



The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

Volume 34, No. 2

770.421.9729

February 1999

February GCA Meeting

The February GCA meeting will be held Thursday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Hills Community Center. Our program will be the National Paddling Film Festival 1997 Best of Show winner, *The Adventures of Johnny Utah* — river stories from a different point of view, by Tom Decuir & Paul Bonesteel. This is not your run-of-the-mill crash and burn white water video. It is a refreshing look at "why we paddle" in a near feature length story format. The video is available through NOC and other river outfitter shops. 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...

March GCA Meeting

The March GCA meeting will be our annual Spring General Membership Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner. The date & time is Thursday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Hills Community Center. We'll provide the utensils and drinks. You provide the food and fun! We'll all cozy up to the fire and share paddling stories and dreams of warmer weather. If you have a favorite video to share, call Marvina Cole (770.475.3022) to arrange the VCR. See you there!!



Spring Extravaganza

The annual GCA Spring Extravaganza is coming — put it on your calendar. The dates are Friday evening, April 30, thru Sunday, May 2, at Diamond Lure Campground near Ellijay. Current plans include a Mohawk Demo Weekend, with the Mohawk Rep and lots of new boats to try out, Saturday night catered dinner & Bingo, and the usual camping, river trips and fun. Look for the registration form and additional information in the March *Eddy Line*.



North GCA Meeting on February 17

Attention all Hall & Gwinnett County and other north Georgia GCA members: There will be an auxiliary meeting on February 17 (Wednesday night) at the Buford-Sugarhill Branch of the Gwinnett County Library starting at 7 PM. The program will feature Dr. Liz Carter, noted author & paddler, and her program will be on smooth river paddling opportunities in South Georgia, South Alabama and North Florida.

We will also discuss whether there is a need for a regular auxiliary meeting in our area. If there is interest in an auxiliary meeting, where should these meeting be held and how often should we meet.

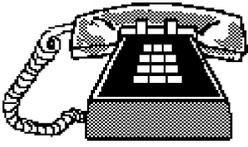
The library is located at 2100 Buford Highway, Buford, Ga., 770.945.4196. Exit 1 off I-985, turn northwest, turn right at the next light (Home Depot is across the intersection) and then turn right on the Buford Highway. It is one mile north of the intersection of Highway 20 and the Buford Highway.

If you have any questions or can not make the meeting but are interested in an auxiliary meeting, please call Butch Horn 770.967.0318.

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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 (February, April, etc.) beginning at 7:30 P.M. All members are encouraged to attend. The location is changing, so contact President David Martin for the latest location information before you come. Also, if you have an item for discussion, please call 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

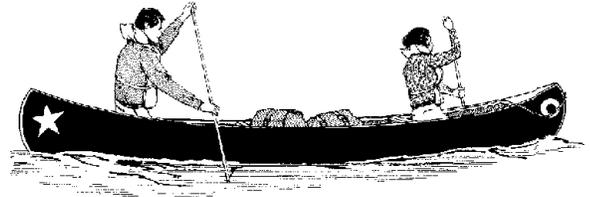
Submitting Eddy Line Material

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 gacanoem@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



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
21	Leaders Choice	Class 2-4 Intermediate-Advanced	Clay Noble	770.383.9850
26-28	Okefenokee Swamp (Note 2)	Smooth Water	Brookie Gallagher	404.872.5211
27	Big Cedar Creek	Class 1+ Easy Beginner	Sheila Small	770.772.7146
			Mike Kaplan	404.636.8795
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

March

6	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Alan Reaid	770.974.4581
7	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
7	Etowah (Boling Park To Hwy 20)	Class 1+ Easy Beginner	David Asbell	404.705.9501
13	Locust Fork (AL)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dane White	256.820.1127
13	Leaders Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
13	Nacoochee Hooch	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Dave Chaney	770.973.7910
18	Spring General Membership Meeting & Covered Dish Dinner —	Garden Hills Community Center —	Food & Fun!!	
20	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
20	Oconaluftee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
21	Raven Fork	Class 2-3(4) Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
27	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Nancy Barker	404.874.8897

Note 1: Afternoon trip. Buford Dam section.

Note 2: 3 days, 2 nights. Limited space.

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 220 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 "gacano@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 gacano

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 gacano@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/~gacano>. 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. ✕

New Improved Electronic *Eddy Line*

We are now sending out a .pdf (portable document format) file in addition to the .txt (text only) file of the *On-Line Eddy Line*. This format allows subscribers to view formatted text, graphics, page layout — virtually the entire *Eddy Line* — just as it appears in printed form. Plus you can see it several weeks before the printed copy

arrives via snail mail.

The .pdf version requires only Adobe Acrobat (or some equivalent) software in order to view it. Acrobat can be downloaded for free from the Adobe web site at <http://www.adobe.com>. You can also print out a paper copy of the .pdf file and it looks just like the snail mail copy (except most of the photos are in living color).

To subscribe to the On-Line version of *The Eddy Line*, send a request via snail mail to (& enclose a check for \$5.00 made out to GCA):

GCA
c/o Ed Schultz, Treasurer
3060 Pharr Court North #315
Atlanta, GA 30305

Or on your annual renewal form, just check the block for the *On-Line Eddy Line* and include the extra \$5.00 with your check for your annual dues.

In either case, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS so we can send *The Eddy Line* to you electronically. ✂

Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice is held 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.

Revel Freeman is our Roll Practice Coordinator. 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 / Cyclorama 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, old birds' nests or cobwebs. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

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 — GCA Spring Extravaganza, Diamond Lure Campground, Ellijay

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 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 25 - 27 — Junior World Championships, Zagreb, Croatia

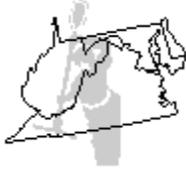
July 24 - 25 — Georgia Games State Championships, Augusta

August 3 - 7 — USCKT Sprint National Championships,

Lake Placid, NY
October 1 - 3 — Lanier Paddlefest '99 and the Great Dock Race



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



Making History With a Sledgehammer

by Bruce Babbitt
Special to the Denver Post

Some eras are born to instant acclaim. Others emerge quietly, gathering strength over time, before leaping onto the national stage. We are in the midst of one of those bold, new leaps in the management of America's rivers. Not since the start of the great dam-building era



during the 1930s have we encountered anything this significant.

I am comfortable making this pronouncement because, as US Secretary of the Interior, I am a participant in this movement myself, and emcee to history. Four times in 13 months now, I have swung ceremonial sledgehammers to celebrate something more monumental on the American landscape: the destruction of environmentally harmful dams.

You read that right: The US Department of the Interior, after helping supervise the most intensive flurry of dam-building in world history, is changing course. Today, we and other branches of the federal government are encouraging the selective destruction of certain dams, public and private, that cause exceptional environmental damage.

Congress is not yet with us. But perhaps one day it will be. For what's igniting this movement is not the federal bureaucracy. It is community spirit. It is the rice farmers, utility company officials, civic boosters, fishermen, conservationists, aquatic biologists, Native Americans and others. Together, these Americans are finding promise, not peril, in the unleashing of rivers. By removing dams, they are diversifying their economies, healing watersheds, reducing Endangered Species Act headaches, and restoring beauty, vigor and recreation to their downtown centers.

Perhaps that is why each new event on this dam-busting tour brings larger, more supportive crowds, more media attention. But what is it about the sound of a sledgehammer that so seizes the imagination?

I believe two things are at work. Number one — an era is winding down. Until the 1990s, Interior secretaries dedicated dams; they sang their praises. They genuflected to dollars, development and politics. Today, we recognize the other forms of commerce — such as self-sustaining salmon runs — in our nations rivers, and find growing, broad-based constituencies arguing on their behalf.

