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THE EDDY LINE

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www.georgiacanoe.org

November 2007

The Great Eddy Line Masthead Contest "Background Boats" Wins Big

by Rick Bellows

In the end, it wasn't even close. The "Background Boats" design for the masthead of *The Eddy Line* won an overwhelming victory in The Great Eddy Line Masthead Contest.

52 members participated in the contest: 37 voted for the "Background Boats" masthead, 8 for the "Crossed Paddles" masthead and 4 for the "Traditional" masthead. The remaining 3 participants were "others:" one voted for a former masthead (see page 8), one vote was ambiguous and therefore not counted and one voter said he didn't care about the masthead and "didn't even look at them." One non-member submitted a suggestion: "don't sweat the small stuff."

Now that the winning masthead has been chosen, the artist can be identified without fear of influencing the results. He is David Finney of Jasper, a fairly new member of GCA and a professional graphic artist. Thank you, David.

Hopefully, the masthead contest has gotten some folks' graphic design juices flowing because *The Eddy Line* could use some other graphics expertise. We'd love to have some spiffy new graphics for the various "departments" of the newsletter: Access, Announcements, Conservation, Letters to the Editor, Meeting Minutes, New Members, Racing, Safety and Trip Reports.

If someone is really, really inspired, he or she could even try to come up with a logo to replace the "River Tales" toad on the front page. That will be a harder sell, however, because the Editor likes the toad. (A colorized version for the electronic *Eddy Line* would be nice, though.)

Graphics need to be fairly small and colorful but comprehensible in grayscale and should incorporate the name of the "department." No voting this time - the decision of the dictatorial Editor is final.

Take the GCA Member Survey

Provide your input to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee in an easy online survey.

Details on page 5.

Fall Meeting and Election of Officers

Sunday, November 4, Azalea Park, Roswell Paddle, pizza, gear swap! (Election at 4:30)

See page 13 for details



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Happy Thanksgiving



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 404.579.3166.

For information on GCA Clinics:

Call the coordinator listed on the clinic schedule or Training

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 or contact an Editor:

Email the_ eddyline@yahoo.com, mail *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441 or call Rick Bellows, 678.617.2546.

For information on commercial or classified ads:

Contact Advertising Manager Rick Bellows at 678.617.2546 or by email at the_ eddyline@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. ✂

GCA Executive Committee

President	Vincent Payne
Vice President	Tom Bishop
Secretary	Jamie Higgins
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Kate Wilkerson
Recreation Chair	Joe Webb
Resource Development Chair	William Gatling
River Protection Chair	VACANT
Training Chair	Gina Johnson

Board, Executive Committee Meetings

GCA Board of Directors meetings are generally held the first Thursday of March, June, September and December.

GCA Executive Committee meetings are generally held the first Thursday of January, February, April, May, July, August, October and November. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at Page Perry LLC, 1040 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 1050, Atlanta, 30338. (I-285 to Ashford Dunwoody NE, left onto Perimeter Center West, right onto Crown Pointe Parkway, park at 1050 and walk to 1040.) All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, call Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263 to be added to the agenda. Attending meetings is a great way to become more involved in the GCA and ensure transparency in decisions and actions. ✂

Submitting Eddy Line Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication is the fifth of the prior 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. Letters to the Editor are also encouraged. **Submissions should be typed, single spaced and not indented: if possible, please prepare articles in "plain text" rather than in a word processing format.** Material may be submitted to the_ 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 two issues, but will be rerun at the advertisers request. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Editor **Rick Bellows, 678.617.2546** or the_ eddyline@yahoo.com if you have questions. Thank you.. ✂

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UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

October

25-28 Blackwater River, etc. (Note 1) Flat Water Lamar Phillips 770.939.5087

November

4 Metro Chattahoochee (Note 2) Class 1 Beginner Lamar Phillips 770.939.5087

10-11 Congaree Swamp (Note 3) Flat Water Roger Nott 770.536.6223

16-18 Carter's Lake (Note 4) Flat Water Vincent Payne 770.834.8263

17 Chattooga/Nantahala (Note 5) Class 3-4 Advanced Peter Chau 864.885.9477

24 Chattooga/Nantahala (Note 5) Class 3-4 Advanced Peter Chau 864.885.9477

24-25 Altamaha (Note 6) Flat Water - No Training Required Bob Brannen 912.427.7903

25 Chattooga/Nantahala (Note 5) Class 3-4 Advanced Peter Chau 864.885.9477

December

22 Leader's Choice (Note 7) Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Todd McGinnis 770.856.4489

February

15-18 Presidents' Weekend (Note 8) Flat Water Gina Johnson 404-512-0832

Note 1: Florida car camping; Blackwater River, Coldwater Creek, Turkey Creek, Shoal Creek.

Note 2: Island Ford to Azalea Park for Fall Meeting; New folks especially welcome.

Note 3: Camping; Congaree Swamp National Park, Cedar Creek and Congaree River near Columbia, SC.

Note 4: Friday and Saturday, boat-in camping.

Note 5: Either Chattooga Section 3/3.5 (Advanced) or Nantahala (Intermediate), depending on Chattooga water level.

Note 6: Eason's Bluff Landing to Upper Wayne County Landing; beginners welcome. Details on page 9.

