

November GCA Meeting

The November GCA meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15 (the third Thursday of the month), at 7:30 PM at the Garden Hills Community Center in Buckhead. The program will feature a slide show & talk by Niki Collins-Queen. Niki will show slides and talk about her spirit quest while she hitchhiked on sailboats in the Bahamas, backpacked alone in the Cohutta Wilderness, canoed in the Everglades and on the Suwannee River. You can also read about her adventures in her book titled "Earth, the Forgotten Temple: A Spirit Quest in the Wilderness" and on her web site www.dreamwater.com/biz/earth/. Join your paddling buddies and enjoy this most entertaining show!

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

See you there!!



December GCA Meeting

The December GCA meeting will once again be the Annual Holiday Party. The party is scheduled for Friday, December 21, at 7:30 PM at the Garden Hills Community Center in Buckhead. Bring a covered dish and/or a dessert, a festive holiday mood, some good paddling tales and an appetite, and we'll all get together and celebrate the Holiday Season.

See you there!!



New GCA Meeting Schedule

The GCA Board of Directors has made major changes in the club's meeting schedule. Beginning in the 2002 calendar year, regular monthly meetings will not be held, due to members staying away in droves. The attendance at the meetings over the past two years has plummeted and shows no sign of rebounding under the current conditions.

Our new social event schedule for the coming year includes the Spring Covered Dish Dinner in March, the Southeastern Races in April, Spring Extravaganza in May, the Fall Gala Canoeing Affair in September, the Fall Covered Dish Dinner in October, and the Annual Holiday Party in December. Exact dates for these annual events will be published in *The Eddy Line* as they become available.



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!



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 Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022 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 Cruise Master Mike Winchester, at 770.319.8969.

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 Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022 so she 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	Marvine Cole
Vice President	Gina Johnson
Secretary	Lindsay Meeks
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Mary Ann Pruitt
Recreation Chair	Jason Schnurr
Resource Development Chair	Vacant
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 gacanoemindspring.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



November

3 Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Alan Reaid	770.974.4581
3 Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Clay Noble	770.655.2843
3 Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Oreon Mann	404.522.3469
4 Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Lois Newton	706.398.3069
4 Cedar Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Mike Smith	706.235.8462
10 Tuckasegee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Griffin	770.498.3695
10 Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
10 Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Debra Berry	404.320.6148
11 Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Tom Martin	770.662.0058
15 Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun — Garden Hills Community Center	Kay Redmond		404.237.7242
17 Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
17 Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Bill Convis	770.751.9258
17 Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dave Chaney	770.973.7910
18 Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
22-25 Suwannee (Note 1)	Flat Water	Brookie Gallagher	404.872.5211

December

1 Leader's Choice	Class 2-4 Intermediate (+)	Louis Boulanger	404.394.2182
1 Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Tony Colquett	770.854.6636
1 Leader's Choice	Flat Water	Bill Edwards	706.565.6326
2 Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
6 Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Atlanta Botanical Garden	Marvine Cole		770.475.3022
8 Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
16 Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
21 Club Meeting — Annual Holiday Party — Garden Hills Community Center	Kay Redmond		404.237.7242

Note 1: Thanksgiving camping trip, space limited. There is an option to meet the group midday on Friday.

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 Cruise Master, Mike Winchester, at 770.319.8969. 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 7:00-9:00 PM January thru March at the Samuel L. Jones 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
3794 Glenloch Road
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell
Cold, Wet & Alive
Expedition Earth
Faultline (Will Reeves)
First Descents (North Fork Payette)
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)
In the Surf
Introduction to Canoeing
Kayak Handling-The Basic Strokes
Mohawk Canoes (promotional w/detailed boat outfitting instructions)
Mohawk Whitewater Canoes (promotional w/ detailed outfitting instructions)
Only Nolan (Promotional, Canoe Technique)
Path of the Paddle: Quiet Water
Path of the Paddle: White Water
Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)

Play Daze
Retendo
Solo Playboating!
The C-1 Challenge
Vortex -- low cost storm water sampler
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)
Whitewater Self Defense

Books:

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I & II
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Tennessee-Vol I & II
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed Emory Watershed
ACA Canoeing & Kayaking Instructors Guide
Alabama Canoe Rides
AMC White Water Handbook
American Red Cross Canoeing & Kayaking
Arkansas information (assorted)
Basic River Canoeing
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)
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement

Florida information (assorted)
Georgia Mountains
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
Paddling SC-Palmetto State River Trails
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
Southern Georgia Canoeing
The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North
The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande
The Mighty Mulberry-A Canoeing Guide
They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?
White Water Tales of Terror
WhiteWaterTrips (British Columbia & Washington)
Wildwater (Sierra Club Guide)
WildwaterWestVirginia
Youghiogheny-Appalachian River
Maps:
The Big S. Fork

Announcements

GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing over 300 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.

IMPORTANT: should your email ID change, please take a minute to "unsubscribe" your old ID and "subscribe" your new one. ✂

GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.georgiacanoeflipper.org>. We are continually adding information and links of value to paddlers. Send your ideas for updates to Allen Sinquefeld by using the e-mail link for WebGuy at the site.

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 Earthlink as your choice, you can do your paddling club a big favor. When you call to sign up, tell the Earthlink 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 — gacanoe@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

Weekday Paddlers

Did you know that GCA has a list of paddlers available to paddle during the week? We now have 70+ entries on the weekday paddlers 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 July 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. ✂

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Email canoeist@mindspring.com

Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice will return this January and will run through March. Our host once again is the Samuel L. Jones Boys & Girls Club, 450 East Lake Drive, Decatur, GA, 30030, Telephone: 404.378.8814. Sessions will run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM each Monday, except for the MLK Day holiday

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 ques-
tions about roll
practice, or

would like to help, either with instruction or keeping track of money and waivers, call Revel at 404.261.8572. Your help would be greatly appreciated, and admission is free for volunteers.

TO GET TO THE JONES CLUB POOL: Go south on East Lake Drive from Ponce de Leon past the East Lake MARTA Station. Go about another 1/4 to 1/2 mile and you'll see a large brick building on the left set back a ways from the street (number 450). There is a driveway going in through the fence. Turn left. You are at the Jones Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear, but with boats to carry, it's much easier to go through the front door, through the basketball court, and into the pool room. Ask directions at the front desk.

BE SURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN BEFORE YOU GET THERE. Rinse out sand, river mud, leaves, old birds' nests or cobwebs. No hose is available at the door, so we must have clean boats when we arrive at the facility. The pool manager appreciates your cooperation in keeping the pool clean and the filter and heater operating. Also, the Club does not allow street shoes in the pool area.

CAUTION: As with most pools, the deck area around the pool is very slippery when wet, so be extremely cautious while carrying boats in and out or walking around the pool area. No diving is allowed, and only roll practice participants, instructors and spotters are allowed in the pool during roll practice. ✂



Electronic Eddy Line Email Failures

Not getting your electronic version of *The Eddy Line*? The following email IDs had mail failure notices for the last *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:

zkdl@cdc.gov	Not recognized	
sharperiver@aol.com	User unknown	
riniezoo@bellsouth.net	User unknown	
bart0339@att.net	User unknown	
emacintyre@mindspring.com	User unknown	
jvincenzo@alexanderogilvy.com	Not recognized	✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

December 1 — NRC Jiffy Slalom — Bryson City, NC, Island Park on the Tuckaseegee River, part of Bryson City's holiday time festivities, Nantahala Racing Club (NRC) 828.488.2176 ext. 108 or email rhino@main.nc.us.

