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THE EDDY LINE

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www.georgiacanoe.org

March 2008

Volunteers (Hopefully) Needed April 5-6 Tallulah Gorge Releases and "Kayak Hike"

by Joan Hutton

If we gather the volunteers, then surely the Spring whitewater releases at Tallulah Gorge State Park will happen. As this is written on February 3 it is still too early for Georgia Power Company to decide on opening up the gorge to boaters in April. But it's not too early to get the volunteer signups started! The GCA will sponsor volunteers the first release weekend, April 5-6.

Danny Tatum of Tallulah Gorge State Park has something wonderful planned this year for Park visitors - the "Kayak Hike". From the Park's website: "Pending availability of water, for the first time the public will be able to take a ranger-led hike down Sliding Rock Trail to view kayakers braving Bridal Veil Falls. This is an extremely strenuous hike consisting of descending and ascending a 750-foot boulder field to the Class 5 Tallulah River. \$4 parking. 706.754.7981." More info at <http://gastateparks.org/info/tallulah/>.

Sounds exciting! Why not make it a weekend - volunteer on Saturday, hike down to the river on Sunday (or vice versa)! We'd love to have you join us this year - both new and veteran volunteers. A perfect way for novice boaters to see what it's like on a Class 4-5 river, without getting your feet wet. Just shoot me a quick email at hutton_jg@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Saturday, April 5 GCA Trip Coordinator Clinic

by Brannen Proctor

Have you ever thought about coordinating a GCA paddling trip, but didn't know what it involved, or if the GCA would consider you qualified to be a trip coordinator? You don't have to be an advanced level paddler, you don't have to be a swiftwater rescue expert, and you don't need super organization skills.

While just about anyone in the GCA could be a trip coordinator, there are a few rules to follow, and knowing ahead of time what you need to do will make the trip more enjoyable for everyone, including yourself. If you want to know what you have to do to put together a fun and safe day on the water for yourself, old paddling friends and new paddling friends, then come to the GCA Trip Coordinator Clinic and find out from several longtime trip coordinators.

The clinic will be held Saturday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, at Page Perry LLC, 1040 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 1050, Atlanta GA 30338 (near Perimeter Mall).

There is no fee for the Trip Coordinator Clinic, but you must register ahead of time. To register, or if you have questions, contact Brannen Proctor, bproctor@mindspring.com, 770.664.7384.



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Who Ya Gonna Call?

GCA Contacts

For general GCA information:
Call 770.421.9729 and leave a mes-

sage; your call will be returned as soon as possible.

To volunteer for club activities:

Contact GCA President Tom Bishop at 404..542.1118 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, to contact an Editor or for classified advertising:

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 advertising:

Contact Advertising Manager Kate Wilkerson at 678.560.1071 or by email at odiek8@juno.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	Tom Bishop
Vice President	Jamie Higgins
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Kate Wilkerson
Recreation Chair	Joe Webb
Resource Development Chair	William Gatling
River Protection Chair	Haynes Johnson, John Holley
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 Tom Bishop at 404.542.1118 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 **received** 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 in 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

March

2	Chattooga/Nantahala (Note 1)	Advanced/Intermediate	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
8	Conasauga	Intermediate	Daniel MacIntyre	404.252.9513
15	Ocoee	Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
16	Ocoee	Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
16	Toccoa (Note 2)	Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
22	Cataloochee Creek (Note 3)	Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
23	Oconaluftee River (Note 3)	Intermediate	Roger Nott	770-536-6923
29	Toccoa (Note 4)	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
30	Ocoee	Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477

April

19	Toccoa (Note 4)	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
20	Chattahoochee (Note 5)	Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263

Note 1: Chattooga Section 3/3.5 (Advanced) or Nantahala (Intermediate), depending on Chattooga water level.

Note 2: Dial Road to Party Rock

Note 3: Great Smokey Mountains, North Carolina

Note 4: Toccoa Valley Campground to Take-Out Past Party Rock

Note 5: Centralhatchee to Franklin, all skill levels, all craft.

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS

Flat Water - no current will be encountered; safe for new paddlers.

Beginner - mild current, occasional Class 1 rapids; new paddlers can learn basic river techniques.

Trained Beginner - moving water with Class 1-2 rapids; basic strokes and bracing skills needed.

Intermediate - rapids up to Class 3; eddying and ferrying skills needed; kayakers need solid roll.

Advanced - rapids up to Class 4; excellent boat control and self-rescue skills required.

For more about "class" ratings of rapids, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitewater>.

