

January GCA Meeting

The January GCA meeting will feature a "Swap-Ya-Sale" of used equipment and boats, and a "show & tell" presentation by REI representatives on cold weather gear. Bring your used "hand-me-down" gear — from clothing to booties, paddles, boats, spray skirts, spray jackets, wet/dry suits (since Santa brought new ones!), bring boats you want to sell, car top racks too, anything boating or outdoor related. If Santa was generous to you, you can bring all the stuff that has been rendered as extra to help out those who weren't so fortunate and generate funds to help finance that big Christmas. If Santa wasn't so kind, you can pick up some of those items that were not under your tree on Christmas morning.



We can bring all the stuff inside the church and display it in the big parish hall where we meet — plenty of room there. Try to label your stuff with an asking price and identify who it belongs to / who to see about a sale or swap.

Two professionals from REI will present a program on the "right gear to use for canoeing and camping in cold/wet weather." The program will also focus on proper layering. REI will bring demo gear — maybe even set up a tent or two — and hit the high spots on signs of hypothermia and how to avoid it!

The meeting will be in the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Sandy Springs at 7:30 PM on January 18, the third Thursday in January. 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 topline 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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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2001!!



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paddlesports resource on the internet.



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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 Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636. ✂

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. 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



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 3)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
7	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Paul Therrian	770.513.4986
13	Ichetucknee (Note 2)	Flat	Morris Friedman	770.469.8414
13	Etowah (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
13	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dickie Tillman	770.466.1197
13	South Sauty Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
14	Metro Hooch	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Maggie Griffin	770.498.3695
14	South Sauty Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
14	Withlacoochee	Flat	Morris Friedman	770.469.8414
15	Crystal River	Flat	Morris Friedman	770.469.8414
15	Town Creek	Class 4-5 Expert	Dane White	256.435.3827
18	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun —	Episcopal Church of the Atonement — Kay	Redmond	404.237.7242
20	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Mike Bilello	770.441.2418
20	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Doug Ackerman	770.503.0365
20	Upper Conasauga	Class 4-5 Expert	Ricky Bowman	770.425.0911
21	Nacoochee Hooch	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Tom Martin	770.662.0058
21	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Ray Channell	404.636.5944
27	Upper Tallulah	Class 1-2 (2+) Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
27	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Debra Berry	404.320.6148
27	Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Becca Brown	404.634.5612
27	Upper/Middle Tellico (Note 3)	Class 4-5 Expert	Louis Boulanger	404.373.4775
28	Leader's Choice	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Hank Baudet	706.492.4318

February

1	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited —	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
3	Upper Amicolala (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
3	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Sam Blackwell	706.342.0511
3	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
4	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Steve Cramer	706.208.8382
15	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun —	Episcopal Church of the Atonement — Kay	Redmond	404.237.7242
17	Exploratory	Class 2 to 4 (Note 4)	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
17	South Sauty Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
24	Fighting Town Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Hank Baudet	706.492.4318

Note 1: Paddle with the Prez.

Note 2: Depart Atlanta on the 12th.

Note 3: Trip begins on Upper (expert) with intermediate paddlers meeting at put-in for Middle.

Note 4: Trip possibilities range from class 2 to class 4.

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*.

GCA Library Items

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 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:

Denise Colquitt
3797 Glenloch Road
Franklin, GA 30217

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 Self Defense
White Water Tales of Terror
White Water Trips (British Columbia & Washington)
Wildwater (Sierra Club Guide)
Wildwater West Virginia
Youghiogheny



Announcements

GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing over 320 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

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.



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 asinquefield@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 — gacanoer@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

Upcoming Events of Interest

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 3 — Wilderness First Aid & CPR — St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Marietta, GA, Gina Johnson, 404.226.8363 (cell) or 770.971.1542 (home).

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

February 23-24 — National Paddling Film Festival — University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, www.surfbwa.org/npff/.

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

March 17 — Wilderness First Aid & CPR — St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Marietta, GA, Gina Johnson, 404.226.8363 (cell) or 770.971.1542 (home).

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.

May 5-6 — Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championships — Nantahala River, NC, David Martin, 404.351.8208.

May 18-20 — Ocoee White Water Games — Ocoee White Water Center, TN, Jayne Abbott, 828.645.5299, email jhabbott@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. ✂

Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice is back! It will be held on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 PM 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. ✂

Weekday Paddlers

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

of white water

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

***Electronic Eddy Line* Email Failures**

Not getting your electronic version of *The Eddy Line*? The following email IDs had mail failure notices for the December *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. Failed email IDs:
3flowers@bellsouth.net — Service unavailable
jcfowers@hotmail.com — Service unavailable
shagtoo@webtv.net <

From the Board Room

Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors Meeting, December 7, 2000.

Attendees:

Mary Ann Pruitt
Oreon Mann
Debra Berry
Allen Hedden
Gina Johnson
Ed Schultz
Brannen Proctor
Julia Franks
Ray Channell
Roger Nott
Gabriella Schlidt
Kathy King
Lindsay Meeks
Dan MacIntyre
Dick Hurd



Minutes of the previous meeting were not read.

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Treasurer's report was given by Ed Schultz. Ed moved that an annual gratuity be given to Atlanta Botanical Gardens in return for use of their meeting room. The motion seconded and approved unanimously.

Brannen Proctor introduced new functional Committee Chairs appointments:

Legal Committee Chair - Dan McIntyre

Strategic Planning Chair - Marvine Cole

Nominating Committee - Brannen Proctor

Recreation Committee Report was given by Brannen Proctor.

Gina Johnson gave the Training Committee Report. 2001 Clinics - Kayak, Canoe, Safety, Warm-up.

Gina moved to increase volunteer instructor per diem to be commensurate with increased instructor expenses. Motion was seconded, discussed and passed unanimously.

Nominations for Board Members at Large were presented by Brannen Proctor and Marvine Cole: Ray Channell, Dick Hurd, Oreon Mann, Gabriella Schlidt and Mike Winchester were nominated, seconded as a slate, and approved as Board Members at Large. They will serve through October 2002.

Strategic Planning: Marvine Cole proposed that a strategic planning meeting be held on a single day to determine and verify the scope, goals and purpose of the club. A strategic planning committee will be created to manage the meeting.

Resource Development Committee Report: Debra Berry reported that GAF was successful with membership applications picked up by many interested parties. A small group will write a new web site policy to be presented at the next meeting. Debra is in charge.

Member Services Committee Report: Mary Ann Pruitt announced that the GCA Library is now run by Denise Colquitt.

River Protection Committee Report was given by Julia Franks.

Other Business: Marvine Cole expressed concern that there is no Race Master. Recommendations were made for possible candidates, with discussion about the Race Master process.

Christmas party and club meeting attendance levels were discussed.

The Board affirmed that there is no prohibition against GCA trips on Section IV of the Chattooga River.

Lindsay Meeks proposed that funds be donated in support of Terry Dahl's defense, the motion was seconded and discussed. Motion was tabled until more information is obtained. ✂

GCA Trip Sign-up Guidelines

Some considerations to be made when signing up for GCA trips and activities:

Be considerate of our trip coordinators (TCs). Avoid calling late at night, or at the last minute, to sign up for a club trip. Many of the more popular trips fill up very quickly. Calling early in the week, or even earlier, helps to ensure you get a spot on the trip and helps the TC to make plans. We do not have an easy time getting people to coordinate trips, and these little annoyances help to discourage the few we get from repeating their favor.

Please do not attempt to sign up for a trip via email. Many potential trip participants may not be aware that participation in club trips is not guaranteed. Two major reasons for this are that trip sizes may be limited because of many factors, and there is a de facto screening process that takes place when someone calls to sign up for a club trip. Boaters are allowed to participate in a club trip solely at the discretion of the trip coordinator.

Trip size limitations may take place due to river conditions, river characteristics, safety considerations, governmental agency regulations, permit systems, parking availability at put-ins & take-outs, or trip coordinator preference (not wanting to deal with the logistics of a 40 person trip). Again, we don't want to do anything to discourage these TCs from repeating their favor, so try to cooperate with these limitations.