December 2 — NRC Wildwater Races — Season Finale on the Tuckaseegee Gorge, NC, Nantahala Racing Club (NRC) 828.488.2176 ext. 108 or email rhino@main.nc.us.

April 27-28 2002 — Southeastern Slalom & Wild Water Championship Races — Nantahala River, NC, Knox Worde, 770.475.3022, playboatn@aol.com.

May 25 2002 — Altamaha Wilderness Adventure Challenge — Hazelhurst, GA, Charlie Ford, 912.379.1371, cjford@altamaha.net.

August 6-10 2003 — Lanier Canoe 2003 Sprint World Championships — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com. ✂

2002 GCA Officers Elected

The following slate of officers for the 2002 year was elected by the club membership at the annual Fall General Membership Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner, held at the Garden Hills Community Center on Friday, October 19.

President	Marvine Cole
Vice President	Gina Johnson
Secretary	Lindsay Meeks
Treasurer	Ed Schultz

The following were also selected by the Board of Directors to serve as Members at Large: Jim Griffin, Kathy Cole (second term), Jim Watson and Tom Bishop. Thanks to the volunteers who serve so well! ✂

Fall Gala Thanks

by Denise Colquitt

Well, the GCA Fall Gala 2001 is now history. I, for one, am very thankful that we had absolutely beautiful, though a little cool, weather. A huge improvement over last year. We had a large crowd this year and most everyone seemed to have a good time. There were about 150 people at the campground and 125 participated in the taco/burrito feast bar Saturday night. The rivers could have cooperated more by having a little more water, but I don't think anyone who wanted to paddle suffered too much. As it turned out, the Tuckaseegee even cooperated more than we had feared.

As last year, Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway Campground was a great host and provided us with fine accommodations. They also allowed us all the leeway we needed so that we could have the type of gathering we most enjoy — an event that allowed us to come together as a group, reunite with old paddling buddies, meet new ones, and have a fun and relaxing (for most) weekend. Thanks Elsie, Earl, Gene and Linda for showing us so much generosity and patience.

I need to announce that a set of keys was found Sunday morning. They have a Gold's Gym tag on them. If they are your keys, contact the campground at their web site: Nantahalacampground.com or call them at 800.936.6649. Also, someone left a cooker behind. I brought it home with me. If it is yours, please contact me at 770.854.6636.

I want to thank everyone who came to this year's Gala and for all those who showed great patience with me. I have so many people to thank, I hope I don't forget too many names. If I forget to mention your name, I in no way am less thankful for your assistance in making this a successful weekend for everyone. This is not an event that one person can make "work out." It takes lots of folks who readily pitch in and do what is needed. It takes teamwork, and we had lots of that this year.

First and most of all, I have to thank Mary Ann Pruitt for being my right and left arms and for keeping me sane. Christine Casper and Kathy Moyer were a tremendous help during and after the Saturday taco/burrito feast. And feast it was!!! Thanks to Susan Abernathy and Charlotte Shollenberger who took the "crock pot cleanup brigade" upon themselves, and to everyone else who cleaned up the dining room. Thanks to everyone who donated crock pots to the occasion.

Beverly Gregor organized and set up (and took down) games for the young folks. My ever-supportive husband, Tony, helped me with everything Mary Ann

wasn't around for and he organized the Piñata game. Thanks to Alex Pruitt, John Moyer, Marty Head, and you other guys whose names I can't remember for bringing picnic tables down and returning them later. Thanks Med Cooke for building a spectacular bon fire. Oh, and a huge

thanks to everyone who brought fire wood this year. We had more than enough, and the bon fire was great!

I'm sure I'm forgetting some important names, but THANKS! Take care and see ya on the river....

Passing the spatula, Denise.



I Will Survive: Wilderness Survival Tips

by Sue & Eric Hansen

"The majority of people who get lost in the wilderness don't survive." This startling statement may surprise those who love spending time in the outdoors. After all, how can a leisurely stroll in the woods turn into a life-threatening situation? But the man voicing these words of warning has spent more than 25 years dealing with people unprepared for nature's perils.

Harry Oakes, Jr., founder of international K-9 Search & Rescue (SAR) in Portland, Oregon, is an expert in locating the lost with the help of search dogs. Oakes's work has led him to compile simple wilderness survival tips for being properly equipped to endure outdoor elements. Following these suggestions will keep you safe until



found.

From hikers and hunters to climbers and campers, getting lost is an easy thing to do, even for experienced back country travelers. For those who do wander off course, your level of preparedness determines your survival rate. According to Oakes, one percent is able to handle the situation. "The attitude 'It'll never happen to me' is a factor in this low statistic," Oakes said. "Odds would improve if more people asked 'What if!' before leaving home."

So, what if you find yourself in unfamiliar territory? A compass and map — and the knowledge to use them — will put you back on the right path. Oakes advises caution to those who rely on Global Positioning Systems. "My number one rule is to rely on myself first, not technology.

As for carrying a cellular phone in your backpack, it's useful but not always dependable. Remote areas lack satellite range, and batteries can die. Plus, the current conditioning of people who think if they get into trouble, help is just a phone call away, is referred to as '911 syndrome' among SAR personnel. This mentality makes individuals less alert to their surroundings

If you don't have the means to pinpoint your position, stay where you are. Mark your location with something bright — an orange bandanna — to attract attention. Based on search data, 90 percent of people lost are within three miles of where they were last seen. And 80 percent of those are less than half that distance.

Four essentials are needed to keep you comfortable while waiting to be rescued: food, water, fire and shelter. Oakes recommends several compact items that should be carried at all times — even for one day excursions.

Along with a minimum of two quarts of water, a high-energy food source — such as Power Bars — provides quick nourishment. And for instant warmth, tea bags, bouillon cubes and Tootsie Rolls can be made into hot beverages. (Store these items inside a metal container, like a small coffee can. The container can be used as both a cooking pot to heat water and as a drinking cup.)

To build a fire, matches — both waterproof and magnesium — and a candle work together as a fire starter. (After buying new candles for your survival kit, singe the candles' wicks so they will reflare more quickly when



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needed. Also, Chapstick with a piece of cloth stuck in it makes an adequate candle substitution.) Gather dry rocks to form a circular fire pit and enough burn material — from twigs to wrist-size sticks — to fuel a fire overnight.

When constructing a fire, think teepee. Start with small tinder the size of a dinner plate. Hollow out a spot in the middle for the candle, then place pencil-thin sticks on top, followed by thicker branches. Light the candle. As the fire becomes hotter, add larger logs.

For shelter, select a spot near trees or rock outcroppings to shield you from the hot sun, wind or inclement weather. Collect boughs for ground cover to provide insulation. A space blanket or reflector (cocoon) bag also offers protection against penetrating cold.

Other gear necessary for your well-being in the woods includes: a pocket knife, toilet paper, a signal mirror, a plastic whistle (three blasts represents SOS), a

first-aid kit, personal identification, a stocking cap, rain gear and extra clothing (preferably wool or polar fleece).

Being outfitted for outdoor survival is the first step toward physical safety. As for emotional security, always tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return.

Oakes also encourages enrollment in a survival program to better educate yourself in the sometimes harsh ways of the wilderness. As for family members and friends anxiously awaiting the return of a lost loved one, contact all available search and rescue resources — from law enforcement units to private SAR companies. "We're here to help," said Oakes. "We're trained to track down those who end up missing."