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 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: Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00, January through March, at the Warren/Hollifield Boys' and Girls' Club near Grant Park in Atlanta. For more information, including directions, look for the announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

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. ✂

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 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. ✂



Faster and In Color

Get *The Eddy Line* Via Email

The Eddy Line is available via email as a .pdf (portable document format) file, which allows subscribers to view the text, photos, graphics, ads — the entire *Eddy Line* — just as it appears in printed form, except the photos, graphics and ads are in color and the detail is better. Plus you can see it at least a couple of weeks before the printed copy arrives via snail mail. You can also print out a paper copy of the .pdf file and it looks just like the snail mail copy.

The .pdf version requires only Adobe Acrobat Reader (or some equivalent) software in order to view it. If Acrobat Reader isn't already on your computer, it can be downloaded for free from the Adobe website at <http://www.adobe.com>.

To subscribe to the email version of *The Eddy Line*, send a request to: GCA, c/o Ed Schultz, Treasurer, 3060 Pharr Court North, #315, Atlanta, GA 30305, or email him at heloeddy@mindspring.com.

Or, on your annual renewal form, just check the block for the *Electronic Eddy Line* and INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS so we can send *The Eddy Line* to you electronically. You can also opt out of the paper version to save the trees, as well as printing and mailing expense.

When you change your email address, you need to let Ed know. Otherwise, you'll get bounced off the distribution list until you provide an up-to-date email address. ✂

Weekday Paddlers

GCA has a list of paddlers available during the week. We have 70+ entries on the weekday paddlers list, including members who are retired, have variable or non-standard work schedules, students/teachers available weekdays when school is out and some happy to take vacation days for paddling. The list includes members who paddle smooth water and all classes of whitewater.

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, Class 1 through Class 5) you are interested in paddling. You will receive an up-to-date copy of the list. The list is updated quarterly (January, April, July, October): to receive an up-to-date copy, call the GCA phone line, 770.421.9729 and leave your name and address with a request for the updated list. ✂

Support Our GCA Supporters

The GCA web site includes a "GCA Supporters" page with links to the companies that support GCA financially by advertising with us. Help those who help us — patronize our advertisers. Thanks! ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

March 20-27 - Paddle Florida 2008, Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, Suwannee Music Park to Manatee Springs Park - <http://paddleflorida.org>.

March 22 - Lula Bridge Race at Lake Lanier, Gainesville - 10K/20K - Dave Robertson, 770.287.7888, www.lckc.org.

April 5 - Canoochee River Race, Claxton - 11 miles - Melanie Hendrix, www.ogeecheecanoocheeriverkeeper.org, 912.764.2017

April 19 - 12 Mile Canoe and Kayak Race, Clemson, SC - 8 miles - Jim Normandin, 864.836.7400, paddler98@bellsouth.net.

April 26 - Oostanula Race and Canoe-A-Thon, Rome - 13 miles - Joe Cook, 706.232.2724, www.coosa.org.

May 3 - Paddle for the Border (Reversed), South Mills, NC to Chesapeake, VA - 7.5 miles - Registration deadline April 15 - Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, 252.771.8333 or 877.771.8333, dscwelcome@camdencountync.gov.

May 17-24 - Paddlin' Alabama, Alabama Scenic River Trail, Rome, Georgia to Gadsden, Alabama - Richard @georgiakayaker.com.

June 14 - Chattahoochee Race and Festival, Atlanta - 8 miles/10 miles - Tammy Morrissey, 404.352.9828,



www.chattahoochee.org.

June 21-27 - Paddle Georgia 2008, Flint River, Woodbury to Montezuma - www.garivers.org.

July 10-13 - ACA Wildwater Open Canoe National Championship Races, French Broad River, Hot Springs, NC - www.fbcanoeracing.org/nationals.html.

August 30 - Savannah Riverfest, Augusta - 8 miles - Frank Carl, 706.364.5253, www.savannahriverkeeper.org.

October 13 - Suwannee River Challenge and Marathon, White Spring, FL - 26 miles/52 miles - Rod Price, 407.227.5606, rodprice@hotmail.com.

Winter Roll Practice

Indoor pool roll sessions are from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays through March 24 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 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 skills 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.



AWC Roll Practice

If you can't make the GCA roll practice on Monday evenings, Atlanta Whitewater Club (AWC) has winter roll practice on Wednesday nights through March from 7:30 to 9:30. Because of crowding, AWC is checking into the possibility of adding another night each week, probably Thursday.

The cost for non-AWC members is \$10, cash or check only. There is a possibility AWC may limit the roll practice to members because of the crowding issue: keep

an eye on the GCA groupmail for updates on that.

