

### December GCA Meeting

The December GCA meeting will once again be the Annual Holiday Party. The party is scheduled for Thursday, December 21, at 7:30 PM. Bring a covered dish and/or a desert, a festive holiday mood, some good paddling tales and an appetite, and we'll all get together and celebrate the holiday season.

We just heard from the City of Atlanta Parks Department that our old meeting place at the Garden Hills Community Center will not be open by December, so we will continue meeting at the Episcopal Church of the Atonement until further notice. The church is located on Highpoint Road (runs north/south), between Glenridge Road and Windsor Parkway, both of which intersect Roswell Road. From I-285 topside perimeter, take Roswell Road/Sandy Springs exit south (inside the perimeter) to Glenridge Road. Turn left on Glenridge Road and right on Highpoint. The church is on your left about one mile south. From Buckhead, come north on Roswell Road and take a right on Windsor Parkway and a left on Highpoint. The church will be on your right. From Rte 400 north or south, take the Glenridge Connector exit (north of the toll booth, but still inside the Perimeter). Turn west at the end of the ramp. Turn left on Glenridge Road (it's Johnson Ferry to the right) and immediately left on Highpoint Road (marked well). The church is on your left about one mile south.

See you there!



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### Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice is back! It will be held on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 beginning the second Monday in January, (the first Monday is the New Years Holiday) and running through the last Monday in March (NO ROLL PRACTICE ON THE KING HOLIDAY JANUARY 15 - THE FACILITY WILL BE CLOSED). Our host is the Warren Memorial Boys' and Girls' Club on Berne 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. ACA members, have your ACA number available or pay for an event membership.



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 Berne 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 Berne 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.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



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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 Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384 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 Jim Griffin at 770.498.3695.

**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 winter 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 Rachel Gates at 404.296.4480. ✂

## Board of Directors Meetings

The Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of even months (February, April, etc.) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, located on Piedmont Road at the Prado, next to Piedmont Park. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384 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 .....	Brannen Proctor
Vice President .....	Marvine Cole
Secretary .....	Lindsay Meeks
Treasurer .....	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair .....	Mary Ann Pruitt
Recreation Chair .....	Jason Schnurr
Resource Development Chair .....	Debra Berry
River Protection Chair .....	Julia Franks
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 [gacanoec@mindspring.com](mailto:gacanoec@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 classified 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. ✂

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## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



### December

2	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
2	Chattooga Section IV (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
3	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Stacy Patterson	770.466.7538
7	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Atlanta Botanical Garden	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384	
9	Cartecay (Note 1)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
9	Lower Amicalola	Class 3-4 Advanced	Tony Colquitt	770.854.6636
10	Metro Hooch	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
10	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Tony Colquitt	770.854.6636
16	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Doug Ackerman	770.503.0365
16	Middle Tellico (Note 3)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
16	Town Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
17	Metro Hooch	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Kay Redmond	404.237.7242
21	Club Meeting — Annual Holiday Party — Episcopal Church of the Atonement —	Kay Redmond	404.237.7242	
30	Mountain Town Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Dave Chaney	770.973.7910
31	Leader's Choice	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jimmy Gunter	770.591.2218

### January

1	Little River Canyon	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
6	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Griffin	770.498.3695
6	Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Bill Convis	770.751.9258
6	Tellico (Upper & Middle) ( Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
7	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Paul Therrian	770.513.4986
13	South Sauty Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
18	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun — Episcopal Church of the Atonement —	Kay Redmond	404.237.7242	

Note 1: Paddle with the Prez.

Note 2: Trip will end at Camp Creek and will not include Five Falls.

Note 3: This section considered 3+.

Note 4: Trip starts on upper (Ledges) section (III-IV). Will pick up remainder of group for middle (III+) section.

**Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space.  
Call the Cruise Master and Sign Up Now!!**

**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, Jim Griffin, at 770.498.3695. 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 evenings from 7:00 until 9:00 January thru March at the Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club pool. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

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## 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 Rachel Gates at 404.296.4480 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:

Rachel Gates  
PO Box 1485  
Pine Lake, GA 30072

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)  
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)  
Heads Up, River Rescue  
Introduction to Canoeing  
Kayak 101 (mastering the basics)  
Kayak Handling - The Basic Strokes  
Only Nolan (Canoe Technique)  
Path of the Paddle: Quietwater  
Path of the Paddle: Whitewater  
Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)  
Plunge!

Prijon Wildplay Wildwasser Sport  
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 Florida  
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  
Arkansas information (assorted)  
Basic River Canoeing  
Boundary Waters I&II  
Brown's Guide to Georgia  
Buyer's Guide 1993 (Canoe Magazine)  
Buyer's Guide 1994 (Paddler Magazine)  
Buyer's Guide 1996 (Paddler Magazine)  
California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers  
Canoe Racing (Marathon & Down River)  
Canoeing Wild Rivers

Carolina Whitewater (Western Carolina)  
Cruise of the Blue Flujin  
Cumberland River Basic Canoe Trail Guide  
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement  
Florida information (assorted)  
Idaho Whitewater  
Indiana Canoeing Guide  
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  
People Protecting Rivers  
Pole, paddle & Portage  
River Rescue  
River Safety Anthology  
River's End (Stories)  
Sea Kayaking Canada's West Coast  
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 (Sierra Club Guide)  
Wildwater West Virginia  
Youghiogheny

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## Announcements

### GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing over 325 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 "gacanoeflipper.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@flipper.kapcom.com" and on the first line of the body of the message type:

subscribe gacanoeflipper.kapcom.com

You will receive a verification that you are sub-



scribed 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 gacanoeflipper.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. ✂

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### GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.georgiacanoe.org>. We are adding information and links of value to paddlers with each update. Send your ideas for updates to Allen Sinuefield at [asinuefield@corecommerce.com](mailto:asinuefield@corecommerce.com) ✂

### 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 \$20.00 credit toward our monthly ISP subscription cost. You will need to give them the GCA email ID — gacanoec@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

## Get *The Eddy Line* Via Email

*The Eddy Line* is now available via email as a .pdf (portable document format) file. 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 at least a couple of weeks before the printed copy arrives via snail mail. 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).

The .pdf version requires only Adobe Acrobat Reader (or some equivalent) software in order to view it. Acrobat Reader is usually present on most PCs running Windows 95 or Windows 98, or can be downloaded for free from the Adobe web site at <http://www.adobe.com>.

To subscribe to the email 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 *Electronic 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. ✂

## Upcoming Events of Interest

December 2 — Bryson City Jiffy Slalom — Tuckaseegee River, Bryson City, NC, NOC Programs Office - 888.662.1662.

December 3 — NRC December Wild Water Race — Nantahala or Tuckaseegee River, Bryson City, NC, NOC Programs Office - 888.662.1662.

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### Canoe Instruction

Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels  
Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318  
Email canoeist@mindspring.com

January 1 — Cartecay Chili Run — Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions, Ellijay, GA, Jay Srymanske, 706.635.2726, moe\_canoe@hotmail.com.

January 1 — Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club Polar Bear Swim — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.

February 10 — Locust Fork Invitational Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 205.274.0006.

March 3-4 — Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Races — Garden City, AL, Mary Ellen Zvanut, 205.985.0552.

March 24 — Locust Fork Classic Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 205.274.0006.

