

Winter Roll Practice

Indoor pool roll sessions begin the first Monday in January and run through the last Monday in March, with the exception of the MLK holiday. Plan to take advantage of this great service provided by your club. Whether you want to learn to roll, practice your roll to stay sharp, teach a fellow paddler to roll, or work on other techniques such as wet exits, hand rolls, deep water re-entries, etc., the indoor heated pool is THE best place to hone these skills in the middle of the winter. For details, see the announcement in the December issue of *The Eddy Line*.



What's Inside...

Annual GCA Holiday Party

The GCA Holiday Party will be at Debbie & Keith Dargis' house on December 4th at 6 pm. Join your fellow club members for an evening celebrating the Holidays. We'll have turkey and ham. Please bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to supplement. We'll also have soft drinks. If you want something stronger please BYOB.

The address is 5345 Bannergate Drive in Alpharetta. From 285 take the Peachtree Industrial (Hwy 141) Exit North for 9.2 miles. At 3.8 miles into this 9.2 mile drive, you'll need to veer left to remain on Highway 141, Peachtree Parkway, following the signs to Cumming. After you pass the Atlanta Athletic Club on your right (at the 9.2 miles) make a left onto Old Alabama Road. Make your first right onto Buice Road. Take your second right onto Twingate Drive (Doublegate Subdivision). 1st right onto Bannergate. Go .3 miles to Dargis Manor on your right.

From 400 take the Haynes Bridge Road exit east to Old Alabama Road. Make a left onto Old Alabama and a left onto Buice. Follow above directions from Buice.

See you there!

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Election of Officers for 2005/2006

The following slate of officers for the 2005-6 year were elected at the GCA Fall Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 8.

President	Vincent Payne
Vice President	Tom Bishop
Secretary	Jamie Higgins
Treasurer	Ed Shultz

A hearty THANKS to these willing volunteers who have so generously stepped up to the plate to serve the club!!

Happy Thanksgiving



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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 Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263 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 Steve Reach at 770.760.7357.

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 Jim Albert at 770.414.1521.

For information on winter roll practice — Call Louis Boulanger at 404.373.2907.

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 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 quarterly during the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December). The time, date and location is announced in *The Eddy Line*. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263 so he can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. Your participation would be much appreciated.

GCA Executive Committee

President	Vincent Payne
Vice President	Tom Bishop
Secretary	Jamie Higgins
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Gabriella Schlidt
Recreation Chair	Vacant
Resource Development Chair	Knox Worde
River Protection Chair	Don Kinser
Training Chair	Jim Albert

Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication in the next *Eddy Line* is the fifth of the month, i.e., for the January issue, material should be submitted no later than December fifth. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and want ads by the deadline or they MAY NOT be published in the next issue. To submit material via EMAIL, send to gacanoem@mindspring.com. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, 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

5	Ocoee (Note 1)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
5-6	Smoky Mountain Hike (Note 2)	Non-Paddling	John Scott	770.421.2451
6	Ocoee (Note 1)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
12	Coosawattee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
13	Chattooga (Note 3)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
19	Metro Chattahoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	770.760.7357
19	Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
20	Chattooga (Note 3)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477

December

3	Chattooga Section 3-1/2	Class 3-4 Advanced	Jodi Kaufmann	706.759.3857
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January

14-16	Florida Rivers Weekend	Smooth Water	Mo Friedman	770.469.8414
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Note 1: Final recreational release weekend for 2005.

Note 2: Overnight camp or day hike, 4.2 miles each way. Clean and restore fire rings at campsites 92 & 93 in GSMNP.

Note 3: Peter Chau Chattooga trips are Section 3 or 3-1/2 depending on water levels.

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

Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. 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 was learned in the clinic and expanding skill levels.

To Volunteer to Lead Trips: Call the Cruise Master, Steve Reach at 770.760.7357. 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 7:00 -9:00 PM January thru March, at the Warren / Holifield Boys' & Girls' Club pool. See the announcement in the December 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)
I Said Left, Stupid: A Video Guide to the Chattooga River (Sect. 2 & 3)
In the Surf
Introduction to Canoeing
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
The Middle Fork of the Salmon River (Idaho) — by Photographic Expeditions
Trailside: White Water Canoeing the Chattooga River
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 & Kayaking Guide to Georgia
Canoeing Wild Rivers
Carolina Whitewater (Western Carolina)
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement

Florida information (assorted)
Georgia Mountains
Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters
Happy Isles of Oceana: Paddling the Pacific
Homelands: Kayaking the Inside Passage
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 South Fork

Announcements

GCA Email List

The GCA email list has at this printing about 400 subscribers. Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gcalist@yahoogroups.com" you automatically reach all subscribers to the list with the message. Only those subscribed to the list can send email to the list.

To subscribe to the list, send an email to "gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com". You will receive a verification that you are subscribed and a welcome message with instructions on how to unsubscribe and various other commands available through the service. Be sure to save this information for future reference.

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



breaking news items of interest to the paddling community, etc., will be sent out via the GCA email list at gcalist@yahoogroups.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 continually adding information and links of value to paddlers. Send your ideas for updates to the GCA web committee at gcaweb@gmail.com. Membership applications, GCA waivers and other forms for use by members are posted on the site. ✂

Mail Failure Notices

Each month the *Electronic Eddy Line* receives numerous mail failure notices against members' email IDs. If your email address comes back with a mail failure notice, you will be deleted from the recipient list for the *Electronic Eddy Line* until we get a request to be added back with a current email address.

Also, if we get a number of mail failure notices against an email ID on the GCA Email List, that ID is automatically unsubscribed by the listserve software. It is the subscriber's responsibility to maintain the subscription with the current email ID. Your cooperation is appreciated — it makes less work for our all volunteer staff. ✂

Support Our GCA Supporters

The GCA web site now features a GCA Supporters web page with links to the companies that support GCA financially by advertising with us. Help out those who help us out — patronize our financial supporters!!

Thanks! ✂

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. 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. ✂

I've spent most of my life paddling. The rest I've just wasted.

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& flat water, solo & tandem

Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318

Email canoeist@mindspring.com

Upcoming Events of Interest

November 5 — NOC Tour de Nantahala Bike Races —
Wesser, NC, 888.590.9273, www.noc.com.

January 1 — Cartecay Chili Run — Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions, Ellijay, GA, Jay Srymanske, 706.635.2524. ✂

Amicalola Gauge Now On-line

Yahoo! USGS has installed a real time water level gauge at the Highway 53 bridge on the Amicalola!!!!!!!!!!
Point your browser to <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv?02390000>. No more guesswork before the drive up!!
Info provided by Dan Centofanti. ✂

The Award for the "Rest of Us" ICH BIN BATTERED



© AtLee 1982



Welcome New Members — Directory Additions

The following is a list of all members who have joined the club since the last update. We will try to include this information on an on-going basis so you can add new members to your Directory. New members are the life blood and the future of the club. Thank you for joining us!!

