

## Winter Roll Practice

Indoor pool roll sessions begin the Monday, January 9, 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 inside. ✂



## GCA Spring Extravaganza

The 2006 GCA Spring Extravaganza is on schedule for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 28-30. The Extravaganza is a weekend of paddling and camping, with club sponsored trips on Saturday & Sunday, and the fine company of many, many GCA members. Stay tuned for more details later this spring. ✂

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## Ocala Presidents Weekend Trip

February 16-20, 2006

by Gina Johnson

Haynes and I are coordinating a camping weekend in Ocala National Forest over President's Weekend in February. We will be arriving on Thursday and leaving on Monday. There will be day trips on the spring runs and rivers in the area. We missed Juniper Springs Run last year because of damage from the fall storms and hope that we will have the opportunity to run the river this year.

This is flat water. If you need a tandem partner or would like to paddle, but don't have a flat water boat, please let me know. Sea kayaks and recreational kayaks are fine.

We are staying at Juniper Springs Recreation Area, site #31, Tropic Camp Loop. You can make reservations at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com). The gates lock in the early evening, but you can get a gate combination if you call ahead. This is a pretty park, but unfortunately, no electric hookups. Please send me an e-mail at [Haynesandgina@alltel.net](mailto:Haynesandgina@alltel.net) if you are interested in joining us. My cell phone is 404.512.0832 if you have questions. ✂

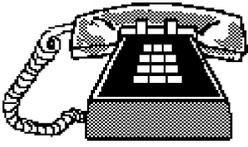
PAVLOV BY TED MARTIN



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



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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 generally are held quarterly the first Thursday of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December) at 7 PM at the Carl E. Sanders Family YMCA in Buckhead, 1160 Moores Mill Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30327. All GCA 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. ✂

### GCA Executive Committee

President .....	Vincent Payne
Vice President .....	Tom Bishop
Secretary .....	Jamie Higgins
Treasurer .....	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair .....	Gabriella Schlidt
Recreation Chair .....	Denise Keller
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 [gacanoe@mindspring.com](mailto:gacanoe@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

### January

1 St. Marys Camping (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
7 Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Peter Elkon	404.314.3861
7 Chattooga (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
8 Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jackie Pickett	404.622.6825
14-16 Florida Rivers Weekend	Smooth Water	Mo Friedman	770.469.8414
16 Little River (AL) (Note 3)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dane White	256.435.3827
21 Upper Chestatee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923

### February

16-20 Florida Rivers Weekend (Note 4)	Smooth Water	Gina Johnson	404.512.0832
21 Chattooga (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
22 Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jackie Pickett	404.622.6825
25 Etowah Tunnel	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263

Note 1: December 28 - January 1 — Multi-day, overnight camping, Paddle with the Prez.

Note 2: Section 3 or 3-1/2 depending on water level.

Note 3: MLK day trip — Upper and Chair Lift sections. Paddle either or both; Upper is Class 4 Advanced.

Note 4: Camping at Juniper Springs — day trips on area rivers.

**Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space —  
Call the Cruise Master and Sign Up Now!!  
Steve Reach — 770.760.7357.**

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**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 this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

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## 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

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. ✂

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## 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](mailto:gcaweb@gmail.com). Membership applications, GCA waivers and other forms for use by members are posted on the site. ✂

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## 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. ✂

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## 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! ✂

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## 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. ✂

**Never trade luck for skill.**

## Canoe Outfitting

Featuring Voyageur™ Products

Custom outfitting of your open canoe or C-1  
Saddles, thigh straps, air bags, knee pads, skid plates  
and more

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## Canoe Instruction

Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels, white water  
& flat water, solo & tandem

Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318

Email canoeist@mindspring.com

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

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

February 4 — Locust Fork Invitational Slalom Races — Cleveland, AL, [www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org](http://www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org)>>Races.

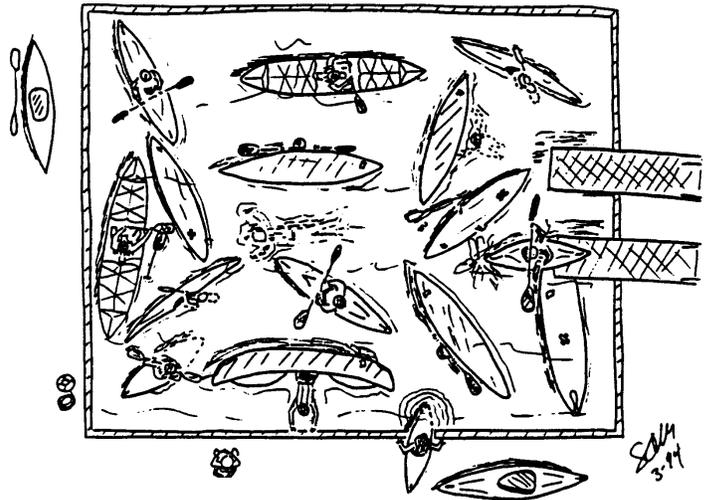
March 4-5 — Mulberry Fork Slalom & Wild Water Races — Garden City, AL, [www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org](http://www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org)>>Races.

March 25 — Locust Fork Classic Slalom Races — Cleveland, AL, [www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org](http://www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org)>>Races.

April 28-30 — GCA Spring Extravaganza — Paddling & camping weekend — Denise Keller, 770.591.0980. ✂

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## Winter Roll Practice



Joint GCA/ AWC winter roll practice is back! Indoor pool roll sessions will be held Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM beginning Monday, January 9, and running through the last Monday in March. 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

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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.