For the same reasons, avoid just showing up for a club trip without signing up with the trip coordinator. Calling and leaving a voice mail message or sending an email does not constitute signing up. TCs often do not get last minute messages or emails before leaving for their trips. And if the trip is already maxed out, you may get to the river and not be able to go on the trip.

The screening process for potential trip participants is a tool to help avoid putting TCs and other trip participants, and indeed the callers themselves, in the awkward

and often unsafe position of dealing with trip participants who may unnecessarily get into trouble on a club trip. Other than because of trips being full, TCs may decline to have a caller participate in a trip and gently suggest that perhaps she/he should consider not participating, or signing up for a trip of a lower difficulty level, if they suspect that the caller may not have the necessary skills, experience, proper type of boat or outfitting, adequate paddling or rescue equipment, proper protective clothing, or any number of other things that may affect the caller's ability to participate in the trip without placing him- or herself in an unsafe position. This avoids affecting the quality of the trip experience for the TC and the other participants, as well as not jeopardizing the safety of the screenee.

As a potential trip participant, if you find yourself "screened out" of a trip, try to ascertain why, so you can work toward remedying the conditions that cast doubts on your ability to participate safely. Ask for suggestions that may help you prepare for future trips of a particular difficulty level. As a trip coordinator, try to be honest but tactful when screening potential participants for your trips. Paddlers' egos bruise very easily — we are mostly a proud and independent lot. If it comes down to it, though, a bruised ego is better than a lost or broken boat, a severe injury, or worse. And no one wants their ego to cause problems for an entire group.

One thing that should NEVER be done — Don't sign up for a trip and then invite / allow other people to come with you on the trip. The correct protocol is to have the other people individually contact the trip coordinator directly to sign up for the trip. Again, we want to be considerate of the TCs so they will continue to coordinate trips, and "surprises" are not a good way to do this.

Lastly, please try to be on time at the designated meeting place. The club has a 15 minute rule regarding waiting for late-comers for any club event, so if you show up late and miss the group, PLEASE don't get huffy with the trip coordinator.

Your cooperation and understanding in adhering to these guidelines are very much appreciated. ✂

Ocoee Rodeo Renamed

Jayne Abbott at American Whitewater has announced that the Ocoee Rodeo Festival will change its name in 2001 to the Ocoee White Water Games. The expanded event will combine the Rodeo events with U.S. Team Trials. Mark your calendars for May 18-20, 2001. ✂

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

National Paddling Film Festival

The 18th annual National Paddling Film Festival will be held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, February 23 & 24, 2001. Co-sponsored by



American Whitewater, American Canoe Association and the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, the NPFF is pleased to present the best paddle sport image competition in the nation! For more

information about the National Paddling Film Festival, check out the Bluegrass Wildwater Association Website <http://www.surfbwa.org/>.

New Year's Resolutions for GCA?

The new year is a great time to think about where we're going and what we want to accomplish. For ourselves individually, and for the GCA as a club. Is the club meeting our members' needs? Should we do more, or just different? What do we want our club to be?

If you're interested in joining a core group of fellow members who want to make a difference in the club, now's



If You're Here,
Who's Managing Your Web Site?

Some of the most widely recognized Fortune 500 companies nationwide are turning to Kaplan Communications for their Internet, Intranet and Extranet development and management. Why don't you?


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the time. We're forming a Strategic Planning Committee (don't let the name throw you off — it will be fun and rewarding) to meet throughout the year to discuss, plan and implement new ideas about what the GCA is all about.

Call Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022 if you have questions or are interested in being a committee member. No previous club experience is required! New and old members alike are encouraged to join the committee! We're planning a January meeting — so call now!



Report: Water Systems in Trouble

by John Flesher, Associated Press Writer

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2000. East Lansing, Mich. — Fresh water systems around the world are so environmentally degraded they are losing their ability to support human, animal and plant life, according to a report released Saturday.

Their decline will mean increased water shortages for people and rapid population loss or extinction for many other species, the World Resources Institute predicted.

"The findings are very disturbing," said Jonathan Lash, president of the Washington, DC-based policy research center. "We're just using way more water than the earth can afford to give us."

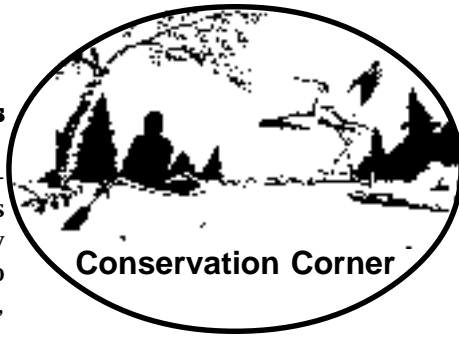
The report is part of a comprehensive study by the institute on how human activity is changing the world's ecosystems. It was released during the national meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists at Michigan State University. The report makes no recommendations but serves as a warning to citizens, industries and government, Lash said. He described it as a "physical exam" that produced a poor diagnosis for the patient. Over the next six months, specialized reports will be issued on agroecosystems, coastal areas, forests and grasslands.

While many regions have ample water supplies, four out of every 10 people live in river basins with water scarcity, the report says. It predicts that by 2025, at least 3.5 billion people — roughly half the world's population — will experience water shortages.

Only about 1 percent of the water on the planet is fresh water available for human use, Lash said. Agriculture accounts for 93 percent of fresh water use, producing runoff that degrades water quality with silt and chemicals, the report says.

Dams, diversions or canals fragment 60 percent of the world's largest rivers, trapping runoff and sediments. While dam construction has slowed in the United States, the report says many more are being built in the basins of the Yangtze River in China, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in the Middle East, and the Danube River in Eastern Europe.

Also being depleted is the world's groundwater, the sole source of drinking water for 1.5 billion people, the report says. Half the world's wetlands were lost in the 20th century as land was converted to agricultural and urban use or contaminated with diseases such as malaria, according to the report.



Invasive species pose another problem, competing with native species for food and habitat. Twenty percent of the world's 10,000 fresh water fish species have become extinct, threatened or endangered in recent decades.

The findings are bad news for the environment and the economy, said Carmen Revenga, who helped write the institute's report. "We need to value fresh water ecosystems not only for the

goods they produce, like fish and clams, but also the services they give, like the filters and nurseries that wetlands provide," Revenga said.