There has also been an issue of paddlers showing up and getting in the pool before the 7:30 start of roll practice. If you go, please don't risk losing the venue by getting in the pool before 7:30.

The AWC roll practice has moved to SeaVentures, located 2-3 miles east of Highway 400 in the Holcomb Center Plaza at 2880 Holcomb Bridge Road. The phone number is 770.992.3772. Turn left in the driveway just after Steeplechase Drive, go to the back of the building and look for SeaVentures' double doors, which lead to the pool.

The pool is 80-90 degrees and very clean. A hose is available and boaters will be required to rinse their boats, inside and out, before entering the pool.

For real company and friendship, there is nothing outside of the animal kingdom that is comparable to a river.

Henry van Dyke



These members have recently joined GCA. New members are the life blood and future of the club, so call one near you and maybe you can paddle together.

Gayle, Joseph M.
527 Pinegate Road
Peachtree City GA 30269
770-631-1018
770-630-0159
joegayle@earthlink.net
jgayle762@gmail.com

Hawksley, Darlene
3783 Paces Ferry West

Atlanta GA 30339
770-432-5552
404-580-6341
dhawksley@lccgres.com
hawksleyd@charter.net

Lyde, Terri
1342 Gates Drive
Atlanta GA 30316
404-244-9872
678-770-9664
770-494-8243
lydeterri@bellsouth.net

Mundt, Gregory Kyle & Courtney
3699 Montrose Pd Court
Duluth GA 30096
678-481-0441
gkmundt@charter.net

kyle@stluansport.com

Nuse, Gail & Ronald
430 Eastland Drive
Decatur GA 30030
404-378-1243
nusega@bellsouth.net

Stephens, Joe "Doc"
1635 Williams Circle
Cumming GA 30041
770-617-1184

Takacs, Nicole
1302 Poplar Crest Circle SE
Atlanta GA 30316
404-488-9947
nmtphoto@gmail.com
nicole@naturalmarketingservices.com

GCA Board Meeting, Dec. 6, 2007

In Attendance: Vincent Payne, Kate Wilkerson, Allen Hedden, John Sampson, Tom Bishop, David Asbell, Jamie Higgin, Hank Clauseman, Ed Shultz, Carla Vinnicombe, William Gatling, Roger Nott, Matt Lester.



Minutes: Jessica Day of Georgia Conservation Voters (GCV) made a presentation on using member list to network with like-minded organizations. Not

available free to us since we are a 501c4.

Ed Shultz: Member renewal rate for fiscal 2005 70.1%. Question: How do we gain members vs. losing them?

Discussion on changing from mailed *Eddy Line* to emailed *Eddy Line*. President will write a letter explaining the Board's decision. The consensus was to start moving in the direction of less paper and do that by making the e-version the default and having to take an affirmative action to receive the p-version.

Motion to raise dues: Did not come to a vote. Do we need to raise dues if we go to an email based *Eddy Line*?

John Sampson elected to Board as Member at Large.

Automatic termination of members at large - When does this happen? Ask Dan MacIntyre.

GCA Store is Now Online

by Kate Wilkerson, GCA Storekeeper

The GCA Store is now online on the GCA website. The store is at www.georgiacanoe.org/id45.html.

The GCA Store now has available Men's and Women's Picque Knit Sport Shirts in a variety of colors and sizes. The store also has the new "Whatever Floats Your Boat" River Rats t-shirt designed by Betty Rose. The t-shirt has the "Whatever Floats Your Boat" logo, shown in Betty's ad on page 14, on the back in full color. The t-shirt is "natural" color.

Also available are the remaining t-shirts from the highly successful 2007 Georgia River Explorer Series in larger sizes. The store also has a white t-shirt embroidered with the GCA logo and a cap, also embroidered with the GCA logo, in a variety of colors. Check the website periodically for other GCA goodies.

Searching for a Secretary

by Rick Bellows

Debra Berry, who was elected GCA Secretary November 4, has a conflict on Thursday nights that keeps her from attending the Board and Executive Committee meetings. That means the club is once again in need of a Secretary.

The Secretary's primary responsibility is to make a record of what happens at Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings and turn that record into meeting minutes. When the Secretary can't attend a meeting, someone else can be pressed into service to make the record.

The Secretary is an important link in letting members know what issues the Board and Executive Committee address and what is decided. If you'd like to be considered for the job, please contact GCA President Tom Bishop at 404.266.3734 or at bishop.t@comcast.net.

