

## Sorry About That

Readers who pay close attention noticed some problems with the January issue of *The Eddy Line*. Headlines and the smaller headlines within articles weren't bold like they should have been, nothing was in italics that should have been and the newsletter had a lot of gaps and spaces it shouldn't have had. Worst of all, the line drawings throughout the issue came out looking pretty bad.

All this happened because we tried a new way of packaging and delivering the newsletter to the printer. As intended, the new way was less work for both us and the printer. Unfortunately, it also led to communication problems between the computer the newsletter is laid out on and the printer's computer.

So, we have gone back to the old way of packaging and delivering *The Eddy Line* to the printer. Hopefully, what you're reading now won't have the same problems as last month's issue.

## The River Less Paddled

*Two rivers to choose from and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made for a nice trip report.*

With apologies to Robert Frost and lovers of his poetry, that pretty well sums up the trip reports in this month's issue of *The Eddy Line*. All of them are from rivers or sections of rivers less often paddled.

First and foremost is a report on the Expert Boater Panel run of the Chattooga headwaters, the parts we've known as Sections 1, 0 and 00. This run, part of the User Capacity Analysis being conducted by the U.S. Forest Service to determine if the Chattooga above Highway 28 will be reopened to private boating, is the first legal trip on those sections in more than 30 years.

The trip report is by Don Kinser, GCA's River Protection Chair and one of two GCA members (the other was Don Piper) on the Expert Boater Panel. In Part One of his trip report, Don explains, among other things, why the headwaters won't be called Sections 1, 0 and 00 anymore. Part 2 of his trip report will be in the March issue.

This issue also has trip reports from the Tallulah, the Toccoa and the Nantahala. The Tallulah and Nantahala reports are on the lesser known upper sections of those rivers, and the Toccoa trip report focuses on the usually submerged section downstream of the usual takeout at Party Rock.

Two short trip reports, both from our paddling brethren in the Atlanta Whitewater Club, focus on foreign rivers. One focuses on the Zambezi River in Africa, the other on several rivers in Costa Rica.

It looks like next month's trip reports will focus on Florida streams, favorites for GCA paddlers during the winter months.



## What's Inside...

Activity Schedule .....	3
Announcements .....	4
Classified Ads.....	22
Club Information .....	2
Editorial .....	22
Letter(s) to the Editor.....	21
Library Info .....	4
Race Watch .....	23
Roll Practice.....	5
Safety .....	9
Spring Extravaganza.....	6
Spring Meeting.....	6
Trip List.....	3
Trip Reports .....	11



Happy Valentine's Day - Take Your Partner for a Paddle



Printed on recycled paper



## Who Ya Gonna Call?

### GCA Contacts

**For general GCA information:**  
Call 770.421.9729 and leave a message; your call will be returned as soon as possible.

#### To volunteer for club activities:

Contact GCA President Vincent Payne at 770. 834.8263 or the chairperson of the relevant committee.

#### For membership or dues info:

Call GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

#### To sign up for a club trip:

Call the trip leader at the number in the trip list.

#### To sign up to lead a club trip:

Call GCA Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 770.760.7357.

#### For information on GCA Clinics:

Call the coordinator listed on the clinic schedule or Train

ing Director Gina Johnson at 404.512.0832.

#### For information on winter roll practice:

Call Lous Boulanger at 404.373.2907.

#### For information on the GCA Library:

Call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636

### Eddy Line Contacts

#### To submit or send written materials:

Email to eddylinemail@yahoo.com or mail to The Eddy Line, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441.

#### To contact an Editor:

Use the email or address above or contact Editor Rick Bellows at 678.617.2546.

#### For information on commercial or classified ads:

Contact Advertising Manager Rick Bellows at 678.617.2546 or by email at eddylinemail@yahoo.com.

#### For subscription information, to change your address or if you don't get your copy of the newsletter:

Contact GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734. ✂

## 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 .....	Vacant
Recreation Chair .....	Denise Keller
Resource Development Chair .....	William Gatling
River Protection Chair .....	Don Kinser
Training Chair .....	Gina Johnson

## Submitting Eddy Line Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication fifth of the previous month, e.g. December 5 for the January issue. Material received after deadline MAY NOT be published. GCA members are encouraged to submit articles, trip reports, editorials, photos, cartoon, etc. **Submissions should be typed, single spaced throughout with no indentations or spaces between paragraphs: if possible, please prepare articles in "plain text" rather than in a word processing format.** Material may be submitted to the [eddyline@yahoo.com](mailto:eddyline@yahoo.com) or to **The Eddy Line, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441**. The text of an article can be placed in the body of an email or as an attachment: photo images can be attached files. If possible, please submit photos and other graphics in "jpg" or "tiff" format and specify the photographer of each picture. To submit material via disk, please contact us for information. Classified ads will run for one issue, but will be rerun at the advertisers request. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Editor **Rick Bellows, 678.617.2546**, if you have questions. Thank you.. ✂

**The Eddy Line** (USPS 017773), published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., publication address: 3060 Pharr Court North, #315, Atlanta, GA 30305. Annual subscription price of \$20.00 is included in the \$25.00 membership dues. Periodicals postage paid at Atlanta, GA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Eddy Line*, c/o Georgia Canoeing Association, P.O.Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357. READERS: Send old and new addresses and an *Eddy Line* address label. Telephone 770.421.9729.

Copyright © 2007 by the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc. Views and opinions expressed in articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official views and policies of the club. Articles and trip reports are edited only for grammar, punctuation, spelling, vulgar or obscene language, and to fit in allocated space. No substantive changes are made in any material published herein. *Eddy Line* material published herein and not individually designated as copyrighted by other than the GCA may be copied, reprinted, republished or otherwise disseminated to other paddling organizations having a newsletter exchange agreement with GCA. Proper credit should be given. Publication of paid advertisements herein does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised, or of any advertiser.

---

## UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

### February

2	Etowah (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
10	Upper Tallulah	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
10	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jackie Pickett	404.622.6825
16-19	Florida - President's (Note 2)	Flatwater/Camping	Gina Johnson	706.579.1048
17-19	Ocmulgee (Note 3)	Flatwater/Camping	Rhett Smith	404.729.9201
18	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venusco	404.633.8038
24	Warwoman Creek (Note 4)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923

### March

3-5	Okefenokee (Note 5)	Flatwater/Camping	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
9-12	Suwannee River (Note 6)	Flatwater/Camping	John Holley	478.972.2771
18	Town Creek (AL)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dane White	256.435.3827
24-25	Sipsey River (AL)	Flatwater/Camping	Karen Saunders	770.834.2151
24	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350

Note 1: Tunnel section; Groundhog Day Paddle With the Prez.

Note 2: Presidents' Day Weekend; Juniper, Alexander and Salt Springs, Silver River. Details in January *Eddy Line*, page 6.

Note 3: Ocmulgee to Altamaha, 52 miles; \$52 outfitter shuttle fee split among paddlers.

Note 4: Take-out at Sandy Ford.

Note 5: Red Trail; 30 mile trek; 2 nights camping in swamp.

Note 6: Put-in at Fargo; length of trek and take-out TBD.

# Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 770.760.7357!

---

**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.

**Canoe Camping Trips** are multi-day trips, generally on flat or mild water, with at least one night of camping. For details on a scheduled trip, call the trip coordinator. To arrange a trip, call President Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263.

**To Volunteer To Lead Trips:** Call the Cruisemaster, 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). Boating is prohibited upriver of the Highway 28 bridge. Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

**Winter Roll Practice:** Monday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00, through March 26 at the Warren/Hollifield Boys' and Girls' Club near Grant Park. Look for details on Page 5 of this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

---

## GCA Library Items

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling.

Any / all donations or loans to the library are welcome. (Please, no bootleg video copies.) Send them to:

Denise Colquitt  
3794 Glenloch Road  
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

### Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell  
Cold, Wet & Alive  
Expedition Earth  
Faultline (Will Reeves)  
First Descents (North Fork Payette)  
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)  
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  
ACanoeing 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 & Kayanning 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 Proteeting 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  
Youghiogeny-Appalachian River  
**Maps:**  
The Big South Fork

---

## Announcements

### GCA Email List

By joining the GCA group email list, you can share information with over 400 members and others. 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.

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 posted on the GCA email list. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe.

The email list is intended to facilitate communication, so don't be shy about using it to invite others on paddling trips, to discuss paddling related issues or to disseminate or obtain



information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

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.

When you change or lose your email ID, please take the time to "unsubscribe" your old ID and 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](mailto: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 version of *The Eddy Line* results in numerous mail failure notices from members with bad or discontinued email addresses. If email can't be delivered to your email address, you will be deleted from the recipient list for the electronic version until we get an updated email address from you.

When GCA receives a mail failure notice in response to an email to you on the GCA email List, you will be automatically unsubscribed by the listserv software. It is your responsibility to keep the email address associated with the email list current. Your cooperation is appreciated.

---

## 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 on 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). 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.

---

## Winter Roll Practice

Indoor pool roll sessions are from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays through March 26 at the Warren/Hollifield Boys' and Girls' Club at Berne and Marion Streets near Grant Park.

