of paddlers available to paddle during the week. We now have 70+ entries on the list, including members who are retired persons, those with variable or non-standard work schedules, those available to paddle weekdays when school is out (students and teachers), and even those who have a lot of vacation time to burn and

want to take vacation days for paddling. The list includes members who paddle smooth water as well as all classes of white water

If you would like to be included in the list, please call Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318 and leave your name, phone number, days of the week you are available to paddle, and class of water (flat, I thru V) that you are interested in paddling. You will then receive an up to date copy of the list. The list will be re-published quarterly (January, April, July, October). Updates are available by request through the GCA phone line. If you received your copy of the list more than 3 months ago, you should request an updated copy (the January update is out). There have been considerable changes to the list. To receive an up-to-date copy, call the GCA phone line at 770.421.9729 and leave your name and address with a request for the list. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

January 1 — 11:00 a.m. LCKC Polar Bear Swim and New Years Day Party

February 6 — Locust Fork Invitational Race, Cleveland, AL (205.442.1349)

February 26-27 — 16th Annual National Paddling Film Festival, University of Kentucky, Lexington (606.623.9067)

February 27-28 — NOC Glacier Breaker Race, Bryson City, NC (828.488.2176)

March 6-7 — Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Races, Garden City, AL (205.982.4946)

March 20 — Locust Fork Classic Race, Oneonta, AL (205.442.1349)

March 26-28 — La Louisiane Free Style Symposium, Mandeville, LA, John Steib (225.654.5224)

March 27-28 — NOC Spring Splash, NOC, Bryson City, NC (828.488.2176)

April 2-4 — Ocoee Double Header Races, Copper Hill, TN (706.546.1968)

April 16-18 — US Wild Water Team Trials, Kernville, CA (805.871.6790)

April 17-18 — Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championships, Nantahala River, NC (404.252.2321)

April 23-24 — Canoe Polo National Championships, Gainesville

April 24-25 — Kayak Polo National Championships, Oak Ridge, TN, Brad Carr (423.220.8753)

April 30 - May 2 — Cheat River Festival, Albright, WV (304.379.3141)

May 22-23 — Marathon National Team Trials, Gainesville
June 6 — Regional Junior Race - Georgia Games regional

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event, Gainesville

June 19 - 20 — USCKT Junior Team Trials, Gainesville

June 25 - 27 — Lake Lanier Sprint Challenge and Youth Championship of the Americas! Competitors in this event will receive an "Americas" ranking. This is an International Regatta with opportunities for club and community athletes.

July 10 — Junior Olympic Southeast Qualifier, NOC Bryson City, NC (828.488.2176)

July 10-12 — Open Canoe Slalom Nationals, Golden, CO, Kirk Havens (804.642.7386)

July 16-18 — Open Canoe Down River Nationals, Salida, CO, Kirk Havens (804.642.7386)

July 22 - 25 — Junior World Championships, Zagreb, Croatia

July 24 - 25 — Georgia Games State Championships, Augusta

August 3 - 7 — USCKT Sprint National Championships, Lake Placid, NY

October 1 - 3 — Lanier Paddlefest '99 and the Great Dock Race ✂

"What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"
- Henry David Thoreau.

3rd Annual Spring Paddling Adventure to West Virginia



It's that time of year again! Deposit money is being taken on a first come first served basis for this 3rd Annual trip. Only 16 eddies are being offered this year at the cost of \$235.00 per person. Please call us for availability or to get on a waiting list.

The trip is from March 27th through the April 4th. We plan to use Saturday, March 27th, to drive to "Base Camp" at Blackwater Falls State Park in central West Virginia. March 28th - April 3rd are available for paddling or local sight seeing (even superman can't paddle 7 days straight). There should be several rivers to choose from on any given day. Rivers will be selected based on conditions and consensus of opinion. We'll drive home on April 4th - Easter Sunday. For those who wish to paddle with Tom McCloud's group on Sunday the 4th, that can also be arranged.

Remember this trip is an ADVENTURE and part of the adventure is not knowing what rivers will be running the week we are up there. A list of possible rivers has been compiled for those of class II-III ability and above. Some of the rivers on our list can be run only during this peak spring runoff period. Some excel in their scenic beauty, while others offer more of a technical challenge. We also will offer a 'Day on the Cheat'. For an additional cost those paddlers who don't want to paddle the Cheat Canyon in their own boats will have the opportunity to raft down this gorgeous and thrilling canyon. Also, it looks like on one of the weekend days we will have the opportunity to catch the North Branch of the Potomac release with its class I, II and III rapids in close succession. The rapids are comprised of waves and rollers up to six feet high. This trip was one of the highlights of SPA two years ago.

Our accommodations are modern cabins equipped with cooking utensils, dishes and linens. The facilities are thoroughly modern throughout, with native wood paneled walls, open fireplaces, complete kitchens with modern appliances, baths with tile showers, and forced hot air electric heat. We stayed in the same cabins last year and they are GREAT home-away-from-home.

THE COST

The cost is \$235 per person. The price will include some dinners. Once a list of participants is generated we will have a meeting to set up committees to handle various logistics such as meal planning and river trips.

Please call to reserve your spot. We will require a

deposit of \$85 for a bed in the 4-person cabin, two bedroom cabin. The payment plan will be \$75 due Jan. 15th and \$75 due Feb. 15th. A sign-up sheet will be mailed to you upon receipt of deposit. Be sure to include your name and phone number so we can call to confirm your reservation. Also, an additional ACA event insurance fee of \$5.00 will be added for all participants who are not members of the ACA, forms will be mailed with sign-up sheets.

Last year this trip was a great success and participants from the 1st & 2nd Annual event have expressed interest in joining us again. Also, friends we made over the past two years from the Coastal Canoeists are planning to get their own cabin at Blackwater Falls State Park during this week to share in the paddling adventure. If this sounds like FUN to you, please give us a call or email.

Cathee Gallant & Bart Keith

545 E. Cherokee Ct.

Woodstock, GA 30188

770.926.2947

cathgall@mindspring.com



1998-1999 GCA Committee Roster

Position	Name
Officers:	
President	David S. Martin
Vice-President	Brannen Proctor
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Secretary	Jim Harvey
Training Committee:	
Training Chair	Gina Johnson
Canoe Coordinator	Haynes Johnson
Kayak Coordinator	Doug Pratt
Sea Kayak Coordinator	Don Bailey
Safety Coordinator	Bo Wise
Trip Coordinator Training	Pat Hagan
Roll Practice	Revel Freeman
Recreation Committee:	
Recreation Chair	Karla Bowman
Cruisemaster	Jason Schnurr
Exploration	Roger Nott
Flat Water	vacant
Gala/Extravaganza	Jim & Maggi Griffin
Youth Liaison	Frank & Austin Crane
Race Master	Wulf Kuehmstedt
Program/Social	Marvine Cole
Member Services Committee:	

Member Services Chair	Tom Martin
Historian	Bronwyn Fowlkes
Newsletter Editor	Allen Hedden
Storekeeper	Tanda Druding/Richard Green
Advertising	Jim Kautz
GCA Phone	Bill Convis
Directory	Allen Hedden
Librarian	Tom Martin
Eddy Line Mailing	Rachel Gates

Development Committee:	
Development Chair	Debra Berry
Membership Development	Debra Berry
Financial Development	David Martin
Public Relations	vacant
Web Master	Susan Stevens

River Protection Committee:	
River Protection Chair	Dan MacIntyre
Legal Advisors	Mike Terry
	Craig Pendergrast
	Julie Mayfield

Environment & Conservation	vacant
Forest Service Liaison	Stewart Stokes
ACA Liaison	Oreon Mann
RiverKeeper Liaison	Dave Chaney

Annual Instructors' Organizational Meeting

The GCA will be having the annual Instructors' Organizational Meeting at Perimeter REI on January 27 (Wednesday) at 7:30 PM. All ACA canoe and kayak instructors are invited. We will be setting the instruction schedule for 1999. I would also like to hear from any boaters who are interested in becoming certified instructors. RSVP Gina Johnson, 404.257.3160; gwminc@mindspring.com.

Attention GCA Members

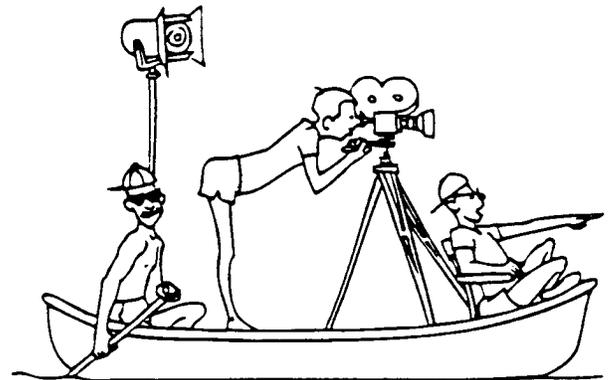
All paddlers that live in Gwinnett and Hall Counties — do you want to attend the GCA meetings but find that the trip to Atlanta is too far? We are scheduling a meeting in February 1999 to see if there is a desire to have a GCA auxiliary chapter in our area. Liz Carter, noted author and paddler, has agreed to present a program at that meeting. More information on the meeting will be in the February GCA newsletter. If you have any questions or comments, contact Butch Horn 770.967.0318.

Local Boy Makes Good

One of our own, Ed Schultz, was honored at the recent American Canoe Association National Conference. Ed was awarded the Joe Piña Award for the Outstanding Local Club Volunteer for 1998. As in the Nobels and the Pulitzers, these awards also take into consideration past achievements, and Ed's go back a long time.

Be sure to give Ed a hearty "Attaboy!" the next time you see him.

CONGRATULATIONS, ED!



National Paddling Film Festival

Bluegrass Wildwater Association, American Whitewater, the American Canoe Association & Dagger bring you the 16th Annual National Paddling Film Festival in Lexington, Kentucky, on February 26 & 27, 1999. All profits from the NPFF are donated to the AWA, ACA and other river conservation efforts.