A Maniacal Laugh, A Gentle Soul Tony Colquitt, 1954-2008

Long-time GCA member A.L. (Tony) Colquitt of Franklin passed away January 31 after a battle with brain cancer. Tony was known to many in GCA for his black paddling helmet, adorned with a tiger tail and a bright yellow "this side up" sticker, and for his yellow Crocs. Long-time members also recall the colorblind Tony's kayak with a color scheme like "human vomit after eating ketchup, whirled peas and overcooked acorn squash."

Most memorable, though, was his maniacal laugh that would "carry over the sound of the river as well as a whistle." Many heard that laugh after Tony had taunted them into a hole, often while he was helping them get out of it. Many also knew him as a paddler always helping others

Besides paddling, Tony enjoyed hiking, camping (he was renowned for his perfect campfires), woodworking and gardening. He leaves his wife, well-known GCA member Denise Colquitt, daughter Summer and granddaughters Kendall and Kayla.



Tony and Denise Colquitt on the Hiwassee in 2007. Photo by Christine Blumberg.

On the river, Tony was "happy crazy." For all his maniacal laughter, he was "an accomplished paddler and a gentle soul."



Spring Extravaganza May 15-16

by Joe Webb, GCA Social Chair

The 2008 Spring Extravaganza will be hosted by OAR near the Ocoee River on May 15 and 16. The Spring Extravaganza will include booths for used boats and camping equipment, available for \$10 which will be used by the GCA for training. There will also be three bands on Saturday night, a downriver race at noon Saturday with a \$5 entry fee and a playboat competition, also with a \$5 entry fee. There will also be a \$10 deposit for the number bib that can be used in both events.

OAR is near many rivers including the upper and lower Ocoee, the Hiwassee and GCA favorites like the Nantahala and the Tuck. The Cheoah will also be running.

There is lots of camping and barracks-like cabins available. The number for reservations is 800.627.7636 and more information is available on their website, www.raft.com. The manager, Suzanne, will be glad to provide any help you need.

Sunday morning will include the "Board Member Breakfast:" Board members will cook breakfast for a \$15 donation to cover the meal and the entertainment, with the remainder to go to the training fund. The GCA meeting will open after breakfast. At the meeting, I will introduce the "Board maximus" that has been in place for a lifetime so you will know who those mysterious people are and the new Board members recently elected.

For more information, contact Joe Webb at 678.986.2048 or webb3657@msn.com.



March 8, Roswell High School CPR and Boater's First Aid Course

by Gina Johnson, GCA Instruction Chair

Joe Webb is once again teaching a one day CPR certification and Boater's First Aid Class for the GCA. The class will start at 9:00 and end at 5:00 and will be held at Roswell High School. Please bring lunch and drinks with you.

For those of you who have not had this class before, we spend the morning on CPR and the afternoon on First Aid that we can use on the river. Joe teaches the proper uses for duct tape and paddles to immobilize a limb, resetting a dislocated shoulder and first aid tips and equipment that are really useful when you can't call 911.

The fee is \$30 for GCA members, \$40 for nonmembers, and includes the CPR certification. You may register with Joe at webb3657@msn.com or call him at 678.986.2048. Scenarios used in the course will be based on Joe's 25 years of swimming Class 3, 4 and 5 rivers.



ACA Kayak Instructor Certification Workshop
Dates: March 28-30 & April 25-27, 2008
Level: Basic River & Whitewater
Location: Bryson City, NC (Nantahala River)
Instructor Trainer: Bruce Williams
Phone: 404-231-0042
Details: www.whitewatergeorgia.com

The Reason for Facemask Helmets

by Garth Brown

I had an interesting happening in the Little River Canyon January 12.

I was on some small wave about 1/2 or 1 mile down below Bottleneck. I let my guard down as it was nothing big, less than a lot of stuff on the Nanty. Next thing I know, I am being flipped to the right.



I immediately start to tuck forward only to watch my face violently smash into a rock edge underwater. Thank God I was wearing my helmet with a face mask (made by Cascade and looks like a lacrosse helmet).

It shook me up really good and I ended up swimming out of my boat. I came up to the surface and people getting my boat and I think were surprised I did not roll right up as I was in an eddy at that point. Martina pushed my boat over to me and I got it emptied.

I could tell I had bit both my tongue and lower lip with a very small amount of blood coming down. I took off my helmet to then discover some very deep scratches and chunks missing from the steel face mask. There is no doubt that that impact was not one to have just broke a tooth or two, but rather would have been very serious and the type to break my jaw, cheek and nose.

I then paddled over where some other people were, such as Chad, Gavin and Mark, to show the battle scars and I believe they were also very surprised. I paddled away with only a bloody lip and mild concussion to have left some steel on the river bed.