Albin, Charly
4140 Royal Regency Circle NW
Kennesaw GA 30144
H: 770-919-0509
Email: scooter_girl@bellsouth.net

Carlson, John
2397 Westport Circle
Marietta GA 30064
H: 770-425-3664
O: 770-356-4979
O: 770-793-1129
Email: carlsonet@aol.com

Cote, Ken & Taylor
905 Yosemite Drive
Suwanee GA 30024
H: 678-570-5080

Floyd, Bert
1743 East Gate Drive
Stone Mountain GA 30087
H: 770-564-9956
O: 770-935-6570
Email: car-rite@mindspring.com

Jackson, Phillip & Pamela
3164 Whirlaway Trail
Tallahassee FL 32309
H: 850-894-3967
O: 850-980-3240
Email: echo21@earthlink.net

Magbee, William
315 Fayetteville Road
Decatur GA 30030
H: 404-378-9899
Email:
magbeewilliammr@comcast.net

Ostean, Frank & Claire
126 Holland Street
Marietta GA 30064
H: 770-590-1747
Email: wedokayak@aol.com

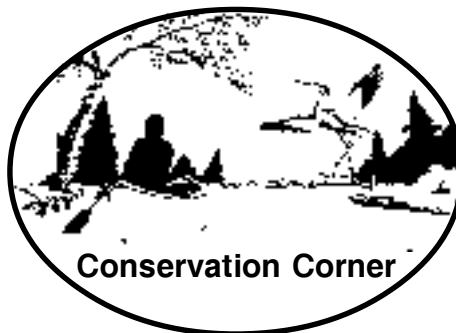
Read, Rick
2348 Broad Creek Drive
Stone Mountain GA 30087
H: 770-498-6672
O: 770-788-2721
Email: rread@paltiv.com

Riddle, Katie
2486 Constance Street
East Point GA 30344
H: 678-471-1730
Email: katiejane1977@hotmail.com

Wilkerson, Kate
1470 Shadowrock Drive
Marietta GA 30062
H: 678-560-1071
O: 678-234-4008
Email: odiek8@juno.com

The Clock Is Ticking for Georgia's Hemlocks

Time marches on in its plodding, inexorable way and usually we are resigned to the fact, though perhaps a bit uncomfortable about it. After all, like the weather, there seems to be little we can do to about it. In the case of our native evergreen hemlock trees, time is not only moving on, but also running out.



As many Georgia Canoeing Association members know, we are facing the virtual extinction of our native hemlocks by the hemlock woolly adelgid, across the tree's range in north Georgia — perhaps in as little as the next decade. The miniscule exotic insect, which silently sucks the life out of this beautiful evergreen tree, showed up in the Chattooga watershed in 2002 and has been hopping westerly across the mountains, hitchhiking on the feet of small woodland birds, most recently appearing in Jarred Creek in the upper Toccoa

Save the Date!

What: An evening to benefit American Whitewater!
Visit with **Eric Jackson**, aka EJ, hear music by **Tishmango**, and enjoy food and beverage.

Why: To raise money for the Chattooga Headwater legal fund and learn more about the work AW is doing on our rivers:

- Guaranteed water in the Tuckaseegee and Nantahala (including the Upper Nanty)
- Fought for continued water in the Ocoee (both Upper and Middle)
- Working to secure whitewater releases on the Catawba in South Carolina
- Secured releases on the Cheoah
- Secured releases on the Tallulah

When: November 4th at 7:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Where: *Hooked on the Outdoors* Office
(4830 Rivergreen Parkway, Ste. 150, Duluth, GA)

Cost: \$25 dollars a person. Friends, clubs and businesses can sponsor a table of eight for \$200.

Tickets at the door will be \$30. Check with your favorite paddling shop to fill out a form for CC payment. Or contact Craig at American Whitewater. His phone number is 828.293.9791 or e-mail him at craig@amwhitewater.org and leave him a number where he can call you. (No cc# via e-mail please.)

**Proceeds benefit American Whitewater's River Stewardship work...
ON THE HEADWATERS OF THE CHATTOOGA!**

River watershed.

In June of this year hemlock stands on the Upper Upper Chattahoochee above Helen, infested hemlocks were discovered. So far, the pest has been found in the aforementioned Chattooga watershed, the Tallulah watershed, the Brasstown Creek area, Coopers Creek, Toccoa watershed, and now very near the Chattahoochee headwaters. To date adelgids are yet to be found in the Noontootla Creek area, Mountaintown Creek or the Cohutta mountains, but its most likely just a matter of time before the adelgids' cotton-like masses appear on the undersides of hemlock boughs across the hemlocks entire range in our state.

The loss of our hemlocks has been compared to past man-made eastern forest eco-disasters on the scale of the chestnut blight, the gypsy moth infestation and Dutch elm disease, but little is certain about what will happen, especially to our cold mountain streams and rivers, which hemlocks benefit with their cooling shade. As anyone who has lived in north Georgia for the past ten-to-twenty years will tell you, things have been warming up. If this trend continues and many of our cold water streams lose the significant shading provided by hemlocks, some believe

these streams will be significantly impacted by a rise in water temperature affecting crawfish, salamanders, trout and other aquatic species.

Mountain streams will most likely receive increases in silt as the bank-holding hemlocks succumb. Hemlock associated bird species such as blackburnian, black-throated green and swainsons warblers, veery, wood thrush, winter wrens, blue-headed vireos, Louisiana water thrush, red breasted nuthatch and a suite of other birds will most likely suffer from the loss of hemlock stands. Black bear, bobcat, red squirrel, red-backed vole and the water shrew are mammals also associated with hemlock forests. It is obvious that we are now witness to an historical natural event of monumental proportions with unknown but potentially devastating consequences.

Since the accidental introduction of the adelgid into the eastern United States around 1950, hemlock stands covering almost half of the tree's natural range in the east have been severely affected. The states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Virginia have all sustained heavy infestations, with the Shenandoah National Park suffering up to 70% mortality in some areas. North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Great Smokey Mountains

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In-store only. No sale items. Expires January 1, 2006.

call 888.707.6709   rockcreek.com

National Park and now Georgia are facing the same grim results from the tiny bug with the enormous appetite.

In many of these states, state and federal agencies are working in various degrees on two fronts to combat the adelgid; chemical insecticidal treatment for saving trees in the short run and "biological control" or the introduction of predatory beetles that prey exclusively on the woolly adelgid for long term control. Though some of the latest observations in the northern hemlock stands which have undergone treatment the longest appear promising, the verdict is still inconclusive as to the overall permanent success of these efforts. But, as James Sullivan, Georgia ForestWatch District Leader, board member and adelgid field researcher for the Georgia Forestry Commission remarked recently, "We know what will happen if we do nothing. We will lose our beloved hemlock trees!"

Here in Georgia the leadership of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests has recently released an initial plan for dealing with the adelgid for public comment and input. Initially however, there appears to be a huge problem. After a careful review and discussion with forest service personnel and the few laboratories producing the specific predatory beetles for release into infested stands of hemlock, it appears that other than the on-going beetle

program in the Chattooga watershed of extreme eastern Georgia, there will be no beetles available for treatment of the many other adelgid impacted stands in north Georgia.

This situation should be a call to action for all natural resource agencies in the state, the Forest Service, every conservation organization, and yes, every citizen from the Governor on down. Our beloved north Georgia forests are under a full scale assault of historical proportions and for the cost of building less than one quarter mile of interstate highway, (estimated in 1996 dollars at about a million dollars a mile) we could be well on our way to developing the fully functional predatory beetle lab we need now and for the future. This is a call to arms! Georgians, save your hemlocks! Call your federal and state leaders (contact information below). Tell them they must get involved. Discuss the plight of our stately hemlocks with your neighbors, relatives and co-workers.

We can find the resources needed to do everything possible to fight this problem that threatens to devastate our mountain forests. And then, if we fail, we can tell our children and our grandchildren we cared enough to give it our best. Let's do this! The clock is ticking.

To review documents mentioned in this article go to www.gafw.org and click on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

threat.

To determine your elected officials statewide in Georgia <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/locator.asp>

In DeKalb County: <https://dklbweb.dekalbga.org/street/default.asp>

- Adapted by Rhett Smith with permission from an article by Wayne Jenkins, Executive Director in "Forest News" Spring 2005 — newsletter of Georgia Forest Watch. ✂

Altamaha Riverkeeper Volunteer is One of Four Finalists for the 2006 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year

Wendell Berryhill, the Altamaha Riverkeeper's (ARK) first volunteer, is one of four nominees of a 2006 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year competition, sponsored by Budweiser in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The final winner of the contest, chosen by popular vote, will receive a \$50,000 grant to give to his or her choice of conservation group. If Wendell wins,

Please Join...

THE ROSWELL
Canoe Kayak
CLUB

We are looking for members of all ages and skill levels to "Paddle" every Thursday night at 6:00 PM at Azalea Park on Riverside Road in Roswell.