Past Film Festival entries have covered paddling exploits in remote regions of the world including Chile, China, Russia, Pakistan, Nepal, Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Canada, and Africa. Rare film and video footage of these areas, plus many rivers of the United States, have had their world premier at the National Paddling Film Festival.

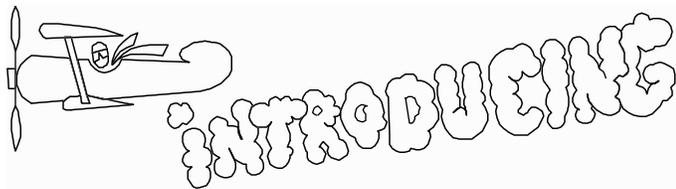
The festival features three types of competition — Motion Image Competition, Still Image Competition & Safety Poster Contest. With \$100 cash prizes offered in each of 3 age categories in the Safety Poster Competition event, it is open to elementary, secondary school, and adult participants. We hope that paddling clubs around the nation will use this opportunity as a vehicle to motivate both youth and adults to enjoy our waterways safely.

As in past NPFFs, the 1999 Festival will be held on the University of Kentucky campus in the theaters of the Health Science Learning Center. Friday evening, from

7:30-10 p.m., view the winning entries from 1998. Then on Saturday the 1999 NPF competition will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday evening is free. Saturday's competition is \$10. As always there will be a fantastic silent auction of generously donated paddling gear and an announcement of 1999 NPF winners at the party following the competition. The BWA hosts the NPF party at 8 p.m. (Party maps and details at the festival.)

For more Film Festival, accommodations and paddling information, please contact:

Bluegrass Wildwater Association
 PO Box 4231
 Lexington, KY 40544
 (606.623.9067)



Welcome New Members

The GCA would like to welcome the following new (and nearly new) members. New members are the life blood and the future of the club. Thank you for joining us!!

October

Brandon Berry	Atlanta GA
Betty Brannon & Charles Davis	Lawrenceville GA
William S. Chable	Waynesville NC
Allison B. Earls	Kennesaw GA
Keith Hendrix	Norcross GA
Rick & Gibb Herron	Peachtree City GA
Bob James	Canton GA
Kevin James	Duluth GA
Frank Andrew Jones	Athens GA
Dan & Stephanie Palmer	Dawsonville GA
Brenda Rashleigh	Athens GA
Lance & Pat Rodewald	Atlanta GA
Jonah Salomon	Chamblee GA
Vonne Strain	Atlanta GA
Brigitte Taylor	Marietta GA
Samuel L. Thomas, Jr. & Samuel L. Thomas, III	Dunwoody GA
John Zierer	Roswell GA

November

Wendy Blake	Atlanta GA
Reed & Beverly Branson	Jackson MS
John Brown	Atlanta GA

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Nova Scotia - Texas - Everglades - Georgia - North Carolina*

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Bob Donaghue	Snellville GA
Susan Doyle & David Goo	Atlanta GA
Scott F. Farrington	Dunwoody GA
Marshall & Emily Gaddis	Morrow GA
Gary Gaines	Gainesville GA
Belita Gordon	Athens GA
James & Susan Heerin	Atlanta GA
Glenn M. & Bradley Horner	Powder Springs GA
Gabriel D. Lambiase	Atlanta GA
Candy Lloyd	Atlanta GA
Robert & Rebecca Madden	Rome GA
Tim Manning	Buford GA
Robert & Ryan Morris	Lawrenceville GA
Tony Murphy	Alpharetta GA
Patrick Powers	Decatur GA
Sally Resnick	Washington DC
Matthew & Helene Schnell	Duluth GA
Hallie Sinor	Atlanta GA
Chad Spangler	Jasper GA
Edward I. Stamm, Jr.	Atlanta GA
Jan Storbeck	Peachtree City GA
Will Turnage	Marietta GA
Mike Tuttle	Atlanta GA
Belle Wilmer	Norcross GA
J.R. & Debbie Wyatt	Woodstock GA



State Removes Protection From Trout Streams

Hooch's Smith Island Section De-listed

The 4,000 miles of Georgia waters that are designated by law as "trout streams" are protected by various state regulations to ensure trout survival with clean, cold water. Higher levels of dissolved oxygen are necessary for aquatic life in these waterways that are the headwaters for most of Georgia's major rivers.

The greatest threats to trout streams are sedimentation and elevated water temperatures that result from land use practices that disturb natural conditions. Strict limits are set on the construction of impoundments, or dams, to prevent the elevation of stream temperature, and the vegetated buffer zone adjacent to trout waters is set at 100 feet, as opposed to warm water buffers which are only 25-feet.

Changes in Trout Stream Procedures

A law passed in the 1998 General Assembly completely changed the way trout streams are listed and de-listed in Georgia. The bill allows state officials to make changes to the list of waterways designated as trout streams administratively, rather than through the Georgia Legislature. This change, in effect, streamlines the process to de-list, or list, those streams receiving extra protection as trout waters. Yet there is no science-based, written policy that provides criteria to guide the state Department of Natural Resources in this process.

In July, when RiverKeeper became aware of a proposal to de-list 224 miles of trout streams, many questions



about the designation process were raised. The proposed de-listing included a main stem section of the Chattahoochee River above Lake Lanier from Highway 115 to Highway 255, known as the "Smith Island" section.

State fisheries biologists use a temperature criterion (22.2 degrees C) to decide whether or not streams can "support trout throughout the year".

RiverKeeper argued at public hearings and in comment letters that without historical data, higher current temperatures could be due to development in the buffer zone and construction of farm ponds, both of which serve to warm receiving waters. If this is the case, de-listing of trout waters only initiates a trend whereby waters that were once trout streams can be de-listed following abuses in the watershed and along riverbanks. RiverKeeper, Trout Unlimited, and other organizations believe that these waters, which are on the borderline, demand greater protection and restoration efforts.

Federal Approval Pending

Although Georgia's Board of Natural Resources voted to accept the recommendation to de-list 224 miles of trout streams from the Game and Fish Code, the Board also passed a resolution creating a trout stream advisory committee, at RiverKeeper's request, to guide the future listing and de-listing of trout streams. Further, any changes to the trout waters listed in the state's water quality regulations (separate from the Game and Fish Code) must be reviewed by the US EPA for final approval. According to EPA, it is conducting a stream-by-stream evaluation of the state's de-listed trout streams. RiverKeeper will continue to monitor this process. ✕

Not the Way It Ought to Be

by Gary DeBacher

Sunday on the Metro Hooch was not s'posed to be like this. Sunday is the one day they hold the water back. Sunday the water is usually real low, or kinda low at most. Sunday is the one day you can run the gates on the Devil's Racecourse and not tear your shoulders off getting back to the start. A sunny Sunday, even in March, may find lots of warm rocks exposed for resting. Fisherpersons will wade out to midstream to tempt their quarry.

But this year El Niño or whatever had led to a string of high water Sundays. On March 22, 1998 brown water covered all the rocks. Yeah, all of them. You could run



right over most of them, if you didn't mind the grabby holes. There were few real eddies, just enough soft spots to give a second chance at surfing spots.

So I left my racing C-boat pretensions in the basement, and brought my Corsica instead. I'd been recovering from a three week back spasm and a new knee problem, and so I was really out of shape. Though the temperature was near 60, I wore my dry top and my Stohlquist Max in case I had to roll or swim. But I didn't plan to risk either.

Ellie dropped me at Powers Island and shuttled the Outback down to the Hwy 41 take-out. While collecting my gear, I saw a tandem come down the race gate channel next to the island. Two guys were sitting rather than

kneeling, lightly dressed, wearing no life jackets, with a big cooler between them. They ought to be swimming soon, I thought. I hoped they would get to shore before I had to wear my arms out helping them.

A racer in a Fanatic C-boat started down before me, but before reaching the first rapid, he turned around and humped back upstream. Too high for decent practice. I avoided the nastier holes toward the top of the rapid, but hit some smaller play spots on the way down. Then I paddled down the flats toward the second rapid, where the slalom gates were swinging in the breeze above the brown flood.

I saw three boats working through the ledges toward the right side of the second rapid: a kayak, a green solo open, and a red tandem which I recognized as a Mad River Synergy, because we have a Synergy too. I saw the Synners turn the tandem across the current, perhaps to side-surf? They flipped upstream. The Synergy didn't stick in the hole; it started right on down over the flooded ledges.

I quickened my pace because I thought they were going to have problems getting everyone and everything to the right bank. I caught them halfway down the rapid. Synergy Sam, who looked familiar, was swimming at one end of the tandem. The kayak must have been helping the other tandem paddler to shore. I started pushing the Synergy toward the bank, and the guy in the green open, Mohawk Mike, came down to help. Mike didn't see that the Synergy was rolling through a hole, and he rolled into it too, sideways.

Now we had two opens over, and two paddlers swimming. The kayak came over and tried to push the Mohawk to shore. We had now reached the little flat section where the Park Rangers launch their patrol boat, but the eddy was gone, the water was moving us into the next series of ledges and holes, the ones above the islands and the Diving Rock pool. I was getting more concerned about Mike than I was about Synergy Sam. I told Sam he might need to let the Synergy go and get to shore.

Mike managed to half stand on a submerged rock, with us kayaks pushing against his boat from the downstream side. Mike made repeated attempts to get the water out of the Mohawk, but he was getting cold. I thought his speech was getting less clear. Every other try he would get more water back in the boat. The kayaker, whom we'll call Rhett, because frankly, my dear, he did give a damn, was holding the opposite gunwale, inviting Mike to climb in. I was shouting at Mike to quit with the bailing and get in the boat before he got too cold. Finally he climbed in.

Seeing that the Mohawk and Mike were going to get

to shore, I swept downstream after Sam and the Synergy. Sam I saw standing on the westernmost island. The Synergy was in the distance, down the pool, below diving rock, and still going.