The other thing is basic: We overdid it. There are 75,000 dams in America 6 feet high and over. Think about that number. Seventy-five thousand dams means we have been building, on average, one dam a day, including weekends, since the Declaration of Independence. Pardon the phrase, but we overdosed. Dams justified for their economic value gave way to dams built with taxpayer subsidies, dams draped in political pork, dams clouded by dubious if not deceitful cost-benefit projections.

This is not hyperbole or partisan rhetoric. This is reality. Today, we are paying the price for our dam habit. We have obliterated fish spawning runs, caused the extinctions of some species, transformed rivers into water mains, irrigation canals and slack-water sumps, robbed our estuaries and deltas of much-needed nutrients, stolen sediment from our ocean beaches, debased a part of our American heritage. At the same time, flood control — one of the main reasons for building many big dams — has become, in many areas, something of a joke. Flood damage in America has increased, not decreased, despite billions invested in big dams.

Does this mean I support tearing down all, most or even many dams? Of course not. But I believe we should challenge dam owners everywhere — including the US Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers — to demonstrate by hard facts, not sentiment and myth, that a dam's continued operation is in the public interest. Often, this will mean adopting more environmentally friendly operating regimes, such as we have done at Arizona's Glen Canyon Dam to begin to restore the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park. In some cases, it will mean actual removal of dams.

Remember, dams are not monuments. They are not pyramids. They are tools that serve the needs of the people who oversee them. Those needs change, often quite rapidly, over the course of a generation. Most dams were built decades ago with no consideration of their environmental, recreational or spiritual costs. Our challenge today is to find a new equilibrium — one that balances economic benefits with other intangible goods and services, one that evaluates dams by the health of the watersheds and the people to whom they belong.

Often, in thinking of dams and rivers, I am reminded of Ecclesiastes:

One generation passeth away/ and another generation cometh/ but the Earth abideth always./ All rivers runneth to the sea/ yet the sea is not full;/ to the place the rivers flow/ there they flow again.

A beautiful passage, but a chilling one, too. For today, it no longer rings true. The mighty Colorado River no longer reaches the sea — due to the many dams across its course. Others arrive feeble and anemic, vastly depleted of biological life, stripped of their majesty. That is a shame. As one generation passeth into another, the future of our rivers rests firmly in our hands.

- Bruce Babbitt is the secretary of the US Department of the Interior and a former governor of Arizona. He is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, a service of *High Country News*. This article reprinted from the *Denver Post*, September 20, 1998, via "The Spray", newsletter of the Colorado White Water Association. ✂

Need an Internet Service Provider?

If you plan to sign up with an internet service provider for the first time, or if you plan to change providers, and are considering MindSpring as your choice, you can do your paddling club a big favor. When you call to sign up, tell the MindSpring sales rep you were referred by Georgia Canoeing Association and we will receive a \$10.00 credit toward our monthly ISP subscription cost. You will need to give them the GCA email ID — gacanoe@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

Tragic Loss On The Raven Fork

by Chris McLoughlin

Family and friends mourn the tragic loss of GCA member Edward Lee Green of Sylva, NC. He died in Asheville on Sunday, December 27, 1998, after being resuscitated from a drowning incident on the preceding Wednesday. The accident was due to the lack of scouting "Crack in the Rock" rapid on the Raven Fork River in Cherokee, NC.

I can only guess at a couple of reasons for Ed's choice to run the drop without scouting. It was cold, with the temperature in the low 30s, and this was our take-out. Only a brief scout would have immediately identified the log strainer slightly submerged and angled down at the base of the drop. He just paddled right in.

My attempts with a throw rope were futile. Even from an upstream angle, I couldn't pull Ed out and he couldn't hold on. It was over fast, in 4-5 minutes. I continued with rope even after I knew it was hopeless. My girlfriend, Connie, saw what happened and was able to reach Cherokee Fire and Rescue by phone. Five minutes later, 15 professionals arrived. It took 6 men to safely



remove the boat from the crack. They knew what they were doing.

Ed was then rushed to the hospital in Cherokee where a team of doctors resuscitated a pulse. Then sadly, the trauma proved too much, and on Sunday, he passed away.

The two main mistakes we made that day were lethal. Two of the most basic rules for white

water paddling involve proper scouting and boating in groups. It was as a beginner that I learned to scout rapids for debris. The Cherokee EMT people later said that throughout low water seasons, debris seems to collect on the Raven Fork, only to be picked up and washed downstream when the water rises. I knew this. This applied to most rivers. It had rained all day. The stage was increasing. And then, we were the only two on the river. Never again will I allow myself to feel so helpless.

The truth is obvious. We were careless and reckless. We dropped our guard and it cost the life of my dear friend. I hope all boaters will take heed and learn from this horrible accident. Reevaluate your skills, and remember just how quickly mistakes can lead to tragedy.

On December 30, 1998, Ed's ashes were released into a river as our last farewell. ✂

Instruction / Training

Kayak Surfing the Coastal Carolinas

by Ralph Beer, Wilmington, NC

Few things match the thrill of carving the face of a gigantic ocean wave in your kayak. You are flying and your adrenaline is pumping. The wave looms up behind you, blocks out the sun, and starts to curl over the back of your speeding kayak. You make a split second decision to turn and run out from under the breaking wave. As it crashes on the back of your yak, you feel the G's as the wave spits the boat out ahead of the thundering mass of white water. Living near the beach, we meet a lot of visitors that tell us they did not think of using their kayaks in the surf. We are having a lot of fun with our white water kayaks in the surf zone. Our kayaks are human powered jet skis. The following article shares some observations and experiences of the small group of paddlers that frequent the Wilmington area beaches.

Our best surf is near the inlets and the fishing piers. Our favorite area breaks are at the north end of Wrightsville Beach (Shell Island) where the sand bar makes for long rides at most tide levels. Both Crystal Pier and Johnny

Mercers piers create sand bars that make for a good break. Give the fishermen on the pier a wide berth. They are not convinced that we are scaring the fish toward them. "Second Cove" by the Fort Fisher Historical Site is another favorite site where a slight cove makes for a good break. For a road trip, Cape Hatteras on the Outer Banks has outstanding waves.

The lousier the weather, the better the surf tends to be. I'm blessed with a bubble under the linoleum in front of the refrigerator that appears when a low pressure system passes over Wilmington. I've never been disappointed when the bubble is there. In the summer we watch for tropical depressions and hurricanes to generate big swells when they pass near the coast. The winter months tend to have the best waves and parking. If the weatherman says "northeaster," you are going to get some action. Even though the water gets cold, you have big pieces of the Atlantic Ocean to yourself on the off-season.

Before you load up the car and head for the beach, get an idea what the surf is doing. You don't want to drive a couple hundred miles to float your yak in a salty bathtub. Check out www.surfinfo.com on the web for excellent information and forecasts for the entire coast. For local Wilmington surf conditions call 910.256.4353. Unfortunately, these are not fool proof. You can have sickly surf and a half-hour later have fantastic waves roll in. Of

course it works the other way too.

1. Under knee high — Consider paddling a river or catch up around the house. Good time to work on husband/wife points...
2. Knee to Waist — Good fun and exercise, good ender and trick possibilities.
3. Waist to Chest — Great time, still easy to get out, good traditional surf and longer rides. Linked tricks. Very fine.
4. Chest to Head — Super rides, occasional pounding getting out. Great wave faces and foam pile has great "trick" possibilities.
5. Big Stuff — Takes a gladiator to get out. Crazy wild rides, tubes, "over the falls," awesome wipe-outs. Tell tall tales for weeks. Helps to be moderately insane.

If you have not done a lot of surfing, rent "Endless Summer" (old classic) or "Endless Summer II" (watch yaker get creamed). When I started surf kayaking I did not have a clue what people meant when they said a surfer is going the wrong way on a wave. After renting these flicks it was clear that the "sweet spot" was just ahead of the breaking wave.