Note 7: Winter Solstice trip - location TBD.

Note 8: Presidents' Weekend trip to Florida; multiple rivers. Details on Page 9.

**Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space —
Call Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 404.579.3166!**

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 for 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 Cruise Master, Steve Reach at 404.579.3166. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flatwater to class 5 whitewater. 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 above the Highway 28 bridge. Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

Roll Practice: Wednesday evenings from 6:00 until dark, May through the end of Daylight Savings Time, at Stone Mountain Park. For more information, look for the announcement in *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
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. Membership applications, GCA waivers and other forms for use by members are also available 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 listserve software. You are responsible for keeping your email address current. Thank you — it makes less work for our all volunteer staff. ✂

GCA Member Survey

by **Jamie Higgins, GCA Secretary**

The thoughts, interests and opinions of the GCA membership are important to the Board and the Executive Committee. In an effort to hear from our members, the GCA Board and Executive Committee have designed a survey using a free internet service, surveymonkey.com.

Many corporations and non-profit organizations use surveymonkey.com, and there is no risk of your email being distributed because it is emailed directly to you or can be accessed directly via the website. It's a very simple process, and the 10 question survey should take only a few minutes to complete.

To take the survey, go to http://surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2nbrjd09dsYIJAWPX9lotQ_3d_3d. (There are no spaces in the link: it's just too long for this two-column format.) This link will lead you to the GCA Member Survey.

Your comments and feedback are important GCA. Please let us know your paddling interests and what we are doing right and wrong. Information from this survey will be used to guide the GCA leadership in the coming months.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call Jamie Higgins at 404.508.0761 or email jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com. ✂

Paddle Florida, Too

Paddle Georgia Announced

Georgia River Network has announced that Paddle Georgia 2008 will take place on the Flint River from Woodbury to Montezuma, Georgia. Dates for Paddle Georgia will be June 21-27. For more information, go to www.garivers.org.

Bill Richards, an alumnus of Paddle Georgia 2007, is spearheading a spinoff, Paddle Florida, on March 20-27. Paddle Florida will cover 123 miles of the scenic Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, beginning at Suwannee Music Park and finishing at Manatee Springs State Park. For more information, go to <http://paddleflorida.org>. ✂



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! ✂

Summer Roll Practice

GCA Summer Roll Practice will be held at Stone Mountain Park at 6:00 p.m. (or earlier) on Wednesday from May through the end of Daylight Savings Time. Roll Practice is free, but participants will need to pay for entry to the park. A season pass is recommended for folks who plan to attend multiple sessions.

To get to roll practice, enter the park from Stone Mountain Freeway (East Entrance) and take the first left. Continue about a mile until the road crosses the dam, then take the first right into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

The boat ramp is very busy with power boats putting in and taking out, so use the ramp area to load and unload only and park away from the ramp. Once in the water, try to stay clear of the ramp for the same reason.

Please note that swimming is prohibited at this location. If you're in the water spotting for someone, be prepared to explain to park officials that you are not "swimming."

Roll practice is an informal arrangement that requires volunteers. If you can help with kayak, canoe or C-1 rolling, your assistance would be appreciated.

Summer roll practice ends at the end of October. No word yet on winter roll practice, but it typically begins in January. ✂



From the President GCA Finances, Dues

by Vincent Payne, GCA President

The GCA is in pretty good shape financially. Our life member fund is solidly maintained and has not been depleted for short term gain. Our River Access Fund provides us with the confidence of readily available funds should quick action be required on a river access issue.

In addition to these specific purpose funds we have the general fund. The general fund also includes a short term investment tool, the Merrill Lynch Fund. These are the funds available to carry on the club's activities. From the general fund we pay for *The Eddy Line*, the Directory, postage, the website, the PO Box, the phone, permits and other operating expenses. For the general fund, we collect funds from the store, from advertising, from events, from training, but mostly from dues.

The Life Member funds are earmarked to support costs of Life Members. Other clubs have failed to maintain the funds for lifers and have had considerable financial woes because of it. I applaud the foresight and discipline of the past leaders who have maintained the integrity of these funds.

If we were to tap these funds for other purposes we could undermine the membership's confidence that buying a lifetime membership means your lifetime rather than the life time of the club. A club with no funding for lifetime members becomes a pyramid scheme, dependent upon recruiting new people to pick up the tab for the existing members. We never want to be there.

The River Access fund was collected for river access

Photo of the Month (Non-Boat)



No, it's not a new luxury paddle craft. It's a tour bus that backed into the Colorado River when its brakes failed. Photo by Megan Seward, courtesy of Scott Leppla.

issues. To use those funds for anything else would be unethical. We can define river access issues broadly and the Board of Directors can entertain any suggested proposal for use.

But for as long as I have been an officer no one has made a proposal to spend any river access funds. We have had some other organizations request funding from us (potentially from the fund). The last distribution was to American Whitewater for the Upper Chattooga challenge to the Forest Service. This was a grant of \$2,000.

When it comes to legal matters these are not deep pockets. But we do have these funds to back our talk with actions should the need arrive.