- Reprinted from "Women in the Outdoors", Winter 2001, via "Current News", newsletter of the Dallas Down River Club. 

2002 Southeastern Races Scheduled

The 2002 Southeastern Slalom and Wild Water Races have been scheduled for the weekend of April 27-28, 2002, at the Nantahala River in Wesser, NC. MARK YOUR CALENDAR. Race Master Gina Johnson and the Race Committee are doing a great job of pre-planning and organizing for the race.

As always, there will be a need for many volunteers, so look for the Volunteer Sign-up Form in *The Eddy Line* and join us for the GCA's biggest social event of the year. We also need race participants, so sign up to race either in the Race (Championship) Class or the Recreational (Cruising) Class, or both, as your desires dictate. Racing is a great way to improve your paddling skills and to make new and lasting friendships. Or you can just come and spectate and cheer on your favorites as they race against the clock and each other.

Some of the improvements planned for this year's race include a shorter and more visible slalom course, more reliable communications and timing systems, a less challenging course for the Recreational Classes, Awards Banquet by NOC River's End Catering at NOC Base Camp, central locations for volunteers and race participants to get lodging or camping facilities, announcers providing a play-by-play for spectators over a PA system, and much, much more.

The Race Registration Form will be available on GCA's web site at www.georgiacanoe.org when it is avail-



able, as well as the Volunteer Sign-up Form, for ease of obtaining forms and signing up. See you at the race! 

Paddling For Fun

by Steve Thomas

I wrote a version this article for the Atlanta Whitewater Club newsletter back in 1989, but it still holds true today. In this case, you could insert a current name, such as Scott Shipley or Rebecca Giddens, or maybe just take the article as is. Cathy and Davey Hearn are still paddling competitively (since 1979 — amazing!!) and it's still about paddling for fun.

- Steve Thomas — 1987, 1988 US Slalom Team, C-2, 2000 C-1 Masters National Champion

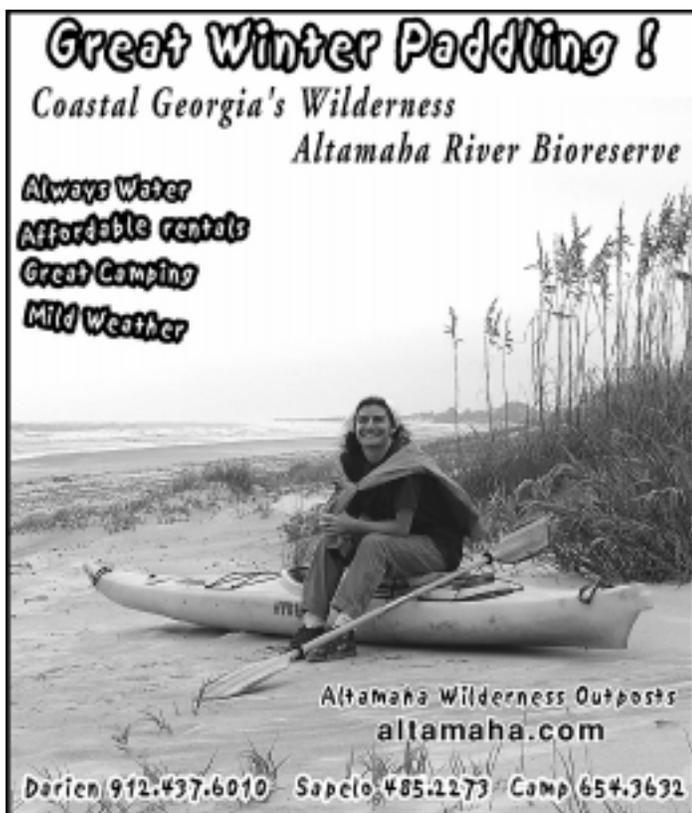
I guess I'm like a lot of people: over the years, as I grew older, what I considered fun and exciting changed. When I first started paddling, I wasn't really sure that Nantahala Falls was going to be fun, then Pillow Rock on the Gauley, or Lava Falls on the Colorado. And to this day, I haven't figured out how much fun I had on Chickamauga Creek when it was flooded.

All of these were entertaining and exciting to say the least. People just have different ideas of what is interesting, and we all have seen people that have taken up our sport, then decided to move on to something else.

When I first started paddling, I had no intention of doing any type of racing. I was only into cruising, but then I started doing some slalom racing to help my cruising skills. I then became more involved in competition, and now I cruise to help my racing. Earlier this year at the Mulberry Fork Race, I was leaving on Sunday morning

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when I passed Charles Brewer (the founder of Mindspring) on the way out. We stopped and talked for a minute, and he asked me, "Do you ever take time to paddle for fun?" The question struck me as funny and, at the same time, quite familiar. Ten years earlier, I had asked the same question of a young woman paddler at an Ocoee race.

At that Ocoee race, I was going to be judging gates with a girl I didn't know. As I walked down to my judging station, I asked a couple of friends if they knew who she was. They said they had heard of her and that she was a pretty good racer.

As the day progressed, I discovered that she pretty much knew everyone coming down the course. I asked her how she did in the race, and she said she had done very

well. "How long have you been paddling?" I asked.

"Ten years," she said.

"How much do you paddle?" I asked.

"Twice a day," was the reply.

My fragile male ego was taking a beating and I thought I ought to change the subject. I started talking about cruising rivers instead of racing them. I mentioned that I had had a terrific trip on the Colorado River the previous year, 1978. Then, I asked her the question, "Do you ever take time to paddle for fun?"

"Yes," she replied. "But not as much as I would like to."

At that time, I had only been racing a year or so and really had no idea how much time it took to race at this lady's level. To be outstanding, your life is almost consumed by racing. And while racing at a top level is a lot of work and involves sacrifices, racing at that level is also fun.

Though they are difficult, there is something satisfying about long, tough workouts when they lead to great performances during competition. On those days, it's all worthwhile. In addition, the friends I have met while training and racing are some of the best treasures I've found. They share in your happiness when things are going well and help pick up the pieces when times are tough.

That lady that I met at the Ocoee Race in 1979 has turned out to be a good friend over these last 10 years. And the person that told me she was pretty good was right. Two months after that day at the Ocoee, she won 3 gold medals at the '79 World Championships. Ten years later, she won a bronze medal at the '89 Worlds, and she is the 1989 Women's National Champion. She is Cathy Hearn.

As with most competitors, as she was going through the course on the Savage, she was quite intense and serious. But when she stepped up on the awards stand to receive her medal, all that hard work no longer seemed like work. It was all in preparation for that crowning moment, and suddenly, it all became "paddling for fun."
 - *From the Atlanta Whitewater Club newsletter.*

River Access

Rafting Operator Sues TDEC Over Rule Restricting Carrying Capacity on the Ocoee

by Lisa McCarter

Ocoee Rafting, Inc., a white water rafting operator, filed a lawsuit in state court in Nashville in January, 2001,

challenging the validity of the Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC's) regulation that sets a daily cap of 4,000 on the number of commercial customers that outfitters can take down the Ocoee River on peak days. The lawsuit also challenges the legality of the formula contained in the rule for allocating customers among the TVA-licensed outfitters for these "cap" days.