April 13-15 — World Cup #1 Sprint Canoe / Kayak — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.

June 1-3 — Lanier Paddlefest 2001 — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.

August 7-12 — USCA National Championships — Sprint & Marathon, Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com. ✂

## Electronic *Eddy Line* Email Failures

Not getting your electronic version of *The Eddy Line*? The following email IDs had mail failure notices for the November *Electronic Eddy Line* mailing. Send any corrections or changes to Ed Schultz, 3060 Pharr Court North #315, Atlanta, GA 30305, or call Ed at 404.266.3734, or you may email him at [heloeddy@mindspring.com](mailto:heloeddy@mindspring.com).

Failed email IDs:

the5sands@aol.com

zoofossil@aol.com

canoefan@aol.com

clmcfadden@aol.com

lem1@mindspring.com — Service unavailable

steven.boggus@hcahealthcare.com ✂

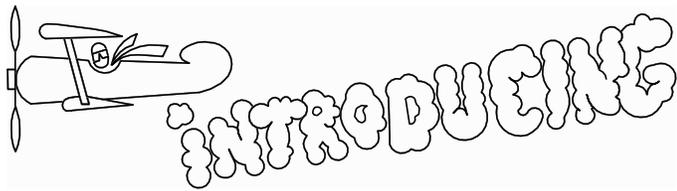
## Cartecay Chili Run and Cook-off

Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions is proud to present the 15th Annual Cartecay River Chili Run and Cook-off, to be held New Year's Day, January 1, 2001. Who would have thought that what a bunch of crazies did on a dare of a river trip years ago would turn into a proud Georgia river tradition.

After proving Y2K resistant, we look forward to having some more paddling fun and fellowship. We will start shuttles at 10 a.m. and run them throughout the

day. Chili will be available from 12:00 noon, and chili for the cook-off must be in by 2:00 p.m. Judging will be until 3:00 p.m., and entrants and their guests will eat after prizes at 3:00 p.m.

Keep the faith on the water levels. The first Chili run was after a three year drought and the river had gotten to .8 as the low in September-October. We will paddle on. There is no finer way to start a new year than the dip of a paddle and the dip of a spoon at M.O.E. with Leo and folks at Mountaintown Outdoor. See you 1-1-2001, Jay. ✂



## Welcome New Members

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

### August

Rumiko Akai	Atlanta GA
Tom Bishop	Marietta GA
Memelaos Demestihias	Atlanta GA
Scott Douglas	Norcross GA
Cecile Doyen & Ellen Usher	Atlanta GA
Rich Gilman	Monroe GA
Todd R. Gullekson	Sharpsburg GA
Randi Haft	Atlanta GA
Win Hargrave	Mableton GA
Bill Hetzler	Roswell GA
Jennifer Hoberman	Marietta GA
Colleen Newham	Atlanta GA
Steven Olson	Atlanta GA
Bud & Niki Queen	Forsyth GA
Elizabeth & Brian Robie	Marietta GA
Hudson Slay & Sarah Gray	Decatur GA
Susan Stallard	Atlanta GA
Raymond & Jeanne Steed	Atlanta GA
Jim Stortz	Alpharetta GA
John & Alice Tumblin	Decatur GA

### September

Kathleen & Jean Bell	Norcross GA
Beth Buffkin	Roswell GA
John A. Cory	Marietta GA
Monty Creed	Acworth GA
Phoebe Dean & Scott Lenhart	Decatur GA

Margery R. Diamond	Atlanta GA
Thomas & Michael Faughn	Atlanta GA
Albury & Denise Gardner	Kennesaw GA
Ira & Andy Jordan	Anderson SC
Steve Kottwitz	Atlanta GA
Sally Malan	Alpharetta GA
David & Carmen Miller	Norcross GA
Rob & Aimee Murphy	Atlanta GA
Les & Amy Nicholas	Cleveland TN
Darrell M. Parker	Canton GA
Emily Reatherford	Atlanta GA
Tomasz Rewucki	Atlanta GA
Pat Riedo	Peachtree City GA
Maryann L. Rose	Atlanta GA
Cindy Rubin	Avondale Estates GA
Ron & Marsha Snyder	Peachtree City GA
Ted J. Souris	Smyrna GA
Pat Stone	Fairview NC
Ed Walshe	Chapin SC
Barry White	Kennesaw GA



## River Hazards

### Cartecay River

November 9, 2000. Evidently there is a river wide strainer a little below the 52 bridge put-in on the Cartecay. The high water level today must have dumped another tree into the small one that was already there. It is now a portage.

- Submitted by Diane Smith via the GCA email list. <img alt="arrow icon" data-bbox="465 265 485 278"/>



## Kayaks Flying Off Vehicles

by Susan Oehler

This should never happen, except in a very violent car collision. Yet it happened twice this past weekend at the Russell Fork, and four times in the past month.

At the Gauley, two boats came off a moving vehicle as it went over the railroad tracks. In this case, the driver simply forgot to tie them down at all.

At the Ocoee, a kayak flew off a vehicle because a front strap broke. This is what will happen when you use a two-point tie down system, with no bow or stern lines.

This past Saturday, two kayakers came off of the

vehicle I was a passenger in (and one of the kayakers was mine). They only went as far as the hood of the SUV, and they left a couple of pretty dents in this almost new SUV. But the guy who owned the vehicle also did the tie-down job, and there were no bow or stern lines... just a couple of straps, and the boats worked loose. No harm to anyone, just to his own vehicle.

Yesterday I was traveling up the road out of Garden Hole at the Russell Fork, with four kayakers tied on top (with a four point tie down system) and two passengers. As I rounded a bend, an approaching vehicle came to an abrupt stop (he was traveling way, way, way too fast for this road). He went into the ditch (fortunately for him, on the inside of the mountain) and three of the four kayakers on top of his vehicle went flying towards me. One went left of my car, one went to the right, and one hit the hood, bounced off, and followed one of the other kayakers down the mountain side.

I and my front seat passenger (Cecil Tickmeyer) were very lucky that the kayak hit the hood of my car instead of coming through the windshield (although Cecil thinks MY bow line would have deflected the kayak... I'm not so sure!). And, of course, we were lucky the driver of the other vehicle did not hit us and send us down the mountainside (we were on the outside of the curve) and lucky that this driver resisted the impulse to turn the wheel away from the coming objects flying through the air. No one was hurt, but it could have turned out very differently. The estimate on my car totaled \$482.00.

I got this young man's name, address, license number and got back in my car still shaking from the experience. I handed him one of my business cards, and even though the name dancewater was not on it, the first thing he said was: Oh, you must be dancewater. He did say he would pay for the damages.

I saw him on the way home, and he still had two kayakers on his vehicle.... tied down insecurely. He said he didn't have any more rope, and I had no rope left that was long enough.

I can not understand why people don't tie down their kayakers properly on top of their vehicles. I watched every vehicle coming into and out of Garden Hole (where I was parked) and NOT A SINGLE VEHICLE had bow or stern lines until Cecil showed up. I talked to several of these kayakers, and they all felt their kayakers were tied down securely. But if you have a rope around 3, 4, 5 or 6 kayakers, and stop suddenly, that is putting a lot of pressure on a single rope or strap. And, if that front strap or rope gives, the kayakers will go flying. There is nothing to stop them if you don't have bow and stern lines.