Equipment:

A kayak that works well surfing river waves and playing holes will be great in the surf. Longer kayaks are more difficult to control after the wave "closes out." A short kayak will be able to work the pile, doing spins and controlled surfing, whereas it is common for the kayaker in the longer boat to get side surfed to the beach.

Just because you don't have the latest play boat, don't stay home. At the last Folly Beach Surf Rodeo, a group of squirt boaters took top honors. Before everybody got play boats, the local Wilmington paddlers had lots of fun with their Pirouettes, Freefalls, and Overflows. We got the best enders in the old boats. Also, there are some gutsy sea yakers that are having a ball in the surf. When you see a sea kayak get a good ender it is like watching a pole vaulter.

Outfit your cockpit. When you are upside down there are some incredible forces pulling you one way and your kayak the other way. Hell Hole will seem mild by comparison. If you are half out of your boat and your spray skirt is acting like a bungee cord, you're not having fun. Consider adding hip pads with a large top edge that curls over the leg bones. Generous padding for your knees and feet are a big help. An old neoprene mouse pad glued to your kayak seat is the right size to insulate your behind and reduce sliding.

To wear a helmet, or not to where a helmet... One school of thought figures that a helmet is not needed because the bottom is soil sand, the water is deep, the

surfers don't wear them, and they interfere with your tan.

Locally, the trend is for paddlers to wear their helmets. After a few head bashes (some paddlers require many more bonks than others) from their paddles, mid air collisions with other yaks, and the occasional whacks from surf boards, they start wearing helmets. If somebody yells "Party Wave, everybody on!" and you don't have a brain bucket, don't join the fun. Five or six yaks on the same wave is a hoot, but it can end up as a kind of kayak demolition derby.

Life jackets help absorb wave impact and protect your ribs when you get speared by your kayaking buddies. Once we learned how to steer our kayaks, spearing was not a big problem. Unfortunately, now everybody is into tricks and spins and we are crashing into each other again. The down side to a life jacket is that it messes up your tan and the surfer dudes don't wear them. Your nasal passages are going to get power washed with salt water. Nose plugs can save you some grief.

Getting "Outside":

There are some tricks that help ease the strain of getting through the break and help you avoid getting hurt. Before you get into your boat, do some stretching exercises. The waves are incredibly powerful and you and your boat will get tossed around. You will do more rolls than a typical river trip. If you don't loosen up you can easily get "tweaked".

Before you can surf, you have to get past the "crash zone" to where the waves start to form. Most of the Carolina beaches don't have a jetty or land mass that you can use to sneak past the crash zone, so you have to fight through the breaking waves. This is where a lot of kayakers lose their enthusiasm for the surf. Surf kayaking is a "contact" sport and you can expect a few good body slams.

Once you commit to going out through the zone, don't stop paddling. Becoming a "deer in the headlights" is a sure way to get pasted. Paddle up and over the wave. If it breaks, use your fist and forearm to punch a hole for you to go through.

Tip your kayak on its side (45 degrees) to get it to slice into the onrushing wave. This will help avoid unintentional back enders. Also, experiment with hitting the wave at a slight angle and leaning back while doing a "sit up" to lift your bow. Many times you will pop up and over a wave that you thought was going to bury you. If the wave has not curled, you will be able to ride up and over it. It is amazing to watch a kayaker ride the "up elevator" over a huge wave.

If you just missed the "up elevator" and a big wave breaks over your head, it is going to hurt! Simply roll over

and play dead. Let it strike the bottom of your kayak instead of smashing into your body. It's painless. If it ends the boat and you find yourself right side up surfing the wave, smile and pretend you meant to.

Shore Break:

Some days, and on steeper beaches (Carolina Beach comes to mind) there can be a nasty shore break. This is where the wave rears up and crashes right on the shore. It is not unusual to get back ended and land on your back in the sand and get smeared over the beach. It is quite spectacular and the tourists will think you are dead. Fortunately it is more damaging to the ego than to the rest of the body.

If (when) you are upside down or on your side in shallow water, simply set up and execute your roll like you normally would. Don't try to push yourself up from the bottom with your paddle. Your kayak will slide out from under you and you will go back into the soup.

By now the tourists will realize you are not dead. If you do a quick roll they will think you are awesome. If you wet exit at this point, your ears will be full of sand, and you will be standing on the beach in a spray skirt looking silly. At that point, even not wearing a helmet won't make you look cool...

Sometimes you can't bust through. You have to wait for a momentary lessening in the waves and paddle like crazy when you see a break. Sometimes you can zigzag to avoid breaking waves. Big waves tend to form huge pyramids leaving breaks for the kayaker to thread through. Also, look for rip tides to help get through the break zone. Although these are murder for swimmers, they are to a surf kayaker what a ski lift is to a skier. As long as you stay in your kayak, rip tides are a good thing.

Surfing:

Once you get outside and catch your breath, it is time to surf. At a point where the wave is steep enough, paddle with the wave. When you feel the boat planing, quit paddling and start using your paddle as a rudder (downstream or shore side) to steer the boat at an angle to the wave. On a good long wave, carve some "S" turns. If you go straight, you will get ahead of the wave and lose your speed. If it gets steep and you are going straight down the wave you risk getting an unintentional "ender" when the bow dives under the water. Run across the wave face staying ahead of the curling wave. When it is ready to break, turn into the wave and exit or turn with it and get ahead of the break and play in the foam pile. If you get dumped over, just roll over with the wave. If you use a mighty brace to fight getting tipped you can easily pull a muscle. Go with the flow and execute quick "power rolls".

If you are uneasy about getting out on a big wave day,

pick a wave and time how many seconds it takes for it to get to shore. It is rarely longer than 30 seconds. In other words, if a big one trashes you and surfs you upside down into the beach, the longest you have to hold your breath is 30 seconds. No problem! Go for it.

If getting "outside" was a real grunt, chances are that the waves are big enough to get some great rides before they break. Look for a low part or "shoulder" to turn up into, over, and out of the wave before it breaks to avoid having to paddle through the break zone again.

Cross winds can set up powerful drift currents that sweep you down the beach. Save your energy by setting up a shuttle and drift with the current down the beach catching waves along the way. On big days you don't have to worry about getting the best break because you'll get plenty of action wherever you are.

We have not had trouble coexisting with surfers. They love to see you get trashed. Realize that a surfer needs better waves than a kayak needs. They have to wait a lot longer to get the "right" wave, so cut them some slack. Once they get the wave, they don't appreciate any company. They tend to avoid the inlet currents, so that makes a great place for yakers to hang out. Near the piers, once you get four or five kayaks in an area, surfers tend to move out of the way.

In the shore break, avoid the temptation to use boogie boarders and swimmers as slalom gates. If their parents are watching they tend to get very agitated. It is quite possible that some of them are lawyers or a lot bigger than you. In the peak tourist season, head for the inlets or Masonboro Island to get away from the crowd.

Surf Rodeos:

Surf kayakers can play the surf using the same moves play boaters use to shred up the river holes. Good river paddlers won't have any trouble adapting to the surf. If you enjoy the surf and want to see some great paddlers in action, enter some surf rodeos.

Cape Fear Outfitters in Wilmington sponsors their rodeo in the spring. Kitty Hawk Sports on the Outer Banks has weekly events in the summer. Last summer they had NOWR sanctioned events that attracted top rodeo paddlers to compete for points. Wind and Sea sponsors the Myrtle Beach Rodeo in September and the Charleston Park and Rec. Board sponsors the Folly Beach Rodeo in late October.

All these events are well run and attract good natured competitors. They have traditional surf and hot dog events. Entry fees are typically \$30 for the first event entered plus a nominal fee for additional events. Winners get trophies and all entrants typically share in generous door prizes donated by event sponsors and equipment

vendors. Prizes include paddles, lifejackets, paddle jackets, helmets, and even kayaks.