**LOCATION:** We will be returning to the Warren / Holifield Boys' & Girls' Club. The club is located at the corner of Berne and Marion Streets near Grant Park. To get there, exit I-20 at the Boulevard / Grant Park / Cyclorama exit southbound. Go about 1/2 mile to the traffic light at Berne Street — turn left. Go about another 1/2 mile and you'll see a large brick building on the left at the corner of Berne & Marion Streets. Turn left. You are at the Warren Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear. Enter through the gate on the far end of the building to unload boats.

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 \$10.00 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.

Louie Boulanger is our Roll Practice Coordinator. If you have questions about roll practice, or would like to volunteer to help, either with instruction or with keeping track of money and waivers, call Louie at 404.373.2907.

**BE SURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN.** A hose is available at the door to rinse out river mud, old bird's nests or cobwebs. ✂

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## GCA MLK Smooth Water Weekend

**Jan. 14, 15, 16, 2006**

**Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend  
by Morris (Mo) Friedman, The Vagabond**

Time for the annual Florida Trip. I've decided to modify the choices and expect to paddle the Silver River in Ocala, Rainbow River in Dunnellon, and the Crystal River in Crystal River, FL. All of these are spring fed with millions of gallons per day of crystal clear 72 degree water. Possible paddle on the Hommassa River and/or Chassahowitzka River. Featured dining will Skeet's BBQ in Dunnellon, and Cody's Roadhouse in Crystal River. This is our annual trip to paddle with the manatees.

Weather can change quickly from cold at night to hot during the day. Whatever the weather, I'm sure we'll have an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Those wanting more info can go to [www.geocities.com/vagabondmo/gcamlk](http://www.geocities.com/vagabondmo/gcamlk) or call The Vagabond at 770.469.8414. I'll need the e-mail

addresses and phone numbers for those wanting to sign up for the trip. ✂

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## GCA Trip Sign-up Guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

The screening process for potential trip participants is a tool to help avoid putting TCs and other trip participants, and indeed the callers themselves, in the awkward and often unsafe position of dealing with trip participants who may unnecessarily get into trouble on a club trip. Other than because of trips being full, TCs may decline to have a caller participate in a trip and gently suggest that perhaps she/he should consider not participating, or signing up for a trip of a lower difficulty level, if they suspect that the caller may not have the necessary skills, experience, proper type of boat or outfitting, adequate paddling or rescue equipment, proper protective clothing, or any number of other things that may affect the caller's ability

to participate in the trip without placing him- or herself in an unsafe position. This avoids affecting the quality of the trip experience for the TC and the other participants, as well as not jeopardizing the safety of the screenee.

As a potential trip participant, if you find yourself "screened out" of a trip, try to ascertain why, so you can work toward remedying the conditions that cast doubts on your ability to participate safely. Ask for suggestions that may help you prepare for future trips of a particular difficulty level.

As a trip coordinator, try to be honest but tactful when screening potential participants for your trips. Paddlers' egos bruise very easily — we are mostly a proud and independent lot. If it comes down to it, though, a bruised ego is better than a lost or broken boat, a severe injury, or worse. And no one wants their ego to cause problems for an entire group.

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

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

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

## From the Board Room

GCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, December 1, 2005

by Jamie Higgins, Secretary

In Attendance:  
William Gatling  
Gina Johnson  
Jamie Higgins  
Allen Hedden  
Denise Keller  
Vincent Payne  
Gabiella Schlidt



\* Vincent recapped the meeting minutes from the previous meeting which were accepted.

\* Ed Schultz was not present, so Vincent read the Treasurer's report.

**River Protection Chair: Don Kinser**

\* Don was unable to attend the meeting, but Vincent

stated that Don and AW were continuing to monitor the Chattooga Headwaters situation.

**Recreation Chair: Denise Keller**

\* Denise discussed the Fall Gala and Spring Extravaganza. In talking with previous rec chairs and others involved with the Gala and/or Extravaganza, Denise acknowledged that the food issue was tough to deal with. In talking with many GCA members, she discovered that many folks enjoy food and river trivia. She also found that most members enjoyed changing the venue to Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground. Her thought was to have a happy hour type thing with refreshments and look at having a trivia game. Denise will set a date soon for the Spring Extravaganza.

**Training Chair: Gina Johnson**

\* Nantahala Permit Issue: Gina discussed the Nantahala training permit situation. Organizations must have a permit from the Forest Service to teach on the Nantahala. In the past, ACA has issued the permits for the Forest Service, but this year they have declined to do so. The Forest Service is now asking various white water groups if they would be interested in issuing the permits. All agreed it was not a good idea for GCA to be a permit issuer. Gina will continue to monitor this and coordinate with the US Forest Service.

\* Louie Boulanger has agreed to be head of kayak instruction and will run the winter roll practice for GCA.

\* Gina also discussed possibly having one day beginner and trained beginner classes.

**Member Services Chair: Gabriella Schlidt**

\* The need to fill the vacant Store Keeper position was discussed.

\* There was discussion on the club opening an on-line GCA store as a part of the GCA web site, or at least adding a printable, downloadable order form. The Board discussed creating a new GCA T-shirt each year. Denise has met someone interested in helping us design a new T-shirt. All agreed this was a good idea. Vincent will send an email to the GCA email list to see if anyone may be interested in running the store.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

\* The Board discussed the free trial membership idea and voted unanimously to initiate it on a trial basis starting in March '06 and running until March '07.

\* Members-at-Large. The by-laws provide for the President to appoint a number of members-at-large. Typically we usually have 2-3 Members-at-Large each year filling a two year term. Vincent will read the by-laws and consider appointing new Members-at-Large.

\* Jamie discussed having someone from the Chattahoochee River Trail initiative to talk to the Board regarding GCA's

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involvement in this initiative. The Board was supportive of having someone come speak to the Board or Executive

Committee regarding this initiative. The meeting was adjourned.