One boater told me he didn't expect to stop suddenly.



**If You're Here,  
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404-633-8535 [www.kapcom.com](http://www.kapcom.com)



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Well, neither did I.... especially on a little road like the one out of Garden Hole.

Years ago I worked as a unit clerk in an emergency room. I remember one day putting a wrist bracelet on a four year old car accident victim who was woefully and loudly crying: I WANT MY MOMMY, I WANT MY MOMMY... over and over again. But Mommy was hit by a rock coming through the windshield, and Mommy went to the morgue. I imagine you would get the same results from a kayak coming through the windshield. ✂

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## **New to the Club?**

**by John H. Curtioff**

If you are new to the club, this is the article for you. For those of us who have been members for a long time, this is rather old. Many of us started in the club the same way — not knowing anyone in the club, few friends in the group, a bit unsure of what to do to get on a trip, or while on a trip, for that matter.

As new paddlers, we have been questioned regularly about our ability on the water as well. If these things bring back memories or are part of your more current memories, then this article is for you.

When you join a group of paddlers, there are many considerations that the group has for you and your safety. There are also many questions that you have for your fellow paddlers. I will attempt to add some perspective to this situation. First let's look at it from the perspective of the club.

There are many things to be considered from this side of the coin. There are many things that the club has to be concerned about to insure your safety on the water. There are many things that involve logistics and basic preparedness that need to be addressed as well.

First and foremost is your ability on the water. When you call to sign up for a trip with the club, whether it be on flat water, a lake or pond, an overnight trip down some river, or just a day trip, there is a concern for you and your safety. This is why there are questions asked about ability and skills on the water. There are questions about where you have paddled before and who you have paddled with in the past. Mostly, club members run the trips and they want to be sure that you are prepared for the trip at hand.

It is important that you know what you are doing on the body of water being paddled. It is important that you remain safe on the day's paddle. When you, the newer paddler, are asked questions about your ability and skill level, this is to make sure that you are not in over your head for the difficulty of the trip. Questions might be

asked about your equipment. This is again to make sure you are prepared for the trip.

All these, as well as keeping you in the middle of the group, are designed to insure your safety on the river, lake or designated excursion for that day. So when questions are asked, just remember that you are not the first person to have answered those questions. It is almost standard procedure with new paddlers until they become better known in the club. Remember again that your safety, as well as the safety of the group, is the first concern here.

You have to remember that most trips are to a specific destination, whether it be a specific class of water, a specific body of water, a particular river to spend a day or a few days on the water, or at the ocean, or where ever. The trip is planned and, when you call, the trip coordinator wants to make sure you will fit into the trip. He/she also wants to make sure the trip is geared for your ability level, that you won't have problems on the trip because of lack of skill and preparedness.

It is difficult to change your mind when you are out in the middle of the wilderness and decide that the trip is too difficult for your ability level. You can't always just turn around and go home. On many trips, this is not even a practical or possible solution. If it is an overnight trip, it would be very difficult to leave from the halfway point on the river to get back to your car. This is not a solo venture, but rather a group effort, as it is not always safe to send a single person out into the wilderness.

Next let's look at equipment. It may seem a little trite, but it does take more than just a boat, PFD, and paddle to be on most trips. The new paddler will have questions asked, and many times suggestions made, as to what to bring on a trip. It is the duty of the trip coordinator to make sure his group for the day is prepared. That is why he will ask some questions about your basic preparedness. Maybe it would be about a wet suit, or paddling jacket, or throw rope, or first aid kit, or whatever.

The suggestions made to bring a lunch and plenty of water are always practical, but not always obvious to some new paddlers. Until you get used to group logistics, there may be problems, and the trip coordinator will want to help you out with these before you get to the water. If you are short a piece of equipment for the day, maybe the trip coordinator can loan you that item or tell you where to borrow or buy such an item.

I can't even begin to tell you how many times I have loaned out a paddling jacket or extra water bottle for the trip down a river. Taking care of these items and situations ahead of time is far better than getting out on the water and figuring out that this is really a problem.

Remember that group dynamics play a major role

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here as well. If there is a problem, there are plenty of people to help with the solution of the problem. If you are in the drink, someone will be there to assist you promptly.

You don't want to show up at the water's edge with only a Scano (not a misspelled word — a square stern Coleman canoe) with two boaters, two paddles, two PFDs, sitting on their seats, heading down class II-III water with a flow rate of about 1000 cfs. If you swam, who would help you in that situation? You would be on your own unless another paddler helped.

Enough about the club perspective. Now for the new paddler perspective. This is really the easy part of the article. All you have to do is call to get on a trip. Make your calls early and don't misrepresent your ability to the trip coordinator. If you are a flat water paddler and don't like even slow moving water, then don't sign on for that type of trip. If you are a class II paddler, don't sign on for the higher class trips.

I do remember one particular person who felt that successive trips should be on water of increasing difficulty. So on his fourth trip out, he felt that he should be doing class IV water. This did not work out too well on the river. There were problems, and the whole group felt those problems, even though the trip coordinator worked hard with that person mostly one on one for the day. We

did shepherd him down the river, and he did feel we were "baby sitting" him, and he was right.

You have to go with your abilities for the day. If you aren't comfortable with some of the logistics when you call, discuss it with the trip coordinator and see what he/she says. There are usually options available for things like this.

Next and extremely important is for you to ask questions. The trip coordinator will make sure he/she has asked all of the questions that are needed. You must do the same. Ask about return times, water temperature, arrangements for lunch, supper, a breakfast stop, etc. Also, do you have to bring anything in particular for the outing? Maybe extra water or a snack along with your lunch. How is the shuttling being done? There are literally tons of little things that the newer paddler will have to get used to when dealing with group logistics.

If you can't think of anything to ask, then ask — what will I have to bring for the day? The trip coordinator should be able to answer that question easily and completely. A good trip coordinator will make sure all of the basics are covered because he/she wants to have a good trip as much as you want to have a good time on his/her trip.

A final question you might ask is who is coming on

the trip. It is sometimes very efficient to team up with someone for driving and sharing expenses — especially if there are great distances involved for the trip. It might give you a chance to meet some other paddlers in the group and get to know them a little better.

I do know that it is hard getting involved with a group of people you don't really know that well. For the first few trips, it is difficult to try to fit into their pattern of doing things. After a few trips and you get your name and face around, this uneasy feeling will cease.

Just be persistent and get out to paddle. That is why you bought the boat and joined a paddling organization. What you are going through was perfected years before by putting tons of other people through it first! Don't ever feel you are being singled out. The fact of the matter is that all new paddlers go through the same thing.

- From "Paddle Talk", newsletter of the Conewago Canoe Club.

## Carnage at Gauley Fest 2000

### A Paddler's Primer on Serious River Injury by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

My muse spoke, as she so often has, on the second day after surgery. I think it has to do with high blood levels of synthetic morphine derivatives combined with plenty of belly-up time. I had ruptured my quadriceps tendon at Pillow Rock during Gauley Fest and my muse brought to my attention the paucity of written accounts concerning what people experience following a major injury.

There are many sources of information concerning safety, rescue, and first aid, which serious paddlers read in advance so as to have some clue what to do. But what instructional manuals exist for victims? Just as with rescue, being a victim is not a trivial undertaking and becomes more tolerable if y'all at least have an idea of what to expect. The objective of this essay is to discuss the natural history of major white water injuries, from the injured party's perspective.