- From the California River Issues email list. ✂

Water Quality Means Flow, Too

by Rebecca R. Wodder

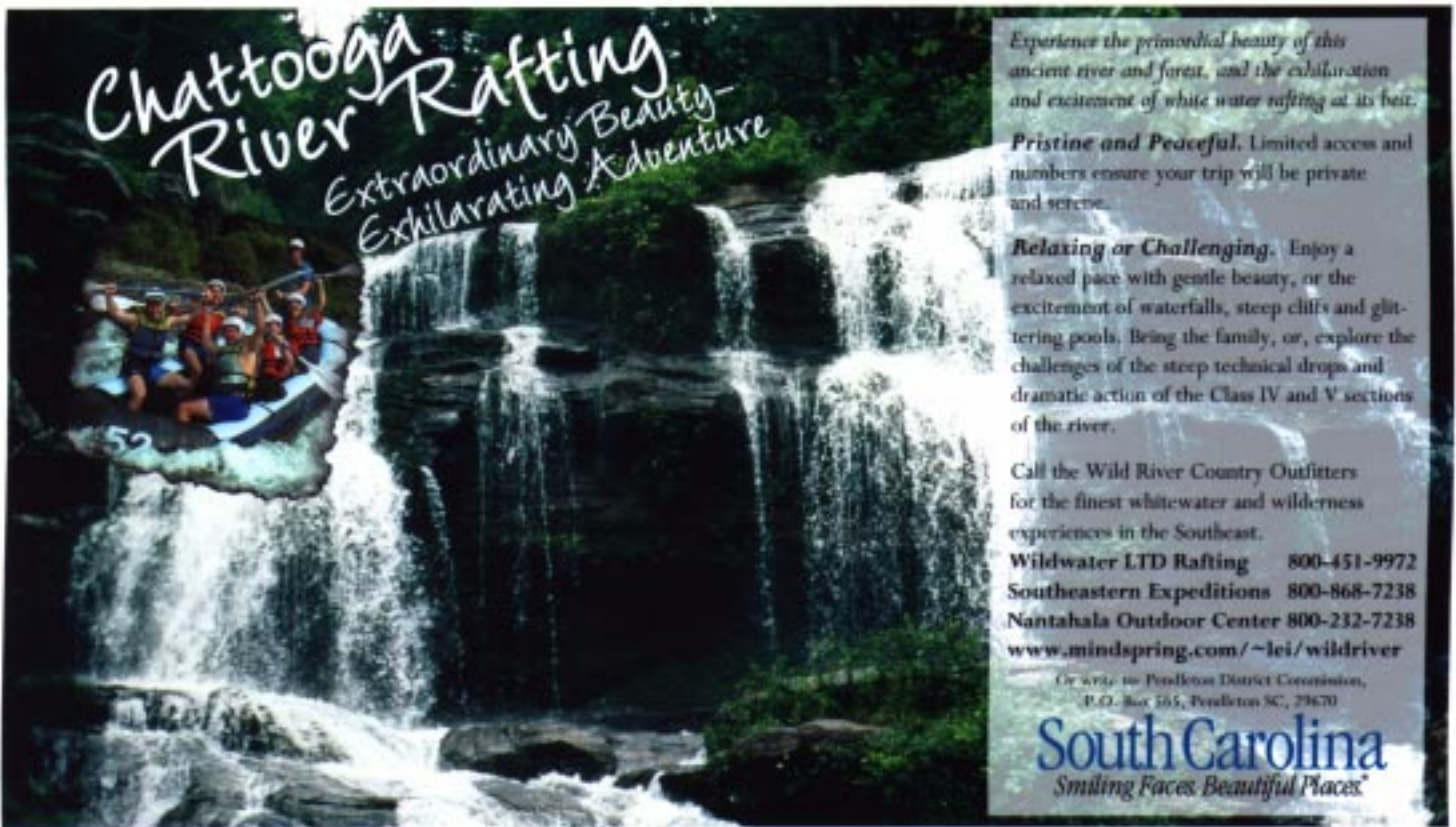
As a river always finds its way to the sea, so rainwater inevitably finds its way to a river. But runoff carries with it all the fertilizers, pesticides, oils, loose soil and animal wastes of everyday life. These traces put together wreak more havoc than major oil spills or discharges from industry.

In its National Water Quality Inventory Report to Congress this year, EPA said such "non-point" runoff from farms and urban development is what keeps us from reaching the Clean Water Act's goal of "fishable, swimmable waters." Close to 50% of our rivers still fail that test, EPA reported.

Importantly, EPA acknowledged what American Rivers has long argued: that free-flowing rivers are critical to preserving water quality. EPA placed human alterations of flow as the second-leading reason for poor water quality.

When most people think of water pollution, though, they still think of big ugly pipes dumping industrial waste into rivers. A 1999 poll by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation found 61% of Americans believe waste from factories is the primary source of water pollution. Such "point" sources have mostly been addressed by better treatment.

We lack runoff "non-point" pollution because it cannot be traced to a single polluting factory or sewer pipe — it comes from vast tracts of chemically treated lawns and millions of greasy parking lots. The most effective tool we have to tame this unaccountable beast is to set a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for rivers, instead of attempting to individually regulate every single source of pollution. Then local residents are asked to come up with



the best management solution for their river, taking both point and non-point sources into account.

The fact that flow is the second-leading threat to water quality is another reason why we campaign so hard for re-operation of dams and removal of those dams that don't make sense. Dams and navigation channels were created in another era, when we believed that we could engineer rivers to serve all of our needs, and before we fully understood the costs associated with manipulating the natural flow patterns of rivers.

We have inherited the legacy of those times: economically senseless obstructions that threaten our rivers and wildlife with oxygen shortages, sediment build-up, nutrient pollution and lethal temperatures. As a result, for example, the salmon runs that once supported the most thriving fisheries in the world — and that remain the cultural icon of the Pacific Northwest — are on the brink of extinction.

Vigorous salmon runs are only one of the many good things that happen on free-flowing rivers. These crisp, clear waterways provide ideal habitats for all kinds of aquatic animals, water insects, freshwater vegetation and migratory birds. They have high oxygen levels and cool temperatures. They provide 90 percent of the biodiversity in the arid West. And when they are allowed

to run free and occupy their flood plains, they provide all of us — free of charge — the benefits of natural flood control, pollution assimilation, plentiful fisheries and recreational opportunities.

No human engineering can match these benefits. As important, rivers' beauty and vibrancy renew our spirits as well as our physical needs, and provide endless opportunities for challenge and contemplation.

We restate our support for removing dams such as on the Snake River in Washington state, to save the salmon. We share the lessons from Maine's Kennebec River, where millions of fish returned after the Edwards Dam was removed last summer. And we celebrate the protection of the last free-flowing reach of one of the most inspirational and beautiful rivers that grace the nation — the once mighty Columbia.

In the 21st century, we'll hear more and more about the increasing scarcity of earth's most precious resource — clean and healthy freshwater rivers and streams. Human alterations of the flow — by dams and diversions, water withdrawals and development — must get closer scrutiny as we struggle to preserve and restore the natural patterns that are not only necessary for life, but that make life worth living as well.

- From the American Rivers newsletter.



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Trip Reports—Slide Shows—Outfitter

Water Advocates Ratify Water Bill of Rights

On September 30, Georgians gathered in Atlanta for a water summit rally, concluding a summer-long effort to develop a set of principles regarding water use in Georgia. The Georgia Conservancy participated actively in the process. Concerned water advocates held press conferences the same day in Savannah and Darien.

The water bill of rights will serve as encouragement for the Governor's water agenda during the 2001 legislature and beyond. At press time, organizations representing more than 200,000 Georgians had endorsed the document.

Georgia's Water Bill of Rights

The quantity, quality and reliability of Georgia waters shall be preserved so that the human use of water does not compromise the long-term sustainability of aquatic and associated ecosystems. All Georgians are responsible for the integrity of state waters, and the costs of providing and protecting these resources must be fairly allocated among users.

1. We, the people, believe that water is a public resource. The surface and ground waters of the State of Georgia are public resources — vital areas held by the State as a trustee charged with the duty to manage these waters in the best interests of the public.

2. We, the people, believe that water resource use must be sustainable.

Each Georgian has the right to expect that the waters of the state on and below the surface of the earth will be conserved and maintained as a perpetual blessing to the state's people and ecological systems.

3. We, the people, believe that we all live downstream. Management of the state's water resources must ensure the integrity of these resources by acknowledging the natural flow of waters through the watersheds and aquifers, from the mountains to the sea.

4. We, the people, believe that economic prosperity depends on clean water.

Clean surface water and pure groundwater are essential to Georgia's health, welfare and prosperity; Georgians no longer accept the assertion that polluted water is a necessary price for economic progress.

5. We, the people, believe that water policy decisions must be just and equitable.

No person or community should bear a disproportionate share of any burden resulting from the water use of others.

6. We, the people, believe in property rights that ensure environmental protection for all.

The citizens of Georgia have a right to use the surface and groundwater resources on their properties, but the use must be reasonable, in a manner and to the extent that

the water supply is not depleted or degraded to the detriment of the health of people and wildlife.

7. We, the people, believe in water resource protection through law enforcement.


Georgians have the right to the full, timely, and equitable enforcement of local, state and federal environmental laws, which rightfully require protection of water quality and all life dependent on that quality.

8. We, the people, believe in the public's right to know. All decisions by government officials, the public trustees

of Georgia waters, shall be made in open forums, after full disclosure through public discussion and deliberation of all scientific, political and economic facts and associated impacts. Citizens shall have readily available and unrestricted access to such information.

9. We, the people, believe in accountability.

Our government shall be held accountable for the proper management of Georgia's waters.

- From "Panorama", newsletter of the Georgia Conservancy. 

Some Personal Thoughts to Ponder

by Chuck Kirk

Accept that every time you go paddling that you might not come back.

By kayaking in a group you accept to let others make their own decisions — even if you don't agree. But none-the-less be there for a rescue. It doesn't hurt to let a paddler test his or her ability.