## 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!!

Hopley, Richard  
819 Madison Ave  
Winston-Salem NC 27103  
H: 301-775-0471  
Email: rhopley@earthlink.net

Jones, Diane &  
Williams, Gale  
1473 Oakridge Circle  
Decatur GA 30033  
H: 404-982-0848  
O: 404-272-3019  
O: 770-724-9078  
Email: dianej517@bellsouth.net

Thomas, Richard  
2635 Curbside Terrace  
Alpharetta GA 30022  
H: 678-795-9389  
O: 678-642-1489  
Email: richardthomas@rossinc.com



## American Heart Association Offers Revised CPR Guidelines

by Jamie Stengle, Associated Press Writer



In a radical change from the way everyday people do CPR, new recommendations urge many more chest compressions. The revised guidelines issued by the American Heart Association on cardiopulmonary resuscitation change the ratio of chest compressions to rescue breaths from 15 compressions for every two rescue breaths to 30 compressions for every two rescue breaths. And while the guidelines advocate a "back to basics" approach for the public, they recommend that emergency personnel get more high-tech by cooling cardiac arrest patients for 12 to 24 hours to about 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Two significant studies have shown that such cooling resulted in improved survival and brain function for those who were comatose after initial resuscitation.

More than 300,000 Americans die each year of cardiac arrest, when the heart suddenly stops beating. The heart association estimates that more than 95% of cardiac arrest victims die before they get to the hospital.

Studies show that the chest compressions create more blood flow through the heart to the rest of the body, buying time until a defibrillator can be used or the heart can pump blood on its own. Studies have also shown that blood circulation increases with each chest compression and must be built back up after an interruption, the association says in its online journal *Circulation*.

"Since the 2000 guidelines, research has strengthened our emphasis on effective CPR as a critically important step in helping save lives," said Dr. Robert Hickey, chair of the American Heart Association's Emergency Cardiovascular Care programs.

- From the CPAKayaker email list.



## Live to Boat Another Day

What equipment is needed to be a safe and responsible boater? This is an issue that is close to my heart. The very First Rule Of Boating is: Live To Boat Another Day. My biggest fear in this sport is having to come home to tell my buddy's loved ones that he/she didn't make to the take-out today. To that end, I will offer a thought or two to a very worthwhile discussion.

### Helmets and Cages

I believe face cages might offer an entanglement hazard, but I have never heard anyone that I know who wears one say that they have been a problem for them. The

reason they wear one is that they have had their faces scraped off before. I use a retractable face plate on my full coverage hat. Mostly to protect my eyes from overhanging branches while I am right-side-up. I have never had a face issue other than this, but I have been darn near blinded by getting flushed into the limbs on a tight bank line.

I would recommend a full coverage bucket (I have very few brains, but would like to keep the one's I have!) and the key to a successful hat is above and beyond all else, the fit.

While I'm at it, I'll go ahead and admit I wear elbow body armor. Even on the easy "play" runs. With today's short play boats, you are very close to the rocks while throwing this boat around. All it takes is one grapefruit sized elbow healing to make this point. It's not hard to do, they are readily available, and they don't look dorky either, should you happen to care about that. I personally don't care what anyone thinks about how I look; I care that I am a safe boater. I will not boat with anyone who cares more about looks than safety!

#### **Flootation**

Flootation bags are not only a good insurance policy for your boat, but consider this: These bags not only

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provide floatation for your boat, but also provide added structural integrity for your boat. Ergo, you may find yourself with those precious extra seconds for egress before your boat folds around you and pins you in place. I, for one, will take that extra escape time!

#### **Ropes & Carabiners**

If you do not carry a throw rope, then I have to wonder what good you are! This brings up an interesting point. What kind? Traditionally, one carries a throw rope for the group and I boat with people who will not put in with you if you do not have one. I like the waist worn rope bags for a couple of reasons. One: when one of your group gets into an immediate life threatening situation, and you pull out and run to the scene you will have your equipment with you without remembering to dig it out of your boat.

Same for caribiners. Have plenty of them, but wear at least one or two on your vest in case you have to set an immediate Z-drag. I have personally set a Z in under 11 seconds, but only because I have not had to dig around for all of my rescue gear.

Secondly, what if you find yourself in a pin, are able to breathe, but your buddies can't get a rope to you! If you are wearing a rope outside your boat, you may be able to get one to them from your position. Not happening if it is in your stern under your skirt.

I must say that if you carry a rope, and all of us should, then you must carry a knife. A rope is an invaluable piece of rescue gear, but also presents a potential entanglement hazard that may need to be hacked out of. It is inconceivable to me to not carry a knife on the water just because of general survival principles. It can easily be the most useful life saving tool you will ever have.

#### **Protective Clothing**

Don't skimp on the clothing. And bring an extra piece or two. You may not get cold, but your buddy might. Always better to have it than to need it! As has been intelligently advised, this is a life-saver. Obviously for you, but one thing that has not been mentioned? What if you have to spend an inordinate amount of time in the water rescuing your buddy! Always remember, and never forget to dress for success.

#### **Other Items**

Wear your whistle. I carry a "pin kit" in certain situations. Prussics, pulleys, webbing, anchors. First aid kit is always handy. Keep yourself safe and you will help keep your group safe. Bring plenty of water, quality snacks, fire starter, pisco-electric lighter, thermal blanket. In the winter & cold weather, I'll toss a mini-mag in my dry bag. Gets dark early and if you ever have to bivouac, you will be glad you did.

All of this happy advice is, of course, free, but the most

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important piece of advice is this: Know what you are doing, and know your rescue gear and how to use it. All of the gear on the Planet will not help you if you have no idea what to do with it!

Be safe, and always follow Rule # 1 of Boating — Live To Boat Another Day!