I met Sam at the bottom end of the island, and I ferried him on the tail of my kayak to the west bank rest area. Because I knew we had no way to carry him (and his erstwhile partner) down to the tandem, I told him his best bet was to read the trail maps posted on the signs, and hike up the Akers Mill access parking lot. That's the way it ought to be; get the paddlers where you know they are safe, where you know you can find them, and then worry about equipment.

I turned downstream, and saw that Rhett was down in the next series of ledges, trying to herd the Synergy. If we had hoped to re-unite the paddlers, we needed to get the tandem to the right bank real soon, before it passed the sheer bluffs which would prevent the paddlers from walking to it. The river, however, insisted that the tandem go to the left bank. Rhett and I nudged it behind an island, and then we forced it to the bank next to a trail. A hiker helped by roping the Synergy's painter to a tree, and Rhett bailed it dry.

I pointed out to Rhett that we were just 400 yards or so up a good, level trail from the White Water Creek parking lot. We could take the tandem down there and leave it. Then we could paddle down to the Hwy 41 lot and get our vehicles, with which we could retrieve Synergy Sam and the erstwhile Bow Person from Akers Mill. That's what ought to happen.

Rhett wasn't convinced. He saw Mohawk Mike in the distance, on the east bank a ways above us, so he paddled up to check on him. Soon Mike came down to join me, and he said Rhett had paddled farther upstream and over to the west bank. Mike said Rhett wanted to see if the Synergy team were working down the west bank to find their boat.

That wouldn't make much sense, I said. The west bank trail doesn't follow the shore because of steep rock formations. Instead the trail climbs the ridge, and it's a long way up, around, and down to cover just 200 yards of shoreline. I said to Mike that they ought to have hiked up to the Akers Mill lot. Yeah, Mike said, that's what he told Sam the last time they talked.

While we waited next to the empty boat, under the quizzical stares of passing hikers, who should paddle down but the two guys with the cooler, still sitting, still with no life jackets, still overconfident. They must have stopped somewhere for a couple of beers. They asked if they could help us get the boat down somewhere! No, thanks, we've got everything under control. I thought to

myself that if there were any justice, they were the ones who ought to be chasing their boat.

The afternoon was wearing on, although we still had perhaps three hours of daylight. Mike and I were still feeling pretty doubtful and confused about how things would eventually be worked out, although we still had our ideas about what ought to happen. I said look, Mike, is there any way we would be worse off if I were to paddle the Synergy down to the White Water parking lot? It would be easy to hike back to where our own boats were. Mike agreed, and I started getting into the Synergy. But about then we noticed someone who might be Rhett, far away upstream near the bluffs, talking to someone on the west bank.

When Rhett got down to us, he said that the Synergy team had gone as far down the west bank as they could without belaying equipment. They were just out of sight around a point, wanting us to ferry their boat across to them. Yeah, right, I thought. Across a wide river, in a strong current, and in a brisk wind.

Rhett was feeling more decisive. He had us rig one painter from the Synergy through the tail grab loop of his kayak, and then forward so he could fix it to a quick-release arrangement around his waist. He would tow the tandem up the east bank and then across. I thought, this isn't how we ought to be doing this. I doubted that he could tow the boat across under these conditions. But I thought that since the tandem crew was waiting over there, instead of up at the Akers Mill lot where they ought to be, we might as well see if Rhett could do it.

Before I got back into my kayak, Rhett had towed the Synergy a hundred yards. It wasn't easy to catch up to him. Several times as he fought upstream, Rhett had to tow the tandem out of the easier current near the bank to get around downed trees. I really was impressed by how he dragged that thing upstream. I'm not certain that I could have done it.

Rhett started to ferry across the river when he neared the base of Thornton Shoals. I had only just caught up to him. Because there was no way I could help him tow, I stayed behind the stern in case I had to play tugboat. I saw some people well upstream on the west bank looking in our direction, and I thought, oh no, if that's them, there's no way we're going to get up that high. But just then Rhett turned toward the west bank nearer to us, and I saw the real Synners waiting in a shoreline pocket. I finally got to help by nudging a little, and soon the Synergy and its team were reunited.

So everyone was back together, there were still waves and holes to surf before we reached Hwy 41, and a good time was had by all. Well, Synergy Sal did say that

she might revert to her solo open for the foreseeable future.

What can we learn from this? The river spirits love to upset our notions of what ought to happen. In a rescue situation, especially, with people and equipment scattered all up and down both banks, what "ought" to happen, the conservative textbook procedure or the optimum solution, usually doesn't happen. This makes us control freaks tense and apprehensive, but sometimes we need to just let the tension flow through us. Someone needs to write some absurd songs for such situations. (I suggest putting new words to "Dear Abby" by John Prine.)

Most of you have run the metro Hooch at all sorts of water levels, and are aware of the hazards. For the rest, especially those who think this river is always easy, some pointers. All the rock slabs in the rapids slant upstream. Even at a low water level, you can get a leg caught between those up-slanting slabs, and be forced under. At higher levels, especially those we have been seeing recently, the current can get very punishing, and will roll swimmers over a succession of rock slabs and holes. If that happens to you, keep your legs well up.

Watch for changes in the course of the current. At low to medium water, the main current down the second rapid runs straight down a clear channel. As the water gets higher, the main current veers left over a series of slab ledges, including one which produces one of the strongest holes. Probably you can bust through any hole on this river if your boat is straight up-and-downstream and you have enough momentum, but why take chances?

I always wear my life jacket on the metro Hooch, even in summer when the water is low. I especially get a kick out of seeing young couples in tandems, taking their little kids for a paddle on the Hooch, the kids done up in PFDs, but the parents paddling seated, not kneeling, with no life jackets. That's not the way it ought to be, but there I go again. ✂

Tragic River Fatality

by Ed Gertler

We regret to announce that the treacherous river has claimed yet another victim — this time the beloved companion and playmate of little girls everywhere, Barbie. On July 25, CCAers Natalie Griffith and Ed Gertler were doing a routine low-water trip on West Virginia's Shavers Fork of the Cheat River between Old Rte. 33 and Parsons, when upon rounding a bend, they came upon the lifeless, nude, traumatized body of Ms. Barbie (Does anyone know her last name? Is it "Doll"?) lodged against a huge root ball of a fallen tree.

The ACE "BLADES" Annual Giving Program Kicks Off.

Thank you, Georgia Canoeing Association Members!

by Doris Babcock

After having just launched its "Blades" annual campaign in early December, the Atlanta Center for Excellence has already received numerous responses from members of the GCA.

Thanks for your support and encouragement. Look for your name in the contributions listed in next month's newsletter and in the ACE newsletter. Until then, see you at the gates!



Race Watch

become to our ongoing efforts to win Olympic gold in the upcoming Quadrennium."

The two-day event will consist of one race each day, with a different slalom course each day. Course design will be by veteran course designer and Olympic Coach Mike Larimer of Kennesaw, Georgia. According to Coach Larimer, preparing this year's course provides an opportunity for him to assess his own skills as a coach. "In designing the course, I will try to set a series of problems

which the athlete will be required to solve by using the techniques he or she has learned. The athletes best able to solve the technical, physiological and psychological problems associated with the slalom course will have the best results. The course will help me to evaluate not only the problem-solving abilities of the athletes but my own effectiveness as a coach."

Organizers expect a number of Olympians to participate, including Adam Clawson, Eric Giddens, Lecky Haller, Cathy Hearn, David Hearn, Horace Holden, Joe Jacobi, and Scott Shipley, as well as veteran members of the US Slalom and Wild water Teams, such as Rebecca Bennett, Adam Boyd, David Hepp, Steve Isenberg, Barry Kennon, Matt Taylor, Steve Thomas and Dave Wallace.

Doris Babcock, Executive Director and Board Chair of ACE, sees the Ocoee Double Header as a great "point of entry" for individuals and families interested in white water boating on both the competitive and recreational levels. "The Ocoee Double Header not only brings elite level athletes back to the site of the 1996 Olympic competition, but it also gives the public a sense for the tremendous excitement of white water slalom and wild water racing."

As multi-year volunteer Race Director Beth Wilson explains, the 1999 Ocoee Double Header promises to be "internationally prominent" as well. "This year, in collaboration with the American Canoe Association, the 1999 Double Header will proudly feature two Pan-American Wild Water Races during the weekend. An international field of competitors will include wild water athletes from South, Central and North America in two days of races sanctioned by the International Canoe Federation. We are proud to host an international field of athletes at the site of the 1996 international Olympic competition."

The Double Header represents the collaborative efforts of a number of agencies, which have offered assistance to the AWC in presenting this event. The event's planning committee gratefully acknowledges the participation and assistance of the USDA Forest Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Park Bureau, and the

20th Anniversary Ocoee Double Header

The rapids of the Olympic White Water Course will thunder yet again for the 20th Annual Ocoee Double Header, on Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4, 1999, at the Ocoee White Water Center in Ducktown, Tennessee. Presented by the Atlanta Whitewater Club (AWC) and the Atlanta Center for Excellence (ACE), the Ocoee Double Header attracts national-level white water athletes who compete in this two-day series of slalom (includes downstream and upstream gates) and wild water (down river sprint) racing events.

White water racing has been taking place on the Ocoee River since 1977. According to AWC President and Volunteer Race Director Steve Vitale, "The Ocoee Double Header is our club's largest volunteer effort and one of the best opportunities our members have to contribute to the progression of the sport. The Ocoee White Water Center is truly a remarkable resource for the Southeastern US."

Coordinated by the AWC, the race will attract over 150 top level racers from across the United States, including 1992 and 1996 Olympians. For many of these athletes, the Double Header serves as an important "warm-up event" for the National US White Water Slalom Team and Wild Water Team Trials held annually in May.

Olympian Scott Shipley of Atlanta is always impressed with this event. According to Shipley, "Every year, the Ocoee Double Header stands as the one event that sets the pace for all of us that head into US Team Trials with hopes of garnering a spot for the World Cup Series. Last year's event was especially exciting, given the use of the 1996 Olympic Course and the unbelievably stiff competition. It just goes to demonstrate what an attraction and training tool the Olympic Course has

Polk County Chamber of Commerce.