Club meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month in the pavillion at Azalea Park.

We hope to have a home on the river soon for boat storage and competitions!

For more information contact: roswellpaddle@yahoo.com

he will give the money to support the work of the Altamaha Riverkeeper organization. Votes must be in by November 30. You can access the on-line voting site by going to the ARK site and clicking on "Vote Now." It will take you to a page showing how to get into the Budweiser site for voting (Caution: you have to register to enter the site).

<http://www.altamahariverkeeper.org/>

The Altamaha RIVERKEEPER is working to restore and protect the habitat, water quality and flow of the mighty Altamaha — from its headwaters in the Oconee, the Ocmulgee, and the Ohoopsee to its terminus at the Atlantic Coast. ARK works with citizens on the enforcement of laws and regulations to protect water quality.

We all need to support the Altamaha Riverkeeper since James Holland does a heck of a job on the Ocmulgee, too. ✂

What Does It Take To Paddle Safely?



American Whitewater (AW) assumes a mission to conserve and restore America's white water resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As part of this mission, AW has formulated a Safety Code compiled from the best available information as reviewed by a broad cross section of white water experts. Still, as AW notes: the code "is only a collection of guidelines; attempts to minimize risks should be flexible, not constrained by a rigid set of rules. Varying conditions and group goals may combine with unpredictable circumstances to require alternate procedures...."

This may be a perfect time to revisit and familiarize ourselves with safety precautions, especially in interim periods when there is no wild water to be found for a time. Sea kayakers may do well to review these safety guidelines as well to formulate general safety guidelines for the conditions faced in the sport of 'kayak touring;' many of the white water safety guidelines presented can also be directly applied, without revision, to sea kayaking.

Personal Preparedness and Responsibility:

1. Be a competent swimmer, with the ability to handle yourself underwater.
2. Wear a life jacket. A snugly fitting vest-type life preserver offers back and shoulder protection as well as the flotation needed to swim safely in white water.
3. Wear a solid, correctly fitted helmet when upsets are likely. This is essential in kayaks or covered canoes, and recommended for open canoeists using thigh straps and

rafters running steep drops.

4. Do not boat out of control. Your skills should be sufficient to stop or reach shore before reaching danger. Do not enter a rapid unless you are reasonably sure that you can run it safely or swim it without injury.

5. White water rivers contain many hazards which are not always easily recognized. The following are the most frequent killers.

a. High water. The river's speed and power increase tremendously as the flow increases, raising the difficulty of most rapids. Rescue becomes progressively harder as the water rises, adding to the danger. Floating debris and strainers make even an easy rapid quite hazardous. It is often misleading to judge the river level at the put-in, since a small rise in a wide, shallow place will be multiplied many times where the river narrows. Use reliable gauge information whenever possible, and be aware that sun on snow pack, hard rain, and upstream dam releases may greatly increase the flow.

b. Cold. Cold drains your strength and robs you of the ability to make sound decisions on matters affecting your survival. Cold water immersion, because of the initial shock and the rapid heat loss which follows, is especially dangerous. Dress appropriately for bad weather or sudden immersion in the water. When the water temperature is less than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, a wet suit or dry suit is essential for protection if you swim. Next best is wool or pile clothing under a waterproof shell. In this case, you should also carry waterproof matches and a change of clothing in a waterproof bag. If, after prolonged exposure, a person experiences uncontrollable shaking, loss of coordination, or difficulty speaking, he or she is hypothermic and needs your assistance.

c. Strainers. Brush, fallen trees, bridge pilings, undercut rocks or anything else which allows river current to sweep through can pin boats and boaters against the obstacle. Water pressure on anything trapped this way can be overwhelming. Rescue is often extremely difficult. Pinning may occur in fast current, with little or no white water to warn of the danger.

d. Dams, weirs, ledges, reversals, holes, and hydraulics. When water drops over an obstacle, it curls back on itself, forming a strong upstream current which may be capable of holding a boat or swimmer. Some holes make for excellent sport. Others are proven killers. Paddlers who cannot recognize the difference should avoid all but the smallest holes. Hydraulics around man-made dams must be treated with utmost respect regardless of their height or the level of the river. Despite their seemingly benign appearance, they can create an almost escape-proof trap. The swimmers only exit from the "drowning machine" is

to dive below the surface where the downstream current is flowing beneath the reversal.

e. Broaching. When a boat is pushed sideways against a rock by strong current, it may collapse and wrap. This is especially dangerous to kayak and decked canoe paddlers; these boats will collapse and the combination of indestructible hulls and tight outfitting may create a deadly trap. Even without entrapment, releasing pinned boats can be extremely time-consuming and dangerous. To avoid pinning, throw your weight downstream towards the rock. This allows the current to slide harmlessly underneath the hull.

6. Boating alone is discouraged. The minimum party is three people or two craft.

7. Have a frank knowledge of your boating ability, and don't attempt rivers or rapids which lie beyond that ability.

a. Develop the paddling skills and teamwork required to match the river you plan to boat. Most good paddlers develop skills gradually, and attempts to advance too quickly will compromise your safety and enjoyment.


b. Be in good physical and mental condition, consistent with the difficulties which may be expected. Make adjustments for loss of skills due to age, health, and fitness. Any health limitations must be explained to your fellow paddlers prior to starting the trip.

8. Be practiced in self-rescue, including escape from an overturned craft. The Eskimo roll is strongly recommended for decked boaters who run rapids class iv or greater, or who paddle in cold environmental conditions.

9. Be trained in rescue skills, CPR, and first aid with special emphasis on recognizing and treating hypothermia. It may save your friend's life.

10. Carry equipment needed for unexpected emergencies, including foot wear which will protect your feet when walking out, a throw rope, knife, whistle, and waterproof matches. If you wear eyeglasses, tie them on and carry a spare pair on long trips. Bring cloth repair tape on short runs, and a full repair kit on isolated rivers. Do not wear bulky jackets, ponchos, heavy boots, or anything else which could reduce your ability to survive a swim.

For a more detailed copy of AW's White Water Safety Code, visit: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/safety/safety.html>.

- From "The Bulletin" — newsletter of the Washington Kayak Club. 

"My awe and respect to rivers moving fast, gracefully, with power and excitement, offering challenges and beauty, providing the path that takes me to the place I want to be."

- Linda Weiss.

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Upper Upper Chattahoochee Hike