Keep Your Stick In The Water

-Terry-

*- Adapted from a posting on the Ozark Mountain Paddlers email list. ✂*

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## Dressing for Cold Weather Paddling

by Tim Sprinkle

I bought my first boat, an "experienced" little white water kayak, right in the middle of a balmy August. It was great, the weather was perfect, and I spent the better part of a week out on the water every afternoon. August faded into September, the sun started setting earlier and earlier, and as soon as the fall winds started to blow, my boat and me with it — was out of the water for the winter.

Little did I know that I was missing the best part. The serious paddling season doesn't wait for the weather; it comes down from the mountains with the spring thaw and floods the rivers with icy-cold water. By the time the 90-degree days come along, most paddlers are packing up and heading for home, ready to wait for the next batch of serious water come winter.

I soon discovered that, if I wanted to really enjoy the best paddling conditions, I'd needed to be ready to hit the water anytime, regardless of the weather. Needed to be ready for the "snow on the ground," "icicles in the beard" days that keep most folks inside. And to do that, I needed to learn how to dress for the cold.

There are three rules to remember when dressing for cold weather:

1. No cotton. It soaks up water and holds it against your skin, leaving it worthless as an insulator and heavy as a layer. A worthless, worthless fabric in the water.
2. Layers help trap heat and fend off water. Remember "wick, warmth, and weather" as you arrange your layers — light wicking fabrics first, then warm insulating sweaters or fleeces, and finally a waterproof outer layer to protect you from the elements.
3. No cotton; seriously.

### Wet suit or dry suit?

The Farmer John, or overall-type, wet suit is a paddling classic. Timeless as a hand-me-down tuxedo, it's been used all over the world, in every conceivable situa-

tion, and is generally effective at keeping its owner warm and happy. The wet suit is supreme in its simplicity, bottling in the body heat while still leaving room to layer jackets and other insulation on top. They're a fairly inexpensive piece of equipment, effective, and don't restrict your movement in the boat.

The wet suit acts as an evaporation barrier, allowing a thin layer of water to seep in between your skin and the neoprene and trapping it there. That water retains your body heat and, since cold water can't circulate into its place, adds to the natural insulation properties of the neoprene to keep you warm.

That's all well and good in moderate weather, when the water temperature may be around 50 degrees, but what happens when there's snow on the ground, when the water goes beyond being just uncomfortable and becomes downright dangerous? Those lightweight, 2-3mm neoprene suits just aren't going to cut it; you'll need more insulation.

That's where the dry suit comes in. These Gore-Tex wonders do more than just keep the heat in; they also keep the water out. Manufacturers like to show off their products by sending paddlers out onto the water in tuxedos and bringing them back bone dry, but the reality is that a dry suit allows you the flexibility to wear whatever insulation you need and stay dry in the process. That means that a well layered dry suit will generally keep you warmer than a similar wet suit.

So why doesn't everyone wear one? For one thing, they're expensive. They can run nearly \$1,000 new, and the hassle of regular maintenance to keep the rubber gaskets from cracking is too much for some people. If you're an expedition paddler that needs to handle serious winter conditions, get a dry suit, no question; but for most of us, a good Farmer John wet suit will do just fine.

### Feet

Like most paddlers these days, I like to wear a pair of wet suit booties on my feet whenever I go out on the water. They stay on my feet, give me a good bit of traction in case I swim, and are generally an all-around good idea. As a side benefit, they do a great job of keeping the feet warm by trapping a thin layer of water and holding it against your skin, just like a wet suit.

With the water staying in place, your natural body heat does the rest. They're not perfect for winter paddling, and they can get a little cold in the boat, but they do the job better than anything else I've tried.

### Hands

Wet hands are an inevitable part of paddling, and regular knit gloves just can't handle those kinds of water-logged conditions. There are two options for cold hands:

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pogies — neoprene mitts that wrap over your fingers and around the paddle shaft, leaving you skin-on-plastic contact with the paddle (popular with white water types because of the extra contact and better touch control); and full neoprene wet suit gloves that offer more warmth but less "feel."

It's really up to you which tradeoff you prefer, but pogies have proven a popular option for many paddlers over the years, and are generally warmer than they look.

## Head

If there was a fourth universal rule for cold weather paddling, it would be to always wear a hat. White water types, something thin that will fit under your helmet; the rest of us, a warm, synthetic ski cap will do.

- From the Paddling.net web site. Tim Sprinkle is a freelance writer from Charlottesville, VA. His work has appeared in a number of national publications including *Sea Kayaker* and *Paddler*. ✂

## Sixth Annual Millrace Massacre and Iceman Championships

January 7, 2006

Columbia, SC, on the Saluda River, Home of the Saluda Boyz

Registration: 9:30-11:00

Racing Begins at High Noon

### Millrace Massacre

The first race of the day will be the Millrace Massacre which will commence at high noon. The length requirement for the race is 8' 6" and under, no exceptions. A set



Race Watch

course will be shown to the competitors the day of the race. The course will be water level dependent. It will start at the top of Millrace and end in the vicinity of Fisherman's Rock. The course will be outlined with markers, showing all the required eddies / routes the racers must go through. With this being a time trial event, speed is going to be the name of the game. Top winner takes home the CASH.

### Iceman Championships

The Iceman Championships is the race that separates the men from the boyz. The Iceman is going to be a mass start race with all the competitors starting in a line up. The race will start at the red pier and will run through

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Millrace and down to the Zoo Bridge. Once to the bridge racers will go around the bridge and head back to the sandy beach where they are required to hike their boats back up the portage trail. At the top the racers will reenter the water and run Millrace again. It is then that the racers will abandon ship above the Mosh Pit and swim with their kayaks back to the sandy beach. In the Iceman you can paddle whatever boat you may like whether it is a traditional white water kayak, sea kayak, cardboard box, bathtub, etc. The longer the better.