FOR MORE INFORMATION call:

Steve Vitale, Race Master — 404.875.8279

stevevitale@mindspring.com

Beth Wilson, Race Director — 770.441.7543

askinc@mindspring.com

Cathy Rowan, Race Registrar — 706.546.1968 ✂

Project 2004 Advisory Team

In the last newsletter, you learned that Atlanta Center for Excellence (ACE) is launching a brand new athlete development program entitled "Project 2004." Doris Babcock proudly announces the following members of ACE's extended family who have agreed to serve on the "2004 Advisory Team" to offer advice and encouragement and to help ensure ACE's steady progress toward our goal of being a preeminent white water training resource in the country. We are grateful for the insights and expertise of all of these individuals and for their ongoing interest in the success of the ACE development program.

2004 Advisory Team

Bob Campbell

Wayne Dickert

Joellen Dickey

Don Giddens

Horace Holden, Sr.

Terry Kent

David Martin

Larry Mashburn

Mike Sloan

Scott Strausbaugh

Steve Vitale

Beth Wilson

Marshall Wilson ✂

River Access

Selected Readings on the Georgia Law of River Access

Compiled by Dan MacIntyre

In the 1860's the Georgia legislature undertook to "codify" the common law which had been developed by the courts and could be found only in the case reports. Georgia was the first state to do this. A codification commission was appointed and instructed by the legislature to perform this task without changing the common law which then existed.

It is lost in the sands of time whether the code commission

Mark Your Calendar — ACE Annual Membership Meeting

by Doris Babcock

Catch the excitement of one of the nation's up and coming development programs by nominating yourself to serve on the 1999 Board of Directors! ACE's by-laws have been undergoing major revisions since the January, 1998, Long Range Planning Meeting. The proposed by-laws include numerous opportunities for involvement. As Chair of ACE's Nominating Committee, I welcome your suggestions and nominations; I can be reached at 770.479.4161. Proposed by-laws revisions will be reviewed and approved at the meeting; proposed changes include provisions for the following positions.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Vice President (President-Elect)

Secretary

Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of Fund and Membership Development

Chairman of Publicity

Chairman of Programs

Chairman of Facilities

Chairman of Special Events

Chairman of Organizational Development/Risk Management

Athlete Representative

At-Large Representative (2)

Directions to East Roswell Park: From GA 400 North, Exit GA 400 to GA 140 East (Holcomb Bridge Road). Travel east to Fouts Road, turn right to dead end and turn right into East Roswell Park to the main building. ✂

misunderstood the common law which had been pronounced in Young v. Harrison (quoted in relevant part in last month's Eddy Line) or whether they consciously decided to change the law. In any case, the law which they "codified" was much different than the law pronounced by the Supreme Court which should have been recognized as the controlling precedent. The law as "codified" in 1863 remains the same today and is set out below.

- Dan MacIntyre.

Part III — Common Law "Codified"

44-8-2. Nonnavigable streams— Rights of adjoining land owners; principles when stream is boundary; accretions.

The beds of nonnavigable streams belong to the

owner of the adjacent land. If the stream is a dividing line between two parcels of land, each owner's boundary shall extend to the thread or center of the main current of the water. If the current changes gradually, the boundary line follows the current. If from any cause the stream takes a new channel, the original line, if identifiable, remains the boundary. Gradual accretions of land on either side accrue to the owner of that side.

44-8-3. Nonnavigable streams — Exclusive possession by owner; interference by legislature with lawful use of stream.

The owner of a nonnavigable stream is entitled to the same exclusive possession of the stream as he has of any other part of his land. The legislature has no power to compel or interfere with the owner's lawful use of the stream, for the benefit of those above or below him on the stream, except to restrain nuisances.

44-8-5. Rights of adjoining landowners in navigable streams.

(a) As used in this chapter, the term "navigable stream" means a stream which is capable of transporting boats loaded with freight in the regular course of trade either for the whole or a part of the year. The mere rafting

of timber or transporting of wood in small boats shall not make a stream navigable.

(b) The rights of the owner of land which are adjacent to navigable streams extend to the low-water mark in the bed of the stream. ✕

Please Report Access Problems

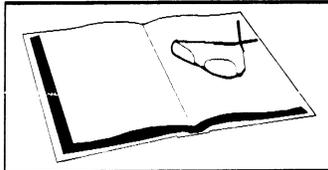
American Whitewater is compiling a list of rivers where boaters are having access problems. Examples include landowners who have posted no trespassing signs or strung barbed wire across rivers, or locked gates, or government agencies who refuse access to rivers. If you know of any local access problems, please report it to me by mailing me at 475 Sierra Vista, Carbondale, CO 81623. If you know the landowner or agency involved, we'll send them a letter as well. We use this information to highlight the problems we have accessing rivers and to open a dialogue to get them reopened. Thanks.

Ken Ransford, Board Member, American Whitewater, Tel 303.607.9990 (Denver Wed & Thurs), Tel 970.963.6800 (Carbondale rest of week), Fax 970.963.6700. ✕

Book Review

Whit Deschner's: Travels With A Kayak

by Frank Weider



When it comes to being a "wild and crazy guy" — Deschner, Deschner he's our man, if he can't do it no one can. What a funny book! Sure it helps to be a boater to appreciate the subject matter, but that's what makes this book so special. I skimmed through the book just after I got it from our beloved River Mom and found myself laughing out loud at the foot notes. This guy does not miss any opportunity to make a statement, including a note in the Library of Congress information that this book is to be filed under "...Questionable Tax Write-offs".

This book has 18 hilarious chapters, plus a preface, introduction and closing, which are not to be skipped for fear of missing some important fact — like the photographer was born several years after both his parents passed away. Some parts of the book are admittedly fiction, other parts originated with non-fiction facts the author made up. Whit is the consummate B.S. artist who proudly subscribes to the American proverb that the first liar never stands a chance.

Each of the chapters are four to twenty some pages

long and contain copious foot notes. (Read them!) You can read whatever strikes your fancy at any given time, since the chapters are basically funny short stories. I liked the whole book but I had two favorite chapters. The first was "Private Purtz's Account: The Real Truth." In this chapter are the secrets of Private Purtz's long lost diary of the Grand Canyon's first descent. The entries are unedited and the spelling was not changed. Purtz claims, "I rites this 2 put the record straight. I wuz on major Powell's trip down the Colorado but he seems 2 have 4got the fakt..." Included in the chapter is the lone surviving picture of Private Purtz — a sort of muddy full monty.

My other favorite chapter was "Rescue on the Low Seas." This is a short four page chapter in which Deschner relates his first experience with a sea kayaking group. Poor Whit found himself on a beach on Vancouver Island's west coast surrounded by people with seven logo outfits and had their boats "...adorned with more gadgetry than in a Dick Tracy cartoon..." and gear "...plastered with manufacturers' names so large that even passengers in jetliners passing overhead could discern the letters..."

They started telling stories, and as you might have guessed by now — the first liar never stands a chance. Whit proceeded to relate the story of how "Greystoke"

rescued a female who was found swimming without any clothes on about a mile from shore. "All she wore was a startled look on her face." She was rather confused and turning hypothermic. She began to panic and tried climbing into the kayaks. He described how Greystoke took her aboard, got her to shore and treated her for hypothermia. The reader knows the female is actually a deer but the Dick Tracy characters never find this out.

It was also interesting to read about Deschner's adventures with paddling legend Walt Blackadar and their trip to New Zealand, where he came to know that kiwi fruit is actually gooseberries on steroids. Insights on Walt's friend R.F. are likewise very humorous.

While I was happy to see our friend Greystoke featured in several of the chapters, it was also nice to find a piece of insider information on a piece of paper enclosed in my book. So make a note of this and mark your own personal copies of this great book accordingly: The upper two boaters in the color photo of the Marsyandi in Nepal are Dave Weber and Dan Dixon (a.k.a. "Greystoke") respectively. The person shown in the photo of the Landsborough in New Zealand is Pat Mueller. Oh yeah, the book also has some terrific photos. If you liked Monte Smith's stories about Beau Rockerville, you'll love this!

- From "Viking News", newsletter of the Viking Canoe Club of Louisville, Kentucky. ✂

Amicalola Creek

by Don Klein

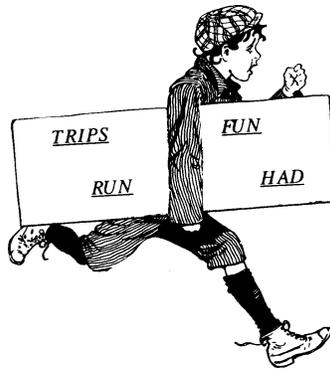
November 17, 1998. GCA members Russ Bayless, Neil Chadwick, and Don Klein took a Tuesday off work to paddle Amicalola Creek below Route 53. The level was somewhat disappointing at .55 but we were determined to paddle any white water we could find and this was the best thing going. We all were in kayaks so we didn't mind a little bump and grind along the way. It was by far the nicest day for paddling in a few weeks. It was clear with temperatures in the low 70s.

Of course it was a very interesting start with Edge of the World at the very beginning. The slot at top left was nearly impossible to hit so we all took the far left slide into the big eddy on river left. The rest of the line was the standard cross from left to right. If you've never done it before, it is really neat to go all the way to the bottom of the rapid and watch someone else come down. The combination of gradient and the crossing move makes it an interesting view.

Russ was our gopher for the day, so he led us down most of the unnamed drops, including a nice 6 foot boof on far right just below Edge of the World. He also found a great super-aerated hole that surprised all of us when it sucked you down and you totally disappeared. I love those underwater braces.

Everyone had good runs at Off The Wall except me. Every time I run this rapid I can't convince myself to get against the right wall on the small slide. So as usual I entered too far left, got spun around and ended up splatting the rock on the bottom left. One day I'll learn.