We need to get a couple things clear at the beginning. First, to me major injury means something really nasty that will require a two-hour or so surgical procedure (under general anesthesia) or several days in the hospital to fix, and will include at least a month rehabilitation. Second, even though every trauma / medical event and patient are different, I'm going to generalize, based on my experience from both sides of the stretcher and stethoscope.

The natural history of major white water injuries includes seven phases that victims / patients navigate

with varying degrees of satisfaction: 1) The Injury; 2) Immediate Response to the Injury; 3) Extraction from the Accident Site; 4) Medical Evaluation; 5) Definitive Treatment; 6) Post-Treatment Recovery; 7) Rehabilitation.

### The Injury

Without exception, major paddling injuries are not subtle. You're swimming Ocoee's Entrance Rapid, thudding off rocks, wondering how big the bruises will be, then WHAM, a searing SNAP in your right ankle — you just suffered a displaced fibular fracture that will require surgical repair.

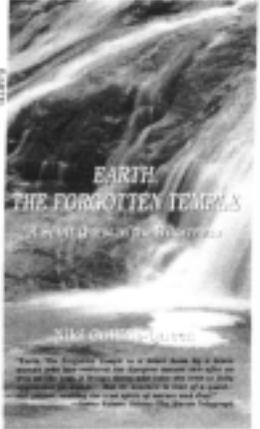
Wow, we finally got rain, the Conasauga's running and the group's strung out all along the hill portaging to the put-in. You slip about halfway down, twist your ankle, and ding your shoulder badly on a tree. Pause a second to sort things out, complete the portage, and carefully step out on the rocks to unload your boat in the creek. Hmmm, those rocks look a bit slippery. WHAM, a gut wrenching SNAP in the middle of your right thigh — you just ruptured the quadriceps tendon (a mandatory surgical repair).

Jarrod's Knee on the upper Tellico has several lines that require precise boofs. Woops, you miss your line, flip and begin to roll up right on the lip of the third drop. Whoa

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The author six hours after surgery working the anesthesia out of his lungs.  
- Submitted by Bill Reeves.

shit, you won't quite make it. Oh well, No WHAM SNAP, in this scenario.

The victim either: 1) wakes up cold, wet, and miserable, lying on the rocks looking up into the faces of his / her buddies like from the bottom of a football huddle; 2) realizes he / she is strapped down in the back of a meat wagon and a complete stranger is asking stupid questions (like, "What's your name?"); 3) drifts in and out of a fog and wakes up toasty warm in a hospital with intravenous lines dripping, monitors chirping, and nasal oxygen hissing.

Oh, I could go on and on, but the actual injury is straightforward and unmistakable. A surfeit of serious boating injuries seem to occur on land (while portaging, scouting, or worst of all just screwing around) not while actually running drops.

#### **Immediate Response to the Injury**

If you're in the water, get the hell out! Bad injuries don't get better, shock will set in, and you have ultimate responsibility for saving your own ass. Basically, if you're bad hurt and swimming above the Sinks, shock or other disabilities are not an option. You must get out because

things can only get logarithmically worse.

Once you are secure from immediate life threatening hazards, the classic immediate post-injury response is to jump to your feet and do a little jig to make certain everything is still working. Trust me, it's not a good idea, because not everything will be working and the classic response usually sends the victim back to ground. Rather, implement a more intelligent paradigm; just sit there and assess your status. It's about now that shock kicks in, usually combined with increasingly severe pain. All you can do is ride it out.

This is also when rescue operations begin to rev up and you have to concentrate on not losing what little self control remains, so as to communicate effectively with variously experienced and freaked rescuers. Fortunately, my paddling partners are all quite accomplished at rescue, first aid, and used to variously bad gris gris. Take it from the Hawk, suffering a major injury is not the time to determine the abilities and emotional stability of your paddling partners.

#### **Extraction from the Accident Site**

Let's forget about first aid and stabilization, since they are well covered in many books. Bottom line, you need to get back to civilization and there's only two ways to accomplish this: hump yourself out, or send for help. In general, you will always be happier if you can get out on your own.

Decisions concerning extraction may cause considerable consternation and dissension among your group. The victim is not necessarily competent to determine his / her ability to walk out. On the other hand, most rescuers have never really done this sort of thing and don't have a



Will Reeves running Pillow Rock on the Gauley River at Gauley Fest 2000.  
- Submitted by Bill Reeves.

clue either.

Two things to keep in mind before trying it on your own: 1) you may make the injury worse; 2) you may lose it part way out and collapse in worse terrain than that at riverside. It may be moot and rescue / extraction is the only option.

Search and rescue require a minimum of 6-10 hours and this is the time for serious proactive thinking (too hot, get some cloths off; too cold, get some new ones on; night coming, start a fire; raining, set up a shelter). Prepare yourself mentally for a long, long, long, and even longer increasingly miserable wait through most of the evening.

### **Medical Evaluation**

Everyone who paddles seriously has been injured with varying degrees of severity and experienced the three phases I just discussed. The evaluation, treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation phases are more unique to serious injuries. Initial medical evaluation always poses a quandary. If you're coming in by ambulance, have been unconscious, are bleeding, something's obviously broken, or the pain just won't quit, there's no question an Emergency Room (ER) visit is mandatory ASAP.

However, keep in mind ER visits require a minimum of three or four hours, cost a couple hundred bucks, and involve beau coup hassles. Also, with all due respect, Summersville, Clayton, and Rome General Hospitals ain't Emory, Piedmont, or Grady. ER staffing and specialty coverage vary considerably around the region.

Local ER visits are not mandatory; many injuries can be safely transported back to home and your favorite local hospital. I fell and ruptured my quadriceps tendon



Will Reeves at Koontz Flume on the Gauley River at Gauley Fest 2000.  
- Submitted by Bill Reeves.

at Pillow Rock at about 14:00 Sunday afternoon. I managed to drag my sorry ass out of the gorge and was belly up on a picnic table by the parking lot within an hour.

It took Clay two more hours to hump the gear up, and Ricky and Martin finished the river and met up with us at about 20:30. Everyone except the Hawk wanted to go to the ER; I just wanted to go to bed. I reasoned that 6 hours had passed, things weren't getting worse, and an ER visit would not result in definitive treatment.

In the end, all serious injuries must receive a complete evaluation by an appropriate medical specialist in as expeditious a manner as possible. Where you are evaluated and eventually treated depends on what sort of medical coverage you have (make certain you completely check this out before checking in with a doc). Most river injuries will be orthopedic.

I personally use the Emory University Department of Orthopedics and cannot praise them highly enough. Of course it helps that I am a physician, have faculty appointments at Emory, and am well known so I can just refer myself. No matter where you go, count on a least half a day downtime, innumerable stints waiting, innumerable forms and interviews.

### **Definitive Treatment**

Definitive treatment can mean three basic things. If you're really lucky (e.g., a dislocated shoulder) a couple months PT can do the trick. Almost as good, a simple fracture can be cured by a simple (albeit painful) reduction and casting. Then, of course, comes the "option" of surgery (unfortunately it is really never an option). The sudden realization that you will go under the knife tomorrow morning (or in the next couple hours) can be a profound experience.