A potluck style party will commence after the race is over. BBQ and beer will be provided at the party for everyone. We encourage everyone to bring a side dish to share. Directions to event location will be available the day of the race.

Prizes will be awarded at the party for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Additional prizes may be handed out in a competitor drawing during the party.

For more info contact:

Andy Grizzell at [grizeav@hotmail.com](mailto:grizeav@hotmail.com) or

Joey Hall at [deadmanprd2@earthlink.net](mailto:deadmanprd2@earthlink.net).



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## GCAer John Pinyerd Shares Luminox Volunteer Award

November 28, 2005 — Charlotte, NC. Angela Lokken (Durango, Colo.), Guy Wilding (Gainesville, Ga.) and John Pinyerd (Marietta, Ga.) are the 2005 recipients of the Luminox Volunteer Award from USA Canoe/Kayak. This is the inaugural year of the Award, made possible through a partnership with Luminox Watch Company. The Award is meant to honor each year distinguished service by three top volunteers of USACK.

"We could not function without our volunteers," said David Yarborough, Executive Director of USACK. "The service of Angela, Guy and John unquestionably deserves to be recognized. They were outstanding and set a wonderful example for all the rest of us to follow."

Recipients of the Award were announced by Board President Gina Sanchez at the Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs. They receive a certificate from USACK and a watch donated by the Luminox Watch Company.

"Volunteers are the backbone of USA Canoe/Kayak," said Sanchez. "Volunteers like these help to expand the set of opportunities that our athletes have available to them through better coaching, successful fundraising and better team support."

Angela Lokken has been a long-time volunteer with USACK, serving mostly in the slalom discipline. She is a valuable member of the slalom committee and schedules and oversees the slalom events. In 2005 she traveled with

the US Slalom Team on their trips to Europe for the World Cups and to Australia for the World Championships, donating her time and travel in addition to all of her own expenses. Her service impact to the athletes as the team leader was invaluable. She resides in Durango, Colorado, with her husband Eric and children Wil, Josh and Zach.

Guy Wilding has not been in the United States for long, but he has had a tremendous impact on US sprint athletes. He served in 2005 as the volunteer head coach for the US Junior Sprint Team on their trip to Europe, covering all of his own expenses. He had a significant impact on the development and motivation of the junior athletes, evidenced by some of the top finishes ever by US juniors.

Guy spent 2005 living in Gainesville, Georgia, with his wife and fellow coach Shelly. They have been the head coaches at the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, but have recently announced their intention to relocate as Shelly plans to pursue participation in the 2008 Olympic Games. Guy is also a Lifetime Member of USACK.

John Pinyerd is a long-time paddler and volunteer in the wild water discipline. He is currently serving as chair of the wild water committee, and is also an active athlete on the US Wild Water Team. In 2005 he led a fundraising campaign which brought in a record amount of money to support US wild water athletes and the wild water programs. He constantly works with other wild water volunteers to develop programs and events which develop the sport of wild water in the US. You will also find many articles he has written about the sport at [www.usawildwater.com](http://www.usawildwater.com). Pinyerd resides in Marietta, Georgia, with his wife Lynn.

USACK would also like to thank all of the committed volunteers who serve in many areas in every canoe and kayak discipline. Without your service the organization would not exist, nor would the US teams be adequately equipped or prepared for excellence in competition.

- From the *USA Wildwater.com* web site.





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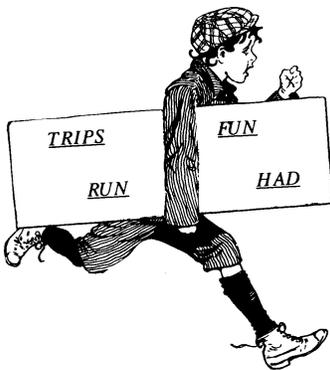
## Carpooling and the Cartecay

by Herb Hammond

September 10, 2005. September in the North Georgia Mountains. The weather is perfect, warm and sunny. It's been a rainy August so there is enough water (1.7 gauge reading) for a run on the Cartecay from River Right Outfitters down to the take-out at DNR. William Gatling had volunteered to coordinate the trip with ample advance notice in *The Eddy Line*. What could be better? Leave the dry top at home, bring your sun screen and have some fun and relaxation on a great class 2 river barely an hour outside Atlanta's Perimeter Highway.

There was a problem ... a real problem. It had been a very rainy season in the form of a lady named Katrina. Gasoline was \$3.00 if you could find an open station. GCA paddlers are as a group more environmentally conscientious than typical Georgians, so the question of gassing up to drive into the mountains was larger than just the cost of fuel or inconvenience.

However, the trip coordinator organized the outing



with a simple, direct and effective strategy: put people planning on the trip in touch with others from the same part of town and encourage carpooling. Perhaps "trip coordinators" should now be called "carpool / trip coordinators"; in any case, the results were phenomenal. Not only was the trip on the Cartecay a great success from a paddling standpoint, virtually the entire group arrived and departed in carpools.

While it takes a bit more coordination, the camaraderie of sharing the ride with fellow paddlers is terrific. Regrettably it took a hurricane to awake this paddler to the virtues of carpooling... better late than never.

The coordinator William Gatling was one of the OC-1 paddlers. Matthew Crawford, Xan Baker, and yours truly Herb Hammond were the other OC-1s. This trip was Matthew and Dan's first on the Cartecay. The river has new advocates. Denise Keller and Logan Weber paddled kayaks. Logan was a guest paddler and very enthusiastic about his GCA experience. Belton Dykes challenged the river on a sit-on-top. Helene and Howard Rogers were OC-2.

The river provided something for everyone — lots of

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opportunities to surf, try out other canoes, and even take a swim here and there. The rock garden on the upper end of the trip was somewhat technical. However, this section was good for sharpening the maneuvering skills of those of us who were a bit rusty before the Whirlpool or S-turn.