Directions: Exit I-20 at the Boulevard/Grant Park/ Cyclorama exit. Go south about 1/2 mile to the light at Berne Street and turn left. Go another 1/2 mile and you'll see the facility, a large brick building on the left. Turn left on Marion Street. The pool entrance is in the back - enter via the gate at the far end of the building to unload boats. Boats must be cleaned before entering the pool.

This is your opportunity 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 a great place to hone these skills during the cold winter months.



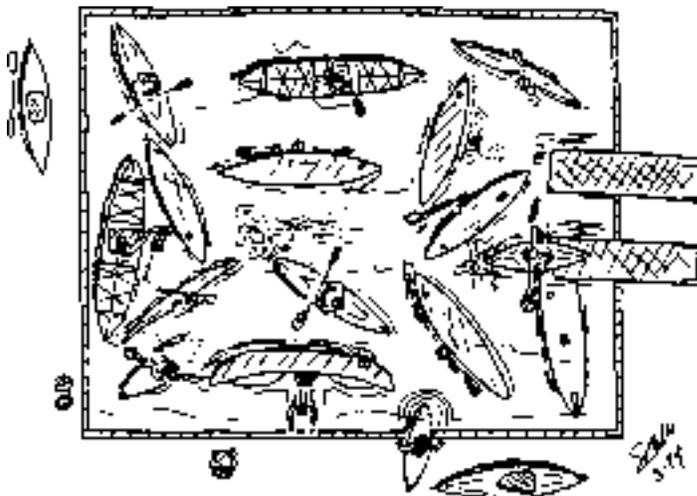
---

## Other Roll Practice Opportunities

Atlanta Whitewater Club (AWC) will be having winter roll practice on Wednesdays and Thursdays through March. AWC roll practice will be at the YWCA on Henderson Street in Marietta. Further info at [www.atlantawhitewater.com](http://www.atlantawhitewater.com).

The Outside World has free paddling nights from 6 to 9 on Thursdays through March 8 at its in-store whitewater pool in Dawsonville. The pool allows paddlers who have a wet exit to practice surfing and ferrying as well as rolling. The Outside World will loan boats, paddles and wetsuits, and paddling DVD's will be playing on the big screen TV. Details at 1.866.375.BOAT or [www.theoutsideworld.net](http://www.theoutsideworld.net).

Overflow Outfitters has free Tuesday night sessions at the North Georgia College and State University pool in Dahlonega from 8:00 to 10:00 through February 27. Demo boats and other equipment can also be arranged. Call 678.450.9455 or go to [www.gooverflow.com](http://www.gooverflow.com).



---

## Spring Meeting March 25

by Denise Keller, GCA Social Chair

Elvin and Nancy Hilyer have agreed to host the 2007 spring membership meeting on Sunday, March 25th at their home in Dahlenega on the Etowah River. Plan on a day of paddling. Elvin also has informed me that for those who just want to relax, there is a lot of deck space and a riverside beach, short hiking trails and commercial tubes for playing at Chuck Shoals.

Jamie Higgins has invited Doug Woodward to join us for the day. Doug is the author of *Wherever Waters Flow*. He's willing to bring a slide show of the making of "Deliverance," in which he was a canoe double for Ned Beatty. He's also willing to sign copies of his book and hopefully will bring a few books for sale.

Of course there cannot be a membership meeting without food, so plan on bringing a dish to share. This is going to be "fun!!" Something to look forward to during the winter.

### Directions:

From Atlanta, go north on 400, past the stoplight at North Georgia Premium Outlet Mall about 38 miles above 285. Continue on 400 to Georgia Highway 136, the third stoplight (not counting the Outlet Mall light), about 3.5 miles farther. Watch for big signs just before the light on both sides of the northbound lanes - "136" - hard to miss.

Take a left on Highway 136 and go about 6 miles to a stop sign at Highway 9. Take a right on Highway 9 and go about 7 miles. Be on the lookout on the right for a driveway sign reading "3865".

If you come to the bridge over the Etowah River, turn around and come back about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - same sign: "3865." (The other driveway between the Hilyers' and the bridge is for Pine Valley Recreation Area, or the old "College Farm").

Park alongside the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway. The house overlooks what is shown on topo maps (at least the old ones) as Chuck Shoals on the Etowah River.

From Dahlenega, take Highway 9 South/52 West. Stay straight on Highway 9 toward Dawsonville when 52 cuts right toward Amicalola Falls. Cross the Etowah River bridge at about 6 miles and go about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - with sign "3865." Park alongside the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway.

From Ellijay, turn right on Highway 9 from Highway 52 and go about one and a half miles, cross the Etowah River Bridge and go about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - with sign "3865." Park by the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway.

From Dawsonville, take Highway 9 North for about 9

RICHARD C. BELLOWS, P.C.

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 441

Gainesville, GA 30503

678-617-2546

rickbellows@bellsouth.net

*Representing boaters and normal people since 1992*

miles. Be on the lookout on the right for a driveway sign "3865". If you come to the bridge over the Etowah River, turn around and come back about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - same sign: "3865." Park alongside the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway.

Don't hesitate to call if you feel lost: Nancy's Cell - 706.429.7079; Elvin's Cell - 706.429.6011; Residence - 706.864.9003. ✂

## Spring Extravaganza May 4-6

by Denise Keller, GCA Social Chair

Greetings. Mark your 2007 calendars for the weekend of May 4-6 for the Spring Extravaganza. It will tentatively be held at Smokey Mountain Meadows campground in Bryson City, NC. The venue seemed to work out well last year. SMM closes down for the winter, so when I find out when they'll be open for the 2007 season I'll let everyone know.

Monica Cook has agreed to cater the event again this year (YEAH!!). If you were at last year's SE, she put on her own sort of cooking show, and the food was wonderful. Not sure if she'll do the same yet, she and I are working on details right now. More info to come.

I've also been contacted by Endless River Adventures, who would like to put on a video screening and slide show one evening. I'm working on more details for this also.

Since we'll be in Mark Singleton's (Executive Director of American Whitewater) neck of the woods, I plan to invite him to come hang out with us for an evening or the weekend. Maybe he and I can do the tandem kayaking trip on the Nanty since my plan for us to tandem kayak on the Ocoee fell through at the Fall Gala (chuckle,chuckle)!

I will do my best to keep everyone up to date with details for the SE. If you have questions or suggestions, email me at [baloata@bellsouth.net](mailto:baloata@bellsouth.net) or call me 770-591-0980. ✂

## 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 advertisers. Thanks! ✂

---

## Upcoming Events of Interest

February 3 - Locust Fork Invitational Slalom Races - Cleveland, AL, [www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org](http://www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org)>>Races.

February 24-25 - Glacier Breaker Wildwater Double Header - Tuckaseegee and Nantahala, [hipgrave@usack.com](mailto:hipgrave@usack.com).

March 3-4 - Mulberry Fork Slalom & Wild Water Races - Garden City, AL, [www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org](http://www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org)>>Races.

March 24 - Locust Fork Classic Slalom Races - Cleveland, AL, [www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org](http://www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org)>>Races.

March 25 - GCA Spring Meeting, Elvin and Nancy Hilyer's, Dahlonega. Details on Page 6.

March 31 - Georgia River Explorer Series, Ohoopsee River trip - [georgiariverexplorer@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiariverexplorer@yahoo.com).

April 14 - Georgia River Explorer Series, Etowah River trip - [georgiariverexplorer@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiariverexplorer@yahoo.com).

April 28 - Georgia River Explorer Series, Chestatee River trip - [georgiariverexplorer@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiariverexplorer@yahoo.com).

May 4-6 - GCA Spring Extravaganza - Paddling & camping weekend - Denise Keller, 770.591.0980.

July 15-21 - Junior Wild Water World Championships - Saluda River, Columbia, SC (Classic Race), Charlotte White Water Park (Sprint Race), John Pinyerd, 678.357.7843, email [jpinyerd@cs.com](mailto:jpinyerd@cs.com). 