Russ had the move of the day when he paddled straight into the rock in the middle of the rapid with the tree blocking the right line. Luckily his bow got up on the



rock and squirted around the right side. Not a bad move.

As always the scenery was outstanding. We chased a blue heron down the river for almost a mile. It would perch and then take off when we got too close, then perch again. At least we were helping it move south. Good karma for the next trip. The paddle out was longer than we had remembered, but I guess you have to pay your dues.

Thanks to Julie Keller for helping with flow information. Thanks also to Allen Hedden for leading me down Section IV the

previous week. ✂

Halloween in the Swamp

by Brookie Gallagher

Halloween in the swamp seemed perfectly fitting. And it was, for the ten of us (Paul and Linda Smith, William and Deb Gatling, Rod and Susan Hardee and their two children, Sarah and Spencer, Sue Apple and Brookie Gallagher) who spent 3 days paddling through the Okefenokee.

We followed the Green Trail from Kingfisher Landing, in the northeast corner, to Stephen Foster State Park on the western edge of the swamp. It is here that the Suwannee River emerges from the swamp and begins its journey to the Gulf.

We had excellent weather as we paddled through open prairies, narrow thicket-enclosed channels and finally through forests of tall cypress. The tannin-stained, highly reflective black water lent an eerie and magical quality to the landscape.

The wildlife, while not abundant, enhanced our experience. We saw sand hill cranes, herons, ibises, many many spiders, deer, turtles and a couple of alligators.



The Bluff Lake platform. - Photo by Brookie Gallagher.

Several people had the excitement of a close up snake experience!

Autumn is not without flowers either, and while the cypress needles were falling and much of the plant life was dying back for winter, we were treated to splashes of color here and there as we came across those still in bloom.

The first night we spent on one of the five platforms that have been constructed throughout the swamp for just this purpose. Though it had the look of a tent city, we all



Sue Apple looks over the swamp near the Suwannee Canal. - Photo by Brookie Gallagher.

fit. We were glad that we didn't have to fit any more than we had! Ten is a good number for a group.

The second night we camped on Floyd's Island, where there's a cabin. Some slept inside and some pitched tents outside. Here we were able to have a campfire, and it being Halloween, we had a couple of masked creatures join us and trick-or-treat goody bags, thanks to Susan.

We cooked dinners as a group both nights and



Paddling on the Green Trail. - Photo by Brookie Gallagher.

traveled during the day at our own paces, experiencing the swamp in our own personal ways. On the Green Trail, the days are not too long or difficult and the scenery changes daily.

This is a great trip for kids and adults alike. ✕

Broad River

by Roger Thomas

On Friday the forecast for Sunday, November 8, was sunny. By Saturday, it was partly cloudy, and by Sunday morning regional Doppler radar on the web had the western half of north Georgia blanketed with rainfall-green moving east.

Of the seven on my list, one called to cancel, one had said when he signed on earlier not to be surprised if he didn't show up, and one did not show up (he later called to apologize and explain). The four who came to paddle were Carole and Chuck Creekmore (K-2), Sheila Small (OC-1), and Connie Venuso (OC-1). That made it one K-2 and three OC-1s.

It was raining lightly but stopped before we had finished shuttle setup and other pre-launch preparations. Everyone was amenable to the Broad River Outpost's \$1.00 parking fee that goes to a Broad River conservation group, so we parked there and used the BRO put-in.

The river's level was about 3.5 on the Carleton gauge which is below average but quite runnable. Carole and Chuck got us off to a great start with an "aerial" launch from the cross ties used to make a stepped platform that the Broad River Outpost has constructed as a put-in, and we were on our way. Sheila, the only other participant with prior experience on the Broad, graciously accepted and executed the role of sweep.

This section of the Broad (between GA 281 and GA 172) has four named sets of shoals that normally rate about class II; some published sources describe the ledge at Brown Shoals as II-III. On this day, I suppose they might all be considered to be easy IIs, just right for a beginner trip, although none of our paddlers were beginners.

The Broad River's proximity to Athens has enabled me to paddle this section, probably, more than 150 times since my first "exploratory" venture back in 1975 (all we knew in advance was to "look out for the six foot waterfall"). I wanted it to be resplendent in Fall colors for the newcomers, but that was not to be on this very gray day. I expressed regret at the lunch stop about that lack of display of the Broad's Fall glory, but Chuck put matters in perspective regarding the reality of recent dry conditions by indicating that he hoped we had many more such gray days. Yes.

About two years ago, the state acquired the land and established the "Broad River Natural Area," which includes about the first mile or more of the left bank beginning at the GA 281 bridge. Included in that purchase are some nice rock faces on river left about 3/4 mile down that are visible mainly in the winter and a fish trap of earlier times. [E. M. Coulter's "Old Petersburg and the Broad River Valley," an historian's view of the history of the Broad River, shows that regulation of navigability of the Broad in conjunction with fish traps was of recurring legislative concern... Petersburg was Georgia's third largest city at one time, after Savannah and Augusta, but it was a ghost town long before the waters of Lake Thurmond, formerly the Clark Hill Reservoir, covered it.]

Flat Shoals, the first named set on this section, is about 1.5 miles down and is a nice area in terms of scenery, ledges, and quickened water for about 200 yards. It has a "squirrely" drop near the top of the shoals on river left (novices sitting high on their canoe seats often flip here... occasionally providing "lurkers" below an opportunity to save lost beers from unsecured coolers while they are still cold... and, of course, we offer assistance, too). Ten yards below this drop is a nice chute to run and surf. Since it was nearing 1:00 PM, we took our lunch break at the bottom of Flat Shoals, which offers great views, especially upriver.

About a quarter mile below Flat Shoals is another long shoal that is unnamed as far as I know... except that some of us have long referred to it as "Blueberry Shoals," because its left bank is lined with blueberry bushes... among blueberries, you can't beat the taste of a wild one... best time is mid-June, but they don't bear significantly every year. The right bank of Blueberry Shoals is a steep rise with some nice rock faces.

At about mile 3, Scarborough Shoals appears. It is marked by a large bolder on river right, and an "island" boulder slightly left of midriver. Scarborough's best run is a slightly technical S (imagine that you begin at the bottom of the S and that the upriver end of the boulder defines the upper curve of the S... some have diminished this magnificent boulder and Scarborough Shoals by calling it "Lunch Stop Rock" — shame!).

At good water levels, the S run affords some challenging surfing and shoal climbing. I have long thought that when Scarborough is at a bold but sub-flood level, it seems comparable in difficulty to Horseshoe Rapid on the Chatahoochee. You can also run Scarborough at midriver to the right of the boulder for a straight run. Scarborough used to be the site of a ferry crossing, and some friends and I removed some submerged, potentially dangerous, iron bars there many years ago. We all opted for the S run.

Continuing down river, there is another unnamed shoals about 300 yards upriver from the gas pipelines that pass beneath the river bed (I've heard that they convey gas from Louisiana and Texas to New England). At these shoals, there also used to be a ferry crossing, an inn on a stagecoach line, and a federal whiskey still.... the inn was reputed to be a favored stopover.

Soon after the pipeline, Brown Shoals begins and is marked about 100 yards down by a small island that divides the river. To the right is the "six foot waterfall" which is more of a 60 degree slide...the trick here at the lower water we had that day is to hit the chute that "threads the needle" of a submerged rock crevice at the bottom of the slide to keep from banging into or onto the barely submerged rock there. What adds to the trick is that you cannot see it until you have reached the edge of the ledge.

The part most people run is the leftmost of three spill-over sites at a rock ledge that forms a near-perfect dam on that section of the river to the right of the island. When the water is higher, the middle spill-over is a vertical drop of some interest. The right spill-over is narrow and runnable, but it throws you into bushes overhanging from the bank and greets you with a submerged rock at the bottom. The left run past the island is more interesting to me with several optional runs of

smaller, slightly technical, and longer, curving drops and chutes, but only Sheila opted for the left of the island. Carole, Chuck, Connie, and I ran the ledge, and threaded the needle.

The island at Brown Shoals is also a nice stopping place. More than once I've had a small winter fire there (dousing and cleaning up as well as possible of course) or used my backpack stove to cook up some hot chocolate to be further smoothed out with some winter-soothing whiskey... but this was a GCA trip, and no alcohol allowed.

It was also there one very cool October day when a friend and I had the pleasure of watching what we inferred to be a mother and two juvenile otters... noteworthy because Frank Golley's "Mammals of Georgia's" (1962) distribution map for *Lutra canadensis* showed none as having been reported quite that far north in Georgia. Anyway, the mother was on a midriver rock eating something crunchy, a crayfish perhaps, while the two juveniles, who were closer to us, appeared to be playing in the water. The juveniles had spotted us early on, and we noted with great interest that when they dived and resurfaced as they did numerous times, they unfailingly resurfaced oriented in our direction.

As time passed, the juveniles wandered farther and farther upstream and away from the mother. Seemingly, as she finished eating and again directed her attention to them, she barked, and did they ever "come a running." The three started upriver, and we watched them until they were out of sight. That was about 10 years ago and was the first and last time I have seen otters on the Broad River.

But we all saw the Great Blue Heron. Connie noted how blue it was, though usually it appears only gray... it always seems to be there, by the way. It had led us down river since about Flat or Blueberry Shoals. As usual, some distance past Brown Shoals, it inevitably makes a long skyward, leftward arc and returns upriver. On this trip, a second Blue Heron became evident at about Brown Shoals, and that is not common in my experience on the Broad.

My theory is that the Blue Heron may be instinctively "leading" us away from a nesting site... it flies in short jaunts, time and again, landing and remaining in view but well beyond "reach" of the gigantic, slow moving, brightly colored "predators." The departure of the Heron usually means Compton Shoals is just ahead, and that is the last named shoal on this section of the Broad.