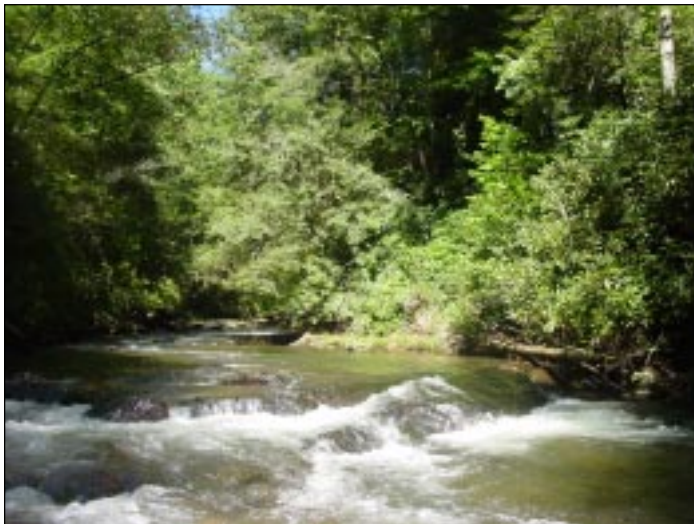
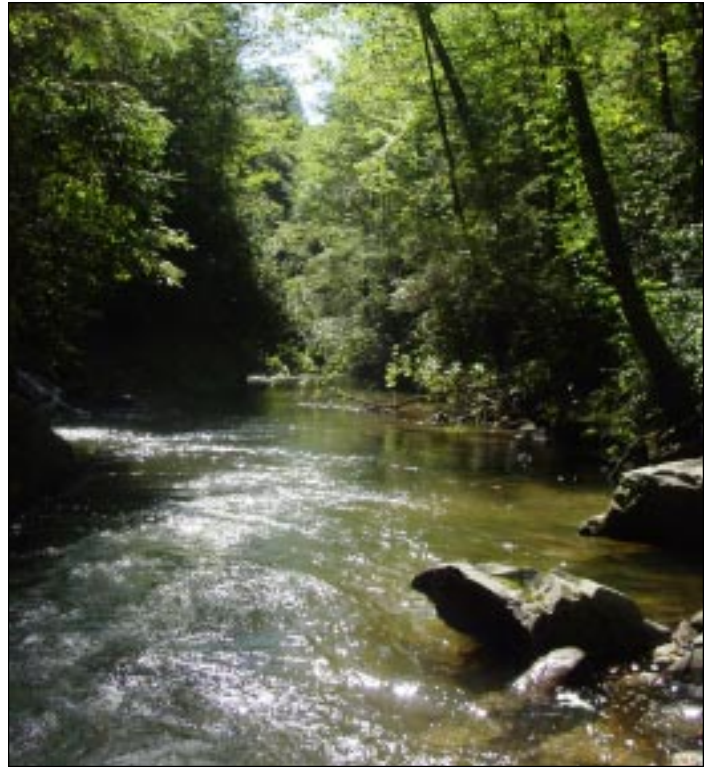
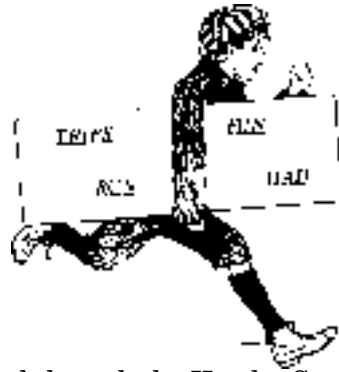
by Rhett Smith

Sunday, September 18.

Again I realize why this is a paddling not a hiking club...

Thanks to Dave Bolton for calling and inquiring. Myself and Kelley had a wonderful 2 hour hike around and through the Hooch. Sunshine on a cool day, lunch across from a waterfall, another beautiful cascading waterfall through rocks, branches, and flora.

The river was low and a little hard to imagine what it must be like at runnable levels. So gentle on Sunday's hike, yet the river stories we all learn. Like the one of the open boater on the Upper Upper Hooch who swam, lost his boat, decided to hike out, lost his glasses, wandered in the forest and into the night, and finally finding the gravel road to civilization... wow... what a difference... Anyways... Onward and into the wild.



Upper Upper Chattahoochee photos submitted by Rhett Smith.



The Cheoah River Born Again

by Hank Klausman

On September 17, 2005, the Cheoah River in North Carolina was born again. I was part of the 450+ lucky (crazy) people who paddled the Cheoah River on the first recreational water release.

The river flow had been diverted for 75 years by the

Santeetlah Dam. The Forest Service bulletin said, "This nine mile section has numerous Class IV and IV+ rapids and should be attempted only by highly skilled boaters." River gradient averages 83 feet per mile (fpm), but the last two miles drop over 100 fpm.

Compare this to a famous (notorious) river, like Section 4 of Chattooga which has average drop of 60 fpm with maximum of 114 fpm. So the Cheoah has a lot of drop

in a small stream bed with big water volume.

Descriptions by those who had run it after severe storms called it an advanced to expert section. If water levels are 700 cubic feet per second (cfs) it is rated as class III-IV; at 1000 cfs rated at class IV+; and at 1600 cfs rated class V. Levels over about 3000 cfs were said to be "probably too high for mere mortals."

The scheduled water release was 1000 cubic feet per second (cfs) which was supposed to give up to class IV+ difficulty. More on the actual water level later. Most web talk opinion was if you could handle the Upper Ocoee, then you should be comfortable on the Cheoah.

This was the first of three recreational releases for fall 2005, with more next year. A mandatory bus shuttle was set up at Robbinsville High School, starting at 8 a.m. John Eskew and I drove up Friday night so we could get a good rest. Four other paddling buddies promised they would be there by 9:30 but we registered early. My number was 130 and the bus held about 60.

Peter, Bryant, Rick and Doug didn't arrive until almost eleven and their numbers were 300+, so John and I decided to go on. I had never paddled with John, but he had run Chattooga often with my old paddling buddy, Peter. On the drive up together I learned he had good respect for rivers, so I trusted him.

So, here I was getting on a river I had never seen, with a guy I had never paddled with and assuming a water level and difficulty told to us by strangers. I also figured we could scout as we went down, which turned out to be a big mistake. Nevertheless, we knew by putting on this river, we were accepting the risks.

The first two miles did remind me of the Upper Ocoee with warm water and good scenery. But I began to worry as the channels constricted, eddies vanished and brush blocked our view.

All of a sudden we were into class 4 rapids, with blind drops and no chance to get out to scout. We went on nonstop for miles; grabbing whatever eddies we could find. Finally, we reached a relatively calm spot where John and I had to rest. A ranger was on the bank holding a throw rope. We weren't sure how helpful a rope would be with such fast current and long rapids. I had a chance to take the first videos. We saw three of John's friends and asked if they knew the names of any rapids. One guy said he just named three, "S_T!, OH, S_T!, and _OH, S_T AGAIN!"

A father-son team we met on the bus caught up with us. The father asked if I was having fun. I said, "Can you wait and ask me at the take out?"

About six miles in, we stopped at another Rescue Station and asked the ranger how far to the "Big One." He said, "In about a mile the bottom drops out." He was right.

We came around a bend and saw a hundred yards of continuous white water, but many boats pulled over on river right. We agreed best to pull out on the road side with all the other boats and find out why everyone stopped.

We were right above "The Big One" or "Big Gun" or "Ten Foot Falls." New rapids get a lot of names until one sticks. This was a river wide ten foot ledge, but it had a chute on far right. We watched and videoed several boaters run both sides and middle. Some made it upright and others were flipped. I decided to portage, but John elected to run the right chute. I filmed him drop into the bottom hole and flip. He rolled once, but couldn't stay up. He made the second attempt just in time to eddy out on right before the next set of blind ledges.

John seemed a bit dazed as he told me he hit his cheek on a rock when he flipped in the hole. We decided to walk downstream a bit to scout the rapids as the last section was supposed to be the hardest. We passed another river wide wave/hole and constant white water. After a few hundred yards we met two paddlers walking back upstream. They said it got even worse but no more waterfalls. We figured we could boat scout and pick our way down.

John didn't seem as eager to lead all the time now. I wanted to avoid the river wide hole we had seen, so planned to stay far left. But there was a pinned raft blocking most of the channel on left. Another kayaker was below in an eddy yelling something about a lost paddle. I ferried across river as hard as I could stroke, just missing the raft. John followed and it looked like my idea gave us calmer water. But this channel ended in a rock jumble and I had to cut right back into the vortex.

It was getting harder to see where to go and it was coming at us so fast. Blind horizons, huge boulders and trees blocked our way and vision. I had to start just guessing where to go and we were into survival paddling. Paddle up to a blind drop and try to build up enough speed to boof off the edge so you don't get stopped in the hole below. Crash through a wave and shake the water out of my eyes to look for the next drop or hole.

I chose the left side of a blind drop and as I went over I knew I had picked wrong. I bounced off a rock into the hole and flipped. The current was so strong I couldn't pull my body up to the boat to set up for a roll and my head glanced off something hard. This scared me into getting my nose on the deck and rolling. Now I was backwards, still in the midst of the chop. My boat didn't seem to care and I crashed through two holes looking up stream before it calmed down enough to spin around. I could see John wide eyed in a rare eddy above me looking for guidance. I gave the signal I was okay, pointed to river right and he joined me.