I think people would likely contribute more to the river access fund if they saw it being put to good use with tangible results. It seems counterintuitive, but I think spending some of the fund could actually cause it to grow. Some one now needs to come up with a bright idea and make a proposal to the Board.

The items above do not address our club's financial woes. The General Fund is quickly becoming depleted. Simply put, we are spending more than we make. The general fund ended 2006 in the 9 to 10 thousand dollar range. Now it is in the 4 to 5 thousand dollar range. At the present rate of depletion, 2008 will require decisive action before we run out of operating funds.

Cost cutting is a stop gap measure and not a solution. It is mathematically impossible to save your way to prosperity. If you want to hang on for another year, cut costs. If you want to prosper, find ways to bring in more money.

We must be forthright as to why we need the money and how we will use it. The club finances must always be transparent and require no additional or convoluted explanations for expenditures.

Because the cost of services has increased to the point that our books are no longer favorably balanced, we need to raise the dues for the first time in fifteen years. We will try some other ways to raise funds, but the bottom line right now says that our present dues structure is no longer sufficient to cover our costs.

It has been nice to avoid a price increase for last fifteen years. Who else can make that claim? The time has come to raise the price. The real question is not should we, but how much? Do we want to make frequent small step changes or do it once again for possibly another fifteen years? A proposal brought before the Board of Directors is to be decided in December with the intent of making the change in 2008. ✈

**Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend.
Inside a dog, it's too dark to read.
Groucho Marx**

Executive Committee Meeting, August 9

In Attendance: Jamie Higgins, Ed Schultz, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Vincent Payne, Kate Wilkerson, Dan McIntyre, Tom Bishop, John Sampson, Allen Hedden, Denise Keller, Revel Freeman, Jay Manalo, Tom Keller, Joe Webb.

Old Business:

GCA board meeting minutes were read and approved unanimously.

New Business:

Treasurers Report: Ed Schultz

July had income because of the success of the training clinics. Ed discussed the trial membership form and the committee agreed to clean the membership form up, but to continue it.

Renewal of membership dues for the Georgia Conservancy is due soon. The Executive Committee voted to renew.

Bundling the mail is getting more difficult. We need to look at cutting the newsletter to reduce costs. Their was a motion to have Kate (Membership Chair) research 1) reducing the number of pages of The Eddy Line and 2) offering incentives get folks off snail mail to limit postage costs.

River Protection Chair: Vincent Payne (Chair is vacant)

GCA is still looking for a new River Protection Chair.

Vincent passed out a letter from Roger Toebben regarding Stone Mountain Lake.

Jamie discussed participating in the upcoming Georgia State Water Resources Statewide Advisory Committee meeting with the Georgia Water Council. Dan discussed the issue of off-stream reservoirs and the plan.

The Executive Committee voted to send a letter to the Stone Mountain Heritage Association regarding expanding access times to Stone Mountain Lake.

Training Chair: Revel Freeman for Gina Johnson

Revel would like to look at other alternatives to the ACA insurance for winter roll practice. The ACA insurance is expensive and he wanted the board to look at other insurance options. Jamie offered to email him the USCA website for him to investigate using their insurance, which is cheaper than ACA's insurance.

Membership Services Chair: Kate Wilkerson

Kate updated the membership application to include members' interest and craft paddled. There was much discussion regarding the current database used to track membership dues. Kate will work with Allen and Ed to look at options for integrating the updated membership application with the database.

Recreation Chair: Denise Keller

There are about 20 women signed up for the upcoming

Chick Paddle weekend.

Denise will send an email out soon with the details for the upcoming Fall Gala.

Resource Development Chair: William Gatling

William will lead a paddling event on September 15 to recruit new members to the club. He will open up a paddling event to non-members and he plans to advertise it in local papers. He plans to paddle the Hooch just below Buford Dam.

GRES: William discussed the dates for next year's GRES series. He is considering changing the price structure to encourage more family participation. Kate volunteered to help William with gifts (SWAG) for explorer series participants.

Georgia Paddling Trails Chair: Lamar Phillips

Lamar is to still meet with the Columbus folks about establishing a paddling trail. He would like to see how things go with the Etowah Task Force and the meeting with the Roswell Mayor.

Vincent is meeting this month with the Mayor of Roswell regarding establishing a paddling trail on the Hooch in the vicinity of Roswell.

Dan is meeting this month with the Etowah River Canoe Trail task force regarding establishing a canoe trail. He will be giving a presentation to reassure the task force that most legal issues can be overcome.

Miscellaneous Business:

Jamie discussed the online survey she developed through www.surveymonkey.com. The Executive Committee voted to email the survey website to all members receiving The Eddy Line via email. Jamie will write an article for The Eddy Line and include the survey website so people not receiving The Eddy Line via email will have an opportunity to complete the survey.

Vincent nominated and the Executive Committee approved having Joe Webb replace Denise Keller as Recreation Chair.

Vincent nominated and the Executive Committee approved having John Hampton serve on the Board as a member at large.

The meeting was adjourned. 

Executive Committee and Board Meeting, September 6

In Attendance: Jamie Higgins, Ed Schultz, Matthew Crawford, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Vincent Payne, Kate Wilkerson, Dan McIntyre, Allen Hedden, Denise Keller, Jay Manalo, Gina Johnson, Haynes Johnson, Joe Webb

continued on following page

Old Business:

GCA Board meeting minutes were read and approved unanimously.