Compton Shoals is also marked by an island, this one mostly of rock but with a few trees. There is a narrow channel and class II drop on the left, but it is within an owner's property who has in the past taken an unpleasant

stance towards canoeists using it. The owner is rarely seen anymore, and I sneak a run occasionally for variety, but there is no big loss to miss it, as it is the lesser of the options at Compton Shoals and usually lacks enough water to make it as interesting as it can be.

River right has a small set of shoals with a ledge with some squirrely water followed by a 45 degree slide that is deeper and longer than the one at Brown Shoals. It, too, is a favored surfing spot. One can also paddle to the left of the slide ledge for an interesting alternative passage. Sheila chose that route while the rest of us took the slide.

Immediately, the GA 172 bridge comes into sight, and a quarter of a mile later you pass under it. There are also some shoals that quicken the pace before and after the bridge which are unnamed as far as I know, although there is no distinct break from Compton Shoals. The shoals at the bridge continue for a quarter to half mile below the bridge. The take-out in recent years is just beyond the end of the shoals where a small creek feeds into the river on the right.

We used to be able to take out closer to the bridge when Mr. Chambers, who was friendly to paddlers, was alive. One of his descendants fenced off the most-used take-out. The adjacent property where the succeeding take-out then became established was owned by a more accepting descendant, but she eventually sold it to an owner who decided to post it "No trespassing." Many local residents also used the earlier take-outs to enter the river for warm weather swimming and other social mingling.

During warm weather, especially on weekends, a local crowd tends to aggregate around the current take-out, leaving little space for shuttle parking. The Broad River Outpost (as I understand it) has leased rights to access there, and after some tension with local residents that involved some intervention by law enforcement over parking in the BRO's access space, things seem to have settled down the past three or four years. In cool weather, there is no problem finding parking space, but in warm weather, I recommend using BRO's shuttle (\$3 for you, your boat, and your gear).

Generally, the good old boys there are friendly enough, but like Mr. Bo Jangles, some of them "drinks a bit." About five years ago, I put some of my gear on what I thought was an abandoned lawn chair (seat-busted out, etc.) while I removed my canoe from the water. Things got tense with one man for awhile, because he was belligerent and intoxicated. My inclination is to be a peacemaker, but he was barely coherent and was not revealing why he was so upset.

After a few minutes, his brother intervened (apologetically) and persuaded him it was time to leave. It was

only when he also took the lawn chair (I had put my gear in my canoe well before that) that I was able to infer what might have triggered his being upset. There were some other ongoing dynamics beyond my control associated with that situation, but this narrative is too long as it is.

Back to November 8, we had plenty of parking space and one interaction with a local resident and occasional paddler with whom I am on friendly terms. He and his friend were launching a canoe at the take-out for some

fishing. Our party of five loaded our vehicles, bid one another adieu, and headed for home (after I took Connie and her gear back to the put-in).

Another great day on the Broad River! This was my first time to coordinate a trip for GCA, and I thank Carole, Chuck, Connie and Sheila for making it so easy and pleasant. Of course, I can't do another on the Broad again. I've used up all my stories and reminiscences. Don't bet on it! ✂

Scott Bristow Lost at Great Falls

Saturday morning, November 28th, at about 11:15 a.m., former GCA member Scott Bristow was lost at Great Falls, Maryland. Below is an account of what happened provided by David Mackintosh via the newsgroup rec.boats.paddle.

Scott, Julie Keller, and Joe Day had driven up from Atlanta, and after paddling the New River on Thanksgiving, met me at work on Friday. I showed them around the Model Basin, and we went to lunch at my favorite spot in Bethesda. After that, we drove to the park at Great Falls, Maryland, and carried our three kayaks, and Julie's open boat, down to the Sandy Beach put-in.

We all paddled and portaged up to the base of the Falls and got some good play time in at the wave at the base of Horseshoe. Scott, Joe, and I carried up to the top of Pummel, the first drop on the Maryland side, while Julie got in position to take some photos. While carrying, we discussed the lines through each of the drops. I believe I made three runs of Pummel, Scott two, and Joe one.

We then all got out to take another look at Z-Turn, and had decent runs. We got out of our boats again on the river left side above Horseshoe to scout this drop a second time, and all had good runs of the "Hairy Ferry" line from river left to right above Horseshoe. After surfing some more, we packed it up and drove out to my place in Germantown for dinner, boating videos, and sleep.

Saturday morning at 10 a.m. we met another friend (an experienced Falls-runner) in the parking lot. Our plan was for the four of us in kayaks to put in above the Falls and for Julie to again put in at Sandy Beach to paddle upstream and take some additional photos. We all ran the top drop (Pummel) again, and eddied out on river right above Z-Turn.

After making sure everyone remembered the line, we started down one at a time. The first three of us ran through the standard line and eddied out on river left above Horseshoe. We were all watching for Scott to come through Z-Turn, but instead saw him come backwards through Charlie's Hole. I've heard of this happening to

several boaters that were a bit too far right on the approach to Z-Turn.

The first turn, to the left, is made in the pillow on the upstream side of the large rock that splits Z-Turn from Charlie's. It is possible to make the turn but still get pushed to the right, backwards, through Charlie's. At the base of this drop the water funnels down through a slot that necks down to about 7' wide. The hole is deep and powerful, but tends to flush swimmers. I have run this slot intentionally at a slightly lower water level in the past.

Scott and his boat got surfed and I think he rolled up a couple of times, but was unable to push himself downstream. I saw that a couple of other boaters were already on the rocks next to the hole, and Joe was paddling towards the eddy just below. I didn't know if anyone was downstream to recover gear, so I quickly paddled through Horseshoe. Once there, I found several boaters surfing, so I hopped out and ran back up the rocks with my throw-ropes. In that time, Scott's boat, paddle, and helmet exited the hole and were retrieved, but there was no sign of him.

I threw the bag into the hole several times and felt it pulled down maybe 20 feet before it would flush downstream. Next we tied the rope to the back of another boater's PFD and lowered him into the pot-hole right next to Charlie's. About 5 feet underwater he could feel (with his feet) quite a bit of suction pulling towards the hole. We also tried probing with paddles everywhere in the area that we could reach without being in great danger ourselves. We could feel only current and rocks.

After about an hour, the rescue squad personnel directed us to stop our search there, so we continued searching downstream. It was very hard to leave the river this day, but there was nothing more we felt we could do.

After we were interviewed by the park and county police, Julie called Scott's parents in Georgia to give them the terrible news. We had all planned to meet other local RBPers for dinner at 6:30 this evening and it was too late to get the word out, so we did drive to the restaurant to again have to relate the news. From there, we went to the airport to pick up Scott's parents and take them to a local

hotel. Tomorrow morning we will continue to search.

We are all still somewhat in shock over this incident, and I don't know yet how this will affect me in the future. This day was like any other day on the river; we all felt we were within our limits, and we had taken normal precautions. There are so many "what ifs," but although I wish I could turn back the clock, I don't know what we could

have done differently. We will miss you, Scott.

At this writing (December 11), Scott's body still had not been located. A memorial service had been scheduled for Saturday, December 12, in the Atlanta area. Although Great Falls has been run since the mid-1970s, there have been no previous fatalities there among experienced white water boaters. ✂

Rapid Lessons

If one wants to see evidence of the existence of God, they need only spend a day or so in a forest, or on a river or lake. There one finds peace and beauty that cannot be copied by man or spontaneously appear by chance. These places can also test one's physical and mental abilities to whatever extreme one chooses.

Rivers are very good at this when the test instrument of choice is a canoe or kayak. They also help to define the line that separates courage from stupidity (and there is much debate as to where that line should actually be drawn). Rivers come in all varieties. The easiest have simple rapids with still pools at their base, while others are made almost entirely of crashing waves, extreme currents, and holes that will suck a paddler down and destroy a boat (no matter what it's made of). And of course, there is a large spectrum in between the lazy ones and the killers. Paddlers start with a river that matches their skill level and work up the spectrum to that point, in their opinion, where the "line is drawn." Those brothers and sisters that cross the line of course are the crazy ones.

Movement up the spectrum to a more complicated river usually involves someone that is already on that level who has talked you into trying the river. Hopefully, they also act as your guide and show you those places that tend to eat boats. The only thing that tempers your fear is the trust in the person that is guiding you. When you arrive at the first rapid, a knot develops inside your stomach from the loud train-like rumble that is coming from the churning water. You realize that it is much bigger and stronger than you originally thought, as it begins to tug on your boat. You have the same look on your

face that rabbits do when they are standing in the road and look up to see headlights coming their way. Your friend has the look of someone who has just played a world class joke on someone.

Suddenly you are committed. The tug on your boat evolves into an engulfing grip and the question of portage becomes academic. As you enter the wave, water crashes over the front and engulfs the boat and all that it carries. Your paddle is held above your head to keep the current from shoving it down your throat and hopefully your head stays above the churning water.

As fast as it starts, it's over. As you float in the eddy below the rapid, you feel an uncontrollable surge of adrenaline that becomes intoxicating. The unknown is now known and the fear is gone. Your guide turns around to see if you made it and sees you scampering up the bank and back up the river to do it again. The second time through, the rapid is no different from the first, with the exception of your outlook. Instead of fear and apprehension, there is confidence and anticipation. But there is always respect. If you get cocky and try to run the rapid the wrong way, it will drag you to the bottom and show you its rock collection before it turns you loose.

If you are lucky, the rapid has lots of brothers and sisters scattered all over the river, each with their own personality. A distance of only a few miles might take hours, because you realize that it is not the destination that is important, but the journey (someone important once said that I think). You also thank God for such a diverse, complex, and fun place to live....

by Robert Ables — after running the Nantahala successfully in a Wilderness Systems Secret. ✂

Lanier Paddlefest '98

by **Connie Hagler**

Lanier Paddlefest '98 (the first annual) was a tremendous success. There was something for everyone, from the uninitiated to the top in sprint team competition! The event featured some of the best paddle sport manufacturers and retailers in the industry, including Perception, Dagger, Mountain Lake Paddlesport, Question of Bal-

ance, Wildwood Outfitters, Southern Exposure Sea Kayaks, Mountain South, Outdoor Sports Marketing - Necky, Eddyline, Futura, Aire, Current Designs, Wave, Go with the Flow, Mainstream Products, Sea Kayak of Georgia, Paddlesports LLC, Splashdance and Woodsong Canoes.