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Looking downstream all I saw were more horizon lines with bursts of water kicking up. Again the left side seemed to look cleaner. Maybe I'm just left brained, but I was wrong again and almost got brained. After flipping I bounced my head again and missed my roll. I fell over and tried to set up. Hard jolt on my left shoulder and pain. Forget the pain, concentrate on your roll and don't miss this one. Don't want to swim in this mess.

I came up facing another drop a dozen feet away. Dig hard to get some speed and boof the ledge and dodge more holes. Then abruptly all the chaos stops and I am sitting in the calm water of Lake Cheoah. It took several minutes for my heart rate to slow. We had made it.

Back at the high school our four friends had a different story. Bryant's canoe got wrapped around a tree and

was still in the river. The Big One ate Peter's boat and paddle and he had to take out. Then there were two. Doug flipped and swam in last mile. I understand Ricky did flip, but he gets the sticky butt award for staying in his boat.

That afternoon the river gave up Peter's boat and paddle, but kept Bryant's canoe overnight. They had to spend the night and retrieve the canoe on Sunday morning, bent but useable.

At the take-out we saw Corey, Robby and some of their friends. They had made three runs, with the last two of only the bottom two miles and thought it was a blast. When I said it looked like much more than 1000 cfs, Corey commented it was better than being much less than 1000. Which just proves that one person's fun level is another's horror level. ✂

First Descent, Second Descent: Tales of Two Cheoahs

by Doug Pratt

Five Atlanta paddlers officially earned what qualifies as the "successful first descent" of the Cheoah River in North Carolina, completed on September 17, 2005. They actually paddled the Cheoah twice in two weeks and report that it seemed almost like two different rivers. This group

included: Peter Elkon, Ricky Martin, Bryant Smith, Hank "Tao" Klausman and Doug Pratt. Yes, *the* Ricky Martin.

Criteria for an Official First Descent

As elite paddlers around the world know, a "Successful First Descent" is officially defined in two parts. It is 1) the first advertised release of 1500 cubic feet per second of dammed water into a dry river bed that's been growing trees for 75 years, 2) paddled by an exclusive group of 400 or more crack paddlers who sincerely believe the water

level to be as advertised. River lore adds a third part to the definition, widely accepted by most experts. That being, at least one paddler arrives at the take-out still in his or her own boat. To be perfectly clear, this report will use the official term "first descent" in a sincerely facetious sense.

Although we had not advertised our trip, we were stunned at the turnout of support. No fewer than four hundred volunteer paddlers ran safety for us. This "first descent" presented the challenge of big water volume in a narrow river bed. Most of the day the level was 1400 to 1600 cubic feet per second, after an initial A.M. release of 2000 to a gazillion cfs of muddy water. These are estimates.

What is certain is the Cheoah was very fast and pushy, and choked with what Ricky identified as Bradford Pears, Formosa Azaleas, and Vinca Major. Rocks ranging in size from Vespa to Airstream were positioned randomly, without any regard for aesthetics, but most were well cushioned at this water level.

Challenging Cheoah's Big Gun

Our small group, each of us in superb to mediocre condition, performed exactly as our sponsor had expected. (We would like to thank our generous sponsor, Luscious Herbals. Luscious Herbals is my daughter's homemade hand lotion company located in Anniston, Alabama. Thanks to her products, our hands remained smooth, soft and youthful. For more information on the entire line of Luscious Herbals skin and hair care products, please call my daughter Tanya's office in her dining room, at 205.1987.)

Sponsorship may sound impressive to you. But it didn't make success easy for us. Lots of our safety boaters lost boats or paddles and couldn't finish the river. But there were very few and only minor injuries, to the best of my knowledge. Even we lost one paddle. And two boats. Leaving three of us on the river. And one elected to portage Big Gun Falls. So two of our five actually paddled the entire river, but selflessly claimed "first descent" glory for our group. This is what we do.

A Break in the Action

Our "first descent..." a term that can't be overused in this report... went so well that we did the Chattooga River Section IV the next weekend, September 25, just for a change of pace, a break in the action, and we had a ball. (Interesting fact: the Chattooga is the river used in the making of the classic white water film with John Voigt and Burt Reynolds, *A River Wild Runs Through It*.) We started above Bull Sluice and everyone had a beautiful run. Well, Ricky strained his shoulder executing an extremely very high brace. But we really had thought his run looked beautiful. Then he told us he was going to have to portage everything else.

Middle Crack was a bit different than we'd come to expect, with the chute terminating within the crack rather than farther out in the pool. We watched a canoeist, Chad, flip and roll. "Ah ha, now we're ready." The rest of us got through Middle Crack with elan. Well, except for me. My elan was more what you might call "rococo".

Middle Crack swooped me into an elegant back ender that segued into a seamless roll that only acutely strained my right lat. I'm pretty sure "acute" lasts from a minute to about three weeks or so.

Hit Me Again

Anyway, we returned to NC for a "second descent" of The Cheoah the very next Saturday, October 1. Again we were not alone. This "second descent" was inflicted by an intrepid horde, hundreds of top gun paddlers. Including some who'd paddled the Upper Ocoee more than three times.

This day the water was lower, about 1000 cfs, which exposed more rocks... so this was more technical paddling through long eddy-less rapids that caused lots of minor injuries in addition to boat losses. From the get-go, it felt like this wasn't my day to paddle the Cheoah. My right lat, with the "acute" strain, was still a bit tender from all the elan on the Chattooga. I felt butterflies in my tummy... I mean abs, but I put in anyway...

Heed the River Gods, Praise the Paramedics

At the first mile I got broached on a rock amidst some small trees. In getting myself untangled I hit my hand. It didn't hurt much... really, I'm not being macho; that part comes in just a few more paragraphs... but when I had a chance to look, it was bleeding freely and a very large little flap of skin was pulled back off my knuckle. "This is the sign from the river gods," I thought. And I did heed. I told my buddies I was off the river.

There were paramedics stationed every mile or so along the river, so I got cleaned and bandaged. Here's a fact that merits your attention; for both Cheoah releases, there were many volunteers stationed along the eight mile run. Local fire fighters and paramedics and County Rescue Squad, with first aid kits, throw ropes, and ambulances. They do deserve thanks and serious kudos for helping to keep the paddlers, onlookers and motor vehicled rubberneckers safe.

The Courage to Choose

So I'm off the river now. I got in Hank's car... he'd made sure we all could get the keys... and drove down to meet him and the rest of our group at one of the several rest-and-rescue stations along the bank. Then took Hank's video camera down to The Big Gun, a 9-foot falls, to tape their runs. I positioned myself on the rocks so I could precisely frame adventure art shots, and waited.

I watched many runs, and still waited. Then I saw my group. Above me. Scouting from the road. Hank waving happily. He had decided to demonstrate the courage to choose portage. This is why he's known as Tao. Even more importantly, he was now free to take over as videographer. Ricky ran the falls well. Very elan-like.

Staring Down the Barrel of Big Gun

But Bryant's canoe got swamped in the entrance rapid to the falls, and he was unable to set up for the route he wanted to take. He got swept over the most rocky unpredictable route and deserves credit for maintaining as much boat control as is humanly possible in a canoe full of water at 1000 cubic feet per second as it drops nine feet over two vertical drops. When Bryant hit the bottom he flipped, but rolled expertly and paddled into an eddy to bail.

I'd seen so many runs from the bank by this time that I was inspired... I thought I'd learned the correct set up, the route and what strokes to apply where. So I told the guys I was gonna run it. Peter waited while I unloaded my boat, then we set out about 100 yards upstream of Big Gun.

This is 100 yards of fairly technical class III rocks, waves and grabby holes. With no established route, no eddies that we could see, and no straightforward shot to a sweet spot in the brink, this is what sabotaged Bryant's canoe.