If something goes wrong — do what you can but don't get hurt yourself if you can help it.

Don't feel sorry for a paddler who dies. They died doing what they loved. Feel sorry for the people who are left behind.

Use good judgment and self-assessment when paddling. Don't rush to do the harder creeks — they will be there when your skills are up to it.

Get proper training and always work on your technique. Don't be afraid to tell a paddler you won't let them paddle with you on a creek if you know they don't have the skill or experience to handle it. If you feel strongly about this, then voice it loudly. If they come along anyway — it is their decision. Still, be there for a rescue if they need it. Keep an eye on everyone in the group. It is nice to know where people are.

Train for rescue situations.

Use hand signals and make eye contact with others in the group.

Everyone carries a throw rope and carabiners.

First aid kits are handy, and throw a lighter and flashlight in there.

Dress properly.

If you get pinned, keep calm and think. You may be able to get yourself out if you do.

Whatever you do, don't give up.

If it gets too painful, keep trying.

You can always look forward to that final state of Euphoria. (In other words, keep positive.)

Don't progress to harder creeks until you can make the



harder lines on the easier creeks you are doing. If you don't know the harder lines — make them up. Constantly train and work on your techniques.

Nothing is guaranteed with paddling.

Tuck and let the helmet and pfd take the hits.

Stay in the boat as long as possible.

Nail that roll.

Don't be stupid, use your head.


Don't drink or use drugs before or on the river. I see those people who take their short little hikes up into the woods. Some of you don't even hide it.

Scout the creeks you want to do when they are low so that you can see what the riverbed looks like and can clean out logs and debris from undercuts. It might save your life or someone else's.

Don't tell the masses about that new great creek you have found. In due time others will find it. Keep it to yourself and your boating group as long as possible. There aren't many of them left out there.

These thoughts are just a few that have gone through my head about things to tell other paddlers — trust me, I have more. If you agree with them, that's fine. If not, that's fine. It doesn't matter — as the fact still remains that we do what we want no matter what other people say or do. Granted, it is nice to set examples and hope that others follow them — some do, most don't. But in the end, it is better to have heard some advice that you can have in the back of your head than it is to never hear anything at all. Most advanced paddlers have heard the above, but a lot never do and just jump on the water without a clue and make it down stuff on pure luck. Anyone can run any rapid out there and make it through. But doing it in a controlled manner and with knowledge of the hidden dangers is another thing.

The above is definitely a bunch of rambling on, but if one paddler takes something positive from it — it was worth it.

- From internet news group *rec.boats.paddle*, submitted by Scott Schwitters. 

Instruction / Training

From The Training Chair

by Gina Johnson

We are delighted to offer a CPR AND WILDERNESS FIRST AID course to be held Saturday, February 3 and again on Saturday, March 17 at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Marietta. Joe Webb, a GCA member and nurse educator, will teach the Atlanta Heart Association CPR course and follow with a first aid course targeted for boaters. He has invited several doctors to speak to the class. The class will begin at 10 AM and end at 5 PM. Cost is \$15.00. Class size will be limited so PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!! Call Gina Johnson at 404.226.8363 (cell) or 770.971.1542 (home) to register and get directions to the church. ✂

Losing Your Fear of Holes

by Tanya Shuman

I can remember not long ago I was terrified of big holes. Okay. Let's be realistic... any hole. My first question was always, "How sticky is the hole?" hoping that the person would reply, "Oh, it isn't sticky at all." My usual ride consisted of getting in and out of a hole as soon as possible. I set world records getting in and out of holes. The thought of trying a trick was out of the question. I was in survival mode, worried about staying alive.

I have to admit big holes still scare me, but I have learned to relax and enjoy them. What helped me deal with the fear while playing in holes big or small is something that I would like to share with you.

The first biggest factor was gaining confidence in my roll, which was always a worry for me. Entering the hole I would think, "Please don't swim in front of all these people. I don't want to be a complete loser." This led to my routine of getting in and out of holes at lightning speeds. But after a while this got old and wasn't any fun. Everyone else was having a grand time surfing, cart wheeling, spinning, etc., while I was just frantically ferrying in and out of the hole.

Letters

Greetings,

I just received the December 2000 *Eddy Line* and, as usual, I sat down and read the issue through. I enjoyed William C. "The Hawk" Reeves' article about serious river injury but was disappointed and angered to



So I decided to get confidence in my roll. I spent countless hours in the pool rolling right, left, with paddle, without paddle. Then I tried it on the river in deep rapids where there weren't any rocks to hit. I would have a friend watch and safety rescue.

Then came the big step, going into holes and purposely rolling. Going right into the meat and flipping intentionally and rolling. That was scary at first and, yes, I did swim a ton. But with each swim I realized it wasn't that bad. The point is that it is all right to swim. It is part of the learning process. Of course, you should not be trying to roll in places like Rock Island. Choose rapids where there is a pool at the bottom and no down river hazards.

The next step was going into the hole and learning how to move forward and backwards with correct body position and technique. Leaning how to move in a hole helped build my confidence. I can remember some holes that I thought I would never escape. Panic would take over and I would end up swimming. But I tried and tried again.

There were times when kayaking wasn't fun because I would be so terrified of getting stuck in a hole. So I started with little holes and moved up to the bigger holes. After perfecting my strokes and learning correct boat balance it became easier. I was able to move around and feel relaxed in a hole. I was no longer thinking about how to get out, but what new trick I can learn.

So my advice to overcome your fears of holes, little or big, is to have a confident roll and learn how to move about freely in a hole. With these two building blocks, I was able to start to learn basic tricks like surfing and spinning. Later I applied it to advanced moves like cart wheeling and blunting.

I can't tell you how much kayaking has changed my life for the better. There have definitely been frustrating times, but the rewards far out weigh the struggles. Remember, in any sport you are going to have good days and bad days, but it is always about the fun.

Ed. note: Tanya Shuman is a professional rodeo kayaker. -From American Whitewater, Sept/Oct 2000, via the East Tennessee Whitewater Club newsletter. ✂

find that it contained a number of curse words.

My wife and I have been GCA members since 1991 (Lifetime members for two years now) and I plan to give each of my children (8, 6 and 3) lifetime memberships when they reach their teen years. I treasure my GCA membership and this is the first time I have felt compelled to pen a letter of complaint.

It is the height of arrogance to assume that one's

audience (or people in one's vicinity) do not mind curse words. Nobody in my family uses foul language and we do not enjoy being in the presence of those who do. I take pride in the GCA and I don't want to be embarrassed when my children read the GCA newsletter (or accompany me on GCA paddle trips). Please, Board of Directors and *Eddy Line* Editor, discourage vulgarities on GCA trips and never permit foul language in GCA publications. GCA should not be printing words that are not welcome in the homes of decent people.

Sincerely,
Dan Roper

Dan:

I was very disappointed to hear that you were let down by The Eddy Line this month. I spend a great deal of time each month trying to create an interesting and informative publication suitable for general readership. Often, however, I tend to look at my job more as "editor" than "censor". In my more than ten years of "editing" The Eddy Line, yours is the second complaint I have received concerning language (discounting the "Me, too" replies). Among a readership of better than two thousand individuals, I see that as a rather stellar record.

I often find myself walking some very fine lines, between editor and censor, between inappropriate language and redeeming literary value (providing impact or humor without being TOO offensive), etc. I have always done, and will continue to do, my best to exercise good judgment in this area.

In your letter, you refer to "curse words", "foul language", "vulgurities". There are other terms to describe questionable language: inappropriate, profane, offensive, etc. "Curse" has a fairly straight-forward definition in the dictionary, as does "profane", whereas all the other terms tend to depend on individual judgment and interpretation to allow a word to fall within their meaning.

Where shall we draw a line? Can you give me definitive guidelines on what falls into the area of curse words, profanity, vulgarity, foul language, offensiveness & inappropriateness? These are some of the decisions I face

every month in putting together the newsletter. I would love to have help in making these decisions, but I feel it's part of the job I do and is my responsibility.