The regulation in its present form was adopted by TDEC in 1994. The cap of 4,000 commercial customers on peak days was based on a user study prepared by the

University of Tennessee and Clemson University in 1989. That study surveyed both private boaters and commercial rafting customers and analyzed their perception of crowding on the river and at the put-in and take-out areas.

The issues raised in the lawsuit were initially heard by the Department in a three day evidentiary hearing in April 2000. After that administrative hearing, the Commissioner issued a final order in November of 2000 upholding the validity of the regulation. Ocoee Rafting then appealed that decision to the Davidson County Chancery Court, which will render a decision based on the evidence heard at the administrative level.

Ocoee Rafting, Inc. is arguing that the cap of 4,000 customers is arbitrary and unreasonable, and that the Department has no authority to set such a limit. It also contends that the allocation system provided for under the rule is unconstitutionally vague and unfairly restricts interstate trade among the commercial operators. There are approximately 24 licensed commercial outfitters operating on the Ocoee.

The case will likely be argued before the Chancery Court judge this fall.

- From "The Watershed", newsletter of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. ✂

Letters

Letter to Gilmer County Commissioner regarding Cartecay access, CCed to GCA.



October 8, 2001

Rayburn Smith, Chairman
Gilmer County Commission
One Westside Square
Ellijay, GA 30540

RE: Cartecay River Take-out

Dear Chairman Smith:

I have been paddling the Cartecay River since the early 1970s when there was absolutely no development along the banks. It is still a beautiful river and most of the property owners have done a good job of protecting the river environment.

We have enjoyed excellent relations with the residents and often stop to talk with them as we paddle the river. I was upset to learn about the cases of littering, blocking driveways and other bad behavior of a small minority of those using the Cartecay. I believe anyone who breaks the law should be dealt with appropriately.

However, I have learned that some of the property owners at Mulkey Road want to eliminate the turnaround area and restrict the parking to three spaces, when the present twelve spaces do not appear to be adequate.

There are better solutions to protect the property owners and still provide recreational access to the people of Gilmer County and visitors. The Gilmer County Commission is the proper forum to mediate and work out an arrangement which meets the needs of all citizens. Generally, this involves public hearings to make sure all sides

are involved, then a reasonable investment in a public recreation area at the Mulkey Road take-out. This way the Commission can fulfill its responsibilities to protect the property owners, provide recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors and improve the quality of life in Gilmer County.

There are several organizations experienced in helping with these arrangements, and I urge you to contact the Georgia Canoeing Association (Diane Smith is contact for this issue) at 770.421.9729, and American Whitewater (the Southeastern contact is Kevin Colburn at PO Box 842, Weaverville, NC 28787)

Please share this letter with Commissioners Steve Ralston and Charles Fowler.

Sincerely,

H. M. Klausman

Copies to: Herman Clark, Gilmer County Attorney, Gilmer Chamber of Commerce, Times Courier, Georgia Canoeing Association, American Whitewater. ✂

Letter to GCA from American Whitewater.

August 22, 2001

Mr. Ed Schultz
Treasurer
Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 7023
Atlanta, GA 30357

Dear Ed,

We have just received the donation from the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc. River Access Fund for \$1,000. Pretty inspiring.

Having paddled the Chattooga myself for twenty-two years, I know it is both a part of my soul and an institution in our sport. The issue on the headwaters is goofy, to be polite without meaning to trivialize. I am confident that our team, with help from friends like the GCA, will achieve our goal of being able to paddle these sections, particularly when they are not 'in play' for other recreational users.

I know your funds and time are precious, so I hope you'll extend a heartfelt thanks to your Access Fund decision-makers and to the membership of your awesome club, on our behalf.

Think positive thoughts, and please encourage your members to watch for news on this issue.

Happy paddling,

Risa Shimoda
Executive Director
American Whitewater

Cc: Don Kinser
Jason Robertson
Chris Kelly



Book Review

Salmon Nation

Authors: Elizabeth Woody, Jim Lichatowich, Richard Manning, Freeman House, Seth Zuckerman

Publisher: Ecotrust

A reader feels something like an expert after finishing *Salmon Nation*. The collection of essays in this slim red book are so readable, the maps so clearly rendered, that it proves informative for both PhDs in ichthyology and those who have no more contact with the fish than passing them in the grocery store. The book provides a solid background on the Pacific salmon's history, the threats that the fish faces, and explores the mystical relationship between salmon and people.

Elizabeth Woody opens the book with a look at Celilo Falls, an Indian village east of Portland on the Columbia River, which was sustained by salmon for twelve thousand years until The Dalles Dam was built in 1957. Woody's description of the now fishless village demonstrates the magnitude of the salmon loss, and its impact on a community, both economically and culturally.

Essays by Richard Manning and Seth Zuckerman highlight salmon farming, which now constitutes 40-50% of the world's salmon. Different from the hatchery business because salmon are both bred and raised in captivity, these farms pollute ecosystems with excreta. Manning also exposes the fact that fish farmers dye the gray flesh of farmed fish pink to simulate the color of wild salmon.

Zuckerman provides insight on the negative effects farmed fish have on consumers. "A pen-raised Atlantic salmon from Chile or Puget Sound is made of different stuff than a wild sockeye or Chinook," he writes, "as significantly different as orange soda and orange juice."

Written with more sensitivity and objectivity than environmental dogma, however, *Salmon Nation* reveals



the poetic connection between fish and humans. A piece by Freeman House, a former commercial fisherman who now runs a salmon conservation group in California, demonstrates how industry can suppress relationships between humans and other organisms.

House recalls cutting open a freshly-caught salmon and eating its heart, in order to regain that connection. "But I found myself alone in a dark corner of the fish hold squatting with a ten-or twelve-pound sockeye salmon still alive across my knees. With a knife I opened up its chest cavity just enough to find the heart and tear it out with two fingers and a thumb."

Rich in narrative and information, *Salmon Nation* can be read in one sitting. Best of all, it can be passed on to anyone interested in salmon, regardless of their background in the subject.

Buy a book and save a river!

Get' em on-line through American Rivers' link with Powell's Bookstore, the largest new and used bookstore in the world. The best part is, Powell's donates 10% of each purchase to American Rivers conservation programs, so, by buying a book, you help save a river.

- From "American Rivers" — Winter 2001.



San Juan Canyons, Utah

by Gary DeBacher

Part 2

(Continued from the October issue of The Eddy Line. We left our heroes resupplying at the town of Mexican Hat.)

May, 1999. Once replenished, the rafts set off first. Pierce warned the canoes to stay right of a hole at Gypsum Creek Rapid. Though described as a "riffle" in one guidebook, Gypsum Creek at this level was the nastiest on the river, with close-set waves capable of quickly swamping the open canoes. Most stayed entirely right of the waves to keep dry. I risked part of the wave train and ended up bailing gallons.

This was our longest day on the river. We passed beneath the highway bridge at Mexican Hat and camped in a small gulch, a total of 20 miles from our previous camp above the first canyon. I weighed my tent stakes down again on a sandy shelf above the draw. Cow pies indicated a risk of bovine incursions. Can cows see tent lines in the dark? I hiked up the gulch to find a 1950s car which had been rolled down the draw by violent floods. In the dry desert air, the chrome and upholstery were in surprisingly good condition.

Near sunset we were treated to a close over-flight by a B1 bomber; we would see or hear several more during the trip. They were probably training to fly low in Kosovo. For dinner we had a very tasty chicken dish. The night was still cool and breezy, with a moon again and no further threat of rain.