Medieval Persecution and Suffering

Peter immediately got flipped and his roll didn't quite get him all the way up... he was upside down doing battle with some aggressive rocks that got right up in his face (later, we got chicken skin when we saw the chips, gouges and scars on his helmet). He swam onto a rock, paddle securely in hand, and yelled, "Get my boat!" as his kayak careened toward the falls. He was pretty pissed.

I discovered a small eddy just downstream and stayed focused on Peter, knowing there was no possible boat retrieval in this rapid between us and the falls. I blew my whistle, yelled for a rope, and Tao and others on the bank pulled Peter out. But the river beat him up again during the rescue, completing Peter's impressive collection of blood-weeping and colorfully swollen insults from head to toe. Which led to a brief discussion of a medieval painting that we all seemed to recall as, "The Martyrdom of St. Peter by Stoning".

Peter's boat was retrieved about a mile downstream, also looking martyred. The back brace was torn out and the plastic cockpit rim where it had been anchored was just ripped through. All his gear, including throw rope and dry bag... sucked out and donated. Most impressively, the nose of this heavy lay-up Piranha Gus was indented from three different angles, with the most profound dent about five inches deep and wide as a nice cantaloupe. Good luck with

the hair dryer, Peter.

Redemption

Back to The Big Gun, where now there was one. One of us left to run this Big 'un. Unbelievably, the Jaws soundtrack was being played through speakers that looked exactly like river rocks. I remember feeling anxious and a little aggressive at the same time.

There I was, a conservative paddler, but seeing Peter's beating made me believe that I could show this rapid we were the Cheoah's equals. Not a wise fantasy. Because the river doesn't care. But right then, and I don't know where this conviction came from, I decided I didn't care about the river. I peeled out of the eddy. Blasted through the rapids. Powered over the falls in a clean redeeming run and got out fast. It was all fast.

At the end of the day, in a reflective moment, Tao shared something with me. There had been a heavysset rescue squad guy watching my run. And after I'd completed my run Tao heard this guy say, "Elan." That's all the guy said.

Deliverance

Peter and I hopped in the car and met the rest at the take-out. Collectively we probably sounded like a weird chorus as we "ooh"-ed over our little injuries, "aahh"-ed over scarred gear, and muttered curses over Peter's battered Gus. Ricky, Bryant, Doug, Tao, Peter. Cohesive. Coughing. There isn't any better feeling than survival camaraderie at the take-out.

Our humble thanks to the four hundred volunteers who safety boated for us. We could have done it without you. So this is it, friends. Our real story, our raw story. Just what you crave in a true newsletter... white water tales delivering the details paddlers relish. Mostly paddlers who are actually in the report.

As for me, I'm just grateful to be here now. Safe at my typewriter. Able to bang out a report, the tales of two Cheoahs. Telling the true story, mainly. ✂



Paddle Georgia — Paddling Week on the Chattahoochee

June 24-July 1, 2005

by Jamie Higgins

Part 2 of 3, continued from the October *Eddy Line*.
Second Day: Medlock Bridge to Chattahoochee River Park

I woke up late the next morning and started hustling around. I barely got a cup of coffee and breakfast in me before I had to jump on the bus. Because Kelly and I were doing the safety boats, we had to be on the first bus that left at 7 am. This meant we had to wake up at 5:45 am, eat, break camp and pack our gear and get on the first bus. Most mornings were quite hectic.

We got to Medlock Bridge Park and I soon realized that I had left my gear bag complete with gear on the bus, which had pulled away just minutes before. I had to wait until the bus came back before I could get on the river. I felt pretty foolish. When the bus came back I was relieved to get my gear bag full of very expensive paddling gear back. Kelly sat patiently (and characteristically quiet) by while I ranted on about my own stupidity.

At last, Kelly and I were on the river. For each day of paddling, Joe provided us with a laminated description of the river. It described hazards and obstacles, as well as interests. He put bridges, discharge points and mileages on a William Neely like map with arrows pointing the lines through rapids.

Joe had wanted Kelly and I to set up safety at Jones Bridge Shoals, which was about a mile below the put-in. We went to the first rapid, which we thought was Jones Bridge Road, and there was not much of a rapid, so Kelly and I floated on down.

The weather was rainy and it was cool. I thought it was a nice break from the previous day's heat. Kelly and I spent the rest of the day looking for a rapid to be safety on. We were thoroughly disappointed. Most of the rapids appeared to be washed out. Finally, we saw Joe. He paddled a 17 foot tandem canoe that had seen better days and usually paddled in the middle of the pack each day. We asked him where the rapid was he wanted us to do safety. He said it was the first rapid, but because the river was high that the rapid was washed out.

One of the rest stops was a boat ramp that was about a foot deep in mud. I made a comment about the sedimentation being there courtesy of Atlanta land developers. Bob, the guy filming the documentary, asked me to repeat for him to get it on film. Being a natural ham, I agreed. He also filmed Kelly and I posing at one of the yellow high bacteria signs at one of the rest stops as I ranted about

where the bacteria came from and how we paddlers get all sorts of nasty infections from polluted water. He also asked us if he could film our feet.

Under normal circumstances, I would decline such a weird request, but Bob wanted to illustrate how horrible the mud was. So Kelly and I walked dramatically through the mud while he filmed our feet slogging through the mess. Bob also filmed us earlier in the day. He said he got some great shots of Kelly shredding through a wave. He liked filming us because, unlike many of the novice paddlers, we could actually stop our boats to talk to him. Later in the day, we learned that Bob forgot to turn on the camera and didn't get to film our dramatic portrayal of Texas stomping through gunk.

After our film debut, Kelly and I continued paddling down the Chattahoochee. This was a pretty part of the river as well. We could tell we were getting closer to Atlanta because the trash started to increase, and we started to see more and more houses along the river. Many of these houses were huge, million dollar structures.

By the time we got off the river, the weather started to clear up. We saw many folks on the river that learned the hard way about synthetic clothing versus cotton. Luck-



Jamie Higgins posing at one of the bacteria count signs found at many access points on the Chattahoochee.

ily, no one got seriously hypothermic, but many folks said they were going to invest in better paddling clothing.

We took out at Azalea Park in Roswell and headed back to Roswell High. Unlike the previous day, we got off the river at the fairly decent time of 4 PM. Folks were given an opportunity to visit the Chattahoochee Nature Center for a free tour, but Kelly and I opted to get on back and relax. We checked out our tents and they had survived the rain fairly well. We took our usual cold showers and headed to the cafeteria for dinner.

Every evening there was a presentation or entertainment of some sort. Tonight, there was someone from the Chattahoochee Nature Center showing us some unique animals. We saw a snake and a Bard owl and he talked about each of them. As we were sitting in the cafeteria, a huge thunderstorm rolled in. Just moments before, it had been clear and sunny. After the presentation, we checked our tents. Kelly left her rain fly open and her tent was wet. We thought it best to sleep in the gym that evening.

The next day was to be probably the most difficult day for Kelly and I to be safety boaters. The paddlers were heading through Devil's Race Course and the Metro Chattahoochee run.

Third Day: Chattahoochee River Park to Peachtree Creek

The next morning I learned that the car honkers had wreaked havoc again honking car horns in the middle of the night. While sitting on the shuttle to the put-in, I found out the story about our paddler terrorist that was stalking Paddle Georgia. One of the younger paddlers went to a local high school and she said that the Roswell High School students were upset that we were camping in their Memo-



Beautiful mist along the Chattahoochee.

- Photo courtesy of Paddle GA.

rial Garden. Apparently, the Memorial Garden was erected in memory of kids that had lost their lives in car accidents. So they were doing these silly pranks. At least the mystery was solved and I felt somewhat vindicated.

Kelly and I got on the river and headed on down. Devil's Race Course was around mile 11 of the day's trip and we had to portage Morgan Falls Dam first. The closer we got to the dam, the flatter the water, until it was pretty much a lake. It was really tough going in the white water boats as we approached the dam.