The Cartecay is great for beginning to intermediate paddlers. In that bygone era when OC-1 meant paddling your 16 ft Grumman aluminum canoe in reverse and sitting on the front seat, the Cartecay at 1.7 would have been definitely a 2-3 with considerable care required at the falls by Clear Creek, but not today.

The falls were a bit higher than the writer has seen on two other trips. Nevertheless, the only hazard was the fisherman on the bank who seemed determined to keep his line in the water.

The folks at River Right are very accommodating,

providing shuttling service for both the folks paddling down to DNR and the carpool wanting to shorten the trip by taking out at Blackberry. If you haven't ridden the River Right "shuttle craft" lately you are missing out on a novel experience. They have converted on old EMT ambulance to shuttle use. One could even lie down for a nap if the shuttle were not such a short one.

At 1.7 the trip down to NDR was pleasant. The long section below the falls can be scrapey, but not on this trip. The take-out at NDR is easily overlooked, especially for paddlers enjoying the scenery. It's best to start looking for the take-out at 15 minute rock, which depending on the current is not exactly 15 minutes away.

Hope your next trip on the Cartecay or wherever the GCA is paddling is as great this September outing was... and happy carpooling!!! 

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## The Case of the Missing Water

by Edwin Datschefski

Sam Shovel reports....

It was a dark and stormy night when the dame walked into my office. I knew then she was gonna be trouble. Most broads are. She was a knockout. To say she had a face that would have stopped a clock would have been to insult her. It would have stopped a runaway horse. She said, "My name is John, er oops, I mean Joanna," and she said it in a deep husky voice that was deeper than a Solihull mineshaft.

"Mr. Shovel," she said, "I have an assignment for you. I need someone to track down some missing water. It's a tough job though, and I need someone who really knows what they are doing." She fluttered her eyelashes at me.

"Sure," I said. "Trouble is my business." I stared at her. That's when I noticed the thin line of stubble across her cheek and the hair poking out for her stockings. I began to wonder if this lady was all that she seemed.

"Follow these two to Devon and keep an eye on them. I'm sure they've something to do with the missing water." She threw a couple of mug shots on my desk. While I was distracted for a moment, the dame rushed out of my office. "What about my 12 bucks a day plus expenses?" I shouted. I ran to the window and saw her down in the street getting into a red Land Rover and speeding off, burning rubber and putting the pedal to the metal. What gives?

Still, I was intrigued by the mystery dame. I needed a drink, I needed a lot of life insurance, I needed a vacation, I needed a home in the country. What I had was a coat, a hat and a paddle. I put them on and went out of the room.

The two mugs were easy to track down. I staked out

their house and snuck in the back of their flivver (slang for a Ford automobile. - Ed.) and hunkered down like a stowaway. After what seemed like forever, they got going and headed out of town. A while later they pulled over at some kind of food joint, and I thought I was going to be rumbled as the trunk opened up — would they see me?

Would it be the Big Sleep or the Long Goodbye? Luckily, it was neither. A hundred plastic bags came down on top of me and whacked me in the kisser, but I was safe. But what gives with the bags? Was this some kind of smuggling operation? I took a shufti through the first bag. I felt something that made my blood run cold, it was hard like a metal shaft — gun runners! I tried to keep my head, staying as cool as a cucumber. I pulled out the item from the bag. It was a cucumber.

None of this was making sense. (a bit like this article. - Ed.) Was this about food or water? My buddy Holmes likes to say it's "Alimentary, my dear Watson." Maybe he was onto something.

A few hours later the jalopy pulls up outside a building in the middle of nowhere. Maybe this was where we hook up with Mr. Big. It was some kind of flop house, with an interior on which a great deal of expense had been spared. And it was lousy with outdoor types hanging round trading tall stories 'round a fire. I slipped in with the crowd and hung low. One was making a lot of noise about going down to South America. I figured this must be Mr. Big himself. These guys really were a smuggling operation! Organized crime!

Maybe I was getting in over my head, but that never stopped me before. I sidled up to a moll to grill her for the lowdown. She was a blonde. A blonde to make a bishop kick a hole in a stained glass window. "So what's next, doll? When do we hit the road?" She looked at me. She was

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unclassifiable, as remote and clear as mountain water, as elusive as its color.

"We'll probably just make it up as we go along," she said. "You know, surf a few waves, boof a few drops, maybe play at the washing machine and the spin dryer." Hmmm. Maybe this isn't as organized as I thought.

I hit the hooch with the rest of them, and next morning I woke up feeling like I was on a slab at the morgue. "Coffee," I said. "Black, strong, and made this year." The cook looked at me like he wanted to put me in a Chicago overcoat. "Make it yourself," he replied. This clearly ain't the Hilton, I thought. I went down the kitchen to make coffee — yards of Joe. Rich, strong, bitter, boiling hot, ruthless, depraved. The lifeblood of tired men.

The crew gathered up, ramshackle, and headed on down to the rendezvous site. By now I had gone undercover, making like one this gang of stevedores. I even had my own boat and pole. We were clearly going to be shifting a lot of white goods.

We looked down over the bridge. They all gasped, even the rookies. "It's below the ledge," they said. So this was where the water was missing from! Mr. Big was not happy, and some of the others called it a day. Where had all the water gone? Now was my big chance.

I slithered down that creek quicker than a Maltese

falcon in a rabbit hutch. The obvious deal would be that the water had all gone downhill, so that's where I followed it. After some pretty rapid rapids and some pretty rapids and some creek and paddle and brown sticky stuff episodes, I found myself down the bottom of the river. It clearly went on all the way out to sea.