The third morning the river made a wavy turn to the right, cutting into the second canyon. We were paddling into a much broader and smoother swelling in the layers of sedimentary rock, and the river would run deeply entrenched for almost 50 miles. One could perceive the swelling of the upwarp, because on the eastern side, layer after layer of rock emerged from the water and rose gently up along the walls.

Occasionally this gave the illusion that we were slanting down into the earth. Here we entered the looping meanders, or goosenecks, for which this river is famous. The San Juan was about to wind 13 river miles in only 3 air miles.

We stopped on the downstream side of Mendenhall Loop, where Pierce, Mike and Larry studied a sign-up book, required for certain of the choicest campsites farther down river. From the looks on their faces, I guessed we were too late. The rest of us scrambled up to the neck of the loop where we could see Mendenhall's cabin. He had come as a prospector in 1894, and held on a little while as the gold rush fizzled. The cabin was mostly piled rocks,

with whatever wood the prospector had scrounged from the mesas and the riverbanks.

At mile 33-34 we circled another tight meander, around a structure called "The Tabernacle." It was pleasant paddling, sunny and warmer, sometimes with tailwinds. The canyon walls rose to astounding heights. Reappearance of limestone brought another "narrows" at river level.

The group was getting strung out again. Although the tandem boats could pull away from me, I had no problems with the solo boaters. The Synergy is long and narrow for a play boat, and will keep up a decent pace.

As we neared mile 38, we could see tiny figures, possibly human, up on the rim at the Goosenecks State Park overlook. My family and I stood up there in 1989, and I'd wondered then what it would be like to be down here, winding through these entrenched loops. The biggest loop, opposite the state park overlook, circles three miles to almost close at a neck of land only about a quarter mile wide.

The first canyon, the one we'd run between Bluff and Mexican Hat, though shorter and not as deep, was in some ways more complex, because of heavy tilting and twisting of some rock layers. To casual inspection it resembled a gorge cut through a broad ridge. This lower canyon was simpler in structure, just hundreds of feet of horizontal rock layers, a deep canyon cut into a plateau.

There were very few places where one could climb out except with serious use of rock-climbing techniques. The bottom third or so of the walls was covered with fallen rock rubble. The middle third was often close to vertical, while the top third often slanted back thirty to forty five degrees from vertical. The colors ran to reds, tans, and greys, with a light frosting of grey-green vegetation wherever soil could hold a little moisture.

It required effort to take all this in down at river level. The Synergy could be spun quite easily for panoramic views, and then jammed back on course with a stroke. I had to train my brain to string the images together as my head turned.

The river straightened, ran NW for a couple of miles, and then zigzagged into what seemed like a huge narrow amphitheater, like the bottom of the Coliseum in Rome. We stopped for lunch, and then Pierce invited us to hike up the Honaker Trail to Horn Point. Honaker was another person involved in the "gold rush" on the San Juan. He blasted a trail down the side of the cliffs to allow pack animals to deliver supplies to miners. It took him two years and never came to anything, because horses didn't handle the trail well, and there wasn't enough gold to keep the rush going. But it's still a pretty good trail for people,

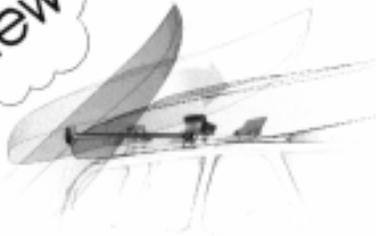
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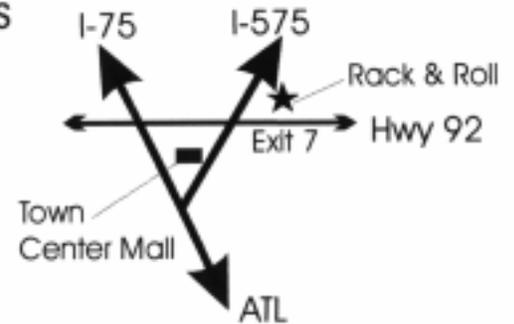


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slanting up and down erratically to take advantage of natural ledges.

I had been feeling gradually better, but was surprised to find myself keeping pace with others on the trail. When we got near Horn Point, we ran into an outdoor science fair, provided by a number of university geology students who had walked down from a road on the plateau. They displayed labeled photos showing the sequence of sedimentary layers in the Honaker Trail Formation. Their professor was lecturing and reviewing exhibits.

The view up near Horn Point was impressive, even for those of us geezers unwilling to leap a small chasm to get to the Point itself. We clambered back down the trail, wondering where we would camp. Right here near the bottom of the trail, Pierce said; it was late in the day to paddle to another site. We were sharing the area with at least two other parties, but were not crowding one another.

I got stuck with a windy little sand bowl for a tent

site. I tied the back pole to a low bush and weighed down all the stakes with the biggest rocks yet. Apparently cattle couldn't get down the Honaker trail; we saw no cow flop at this campsite.

I love work, I can watch it for hours, and we customers watched the guides fix dinner while discussing our discomforts. The dry air caused noses to run constantly and grow raw. Lips and fingertips cracked. Mike and Larry recommended a liberal coat of Vaseline on the hands, but I opted for a modern, non-sticky lotion.

When dinner was ready, Mike showed everyone how to fill and fold burritos. Some northeasterners appeared burrito-challenged.

Later Mike told a down east Maine joke about an all-the-beans-you-can-eat restaurant. I'll spare you the re-telling; it has to be done live in a Maine accent.

This was the deepest part of the canyon, about 1,300' from river to rim. The canyon width at the top was about six tenths of a mile. We lost the sun early, and the moonlight didn't get a shot at our campsites until the wee

hours of the morning. Suzy from Toronto had announced her intention to get up at five and hike all the way up to the end of the Honaker trail. After breakfast we saw her hiking back down. At the top of the trail, she had used a hot cell phone to check on her four year old daughter back home.

Pierce wanted us to put in another 20 mile day to reach campsites at Government Rapid. We made good time, winding through two more big loop meanders. At mile 52 we pulled over to scout Ross Rapid. The main current ran down the left in haystacks, close to an undercut wall and some loose rocks. We were scouting from a boulder field on the right.

The macho way to run this was to plow right down the haystacks, maybe staying a bit to the right side of the wave train to be sure to avoid the wall. Probably one could then stay just left of the big, wide pour over rock at the bottom. Probably, if one hadn't taken a lot of water. Mike and Larry instead showed the canoes how to cut into quieter water near the right bank, and then safely down the right side of the pour over. Steve Cramer and I, perhaps not wanting to give other boaters delusions of grandeur, took the chicken route. One solo paddler ran



Johns Canyon campsite on the San Juan River, Utah.
- Photo by Gary DeBacher.

down the haystacks and past the pour over without incident. At higher levels the pour over hole is said to disappear and be replaced by some big waves.

Government Rapid and our target campground were still over ten miles away. The canyon seemed as deep as ever, there were easy rapids here and there, and we often had a tailwind. We saw mule deer grazing along the bank. The weather was fair and warmer, what we had hoped for all along, and people were stripping off layers of clothes.