The ocean surf is a great place to play. When your favorite riverbed is dry or frozen, ocean surfing can satisfy your white water craving. For paddlers that have not encountered big water, the ocean is a great place to get

experience without the worry of keeper hydraulics and undercut rocks. Strap on your yak next time you visit the beach. It would be great to see some more "normal" people in the surf!

- From "The Paddler", newsletter of the Carolina Canoe Club. ✕

The Southeasterns Are Coming!

Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 17-18, 1999 — GCAs biggest social event of the year — the Southeastern Slalom and Wild Water Championship Races. This year will mark the 31st annual running of the races by the Georgia Canoeing Association.

As always, help is needed in many areas. Volunteer coordinators may be contacting you about helping out.



Race Watch

Please be generous with your time. This race provides an excellent opportunity as a volunteer to get better acquainted with your fellow club members and paddlers and to perhaps get more involved with the club. As a race participant, the race provides you with opportunities to improve your paddling skills while taking part in a fun event.

If you would like to help out with the race, as a volunteer or even as a coordinator for a specific function, please contact Wulf Kuehmstedt at 770.394.3558. Thanks! ✕

River Access

Selected Readings on the Georgia Law of River Access

Compiled by Dan MacIntyre

This is the fourth in a series of readings from various legal documents that have impacted Georgia's laws on river access. These readings range from the Magna Charta, which codified English common law, and in turn provided a basis for Georgia law, to the most recent court filings on the recent case relating to passage on the West Fork of the Chattooga. These readings are meant to provide background for educating our membership and the public on how we got to where we are in the area of river access, and where we need to be going.

Part IV — Georgia Canoeing Association v. Henry. Supreme Court of Georgia. March 10, 1997. Reconsideration Denied April 4, 1997.

Canoeing association brought action seeking to temporarily and permanently enjoin property owner from stopping their free passage through his property on Armuchee Creek. Owner requested that association be permanently enjoined from traveling in boats and canoes through his property. The Superior Court, Chattooga County, Joseph E. Loggins, Judge, permanently restrained association from traveling on Armuchee Creek where it passed through the property, and association appealed. The Court of Appeals reversed and remanded. On remand, the Superior Court again entered order granting

owner's request for a permanent injunction, and association appealed. The Supreme Court, Sears, Judge, held that:

(1) portion of Armuchee Creek at issue is not a navigable stream under federal law, common law, or Georgia statute, and (2) public has not acquired a right of passage by prescription.

Affirmed.

[1] NAVIGABLE WATERS

Evidence in suit by canoeing association to enjoin landowner from stopping free passage through his property on Armuchee Creek supported finding that creek, where it passed through the property, was not susceptible of carrying useful commerce between states in its natural and ordinary condition, and thus was not a "navigable stream" under federal law; evidence that also supported conclusion that portion of Armuchee Creek at issue was not a navigable stream under Georgia statute or the common law, precluding any public right of passage.

[2] NAVIGABLE WATERS

Public has not acquired a right of passage on Armuchee Creek either by prescription or under statute.

This appeal concerns a dispute between the appellants — the Georgia Canoeing Association and Benny Young (hereinafter collectively referred to as "GCA") — and the appellee, Ralph Henry, regarding whether there is a public right of passage over Armuchee Creek where it flows through Henry's property. GCA brought this action, seeking to temporarily and permanently enjoin Henry from stopping their free passage through his property on

the creek. Henry, on the other hand, requested that GCA be permanently enjoined from traveling in boats and canoes through his property. After a hearing on the question of permanent injunctive relief¹, the trial court entered an order, concluding that Armuchee Creek was not a navigable stream within the meaning of relevant definitions under the federal law, the common law, or Georgia statutes. The trial court also ruled that the public had not acquired a right of passage by prescription. The trial court therefore permanently restrained GCA from traveling on Armuchee Creek where it passes through Henry's property. GCA has filed this appeal.

[1] [2] After a careful review of the record and relevant law, we affirm. First, the evidence supports a finding that Armuchee Creek, where it passes through Henry's property, is not susceptible of carrying useful commerce between states in its natural and ordinary condition and is thus not a navigable stream within the meaning of federal law². Moreover, without deciding whether the definition of navigability set forth in OCGA 44-8-5(a)³ by its express terms or by necessary implication, effected a change in the common law definition of navigability⁴, we conclude that the record supports a determination that the portion of Armuchee Creek at issue in this case is not a navigable stream under OCGA 44-8-5(a) or the common law. Finally, we conclude that the public has not acquired a right of passage on Armuchee Creek either by prescription or under Section 17 of Ga. Laws, 1830, p. 127. For the foregoing reasons, we affirm. Judgment affirmed.

All the Justices concur.

Footnotes:

1. This is the third time this case has been before the Court. In its first appearance, this Court affirmed, pursuant to Rule 59, the trial court's grant of an interlocutory injunction in favor of Henry. *Georgia Canoeing Association v. Henry*, (1991). Following that appeal, the trial court granted summary judgment to Henry on his request for a permanent injunction. On appeal, this Court reversed the grant of summary judgment, ruling that although the trial court resolved issues of fact for purposes of the interlocutory injunction, the trial court was authorized to resolve them only for that purpose and not for purposes of Henry's request for a permanent injunction. *Georgia Canoeing Association v. Henry*, (1993). On remand, the trial court held a hearing on the parties' requests for permanent injunctive relief, and entered a detailed order granting Henry's request for a permanent injunction.

2. *State of North Dakota v. United States*, (8th Cir.1992); *United States v. Holt State Bank*, (1926); *Leovy v. United*

States, (1900).

3. That code section defines a "navigable stream" as "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 the transporting of wood in small boats shall not make a stream navigable.

4. "Statutes are not understood to effect a change in the common law beyond that which is clearly indicated by express terms or by necessary implication." *Avner, Inc. v. Wyle Labs*, (1993). Professor Farnham of Yale Law School has written that Georgia and several other states have adopted navigability statutes that are "limitations of the common law rule." Farnham, *Water and Water Rights*, (1904). ✕

Your Help is Needed!

North Carolina's Watauga River Access

by Cleo Smith

This is a river access situation that definitely affects club members. Just ask Dennis Huntley of the Carolina Canoe Club. His van got towed at the put-in for the Nationally known Watauga Gorge on Guys Ford Road (SR1200). NC DOT plans to pave this road and replace the bridge. This provides a great opportunity to develop a formal, public access to the river at this location.

In similar situations on the Haw River, letters of support for an access area were requested from organizations, for example, but not from individuals. However, this time the NC DOT project engineer says that he would like to see individual letters of support.

An effort is also underway to develop an official Public Access to Streams and Rivers program in North Carolina. The support that we get for the Watauga Access will definitely carry over to our state-wide effort.

Listed below are a series of points to consider when writing your letter:

1) Send your letter to:

Mr. John Williams, Planning Engineer
Planning and Environmental Branch, NC-DOT
P. O. Box 25201
Raleigh, NC 27611

RE: Ref Number B3263, Bridge Construction on SR1200

2) Ask that the issue of Public Access to the Watauga River be addressed when designing the project.

3) Address the safety issues of a safe special parking area against that of dangerous shoulder parking.

- 4) Your use of the area for current paddling or future use when you achieve the level of expertise needed to paddle the Watauga Gorge.
- 5) Maybe you, your friends or family use the Guys Ford Road bridge area for fishing, swimming, hiking, or other outdoor activities.
- 6) Would you offer your services in a structured program of trash control at the access sight?
- 7) The area is near a major North Carolina University, Appalachian State, and provides access to a major natural resource for the students.
- 8) Even though you may not paddle the Gorge, or even plan to, an access area should be developed for those who do.
- 9) Any event, instance, etc., you were involved in or have knowledge of that would benefit from development of a formal public access area. (Maybe your car was towed due to lack of safe parking at the put-in).
- 10) Refer to Bob Benner's Carolina White Water Watauga River Section Five on page 201 or other guide books to refresh your memory or become more familiar with the

area.