I don't know that the facemask saved my life, but it sure did save me from some very extensive facial surgery and the rest of the group being in a serious river rescue situation. I know I will never get on the river without a full face mask. There was only about 0.02 seconds of time from flipping to impact. People may say its one thing to hang up on the river, but it happened so fast it would have been impossible to have fully tucked up and I have the proof to show they work. ✈

Dawson County Builds New Canoe and Kayak Launch Facility

By Haynes Johnson, River Protection Co-Chair

Dawson County supplied the manpower, heavy equipment and materials while the Mountain Stewards (mountainstewards.org) assisted with supervision and suggestions to construct a new canoe and kayak launch facility on the Etowah River at Georgia Highway 9 in Dawson County. James Tolbert, Director of the Dawson County Parks and Recreation Department, and Don Wells, President of the Mountain Stewards, co-supervised the construction of the

facility as if they had been working together for years.

The launch is just upstream from the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management area. It corresponds to access point "J" in *A Paddler's Guide to Northern Georgia* by Sehlinger and Otey, access point "I" in *A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to Georgia* by Welander, Sehlinger and Otey. I believe the next access point downstream is the private ramp (where a modest fee is charged on the honor system) at Kelly Bridge Road.



CONSERVATION

You may ask what a new canoe launch has to do with river protection. Actually, there are many facets of this facility that deal with river protection. The first was the site selection. The site was a former farm field so there was minimum disturbance of natural riparian habitat. The river bank was selected for low long term erosion potential. During the work, erosion and sedimentation were carefully contained to prevent adverse impact to the river.

One of the main ways this facility promotes river conservation is that it allows more people easier access to the natural beauty of North Georgia and the Etowah River. If more people have good experiences floating our rivers, they will hopefully remember when it comes to making decisions on how public money will be spent and what resources need protection. There are many other reasons why this facility promotes river protection: I'm sure you can think of them.

The Dawson County Commission deserves a huge thank you for allocating the funds to purchase this land and



Steps lead to the water and rip rap protects the riverbank at the new Dawson County Canoe Launch on the Etowah River. Photo by Haynes Johnson.

build this facility. In this time of growing populations and shrinking public budgets, it is increasingly difficult to make fair and equitable decisions on how these funds will be spent. The GCA should express its appreciation by using this facility and

helping keep this facility, and this river, cleaned up. I think we should invite the Dawson County Commission and the folks from Dawson County Park and Recreation on a canoe trip as soon as the weather is a little more predictable. ✂

Flatwater Series Schedule Released

by Rick Bellows

Dates for the final three races of the 2007-2008 Georgia Flatwater Series and the first three races of the 2008-2009 Series have been announced by GCA member Larry Castillo. The Lula Bridge Race on Lake Lanier, with 10K and 20K races for all classes of boats will take place March 22 on Lake Lanier.

The remaining races on the 2007-2008 calendar will be the Canoochee River Race, an 11 mile event for canoes and kayaks near Claxton, Georgia, on April 5 and the Oostanaula Race and Canoe-A-Thon, a 13 mile race for all boat classes, in Rome on April 26.

Awards for the 2007-2008 Series will be presented at the Back to the 'Hooch Race and Festival June 14 in Atlanta, the first race of the 2008-2009 Series. The Back to the 'Hooch event will feature 8 mile and 10 mile races for all classes of boats.

Series awards are based on points for finishing first, second or third in Series races, and racers usually must participate in at least 4 of the 6 Series races to qualify for

prizes. Because of changes to the schedule, that rule may be less stringently enforced this year, according to Castillo. Awards are also presented for individual races.



RACING

After the Back to the 'Hooch Race and Festival, the Series will move to Augusta for the Savannah Riverfest, an 8 mile race for canoes and kayaks, on August 30. The first half of the 2008-2009 Series will conclude with the Suwanee River Challenge and Marathon, featuring 26 mile and 52 mile races for all classes of boats, in White Spring, Florida on October 13.

A non-Series flatwater race, the 12 Mile Canoe and Kayak Race, will be held April 19 in Clemson, SC. Despite the name, the race is actually 8 miles long and open to all classes of boats.

Contact information for the Series races and the Clemson race is in the Upcoming Events list on page 5. For more information on the Georgia Flatwater Series, contact Larry Castillo at 404.406.7367 or lcastillo@mindspring.com. ✂

Groundhog Day Paddle

by Vincent Payne

For five or six years I've led a winter trip on the Etowah tunnel section, usually on a weekday. Several years ago it happened to fall on Groundhog Day, which I thought was



Dealing with "a combination of strainers, rapids and logjams" on the Etowah. Photo by Vincent Payne.

funny. (Tunnel and groundhog, get it? Yeah, I'm easily amused.) So I have since declared this to be the annual Groundhog Day run and scheduled it to coincide with Groundhog Day.