In mid afternoon, Pierce pulled his raft to the north bank by the mouth of Johns Canyon. The campsite there was empty, and excellent, with a wide beach and many sites, most sheltered from the wind. The guides held a long discussion, and then they conferred with us. We had only come 14 miles, and it was early to stop. But a bird in the hand: there was no guarantee that we would get a site at Government Rapid big enough for our large party. Here we could set up early and relax. Tomorrow we would have to get on the water promptly to find a last campsite close enough to the final take out at Clay Hills Crossing.

Everyone voted to stay at Johns Canyon. There was the usual scramble for tent sites. I got one at the top of a ten foot sand bank stabilized by tamarisk, where I was sheltered from the prevailing upstream winds. Still taking no chances, I gathered rocks.

Pierce was leading people up stair step cliffs in Johns Canyon to a pool where people could swim. Still in my wet suit boots, I was unable to catch up to them on the trail. I tried a swim in the river, a short swim because it was COLD. When the side canyon party returned, they raved about the scenery but said the stream pool was pretty cold, also. The trail had been so rough that it had been necessary for people to push and pull on one another in places.

It was a long, relaxing evening. I was working on a Tony Hillerman novel, not Thief of Time, but The Blessing Way, set in canyons somewhere to the south. Mike and Larry supplied us with filet mignon, and there was plenty of wine in shiny Mylar bags. Darkness fell, and a Duraflame log was set off in the fire pan. This was kind of an aging yuppie group, and conversations ran more to careers, investments, and health care plans than to paddling.

The river ran straighter the next day. The canyon was a little broader. We landed on the rocks to the left of Government Rapid to scout. At this level, the main approach led near some rocks and holes. Mike and Larry ran a left side route which required an accurate start down next to a rock, exposed one to some turbulence, but held no possibilities for pinning. They both ran standing up with their setting poles, which I think was just showing off.

I chose the left route, coming down dry. Cramer ran the right center route cleanly in his little Mohawk, but another solo clobbered some rocks over there. This rapid produced the only upset of the trip, when a loaded tandem came down half-swamped, and in haste to make the shore, blundered into a pour over rock. Larry and Pierce picked up the pieces, while the rest of us watched reruns or inspected jasper fossils in the rocks.

Three miles later we ran Slickhorn Rapid, a class 2 with good waves to the left, glancing off an overhanging headwall. We stopped at the mouth of Slickhorn Gulch for lunch. This is one of the spots (Grand Gulch is the other) where campsites must be reserved. But we were lunching, not camping.

While waiting for the food to be set out, I found a place at the base of the cliffs where the rock was almost as soft as dried mud. Recent visitors of all ages had carved miniature cliff dwellings and a number of pseudo-artifacts. I found myself wondering if the old Anasazi artifacts were really religious or spiritual symbols, or whether the Anasazi were just hacking out things to amuse themselves.

When we finished lunch, Pierce led us up the gulch. Slickhorn was not your swoopy sandstone slick rock canyon. There were limestone layers, which don't wear smooth, so we ascended a giant rough staircase. Except for the lack of trees, it reminded me of side canyons in the limestone cliffs along the Kentucky River. Slickhorn trickled along terraces and over little falls from pool to pool. After about 15 minutes we came to a deeper, greener pool, surrounded by ledges which invited divers. No soap, said Pierce. Keep it clean.

You'd think that Slickhorn water would have gotten warm from trickling over miles of sun-warmed shelves. Of course it had been trickling over miles of cold stone shelves the night before, and I suppose that with such low humidity, evaporative cooling was a factor. Anyway, I slipped into the pool and found it damn cold, too cold to try to accustom myself to it. The others jumped off the shelves and shouted at the shock.

Back to the beach and in the boats, we began to run out of rapids. This seemed odd; the guidebook says the gradient from Slickhorn to Grand Gulch is 11.6 feet per mile. But we were reaching the top of the pool of Lake Powell. Although the lake was "down," and we had active current, the rapids at the head of the lake had been sanded and silted over. This was the west side of the Monument Upwarp, and one rock layer after another was slanting back into the earth. The walls were still high above us, but just noticeably less so.

At mile 70 we stared up the mouth of Grand Gulch

without stopping. Cliffs and dramatic rock towers stood back from the entrance. A stream dropped into the river in a small waterfall. We knew that upstream there were passages and pools, that you could come to Anasazi ruins after several miles. But not this time. With no permit to camp there, we had to push on and find another campsite within striking distance of tomorrow's take out.

We had a new water reading challenge, to avoid running aground on hidden sandbars. The river channel was meandering from side to side, but its course often had to be intuited rather than seen. Usually there was a narrow canoe channel running close to each bank. The rafts had to be more careful. Our group was real strung out, some of us getting ahead of the lead canoe, some falling behind the sweep.

Pierce signaled for me to land and check out a possible campsite in the mouth of a small gulch on the right bank. Reeds and grass covered mud banks, with too little solid ground for tents. Pierce said he had used this site in lower water conditions when the mud bars were better dried out.

At 75 miles we checked out more mud bars in a little gulch cut deep into the cliffs on the left bank. This one afforded enough solid ground for all the tents, and for the kitchen area. And although it was late afternoon, it was positioned such that we would have the sun until it was very low in the sky. Still, the well-known Moonlight Creek campsite was just four tenths of a mile downstream in Oljeto Wash.

Somebody got out binoculars, and Pierce and Larry and I took turns straining to see if that larger campsite was still available. Nope, a party was already parked in the Moonlight, and so we held our bird in the hand. Our little gulch actually turned out to be a good site.



Mouth of Grand Gulch, San Juan River, Utah.

- Photo by Gary DeBacher.

The group had bonded pretty well and felt fine about having the tents close together, even with some coughing and snoring to share. Pierce said that in a week or two, our mud bars would probably be covered by rising mountain melt water.

Because recent weather had been so chilly, he was confident the San Juan would not rise much while we were there. But as on most other nights, canoes were pulled well out of the water and tied down or to one another. For this one last night I was determined to skip the tent. I found a shallow depression under a ledge, spread a ground cloth, the pad and the sleeping bag.

The swallows retired, and bats emerged from a hole in the wall far above us. There was the sound of water trickling over the last ledge into a pool. I slept well that night, in between kidney calls. Up the gulch there were some strange noises, some from frogs, others from whoopey hooty creatures. Those in tents found these a mystifying distraction, but in the open the noises seemed distant and benign.

The next morning, the last morning, we had about 9 miles of moving flat water and sandbars to the take out. Pierce was suggesting a stop at Steer Gulch for a hike. This was branded a bum steer. Over 20 dirty paddlers wanted to get off the water, over the roads, and into the showers.

We passed Oljeto Wash, Steer Gulch, and Whirlwind Draw. A wash is the dry bed of an intermittent stream. A draw is a natural drainageway, a dry stream bed, perhaps in a gully. A gulch is a deep, narrow ravine. And don't leave out the arroyo, a "small, steep-sided watercourse or gulch with a nearly flat floor, usually dry except after heavy rains." To resolve a plot, Tony Hillerman sometimes throws in an arroyo where characters are dry-gulched and draw weapons, and then everything comes out in the wash. Is it a gulch, a wash, a draw, or arroyo still confused?

The canyon walls still loomed but were slowly coming down, the rock layers slanting steadily under. I saw a falcon up near the rim, snuck up on an avocet probing a mud bar, and was inspected by a curious beaver. Swallows were still common, and croaking ravens.