Participants were able to demo equipment, take classes from sport greats such as Greg Barton and Ken Fink, and participate in a host of classes, including "Birding on Lake Lanier", "Fly Fishing from a Kayak", "Back

Country Cooking", "Basics of Navigation", and "How to choose a Paddle", see demos on Canoe Polowith Brad Carr and Pool Slalom by ACE, or watch a white water film festival. Training classes were offered by Sea Kayak of Georgia and the White Water Learning Center. The Elachee Nature and Science Center provided some trips and seminars on lake ecology. Many thanks go to LCKC members Ray Santa and Margaret Carter for putting together this fabulous event!

The USCKT offered an excellent coaching clinic featuring sessions on long term athlete development, basics of canoe / kayak technique and care and prevention of injuries. Presenters included Olympic double Gold medallist Greg Barton, Dr. Dave Jenkinson — USCKT Team Physician, Paul Podgorski — USCKT Development Coach, Tony Hall — Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club Head Coach and Jerzy Dziadkowiec — USCKT Elite Team Coach.

Some great sprint competition and our first ever marathon — plus portage competition were also offered. The Mexican National team brought a group of 60, including 38 athletes. Mexican Canoe Federation President Juan Pablo Bostelman enjoyed the event and promised to return next year. Athletes from Canada came from the Pointe Claire Canoe Club, Rideau Canoe Club and Cap de La Madeline. We had some great racing and a lot of fun!

On Friday evening, we hosted a roundtable discussion on the Future of Paddle Sport! Jim Mathis, Chairman of the Gainesville Hall '96 Foundation, was recognized for his part in bringing the Olympic Venue to Gainesville and his foresight in structuring for a lasting legacy.

The Lanier Paddlefest '99 promises to be bigger and better. Please join us on October 1-3, 1999. For more information, contact Connie Hagler, Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club, 770.287.7888. ✂

Edisto River, South Carolina

by Gary DeBacher

Well, here I am, after a prolonged and perhaps not wholly unappreciated silence. A lifetime member called one evening to ask if I was OK, as she hadn't read a word from me in some time. So here we go again.

We'd done almost no paddling below the Fall Line, just a few runs in Florida. So early in April of '97, after visiting relatives in Columbia, SC, a Fall Line city with urban slalom gates on rapids on the Saluda, and after collecting shells on the beach at Edisto Island, we drove back to Canadys, a hamlet on the Edisto River near the I-95 crossing. On the bank opposite Colleton State Park was Heritage River Outfitters. Not just a canoe livery, they sell sophisticated Bell free style and cruising canoes, and own some large tracts of wilderness-quality refuge on sections of the Edisto.

We rented an Old Town tandem, one of the polyethylene sandwich models I think; watched the obligatory customer safety film, signed the waivers, and threw our gear in their van. We were to be dropped about 10 miles upstream, while a honeymooning couple waiting in the van was going to do an overnight starting 21 miles up, near the next highway bridge.

The honeymooners said they planned to stay over in a well-equipped tree house provided by Heritage, assuming they could spot it from the river. They had just come from the Loxahatchee in Florida, which we had paddled in 1976, when Paul was a toddler and Sarah was still in the works. How time flies: Sarah would be graduating in a month.

Our put-in was in a side-pocket of tupelo and cypress swamp, in which Heritage keeps a channel just a bit cleared out to allow canoes to get through. Once launched, we paddled back and forth over the dark water, tannin-stained but clear enough to show glimpses of sand near the banks. The bolls of the trees were swollen to more than twice their trunk diameter, and near the cypress were the upward reaching "knees" which help their roots breathe. We picked our way through the trees into a more open area. An egret rose nearby. It was hard to perceive any current in the swamp pocket, but as we neared the Edisto we could see a healthy flow rushing by. With a few strokes we swept into the eastward current.

This entire section was largely swamp, where the river rushes through and sometimes swells and submerges the tupelo, cypress and willow. Except where the river pushes up against low sand prominences, it is very difficult to build along it, or even approach it in a jeep. Hence the wilderness quality, especially in the first half of our ten mile run. We did encounter an occasional power boat, usually just parked for fishing, but because of the meanders, bars, and snags, this was mainly canoe country.

We stopped at a left bank landing to stretch our legs and climb up the wooden steps to one of the Heritage tree houses. Though sans electricity and modern plumbing, it was otherwise well equipped for cooking and relaxing. The sleeping area was up in the loft above the cooking/dining area. There was a good view of the river through the under-canopy of the trees, although when foliage is out, the tree house is not that noticeable from the river.

Our host had said the official water level was five

feet, with a similar depth in the middle of most channels. At this level most of the white sandbars were covered. Frequent side-pockets of swamp invited us to turn out of the main current. The feathery pale green foliage of the cypress was especially beautiful. Cypress will grow in Atlanta suburbs, where once they clear the lower trees, they assume a lovely high conical shape, like lacy Martian Christmas trees. In the swamp they must fight harder to get above their neighbors, and their spreading, alternating limbs seem to climb a ladder to the sky.

We saw few flowers except for some fringe trees on the higher sandy banks. We saw no alligators (though they are around), no mammals, some turtles, a hawk or two, and three sizes of herons: big white common egrets, and both little green and little blue herons. Was that a cormorant landing above us, or an anhinga? I struggled with the coloration when I should have checked the beak: the cormorant's has a little hook at the end, while the anhinga (a.k.a. water turkey or snake bird) has a straight, sharp bill. (Cormorants, by the way, are sometimes seen on the Metro Chattahoochee.)

We had to be reasonably alert to avoid being pushed into the outside of bends. Occasionally current surged through narrow channels to short-circuit meanders. One of these had grown to become the main channel, creating the only semblance of a rapid we saw that day. Our rental boat was clean and in very good condition, but the seats were quite high for a C-boater, and I was glad to have my 61" Mitchell rather than the short Mohawk provided.

While this 17' Old Town had pretty good lines sitting on the truck, it oil-canned just enough on the water to make it hard to turn. I had similar problems with my Old Town Tripper and my old 18.5 Moore, until I used center foam flotation to force the hull bottom down where it was designed to be. Check for this problem on your tandem. If you fix it, you may be real glad you did.

This little annoyance aside, we were having the classical perfect day — cloudless skies, crisp air, even a tailwind for the first part of the trip. And when we finally

found a good sandbar, our egg salad was still cool. There was some traffic drone as the river meandered drunkenly toward, under, and away from I-95. Higher sand banks here and there allowed a few shabby homes to appear, but the only real blot was an enormous power plant on the right bank about a mile upstream from Colleton State Park and our take-out.

I understand that the Edisto is canoeable for many miles, the North Fork from above the Orangeburg Edisto Gardens, the South Fork from near Aiken. We later drove across near those points, and while the forks looked small up there, prominently marked state boat ramps indicated their navigability. Down toward Edisto Island, the river broadens amidst old rice plantations, and as it nears the ocean, spreads with tidal surges into salt marsh or runs along high banks forested with live oak, pines, dogwood, understory palmetto, and several kinds of large palm trees.

We had taken a pleasant, easy loop hike in Edisto Island State Park, going through the woods to views of salt marsh channels, finally reaching a very large shell mound left by generations of pre-Columbian tribes. One can rent canoes or kayaks there also, to paddle mazes of tidal channels while watching the tide tables, and the delayed filling and emptying of the marshes.

But the most admired and canoed sections of the Edisto are the 60 miles spanning I-95, from route 21 past Colleton and Givhans Ferry state parks and on down to Alt 17. If you want to try a back water stream, see some tupelo, some cypress, and maybe lounge on some sandbars, there are closer rivers in Georgia, but maybe none better than the Edisto. Try and catch it on a weekday in an "off" month like we did; there can be fairly heavy canoe traffic on weekends. You can do it with two cars and a road map, but I recommend our outfitter. Carolina Heritage can be reached by mail at General Delivery, Canadys, SC 29433 or by phone at 800.563.5053. I think you'll reach a live person more reliably if you call during the day on weekends. ✂

Without a Paddle

Stuff in the Smokies

by Gary DeBacher

For our thirtieth wedding anniversary, our daughter arranged two nights in a "cabin" in Townsend, Tennessee, on the Little River side of the Smokies. Considering that we've been about a quarter century in the Southeast, we've spent surprisingly little time in this heavily visited National Park. This was an opportunity. We brought the

Synergy along, although with water low in July, I doubted we'd use it.

As soon as we'd found the richly furnished "cabin," we drove back out to see the Little River and to hike to Laurel Falls. The trail head is close to the Elkmont Campground and the hike to the falls was easy. There weren't many other people that evening, but I could see how incredibly heavily used this area is. People had gotten so frantic or so stupid that they would clamber down off the trail, through streambeds, and back up the other side, just to try to get ahead or to save a little

distance as the crow flies.

Well, Laurel Falls were really nice, and we hiked about a mile beyond to some old growth forest to see some big trees. Then we drove back down to the Sinks and to other places of interest along the Little River. What a neat river, like the Tellico and nice and long. I've never run it but would sure like to.

The next day we drove in through Cade's Cove to the Abrams Creek trail head. Roger Nott has led trips and reported on both the upper section of Abrams Creek, which is often paralleled by the trail, and the lower section, which begins at the Abrams Creek campground on the western border of the park and runs on down to Hwy 129.

Abrams Creek is as much a river as Amicalola Creek, and while too low to run in July, it had a pretty good flow. We were coming in before the worst of the crowds. The trail was wide, easy, and somewhat ill-used. What we could see of the creek was pretty easy, but at one point the trail crossed a very narrow neck of land, and the map showed that the creek looped away for a mile at least before it returned to the trail just a few dozen yards away but a good deal lower. What was it like in that loop? The creek looped away again for a shorter distance before it dropped down to Abrams Falls, and I knew it must get harder in there.