- 11) These points are only suggestions (and may not all apply to you) for your letter. Use your own words; do not copy mine over or mass produce a letter.
- 12) Remember, even though you may be a paddler, you are asking for a Formal Public Access, not strictly a paddlers' access.
- 13) Please take time to write, because the next access issue could be your favorite river.
- 14) If you are from out-of-state, point out the money you spend while in North Carolina paddling.
- 15) And last but not a major point, please send a copy of your letter to:

Cleo F. Smith
(Phone: 919.755.1290)
416 Robin Hood Drive
Raleigh, NC 27604

email: clesmith@hotmail.com

Now, let's go write that letter so that we can prove beyond doubt the need for a formal, Public Access to the Watauga. ✂

Letters

Fellow paddlers,

I want to take a moment to remind you of the issues involved in the fencing of the Lower Cartecay Road put-in.

We all know that MOE serves the paddling community well. I have used the parking lot, the shuttles and the bathrooms. I don't discuss the costs — it's a service I'm pleased to pay for. Jay supports the rescue clinics, clean-up trips and removes strainers — hard work that my husband, neighbors and I do upstream. But may I remind you that we are not concerned about Jay's personality or income. The debate is not about shuttle service or borrowing equipment.



The issue is RIVER ACCESS. Can a fence be erected on private property blocking river access? Sure. But can a fence be erected on PUBLIC property blocking access? I urge you as individuals to contact the local Gilmer County authorities to get the correct information. The "facts" need to be verified.

You don't have to believe me when I say that Herman Clark, the county attorney, said the step area at Lower Cartecay Road is public land. Call him at 706.635.1010 and ask the question. Also call Rayburn Smith, Commission Chairman, at 706.635.4361. Then ask when the fence will be removed.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Dowd-Sussman ✂

Upper Toccoa / Spring Extravaganza

by Tom Martin

Saturday, 4/25/98. "It doesn't get any better than this," I thought as I pushed Ol' Yeller (my OCA) away from the landing at Deep Hole campground on the Toccoa River. The water level was high, higher than it had been a few weeks before on Jim Kautz's trip, but certainly not excessive, just a little aggressive. I wondered how the chute downstream of the



entirely blocked the natural flow of surface current. Giant

Benton MacKaye Trail bridge would be today. I had always taken the line on river right. I had never enjoyed enough water to run it anywhere else. But we had some beginners on this trip and safety was the primary concern. There might be a sneak route on river left....

The current was strong, the water cold. Lots of strainers lurked near the banks, as if fishing for unsuspecting swimmers. The many dead falls were on good behavior; none

hemlocks rule the banks along sections of this river, drawing attention away from the water. Apple trees, rhododendron and mountain laurel bloom in season. Back on the water, trout and white bass tease fishermen. When the water is clear, trout can be seen approaching the bait when a line is tossed into the current. Even for a non-fisherman, that is quite a sight. This stretch is great for paddling, fishing, camping and just... breathing!

We paused for lunch on river left just under and upstream of the Benton MacKaye Trail swinging bridge. Most of the group viewed the rapids from the bridge, contemplating all the possible routes downstream. We scouted all we could from the bridge, but could not adequately scout the right chute about 100 yards downstream. At this level, we knew it was big. The approach rapids could not be taken for granted either.

I positioned Ol' Yeller into the current above the bridge and took the center route heading for THE DROP. The plan was for me to river-scout and then recommend a path for the others. The current quickened above the drop. Then, just as I was running out of choices, I saw what I was looking for — a narrow chute running diagonally toward the left bank. It was a little bumpy even at this water level, but do-able and perfect for our group. I caught an eddy and signaled my recommendation. One boat at a time, our group's members came down.

Earlier we had passed some fishermen in rental canoes. Six swimmers and three Colemans tumbled through the foaming water, only one boat making it as far as the drop before spilling all of its contents into the cold water. Some of our paddlers asked if we should help them. "Not until ALL of our group is safely down!" They were in no danger — only cold and wet.

Maggie, a school teacher in her other life, was running sweep. I don't know exactly what she said, but the fourth rental made the drop successfully, both paddlers wearing their life vests. I thought I saw ruler whelp

marks on one guy's wrist. (Maggie wouldn't do that!).

Most of our group made it through without incident. Remember the chute going toward the left bank? Teresa (on her first river trip) took it all the way to the bank. With Med's assistance, she was able to rejoin the group. Paul and Suzanne chose the right chute (or did it choose them?). Thanks to daughter April's navigational skills, they made a clean run.

By then, the green fishermen in red Colemans (or was it red-faced fishermen in green Colemans?) had taken care of themselves, so we proceeded down river. Score: GCA 11 for 11; Visitors 1 for 4. I don't know if they fully appreciated their experience, but I hope they learned something from it. I'll give them credit for trying.

We later had a couple of swims ourselves... nothing serious... Med's sea kayak was eaten by a mini-Woodall. The boat was fine; Med had a little trouble getting out but did so under his own power.

The rest of the trip was pleasant but uneventful. The lead boat missed the take-out. I won't embarrass him by revealing his identity so DON'T ASK... JUST DON'T!!

I thoroughly enjoyed the adventure with this excellent group: First timer, TeresaHaywood paddled her Kiwi like an expert. Med Cooke showed us that a sea kayak can conquer white water. The Therrien family (Paul, Suzanne, April Ashley, OC-3) helped Maggie Griffin (OC-1) run sweep. Upper Toccoa authority Jim Kautz and wife Maria Greene (OC-2) were our designated "guides". The rest of us including Denise Colquitt (OC-1), Peggy Bailey (OC-1), Jim and John Watson (OC-2), William and Debbie Gatling (OC-2), Alex and Mary Ann Pruitt (OC-2) supported one another during the whole trip. This really was a good group. Thanks guys!!!

Many thanks also to Jim and Maggie Griffin for organizing the entire weekend. The next Extravaganza is scheduled for May 1 and 2, 1999. Put it on your calendar NOW! Plan to attend. You will be glad you did! ✂

Death on the Potomac

by Linda C. Delery

On the day before Scott Bristow died, he and his friends went to eat burritos at a local joint in D.C. When he reached for a hot sauce called "Pete's Insanity Sauce", a friend who had eaten there before warned him to "only put a drop" on his burrito. But Scott wouldn't hear of it. He poured the liquid fire on his burrito and then took one bite. There wasn't enough water in the restaurant to extinguish the flames in his throat. Scott wasn't one to let warnings get in the way of his insatiable thirst for adventure. On the morning of November 28, 1998, his last

adventure at Great Falls on the Potomac river took his life.

Although he had only paddled a kayak for about 3 or 4 years, during the past year, after many runs on the Ocoee, 26 year old Scott had pushed himself to the levels of such rivers as the Tallulah Gorge, the Green Narrows and the suicide section of the Little River Canyon. GCA member Julie Keller says, "Scott reveled in running these rivers and then posting his 'carnage' reports on the Internet... one of his best was about his run at the Narrows on the Green river. Most people run it at 100 percent," says Julie. "Scott ran it for the first time at 270 percent".

Through his Internet postings, Scott had established a very high profile — and made hundreds of friends. One of those friends was David Mackintosh from Washington, D.C. Mackintosh had come to Atlanta several times to stay with Scott and paddle the Ocoee. During those visits, he often talked about Great Falls on the Potomac — a run he made almost daily, as it was a few minutes from his workplace. Scott got the bug. It was tops on his to-do list.

Another friend Scott met on the Internet was Julie Keller, only his postings moved her in such a way that she wasn't content to leave it at friendship. "Scott showed a depth of character and a level of morality seldom seen in people his age," she says. After pursuing him for six months, Julie finally convinced Scott that they should be "more than friends." Together with his friend Joe Day, the paddling trio decided to set off for Washington, D.C., the weekend of Thanksgiving. "I had wanted us to go backpacking, which is what I do every year at Thanksgiving," says Julie. "But it was Scott's idea to go to Great Falls.... they wanted me to come along and take pictures of them."