## 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!!

Bailey, Russell  
1145 N. Coleman Road  
Roswell GA 30075  
H: 770-518-6120  
O: 678-938-1429  
O: 404-256-1915  
Email: [russellbailey3@yahoo.com](mailto:russellbailey3@yahoo.com)

Brown, Cindy  
PO Box 3781  
Aiken SC 29802  
H: 803-641-0821  
O: 803-648-4401  
Email: [sweetsb@bellsouth.net](mailto:sweetsb@bellsouth.net)

Centeio, Cyrena M.  
59 Brewer Drive  
Dahlonega GA 30533  
O: 706-300-6359  
Email: [mexican\\_bean33@msn.com](mailto:mexican_bean33@msn.com)  
Email: [kayakfreak09@yahoo.com](mailto:kayakfreak09@yahoo.com)

Cerwinka, Wolfgang H. & Christie M.  
2628 Tanglewood Road  
Decatur GA 30033  
H: 404-929-9610

O: 404-317-9993  
O: 404-317-0045  
Email: [cwcerwi@hotmail.com](mailto:cwcerwi@hotmail.com)  
Email: [cmcerwi@hotmail.com](mailto:cmcerwi@hotmail.com)

Christian, Franke  
12454 Northwood Road  
Savannah GA 31419  
H: 912-656-8811  
Email: [buckisland@aol.com](mailto:buckisland@aol.com)

Coryea, Paul  
1901 Big Texas Valley Road  
Rome GA 30165  
H: 706-291-8219  
Email: [ga92me@bellsouth.net](mailto:ga92me@bellsouth.net)

Crawley, Carolyn P.  
691 John Wesley Dobbs #1  
Atlanta GA 30312  
H: 404-577-6628  
O: 404-759-5782  
Email: [ccrawley@gmail.com](mailto:ccrawley@gmail.com)

Draeger, Doerthe  
197 S. Milledge Ave #3

Athens GA 30605  
H: 706-543-1652  
O: 706-542-5688  
Email: [doerthe.draeger@gmx.de](mailto:doerthe.draeger@gmx.de)  
Email: [draeger@oga.edu](mailto:draeger@oga.edu)

Gregne, Steve C. & Mihalko, Cheryl  
27 Chestnut Oak Run  
Athens GA 30607  
H: 706-549-9644  
O: 706-207-9935  
Email: [steve@stevegregneconstruction.com](mailto:steve@stevegregneconstruction.com)

Heard, Ronnie & Tracy  
25073 Hwy 85  
Gay GA 30218  
H: 706-538-6742  
O: 404-714-6369  
Email: [ronnie.heard@delta.com](mailto:ronnie.heard@delta.com)

Herbert, Brian & Stephen  
2499 Forestdale Drive  
Dacula GA 30019  
H: 678-442-1468

---

O: 678-859-2822  
Email: brianh\_12000@yahoo.com

Hibbard, Ann  
2053 Lithia Springs Road  
Lincolnton NC 28092  
H: 704-813-4282  
O: 704-748-1069  
Email: hibbard.ann@gaston.edu  
Email: betsyhighlightjoy@yahoo.com

Hoffmann, Doug  
2221 Austin Lake Drive  
Smyrna GA 30082  
H: 770-444-9488  
Email: douglasghoffmann@yahoo.com

Hollingworth, Lea  
PO Box 1071  
Alpharetta GA 30009  
H: 770-356-3235  
Email: mill9784@bellsouth.net

Jaspan, Jon  
6850 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road #726  
Atlanta GA 30328  
H: 770-395-1535  
O: 678-480-0696  
Email: jon@jaspan.org

Kelley, Kevin & Stacey  
323 Camille Lane  
Mouth Of Wilson VA 24363  
H: 276-579-9833  
Email: greybear1973@yahoo.com

Kunihiro, Jonathan & Soraia  
3245 Poplar Drive  
Lawrenceville GA 30044  
H: 770-925-9557  
O: 770-841-7832  
O: 770-841-8703  
Email: kuni144@yahoo.com

Lupo, Mark R.  
3100 20th Street  
Phenix City AL 36870  
H: 706-888-3226  
O: 706-569-2654  
O: 706-888-1424  
Email: mlupo@sbdc.uga.edu

Email: marklupo@ourecho.com

Markert, Bill  
1966 Fields Pond Drive  
Marietta GA 30068  
H: 770-518-9555  
O: 770-605-6817  
O: 678-461-2216  
Email: bmarkert@bellsouth.net

McCarter, Lisa  
4551 Jackson Road  
Whites Creek TN 37189  
H: 615-532-2582  
Email: lmccar1575@aol.com

Meakin, Bill  
364 Azure Road  
Dahlonega GA 30533  
H: 706-864-7011  
O: 678-523-5434  
Email: bmeakin@alltel.net

Musser, Bradley C.  
895 SW Rum Island Terrace  
Ft. White FL 32038  
H: 386-454-0226  
Email: swampdrummer@alltel.net

Nelson, Eric  
4601 North Springs Court  
Dunwoody GA 30338  
H: 770-901-9167  
Email: ean01@comcast.net

Parker, Tom & Toby  
480 Mellview Ave  
Atlanta GA 30310  
H: 404-388-7348  
Email: thomasparkerga@hotmail.com

Powell, David F.  
2917 Battle Forrest Drive  
Decatur GA 30034  
H: 404-241-5013  
Email: dfpisc@yahoo.com

Psenicka, Peter  
PO Box 186  
Calhoun GA 30703  
H: 770-655-6714

Email: psenickapeter@hotmail.com

Putney, Bonny  
6432 Garrett Road  
Buford GA 30578  
H: 404-216-9351  
Email: bppetney@bellsouth.net

Radtke, Steven & Jan  
426 Schaffer Road  
Marietta GA 30060  
H: 404-993-5708  
O: 678-755-5530

Richards, Betsy B.  
2483 Self Lake Road SE  
Fairmount GA 30139  
O: 770-548-0862  
Email: larkspur0318@hotmail.com

Sampson, John  
10173 Fox Fire Terrace  
Jonesboro GA 30238  
H: 770-478-8016  
O: 678-764-6219  
Email: jsampson@gtg.ga.gov

Sayler, Robin D.  
2383 Akers Mill Road SE  
Atlanta GA 30339  
H: 404-452-5852  
Email: robindsayler@yahoo.com

Seely, Greg & Portia  
37 N.E. Lofting Way  
Sewall's Point FL 34996  
H: 772-288-1920  
O: 772-708-8573  
O: 772-708-8572  
Email: gseely@gmail.com  
Email: portia.seely@gmail.com

Segars, Winfred L.  
3157 Hall Road  
Dacula GA 30019  
H: 770-963-3494  
O: 770-822-8210  
O: 770-963-9255

Summers, Pamela & Chris  
4337 Huntington Circle

Atlanta GA 30338  
Email: pms123abc@yahoo.com

Swan, Kim  
2975 Hamilton Road  
Cumming GA 30041  
H: 770-781-5093  
Email: tbear2@att.net

Udvardy, Shana  
2305 Renaissance Way  
Atlanta GA 30308  
H: 404-275-9818  
Email: sudvardy@gaconservancy.org

Walraven, Carroll &  
Smith, Jim  
1515 Old Riverside Road  
Roswell GA 30076  
H: 770-640-9663  
Email: shushu6@mac.com  
Email: wamba7@msn.com

Weiss, Howard (Howie) & Kristin  
2231 Meadowvale Drive NE  
Atlanta GA 30345  
H: 678-261-7451  
Email: weiss@math.gatech.edu  
Email: kristin.weiss@gmail.com

Whalen, Aklea &  
Johnson, Priscilla  
PO Box 3446  
Decatur GA 30031  
H: 404-408-2834  
O: 404-587-1823  
Email: evgeneia@yahoo.com  
Email: priscillaj7@yahoo.com

Wiggins, Kathy  
1219 Hummingbird Place  
Rome GA 30165  
H: 706-234-5721  
Email: kw5760@aol.com

## Chili Run 2007 So Near and Yet So Far!

by Gina Johnson, GCA Training Chair

The 21st Chili Run was held at MOE on the Cartecay on Monday, January 1. We had 10 boats in our group and a variety of skill levels. Trish Rogers, Tom Keller and Shari Heinz were in K-1's. This was Shari's second time in her new kayak! Allen Hedden and Gaby Schlidt paddled their tandem Caption. Edward Stockman, Chuck Fatheree, Big Dave Soltis, Doug Ackerman, Haynes Johnson and I were in solo canoes.

The weather gods had been kind and given us lots of rain on Sunday. The river level was about 3 feet, which is about 1 foot higher than I consider a "good" level these days. (Other folks in our group consider this a "good moderate" level.) The eddies and the rock gardens tend to disappear at this level and there are lots of little play holes.

We bopped along to S-turn with no problems. S-turn was definitely on steroids and Trish and Shari portaged on the right. Everyone had great runs, but finding the tongue through the bottom wave train was a challenge. I slipped down the left side of the bottom chute and got a boat full of water from the cresting wave at the bottom. A kayaker from another group asked Allen if the surfing wave was friendly at this level. Allen responded that he had never



A tethered canoe is lowered into the hole from the rocks at Whirlpool. Photo by seamoreilifoot.

surfing that wave at this level!

Whirlpool is always exciting at 3 feet. Years ago, Haynes hopped in the hole and couldn't get out. He eventually parted company with his boat and the hole spit out the Encore several minutes later. The large rock framing the left side of the chute had water pouring over most of it and the chute had developed a hole on the left, along the side of the big, sloping rock.

Trish, Shari and I were in the eddy above Whirlpool discussing running and portaging options. We watched boaters shooting across the current at the top of the rapid into the eddy, peeling out and running down the chute. We watched to see if we could see helmets at the bottom.



Shari decided to portage on the left. Trish was still considering what to do. I peeled out, eddying out at the top and had a great run through the chute. There was an enormous whirlpool moving counter-clockwise below the hole and it was a challenge to get into the eddy on the left.

At this point, we had been joined by other groups. I heard that Brent Coleman, a Swift Water Rescue Instructor who taught us years ago, was on his way through the rapid. I was in the eddy *continued on following page*

on river left, behind the rock with the water overflowing down the face. I was watching the kayakers coming through and looking for Trish. I looked down and realized that my boat had slipped into the edge of the hole. I paddled hard and braced harder and was flipped on my off side.