You say in your letter, "GCA should not be printing words that are not welcome in the homes of decent people." In reviewing the Bill Reeves article, I found five occurrences of four words that might be construed by some to fit into one of the above categories. One of the four may be found in common usage in books, classrooms and everyday conversation. Two of the four are commonly used in church sermons and are commonly found in the Bible and other religious tracts. The fourth is a common slang vulgarity, which, by the way, has appeared in print in The Eddy Line before, most recently in October (Yep, you missed one, Dan!) without offending the readership enough to generate letters of complaint. Under the dictionary definition of curse words, none of the four fit into this category, particularly in the context of their specific usage in the article.

As I have said, I will continue to do my best to exercise good judgment in walking the thin line between editor and censor. While I personally don't necessarily agree with or condone the use of certain words or terms, and I try to discourage their use, I do support the rights of others to use them, especially to provide impact or convey humor.

If, in the future, you still feel your family needs a censor, I will continue to act as editor of The Eddy Line and you can act as censor when your copy of The Eddy Line arrives. And if the GCA Board sees fit to remove me from my position for misfeasance or poor judgment, I will be happy to take the many hours I put into the publication each month and direct them to areas that provide me more profit and positive feedback and less negativity and complaining.

Again, I am disappointed that you are unhappy with The Eddy Line and I will continue to strive for the perfection we all seek.

Respectfully,
Allen Hedden, Editor ✍️

From the Editor

by Allen Hedden

Some references have been made to the disclaimer in front of *The Eddy Line* stating "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." Some readers have suggested that, in light of recent material published in *The Eddy Line*, the disclaimer may need to be changed.

As you may have guessed, I penned the disclaimer, as well as the disclaimer that states "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." These disclaimers are there to protect the club and the editor, not as mandates.

For instance, it is not mandatory that the views

expressed in the articles do not represent the official views and policies of the club. They may, or they may not. Same with the editorial policy disclaimer. It protects me when a contributor calls and complains, "Hey, you changed my article! Where do you get off rewording what I wrote?" I can point to the disclaimer and say, "Unfortunately it happened to be necessary."

The disclaimer doesn't mandate that I MUST edit all grammar so that it is in compliance with your text books of English composition — thank goodness — 'cause I'm not an English teacher and couldn't do that if I had to. There is often vernacular or dialectic language that gives an article a certain flavor, for instance, that needs to remain intact for the piece to have its desired effect.

Nor is the spelling always perfect. Spell checkers and proof readers don't always catch everything. I can't remember a single issue of *The Eddy Line* that I have gone back and read when it arrived at my door that I didn't find at least one mistake that got through the multiple spell checks and proof readings that are performed before publication. I have had few complaints (one) about the spelling problems (and that was in jest). I am probably my own worst critic in this area.

The disclaimer is also not a mandate that I edit articles for offensive language. Sometimes I do. Sometimes I don't. It's a judgment call in every case, except the ones that just plain get by the proofing and spell checking. The people who write for *The Eddy Line* are often very territorial about their writings and see them as sacred ground on which others have no right to tread. They can be offended by editorial changes that may be made. In

those cases, I'm going to offend someone no matter what I do.

The Eddy Line is a pretty clean, inoffensive publication as a rule. I can't remember ever printing any language that I wouldn't be likely to hear if I tuned in to a talk radio show, for instance. It is usually less offensive than the lyrics I am likely to hear in today's pop songs broadcast at all hours of the day and night on the radio.

Someone has to have ultimate responsibility for what goes into the newsletter. Right now that someone is me. Still, as I've said before, those who submit the material have the PRIMARY responsibility for what is contained in their submissions. I only have certain EDITORIAL responsibilities that are nebulously defined at best and fall under the realm of editorial license.

When I no longer have the right to decide, using my best judgment, what is published in the newsletter, then I will no longer be the editor. It's the one condition of employment that I insisted on when I took the job, and if it's violated, I'm out of here.

In order to save the club and myself a lot of time, this is the last time I'm going to "defend" my position on editorial license. I am not saying you shouldn't complain if you don't agree with something, or if you are offended by something. I'm only saying you shouldn't necessarily expect a response from me. You would do better complaining to the author.

Thank you all for your support and cooperation over the years. It has made the job a joy to perform and has kept me looking forward to it every month for all these years. Well... ALMOST every month anyway. ✂

Book Review

Two Dog River **A Novel by Richard Day** **Review by Harry Tutor**



Ever wonder what it is like to paddle a class 5 first descent on a totally unknown remote river 50 feet above flood stage? What about in really tight water (we're talking disappearing into caves here) with rafts and newbies? Toss in some chance encounters, heated romances, and villainous bad guys, and there you have "Two Dog River."

Several guys and gals with river names like "Man Called Abe" and "Red Bone" chase down a mythical steep river bursting from a huge mountain lake through cavernous canyons. These horndogs somehow sniff out an equal number of raft babes — and find them lost on a desolate, island-strewn mountain lake. Much more than

a river adventure though, here is a trip from youthful indulgence and serious immaturity to responsible adulthood. Dealing with river hazards, food shortages, whacked out personalities, injuries and death pressures the survivors to grow up and even "get religion."

Parents be warned: the author takes quite a bit of graphic freedom in describing sexual details in this book. Due to inappropriate content, I cannot recommend it for minors.

ISBN: 0-9664659-0-3, <http://www.twodogriver.com>, also available at <http://www.amazon.com>.

- From the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club newsletter. ✂

A kayaker got cold while paddling one day so he built a fire in his boat. The kayak of course caught fire and burned up. The lesson we should learn from this is: You can't have your kayak and heat it too.

- Submitted by V Payne.

Chattooga 3-1/2

by Charles Clark

Saturday, November 11, 2000. I originally signed up for a trip on the Middle Tellico, but there was little water as we approached the trip date and I was very skeptical that we would paddle, certainly not the Tellico. On Tuesday it actually started raining in the southeast and I started monitoring water levels. On Wednesday there seemed to be lots of water on the east side of the Smokies (Little T., Oconoluftee) but little on the west and Plateau. However, by Thursday that changed and the rivers on the west side were running high.

As I remember, the Tellico was running 1620 cfs as of 5 PM. I got on the phone and started calling to tell everyone that it looked like a go despite my prior skepticism. We all made arrangements that night and were ready for a paddle down the Tellico. But, Lo and behold, when I checked water Friday afternoon (as of 3:00 PM) the Tellico had dropped to 214 cfs, too low for a trip tomorrow.

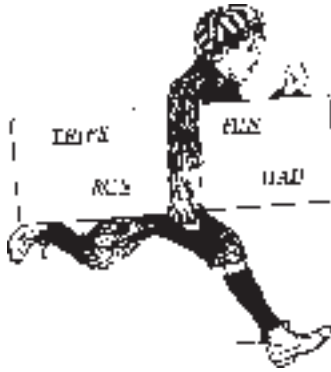
So I convened the troops and we all decided it would be Chattooga 3-1/2, which had been running around 2.4' on the internet when I checked it a little earlier. With the rain stopped and the ground still dry, I suspected that the Chattooga would drop to around 1.5' by Saturday. When we got there Saturday morning we found it 1.2' on the bridge (approximately 1.4' on the internet) so I was not too far off.

When it started raining in the SE I anticipated a flood of calls considering the Tellico's popularity. However, even with the rains I never had more than 7-8 lined up at any one time. By Saturday AM we had 6 paddlers, including myself, show up. Actually this is a really nice number of boaters for a Chattooga 3-1/2 trip.

Participants included yours truly (Outrage OC-1), Allen Hedden (Ocoee OC-1), Ben Becker (H2 Pro OC-1), Dave Chaney (K-1), Joy Scott (Piedra K-1), Steve Cottswitz (K-1). This was Joy's 2nd time for "3.5" and Steve's first time on the Chattooga.

Now I need to explain that this is not a GCA trip report — it is a private trip report. In my haste to get off on time I failed to place the GCA waiver forms in the jeep, and when I discovered them missing in the parking lot I had to cancel the GCA trip and make it a private trip.

We put in at Thrift's Ferry and had a relatively uneventful trip down to Bull Sluice. At 1.2' there are still a few play spots on the Section 3 part of our run for everyone to warm up and play a little. However, I would certainly not make a habit of paddling this section at 1.2'



on a regular basis.