This is important only because the event usually falls on a weekday. Most years there are three or four boats. Last year I had zero. There are always a few folks who call to see if the date is right: "but that's a weekday."

Not so this year: it fell on a Saturday. I had about twenty five people sign up to attend. Even after the call offs that left 18 people and sixteen boats who came out to paddle in 25 degree weather. The day was predicted to warm to 60 but I think the low 50's is the best we saw. That was at the take-out parking area in full sun, not on the river between the ridges.

We set our shuttle, gave the safety spiel and hit the water with Jack Taylor in the lead and David Brytowski and myself as the sweep. There were sixteen boats. Two tandem canoes: Chad Hyess & Drew Byer and David Brytowski & Vincent Payne. Three OC1's: Robert Harris, Karen Saunders and Jack Taylor. An assortment of 11 kayaks paddled by Darlene



TRIP REPORTS

continued on following page

Hawksley, John Miller, Lamar Phillips, Melissa Karasek, Lori Helman, Lisa Haskell, Keith Haskell, James Unger, Michael Kellis, Dan McNavish and Carol McNavish. The group included a half dozen paddlers new to this river and a couple of paddlers who were new to paddling.

We got everyone on the river and ran the first small drop without incident. Around the second bend there was a nasty combination of strainers, rapids and logjams that most people opted to portage. A few brave souls paddled down the drops, ferried across in front of the strainer and slipped through an opening between a log and a treetop. The whitewater boats did this very cleanly but two longer kayaks needed a bit of assistance to stay out of the strainer.

We were dismayed to see a set of posted signs on the property at the entrance to the tunnel. A local paddler told us that it was because people can set up a camp leaving behind

chairs and grills and a zip line. The zip line is still visible and could pose a threat to paddlers when the water is much higher. It looks like 3/8 inch cable and is only about four feet off the water and not very taut.

After the tunnel section the river has few rapids and the longer kayaks were able to outpace the shorter whitewater boats. There was a place where a log stretched across the entire width of the river. Karen and John sat on the log and helped pull boats across. I know their toes were cold. The two old guys in the red tandem boat known as Big Red refused to paddle anymore for the remainder of the trip and were last to make the take out.

The take-out at Highway 136 is convenient from a parking perspective but is a brutal carry. It might be a good idea to keep a spare key with your river gear. With a little assistance from Triple A we all made it home safely. 

Gates of Lodore to Split Mountain Green River

William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

Whoomp!?? WTF did that rock come from? Scrunch!!

Tommy, rowing a 15 foot supply raft stuffed with 3-days worth of 7 people's gear, missed his line at the top of Hell's Half Mile and broached on the second boulder. High side! Screw it — the behemoth turned turtle and Tommy found himself dumped on the rock. No problemo except for some dings.

But wait! Where's his swamper, TR? "Dad!" Oh, I neglected to mention that TR is Tommy's 12-year old son and was trapped under the inverted raft along with a thousand pounds or so of gear. Initiation time!



The Gates of Lodore.
Photo by The Hawk.

Well, these little incidents make trips memorable. Perhaps I should start at the beginning and put this into context. I was in the midst of planning a September canoe trip to Maine when Will called with the news that he had scored a 3-day permit to run Gates of Lodore to Split Mountain on the Green River.

This is the section controlled by Flaming Gorge Dam and flows range from 800 to 4,000 cfs (sort of like the O No Ee). The Green cuts through 3 canyons, Lodore (red sandstone), Whirlpool (just below the confluence with the Yampa), and Split Mountain (folded grey limestone and sandstone). The 3 represent antecedent canyons in which an established river channel is impeded by a geologic uplift and maintains its channel by cutting down.

Major John Wesley Powell figured this out in 1869, when his team ran it on their way to the Colorado. However, Powell wasn't first — at least 2 parties did it earlier: General William H. Ashley in 1825 (fur trapping expedition) and William Manley and 6 companions trying to find the Pacific Ocean during the 1849 gold rush. However, Powell published an extensive account and everyone who traces any part of his expedition should read his narrative.

This trip requires a lottery-issued permit, which the NPS vigorously enforces. The NPS is responsible for extracting those sorry asses who undertake the trip without proper preparation. So, the ranger will spend 15 minutes or so talking to trip participants (i.e., profiling y'all) and will carefully inspect boats and gear. Make certain your mission is fully configured before your pre-deployment inspection.