Past a kink in the river at mile 80, we found ourselves looking west down a long straightaway at distant hills with curious gray-green deposits halfway up their sides. Clay deposits, overlooking the Clay Hills Crossing take out. The canyon walls dropped faster now, and we were again seeing the black-varnished petrified sand dunes which the Anasazi favored for petroglyphs.

These last three miles seemed to pass in slow motion as we threaded down near the banks to slip past the bars.

Finally the canyon walls sank out of sight. We passed a big tamarisk grove on the right bank and dragged boats out at the Clay Hills landing.

A sign warned us to take out there and not to go farther. Some years ago, after years of high levels on Lake Powell, several drought years dropped the level and resulted in creation of a waterfall in the silt beds downstream from Clay Hills. It eventually reached 35 feet, and was so difficult to portage that nearly everyone decided to skip that section altogether. With continued lower lake levels the river should eventually level out the waterfall.

Imagine, though: before Lake Powell one could run 140 miles on the San Juan from Bluff to the Colorado, and then almost another 100 miles through Glen Canyon to Lees Ferry. Do any of you aged Mouseketeers remember the Old San Juan raft trip film they ran on the Mickey Mouse Club? That was before Lake Powell.

After the guides served us the last lunch, the canoes and most of the gear had to be loaded on the Sunrise van and trailer. It was hot enough that anyone not lifting or dragging sought shade in the tamarisks. We paused for group pictures and then climbed into the vans, for a slow 11 mile drive north over a roughly graded road.

We were passing over one of the more desiccated parts of Utah's high desert, a rough plain of dried mud, sand, and gravel, cut by washes and punctuated by pitiful little shrubs. To the east we could see a rift in the plain which marked the San Juan canyons through which we had come. When we finally reached the highway, we stopped to unload Steve Cramer and his boat; his wife was waiting there in their Eurovan.

Then we rode east on a highway gradually climbing to the top of the 1,000 foot cliffs of Cedar Mesa. This provided a panorama of the land to the south around the San Juan. I could only just discern the canyon itself. Next we had to crawl down a long series of gravel hairpin curves to reach paved highway again. Signs strongly advised us not to be descending in large loaded vehicles towing trailers. Well, at least we didn't hit any elk.

Below we finally came to Mexican Hat, where I retrieved my car, transferred my gear, and said good-bye to all the folks I had met on the trip. Mike allowed as how they had enjoyed seeing me sporting about in my little play boat. (Again, you need to hear this in his Maine accent.) Then they left to drive south through Monument Valley, to Flagstaff, and the showers. And I drove east, past Cortez to Durango, to my sister's home and family, and the shower.

Last fall at the NOC festival I ran into one of the Sunrise San Juan party. He said that in 2000, he ran with Sunrise on the Verde in Arizona. Great trip, though the

water was low, and they pinned and badly damaged two boats in technical rapids. I might rather solo the Verde; my brother can run shuttle from Phoenix.

I recommend the San Juan. It is a lot of canyon per mile. You can do the top dollar epic with Sunrise, currently about \$1450 but with a discount for two. Or you

can locate the Bluff outfitter on the internet. They will take you on a single or double overnight down the upper canyon for a smaller amount. Most of the Anasazi sites are along the upper canyon, and in some ways it offers a wider variety of scenery. Want to go on your own? Get the forms from BLM and enter the permit lottery. <

White Water paddling in Brazil

by Rick DeCarlo

When you think of Brazil, you might think of Rio De Janeiro, beautiful beaches, beautiful people, and breath taking views of vast natural beauty. While in Rio recently, I discovered another source of Brazilian beauty & awesomely beautiful white water paddling just two hours North of this Carnival city. The river I explored is the Paraibuna, running through an area named Tres Rios, which means Three Rivers.

My river adventure began when I tried to find transportation to Tres Rios and a kayak. After some initial difficulty with language, phones, and pursuit of leads through this new-to-me culture (perhaps a class III challenge for the typical New York native), it turned out to be fairly easy to get around Brazil. I learned there are excellent transportation and roads through most of Brazil.

The Brazilians are very courteous and helpful people who didn't allow my inability to speak Portuguese to become a barrier. They helped me find everything I was looking for. The folks are especially outgoing at Aventur outfitter and rafting company where I started my trip down the Paraibuna. Kitia Wyllie is Aventur's English speaking liaison and interpreter, and she helps foreign visitors connect with Aventur.

Though Aventur is primarily a rafting outfitter, they do have kayaks. I was surprised when they asked me if I had an international white water card to confirm my white water kayak skill level. (Maybe some readers are familiar with this card?) They were wisely cautious to ask for some evidence of my capability.

But lacking this documentation, I offered to sign a waiver, which they agreed to. Aventur staff are hospitable and safety-conscious, which was reassuring to me. Their caution was understandable, especially because they lent me their kayak and were willing to guide me down a class III to IV river.

The Paraibuna River consists of slides, drops similar to the Nantahala Falls, S-turns, and lots of squirrely water following almost each rapid (a squirt boater's wet dream). At low water there is a lot of flat water in between rapids, and at high water most rapids become pushy class

III+ to class IV. This day was considered an average water level.

We put in on flat water and worked our way into the "Cachoeirao" rapid, which is a sliding drop approximately fifteen feet long ending in some awesome surf. A bit farther down the Paraibuna there are a series of drops, holes, and S-turns leading into the "S" rapid. The "S" is a challenging class III+ to IV, with S-turns and large diagonal waves very similar to the Ocoee's Table Saw.

The difficulty rating of "S" is raised a bit because there is no scouting this rapid. Our guides, Marcio and Roberto, demonstrated the routes down the Paraibuna, pointed out in advance what to watch out for, and maintained accurate, safe lines. So I trusted the guides, relied on my experience, and I had an awesome time.

All other rapids can be scouted and may be portaged if necessary. The Paraibuna is a fairly friendly challenge at this average water level, which I'd say falls somewhere between the difficulty of the Pigeon River and the Ocoee. So it makes for a really good intermediate challenge during Brazil's typical spring water level. In the winter however, the river gets big and pushy.

The raft guides are kayakers, so they really know the river in all its seasons. They do like to kayak the river without stopping, so we paddled without a break for about 4 hours, which was a good workout for a guy on a Rio De Janeiro vacation. After 4 hours of paddling and serious thirst, Cheleco's outfitter had a nice refreshing drink referred to as: "Batida de Maracuja" (passion fruit with cachaca).

There are several other rivers in the area which are more difficult than the Paraibuna. Chris Port, a friendly, helpful Brazilian guide working at Nantahala Outdoor Center in Bryson City, can help anyone interested to select rivers and outfitters in Brazil. Chris can be contacted by email (cport61@hotmail.com).

Aventur outfitters provided me with a great white water experience. The owners, Cheleco and Veronica, their liaison Kitia, and my guides Marcio and Roberto really made me feel at home with their hospitality, great food, and their safety precautions which every GCA member would value.

Aventur outfitters offers a clean, comfortable facility including hotels, camping areas, swimming pools, tennis

courts, and welcoming, competent staff. Veronica and Cheleco can be reached by email at (aventur@aventur.com.br).

By way of a post script for those interested in a

Brazilian adventure dryer and higher than the Paraibuna, the hang gliding near Rio is a RUSH!!! Great food, great views, adventure and beaches. You must experience Brazil for yourself! ✂

Lost... and Found

by **Marvine Cole**

The second I rolled up, I knew they were gone. No fog — therefore no glasses. Anyone who wears glasses on the Nantahala knows you can't roll without fogging your glasses. I had forgotten my croakies.