At the Bull we all got out to scout. I had never been on Section 3 at this low level and wanted to get a good look at the Sluice run. Allen commented that the Sluice was nasty at this low level and he was going to run the Virginia Slide. True enough, there were a lot of rocks exposed in the Sluice. While I thought the Sluice look easy enough, discretion won out over valor, as I figured that if I did screw up and come out of my boat, I surely did not want to be in the Sluice at that

low water level — so decided to follow Allen's lead.

All of the team but one decided to run the Slide. One by one we worked our way down the approach into the eddy on river left. At this low level one had to focus on getting into the eddy, as the approach had to be further right than at higher water, putting one perilously close to the edge of the Sluice approaching the river left eddy — no place for nonchalant paddling. One by one we slipped down the Slide into the foam below. No problems — everyone looked good.

You seem to learn something on every paddling trip. I have been paddling a number of years by now and have run Sections 3, 3-1/2 and 4 numerous times, but really did not know that the Slide could be run at 1.2'. For some reason I had it in my mind that 1.7' or so was the cut-off. But let me tell you that it can be run at 1.1'-1.2' (the water level had dropped to 1.15' by the time we got to Bull sluice). Not only did we all have good runs off the Slide, but we also watched a good number of kayakers run it repeatedly.

After hanging out and eating lunch at the Bull, we headed into Section 4. We all ran Surfing Rapid with no problem and, after some play time, moved on down towards Screaming Left Turn, where we had no problem. However, we had our only swim of the day just below SLT in the class II+ stuff below it.

As we moved into this area a group of "young, hot" decked boaters came through us catching every eddy and tightly bunched together, and Joy got caught up in this crowd. Next thing I noticed she had flipped and missed her roll. However, no damage done as we got everything under control quickly.

After everyone got it back together, we headed on down river with Rock Jumble the next obstacle. We all got out to look at Rock Jumble. We discussed various ways to run this obstacle — the technical left side (my favorite), the left of center route and even the far right route. Everyone had good runs — Allen ran it on the far right, I ran the far left and the rest ran left of center.

With everyone now in good spirits after fine runs of

Rock Jumble we headed on to the finale — Woodall Shoals. We had one portage — Joy was just too tired to fight Woodall at 1.2'.

Those of us who ran Woodall ran the river right sneak. From the eddy below the sneak it became every man, or woman, for himself or herself. I elected to move to the left and run the little slide. The rest of the crew just ran a variety of routes.

At the bottom of Woodall we all just hung out and rested for awhile. Finally we could not postpone the really

tough part of a Section 3-1/2 trip any longer — the dreaded class IV carry out. I want to thank those who helped me with my boat. I am getting old and they saved me a really strenuous carry out by helping.

After getting back in real clothes and warming up, Ben, Allen, Dave and I ended the night with dinner at La Pachanga Mexican Restaurant. As I recollect, this was Dave's choice and a good choice it was. A really good Mexican restaurant. I strongly recommend it for those who crave Mexican food after a day on the river. ✂

\$35 Kayak Cart — Create in 40 Minutes

by Fred Couch

My friend, Dave Campbell — publisher of the "Eastern Sea Kayaker" newsletter — is the consummate practical builder. From him I got this idea to build my own kayak cart in one day for less than \$35.00.

Here are the seven ingredients:

a. Axle — 1/2 inch thick aluminum dowel rod — Dave chose 24 inch; I used 27 inch = \$15.00. Bend the rod slightly at each end (see sketch) for almost middle width of your kayak. The idea is to let it support the weight of your loaded boat; not at end where you're doing weight support.

b. 2 hard rubber wheels — Dave chose 10 inch size @ \$10 each; I chose 7 inch size — \$7.00 each.

c. Two hitch pins — drill each end of axle, and insert 3/4" hitch keys to keep wheels on — \$1.90.

d. Styrofoam-like material used normally as pipe insulator — cut to fit area under kayak — \$1.99.

e. Strap to hold in place — run over kayak, around axle, pull to secure, webbing with buckle — \$3.00.

Source of material's: Dave, Lowe's \$39.00 — Fred, Home



Depot \$35.00. Took 20 minutes to buy, 20 minutes to create.

You can easily assemble, disassemble, carry inside kayak. Re: the strap — I already had one left from loading other gear situations. I don't believe a rubber bungee is adequate to keep boat from slipping lengthwise. I used waterproof gray duct tape to secure insulation to axle. The axle is thus cushioned for kayak support, and for inside kayak travel between uses. Put the hitch pins in axle when stowing. Weight total depends on wheels chosen — for me, it's 7 lbs; for Dave, about 9 lbs. ✂

Golden Oldies Shoot the 'Hooch

by John Henderson

Two 60 something retirees take a golden oldie canoe on an exhausting 29 mile day trip on the Chattahoochee River..... and relearn lessons they had obviously forgotten.

We were one hour late starting our trip from Buford Dam on the Chattahoochee River to Island Ford, a National Recreational Park 29 miles downstream. My partner, Glen Myrick — an experienced canoeist and longtime sailing friend from Chattanooga, had wanted to see that part of the river. If we had started earlier and the wind had been with us, the trip might have been manageable. However, it turned out as a race against the wind, and

then — against time!

My old 17' Grumman aluminum canoe was loaded and launched at 10:00 AM on November 14, a clear and sunny but cold and windy morning. We had all the proper gear and provisions in dry packs and were enthusiastic. The only problem: wind in our face! The river is mostly class I and easy, but with several class II passages. The first of the class II surprises was Bowman's Island Shoals, one-half mile from the start, where we added five gallons of water and thoroughly soaked my shoes. Seven hours later they were still wet.

Two more tricky shoals were encountered about four miles downstream just before Settles Bridge — no added water this time. We were enjoying a very pretty day in the

company of kingfishers, herons, egrets, geese, ducks, hawks and otters — but without humans. There was only one other boat and less than six bank fisherman sighted on the entire trip. The National Park Service has done a great job of obtaining and preserving most of the property along the river. It is beautiful year round — but was especially so wearing its fall colors.

The official park brochure describing the river declares that some sections can be class III because of narrow passages, high water levels with erratic waves, strong currents and cold water. We met one of these devils somewhere around McGuinnis Ferry. After one narrow escape and quick retreat, we recovered in a safe eddy and surveyed the possibilities. Yellow Cab was not an option. We hunkered down! Thunder River at Six Flags was never so exhilarating.

The river flows about 3 mph with many blown down trees and submerged boulders. Most obstacles are obvious. At Jones Bridge, there is an extensive shoaling area that covers the entire river. The only safe passage is on the extreme right side going downstream. We hit several

boulders and bounced around quite a bit before proceeding. The aluminum canoe hung up on several rocks that took a lot of body shifting and frantic pushing off with paddles to dislodge the craft before taking a dip with the fish. After a couple miles of small rapids and shoaling areas, we arrived in calmer water where we bailed out and starting cursing the wind instead of the rocks.

We reached Island Ford Park at 5 PM. I had not gotten out of the canoe for seven hours. At the ramp, I fell down. Our legs did not work! We were exhausted — and cold! The wind was too much. We were too late to ride back to the starting place and get my van before the park closed. My van was towed, a \$100 insult to the already exhausting day. But then we spent two glorious hours at a BBQ shack drinking hot coffee and consuming hot Brunswick Stew and BBQ platters. Finally, all seemed right again.

As I reflect on the adventure, it is one of my favorite trips — but one that I will avoid in the future. Or at least in the winter. But if you really want to go, we might talk about it. But PLEASE, not all 29 miles in one day! 🚣

The Arkansas River, Colorado

by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

Part 1 of a 2 part article

I agreed to help Tommy Price move to Lusk, Wyoming, between June 7 and 16. Since it only takes two days to drive from here to there, we decided to go via his brother Brad's place, just out of Cotopaki, Colorado. Cotopaki is about halfway between Granite and Cañon City, the termini of the Arkansas River's white water section.

We did this out of the goodness of our hearts to initiate Brad into class III/IV boating. This essay describes how we got there from here, provides information on seasons/flows/web addresses, some advice concerning gear, a brief description of the area and a description of the runs.