With respect to risk management, essential gear includes life jackets (one spare required per boat), paddles and oars (one spare per boat), flotation, throw ropes, repair kit and pumps. I do not recall that helmets are mandatory, but anyone who neglects to wear a helmet while running rapids has either never had her bell rung or is just plain ignorant. Oh, you should also bring sufficient water for 3 or 4 days because the river is beaucoup muddy and you can't depend on filtering it.

Gradient averages around 13 feet per mile, with the maximum 30 feet through Hell's Half Mile. The rapids at usual releases are no more than hard Class 3 or easy Class 4. However, remember that you'll be bringing gear. If you're not comfortable carrying such a load for 3 hours down the Ocoee you won't be comfortable with it in your boat for 3 days. This is the primary reason for bringing along at least one person who has a raft and feels comfortable oar rigging the Ocoee. Also remember the Green can run between 4,000 and 10,000 CFS, which ratchets up the difficulty a notch or two.

The NPS also has to haul out garbage, so with respect

to ecology, required gear includes a groover, a fire pan, a screen straining device (to trap detritus from dishwashing), and garbage bags. Other than never having done a multi-day trip and intentionally not reading the detailed instructions that will accompany your permit, there's no reason to not have these essentials. If for some reason you do not have them, TARFU - the ranger will not allow you to put on. There is no plan B because there are no stores anywhere near the put-in.

The trip begins at the Gates of Lodore, which Powell found to be dark and foreboding, "like a mountain drinking a river." Powell's team was unusually literate and they named this section after a popular poem, Robert Southey's *The Cataracts of Lodore*.

"How does the water
Come down at Lodore?"
My little boy asked me.
Among crags in its flurry,
Helter-skelter,
Hurry-skurry.
Here it comes sparkling,
And there it lies darkling;
Now smoking and frothing
Its tumult and wrath in,
Till, in this rapid race
On which it is bent,
It reaches the place
Of its steep descent.
The cataract strong
Then plunges along
Striking and raging
As if a war raging
Its caverns and rocks among;
Rising and leaping,
Sinking and creeping,
Swelling and sweeping,
Showering and springing,
Flying and flinging,
Writhing and ringing,
Eddying and whisking."

Well you get the point, and so did they. After 6 or 7 relatively flat miles the Green begins its steep descent into Upper and Lower Disaster Falls. Powell named this rapid after losing his first boat, the *No Name*, there. "Striking amidships on another rock with great force, she is broken quite in two and the men are thrown into the river." We had no problem with Disaster and reached our assigned camp, Kolb, at around 1800.

The river was not particularly high (~ 900 cfs). Disaster Falls was no biggie. No matter that Hell's Half Mile, the most difficult rapid on the Green (and a bad place to go swimming), awaited us 3 miles downstream. Upon awakening the second

morning, we casually packed our dry bags and perfunctorily lashed the gear into Tommy's raft.

Our maps showed Harp Falls immediately downstream but no one was certain when we actually ran it. We knew we had done Harp because Triplet Falls was even bigger and is at a sharp turn in the river. Triplet was a bit tricky because you start on the right and there's a mandatory river left ferry (for our riggers).

We convinced ourselves that Triplet was Hell's Half Mile. Wrong: it's just below Triplet and we realized that we were entering Hell when we encountered the horizon line. 900 cfs is a piddly flow, but the low flow put us below the rocks and we couldn't see the route very well.



FUBAR at Hell's Half Mile. Above: the supply raft in trouble entering the rapid. Photo by Will Reeves. Below: a loaded supply raft is hard to right. Photo by The Hawk.



The route isn't all that difficult. But remember, Tommy's raft held a ton of gear. In rapid succession, following his casual encounter with a submerged rock, SNAFU accelerated to TARFU and terminated FUBAR when high-siding didn't do the trick.

So there's Tommy standing on a river right rock next to the raft, TR trapped under the raft, and all the hard boaters way up stream (river left) taking pictures. I kept focused and did what any professional photographer would do - capture images of the rescue. Kevin went after loose gear. Will ferried over to the rock and tried in vain the flip the raft upright. Derrick ferried to shore, retrieved a line from Will and reeled the upturned raft, with Will and TR on top, to shore. Tommy ferried over from the rock in Will's boat but the 3 still couldn't right the thing. Finally, Michelle (Mac) ferried over and the 3 of them got it upright. Remember, rig to flip because all that gear acts like a keel and even under optimal circumstances remedying a flipped supply raft is not trivial.

Below Hell's Half Mile things are pretty trivial, enjoy the vistas. In about 7 miles the Yampa converges with the Green and you encounter Echo Park at the tip of a huge ox bow around Steamboat Rock. Stop at Echo Park (there's a privy), check out Whispering Cave and the petroglyphs.