Don't let it bother you. The actual surgical experience is the least traumatic of the seven stages, because you're drugged out of your mind the entire time. For most patients, surgery involves two stages: pre-op and post-op (they're asleep during the surgical procedure). Although your surgeon is responsible for the actual procedure, preoperative and postoperative care are the responsibility of anesthesiologists. Get to know them and establish some rapport. Their specialty is patient relaxation and pain relief.

Preoperatively you will be stripped buck necked (all jewelry etc. cached), dressed in a hospital gown (basically a short sheet that covers your front and ties at the back of the neck), and placed on a gurney. An IV will be started and various psychotropic medicines administered (they want you relaxed and non-apprehensive).

IV drugs come on like a tidal wave and truly cause instant / complete relaxation and non-apprehensiveness.

However, it's not a bad idea to remain attentive. For example, in the pre-op area before one of my recent leg procedures an anesthesiologist asked me which eye they were going to do.

In any event, you will soon be wheeled into the operating room and moved from the gurney to the operating table. This is a narrow contraption (slightly wider than your butt) with two wing-like protuberances onto which your arms are strapped. It's like theater in the round. On the periphery an intricate, carefully choreographed performance involving masked and gowned OR staff will be unfolding purely because of you. Pretty soon the anesthesiologist will put a mask on your face ("Just some oxygen") and inform you it's time to go to sleep.

You're next conscious (or semiconscious) recollections will be of the recovery room. This is not a fun place and, because of the drugs on board, many people don't remember it at all. You will remain in recovery with a nasal oxygen cannula in place and on cardiac / respiratory monitors until you are stable.

Stable means not in pain and "alert". Alert is a relative term in these circumstances. I have had some brilliant conversations and epiphanies associated with the recovery room, but have been unable to accurately articulate them the following morning. Recovery is the time to insist on maximum pain relief; it's the only thing they really have to offer after surgery.

In the recovery room pain relief is administered as massive IV boluses of morphine derivative narcotics. They work!!! It's worth it!!! Tune in, turn on, and drop out. Once you're stable, you will be wheeled back to your room. This ride back is always an experience; you'll be awake but drifting in and out. The last drop on this phase of the trip involves a moderately complex class III move from the gurney back into your bed. No matter, you are now back in the almost normal world.

Ascertain the location of all communication equipment and make contact with the nursing staff. They are your new caretakers, will be the only friends you have, and are responsible for administration of pain and other medications. Find out what pain meds have been ordered and the minimum frequency with which you can receive them.

Call the nurse and get the maximum amount of pain medication as soon as you realize the pain is coming back. Do not, repeat do not, wait until you're really hurting bad to ask for that good old IV bolus of bliss. If no one comes within 15 minutes repeat the call (floor nurses are over-worked and your first call may have fallen through the cracks).

The first 24 hours after surgery are awful. You will

be alone in your room with nothing to do, no one to talk to and just a stupid television set (usually sans TV guide) to divert your attention.

### **Post-Treatment Recovery**

Technically, post-treatment recovery begins with that class III move into your hospital bed. In my opinion, this is the most onerous of the seven stages. Count on at least a month of misery and a second month of relative unhappiness for most orthopedic procedures. You will spend between 24 and 48 hours in the hospital, and if you're smart, at least a week convalescing at home. Going back to work the day after you're discharged will impress your coworkers, but it ain't worth it (trust the Hawk on this).

Remember, being unconscious for two hours while someone slices your body open and moves tendons / bones / muscle around is a major stress event that screws up both your body and mind. The main problems involve lack of energy and inability to concentrate, pain at the site of the surgery (takes about three days to dissipate), pain at other sites (e.g., the butt and lower back), and inability to do normal things (e.g., take a dump, brush your teeth, sleep on your stomach or side) because some part of your body is immobilized and has a huge surgical scar.

Recovery seems to take forever and there's no way around it. Night is the worst ("Night brings our troubles to the light rather than banishes them." - Seneca). Count on at least two weeks (which is usually when wound staples are removed) to even be close to 25% normal. Count on at least a month for this to be a receding memory. Don't let it get to you. Make something positive of it (write a couple *Eddy Line* articles). Remember, as Henry Kaiser



The author after his class III move from gurney to hospital bed.  
- Submitted by Bill Reeves.

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said, "Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes."

### **Rehabilitation**

Wow! We made it to the end. Orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation medicine have progressed light years since I graduated from medical school. Ascertain the extent to which rehabilitation is covered by your health plan and then aggressively pursue it. I strongly recommend either the Emory University Department of Rehabilitation Medicine or Emory University Sports Medicine Clinic.

Your orthopedic surgeon will likely refer for rehabilitation while you're still in the hospital or at your first post-op visit. Now-a-days active rehabilitation programs usually begin during the recovery phase (often while still in a cast). Count on, and work for, complete rehabilita-

tion. Accept no less, it's your future.

Active rehabilitation takes around 6 months and requires considerable dedication and effort. Usually you will visit the Rehabilitation Clinic two (or three) times a week for intense no nonsense sessions. Save up some of your Percoset for the first couple sessions.

You must also conduct your own personal rehabilitation program at least three or four times a day in between. For example, I am currently recovering from six surgical procedures following my initial postoperative wound infection. I have about a month until the final surgical repair. I see a physical therapist for an hour twice a week, and in between pursue three hour long, self-rehabilitation sessions every day to regain range of motion in my right knee. ✂

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## **Southeasterns 2001**

Many thanks to Jason Schnurr, who has volunteered to serve as Race Master for the 2001 Southeastern Slalom & Wild Water Championship Races. Jason has donated untold hours helping with various aspects of the race in years past, so he is well aware of what is involved in this latest undertaking.



Race Watch

Jason, we appreciate your taking on this daunting task!

If you would like to help Jason out with the races, you can call him at 770.422.9962 or email him at JasSchnr@aol.com. The most pressing needs are for a Volunteer Coordinator and for someone to solicit donations and sponsorships for the race and the raffle.

The exact date for the 2001 race is not yet determined, but will be announced very soon. The location will be the Nantahala River in Wesser, North Carolina. Watch upcoming issues of *The Eddy Line* for additional information on the races. ✂

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## **Y'all Come Race with Us**

We want you to join us for the 2001 Mulberry Fork Canoe and Kayak Races! We've seen some of you over the years, but we'd like to offer a personal invitation to everybody in the Georgia Canoeing Association to join us on the wonderful Mulberry Fork of the Warrior River in North Central Alabama for the 19th running of our race on March 3 & 4, 2001. Come and race. Come and watch. Come and do both! (Or just come and eat, drink, lounge, paddle, hang out, whatever.)

We offer slalom and down river racing on the Mulberry, class II-III water, depending on conditions. Orga-

nized by the Birmingham Canoe Club and the Bama Backpaddlers, we are sanctioned by the ACA and home of the Dixie Division Open Boat Championships.

We offer championship class slalom racing (Kevlar/fiberglass boats, serious racers) on Saturday, March 3, as well as all the down river classes. Cruising (open to everybody, plastic boats, 'just-for-fun' paddlers) and novice slalom classes (ain't never done this before paddlers) are on Sunday, March 4. We have a slew of classes: kayak, C-boat, open boat, tandem, juniors, male, female, mixed — the whole shebang. For more information contact the race registrar, Mary Ellen Zvanut, at 205.985.0552.