That's where the water went! Sleeping with the fishes! All it needed was a bit of sunshine out in the Atlantic and the water would be back again, wearing a raincoat, but back in business.

Case solved! I found the dame up on the bank, like she was waiting there for me. From thirty feet away she looked like a lot of class. From ten feet away she looked like something made up to be seen from thirty feet away. She had a skirt on, but it seemed to be made of rubber. Still, a gentleman don't stare, so I looked her in the eye and said that I found her water for her.

"Oh, thanks very much," she said. "You wouldn't like to write an article for the newsletter, too?" That's the life of a gum shoe. Just one bloody case after another. I told her she could shove it, but I guess she misheard me. Shovel's the name. See you around sometime.

Written with enormous apologies to the memory of Raymond Chandler.

- From the web site [www.biiothinking.com/paddle](http://www.biiothinking.com/paddle). ✂

## **Beginning**

### **by Ted Gearing**

Weeks of fallen icicles lay heaped upon the earth, looking much like dripping candle wax — or frosting on a bundt cake. On the skeletal limbs of sycamore, clumps of mistletoe look — from a distance — like spring growth. In the leaves along the river bank a grey squirrel scurries about — unaware or uncaring of our presence.

Also, along the river bank — fallen trees — sticks stripped bare by beaver. Willows, ferns and mosses — still verdant in the middle of winter — hint of coming spring.

From the crevices in the stone flow springs that roll clear — into the milky blue-green water of the Buffalo, and

the Buffalo flows on past high walls of yellow, grey, black. Past towering pines, white clouds — blue sky — the sun. Past us as we recline on the southern exposure of a gravel bar.

I close my eyes and listen to the sounds of gurgling water. Wind through the rocks and trees. Birds on the wing. Ice dripping. I feel the pale warmth of the winter sun on my face and the cool air in my lungs.

A breeze steals forth from the cold shadows across the river where snow still covers the ground and wakes me from a dream. New Year's Day....

- From "The Ozark Paddler" — newsletter of the Ozark Mountain Paddlers. ✂

## **Nostalgia**

### ***The Eddy Line 10 Years Ago — January 1996***

## **Ghost Towns of Fontana Lake**

### **Trip Report**

**by Steve Cramer**

This isn't exactly a paddling trip report, but the trip was intended to be. Back in October, I heard from Chris Bell, of Western Carolina Paddlers, that he was leading a trip on Fontana Lake in November. The lake was being drawn down 100 feet for dam maintenance, and Chris thought we could paddle touring kayaks up to the locations of the old towns of Japan (pronounced JAY-pan), Judson, and Fontana, NC, that had been inundated by the lake in the early 1940s. Meg was interested in a trip that didn't include white water, so we signed on. Meet at 9:30 at the

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Almond Boat Dock, Chris said.

On Saturday morning, it was raining at the Almond Boat Dock. The forecast was rain until a cold front came through, then cold and high winds. (DAH-dum) (What was that?) Not only that, but the proprietor of the ABD said his boat ramp was closed, so we couldn't put in there. Randy Bullard and Bob Griebel, the only paddlers on the trip I knew besides Chris, had already been scouting alternate put-ins, and said the water was a long ways from everywhere they had been. We consulted the map in the rain, then decided that paddling was not in the cards.

We could, however, walk up the railroad tracks from Route 28 to a point near where Chris believed Judson was, then hike down into the lake bed from there. We would have to cross the quarter-mile long railroad trestle over the lake, but we decided that the Smoky Mountain Railway wouldn't be running, so that shouldn't be a problem. (DAH-dum... DAH-dum) (That music. What is it?)

The rain was letting up, but nine frustrated paddlers were still dressed in rain gear and polypro as we ambled up the tracks like a crazy re-make of the "Wizard of Oz". Four others had enough sense to go back somewhere and drink coffee. Arriving at the trestle, I noted that there were side platforms every couple of hundred feet, so that one could get out of the way of a train. But we knew the train wasn't running (DAH-dum), so it wasn't an issue.

We started across. As I get older, I find that I am much less comfortable on high places than I used to be. Like on railroad trestles 100 feet above a drained lake. I wasn't enjoying the view as much as the others. Meg was enjoying it even less. But we arrived at the far side uneventfully, glanced back at the two adventurers still in the middle of the bridge, then glanced up the track to see... that's right, a train. Yikes! We waved frantically at our friends, then stepped aside as the train thundered past, showering us with dirty looks from the train crew and waves and smiles from the passengers. We hoped our friends were on a platform. The end of the train passed, and we followed it across the trestle with our eyes. Nothing. Nobody. Then, to our great relief, two figures stepped back onto the trestle and sprinted over to join us. Tragedy averted.

We arrived at the point where Chris believed Judson might be and headed down into the lake bed. Meg and Bob decided to stay on top. The rest of us walked down and in about a mile or so, trying, not always successfully, to avoid the knee-deep mud. No town, but when we rounded a point, we came to the reduced lake. We had been walking on the clay bank, but around the point we found a spectacular 150 foot rock cliff dropping vertically into the water.

Walking back out, the weather was actually warm. I

turned and looked back down the lake bed, across the water, up to the ridge on the far side and the vibrant colors of the trees up there. Above the trees, the sky was a roiling mass of black and white. There was the front.

Minutes later, it hit us. The temperature dropped and we were pelted by frigid rain driven by gusty winds. Good thing we were on our way out. All we had to do was cross the trestle (DAH-dum... DAH-dum... DAH-dum).

When Meg and I arrived at the trestle, three adventurers were already halfway across. They were bent double, leaning into the wind, which was roaring across the lake and then being funneled up the river valley. Clearly, if they had stood up they would have risked being blown off the bridge. Rain and sleet were pouring through the trestle — sideways. Our choices were to brave the winds and cross or to hike out to Bryson City, many miles down the track. Amazingly, it never occurred to us to wait it out.