I was under water and wishing I had my big, fat, ugly high-float pfd, instead of this cute cutaway one. I got a breath, looked around for the canoe and saw it behind me, still in the hole. I abandoned my poor boat and swam for it. Thanks to Tom Keller for coming to get me.

There is little more frustrating than watching your beloved canoe being bounced and flipped in a hydraulic 14 feet away from where you are standing and knowing that your cell phone is in the dry bag that is being pounded. What we needed was a nice friendly raft to bop my boat out!

Unfortunately, there weren't any nice rafts on the Cartecay! Thank you to the kayakers who tried to get a line on the boat and to the guys who tried to get a rope under the

boat. There was no luck with these attempts. The chute was open and people continued to run down, keeping an eye on



The tethered canoe displaces the trapped canoe, freeing it from the hole. Photo by seamorelilfoot.

this bucking bronco boat of mine. Trish decided to portage.

Luckily, most of the boaters watching the fun didn't know who I was or whose boat it was. I liked the anonymity! I asked Brent for help and he commented that he wasn't wearing a dry suit. I offered him mine, but I think the drop bottom zipper put him off! Brent was waiting for his friend, who would provide the safety belay for Brent's plan for boat retrieval. As Brent was finishing his setup, Allen Hedden came up with a plan that would not put a person at risk.

Allen's plan was to take Haynes' Probe 12II, use a throw rope tied to the stern as a safety line and slide the boat

down the chute and into the hole, hopefully displacing my boat. Simple, and it worked!

My boat was unhurt and very clean. The agitation in the hole had loosened the cap on my nalgene water bottle and it was empty. My cell phone survived in a zip lock baggie, but my extra "dry" clothes were soaking wet.

Lessons learned:

1. Probe 11's are a favorite snack of hydraulics and their paddlers need to pay attention.
2. RETHROG is still the guideline for rescue: Reach, Throw, Go. Never put a person at risk to rescue stuff.
3. Make certain you have your phone number and name written in your boat in case you have to abandon it because you did something dumb.
4. Don't trust a dry bag to stay dry. Put your stuff in zip locks before putting it in your dry bag. You can always test your dry bag by filling it, closing it and running it through the washing machine (no soap!).
5. PADDLE WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SMARTER THAN YOU ARE! My thanks to the boaters who helped reunite me with my boat and to Allen Hedden, who has been teaching me stuff since 1987.

An enormous Thank You to Jay Syrmanski and those who made chili for the Chili Run. I sampled most of the 15+ pots of chili and they were all terrific. The Sock-em-Dog version even warmed me up. Denise Keller's spiced pecans and cranberries were fabulous. A great day on the river!!><

amigos

drysuit-repair.com

1-800-483-0188



Ship it to us  
for FREE >>

The Outside World is now  
an Amigos drop-off center

Specializing  
in  
Gasket  
Replacements  
*to keep you dry*



DANSONVILLE, GA

## Part One Rediscovering the Chattooga Headwaters

by Don Kinser, GCA River Protection Chair

Milt Aitken and I were almost giddy as we pulled into the Andrew Pickens District Ranger Office in Walhalla, South Carolina the first Thursday evening of 2007. Our skepticism about whether we would ever see the upper Chattooga River legally in a boat was gradually fading. It was becoming more and more apparent that this user study was really going to happen. A tremendous excitement and anticipation now replaced that skepticism.

Our excitement began to build on Monday after we received an email from Ben Ellis, a consultant with the Louis Berger Group, telling us that the recent storm and the predicted rainfall met their "trigger" to mobilize the study team. Consultants from as far away as Jackson, Wyoming, Corvallis, Oregon and Anchorage, Alaska would converge on the Chattooga during the next few days. They would be working with both anglers and boaters as part of the ongoing User Capacity Analysis of the upper Chattooga River ordered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Chief in April, 2005.

Those of us lucky enough to receive Ben's call spent the next three days focused on the weather websites and the USGS gauge at Highway 76. We rearranged our schedules on short notice to be part of something special, our excitement growing and waning as the forecast vacillated and the river levels fell.

Now we were actually here to begin the field work and legally run the upper 21 miles of the Chattooga River for the first time in over 30 years. We entered the room and joined the crowd milling about, waiting for the meeting to start. Each of us knew that we were about to be a part of something historic.

The excitement among the boating panelists was palpable. You could sense it.

The boaters were easy to discern from the anglers. We were the ones with the smiles on our faces, laughing and joking with each other, obviously glad to be there. This contrasted starkly with the visible dismay on the faces of

several anglers, clearly disgusted with the thought of boaters on "their" river. However, this did not dampen our spirits as we looked forward to this great adventure.

The meeting began with the customary introductions of the consultants, panelists and agency staff, either present or on the phone. This was one of the few times during the next two days that we would have any interaction with the anglers, either here or on the river.

David Hedden and Jeff Owensby were there representing the USFS. David and Jeff were joined by Tony White and several other agency staff on the conference phone. John Cleeves, the User Capacity Study Program Manager, would join us on Saturday.

Once we were all properly introduced, Ben Ellis chaired the meeting. He was joined by Bo Shelby, Doug Whitaker, and Karen Koslowski, the consulting team.

The boating panel included 10 lucky boaters: GCA members Don Piper and Don Kinser as well as Shayne Day, Milt Aitken, Todd Corvey, Brian Jacobson, Wade Vagias, Ken Holmes, Ben Ellis (consultant) and Bo Shelby (consultant). We would get to know both Ben and Bo well during the next two days as they joined us on the river.

The anglers' panel included Doug Adams, a long-time Chattooga angler. I had the great pleasure of spending a magical day on the upper Chattooga fishing with Doug several years ago (and we didn't even catch any fish!). No one loves the Chattooga more than Doug.

Doug was joined by Alex Watson, David Cannon and a number of others whose names I cannot recall. It was interesting how they kept the boater and angler panels segregated, never even giving us the list of anglers names. Doug Whitaker, the consultant from Anchorage, would accompany the

*continued on following page*



**The Expert Boater Panel: Don K., Wade, Todd, Brian, Shayne, Milt, Don P., Ben, Bo and Ken. Photo by Jeff Owensby, USFS.**

glers on the river for the study.

The plan was to meet at the boater access just below the Highway 28 Bridge at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning. The USFS would shuttle us from there to Burrell's Ford and we would paddle the Rock Gorge and Nicholson Fields reaches of the upper Chattooga (a/k/a Section 1). We were to return to the Ranger office for a debriefing with the consultants and anglers at 3:00 p.m..

Assuming all went well and the predicted rainfall materialized, we would then do the Chattooga Cliffs and Ellicott Rock reaches on Saturday. The meeting ended and we headed to our cars. It was raining. This was going to be good!

### **Day 1 - Rock Gorge (a/k/a Section 1) - 12.5 miles**

Friday dawned cloudy and rainy, just as predicted. It was also unusually warm for January, perfect weather for a great day on the *Forbidden River*.

We assembled at the boater access just downstream of the Highway 28 Bridge at 8:00 a.m. Even with our "alpine" start, everyone was all smiles and on time as we nursed our coffee, conversed, and joked around while getting our gear together. The excitement was thick in the air: you could feel it. This was going to be a great day on the river.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the parking lot, the anglers didn't look quite as excited as we were to spend a day in the rain. USFS Rangers David Hedden and Jeff Owensby were friendly and cordial as they handed out permits for us to fill out, helped us load boats and then shuttled us to Burrell's Ford. They seemed almost as excited as we were.

Our caravan arrived at the Burrell's Ford Bridge, made ready, and headed down the established trail to

the river bank. For the last 30 plus years what we were doing has been illegal (and still is) and here we were being graciously shuttled by the USFS. I felt a great rush of personal satisfaction as I unloaded my gear on the Burrell's Ford Bridge from that green USFS truck.



**Milt Aitken "limboing" under a fallen hemlock, probably killed by woolly adelgids. Copyrighted photo by Brian D. Jacobson/Trout Lips Video LLC.**

After a short riverside meeting with the consultants, Ben and Bo, to discuss river safety and how we would travel down the river, we shoved off at about 9:30 a.m. Everyone was in high spirits. That would not change for the rest of the weekend.

Many of you may know this river reach as Section 1. However, throughout the study we were encouraged to refer to this section as the Rock Gorge and Nicholson Fields Section (the stretch down from Lick Log Creek). Quite frankly, "Rock Gorge" sounded a whole lot more

fun than "Section 1" and a whole lot more descriptive. So from now it will be the Rock Gorge reach.

The river starts off meekly, gradually picking up gradient as you float down from Burrell's Ford. After about a mile the river starts to take a long sweeping left turn and you enter a nice stretch of Class 3 "steps" that are easily boat scouted and straightforward.

The scenery was outstanding at every turn, with beautiful views up and down the river. However, all of us were surprised at the dire state of the hemlocks here on the upper river. The hemlock woolly adelgid has wreaked havoc on them, far worse than down lower in the watershed. It is sad.