We were in the long pool just around the corner below Delabar's. I loved those glasses. "Well, when the water's off," I said, "we'll come look for them."

My husband Knox looked at me like I was nuts. "You'll never find them." My friend Laura took that as a challenge. I knew he was probably right.

The next morning, Laura and I headed for the gravel road above Ferreebee (Knox had gone home to work). But the water was up before we even got there. That didn't deter us. We knew we'd have another chance the following weekend when we were back for GCA's Fall Gala Canoeing Affair.

Early the next Saturday, we once again headed down the gravel road to the quarry. We walked down to the river, and I stripped off my shoes and pants and waded in. The water had the chill of the morning, but not the cold of the dam release.

As I waded out, it was easy to see the bottom, but it kept getting farther away as the water rose higher and higher on my thighs. Finally, it dawned on me, "We need our boats!" We jumped back in the car and raced back to the campground, switched to my car with the boats, and headed back to the river. Good idea.

With Laura in an open boat, and me in my C-1, we eased down from Delabar's into the pool. The water was crystal clear, but the morning light presented a reflection, and we had to practically put our faces to the water to see into it.

We drifted down, paddled quietly back up, and drifted down again. Sweeping back and forth, combing the bottom for clues. Once, Laura called out, "I see them,

come quickly. I'm sure I see them." But we could never find them again, and it seemed much too far up river from what I remembered. But she was convinced, so she stayed in that area. I kept drifting down.

We looked for over an hour. I think she was giving up and drifting down my way when she really screamed out. "I see them. I'm sure this time! I really see them." And she was right. I thought she was going to jump out of her boat with excitement. As plain as day, there they were, just as they had fallen from my face. In just enough current to keep us from floating above them and contemplating our next move.

We tried to hold ourselves by bracing our paddles on the bottom, but it was just too deep to get a good hold. Finally, in desperation, I jumped out of my boat. (How do you jump out of a C-1?) I wasn't going to let them get away again. I was up to my waist already, but I sure wasn't interested in diving in. I managed to use the T-grip of my paddle to hook the nose rim and pull them to the surface. It was like they were smiling at me!

We vowed not to tell Knox, but to see if he would notice that evening. At some point, in line for dinner, he finally said, "Nice glasses." Laura and I just grinned.

But the best part of finding the glasses was the beauty of the river. We both remarked, "What a wonderful, peaceful way to start the day." Quiet stillness, the clear, cool river magnifying the rocks below, fish darting by occasionally. No screaming, no splashing, no playing. Just us and the river.

You don't need to lose anything. Just go to the river early in the morning, when it's quiet, and float down through a deep area. See what you find.

Several years ago, I left my paddling shoes at the take-out on a river in Costa Rica. On a trip many months later, with carefully memorized directions, Gaby Schildt found them in the jungle just where I had left them. When a friend heard these stories, she said, "You're a blessed child." I'd say I'm blessed with good friends! ✂

Upper Nantahala Flow Study Report

by **Don Bryant**

I had the pleasure of participating in the flow study for the Upper Nantahala / Cascades sections on Wednesday and Thursday, September 26 & 27. The study is part

of the FERC relicensing process for Duke Power's plant on the Nantahala.

There were some that paddled the Cascades and some that paddled the Upper Nantahala. We (the Upper Nantahala group) put in at the first bridge just below the Cascades and ran down to the power house each day.

It's great to have free shuttles and good food to eat

after each run and basically have the river release just for you to paddle. If anyone gets the opportunity to volunteer for a flow study such as this one, I highly recommend it, because it was a blast!

The release levels were 175 cfs, 250 cfs, 350 cfs and 500 cfs. We paddled 2 levels each day. I had the opportunity to paddle in a great group that consisted of 2 open boaters, a raft, and 4 kayakers. After each run we filled out an evaluation that covered various aspects of the river, it's difficulty, etc.

I think the general consensus of all groups was that the optimum level for recreational releases for both the Cascades section and Upper should be around 275-350 cfs. The last level (500 cfs) was really big and pushy and made 2 or 3 of the rapids solid class 4s.

I watched several guys paddling the Cascades at the

big level of 500 cfs. There was a group of 4 guys that even took a raft down. At one of the first big drops they lost 2 of the 4 and had to execute a rescue with the rope stretched completely across the river, not sure what this technique is called.

There were a lot of good young paddlers running the cascades making it look way too easy!

Let's all just hope that they decide to have recreational releases on this river in the future! Lot's of fun for anyone that likes a good creek run, and I forgot to mention, WARM WATER!

- From a posting on the TRRmail-list. ✂

"Well I go to the river, to soothe my mind
Ponder over the crazy days of my life
Just sit and watch the river flow."

- Natalie Merchant — TigerLily

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 gacanoes@mindspring.com. PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Gheenoe Hybrid, 13' fiberglass, green, good condition. \$350. Trey 770.993.6406.

FOR SALE - C-1, Hydra Centaur with spray skirt. Great beginner boat, barely used and almost new. \$100. Savage Skeeter - hot, open canoe. Like new! \$600. Contact JD Forrester at 770.806.6587 or clanforrester@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE - Equipment. Medium light blue Protec helmet with Salamander visor — used twice — \$15. Also an Ocean Kayak brand seat for a sit-on-top — full bottom and back — retail \$60 — will sell for \$25. Call Christine at 706.864.2449.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Outburst, solo white water kayak,

10'10". 40 lbs., low volume bow and stern for play moves, long water line for excellent speed and buoyancy. For paddlers 120 to 225 lbs. Rarely paddled. Excellent Condition. Stored Indoors. First \$550. Includes skirt & float bags. Call Vincent @ 770.834.8263 or email@AnotherRiverRat@cs.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport Godzilla. Excellent condition. \$450. Call Jack @ 770.457.0065 day or 770.938.5263 evenings.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Pirouette S. Terrific ww starter boat, very easy to roll, great speed. Perfect to run rivers, play rapids, ocean surf, and even lazy paddles on ponds & lakes. Very good condition, stored indoors. Granite color. Own a classic for only \$300. Atlanta area. 404.325.5549.

FOR SALE - Kayak & gear. Perception Pirouette, black, \$300. Two front and two rear float bags also available, \$20 per set. Carlisle Au Sable two piece kayak paddle, 110cm. Ideal for sea kayak or inflatable kayak. \$20. Ladies size medium Stohlquist two piece dry suit. Needs waist and feet gaskets. Neck and wrist gaskets

good. Red. \$40. Men's Dry Fashion size medium. One piece. All gaskets good. \$40. Men's booties with side zippers. Size 10, good condition. \$5. Dry bag, yellow, size 15" X 24". \$5. Call Hank Klausman 770.587.0499.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Crossfire. In very good condition with float bags and back strap. Excellent beginner/intermediate kayak. Forgiving and easy to roll. Stored indoors. \$260 obo. Call Kirk at 770.973.9475.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Shock in good condition. \$525 OBO. Call Chuck and Carole at 770.995.5788.

FOR SALE - Sit-on-top, Dagger Pegasus, for white water and ocean surf. Self bailing rockered hull is narrow for better stroke control. Thigh straps and Quik Trak foot braces. Excellent condition, stored indoors. Paid \$600 new, can be yours for \$350. Call Vincent @ 770.834.8263 or email@AnotherRiverRat@cs.com. **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.

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