After driving all night, the trio arrived at the New River on Thanksgiving Day. The two guys told Julie, "If anyone can get us a shuttle on Thanksgiving Day, it's you." Within five minutes, she sure enough had landed them a shuttle.

The only one in the group who had ever paddled the class IV river was Julie, who had only a vague memory of it from a previous run five years ago. After running a certain rapid, Julie recalls that Scott casually mentioned: "Oh, there's the plaque with the name of the guy who died on this rapid".

"That's how we knew it was the dangerous one," she adds. "Scott was not a guy who got nervous about paddling."

The following day they met David Mackintosh at work and together went up to Great Falls. The interesting thing about Great Falls is that it is such a short run that it doesn't require a shuttle. Paddlers simply get out of their cars, run the class V rapid, pull out and do it over again as many times as they wish. After David showed them the line, the plan was for Julie to put in below the Falls and paddle upstream so as to be in a good position to take pictures. The first-timers — as well as the veteran runner — all had perfect runs that day.

The next day, Saturday, was a beautiful, sunny day. At a temperature of about 70 degrees, Scott didn't even see a need to wear his neoprene shorts. The river was running about as low as it ever gets. The plan was to be the same as the day before: the guys would run the Falls and Julie would take pictures from below. But unbeknownst to her, during the half hour it took her to paddle up to her spot,

the guys had decided to sneak in an extra run. "We all ran the top drop (Pummel) again and eddied out on the river right above Z-Turn," says David.

"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."

Only this time it did not flush the swimmer. Scott's buddies saw his boat, paddle, and helmet flush to the surface, but there was no sign of him.... When Julie arrived at the spot where she would take the pictures, she saw a helmet float up from the Charlie's Hole. In minutes she would find out it was Scott's.

As Scott was being recirculated in Charlie's Hole, a bystander, who was shooting videotape of his friends, turned the camera on him. The tape, which has only been seen by family and a few friends, shows that there was no vigorous arm or head movement the last time Scott came up. This leads Mackintosh to speculate that he may have been knocked unconscious as his boat was being cartwheeled in the hole or as he attempted a wet exit. "If he was unconscious, that explains why he was not able to swim or push himself off the rocks when he was pushed to the bottom again," he says.

Paddling was just one of the athletic feats that made up the lifestyle of Scott Bristow. Others included mountain climbing, caving, rappelling, spelunking, mountain biking and scuba diving. But from all accounts, fear was not a word that existed in his vocabulary. "He was so confident in himself," says his father, Douglas Bristow. "He recognized the dangers in the sport, but I don't think he thought anything could happen to him".

"He understood the rapids that he ran," says Mackintosh. "He spent a lot of time scouting. He tended to push his limits a little bit — most of us try to improve our skills more quickly that way. But he was not careless or foolish."

"If he had been fearful, he would not have tried all he did. He had a lot of obstacles, but he thought if he could get around an obstacle, he could do anything," says Keller.

Bob Dixon, a former Scout leader who knew him since he was ten, said of Scott: "If he had one fear, it was

the fear of failure. He was never scared of getting hurt, but maybe of NOT doing something. I know of no task he took on that he didn't succeed at."

Perhaps Scott was driven to push to the limit because of the obstacles he encountered as a child. At 18 months, he was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, an extremely painful condition which put him in the hospital more times than a child should have to endure. "He was on such a high volume of medication that he lost his appetite," recalls his father. "Scott didn't do much of anything during that period."

Then miraculously, at age 7, the disease — for which there is no cure — went into remission. That's when Scott took off.

The family had a pop-up tent and did a lot of fishing and boating on Lake Allatoona. As soon as he was of age, Scott joined the Cub Scouts. By the time he reached his teens, he had developed a love for hiking and decided to hike the Appalachian Trail. "He graduated from high school on a Saturday and flew to Maine to begin the trail that Tuesday," says his father. At a point during his hike, Scott had to receive emergency room treatment for a torn ligament. Because he had not yet turned 18, the hospital had to call his mother for permission.

Alone for most of his journey, he would talk to himself just to hear a human voice. But there were faithful visits along the Trail from his mom, who would bring food and supplies, and from his dad who would sporadically join in with him on the hike.

His parents wondered if they had done the right thing in allowing him to go on the Appalachian Trail at such a young age, especially when a couple who Scott met along the Trail was murdered the following week, but they never discouraged him from trying. "He wanted to try lots of things, and that's how it was for the rest of his life," says Douglas Bristow. "Scott did everything to the extreme," says his sister, Sherri Sikes. "Some people like to hike, but how many do the Appalachian Trail right out of high school?"

It is impossible to talk to anyone about Scott without hearing mention of his smile. Without exception, those who knew him describe a young man who challenged himself to greater heights, took huge risks, and reveled in the excitement of his accomplishments. "I miss the huge smile on his face," says Mackintosh. "It is hard to imagine someone who was so happy all the time — who never had anything bad to say about anybody."

But in addition to his adventurous side, people are unanimous to cite his caring and concern for others. "Scott cared about everybody; he was a class act, a total gentleman," says Keller. "Although he was not an open

boater, he had enough knowledge to tell me what I was doing wrong when I was learning how to roll. He helped me to prepare for my trip on the Grand Canyon."

A testimonial read at his memorial service said, "Scott paddled rivers with me that were to him like tubing the Metro Hooch. He did it because he wanted me to learn so we could paddle the bigger water together."

Bob Dixon, who watched Scott grow up from a Cub Scout and later joined him for a portion of the Appalachian Trail, marvels at the transition that had taken place from his childhood to his teen years: "I realized on the Trail that we were in a role reversal. He was now taking care of me like a Mother Hen. He made sure I wasn't carrying too much and that I always had enough water breaks."

"He was a deep thinker," says Mackintosh. "He expressed himself well in his Internet postings; he always led discussions about paddling as well as about all kinds of political and personal topics. He expressed his opinion but not to the detriment of anyone else".

Douglas Bristow says of his son, "Many parents are not fully aware of what their child can accomplish. Scott accomplished so much — but I wonder what he would have done had he lived even longer".

One of the most painful things any parent could face is not being able to recover the body of their deceased child. Because the mighty Potomac kept Scott's body, the Bristows decided to have a fitting memorial that would pay tribute to the way their son had lived his life. Held in an outdoor amphitheater that Scott had helped to build as an Eagle Scout, about 200 people gathered on a dreary December morning to remember the great nature-lover. Boy Scouts from his troop No. 772 lined the winding trail that led down to the Joe Thompson Park amphitheater. Pictures of Scott in his kayak — taken at Great Falls the day before he died — were mounted on trees, as were others taken on the AT.

During the ceremony, four fellow scouts and an equal number of kayakers simultaneously carried his Riot 007 bearing the decal "I've Been to the Bitter End" along with his paddle, tent, backpack and hiking boots to the front of the gathering.

The scouts set up his tent. His sister delivered a heartfelt eulogy in which she lamented that her 3-year old son would no longer have the influence of his uncle Scott. And then, Douglas and Billy Sue Bristow said good-bye to their son by planting a tree. ✂

"I thrive on what other people hate: cold, humidity, drizzle, rain. Sometimes I'm out here and nobody's around, and I think about God and I let God touch me."
- Alberto Arroyo.

Without a Paddle

Going Nowhere in the Smokies

by Gary DeBacher

Back for more in the Smokies, we drove to Bryson City and right through it on Fontana Road. Though many maps don't show it, this road is paved all the way to the end. Where's it end? Nowhere. There's even a sign up on the hill just before you cross the National Park Boundary. "THE ROAD TO NOWHERE. A Broken Promise...."

The road is winding and scenic, especially after it enters the Park. It climbs higher until there are occasional glimpses of Lake Fontana. And very surprising, for a road in the Smokies, it was rather lightly used.