We reached Big Bend Falls about 10:15 a.m. and easily eddied out to the right, just above it. The rain that had been sporadic much of the morning was now falling



**Shane Day running Maytag on the Rock Gorge section of the Chattooga. Copyrighted photo by Todd Corvey.**

steadily. Big Bend Falls is a beautiful spot on the river and can be reached by foot. This was the only time during the day that I saw any other people. Joe Robles with the USFS was there to observe us at the falls and Becky Johnson from the Smoky Mountain News was there taking photos. Otherwise we had the entire river corridor to ourselves.

The falls are clearly runnable, albeit Class 5. We spent about 30 minutes scouting and picture taking. However, on this day there was a vertical log pinned in the preferred landing zone on the river right side. Some contemplated a left side line and we all portaged. This was easily accomplished down the bedrock on the river right side. I believe most will choose to portage this drop when running this section.

Downstream of Big Bend Falls, things start to pick up with a number of Class 3-4 read and run rapids as the river winds its way around Round Top Mountain. We reached the next major rapid, called "Rock in the Crack in the Hole in the Wall," at about 11:20 a.m. This was another of the many rapids in the watershed originally named by early Chattooga pioneer Alan Singley. We scouted this Class 4+ drop for about 10 minutes and then we all successfully ran it, some more successfully than others.

After leaving "Rock in the Crack in the Hole in the Wall," it was on to the Rock Gorge. But before entering the Rock Gorge, we had to "do the laundry" at Maytag, a stout class 4+ or 5 drop that guards the gates to the Rock Gorge about ten minutes downriver.

Most paddlers will have already guessed why this rapid is so named. It is because of the spin cycle in the large hole at the bottom of the drop. We all scouted, noting some wood in the drop. I can't remember if anyone walked this drop or not, and most of us ran it. Most of us ran it without any issues, but not all. I got "tagged" in the hole and took a brief and uneventful swim. All of the scouting and so forth at Maytag took our group about 30 minutes.

The Rock Gorge is a magical place of awesome beauty. It's a great place to hike when the water is low, and even better when experienced from a boat with the energy of the freely flowing river pulsating around you.

The rain continued to come down as we entered the

Rock Gorge and met our next major challenge "Harvey Wallbanger." This is another stout Class 4+ drop that we all scouted. I am not sure, but I think at least one in our group chose to portage. Most had uneventful runs; I, on the other hand, took another short and uneventful swim.

Next was a quick lunch break, very quick, and then on to upper and lower Big Hairy Bastard. These are two fun read and run Class 4 drops that everyone aced. We reached the end of the Rock Gorge at about 1:00 p.m. and the gradient began to ease considerably as we passed Lick Log Creek. From Lick Log the Highway 28 takeout is another 5 miles.

We now found ourselves floating lazily for the next several miles along a beautiful mountain river. Everyone was all smiles even as the thunder and lightning began to rumble and light up the river gorge. I was in the back of the group talking with Bo Shelby, one of the consultants. We did not see anyone along the river. Others in the front of our group saw two backpackers, heads down, hiking in the rain, oblivious to our presence on the river.

They also saw David Cannon, one of the angler panelists. David was just leaving the river as they approached. Next they found

Buzz Williams of the Chattooga Conservancy scowling at them from the Highway 28 Bridge.

We reached the Highway 28 boater access at about 2:45, just as the rain eased off. This allowed us to get dressed quickly. We pulled into the District Ranger Office at exactly 3:00 p.m., right on time for two more hours of debriefing with the consultants.

**Next month in Part 2: Chattooga Cliffs and Ellicott Rock**  
*Editor's Note: Article copyright 2007 by Don Kinser: may be reprinted with permission and attribution. Photos copyright 2007 by Brian Jacobson/Trout Lips Video LLC and Todd Corvey. Text and photos used with permission.*

*Additional photos of this section are on the American Whitewater website at [www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1049](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1049).*

To help with the efforts to reopen the Chattooga headwaters to boating, join American Whitewater at [www.americanwhitewater.org/membership](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/membership) or call 1.866.BOAT4AW.



**GCA member Don Piper completing his run of Harvey Wallbanger.**  
Copyrighted photo by Brian D. Jacobson/Trout Lips Video LLC.

---

## Zambezi River, Africa

by Mike Farrell (AWC)

Not sure where to start this TR. I guess I'll start with the bad - 4 swims in 2 days. I swam Rapid 13 twice, Rapid 3 and Rapid 4. Ok, got that out of the way, now onto the Zambezi River.

The Zambezi Gorge is amazing. It is big water - as big as water can get. You think the Mash Brothers and Keeney are large waves? Those waves are the small waves that don't even get mentioned when you paddle the Zambezi.

This water is big, fast, exploding and boiling. One minute you might be cresting the top of a 1 meter wave and the next the wave is gone and you are being sucked under by a whirlpool boil line that just appeared. Better brace and paddle and stay loose. No such thing as grabbing an eddy on this run.

The river is generally divided into two sections. The upper section includes Rapids 1-13 and is generally considered the harder section. The lower section, Rapids 11-23, is slightly easier, with much bigger pools. We tackled that section first.

I guess I should explain the "we." There were 5 of us the first day: Scott, the South African guide, his friend Rob, John the German, and Phila, Scott's sister.

There really isn't much to talk about for this section. Like I said, the waves are monster and the eddy lines are boiling. Anytime you get out of the main flow you are in boiling water. Sometimes even in the main flow it is boiling. The whole river surges.

Rapid 13, which I swam on, is long. I got too far left at the bottom, got spun into an eddy/hole and couldn't hit my roll in the boil. So I swam out. No crocs.

I think of more interest on this day is the put-in/takeout and porters. I got into the truck in the morning to go to the river where I met Martin. "I am your porter," he says. "My what?" "Your porter. I take your boat to the river. You just take your gear." "Well that hardly sounds fair."

Boy was I happy to have that porter. These guys are amazing; they pick up a boat on each shoulder and start off, usually in flip flops or bare feet. The trail to the put-in - well, all the trails in and out of the gorge - are monster. Think steep, like Tallulah gorge, but the "steps" are really ladders made of downed logs. I was more than happy to have the porters. Oh yeah, and the trails are long, probably

a 1 kilometer hike or so.

After the first day, Scott said I would be fine on the upper section. So the plan was made to run Rapids 1-13 the next day. The plan was to put in below Rapid 1. That is like putting in below Grumpy's, only the ferry is bigger and nastier, with a runoff into the wall.

Instead, I seal launched into the boil created by the wall. I would rather try the ferry. Oh yeah, I should mention, from the put-in you can look upriver and see Victoria Falls.

I'm not going to detail every rapid. Not sure what happened in 3. I flipped, tried my roll 3 or 4 times, and just couldn't get up. So I swam. It was long, but not too bad. In every one of my swims, I swam like an open boater and managed to rescue all my own gear.

Rapid 4 is the most technical of the rapids I was going to run. You had to hit the wave just right to avoid 2 offset holes. I managed to hit the line perfectly, then flipped on some waves in the roll out, flipped, rolled up, flipped again and drank a gallon of water, then swam. Not cool.

Rapid 5 is amazingly fun and easy. You get to the edge of the drop and there is this monster green tongue running down this 10-15 foot slide into crashing 20 foot waves. But they are soft and you just float right through. Keep paddling though - there are still another 100 meters of tablesaw size waves to paddle through before it calms.

Rapid 7 I walked. We all walked. It is one of the major class 5's. At yesterday's level it wasn't too bad, but today it might be worse.



**Just a portion of Victoria Falls - the largest falls in the world - on Africa's Zambezi River. Photo by Mike Farrell.**

On the river right side is Patella's Gap, two rocks with about 1 foot between them. As the water rises it starts going between these rocks. But if you go there, you get thrown up on the river right rock, and then the wave crashes down onto the rock on your left. I guess it is easy to get sucked into this when the water is high.

On Rapid 8, my instructions were go down the middle. At the bottom is a big hole running left to right. When you hit it, tuck, keep your elbows in and take a big breath. I asked, "So I'm not expected to run this upright?" To which the answer was, "None of us will run it upright."

It is a massive hole, about 15 feet deep. It just flips you and spits you out. Just make sure you have the paddle on the side so you don't get hit in the head with it.

---

# Save 10%-60% off!

On brand name clothing and shoes

The North Face - Patagonia - Royal Robbins - Marmot  
Prana - Chaco - Salomon - Montrail - Olukai - Reef

2006 Jackson Whitewater

Kayaks

20% Off

Roll Classes Offered by Rock/Creek  
DownUnder and Chattanooga Outdoors  
\$5.00 a class for any level paddler.

Tuesday Evenings 6:30-8:00pm  
Located at the UTC Pool



Rock/Creek Down Under

ph. 888.707.6709



ROCKCREEK.COM

---

Rapid 9 is another walker. It is another of the major class 5's. Everyone walked again. It is run quite a bit, but right now it is at a tweener level. The low water lines are closed and the high water lines are not open yet. It is maybe one of the nastiest rapids I've ever seen. It filled me with the same feeling that seeing Corkscrew for the first time did, only worse.