Either upon arrival in Cañon City or before leaving Atlanta, you should purchase several books. [Arkansas River Guide](#), by Thomas G. Rampton, Blacktail Enterprises publisher, ISBN 0-9634799-1-1, costs about \$14, and describes the river mile by mile. If you plan on more extensive boating in the area (e.g., the Gunnison) (or for that matter anything else in Colorado). You should also get the more encyclopedic [Colorado Rivers & Creeks](#), Second Edition, by Gordon Banks and Dave Eckard, Published by Gordon Banks and Dave Eckard, ISBN 0-9645399-0-x, \$34.00.

Finally, I also recommend [The Floater's Guide to Colorado](#) by Doug Wheat published by Falcon Press in

1983, ISBN 83-081334. It doesn't discuss all the hair runs but is more encyclopedic and contains fascinating stories of the major rivers' geologic evolution, discovery and exploration.

It's no biggie to drive from Atlanta to the Arkansas and any serious canoers should do it at least once (you'll probably want to repeat). Kayakers can do it too, but Colorado paddling essentially equates to butt-boats or hypalon so canoes/C-1's catch serious attention.

Plan on two days and leave early (05:00 or 06:00). Take I 75 to Chattanooga; veer left on I 24 and follow it through Tennessee and Kentucky until it ends at I 57. Continue north on I 57 to Mt. Vernon, KY; turn west on I 64 and follow it through St. Louis until the I 270 exit (which you will obviously take). Go north for 10-15 minutes and turn west onto I 70, which provides a straight shot to Denver.

By this time you'll be relatively butt-sprung, but try to make it to Topeka before bedding-down. If you hit the road by 07:00 or so the next morning, you'll be in Denver by mid-afternoon and can spend the night in Cañon City or somewhere farther up the Arkansas, albeit with little boating time available. Just take I 25 South out of Denver to Pueblo, turn west on US 50, and you're there.

We, of course, didn't do it that way. Brad was in the process of moving to his place in Cotopaki and had a big old U-Haul to load-up. Since we were planning on staying in his new 20-acre place and needed some of the stuff (e.g., a new stinger cataraft), we worked until midnight load-

ing, left early the next morning, reached his new place by noon, and were boating the Arkansas by 14:00.

Seasons/flows/web addresses

Our trip occurred in early/mid-June and we just missed peak runoff. In general, useful runoff begins in May (1,800 cfs or so at Parkdale), peaks through mid-June (2,000 - 3,000 cfs), and by early August gets too low to provide much fun (~1,000 cfs). This of course depends on how good the skiing season's been. Bad snow years are associated with early springs and really good ones can pump out 2,000 to 6,000 cfs through July.

To put these flows into perspective, the Ocoee usually runs at about 1,200 cfs and drops 54'/mile; the Arkansas will have twice the volume, drops 30'/mile or so, and is about half as wide as the Ocoee. The Arkansas is very pushy by eastern standards. We were content with 1,800 cfs and a 3,000 cfs peak would have been an interesting experience for two eastern creekers. Flow on the Arkansas varies considerably through the day, reflecting snow melt.

There are several web sites that you should consult just before your trip. The USGS site (<http://webserver.cr.usgs.gov/waterdata.html>) reports gauge readings at 15-minute intervals. Chris (Web Site) Webster also provides Colorado river flow information (<http://www.kayakingcolorado.com/flows>). An NRCS site (<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>) posts information on snow pack, flow predictions and climate. Tom Rampton has a home page that provides useful boating information in the area (<http://castle.chaffee.net/~rampton>). Finally, try Mountain Buzz (<http://mountainbuzz.com>).

Some advice concerning gear

You can car camp, live in a tent, or stay in motels at multiple locations between Cañon City and Granite. I wouldn't go out of my way to set anything up until I got there. It will be hot through June and July but Cañon City sits at 5,360' and Granite at 8,920', so it can get cold at night. It also gets cold during the not infrequent summer rainstorms. The river is butt-cold (remember it's coming from melting snow). We wore dry suits and medium weight capilene and were not too hot.

With the exception of Brown's Canyon and Royal Gorge, the highway borders the Arkansas, so timely egress is no problemo. Finally, I wouldn't transport a surfeit of extra gear, but I was disappointed at the paucity of outfitters in the area. I doubt it would be easy to find replacement canoe paddles or C-1 skirts.

Brief Description of the Area

The Arkansas drainage begins at the Sawatch and Mosquito ranges, whose basin also cradles Leadville, Colorado. It follows the Rio Grande Rift (Pine Creek [class

V], The Numbers [class IV], and Brown's Canyon [class III] sections) until Salida where it encounters the Sangre de Cristo range and drops through the Arkansas River Canyon (Pinnacle Rock and Parkdale sections [easy class III]).

Finally, it cuts through an isolated block of Granite, Royal Gorge Plateau (part of the final upheaval that formed the Rocky Mountains), and dives into the Great Plains through Royal Gorge [class III].

The upper Arkansas was "discovered" in 1806 by a young army officer, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who got lost while TDY mapping portions of the Louisiana Purchase (specifically the Red River). Hank Meyers recorded the first recorded run through Royal Gorge in 1871. He ran it with his partner Todd in a rowboat to recover railroad ties (\$1.00 per tie).

No one had a clue what was in the canyon; ties were routinely thrown in at the top and retrieved at the bottom. However, in 1871 hardly any of the ties thrown in came out and were presumed to be hung up in a huge mid-gorge "jam".

It took Hank and Todd five days from top to bottom. Their boat was totaled in the first rapid (an easy class III) and two ad-libbed rafts were destroyed soon after launching (probably still before the class IV stuff). They dragged their sorry butts most of the way on foot.

Royal Gorge was opened up shortly after Hank and Todd's first descent, following a war between the Rio Grande Railroad (laying track upstream from Cañon City and the Santa Fe (going downstream beginning at the gorge mouth).

Recommended Arkansas day trips

I recommend a couple of warm-up days before tackling the harder stuff. As I noted, western white water is completely different than what we're used to; it's colder and the volume is considerably greater. The runs are more akin to the New and Gauley than the Chattooga or Tellico. Rather than tight technical lines around rocks, monster holes will comprise your biggest worry. These holes are not always obvious until too late.

We decided to start out easy and finish up rough. The first day we drove down Brad's driveway for about 45 minutes to its terminus at the Cotopaxi Bridge, put in at the bridge, and paddled 13 miles (~ 5 hours) to Pinnacle Rock.

Action begins immediately as the river constricts and presents a 200 meter-long wave train. Things sort of meander for about two miles until you pass the Lone Pine access then the next five miles present several class II chutes. Relax, out west five miles is much faster than on the Ocoee.

Just after the bridge, Texas Creek, a serious class III drop, presents the first rapid of consequence. It caroms off the left wall and is much more squirrely than it looks (similar to Chattooga Narrows at 6'). This is followed by about a two-mile calm that ends at Maytag Rapid.

Maytag can be scouted from the road while running shuttle (hint: do it, near mile marker 254 3/4). Maytag varies from solid class III to IV depending on the level. You will have to pick your way through and around several serious holes and pour overs on both sides of the river. Start your run just to the left of center and adjust accordingly.

Another two mile calm follows, which ends when Echo Canyon enters from river left under a railroad bridge. This signals the approach of Three Forks Rapid (an easy class IV), the finale signature rapid of this section. It can be scouted from the highway. No matter, you'll know you're in it when you come screaming past a huge square concrete block. An island splits the river and the usual route is to the right. This is an extremely long rapid chock full of boulders with attendant pour overs and holes.

If you feel good after this one, I'd recommend your second day continue the next 8 miles from Pinnacle Rock to Parkdale. It should take about four hours and has both more, and more difficult rapids.

The action begins almost immediately at Wakeup Rapid an easy class II, which is quickly followed by Three Rocks Rapid. Guess what? Three really BIG rocks are spaced across the river (akin to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Crack on Section IV) and provide three class III through IV chutes.