Abrams Falls is a pretty big drop, and while people were plastered all over along the base, they don't stand out in my pictures. We swam in the pool. This was not a popular activity, because the water was fairly cold. I made the tricky climb up to the top of the falls, not so bad climbing up, but I could have used a spotter on the way down. I guess Roger et al must have brought their boats down this way. Gradient and rocks above the Falls indicated that the approach to the portage was not trivially easy.

Beyond the Falls, below the pool, the trail climbed away from the creek, and the map suggested that it would not return creek-side for awhile. So we hiked back out the easy trail. It was so easy that with a really light boat or a boat cart spotted at the Falls, you could paddle this section and carry the boat back to the lot without difficulty. It would lose you some good rapids and scenery, but save a real helluva shuttle, from Abrams Creek Campground at the usual take-out, up around through Townsend, and back in through Cade's Cove.

We investigated a screwball alternative for shuttle. From Cade's Cove a one way gravel road, Parsons Branch Road, runs SW fairly directly to Hwy 129. This road is gated off in bad weather months. We found it the most ridiculously over engineered and over maintained gravel

road we have ever seen. It is narrow, and you can pass only if the vehicle ahead consents to use a turnout, but it is fairly straight and quite smooth, so that in the Outback we could often exceed 25 mph without feeling we were pushing our luck. We saw occasional old growth trees in the dense forest along the road. It climbed up to a ridge top and a trail intersection. Then it dove down again, following an attractive creek with a few concrete fords, and eventually without drama it came to Hwy 129.

Highway 129 is very twisty in this section, and swarms of Mike Hailwood wannabes zoom around on quasi racing bikes. Just ignore them; if they lose control they won't hit you, they'll just fly over the guardrail, and like most youth, they are immortal. As it runs west, the road straightens out and comes down along Chilhowee Lake. In Chilhowee you find the road in to Abrams Creek, the take-out for the upper section and put-in for the lower section.

Now remember, Parsons Branch Road is strictly one way, so while I suspect it is faster to go that way, to get back to the put-in, you have to go north on the Foothills Parkway, east on Hwy 321, and back in the regular road to Cade's Cove. Call and ask the rangers if Parsons Branch is open if you plan to use it.

The Foothills Parkway runs along Chilhowee Mountain. This is more or less the same mountain ridge which is seen at the gateways of the Hiwassee and Ocoee, though it is the "same" mountain only in the sense that the Blue Ridge is the "same" ridge, notwithstanding being notched by rivers. The Foothills Parkway is outside the National Park, and the viewpoints and campgrounds are maintained by the USFS. Although the Parkway is high, scenic, easy to drive, and the best route around the west end of the Smokies, it always seems underused.

After another night in Townsend, we returned to Abrams Creek Campground to attack the trails along Abrams Creek from the lower end. It was annoying to find that because we were not campers, we could not drive up through or to the campground, but had to park in a field about half a mile downstream and walk in. National Park Service campgrounds are seldom as well planned as USFS campgrounds, and the sites in this one were a little jammed together, although there was an attractive tree canopy and Abrams Creek was right by.

We tramped on through and on up the Cane Creek Trail, which followed an old roadbed. Often the creek ran in the roadbed as well, and we rock-hopped creatively. We turned right at the Little Bottoms Trail, which was ill-graded in places, driving straight up the slopes. The trail whipped our little bottoms right up to the top of a high ridge, and by that time we were hot and tired. The sun was

building rain clouds and we saw we were going to get wet. Beyond the ridge the trail fell away steeply, but it was a long way down to the creek, which we could neither see nor hear. Should we go back? After some debate we decided we had to invest some more effort if we were really going to have something to show for it by the end of the day.

Many trails in the Smokies were designed for use by horses, or were at least cut wide enough for comfortable walking. This trail was quite narrow, rather crudely chopped out of soil on the steep slope, and in places where it had eroded, care was required to avoid a fall. Rain was threatening, and I wondered what it would be like to climb back out on this soil once it was wet. It seemed like a long way down, and of course we knew the trail might stay up on the slope, might never get down in sight of the stream.

But it did. We were at the bottom of a little forested gorge. Abrams Creek was larger here, having picked up several tributaries below the Falls. We walked upstream, finding spots here and there where we could step out on rocks and get a better view. The trail was rough in spots, but it gradually got easier as the land on our side of the stream, the north bank, tended to pull back and leave room for level ground under the forest.

I would estimate that the trail continued about a mile along this relatively straight section of the creek. The rapids here would not exceed class II. Their structure was not complex; in fact most of Abrams Creek showed the familiar grained structure we see throughout most of north Georgia and some of western Carolina, with repeated broken ledges angled about 40 degrees toward the northwest.

We came to a rather open and level area where there were many campsites. Signs warned that this was a bothersome bear area and recommended fasting and prayer. Soon after this point the trail started climbing hard away from the stream. We were still some miles downstream from Abrams Falls, and it was time to turn back.

As we approached the ascent, the rain got serious. At least it was cool. We found that the climb out did not seem as long as it had seemed going in, and the trail was not slippery when wet. We cleared the ridge and marched down, taking great care with our footing where the trail was steep and eroded. The rain didn't raise the water much on the Cane Creek Trail, and by the time we again passed through the Abrams Creek Campground, the sun was out again.

Stream hikes can be rough and disappointing, but I prefer them to other forms of hiking. I hope this tells you enough about the trails along Abrams Creek that you can make up your mind about whether to visit.

As for us, Hwy 129 led down along the dry Cheoah River to Santeetlah Lake, where we cut back to the Joyce Kilmer Forest. It had rained again, and the late afternoon sun was slanting beams down through the humid, almost foggy air below the huge trees in this virgin forest. The Smokies have some good stands of old growth, but nothing in the east can match Joyce Kilmer for concentrations of big trees.

Driving south past Rattler Ford Campground, we encountered the east end of the recently opened skyline drive between Robbinsville and Tellico Plains. This is a truly spectacular road, comparable to many of the best sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Still, it was somewhat controversial, because wilderness areas were disrupted to construct it. We got a good look at only the eastern half, because a thunderstorm moved in and obscured the view until we reached Tellico Plains. ✕

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FOR SALE - Canoe, Tracker 17 ft., never used. Max. capacity 4 persons, 780 lbs. Paid \$500, price negotiable. Contact David Holcomb 770.942.0549.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Fury, brand new, blue and yellow, factory installed back band. Great deal for \$650 including new spray skirt. Roxanne or Jeff 404.298.0717.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Riot Kix, brand new. The hottest creek boat that just came out. 6'4" long, used only one

time. Asking \$750. Brian at 404.869.1302. Roxanne or Jeff 404.298.0717.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Dancer, blue, used, with flotation, good condition. New spray skirt (med. LC1). New paddle (202cm Prijon Rim). Sell all for \$425 obo, or will trade for solo canoe. Rusty 770.279.1052.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wilderness Systems Secret with rudder. Dark Green. Like new. Great all round kayak. Goes from lakes to easy rivers to the ocean. Very comfortable and stable. With paddle and skirt \$675. Call 404.355.1612.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, Wave Sports Lazer. Good condition. Fuchsia/purple. \$400. Includes a NEW Seals spray skirt and back band. 10'9" - 69 gallons - slalom style, fast hull, crisp turns... Excellent general purpose white water kayak for small & medium sized paddlers. PERFECT beginner boat! Excellent big water boat! New Wave Sleek. Excellent condition. Red/white/



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FOR SALE - Kayak, Whiplash, radical raspberry with black trim. Good river running and can do the latest rodeo moves. This is the yak for beginner or advanced. Purchased in 1997. Used six times. Excellent condition. \$500. Call Dane at 256.820.1127.

FOR SALE - Touring Kayak, Dagger Magellan, less than one year old, with spray skirt. Excellent condition, always stored inside. \$750. Marietta area. Call Larry Wood 770.919.9332.

FOR SALE - Land. Secluded mountain lots - great views, streams, heavily wooded, extreme privacy w/ restrictive covenants. Between Cleveland and Dahlonega on Piney Mountain (easy access to Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Overflow, Chauga, Nantahala, etc.) - Only six lots left - 3 to 5+ acres starting at \$5,500 per acre. Call Martha Herndon at 404.231.5367.

FOR SALE - Paddle & equipment. Ocoee graphite kayak paddle, 204cm \$100. Stolquist dry tops, XL, one shortie \$25, one long sleeve \$55, Perception ARC \$500. Joe Webb (Cotton) 770.954.9609.

HELP WANTED - Yes, the GCA needs your help. We need volunteers to serve on committees, label and mail newsletters, etc. Call 770.421.9729 and leave a message.

WANTED - Canoe, Dagger Ovation. Call Susan 770.819.9922.

WANTED - Canoe, Mohawk XL-13. Call Jack at 770.998.0350.

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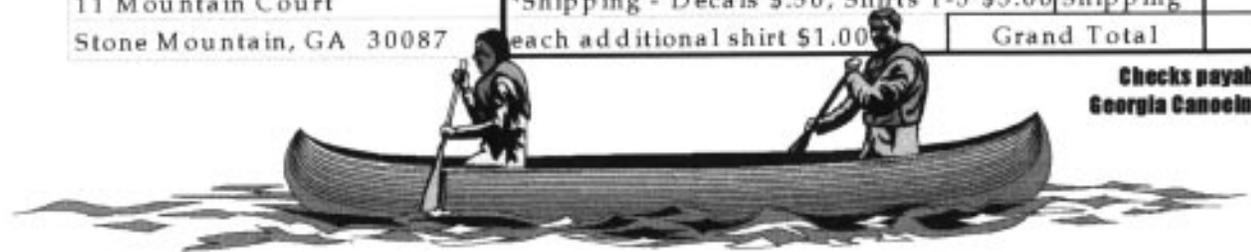
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