We were hoping to get to a bridge over Noland Creek, and then to follow the stream side trail for a ways. The bridge is a rather imposing concrete structure, curving gracefully leftward. A big time bridge on a road to nowhere. A parking lot was about half full, but we didn't stop; we were going nowhere fast.

We didn't have far to go. Not far from Noland Creek, the road was gated off. Cars were parked, and tourists were walking to nowhere in particular. To ease their way, the Guv'mint had provided a big, dark tunnel through a ridge. A tunnel wide enough for two lanes of vehicular traffic, and over 400 yards long; I paced it off. This is amongst the longer tunnels in the Southeast.

There was no illumination except for the light at the end of the tunnel, and it was plenty dark in the middle, too dark to see folks. We had to walk carefully because while the tunnel was paved and lined, there was a fair amount of loose rocky crud underfoot. Kids were hooting and hollering to hear their voices reflected off the walls. I called for Eric Rudolph, but he said he wasn't there.

We reached the west end of the tunnel. The pavement petered out and the road became a trail which split, part staying up toward the top of the ridge, and part dropping down the side to split again. There was a loop trail back around the ridge to the parking area, but we had to do the tunnel again.

And now for the rest of the story. The creation of Smoky Mountain National Park was partly a political synthesis of regional pride, wanting to have the first National Park east of the Mississippi. There were a number of active communities in the park area, not only those around Cade's Cove on the northeast side, but several large communities in creek valleys on the south side of the Park. Some of the largest were along Noland, Forney, and Hazel creeks which flow south from the highest ridges into the Little Tennessee. These commu-

nities were displaced both by the Park and by Lake Fontana, which cut off roads from the south. The loss of these communities had strong effects on the economy of Bryson City and the surrounding counties, from loss of lumbering, farming and tax base.

So after the creek communities had been removed or reduced to remnants, some thought it would be a boon to Bryson City and environs if the Guv'mint built a road across the south side of the Park, and they set to work. But after some miles of road, a big bridge, and a long tunnel had been built, the boon was seen by some as a boondoggle. As the Vietnam War drew off revenues, any chance of restarting the road project disappeared.

This is an extremely inadequate account of the effects on mountain communities of creation of the Park and of Lake Fontana. Today's perceptions and politics would never allow the displacement of so many people and communities for a reservoir, much less for a park. What did that billboard mean by a broken promise? What would have been the benefits to folks if the road had been forced through?

So if you're near Bryson City and are feeling like, nowhere, man, they have the road for you, Fontana Road on out of town. Take the kids, they'll love the tunnel. And remember the communities who were removed to create the Park.

And we're not done yet. Having gotten nowhere thus far, we went back to the bridge over Noland Creek, parked, and walked down to the trail. We had limited time, so we decided to just walk the mile downstream to the backwaters of Lake Fontana. The trail was really an old roadbed, crossing the creek several times on bridges built by the Park Service over concrete pilings left from when the old Noland Creek community was still here. The final mile of the creek was tight and technical, but I saw nothing over class 2 until the final drop to the backwaters of the lake.

The Noland Creek trail also goes upstream for several miles, eventually reaching the ridge not far from Clingman's Dome. Noland Creek is fairly large, almost as big as the next substantial creek to the east, Big Creek. I have run Big Creek in the Spring, though it is too low in summer except for tubers. Noland Creek could be run by anyone willing to carry a boat upstream, put in, paddle down to the lake headwaters, and carry the mile back to the bridge. I'm sure someone has done it, and maybe I will too. ✂

"You can't legislate intelligence and common sense into people."

- Will Rogers.

Not Exactly a Trip Report (Not Quite Random Thoughts)

by Ray Channell

Finally the perfect combination of river level, timing, self-confidence, weather, and most importantly, group of friends, came together. This was my first trip on Section IV, as it was for Jan, Louis, and Knox. Roscoe organized and led the trip, Mike, Sam, Tad, Chuck, Milt, Ed, John and two new friends from Augusta were also there, all veterans of the river to varying degrees.

Part of the reason that we choose this sport is the opportunity to push ourselves mentally as well as physically, and to gain information about, to test, how we handle stress, risk, fear. All of us take this information back with us to our daily lives. It colors the way we live.

Nicholas learned at least as much about himself on the metro Hooch a week ago as we did last Sunday on the Chattooga. It was a milestone for Nicholas.

We all choose to associate on the rivers with people with whom we share general skill level, humor, and values. Everybody runs shuttle, buys dinners, carries forgotten items in dry bags, paddles lead, celebrates accomplishments, critiques setbacks, and organizes trips based on abilities and needs. We share commitments and responsibilities within (and without) our core group, both spoken and unspoken.

The decision as to when to run a milestone river for the first time is a very personal one. Conservative paddlers tend to wait until they are convinced that they

have all of the physical and mental skills required for any move conceivably required on a river. Less conservative paddlers push themselves harder. All of us are somewhere on the continuum.

Part of the decision process for all of us involves the opinion of our "buds", our core group, the people we choose to paddle with. These are the people whose opinions we trust, and who will be (most) affected if we have an error in judgment on the river.

Obtaining these opinions can take several forms, from an outright "Do you think that I'm ready for this?" to simply being invited along on a river trip. At this point, we have examined our motives, analyzed our skills, assessed the risks, prepared ourselves mentally and physically to the best of our abilities. The analysis is done and the contemplation is over. It is time for the test.

For others (not close friends, not paddling partners, and who are not directly involved in, or affected by the decision) to offer their unsolicited opinions on this intensely personal decision is presumptuous. To discuss these decisions in third person is either misplaced concern or gossip. To discuss these decisions in past tense third person is pointless.

The day was wonderful. Everyone paddled to their abilities. We learned a lot about our own skills and motivations as well as those of our friends. There was much laughter, much encouragement, support for decisions made, some soul searching, some personal advice, more laughter, and much enjoyment of the warm, sunny December weather and beautiful scenery. ✂

What Is The Chili Run?

by Jay Srymanske

The following article originated on the GCA email list as a response to someone who had not heard of the annual Cartecay Chili Run. - Editor.

The Cartecay Chili Run, run every New Years Day for the past 13 years, got started when Gary Foster, whose cabin is the first on the right at Blackberry take-out, watched us come in all summer. He asked what we did and we told him canoe trips. We asked him if he would like to come with us and he said he would go on January 1. Gary Vandiver and I got a \$10 deposit in August. We had mentioned it to a few folks and our first group of less than a dozen met to paddle.

At this same time a fellow moved across the road and would come and visit. Leo Linebaugh would forever be a major part of our lives! As a motley bunch got ready to go and the crisp cold day was getting underway, Leo thought that what these crazies needed when they got off would be

some hot chili. After a great paddle and good eats we said same place, same time next year.

Well, as word spread, each year got to be more and more friends paddling. Leo did his best to feed those that came, but after 3 years he could no longer break beans and feed the multitudes. That was the start of the cook off. That was the year that Mark Hyman of channel 2 came and did a piece for the TV news. The cook off was judged on a scratch sheet with everyone voting for hottest and best.

The next year there were even more coming to start the New Year with a dip of the paddle, but now over 30 chili contestants had entered, and by the time everyone tasted and voted, the end of the line was about to go hungry. Thus a board of judges. That year was also the introduction of another tradition, with Bill Foster, a wine rep, donating a case of Berringer for the "S" Turn Happy New Year, hope I don't turn over here, toast.

We have had as many as 300 people come (2 years ago - Temp 65 degrees and sunny). 1998 was the first with

weekend long camping and paddling trip with a large group. My paddling partners and I got in late Friday night, told lies around a fire and made plans for the next day. The group I was with got to the put-in at the Nantahala and began to unload boats and shuttle cars down to the take-out. Everyone helped everyone else.