And then the shuttle ride out, about 45 minutes to an hour of 4 wheel driving through little villages. I was so glad I wasn't driving and I had a cold beer.

So that is the summary. I still have permagrins. This was/is amazing. For the most part it is as claimed - very safe. You WILL flip. A dry hair day on the Zambezi is not going to happen. Just roll up and ride the wave out.

There are some major holes that will give you a trashing, but few are terminal. Actually, the eddies are worse than the holes. Many of them are impossible to get out of.

Unfortunately, I can't really describe the size, speed and intensity of this river. It is amazing. No pictures because I didn't have my camera case with me, so sorry.

You all have to come over and paddle this river. It makes the Dries and the Gauley seem like child's play. The biggest water I've ever seen.

*Editor's Note: The Zambezi River, in southeastern Africa, forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.* ✂

## Costa Rica Class 4 Trip

by Rob Strangia (AWC)

All aspects of this trip exceeded my expectations. The quality of the whitewater was incredible, the scenery was awesome, the local people were great, we had a great group of skilled paddlers and the NOC did an OUTSTANDING job with all aspects of this trip.

We stayed in some incredible places, including a Jungle Lodge on the Rio Sarapiquí and an awesome river side camp on the Rio Pacaure. We ate great, the trip was well organized and the guides were awesome. I definitely plan on doing my next international kayaking destination trip (Chile?) via the NOC.

Joining me was Jeff Wood from Atlanta and Craig Davis from Asheville. The rest of our group included boaters from California, Florida and Chile. Our guides were Chris Port, Anne Sontheimer and Jon Clark of the NOC.

I represented the AWC well: no swims! I also got the award for the best hole escape after dropping into a monstrous hole on the Rio Reventazon.

Highlights of the trip included a night swim in the Volcanic Hot Springs of the Arenal Volcano, spending the night at a camp on the Rio Pacaure and watching a nighttime volcanic

*continued on following page*

eruption! Since I had to pay full attention to the rapids, I don't have too many pictures of the bigger rapids but there are some great ones of the river scenery.

Below are some brief descriptions of the rivers that we ran. More photos can be accessed at <http://www.dropshots.com/costarica2006>

### Rio Balsa

Continuous Creeky Class 3+/3-4 boogie water. Nothing technical, just 6 miles of non-stop fun. It was very similar to Citico (minus Pigs-n-Space) or the Upper Conasauga. It also had some great play. Definitely a great warm up run.

### Rio Sarapiquí

The upper 3 miles consisted of non-stop Class 4 boulder garden style drops. Kinda like running a non-stop Jared's Knee. No too hard, so long as you had good boat control while doing a "Blue Angels style" decent. The lower 4 miles leveled off to more drop/pool style Class 3-4 level rapids.

### Rio Toro

This was a 14 mile marathon of almost solid Class 4 Five Falls style rapids. It was drop/pool, but many of the rapids were quite long and the pools were very brief. Imagine 14 miles of Five Falls. This river easily had over 30 solid Class 4 rapids on it and probably at least that many Class 3-4 rapids. I have never been so exhausted after a day of paddling.

### Rio Reventazon



Above: Rio Pacaure, a beautiful river running through virgin rainforest. Below: One of the rock gardens on beautiful Rio Pejibaye. Photos by Rob Strangia.



This was a Big Water river. Reventazon means "exploding waves." The upper 3 miles were comparable to the Upper Gauley at 6000 cfs. This scared me enough to opt for the lower put-in, especially after the previous day's Class 4 marathon. Jeff Wood ran the upper, but not without a beatdown.

The lower four miles were big water Class 3-4 fun. There is nothing to really compare it to in the east, but it was similar to the Lochsa River in Idaho with high water. It had large exploding waves and some nasty holes. Not technical, but one heck of a rollercoaster ride!

### Rio Pejibaye

This was one of the prettiest runs that we did. Crystal clear aqua blue water and awesome scenery. The top 2 miles consisted of blind Class 4 creeky boulder garden style drops. The river then mellowed out to Class 3+ drop/pool.

### Rio Pacaure

One of the most beautiful rivers in the tropics and one of the great whitewater rivers of the world. We were fortunate to have a really good rain the night before and the river was at an awesome level.

This was a big water Class 3-4 run through virgin rainforest and remote gorges. The rapids were similar in style to the Lower Gauley, but without all the flat water. It had four honest pushy Class 4's and dozens of big water Class 3+ rapids and holes.

## Upper Tallulah (Coleman River Section)

by Allen Pogue

The rain didn't arrive that Friday until dark-a.m., so we knew we were taking a chance at not having enough water to go creeking. The original plan was to go to Fires Creek in far Western North Carolina, but when we arrived Steve Smyth's tree root gauge didn't look high enough. It was running, but

Steve assured us it would not be a fun level.

So instead, Brian Swafford, Steve and I headed over to the Upper Tallulah River to paddle the Class 2-3 section that starts at the confluence of the Coleman River and ends at a bridge, probably on Cat Gap Road where there is a tiny pull-off next to someone's driveway adjoining USFS property. The level was definitely good, and after winding our way into National Forest property a ways we were able to scout most of the Class 2-3 stuff roadside.



# Costa Rica Rios



8 & 13 Days All Inclusive Whitewater Canoe Trips  
CostaRicaRios.com

## Week of Rivers

Call For a Free DVD Video: 888 434-0776

We actually decided to launch a bit upstream of the junction with the Coleman River confluence because it is no more difficult and gives you a bit of time to warm up before you hit the lone Class 3 on the run. We started off well, but it was a bit continuous and there was some wood. I was a little nervous as usual because it was a new run to me.

We dodged rocks and found the tongues through some easy stuff until we suddenly came up on the Class 3. It's a gorgeous little rapid. Nearly all the water in the river channels over to river left and goes over two separate drops that drop maybe 4 to 6 feet over 25 feet of distance. The river left bank is a shear rock wall and river right harbors two dump-truck sized boulders separated by a dynamic eddy. The second drop is split by a big nasty rock that was just slightly submerged, with a pretty good hole on the other side.

We had scouted the drop from the road on the drive up, and had decided to take the line down the left side, right next to the rock wall, avoiding a small wave hole on the first drop and charging hard left to slide past the submerged boulder in the second drop. Steve went first and styled it. Brian peeled out next because I didn't quite have my mojo up at first and he did fine.

I finally peeled out high and paddled into the rapid. There are a couple of dynamic eddy lines that form toilet-bowl like whirlpools. I hit one with the stern of my H3 and had to turn a

power stroke into a brace to keep from flipping. Fortunately this wasn't much of a problem. I easily paddled into the left line to avoid the bad-looking rock in the middle of the second drop.

We were all stoked and smiling at the bottom of the drop. If the banks hadn't been so steep, we might've walked back up and run it a second time. Next time I'm there, I'm going to catch the large dynamic eddy between the two gigantic boulders on the right and go to the right of the rock in the bottom drop. It's a picturesque pool-and-drop, boulders-and-bedrock drop and is a lot of fun to run.

After the Class 3, we continued on downstream to hit a few more technical Class 2 and 2+ type rapids. There is one drop that is a river-wide stopper hole . . . and I do mean river-wide. The hole goes from one bank to the other and I don't think you'd escape if you didn't paddle hard and keep your boat pointed straight downstream. If you remember what the hole at the Quarry Rapid on the Nanty used to be like before Hurricane Ivan, then this hole is similar in size but was probably more retentive and could not be escaped either right or left. Paddle hard downstream! I boofed the hole and Brian and Steve punched it, but everybody had some speed up.

After a few more easy drops we came up on the last decent rapid. It's a messy Class 2+ ledge that doesn't have a clean line through it. Almost all of the current drives into a rock

*continued on following page*

shelf on river right at the bottom, too. Somebody got turned sideways and windowshaded in there and got a cold swim. He said something about hitting rocks while trying to set up for his roll. Good thing he was wearing his bibs instead of the usual board shorts or it would've been a cold swim indeed!

After this, the river moves out of the Forest Service property and turns into a long Class 1 and 1+ paddle. We were disappointed with the abundance of houses, cow pastures, and rusted cars in the riverbed. What had started off as a good forested run in the National Forest ended up with miles of flatwater through back yards.

After we headed back to the put-in to retrieve Steve's

truck, we decided to drive upstream and see what we could see. We quickly determined that we should've launched another quarter of a mile upstream at the takeout for the Upper Gnarly section and probably should've take out just below the Class 2+ ledge where the swimming occurred. This probably only makes for a mile or mile and a half of Class 2-3, but maybe you could run it twice.

Side note: The Upper Gnarly section of the Tallulah is incredible. I couldn't believe there were so many hairboaters up there running it and nobody even died. It is a true Class 5, boulder-choked stretch of giant undercut rocks, logjams and sinister sieves. I don't think I'll ever be running that. ✂

## Upper Nantahala

by Chuck Spornick

On New Year's Day, Amy Kinkennon, Matt Crawford, Janet Chisholm, Gretchen Mallins and Chuck Spornick ran the Upper Nantahala. The level was at 320 cfs, just below the projected release volume of 350 cfs for the seven planned releases later this year.