Cost is \$15 for the first class you enter and \$8 for additional classes. The fees go up if you register close to race weekend, so don't delay. Primitive camping is available on site for a nominal fee. We host an awards banquet on Saturday evening on site, again for a small fee. There are hotels and restaurants in the area.

The Mulberry is in Blount County, near Garden City, about 45 miles north of Birmingham, Alabama.

We are also the second event in the Alabama Cup race series. The Alabama Cup offers a prize for the best overall finish in each class from three races, the Locust Fork Invitational, the Mulberry and the Locust Fork Classic. The other races in the Alabama Cup are on the nearby Locust Fork River, near Cleveland, Alabama. The Locust Fork Invitational is February 10 and the Locust Fork Classic is March 24. ✂



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## River Access

### Three Visions of the Future

by Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness (<http://www.wildwilderness.org>) via Lindsay Meeks

As I write this it is still uncertain who will be the next President. In many ways, it doesn't matter. Industrial tourism has the Republican party in the palm of its hands -- the Bush family used to go on camping trips in a rented RV with the president of the American Recreation Coalition, the major proponent of recreation fees. Gore is the highest ranking elected official in favor of these fees. Why should you oppose them? Take a look at your canoe trip of the future:

#### **Vision One: The Traditional**

You bounce down a wash-boarded forest road for what seems like an eternity until you come upon your favorite lake. Once there, you are treated to a magnificent setting, a pit toilet, a few rustic tent sites and maybe a hiking trail that leads into the back country. You scratch your head and pay a \$1 parking fee.

The lake itself is totally peaceful and so pristine that you can easily imagine this is how it's always been. That afternoon you'll do a little fishing from your canoe, or maybe go for a swim, or a hike, or simply enjoy a picnic while you marvel at the setting. Maybe you paddle across the lake to a secluded place to camp for the night. Later that evening you'll set up your tent, get out your cooler and camp stove and prepare for a night under the stars and a rare opportunity to become one with the Great Outdoors as nature provided them.

#### **Vision Two: Industrial Strength Recreation**

You race down a freshly paved forest road in your

\$150,000 RV to that same lake; having first made reservations for a premium site at the new KOA campground. The old tent sites have all been freshly upgraded and turned into pull-through ribbons of concrete, complete with water, sewer, electrical and internet hookups (which you'll use to make your next night's reservations). The parking fee is now \$20 per night and the reservation cost \$10 to make.

Once you've leveled your motor home, you unhitch the trailer, unload the Jet Skis, put on your helmet and go for a look around. Perhaps later on you'll play a quick round of golf before enjoying cocktails at the marina. You might even rent an ATV for an hour before returning to the RV and microwaving a quick dinner. After dark, if you've the energy, you may visit the amphitheater and listen to the Ranger's wilderness presentation.

#### **Vision Three: Industrial Tourism**

You cruise down that same paved road, this time stopping frequently to explore hardened nature trails and to learn how active forest management creates wildlife habitat and maintains healthy ecosystems. After several stops you'll reach a parking lot and pay \$19.95 to take the monorail to the lakeside visitor's center. Your entrance fee was \$25, and you would have to pay \$20 per person per night to camp in the remaining back country.

At the center you'll purchase reserved seats for the 3:00 PM showing of "The Lake." While you wait you'll visit the gift shop, eat in the restaurant, capture a few Kodak moments at the Kodak Photo Stop and perhaps look at still more interpretive displays. Years later even with your memories, photos and home videos to remind you of that wonderful visit, you will note with sadness that nothing can begin to compare with having seen "The Lake" in person, on the giant IMAX screen. ✂

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## Book Review

### Earth, the Forgotten Temple

By Cynthia Woody, Writer/Editor,  
The Platinum Record, Baton Rouge, LA

*Woman's Spirit-Quest is told with humor, understanding and appreciation of nature*

Niki Collins-Queen's new book "Earth, the Forgotten Temple" 'a spirit quest in the wilderness' is a pleasure to read. Current books relating a quest for self may be inflated with me-ness and a confusion of self-identifica-



tion with a high power. Not so in this slender, soft bound volume of a Southern woman's willingness to look to nature for meaning, for purpose in the big scheme of things and in the ordinary ventures of living.

"Earth, the Forgotten Temple" is an account of canoeing through unknown waters, crewing aboard a stranger's sailboat, trekking through wilderness, sleeping alone beneath stars to awaken to stares from a friendly deer. The Church of the Great Outdoors delivers to the author an eagerness to embrace the natural world as she moves away from the usual comforts, conventions and confines in a personal quest for truth.

After attending workshops

"In the wild I have flashes of self-forgetfulness — holy moments that seem to purify my soul."

such as Silva Mind Control, Kubler-Ross' Living Dying and Transition and Anthony Robbins' the Firewalk: Turning Fear into Power, the author strikes out on an adventure seeking strength from nature and spiritual awakening.

Loaded with emotional baggage of feelings of abandonment, resentment and rejection, she works through that burden traveling alone in the wilderness and on the seas to an appreciation and acceptance of the beauty of a simpler life. Collins-Queen's quest is clear of mind and full of heart. Her tale is told through happy, funny and amazing series of personal incidents as she treks about the world finding the path to home and to

"Feeling one with the trees, the water, the mountains, and the sky, I knew we were all of one energy and we were all connected"

peace.

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The author's page on the internet is: [www.dreamwater.com/biz/earth/](http://www.dreamwater.com/biz/earth/)

## Apalachicola River

by Richard Greene

The Apalachicola River is formed by the confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers at the Jim Woodruff Dam forming Lake Seminole, at the Georgia - Florida state line.

I started my journey at Chattahoochee, Florida, in sight of the Jim Woodruff Dam on 5-3-00. I was met by my sister and brother-in-law Julia and Leon Neel from Thomasville, Georgia, who would run shuttle for me.

### Day 1 — Wednesday 5-3-00

The first day was exciting, as five water release gates at the dam were open, filling the river for what I learned later was a "navigational window." I thought they were doing it for me (Ha, ha!). No, it was for the tugboats pushing the barges up the Inter-Coastal Waterway to Columbus and Bainbridge, Georgia.

The river is wide, maybe widest east of the Mississippi. The channel is marked with buoys and mile markers nailed to trees on the bank. The first marker was "106" miles to "0" at the Apalachicola Bay at the Gulf of Mexico. Sometimes I would be on one side of the river and have to use field glasses to read the mile markers on the other side of the river.

That first day I crossed under Interstate 10, which crosses the panhandle of Florida. Canoeing very fast, I started seeing the most beautiful sandbars on the river on which I would take my breaks. My paddling routine is to paddle fifty minutes and rest for 10, during which I would sometimes find souvenirs, such as driftwood and shells.

I went under the Florida Highway 20 bridge at Blountstown, Florida. This was to be the last crossing on the Apalachicola River for the next 75 miles as I crossed the Panhandle of Florida. My first encounter with the

barges was late in the afternoon. Seeing the wake at the front of the barge and the hydraulics of the tug boat "Skimmer" sent me to a sandbar to watch as it passed by. Deciding that was enough for the first day, having paddled 31 miles (personal record for me), I set up camp for the night.