Ray offered to take my car and drive to the take-out where he would leave the car and hitch hike back. That would give me time to set up my boat. My airbags had been giving me trouble and I wanted to make sure they were OK. We were checking gear, boat, PFD, helmet, paddles. Where were my paddles? The airbags were quickly forgotten.

"Has anyone seen my paddles?"

"No. Did you leave them in your car?"

Everyone searched the area on the off chance that my paddles were playing hide and go seek. No paddles. Great! "What am I going to do for paddles?" I was annoyed, mainly at myself.

Russell came to the rescue. "Come on Deb, I'll drive you down to the put-in and see if we can't catch Ray." That meant that the rest of the group would be held up for another half hour at least. They all knew how much I was looking forward to paddling. My paddling partner had heard nothing but how I was going to have a better than sex ride on Surfing Rapid for a week. "We'll wait for you, just hurry up."

Russell and I drove down to the take-out and sure enough, there was my car and there were my paddles. The trouble was there were no keys to go with the car to get my paddles and Ray was no where to be found.

Soooo, we got back into Russell's car to drive back up to the put in, to get my keys from Ray, to get into my car, to get my paddles, so I could have a better than sex ride on Surfing Rapid.

When we got back to the put-in, the group told us that Ray just left. It seems that when Ray got to the put-in and learned what happened, he hitched another ride back down to the take-out to give me my keys so I could get in my car and get my paddles and have a better than sex ride on Surfing Rapid.

Soooo, Russell and I got back into his car and drove back down to the take-out, to get my keys from Ray, unlock my car and get my paddles and Ray and bring them both back. We couldn't find Ray.

Soooo, we got back into Russell's car, drove back up to the put-in where, hopefully, Ray would be with my paddles. It was getting more and more difficult to keep my cool. I wanted to paddle! I wanted to have a better than sex ride on surfing rapid.

The whole situation was absurd. It was beginning to

look like I wouldn't get to paddle. I was not happy. When Russell and I got back to the put-in without my paddles and without Ray, everyone took one look at my face and exercised amazing restraint by not laughing. It wasn't over yet.

My paddling partner came to me. "Debra, I don't think you should paddle today."

"Excuse me?!" The idea of not paddling was not an option. I was going to paddle. I was going to have a better than sex ride on Surfing Rapid!

"I was blowing up your airbags for you..."

"And...."

"One of them has a leak."

"So, we'll fix it."

"Maybe this is a sign that you shouldn't paddle today." She then put into words the Keystone Cop routine that we had just gone through. For a seventeen year old she was pretty tactful. I wasn't hearing anything except that I wouldn't get to paddle and that meant that I wouldn't get to have a better than sex ride on Surfing Rapid. I hated, really hated, to admit that she was right.

Just about that time a van full of tourists pulled up and out hopped Ray, paddles in hand, looking for all the world like some kind of hero from a fairy tale which was not going to have a happy ending. He looked at me, and when he didn't get a "my hero!" response, he turned to my paddling partner, who quickly explained why I was not going to get to paddle in spite of everything that he and Russell had done, and that I was ticked off and would get over it.

She was right, it's just that I wanted to paddle! I wanted to have a better than sex ride on Surfing Rapid! So much for being spiritual.

Normally I would have gone with the flow and trusted the outcome. The more you push, the more resistance you will encounter. It is often wiser to take the path of least resistance, accepting things as they are. All the lessons I had learned about patience and the gift in the loss, and paying attention to the rhythms of your life, none

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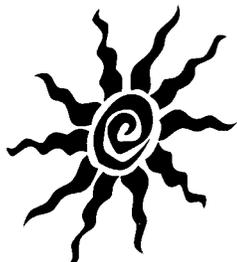
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of them mattered because I had it in my mind what I wanted and nothing was going to stop me from getting it. I was pushing and pushing hard. God herself couldn't have stopped my stubborn self at that point.

"Debra.... uh.... do you want to use my car to go back down the take-out?"

Russell did not deserve my surly response.

By the time I had gotten down to the take-out I had calmed down enough to decide to make the best of a bad situation. I took a long leisurely shower at base camp, changed into shorts, a button down shirt and hiking boots and went to River's End Restaurant for a hot breakfast and a cuppa tea. There's something about a good cuppa tea that makes just about everything seem a little better.

My spirits lifted and I decided drive up to Surfing Rapid to read while I waited for the group to show up. I was unhappy that I wasn't on the river, but what was done was done and the day didn't deserve to be wasted just because I didn't get my way. The wave would be there tomorrow.

The gang pulled out at Surfing Rapid and Michelle, who paddles a smaller version of my boat, got out first. He nodded toward his boat. "Debra, you want to try it?" I didn't know he was being sarcastic and started yanking off my boots and socks when he put a hand on my shoulder.

"I was joking."

Joking?! I reached out and grabbed his PFD, "I'm not; loan me your PFD."

"Look at you, you'll get all wet." He had a point. I was going to look really stupid if I went swimming wearing street clothes, and his boat was shorter and trickier to handle.

"Come on, Michelle, please." He reluctantly agreed to loan me his boat and PFD. On the other hand, the fact that I was forcibly removing his PFD may have contributed to his agreeing with me. My paddling partner tossed me her helmet; if I was going to be stubborn, I was at least going to be safe. Everyone else just shook their heads.

I jumped into Michelle's boat which was not nearly as stable as mine, and ferried over and got into line. If I pushed too hard onto the wave I'd get blown off and possibly flip; that's what happened before. I really did not want to swim. If I didn't push hard enough I wouldn't get on at all. When it was my turn, I was tentative about getting on and was blown off, but at least I didn't swim. I ferried back over and got into line again.

It was all about balance, harmony and strength. I had done it before, I had the skills and God knows I had the desire. I was ready. I was going to have a better than sex ride. Even my paddling partner believed it and had camera in hand to capture the moment.

I paddled out onto the wave, locked into the groove and rode the wave like I had been born paddling. I even managed to get in a paddle twirl. It was all about balance, knowing when to push and when to pull back a bit. And you know what? It was better than sex.

SYOTR!!!



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GET A GCA T-SHIRT!



T-shirts - GCA official logo (a canoe across the state of Georgia) on the front of the shirt while the back has the GCA official motto (River Running is a wet, thankless job but someone has to do it!). Sizes: L, XL, 2X Colors: Teal or Purple Price: \$12.00



Polo Shirts - GCA official logo on the front left breast pocket. Sizes: S, M, L, XL Color: Forest Green Price: \$22.00



Henley Shirts (no collar, button placket) - GCA official logo on left breast area. Sizes: M, L Color: Forest Green Short sleeve: \$15.00 Long sleeve: \$18.00 - Picture not shown

Sweatshirts - GCA official logo on left breast area. Size and color available by special order. Price: \$15.00

Decals - GCA official logo on a clear decal suitable for attaching to boats, cars, and pretty much anything else. Colors: Green and White Price: \$1.50

Pins - GCA official logo on a 1" round, military clasp pin. (Use for hat pins, tie tacs, earrings, etc., etc. etc.) Price: \$2.00

Name:	Item	Color	Size	Qty	Price	Total
Address:						
Phone: ()						
For info. call:(770) 498-3390						
Send check and order form to:	Name on Shirt _____ \$3.00 each					
Tanda Druding	(Please print names on lines above)				Subtotal	
11 Mountain Court	*Shipping - Decals \$5.50, Shirts 1-3 \$3.00				Shipping*	
Stone Mountain, GA 30087	each additional shirt \$1.00				Grand Total	

**Checks payable to:
 Georgia Canoeing Assoc.**





Get into the flow.

Go with the flow team member Dale Karacostas

October 1, 1996

Linville Gorge, NC

10:30 am

63° F

Class 5 rapid

15 foot fall

p u r e

a d r e n a l i n e .



4 Elizabeth Way, Roswell, GA 30075

770-992-3200

www.gowiththeflow.net