New Business:

Treasurers Report: Ed Schultz

Receipts included interest on CD. Had an additional \$40 for insurance of GRES. Had a negative net increase of \$900.

We continue to lose money and it is estimated that we will no longer have any liquid funds by next year. We have more expenditures than money coming in.

River Protection Chair: Haynes Johnson

Haynes offered to be the River Protection Chair.

Vincent received an email from Don Kinser regarding saving Wilson Creek near Boone, NC.

GCA wrote a letter to Stone Mountain Lake regarding extending access hours and GCA was offered to give a presentation.

Training Chair: Gina Johnson

Louie is doing a Nanty Falls training. He is taking students to the river wide wave above Surfing. They are looking at doing an open boat intermediate class on the Nanty and Marvine will look at doing stuff on the Falls. Gina is also going to offer a moving water canoe course. There was discussion about instructional versus event insurance. There were also discussions about GCA offsetting some of the cost of instructor certification training. Gina will look into developing a cadre of instructors and possibly offsetting some of their certification cost as a means to recruit GCA instructors.

Membership Services Chair: Kate Wilkerson

Kate is working with Betty Rose to develop a new GCA t-shirt. She is making the new t-shirts in time to sell at the Fall Gala.

There was a lot of discussion about possibly raising the membership dues. The club is increasingly losing money.

There is \$35,000 in the access fund, but that fund is dedicated solely to access issues because members gave money to the fund for the sole purpose of access issues. Kate will research the membership cost and report back to the executive committee.

Recreation Chair: Denise Keller (absent)

Joe talked about having a swap meet and a band at next year's Spring Extravaganza.

Resource Development Chair: William Gatling (absent)

No new news.

Georgia Paddling Trails Chair: Lamar Phillips

Lamar and Vincent met with the Mayor of Roswell recently. The Mayor wants GCA to really organize the trail development.

Dan went to the Etowah River Canoe Trail Task Force meeting and feels like they got them comfortable with being able to declare a trail. The Task Force felt like they needed to do public relations work with landowners and the citizens.

Miscellaneous Business:

Haynes was talking about GA DNR looking for volunteers to help give instructions at Unicoi State Park on September 22.

The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned.

Board of Directors Meeting:

Vincent proposed to amend the by-laws to have the VP rather than the Secretary act as the parliamentarian. Dan moved that we strike "and serve as Parliamentarian at all Board and membership meetings" from Article V, Section 7 of the by-laws. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board voted unanimously to put the by-laws on the website.

Dan moved and immediately tabled to raise the dues by \$10 by January, 2008. ✂



The
EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

Prior *Eddy Line* Masthead

One of the "votes" in the Great *Eddy Line* Masthead Contest was for the older masthead above. Denise Colquitt and GCA Historian Roger Nott were kind enough to provide some history of the former masthead.

The masthead was designed by artist and 1982 Publicity Chairman Gene Wilkes, who later drowned while kayaking the Arkansas River.

At that time, most GCA members paddled solo, in open or decked boats, and the design shows an intentionally outdated tandem canoe with high, rounded

ends, outdated even in 1982. The design was intended to reflect the historical roots of the club.

The complexity of the Wilkes masthead and the technology of the day made reproducing it prohibitively expensive. The masthead design was ultimately replaced with the simplified "Traditional" masthead to minimize that expense. ✂

Altamaha River, November 24-25

by Bob Brannen

This will be a two-day, one-night canoe camping trip especially for true "beginners" to the sport, though others are certainly welcome. Local outfitters are available for boat rental, and those who can't paddle both days are welcome whichever day they can make.

Day 1 will start at Eason's Bluff Landing. Registration will be from 8:00-9:00, shuttle from 9:00-10:00. Day 1 will be 10 miles, Eason's Bluff Landing to Carter's Bight Landing.

Carter's Bight Landing has a pavilion and restrooms. For those who want more privacy, more primitive camping is available on a large sandbar across the river.

Dinner Saturday night will consist of smoked ribs, Brunswick stew, beans, cole slaw, roll, cake and sweet tea. The cook will be Larry Brantley, winner of the National Brunswick Stew Competition last year. Smoked chicken can be available for those who request it. Dinner is \$15 per person. If you plan to join us for dinner, please RSVP to Bob Brannen, 912.427.7903 or bobbrannen@yahoo.com.

Those who choose not to join us for dinner are still welcome to come and socialize by the campfire. We hope to have representatives of the Altamaha River Partnership and local Boards of Tourism to join us for a powwow.

Day 2 will be 12 miles, Carter's Bight Landing to Upper Wayne County Landing. Once again, registration will be 8:00-9:00 and shuttle 9:00-10:00.

For more information on the Altamaha and the section we'll be paddling, see pages 285-293 of Welander, Sehlinger and Otey's *A Canoe & Kayaking Guide to Georgia*. ✂

President's Weekend Trip

by Gina Johnson

We're moving the President's Weekend paddle and camping event to Milton, Florida and Adventures Unlimited campground. There are multiple blackwater rivers to paddle and the ability to tent camp, have RV hookups and rent cabins by the room! This will help those who don't like camping when it is 28 degrees outside!!