Each night I would take out my GPS (Global Position System) and take a reading, and then with my cellular phone I would call Julia and Leon with the coordinates and they would keep up with my location each day.

### Day 2 — Thursday 5-4-00

Day 2 was another beautiful day, and with the river full, was a beautiful paddling day. The river has numerous river cabins floating in the river anchored to trees along the bank. (I guess they don't have to pay property taxes.)

Bird watching could not have been better. Seeing the bald eagle soaring along the river was a magnificent sight. I counted a total of 19 swallowtail kites on the entire trip. What is important about this is they are on Florida's



Tugboat with barge in tow passing the author, who was judiciously beached on a sand bar.

- Submitted by Richard Greene.

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endangered species list. Other birds of various species were abundant, from fish hawks to snipes and the pelicans at the bay.

The second day I encountered a forest fire in the Apalachicola National Forest. The wind blowing east covered the river with smoke so thick that it totally blocked out the sun. It was almost like paddling on a full moon. A great sight later that day was a wild hog sow with her babies browsing on a sandbar.

Late that afternoon I met the "Skimmer" again coming down the river. I'm off to the sandbar to give him the "right-of-way."

### **Day 3 — Friday 5-5-00**

Weather continued beautiful, with temperatures in the low 80s, river full of water flowing well, but slower than the first day. I saw plenty of birds, along with a small herd of deer on a sandbar as I paddled by.

I stopped for lunch at a riverside picnic park that the locals use at Wewahitchka, Florida. I saw my first cars since Blountstown and a friendly local let me recharge my cellular phone with his cigarette lighter.

Wewahitchka is known as the "tupelo honey capitol" of the world. Traveling on down the Apalachicola I would see hundreds of honey bee boxes along the banks with the tupelo trees.

Below Wewahitchka is where the Chipola River joins the Apalachicola River. Surprise! This section has no sandbars and it is getting late. I found a 6 foot bank where I could stop and put up camp for the night in the swamp thickets.

### **Day 4 — Saturday 5-6-00**

Breaking camp this morning and continuing down river, the weather remained gorgeous, but the wind was shifting more to the south from the Gulf of Mexico. The shallow water along the banks behind the cypress and tupelo trees were blooming beautiful spider lily plants.

Today I approached a huge island in the middle of the river that on the maps is known as Brickyard Island. Below the island I came upon Fort Gadsden Historic Site, a part of the Apalachicola National Forest. Here the British built the fort in the War of 1812. In 1815 the fort was abandoned by the British. The fort was taken over by the Seminole Indians and runaway slaves, threatening any boat traffic from the Gulf of Mexico to The United States.

General Andrew Jackson sent Col. Duncan Clinch with two gunboats from Fort Scott, located on the Flint River, to encounter the fort. The fifth shot from the gunboats landed in the ammunition supply area in the fort. The ensuing explosion killed 270 of the 300 in the fort. In 1818 General Andrew Jackson ordered Lt. James

Gadsden to rebuild the fort for him to use in the Seminole Indian War, later renaming the Fort for him, Fort Gadsden.

Continuing down the Apalachicola, I met the junction of the Brothers River. As the day was ending I found a beautiful sandbar to camp for the last night of the trip.

### **Day 5 — Sunday 5-7-00**

With only 10 miles left to the Apalachicola Bay at the Gulf of Mexico, it was the hardest paddle day of the entire trip, facing a strong south wind. Sighting of the marshes and the presence of pelicans indicated I was very close to the end. I paddled into Breakaway Marina at 12:00 Georgia time to meet my sister and brother-in-law with my Ranger truck.

Thus concluded the journey begun in March 1999 on the headwaters of the Flint River below the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport, 250 river miles to the Florida line, then 106 miles on the Apalachicola River to the Gulf of Mexico. The adventure took 20 paddling days and 9 nights camping to complete, leaving me with a lifetime of memories.

### **Equipment for the Trip:**

16 foot aluminum Marathon canoe with small keel  
Canoe seat with back rest, two paddles  
Jack Wolfskin tent, air mattress, pillow, sleeping bag, extra clothes, ground cloths (my jungle hammock, just in case it was needed), all stored in a canoeing duffel bag. Weight 35 lbs.  
Cooking gear — single burner Coleman stove with 2 sixteen oz. fuel tanks, one quart boiler pot, coffee, freeze dried meals, Power Bars, Power Gels, sardines and Vienna sausages, one fluorescent lantern, all stored in Artic Zone nylon bag. Weight 15 lbs.  
One canvas folding chair  
One portable am/fm radio  
One 48 qt. cooler with canned tea, Gatorade, Cokes and water. Weight 20 lbs.  
One 48 qt. 2 in. Styrofoam cooler with 6 gallons previously frozen water. (I would remove 1 gallon at a time and put in the Coleman for cooling, and as it melted, I used it for drinking water.) Weight 50 lbs.  
One first aid kit, plenty of sun screen, lip balm, and insect repellent, one cellular phone, one GPS unit (Garmin 38). Weight 5 lbs.  
Total weight 125 lbs. equipment & supplies in canoe. <img alt="arrow" data-bbox="925 748 945 763"/>



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## Paddling in the Year 2050

by Harry Tutor

*River adventure, AKA paddling, has really only become part of mainstream (no pun) American culture in the last 20 years or so. Even now, most consider this an extreme and fringe sport when compared to football, baseball, basketball, or golf (Sport? Mwah-Ha-Ha-Ha!). Perhaps that is due to the general public's false impression of the danger involved (see September's issue of American Whitewater to see where white water paddling ranks in the lineup). Most of the major first descents were taking place in the 60s and 70s with long boats frequently referred to as "dancing dinosaurs" and "barges" today. I've only been paddling 3 years, but everything has been changing rapidly, even in my short tenure. Herein are my musings of what white water paddling will entail in 50 years (when I'm 65 and still paddling).*

### Boats

Boat lengths and shapes have recycled several times. First they got longer (11 foot minimum) for safety reasons. Congress passed a mandate after the serious injury of two-term president, Al Gore, in a play boat on the Upper Gauley River in West Virginia. A few years after that furor subsided, manufacturers again shortened their boats, leveling off at around 5 feet.

Materials have advanced dramatically with the application of a newly commercialized technique for combining the strength and durability of a special carbon fiber (remnants of the now long defunct Stealth program) with the pliability of recyclable plastics. Boat color can be changed immediately using a computer terminal available at all service stations (cars do the same thing now, too).

Many boats are transformable into other useful tools. One of the most interesting is a rocket-powered bicycle — great for doing your own shuttle. The newer boats all come with an expendable, pollution-free rocket port. flat water portions of a river can be crossed in just minutes.

All boats (even OC-1s, -2s, and 3s) come with the "self-roll" (AKA autopaddle) option, as well as automated sonar navigation, so nobody needs to learn stuff like technique and river reading anymore. All boats are tested in hydro flow chambers before production, resulting in many more novel designs.

The Internet is accessible from several eddies on every river. No one knows how to read, write, or (God forbid) type, though, as all communication is done by voice recognition systems.

Boats now remold themselves to the occupant in

real-time, so outfitting isn't such a bother. Many boats fold and store easily in the trunk. Rack producers all went out of business.