### Cascades

We did not set out to run the Upper Nantahala that morning. Instead, we were setting up shuttle for a high level run of the Nanty. The torrential rains had come on Sunday

night, with the cold front moving through overnight. On Monday it was clear and cool, with high temperatures edging into the high 40's.

After setting shuttle we wanted to drive up Wayah Road (SR 1310) to look at the Cascades. We stopped to look at Chinese Feet and the Horns of God. As we drove up, Gretchen suggested that we give the Upper Nantahala a try. Matthew seconded her, and the rest of us said we were in.

None of us had run the river, so we knew that we had to work well as a group, working down the river eddy by eddy to boat scout or land scout the drop ahead. Matthew volunteered to take the lead, with the group putting Chuck as sweep.

### Upper Nantahala - First Mile

We put in at the fifth bridge crossing of S.R. 1310 (working from west to east) over the Nantahala. The path down was steep and required that we pass the boats down one by one. It was a technique that we would have plenty of experience with by the end of the day with our three portages.

The river is very creek-like, being narrow, very technical and continuous. The average gradient for the 3.2 mile run is 100 feet per mile. It was a day much better suited for draw strokes than forward strokes. Within a tenth of a mile, there is the first serious rapid. From here to the next bridge, approximately one mile, there is a series of 4-5 full-on Class 3 rapids.

None of the rapids have been named, but I will briefly mention three in this section. The first was "Z Drop," the third rapid downstream, which involved negotiating a series of diagonal ledges with folding currents. In one of the ledges, Janet hit a rock and went down, but had a beautiful roll.

After the bottom ledge there is a substantial hole, which ate my Diesel. I did have a nice roll.

About two tenths of a mile below, after several other rapids and a short pool, is another significant Class 3 which I will dub "Camp Branch." About halfway down the rapid is a stunning waterfall on the right, Camp Branch Falls, where the small creek tumbles down the Nantahala Gorge. This rapid involves threading two offset rocks and then busting through

TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **15%** off previously marked down merchandise with this Ad.

**PEARL IZUMI FACTORY STORE**  
Dawsonville, GA  
Chestatee Plaza (Off Route 400)  
355 Quill Street - Suite 110  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
Ph: 706.265.6929  
Email: dawsonville@nautilus.com

Outside World Complex - 1/10 Mile South of North Georgia Premium Outlets



Located in Murphy NC we are only minutes from the Ocoee and Nantahala rivers. We offer a wide range of properties including cabins, homes, lots, and large tracts of land. Whether you are looking for a second home, investment property, or to relocate, give me a call and together we'll find your mountain getaway.

## Call Brad Waggoner

Associate Broker

**McNabb Properties**

[www.mcnabbproperties.com](http://www.mcnabbproperties.com)

3000 Highway 64 West, Murphy NC 28906

828-837-6611 or 828-361-1038 email [bwaggoner@webworkz.com](mailto:bwaggoner@webworkz.com)

---

a good size hole at the bottom. Everyone had a clean run.

The last major rapid before the bridge is a funnel that feeds into what looks like and is a munchy hole. Above this rapid was a river-wide strainer that forced a portage. Given the size of the hole, we opted not to put in before the "Bridge Rapid." Just below the bridge was a path that gently sloped down to a large river left eddy. There we put on for the next leg of our journey.

### **Pierce Creek Section**

From the river left eddy we worked to river center to run "Double Drop," a large rapid with two distinct ledges and two river left holes. At the bottom of the second drop is a large and long undercut rock along the left bank. Most of the current through the rapid works from the center to the right. Everyone had a clean run.

After the river made a bend to the left and to the northwest, we encountered another strainer forcing a portage on the road to river right. Soon we were back on the river, working down a series of Class 2+ steep shoals.

One on of the drops, I landed on a rock, pointing upward and downstream at an angle. My stern was in the current, with the current from the drop hitting close to the back of my PFD. Calmly, I waited to see if the slide was going to continue to the back: if so, I had a hand on the grab loop, ready to punch out. The slide stopped, so I was going to try to extract myself.

Using the paddle with both hands I was able to push the boat up the ledge and then pull myself over the ledge with my hands. Whew!

Soon we passed Pierce Creek on river left. From here the Nantahala widened and picked up some volume. The river then banked to the right as we approached a horseshoe bend. Before the bend we came upon our third and last strainer. After a long walk on the road we worked down a path to a large river right eddy, where we put in.

As the bend ended and the river turned to the right, we paddled underneath the third bridge crossing. Soon, as we looked to the right, we could see the penstock for the power substation coming down from Rattlesnake Knob.

After the second bridge crossing the river banks to the right and then, in a few hundred feet, the river passes under the first bridge crossing. There are no major rapids in this section, but the current continues to be fast and very technical.

### **Substation Section**

Immediately to the left is the power substation, a stately two story brick building constructed during the Second World War. The rapids continue as the river banks to the left. Soon on the left the river passes the commercial put-in for the main stem of the Nantahala. We continued down the river, joined

*continued on following page*

by the release water, to the private put-in above Patton's Run. There Chuck ended his day (a good day indeed).

The rest of the group bombed down to Ferebee, where Gretchen took out and Don Robertson put in. Don and his friend Jeff were kind enough to shadow us on our run of the

Upper. They also shuttled me back to my car at the put-in for the Upper. Thanks!!!

Don had a great run to Surfers, and Janet, Amy and Matthew continued downstream to the Falls. There Gretchen and I met them to shuttle them back to their cars. ✂

## Beyond Party Rock (Toccoa River)

by Rick Bellows

People familiar with the Toccoa River know it has two sections, an upper section from Deep Hole to Dial Road or Sandy Bottom and a lower section from Dial Road or Sandy Bottom to Party Rock (a/k/a Takeout Rock or just Aska Road). Some have ventured a short distance past Party Rock to run the rapids that can be seen from the usual takeout.

Not many, however, have paddled far past Party Rock, with good reason. The water soon flattens and stills as the river is subsumed into Lake Blue Ridge, and a pleasant whitewater paddle becomes a tedious flatwater slog. Most of the time.

In mid-winter, though, the TVA draws down the lake by up to 20 feet. That allows part of the section downstream of Party Rock to be more like its natural state with rock gardens, drops and whitewater.

"Professor Rob" Butera, whose in-laws live at least part-time right near the river, has run the section below Party Rock several times, including a trip with Shari Heinz, Ira Ferguson and me at the very end of 2006. Rob has also put a good bit of information about the section below Party Rock - including put-in and take-out information, on the AW website at [www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/4320](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/4320).

As Rob suggests on the website, we started by leaving the vehicles at the intersection of Shallowford Road and Old Dial Road and walking the easy half mile or so to Sandy Bottom. Some ambitious members of the group carried their boats the half mile while those of us who are lazier dropped out boats at Sandy Bottom and did the walk with empty hands. Being really lazy, I stayed at Sandy Bottom to guard the boats and avoided walking at all.

The section from Sandy Bottom to Party Rock is well known to paddlers, so I won't comment much on it. The water

level was low, but not so low as to be really scrapy, the temperature was about 50 and we had intermittent drizzle and light rain. There was one bit of bad news on this section: the breakfast place across Aska Road from the steel bridge is closed, replaced by a new convenience store/pizza place next door.

None of us had a camera with us, but a couple of very nice women from Mississippi vacationing in the area took some pictures of us at Party Rock. Shari, running the rapid for the first time in her 15 foot canoe, got a little too far left and had a chilly swim, but the rest of us managed to stay upright. The picture is of Shari's canoe just beginning to tip.

Just below Party Rock, Aska Road curves away from the river. The right bank, apparently National Forest property, remains wooded while the left bank remains a succession of large new homes, many with the requisite "No Trespassing"

signs, replacing older small ones along Flat Creek Road.

Much of the section consists of pleasant, mildly technical rock gardens. Rob has named the most significant rapid BFH, after the fairly new residence on river left. (Big is for big, H is for house, and you can fill in your own adjective for the F.) We ran BFH near the left bank, right in front of the H. It consisted of a double drop of about 3 feet each followed by a very nice wave train.

After BFH, the river turns right and enters the area normally subsumed by the lake. Long, sloping banks on each side consist of dark

mud interspersed with very light rocks of all sizes. They look like pieces of Styrofoam broken off from docks, but Ira and Rob said they were impure quartz. The effect is kind of eerie. Rob captured it when he said it was like something from a post-apocalypse movie.

The trip ended just before Tilly Bend, where the river makes a nearly hairpin turn to the left. The takeout is "marked" by a large bed area of usually-submerged rocks on the right



Shari Heinz just before her swim on her first ever run of Paddle Rock. Photo by Leigh Hanna.

Editor's Note: Bill Crawford is Business Manager of Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

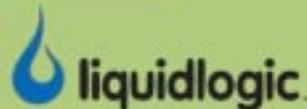


678-450-9455

1210 Thompson Br. Rd NE  
Gainesville, GA

www.GoOverflow.com

25% off  
Paddling clothes  
for GCA members  
(Feb 1st-28th, 2007)



bank. The first houses on river right are easily visible just downstream from the takeout.