As usual, GCA members will make their individual reservations with the campground and we will run trips on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Haynes and I will come down on Thursday, which is Valentine's Day, and plan to leave on Monday.

Jim Nuetzel is going to be our trip coordinator. He will line up folks to coordinate the individual trips.

The campground is at the conjunction of two of these rivers. Milton is about 15 miles away and there are restaurants there. We plan on folks being on their own for meals.

continued on following page

Fall Tallulah Releases Cancelled

by Joan Hutton

On October 2, Georgia Power announced the cancellation of the whitewater releases through Tallulah Gorge the first three weekends in November. GCA was scheduled to provide volunteers for the middle weekend, November 10 and 11.

The decision to cancel the releases was made, according to Georgia Power, "in order to preserve water for consumptive use of the downstream communities that draw from the Tallulah River." Water for the gorge releases is passed downstream from Lake Burton, the storage reservoir for Georgia Power's North Georgia Hydro Project.

The license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the North Georgia Hydro Project allows for cancellation of the whitewater paddling releases if the flow in the Tallulah River falls below 95 cfs. As of October 2, the flow was at 25 cfs.

Many, many thanks to all the new and returning volunteers who signed up to help out in November. Danny Tatum of Tallulah Gorge State Park asked that his thanks, and regrets, be passed on to all volunteers.

Unless we get significant rainfall this winter, the April releases are also in jeopardy. Let's keep our fingers crossed for April. ✂

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Please check the campground out at www.adventuresunlimited.com and make your reservations! If you are tent camping, let them know you are with the GCA and they will put us in group sites. I would appreciate your

letting me know when you are coming so we can get trips organized.

We look forward to another wonderful weekend of boating and fellowship!

2007 Fall Gala Report My Swan Song

by Denise Keller, GCA Recreation Chair (Retired)

Greetings. Well, the Fall Gala is over and fall has just arrived. There are many highlights and thank yous I need to say, so hang in there please.

Thanks to Christine Blumberg for selling the raffle tickets this past weekend. I set Christine loose in the campground to go sell tickets and if you were one of the lucky ones to buy your tickets early, you got to see her perform her "raffle boogie." Jack Taylor's face was priceless!! (He bought some tickets though!!)

Christine and the "raffle boogie" were so successful that she got a few CCC campers to buy tickets. She was such a hit! Never mind about "a lamp shade on the head," Miss Christine had a chicken!...long story.

Thanks to all that bought tickets, we managed to collect \$147. Thanks to all of you that brought firewood, we had a nice fire both Friday and Saturday night.

Thanks to the trip coordinators. Saturday, we had trips on the Tuckasegee, Nantahala and lower Nantahala. Todd McGinnis was in charge of the "Tuck" trip. Matthew Crawford had the Nantahala and Edward Stockman coordinated the lower "Nanty." I happened to be on this trip, along with 17 other people and I must say that it was a beautiful section.

Sunday, there were numerous trips on the Nanty. Brannen Proctor put in at the top and Haynes and Gina Johnson put in at Ferebee's. There were also quite a few private trips.

Saturday night had a lot going on. I want to start first with a huge Thank You and an even bigger hug to Karen Saunders. She brought out her Dutch ovens and made 4 fabulous desserts for the club to sample. Tom was one of the first people in line!!



Above, Karen Saunders and her wonderful Dutch oven desserts. Below, William Gatling outlined in the mouth of the tunnel on the Nantahala. Photos by Tom Keller.



I asked Tom "Terrific" Keller if I could sample his collection of Karen's desserts because I'm not a dessert person but wanted to at least have a taste of these treats: I was told to "go get your own." He's such a toad!! But he did let me sample Karen's cheesecake and now I'm "hooked." Good stuff! Thanks again Karen. It was neat to see this type of cooking and Karen has it down to a science. Dutch ovens rule!!!

Thanks to Steve Cramer (sea kayaking), Gina and Haynes Johnson (open boat) and The Outside World (kayaking) for offering free lessons for our raffle. We also had numerous other things to raffle off like the club's new t-shirt. Thanks to Betty Rose for designing it. It's neat. Thanks to Kate Wilkerson for bringing the GCA store (where you now can purchase the new t-shirt).

Thanks "Prez" Vincent Payne for helping with the Dutch oven cooking preps and whatever else needed to be done this past weekend. Thanks to Joan Steed and her lovely Southern Belle voice for calling off the numbers for the raffle. Thanks Allen H., David A. and Edward S. for some much needed guidance with my journey as GCA Recreation Chair for the last 2 years.

But the biggest "Thanks" goes to all of the GCA members who attended the Gala this past weekend, Thank You!!

I've learned quite a lot about organizing a small crowd the past 2 years. I hope I did a good job as the club's recreation

chairman. The baton has been passed to Joe Webb and I do plan on helping him whenever I can.

Upcoming Events of Interest

November 3-4 - Tallulah Releases cancelled due to drought.
November 3-4 - 3rd Annual Hemlock Fest, Lumpkin County - bands, vendors and activities - www.LumpkinCoalition.org.
November 4 - GCA Fall Meeting/Election of Officers, Azalea Park, Roswell - see page 13.