We decided that in union there is strength, so each of us grabbed onto at least one other and we eased out onto the trestle, bent over to provide the wind with the least purchase. We walked a few steps hunched over, leaning into what must have been a 40 MPH wind, then were forced to our knees to wait out a 60 MPH gust. Slowly, painfully, we inched across, literally holding on for dear life. We realized we could see the next gust coming by looking down at the water; class I waves would suddenly appear and march upstream toward us. Chris' glasses were ripped from his face by a gust. We supported each other verbally, morally, and physically.

At about two thirds of the way across, we were pinned down by a ferocious gust that seemed to go on and on. We estimated that it must have been 70-80 MPH. It finally slacked off, but only to a continuous 50-60 MPH, too strong to walk through. And in the back of all of our minds, although we refused to say it, was "WHEN DOES THAT DAMN TRAIN COME BACK?" There was nothing else to do but crawl, so we did, scuttling along like demented crabs, periodically hunkering down to let a gust blow past, using the time to look wildly down the track, expecting any minute to see a headlight piercing the rain and sleet.

(DAH-dum... DAH-dum... DAH-dum) Oh, knock off that scary "Jaws" music. After a terrifying few minutes — it could have been 10, or 100 — we all reached land. No one was blown away; no one was even hurt badly, although Meg did scrape her knee crawling on the railroad ties (Ask her to show you the scar). We decided that the gods — river, wind, whatever — were trying to tell us something, so we bagged the rest of the weekend and headed home.

Before we left, Randy said he would plan a sea kayak trip near Charleston in the spring. Chris wanted to know what the "bonding experience" would be for that trip, given

what we had just been through. Unless it's bourbon, lobsters, and a campfire, we ain't going.

Oh, yeah, the train. Bob says it arrived about 45 minutes after we left. ✂

## Riddle — Who Am I?

Come to me and I will give you what you desire

Dress up before you come over, I want to see you in your best

I love to see you smile

Let me bathe you in my lather

Your pulse races when you are on me

I want to bounce you around and playfully try to dunk you

Ahhh, you're good, you've done this before

Just wait, I will catch you off guard

You like what I do to you and how I make you feel

Riding on my features sends your endorphins to the Moon!

When I am done with you, you cannot wait to come again

I am in your daydreams, I sing to you in your sleep

Most of your thoughts revolve around me

And even though sometimes I hurt you,

You love me,

Your family is jealous, sometimes they hate me

My allure is so strong; sometimes you neglect your work

Yet the excitement is worth the risk

I leave you breathless

But always feeling better than before

I am your favorite River and I cannot wait to see you again!

- From a posting to the Boater Talk forum. ✂



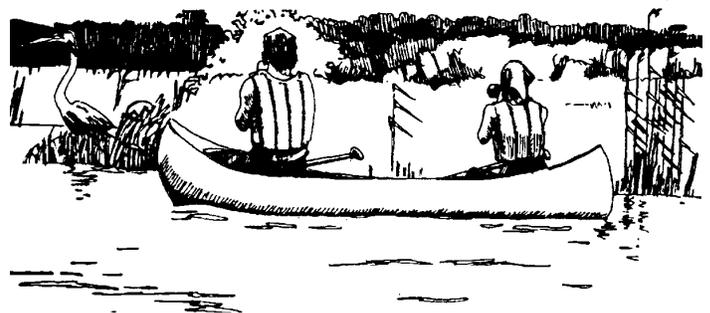
The World's Shortest Play Boat:

Length:	4' 4"	132 cm
Width:	29"	74 cm
Volume:	62 gallons	234 litres
Weight:	18 lbs	8 kg

- From [www.biothinking.com/superspud](http://www.biothinking.com/superspud) ✂

The world's oldest surviving boat is a simple 10 feet long dugout dated to 7400 BC. It was discovered in Pesse, Holland, in the Netherlands.

Rock drawings from the Red Sea site of Wadi Hammamat, dated to around 4000 BC, show that Egyptian boats were made from papyrus and reeds.



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**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Dagger Interlude 16'6". Great Shape with 3 seats. \$400 firm. Call Larry 404.406.7367 cell or 770.590.0699 home.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Savage Skeeter. Short white water play boat. Very good condition. \$450. 404.636.9339 - leave a message if I'm not in.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Wenonah Edge.

A fiberglass recreational version of the Frankie Hubbard designed slalom boat. Turns on a dime, surfs very well. Excellent condition. Fully outfitted - full length foam saddle with foot pegs, knee pads, thigh straps, air bags. \$500 OBO. Allen 770.426.4318.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Wenonah Advantage, Solo flat water touring canoe, 16' 6" long, fiberglass Tuf-weave with center rib stiffening, sliding seat, adjustable foot braces, dark green with aluminum rails, 53 lbs, a great canoe for day tripping lakes and flat water rivers, canoe camping and exercise. Excellent condition; always stored in garage. Pics available by email. \$450. Call Wayne Guerke evenings at 229.386.2104 (Tifton, GA); email [gapaddler2@mchsi.com](mailto:gapaddler2@mchsi.com).

**FOR SALE** - Equipment. Misc gear:

Iliad white water canoe paddles, 1 - 62", 1 - 54", \$40 each or \$75 for both. Kokotat short sleeve paddling jacket, like new, XL, \$35. Patagonia Sealcoat rain jacket, large, \$30. Colorado Kayak Supply paddling pants, large, \$45. Patagonia expedition weight Capilene 3 button pullover, XL, \$15. All items in excellent condition. 770.534.5857.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Wave Sport Descente. Great condition, big creek boat, and good in big water like the Ocoee. Easy to roll. Call Jim Maier 770.218.7638. \$325.

**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. ✂



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