The walk back to the vehicles, while not terribly long or steep, was the most challenging part of the day. It started with carrying the boats about 150 feet up the slippery mud slope from the water to an ATV trail. The trail is about .4 mile long and ended right at the parked vehicles. The ATV trail is strewn with pine straw that, except for a few rocks and muddy areas, allows the option of dragging boats rather than carrying them.

One advantage of this section is that it allows a reason-

able one-vehicle self shuttle. An easy half mile road walk and a challenging but doable .4 mile takeout hike is rewarded with a paddle of 6.5-7 miles, a pleasant river and good scenery on a section few ever paddle.

One other note for future reference: Rob has learned the TVA plans to draw down the lake by 85 feet in 2009 for maintenance work on Blue Ridge Dam. That's got to be bad news for the people who paid a fortune to live on Lake Blue Ridge, but could provide a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Toccoa paddlers. ✂

## Letters to the Editor

Rick,

As an employee of UCR and co-founder of the GCA, I can assure you that Sally Bethea and her staff are pro-paddler. UCR has worked with many paddling groups as well as environmental organizations.

As Director of High Meadows Camp during the seventies, eighties and early nineties, I used the Riverside access weekly during the summer months. We never experienced any difficulty with the neighbors because we respected their privacy.

Hopefully, this access will again be made available for launch with parking away from the river and the homes.

Bill Crawford ✂

To: Eddy Line Readers

Salley Bethea, director of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR) attended our GCA Board meeting on December 7, 2006 to explain her position on the closing of the access point at Old Riverside Road (ORD) in Roswell. Ms. Bethea gave a rebuttal to an editorial in the December *Eddy Line*. You may read her response in the January *Eddy Line*.

Ms. Bethea stated that she is not opposed to the ORD access by paddlers and anglers and that the GCA and UCR have many common goals and hopes our organizations can work together. The GCA Board asked that I represent the GCA and meet with Ms. Bethea to pursue these goals, one of which is to keep ORD as a public access point to the

*continued on following page*

---

Chattahoochee for paddlers.

I will keep you informed of our progress and of any public meetings scheduled. It is very important that the paddling community attend these meetings to protect our paddling interest. I can be reached at 770-939-5087 and e-mail [lamarph@bellsouth.net](mailto:lamarph@bellsouth.net).

Lamar Phillips



---

## Editorial

### Give and Take

by Rick Bellows

If you subscribe to the GCA groupmail, you know Richard Grove's response in the January *Eddy Line* to an editorial in a prior issue generated a lot of email traffic. Some 30 people posted emails over five days, taking a variety of positions. They also took a variety of attitudes — supportive of one position or another, contrary to a position, humorous, challenging, combative and, in a couple of instances, maybe even a little mean.

Towards the end of the thread, some of the emailers expressed concern that others were disagreeing about the issues that arose from Mr. Grove's letter, sometimes in less than pleasant tones. They suggested, in essence that posters should avoid disagreements and be nice to each other.

I respectfully disagree. I think GCA — or most any organization — benefits from a free and open exchange of ideas and opinions, even when expressed strongly.

To a large extent, GCA functions as a social organization built around a social activity, paddling. When the organization or its members get "political," it's often about an issue on which we generally agree. I haven't seen much opposition, for example, to GCA positions in favor of reopening the Chattooga headwaters to boating or reopening the closed access to the Chattahoochee at Old Riverside Road in Roswell.

As a result, the vast majority of posts on the GCA groupmail are not "political" and don't argue one side or the

other of some issue. When a thread of posts does, like the thread generated by Mr. Grove's letter did, it tends to be noticed. It also tends to make some people uncomfortable.

But it shouldn't. That kind of exchange hopefully has the effect of causing people — whether they post or just read along — to consider the issue under discussion from other perspectives. I know the thread resulting from Mr. Grove's article made me think — really think, not just reiterate a pre-existing opinion — about issues of river safety versus personal freedom.

As for snide comments and personal attacks, the emails last month were pretty tame compared to what I see every day on other paddling-related groupmails. On one in particular, it's not unusual for me to get 30 or 40 emails per day on an "issue," most of which consist of name calling and threats to quit the group, or at least the groupmail.

I know Allen Hedden exercises some level of control over what does and does not get posted on the GCA groupmail, though I don't know the details. Maybe that's why we tend to be nice to each other. Or maybe it's just a Georgia paddler thing: the Atlanta Whitewater Club groupmail is wide open and it tends to be pretty polite as well.

I, for one, thank Mr. Grove for his response to the editorial, and Sally Bethea for her response on a different issue. I also thank those who wrote letters to the editor and those who posted on the groupmail about either issue. I hope important issues will get the same attention in the future.

It's good for us to look out our mental windows, learn the opinions of others, and reconsider our own opinions. It's also good to prod others to do the same. The alternative is to just look in the mirror - you may like the view, but you won't learn much.

*If you disagree with the editorial above, or would like to express an opinion about anything in the newsletter, please send an editorial or letter the editor to P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA, 30503-0441 or to the\_ eddyline @yahoo.com*

---

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Non-business ads are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business and non-member ads are \$5 for up to 50 words, \$10 for larger. **Ads must be received by the fifth of the month to be published in the following month's issue.** Mail ads to *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441 or email to [the\\_eddyline@yahoo.com](mailto:the_eddyline@yahoo.com). Please, no phone-in or hand-written ads. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

**For Sale:** Pyranha M3-233; creek boat/river runner, green with blue swirls, good condition; \$500. Pyranha Burn; river runner/creek boat, yellow, good condition. Call Jim at 770.587.1172 or email [jls1001@gmail.com](mailto:jls1001@gmail.com).

**For Sale:** Canoe, Old Town Discovery 158; green, flat bottom, very good condition; \$400. Contact Patricia Young at 678.625.7911.

**Wanted:** Tandem whitewater boat; Dagger Caption or something similar. Call Mark Albitz at 404.966.4620.

**For Sale:** Mad River Outrage X; 13 feet, burgundy, fully and well outfitted, excellent condition. Great for beginner to expert. \$850. Call Alan Mallory, Gainesville, at 770.534.5857.

## The Results Are In

by Chris Hipgrave, USA Canoe/Kayak

On the first weekend of December 2006, USA Wildwater was privileged to be able to hold the first wildwater sprint race at the US National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, NC. The race allowed juniors to spend the weekend training and racing alongside veterans. It also allowed organizers from the 2007 Junior Worlds to see how their race might work next year.

The Wilderness Channel at the USNWC basically comes at you in two halves. The first half is pool/drop with defined ledges and holes and confused water on the run out. After the two split channels re-join, the water picks up energy, producing large waves and a single substantial drop before plummeting through M Wave, the largest and most technically challenging drop. M Wave and its wave train run out take you to the finish line.

It's no mystery why the USA Slalom Team has centralized here. The water moves very differently than on a natural river. The features tend to be large in size but soft in strength, while the eddy lines are ferocious. The entire channel seems to build and surge. These are common features to all artificial whitewater courses.

The main lesson for any competitive paddler hoping to do well on this or any man-made course is to practice at the venue whenever possible to learn the rhythm. Learn from the results of this race. The top three paddlers are also the three paddlers with the most experi-

ence on this course.

The fastest run of the day was 113 seconds by Pablo McCandless, an employee of USNWC who trains daily at the venue in a wildwater boat. The fastest combined time for two runs was 234 seconds by Chris Hipgrave.

Other winners in the wildwater class were Tierney O'Sullivan, who won the women's wildwater kayak division with a combined time of 328 seconds, and John Pinyerd, who won the wildwater C1 division with a combined time of 275 seconds.

In the slalom divisions, the fastest combined time was 278 seconds turned in by C1 boater David Hepp. The fastest slalom kayak time was 287 seconds by Daniel Stuart and the fastest slalom time by a woman was 312 seconds by kayaker Sarah Harper.

Among junior competitors in the slalom divisions, the fastest time was 314 seconds by kayaker Kate Lewkowicz. The fastest time by a junior man was 322 seconds by kayaker Will Farmer.

For anyone interested in vicariously experiencing the course paddling a wildwater boat, USA Wildwater has created a movie. It can be accessed at [www.usawildwater.com/Photos/061205\\_USNWC.mov](http://www.usawildwater.com/Photos/061205_USNWC.mov). Be warned, though, that the file is almost 7 mb. Additional photos are also available at [www.usawildwater.com/Photos/usnwc\\_2006\\_sprint.htm](http://www.usawildwater.com/Photos/usnwc_2006_sprint.htm).



Above: GCA member John Pinyerd won the wildwater C1 division. Below: Chris Hipgrave had the fastest combined time. Photo by Maggie Collins.





DAWSONVILLE, GA

**Spring is almost Here!!!**

Come in and pick out your new boat for 2007  
New demos include Habitat, Ammo, Agent, Ronin,  
Torrent and Others - Only \$40/day

Come check out our Winter clearance **February 3-12**

All winter clothes, hats, gloves from The North Face,  
Patagonia, Mountain Hardware and others are

**20-70%** off MSRP



The Outside World 471 Quill Drive, Dawsonville, GA 30534  
706-265-4500 or 1-866-375-BOAT  
WWW.THEOUTSIDEWORLD.NET