November 10-11 - Tallulah Releases cancelled due to drought.
November 17-18 - Tallulah Releases cancelled due to drought.
March 20-27 - Paddle Florida 2008, Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, Suwannee Music Park to Manatee Springs Park - <http://paddleflorida.org>.
June 21-27 - Paddle Georgia 2008, Flint River from Woodbury to Montezuma - www.garivers.org.

A 10-Step Plan for Success How to Scout a Rapid

by Adam Johnson, Team Riot
(Reprinted with permission from the May/June, 2007 *American Whitewater Magazine*)

#1: Get out of your boat carefully. Usually, you do not want to swim any whitewater, but especially not a rapid that needs to be scouted. Try to find a good, calm, safe spot to pop your skirt and get onto shore. Do not crowd the eddy where your partners are trying to get out, as this can cause unnecessary anxiety and chaos.

#2 Store your boat in a safe spot. Oftentimes when creeking, you have to stash your boat in a precarious spot (on a slanted rock, on a log or branches, etc.). Before you leave your boat, make sure it is safe and will not float away without you. You don't want to wind up chasing your boat or hiking (to buy a new boat) out of a place where it is probably easier to kayak out.

#3 Carry your throw bag. After you make sure your boat is stowed securely, BRING YOUR THROWBAG! I have seen too many people go to scout and walk down to see the rapid without a throwbag in their hands. People have gotten into trouble on the river because their partner(s) did not have a throw bag with them. Even if you don't think you'll need it, bring it. Someone could slip and fall during the scout, or someone in the group might get the sudden urge to run something you assumed everyone would carry. When it happens, you might not have time to run up and get your throwbag.

#4: Analyze the rapid. Try to find a line, but also look for hazards like caves, sieves, undercut, holes, etc. Make sure to look at it from different angles as not everything is obvious from a single angle (a rock could look fine from one angle; whereas, from another angle, you could see the

undercut cave it forms.

In addition to moving up and down the shoreline, make sure you vary your height above the river. Try to get the big picture (higher, farther away) as well as a sense of how big and scary it might look from your boat when you're running it.

#5 Choose your line and stick to it. You should be able to visualize yourself paddling down the rapid even before anyone else runs it. If you cannot visualize yourself running the rapid in your head, you probably should not run it.

Often, after a few people have taken a different line than yours, you will think, "Wow, maybe their line is better." Whichever line you choose, make sure you are confident in it and that you can visualize yourself paddling the entire thing.

#6 Make a "worst case scenario." This should be what would happen if something went wrong. Let's say that you got off line: Where would you go now? How do you get back on line? Where is safety set? Could they get to you there? Your worst case shouldn't psych you out, but it should force you to think about realistic problems you might encounter.

#7 Get your game face on. After you have your line in your head and are confident that you can stick the line, give the rapid one last look and start heading back to your boat. Signal to your friends with hand signals or with a paddle that you will be running it. If you choose to walk the rapid, make sure your friends know that.

#8 Look at the horizon line. BACK at the top of the rapid, you should take one last opportunity to scout. This is an important step in the scouting process and is often overlooked.

Before you get in your boat, make sure to stop and take a look over the horizon from the top of the rapid. You need to



SAFETY



Rick Bellows, Shari Heinz and Todd McGinnis pause from scouting Etowah Falls to smile for photographer Don Robertson.

continued on following page

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know where you are going when you get in your boat. From water level, what markers do you have to keep yourself on line? These could be waves, holes, riffles, trees, approximate distances from the bank, etc.

#9 Get in your boat and make sure you are ready to go:

Woody Debris

Woody debris. Deadfalls. Strainers. *^%\$#@! trees. Whatever you call them, they represent a potential danger to paddlers, especially on smaller streams.

They are also controversial. Some paddlers routinely remove or trim inconvenient trees or logs, some remove them only when sufficiently dangerous and some object to removing them at all.

Other river users have their own ideas about fallen trees and branches. Anglers, for example, like deadfalls because they attract and shelter fish. In the Chattooga, the USFS actually "recruits" woody debris.

So what do you think of wood in the water? Do you have an opinion about removing, trimming or leaving alone? Do you know any articles or other information on the subject? If so, please let us know. In a future issue, *The Eddy Line* will include a section on the subject and your input would be greatly appreciated. ✂

skirt is on properly, noseplugs in place, elbow pads in place, backband adjusted, water bottle stowed, etc. At this point you will probably have some butterflies in your stomach. All you should be thinking about is the line that you are about to stick.

#10 Now, ferry out and STOMP YOUR LINE! ✂

Photo of the Month (Boat Division)



The Hawk at Bull Sluice. Photo of William "The Hawk" Reeves by Will Reeves.

Election of Officers Fall Meeting November 4

The annual GCA Fall Meeting and Election of Officers will be held Sunday, November 4 at Azalea Park in Roswell. The day will include a paddle on the Chattahoochee, a gear swap and pizza as well as the election.

A Chattahoochee river trip, led by Lamar Phillips, will begin at Island Ford and end at Azalea Park. For more information, or to sign up for the trip contact Lamar at 770.939.5087 or lamarph@bellsouth.net.