Kelly and I talked with two fellows. One had a nice Perception Airlite boat, which is a new composite model. It was nice and sleek. The other guy, Robert Fuller, had an unusual fiberglass sea kayak. It was about 17 feet long and had a large cockpit. He was using a canoe paddle because the kayak paddle is difficult to use because he hits his elbows on the boat during the strokes. He used a kayak paddle in the white water.

Robert has recently joined GCA and was eager to do more paddling. He spent a good part of the trip playing in the waves in his big boat. He attained up Devil's Race Course several times and the last rapid of the last day he went down about three times. I told him he needed to buy a white water boat!

We got to Morgan Falls and began our portage. Joe had set up a trailer so folks could put their boats on it and the trailer would take them to the other side of the dam. Kelly and I opted to do the portage the old fashioned way. We figured we could get in our boats and slide down the steep, grassy embankment. As we tried this silly maneuver, Bob started filming us. I know sliding down a grassy embankment could never replace the mud stomping scene, but we tried to give him something entertaining to film. We shoved off and went a couple of feet and stopped, and then we started to slide quickly down the embankment. We soon realized that a couple of folks were shoving us down the embankment. We thanked them for the ride and shouldered our boats and walked around to the bank below.

The river below Morgan Falls was really beautiful, and there was a gorgeous mist just above the water, which made it even more surreal. It was a pleasure paddling through the cool mist.

Before the rapids started, we got out and took a break. We met three elderly men that were just starting the trip. They had nice, new green canoes and it looked like they were fishermen. I asked them if they'd run this portion of the river and they replied, "Oh yeah, it's no big deal." I figured they'd flip. I later found out that the three men were in their 70s and knew each other since boy scouts, and this trip was a way to reunite. They had



Trash collected while paddling down the Chattahoochee below Peachtree Creek. Several days there were contests to see who could collect the most trash.

- Photo courtesy of Paddle GA.

paddled as boy scouts and wanted to paddle again like they did when they were younger. They actually did a great job going through Devil's Race Course and looked like they were enjoying their reunion.

We met up with Gina and Ed who were helping us do safety through Devil's Race Course. The water seemed higher than normal. It looked like the best line was through the middle. Normally, the only line is on river right, but folks were going through the middle despite Joe's instruction and map. They were reading the water correctly.

Kelly and I opted to take the middle line because it looked like the most fun. It was actually a pretty good class II rapid. As we went through the first rapid, I looked up to see boats floating and people swimming in the middle of the river. We already had swimmers.

The wave train was totally washed out and much of the rock island was under water. I asked Ed and Kelly to sit in eddies just below the first drop, and I asked Gina to go down to the last drop. I got to the swimmers and some of the other paddlers had helped them out.

During the safety briefing, I had emphasized the importance of self-rescue and helping each other out. I had also emphasized the importance of holding on to your equipment. Throughout the trip, I heard stories of folks flipping and how they self rescued and others helped them out. I was very proud of them that they were chipping in and helping each other out.

One of the guys that flipped, was in a beautiful wooden kit sea kayak that he built himself. He flipped a

second time when he was trying to get out into the main current. I recommended to him that he might want to walk the rapid because he might bust up his beautiful boat. He thought that was a good idea and portaged the rest of the rapid.

Ed did a great job of directing people down river right. Many folks were getting caught up on rocks when they took the center line. We had a tandem sea kayak flip at the top of the Devil's Race Course, but Ed and I couldn't get to them. They were okay, but they couldn't dislodge their big boat off some rocks.

Just then Harlan with the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper buzzed by in his outboard driven boat to help the tandem sea kayakers. It was like someone called the Cavalry. He helped them dislodge the boat, and they floated on through the rapid until we could get them to an eddy. I vainly tried to push and then pull the tandem kayak to shore, but it was too big for my white water kayak. Ed came to the rescue with his canoe and pushed the tandem boat to safety.

We had another canoe flip, but for the most part, it was uneventful day. Kelly did a great job of directing people through the lower rapids as well. I think our biggest contribution was pointing out the line to people.

Kelly, Ed, Gina and I sat in the hot, broiling sun for 3 hours directing boaters through Devil's Race Course. Ed and I noticed that the water dropped about 8 inches. We figured they had stop releasing water at Buford Dam.

I was really anxious to get off the river. The sun drained me of all my energy and I felt very tired. Kelly and I mustered up a little energy to play in the last little rapids before the take-out, but it was a long day. I was very happy to see the Atlanta Water Works because it was our take-out. It was about 5 PM. Poor Sue was somewhere behind us. I didn't envy her job as sweep.

We heard the loud roar of the rapid popularly known as "The Wave". I was anxious to take a look at it because it was to be the site of our safety boating gig the next morning. Kelly and I climbed up an old structure that overhung the river. We looked down and my heart skipped a beat. There was a nice II+ borderline III wave below us. It was a classic "V" shaped wave with about a 3-4 foot standing wave at the bottom with a nice size wave train.

I had a flash forward of kids in aluminum canoes falling out of their boat and the fisheryakers flipping while their hooks poked their eyeballs. My paranoid little mind was working a million miles a minute. I said something like "Damn, that's big!" Kelly's only response was, "I'm going to enjoy running that."

Apparently, she didn't see the impending carnage of novice paddlers swimming in the most polluted part of the

Chattahoochee, nor did she envision us spending hour upon hour chasing down boats and people in this cesspool of the Chattahoochee. Of course I spent the rest of the evening painting this picture for her.

Later that evening, Joe, Kelly and I talked about the rapid. I told Joe that I didn't think most the boats on the trip could handle the rapid. Plus, folks were flipping on class I riffles. I advised him he needed to instruct people that they shouldn't go down the rapid unless they were very confident in their boating skills and equipment. Joe said, "Jamie you got me scared to go down the rapid!" Kelly's comment was, "Jamie has a way of scaring people."

Poor Kelly has been the victim of my over active imagination. There's a certain story about sea kayak/camping in Fontana Lake in which Kelly was convinced a raccoon stole her head lamp, but that's another story. I can work any sane, rational person into an irrational frenzy, but on this occasion I think I was justified in my fearful rant. Joe made the announcement at dinner.

Naturally, the Wave was the subject of conversation most of the evening. Several people came up to Kelly and me and asked our opinions. An older paddler who paddled a gorgeous fiberglass boat said, "Now, I don't care if I swim and I'm confident in my boating abilities, but you think the rapid will hurt my boat?" I knew this guy was a true

paddler. You could tell he had a lot of pride in his boat and his equipment and handled his craft like an experienced boater. I told him I wasn't sure, and I couldn't make any promises. I said, "Listen, you got a beautiful boat, why risk damaging it."

He agreed. I was relieved. His friend, who was an older lady, maybe his sister, came up to me afterwards and thanked me for worrying about everyone's safety. She said she appreciated it, which made me feel a little better. This particular older lady and gentlemen both had a noticeable limp as they walked, but they glided very gracefully through the water in their floating steeds.

At first, I thought Joe's warning had convinced people not to run the rapid, but a certain boater who shall remain nameless and who garnished a certain amount of respect in the group was talking up the Wave. He was making it out to be no big deal.

This person wasn't a white water boater and hasn't seen the carnage that I've seen. If you white water paddle long enough, you will see or be victim of cracked helmets, bloody faces, chipped teeth, cuts, and bruises. Let's face it, you can see all that on one afternoon at the Nantahala. So he had many of the novice paddlers in their flat water boats (all of which were male) convinced that they could do it. - *To be continued in the December "Eddy Line".* ✂

Harry Portage and the Chamberpot of Secrets

by Edwin Datschefski

It was a quiet night on Privet Drive. Yet something was in the air. Harry Portage was soon to awake to a bombardment of letters inviting him to attend the Hogwaves School of Kayaking. Blearily reading the letter, he could barely believe it. Could he have really been a kayaker all this time and not known it? Memories of that time when he was five and fell into a rapid came flooding back. He had simply body surfed a wave, grabbed a passing flotsam branch and high braced back to the side, to the amazement of onlookers. Little had been said about the matter since, but now it all started to make sense. It might also have something to do with the paddle-shaped scar on his forehead...