The center looked like a mistake (it funnels directly into a frowning hole) so we went right. The right slot is bordered by impressive pour overs and the tongue runs into a bunch of boulders, which it is important to dodge. At levels above 3,000 cfs this rapid evolves into a huge river wide hole that most people portage.

Within a mile you will hit Five Points Rapid, another solid class III, running through Five Points Park. The park has an observation platform from which professional photographers shoot the carnage. Five Points is a typical "DTM and adjust". The run continues for about two miles with minimal activity and then hits Spike Buck Rapid, a long, technical class III (IV at high water) run.

Spike Buck begins near a railroad bridge over a left tributary and can be scouted from the road. Because of its length and technicality, Spike Buck accounts for a significant proportion of all the accidents on the Arkansas. If you miss a roll here you will have a really long swim (how does Hawk know this?).

This is the last rapid of consequence, but several easy

class IIIs (Shark's Tooth, Double Dib, Satan's Suck Hole, and Puppy's Tail) rapids will all amuse you before the Parkdale take-out.

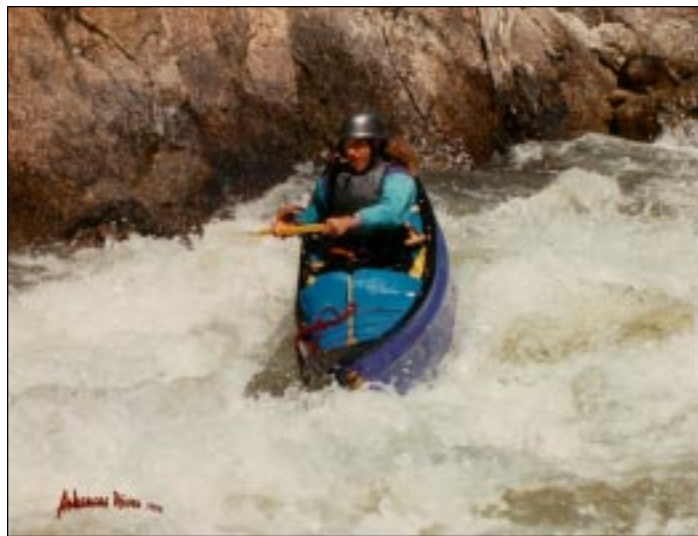
By this time you should be well warmed up and accustomed to western white water. So think seriously about doing Brown's Canyon (the Arkansas' signature class III run) for day three. Brown's is in the upper watershed and is one of two sections (Royal Gorge being the other) that diverge from the highway and are relatively isolated.

We put in at Fisherman's Bridge and paddled 11 miles to Stone Bridge. The primary take-out is Hecla 3-1/2 miles upstream. But, if you take out at Hecla you miss Seidel's Suck Hole, a really fun class IV/V drop, in which "flips tend to be decisive and violent."

The first mile after the put-in parallels the road then you'll go under a railroad bridge and begin to veer away from the road. Another two miles and you enter a fault zone and find yourself at Upper Canyon Doors. This is a straightforward class III, which is usually run river right. It merges directly into Lower Canyon Doors, a more serious class III/IV. Again, stay to the right and run it between the wave and the vertical right wall.

A clean run here is important, because Lower Doors feeds into Pinball Rapid another class III/IV. Try Pinball down the middle with appropriate adjustments. They call it Pinball because it's a boulder garden, both difficulty and routes vary considerably depending on levels.

Within a mile the river begins to seriously narrow. You are approaching Zoom Flume (easy class IV paddle but class VIII pucker factor). The river really chokes



Will Reeves running Zoom Flume on the Brown's Canyon section of the Arkansas River.

- Submitted by Bill Reeves.

down and disappears over an impressive horizon line. Boats ahead of you disappear into a pulsating spray plume. Relax, you may flip but there is a forgiving eddy at the bottom of it all. A commercial photographer usually lurks at Zoom Flume to record the carnage.

A series of interesting class III rapids (Ronco, Big Drop, Staircase, Widow Maker, Graveyard) occupy the next 3.4 miles before the Hecla access. Most people take out here and miss Seidel's Suck Hole just around the corner another mile down. The rapid will be obvious because many people will be scouting and just watching the carnage.

Seidel's is a solid, very violent, class IV, four foot or

so pour over with a huge hole occupying most of the middle of the river. It can be skirted on either the right or the left. We tried the more vertical right route, kissed the edge of the hole and the rest is history. We flipped, and for the first time in my experience my helmet (chin strap securely fastened) was ripped right off my head.

Twin Falls, a difficult class III, comprises the final rapid. As the name implies, there are two drops, each with pour overs. We tried it down the middle but forgot to adjust. The second hole flipped the Stinger end over end like a cartwheel. The Stone Bridge access is another two miles downstream.

To be continued in the February issue.



Georgia USGS Gauging Q&A

by Michael Moody

As a free flowing water lover person who paddles the "state" from top to bottom, I'm always looking over the Current Stream Flow Conditions web page.... The following is the e/conversation I've had with Brian from the Atlanta office of the USGS. He has been very helpful and personable. I would assume that this info might be of interest to others leaning toward graphophilism.

The following is from a previous email exchange where I was concerned about the elimination of several stream gauging stations such as the one on the Ohoopsee River and on the Broad River — among others. His response is as follows:

"Also, for your information, the Georgia Geological Survey picked up the O&M costs for Broad River above Carlton, as well as the other threatened gauges. By comparison, our stream gauge network has never been healthier."

Q: Is the Doctortown gauging station going to be put back on line with the current stream flow page ?

A: "Yes, as soon as the NWS fixes their modem equipment. The Doctortown gauge on the Altamaha River is one that will be around for a long time. It is considered a benchmark station."

Q: there are some new stations on line that seem to be tidal, as in the Brunswick station and the Port Wentworth. How can that work and what's it's purpose?

A: "The purpose is for coastal monitoring for fisheries habitats and hurricane surge."

Q: Chattahoochee at Helen — is that a new station or just a different description?

A: "Chattahoochee at Helen is the same station it has always been — right there in downtown Helen."

Q: The Ogeechee section is a mystery to me. Meridian is in McIntosh County on the coast near the Altamaha

River, and of course Lawrenceville is near the Yellow and South Rivers on the Ocmulgee River system. I do remember the "old" guy that used to check the gauge and report to USGS at Midville years ago. Too bad there's not a gauge actually on that river anymore.

A: "I can see how it would be a mystery! The Wildcat Creek at Lawrenceville gauge should be part of the Altamaha Basin, not the Ogeechee. The Meridian site is at Sapelo Island."

Q: Rain fall — how does one gauge tell where the rain falls in a given watershed? (computer generated for average rainfall for the "total" individual watershed?)

A: "The rain gauge is only a point source of data — at that specific location. Because of the variable nature of rainfall across an area, you can never get a true count of rainfall, only an estimate. There are various ways to estimate the amount of rain between rain gauges, including using isohyets and polygons. The new doppler radars of the NWS can paint a more accurate picture of what is happening between the rain gauges, but you still need the rain gauges on the ground to use for 'ground-truthing', or adjusting the radar images. The rain gauge is located at the stream gauge. The USGS is in the process of installing rain gauges at all of their stream gauges. This should assist the NWS with better rainfall estimates."

Q: As to the graph for Meridian, it would be a "tide" record I assume. If that's the case, wouldn't the mean "low" be closer to zero and the high's be somewhere close to what the tide "charts" would say for a "high tide" for any given date /time?

A: "The Meridian gauge is not yet tied into a true elevation. Once it is surveyed in, it should be closer to the tide charts."

Q: Port Wentworth, I see on the map, is fairly far upstream from Savannah. From the data on the graph, it doesn't seem to be a tidal creek, so it's inland a fair bit. Would this site be of interest in reference to coastal tidal

surges? Or fisheries habitat (The Corps is studying deeper dredging as usual).

A: "...confused the Port Wentworth gauge with another. The Black Creek site is a temporary site monitoring the Black Creek watershed. It is tidal affected to some degree, but a culvert downstream dampens out much of the tidal range of stage."

Q: If you don't mind, I'd like to forward this info to the Georgia Canoeing Association.

A: "That is fine."



Paddling is a lot like sex. You don't have to be good at it to enjoy it.

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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.

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