The gear swap will start at about 1:00. If you have gear you'd like to pass on to other paddlers, bring it to the Fall Meeting. If you need gear, bring money. The election will take place about 4:30,

with pizza to follow at about 5:00.

This year's election includes a contest for President between current Vice President Tom Bishop and recently appointed Social Chair Joe Webb. Current Secretary Jamie Higgins is running for Vice President and the current Treasurer, Ed Schultz, is running for re-election.

The Nominating Committee did not report out a candidate for Secretary, but John Scott has indicated on the GCA groupmail that he plans to run for that position. The By-Laws allow for nomination of candidates from the floor, so other positions may be contested as well.

Azalea Park is located river right along the Chattahoochee. From Highway 400, exit at Riverside Road and go west. Just shortly after passing Riverside Park on the left, you will reach the intersection of Roswell Road.

Continue westbound on what is now Azalea Drive. Keep going another .7 mile or so to Azalea Park on the left. When you get there, look for the GCA banner on a pavilion. 

Jamie Higgins, Candidate for Vice President

Hi. My name is Jamie Higgins and I'd like to be GCA's next Vice President. I am a strong believer in giving back to organizations and causes that have positively impacted my life. GCA has given so much to me over the years that for the past few years I've decided to give back to GCA.

I came to GCA 7 years ago as a novice paddler and the only boat I owned at the time was a rec kayak. On a whim, I decided to take a GCA beginner whitewater kayak clinic. I rented a whitewater boat from Bruce Williams and I took the class with Revel Freeman, Knox Worde and Louie Boulanger.

The GCA clinic opened a whole new world of adventure and fun. Now, I own 7 kayaks including rec kayaks, whitewater



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kayaks, sea kayaks and an Olympic style sprint kayak. I'm very passionate about paddling and I enjoy all sorts of paddling: whitewater, calm lakes and rivers, sea and coastal paddling, fitness paddling and racing.

I have served on just about every GCA committee (Recreation, River Protection, Training and Paddling Trails). Three years ago I was the recreation committee chair and I organized the Spring Extravaganza and Fall Gala. Two years ago I began serving on the Board of Directors as the Secretary. I was nominated and selected to represent GCA and paddling interest on the Georgia Water Resources Plan's State-wide Advisory Committee. This two year planning process is very important because it will determine the future of our water resources for years to come.

For the past three years, I have led the GCA river safety team during Paddle Georgia. Paddle Georgia is a week long paddling trip where 200-300 paddlers paddle approximately 120 miles of a Georgia river and the proceeds go to the Georgia River Network. As the River Safety leader, I scouted potentially dangerous rapids and then organized the GCA safety team to get these mostly novice paddlers down the rapids safely.

This past year, I organized GCA's first two recreational kayak clinics. I also assisted William Gatling in the Georgia River Explorers series. I assisted by helping scout the

continued on following page



Chestatee and then became a safety boater during the trip. I also researched cost effective insurance through the US Canoe Association and then completed the necessary insurance paperwork for the club. Recently, I developed the GCA member survey through Survey Monkey (see page 5).

As Vice President, I would like to see GCA become more modernized and streamline many of our business processes. I'm a strong advocate for change. Change must happen for GCA to continue to flourish, but I also want to be careful not to carelessly erode away GCA's rich history and traditions.



Jamie Higgins running S-Turn on the Cartecay.

I would like the Board and Executive Committee to spend some time on reviewing the by-laws and organizational/committee structure of the club. I also think the Board and Executive Committee could do a better job of communicating the club business to its membership. I would also like to continue to assist the Training Committee with safety and rec kayak clinics. I get a kick out of getting folks into paddling, and I think that my enthusiasm comes across in working with new boaters.

Professionally I work for the Army Corps of Engineers as a biologist. I have 15 years in the environmental management profession. Before becoming an environmental manager, I served in the US Army both as an enlisted soldier and officer. I have also served on several non-profit boards and committees. My other passions are road cycling and mountain biking as well as working with animal rescue groups.

I feel I have the proven leadership and organizational skills to serve you well as Vice President so I ask for your vote in November! I also welcome your suggestions and recommendations to make GCA a better club.

Thanks.

Jamie Higgins

Jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com, 404.508.0761



Editorial It's Time to Change How We Vote

by Rick Bellows

From the time they received the September issue until September 20, GCA members were asked to vote on which of three mastheads should adorn the front page of *The Eddy Line*. 52 members participated in making that decision.

According to Vincent Payne's "From the President" column in the October issue, the last two GCA Fall Meetings attracted 24 and 16 people, and one year only 7 members attended. Since the Bylaws specify that officers are to be elected at the Fall Meeting, that means fewer people are participating in the election of officers than in the choice of the newsletter masthead.

To me, the masthead and everything else about *The Eddy Line* is important. I'm the editor, so that's my job. But even I recognize that what the masthead looks like is less important to the club than who is elected as officers.

So why did so many more people vote in the masthead contest that have voted the past few years in electing GCA officers? I suspect part of the answer is that elections the past few years have not been contested, and part was that I kept putting reminders of the masthead election on the groupmail. But I strongly suspect the primary reason was that voting in the masthead contest was much easier and more convenient than voting in GCA elections.