The Dagger consortium still makes RPMs. They are called In-Laws, though, and Dagger's name was changed to New Dageceptjon a few years after it combined with Perception, Prijon and New Wave. Riot is the only really independent boat manufacturer remaining, and still puts out 12 "new" boat models each year. They all look the same as last year's but have way kewl new names, dewd. The scantily clad models in Riot ads are all shipped to the happy new boat owners. This boosts sales somewhat.

### Accessories

Dizzying developments have spun out in this area — mostly attributable to young paddlers attempting (successfully) to finance their work-free river lifestyle. Many inventive kids became multi-millionaires marketing useful paddling "stuff." The most innovative is computer driven boats that can perform any task as well as the pros. They only have to be updated when new moves come out from programmers.

Rebreathers are standard packages on PFDs. They provide enough air for upside down eddy line brunches on Section IV of the Chattooga by first time paddlers.

Batmanesque safety detachments have been designed to automatically sense danger and deploy. No thought is needed any longer on the part of the paddler as to safety.

### New Moves

Rodeo entrants must demonstrate triple aerial blunts with full twists as a minimum to qualify. Endos and rocket moves are pretty exciting, but official rodeos do not permit the use of non-human powered assistance, such as rockets — I mean, get real.

NOBODY just runs the river anymore except for a few "old schoolers." That makes us VERY happy. Number dispensers have been installed in most play area eddies.

The downstream boater, AKA playuh, now has the official right of way, since there IS no one upstream any more.

All move names have been translated into our official second language: Bozonics. The goofier it sounds, the more politically correct it is. Nobody shows up or pays for rodeos anyway, so the government subsidizes them. It was proven that all forms of organized competition are dangerous and quite harmful to society. There are no corporate-sponsored paddlers — that was soooooo last millennium.

### Theft Deterrence

All boats now have an embedded identification chip hidden at some undetectable location. Boat theft has gone

to absolute zero in 3 years. All thieves were successfully prosecuted as felons since the price of boats soared to \$3,000. All people have an embedded chip as well, so it is easy to identify people and download their list of possessions for verification.

### **Riverbed Management**

ALL rivers require a fee to access (payable in International Work Units, since there is no money any more). There is a two year waiting list for the Ocoee River, but none for the Hiwassee River. You have to apply for a Grand Canyon trip before you are 12 — for your grandchildren to run it.

Once accessed, each paddling group is constantly accompanied by a naturalist, a ranger, and an environmental activist. This prevents damaging endangered flora and fauna pollution, and skirmishes.

Unable to relieve him/herself due to VERY strict human pollution laws, each boats must carry a small port-o-potty. MY but the rivers are clean now. You can drink freely of any stream with no biological or chemical threat.

All natural and manmade obstacles have finally been replaced with firm foam material. The rapids are all the same (not allowed to change any water flow on a river any more by international law), but there is no longer any danger of foot entrapment or head bashing. Helmet wearing is required by statute, of course, wouldn't want you to feel too free.

All streams are dam controlled, but recreational

releases take place 5 days a week. The climate has stabilized and everyone gets more rain. Use of inexpensive but efficient solar power has mostly replaced the need for hydropower. It is now possible to paddle, scuba dive, water-ski, and ice skate on any river in the USA (which was renamed Lower Knadia after a long and bitter war with Canada).

River flow is now measured in kiloliters per second (kps). Anyone overheard using terms such as "cfs" or "feet on the gauge" is immediately incarcerated. Prisons have paddle-release programs now, though, since paddling became an international right after the world government became established.

### **Style**

Neoprene and polypro have become standard items in any discotheque (Yep, they came back finally) in Lower Knadia. A new chemical extract from a tree in Brazilia is used to counterbalance the smell with the surprising side effects of fat reduction and contraception. River shoes are now being made to complement every ensemble imaginable. Canoeists are still considered the kewlest looking folks on the river, but only when they yield the right of way to downstream boaters.

### **Government**

AW, is now the AWA again, the Agency for Whitewater in the Americas... the largest branch of the Western Hemisphere Department of the Interior.

- *From the Tennessee Valley Canoe Clubnewsletter.* ✈



Scenes from the dry-land session of the GCA Fall River Safety & Rescue Clinic held at Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions in Ellijay. - Photos by Steve Reach.



# CLASSIFIED ADS

**TO PLACE AN AD** - Want ads of a non-business nature are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business-related ads are \$5.00 for up to 50 words, \$10.00 for larger. Send your type-written ad to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Dr., Marietta, Ga. 30066, or email to [gacanoem@mindspring.com](mailto:gacanoem@mindspring.com). PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

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**FOR SALE** - Canoes, Dagger Ocoee, red, with Team Edge outfitting, new air bags, \$650. Dagger Caption, used

six times, good condition, blue with Team Edge outfitting, set up for tandem or solo use, \$800. Call Jim @ 770.826.8210.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Old Town Tripper, 17 ft. Excellent condition. Blue, Kevlar skid plates, thigh straps, knee pads, air bag, 2 paddles. \$600 OBO. 770.534.1470 (H) 770.519.2581 (cell).

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Old Town Discovery 164, 1 year old, \$500. Call John at 770.957.3097 leave message. Also kayak - Perception Dancer with spray skirt & paddle, \$300.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Wave Sport X. Red / Orange/ Black. Excellent condition. Poly cross-link. Great play boat & river runner. Contact Mark Hoyle at [mahoye@mindspring.com](mailto:mahoye@mindspring.com) or 770.321.4728. \$575 OBO.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Pyranha Creek 280, yellow, paddled 2 winters, excellent condition. Medium volume, great creek boat and/or beginner boat, very forgiving and easy to roll. \$375 obo, call David 678.332.2485 (O), or 770.270.1127 (R).

**FOR SALE** - Kayaks. Wave Sport "X" 2000, last of the X-linked, black, used on the Tuck once and once in a pool, \$750. Dagger Freefall, red GOOD shape \$350. Both are garage kept. Contact Michael @ 828.293.0193 or [mysticmerchant@aol.com](mailto:mysticmerchant@aol.com).

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Riot Glide, orange / yellow, in perfect condition, with Riot paddle and Prijon skirt. \$500 firm. Call 404.632.2877 (pager) or 770.562.5381.

**FOR SALE** - Kayaks (2 package deals): (A) Perception Dancer + Harmony 208 cm paddle + floatation bags + spray skirt, only \$400. (B) Perception Dancer + Harmony 204 cm paddle + floatation bags + life jacket, only \$350. Good boats for beginners or intermediates. Contact Ted by phone: 404.292.3466 or e-mail: [TVJackson@aol.com](mailto:TVJackson@aol.com).

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Savage kayak by Fury, with skirt. \$350 or best offer or trade for a bigger kayak. 770.938.5892.

**FOR SALE** - Paddle, kayak. Brand new, never been used, Silver Creek 203 cm asymmetric kayak paddle; \$200 (normally sells for \$350). Call Knox at 770.475.3022.

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT** - Remodeled, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on acreage, 1 hour, 15 minutes from Ocoee River on 10 acres with stream, lots of deck space, 2 car, 2 story garage, fenced, long driveway, just outside Canton (I-575) December rental. Phone 770.479.6209.

**WANTED** - Kayak, used Dagger Dynamo and accessories. Call 770.607.0974 or email [ray.caraway@bigfoot.com](mailto:ray.caraway@bigfoot.com). Ask for Ray Caraway if you call. Thanks. ✕



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