The letter itself seemed magical, on thick parchment, and when Harry muttered to himself, "Wow, yes, that sounds great," the letter suddenly fizzed and sparked and Harry found himself at platform 2 of Angel tube station.

"What now?" he said. He stood bewildered for a few moments, and then a red-haired boy about his age came up to him.

"It's platform 2 and a half that you want, just walk

towards the wall like this." And with that, the figure suddenly disappeared. Harry was amazed, but he followed anyway, and with a whizz and a blur he found himself outside some big red metal gates and an imposing sign saying 'Hogwaves School of Kayaking — Real Paddlers Only'. There was a throng of new students, including the boy he had seen.

"Hi, my name's Ron, come on, we've got to go to Shepperton Alley now, to get you a paddle"

"Err, hi. My name's Harry"

"Yes, I know, you're famous" said Ron, trying not to look at Harry's paddle scar. "Anyway let's go."

At Shepperton Alley, they went into a shop, where Mr. Gregorius was waiting. "Well, what sort of paddle do you like, carbon prepreg? Welsh elm? Or maybe Kevlar and unicorn tail? Let's just try shall we?" So he put a range of paddles into Harry's hands, but nothing happened. "Come along, give it a Pawlata or a boof or two," insisted Mr. Gregorius, but Harry didn't know how and was embarrassed. But suddenly, when he was holding a wooden JimiStyx, a huge spark came out of the end, obliterating a few boats at the other side of the shop.

"That's the one for you!" exclaimed Mr. Gregorius. "Good job you weren't pointing it at the new Boosters! Not to worry, no harm done." He waved his own paddle at the

mess and it magically came back together again.

Having got himself a paddle, Ron said it was time to go back to Hogwaves for the sorting ceremony where it would be decided what House he would be in.

"I hope you don't end up in Dytherin', because the only spell they know is 'Faffendum!'" smirked Ron. A big crowd had gathered, and each in turn went to the middle and put on the Sorting Helmet. It was a battered old Protec, but it magically decided who would be in which house and called out aloud.

Ron went forward, and put on the helmet. "Flumencursors!" it called out. Harry stepped up, and when he put on the Sorting Helmet, he could hear it talking to him. "Is this a Dytherin'?" "No!" thought Harry. "Hmm... you're right" said the hat to him. "Definitely not a Slalomdor or a CaveDweller, either. Flumencursor it is then!"

"Cool!" said Ron. "We're in the same House." Another student, a girl named Hermione, was also in their house. Together they went along to the first lesson, which was Paddling Class.

Professor McMaggieall was an imposing figure in her tall black hat. She gathered the students around, waved her paddle and said "Fluvium!" and suddenly a river appeared, with boats on the side ready for them to try. The basic spell they were learning was "Paddlendum!" and most people got it OK. Harry and Hermione were able to get their boats to move fairly well, but poor Ron was still going round in circles, even by the end. As Harry came back into the side, his boat swung round neatly.

"Potter! What are you doing! Where did you learn to Bow Rudder like that?"

"Err.... I don't know, it just happened," Harry stammered.

"Hmm.... Obviously a natural," said Professor McMaggieall. "We'll have to put you in the Quiddolo team. It's never happened before with a first year, though."

"Wow!" said Ron, who was mad about Quiddolo. "What is Quiddolo?" Harry whispered to him. "It's the greatest game in the world! I've got pictures of Polochester United on my wall! You zoom around in boats, trying to score goals and catch the Snitch! You'll be great on the Hogwaves team!"

After that excitement, the other lessons didn't seem so interesting. They had Aleut class with Mr. N.A.Nook, and the birch bark wrapping spell was not easy, even for Hermione, who was something of a swot. The last class of the day was Hydrodynamics, and the math was awful, even though Mr. Laminar was a good teacher. There was water all over the flow benches by the time they were finished, and they were soaked from trying to tame minia-

ture rapids. They went to dinner and then to bed, exhausted.

Next day, there was a tremendous stench around the school. People were reeling and being sick everywhere.

"What's going on?" Harry asked Professor McMaggieall.

"It's the Chamberpot of Secrets. It's overflowing again, happens every year at this time. Classes are cancelled today." Everyone cheered, and ran off to where the smell was less bad.

"But I don't want to miss any lessons," wailed Hermione.

"And I need to practice for the Quiddolo match," said Harry. Ron looked at them all as if they were mad.

"What is the Chamberpot of Secrets, anyway?" asked Harry.

"Let's look it up in the library!" said Hermione. So they trooped up to the library, handkerchiefs to their noses to block out the smell. Hermione opened a book. "Here it is. Way back in the mists of time, an ex student of Hogwaves was in the Alps and she was bewitched by some strange Briancon food which caused her to use her boat as a chamberpot. No one has dared go near her boat since! We have to find a spell to fix it!" So, with Ron's reluctant help, they looked through all the spell books, all afternoon. Suddenly Harry shouted, "Here it is!" They rushed out to the boat house. "NoseClippium!" Harry said, and nose clips appeared so they wouldn't smell. Then he waved his paddle and said "FlushumJoumBoatum!" and with a big flushing sound the boat was clean and the smell disappeared.

Everyone cheered and Harry was the hero of the moment. They could now hold the Quiddolo match. Their rival team, the Wide-Awake-ers, had assembled, and they looked really tough. Harry was scared. But the match started and there was no time to think, just to keep moving and keep passing the ball and aiming for goal, all the while keeping an eye out for the Snitch. The Snitch was a magical golden drain plug which appeared at random and moved very fast. If you could catch it, then you won the game, although it happened very rarely.

The score was 5 all, with Hogwaves just moving towards goal, when suddenly one of the other team said 'Squirtboatus' and Harry's boat started to shrink around him. He was barely buoyant, and starting to sink. He looked around desperately, and the crowd were booing vigorously at this bit of foul play. But the referee didn't seem to notice. The Wide-Awake-ers got the ball and because Harry couldn't move very fast, they had the advantage and were just about to score.


Suddenly, Harry caught a glimpse of gold in the

corner of his eye. The Snitch! Just at the other side of the pool. No one on the other team had noticed, but how could he get there quickly in his low volume, nose diving boat?

He looked into the audience, and saw Hermione gesturing at him, moving her hands in a circle. What did she mean? There was a cheer as the other team scored, and there were only a few seconds of the match left. Was all lost? Then he realized what Hermione meant. Of course! He said 'Cartwheelium!' and his boat leapt up into a

vertical position, and he cart wheeled across the pool, linking about ten ends, and he reached out and grabbed the Snitch.

It took a few seconds for everyone to realize what had happened, but Harry was there holding the magic drain plug in his hand, and the crowd went wild. What a day! Harry was so glad he was at Hogwaves. He really was a kayaker after all.

- From the web site www.biothinking.com/paddle. 

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TO PLACE AN AD - Want ads of a non-business nature are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business-related and non-member 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 gacanoemindspring.com. PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Swift Dumoine. 16' 6" Royalex boat good for river tripping/white water. Has front/rear air bags, Kevlar skid plates, 3 position seating - 2 contoured web seats and one kneeling thwart for solo paddling. It has knee pads throughout and a contoured yoke for easy portage. In good condition, \$800. Call Jason @ 404.372.7774 or Georgette @ 678.342.9389

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FOR SALE - Mountain bike, Specialized Stumpjumper, 17" frame with 21 speed drivetrain, Shimano LX components and RockShok Judy front suspension. This bike has been well maintained and is in very good condition. \$300. Contact Don at 864.638

.5980. Located near the Chattooga River.

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

WANTED - Kayak, Pyranha M3-233 or Pyranha I-4 Medium or Liquidlogic Jefe. Call Hank Klausman at 770.587.0499 or email at klausgp@bellsouth.net. 

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