A quick scan of the 2007 GCA Membership Directory reveals at least 70 members from 11 states other than Georgia. Dozens of others live far enough from Roswell to make traveling there for the Fall Meeting a hassle. An unknowable number of members also have work, family or other commitments on the day chosen for the Fall Meeting.

It is not reasonable to expect distant or busy members to be able to attend a meeting in Atlanta, and it's not fair to disenfranchise them if they cannot. A fairer and more reasonable method of electing officers is needed, along with a change in the Bylaws to make the new method legal.

This is not a matter that can be blamed on the current officers or Board, or on any person or group. Article VII of the Bylaws requires that the Annual Meeting be held in the fall and that officers for the coming year be elected at that meeting. The Metro Atlanta area is home to more GCA members than any other area, so having the Fall Meeting at Azalea Park or somewhere in the metro area is certainly reasonable.

A better system would be to allow members to vote by mail or email. Such a system would raise issues that would need to be addressed. The primary issue would be making sure only current GCA members vote and that each votes only once. It would also be necessary to avoid potential voter fraud, such as one person voting in the name of another.

While these problems would need to be addressed, they almost certainly could be solved. Voters could be required to identify themselves when voting so the votes could be 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. Please, no phone-in or hand-written ads. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

Paddles For Sale: Werner Powerhouse kayak paddle, fiberglass, bent shaft, 200cm, excellent for creeking or river running - \$150 (retails for \$305); 2 Perception (Harmony) whitewater canoe paddles, 52" and 54" - \$45 each (retail for \$110 each). All in excellent condition. 770.534.5857 (Gainesville/Flowery Branch area).

For Sale: 2007 Esquif Taureau, \$1,100. Two Hobie deck hatches (so you can bring "stuff" with you), 1100 gph bilge pump, ankle supports. Very good condition, paddled 12 or so times. Will consider swap for Esquif Zephyr. Vince Zappia, 404.374.8660 or vzapp@charter.net.

For Sale: Magellan Explorist 100 handheld GPS - \$60. Good condition. Call 404.678.2216 or email vagabondmo@gmail.com.

Wildwater Boats For Sale:

"Advantage" K-1 by Zedtech Kayak Racing, \$875. Narrow, fast, low volume wildwater kayak suited for smaller paddler and/or rivers like Nantahala. Bright red deck, natural hull. Recently built for a junior worlds team - no scratches or cracks and only one stern tap.

"Shiro" C-1 by RK Designs - \$2,400. Orange deck, natural carbon/kevlar hull. Recently constructed for \$3,400; race ready with only a few scratches. Shiros dominated the Worlds this year. John Pinyerd, 770.575.1433 (home), 678.357.7843 (cell), jpinyerd@cs.com.

For Sale: Two Jackson Fun (Classic) kayaks - \$400 each. Both 3 years old, one yellow with Happy Feet, one orange with Happy Feet and cleat backband system. Both good condition, stored inside. New Classic retails for \$995. Beth Walls, 404.824.6471, 770.594.1460, Walls.Beth@epamail.epa.gov.

For Sale: Two Werner Free-Style kayak paddles - \$100 each. 200 cm. Beth Walls, 404.824.6471, 770.594.1460, Walls.Beth@epamail.epa.gov.

For Sale: Red Bombergear semi dry top, \$40 - latex wrists, size small (runs small), used one season. Christine, 404.375.3993.

For Sale: Kokatat Gortex-Tex Meridian Drysuit - \$420 (plus any shipping). Has sprayskirt tunnel and zipper & gasket cover, new will all tags, mens' size S. Lists for \$824.95 - what a deal. Check it out at http://www.kokatat.com/product_detail.asp?code=gme.404.636.9339.

For Sale: Wave Sport Super EZ - \$325. Year and a half old, used about 30 times, normal river scratches but in great condition. Will throw in pair of new NRS float bags. Pictures available. Billy Etheredge, 404.408.5386, wdeiii@aol.com.

pared to a current membership list. The "ballots" could also be filed and reviewed to avoid multiple ballots with the same member's name. If necessary, email "ballots" could be verified by the email address they're sent from. At worst, an election including a few erroneous or even fraudulent votes would be better than one in which only a handful of members are able to take part.

Who would do all this verifying work? Well, that's one of the issues that needs to be addressed. It shouldn't be anyone running for any of the offices, and we already have problems getting volunteers for committee chairs and other important jobs. Even if the votes were simply counted and not verified in any way, it would still be better than having officers elected by a handful of people available to attend a meeting.

While we're making changes in the formal aspects of the election process, we should also make changes in the informal aspects. Candidates should be encouraged to explain

why they should be elected and what they propose to do if elected, and that information should be distributed to the membership via *The Eddy Line*, the website and the groupmail.

Or course, any change in the system of electing officers won't apply this year. This year's election will be held at the Fall Meeting at Azalea Park in Roswell on Sunday, November 4. There are already two candidates for president and additional candidates for president or any position may be nominated from the floor. For this year, the best solution is to show up and be counted.



Do you think the GCA Bylaws should be amended to change the way we elect officers? Do you think they should be changed in other ways? Do you think they should be left as they are? Send your comments or suggestions to the_eddyline@yahoo.com or P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441.



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