Right around the corner from Echo Park you will enter Whirlpool Canyon. Plan to stop at Jones' Hole just over the Utah state line about 5 miles further down. It's a popular campground, has a ranger station, and up the creek a bit are some fabulous petroglyphs and pictographs.

Our assigned camp at Compromise was another mile downstream and we arrived just as the sun was setting. Rig
continued on following page

to flip. As Will buckled under the weight of my “dry bag” he noted, “Gee it’s pretty heavy, Dad,” then dropped it and convulsed with laughter as 50 gallons of water gushed out.

We woke up early the third (and final) day so the hard boaters could Di Di to the takeout and run the 270 mile round-trip shuttle. It’s another 17 miles on the river to the Split Mountain take out. The river’s pretty flat and meanders through Island Park. There’s more than one route. Tommy took the longer river left meander around Ford Island. I stayed river right. Then after about a mile when the two branches came together he sat and watched me hump the stinger through a half mile or so of mud.

The river then runs through Rainbow Park and splits through a mountain that eructated from the earth a long time ago. Split Mountain Canyon hosts Moonshine, SOB, and Schoolboy Rapids. If you’re so inclined, you can relax in the warm springs below Schoolboy. Inglesby, the last named rapid is about 3 miles further downstream. There’s a sharp left turn and then you’re at the take-out. Tommy, TR and I arrived

In South Alabama The Bartram Canoe Trail

by Heather Sutton

William Bartram, a well known explorer of the southeastern US, was a botanist, and those who have read his works know that he described the flora he encountered on his travels in meticulous detail. Right now, I was cursing most of that flora as Joan Steed and I, paddling along part of the Bartram Canoe Trail in the Tensaw Delta region in South Alabama, were dealing with our most recent fallen tree problem.

We were trying to paddle down Globe Creek, which at the moment closely resembled a deeply incised drainage ditch full of tree trunks and branches. The land was not much easier to travel over when scouting because, in addition to the native flora that Bartram encountered, there were large populations of non-native plants that have unfortunately been introduced since the time of his travels in the mid 1700s.

For some reason these interlopers are particularly inclined to form impenetrable walls of vegetation. After spending ages trying to walk around it, I finally got a look at the lower end of the tree pile in the creek. It was abundantly clear that we were going no further in this direction.



Heather Sutton approaching the shelter on the Bartram Trail. Photo by Joan Steed.

Fortunately for us, this being a wildlife man-

agement area, it turned out that there was a gravel road at no great distance to us down in the depths of the creek. Joan and I tied up our boats (not that they were in great danger of heading downstream, either with or without us) and walked up the road.

Turns out that after about two and a half hours of paddling we were only a mile from the car. So we drove back, hoisted those heavy sea kayaks back up on the racks (we are used to little play boats) and headed to our plan B destination for the evening, a designated camping area across from a firing range. Which turned out to be nice after the guy firing off some kind of gun perhaps useful for taking out elephants left for the evening.

Now, because the Tensaw delta is in fact a worthy destination for overnight canoe/kayak camping trips, and so far that is probably not your main impression, we need to explain how we got ourselves stuck in a ditch full of wood. Simple! We didn’t check any gauges!

If it had been a whitewater creek, we certainly would have. We are definitely the types to anxiously spend time on the computer tracking the progress of stream flows. But (and yes, we are aware there is a drought), having done a similar trip (from a different landing) last Thanksgiving, we felt familiar enough with the area and that it was downstream enough (most of the rivers in Alabama end up in this delta) to have enough water. Plus we are both busy.

So we missed the warning on the website which suggested that Globe Creek would be a poor choice to paddle at the moment. Especially during low tide. Which it was. And with a wind from the north blowing water out into Mobile Bay. Which it was. And with the Claiborne dam release being 4 feet

around 1700 and were completely de-rigged and ready to load when our shuttle crew arrived 2 hours later.

If you’ve been tasked with gear transport, like I was, plan on a 3-day drive between Atlanta and Vernal, Utah. I highly recommend basing a couple of days in Vernal and exploring Dinosaur National Monument. There are vistas into the river, petroglyphs, and ruins.



One of the pictographs at Jones’ Hole. Photo by The Hawk.

instead of the recommended 15 to 18 feet. Which it was.

The second day we put in at a different landing which was on big enough water to accommodate powerboats. There are some powerboats at that time of year (November), but not enough to be overly annoying. We paddled straight to our platform that we had reserved for the second night of our trip.

These platforms are more or less like the ones in the Okefenokee except they lack what to some is a crucial amenity: the outhouse. Tensaw platforms have only a shower curtain stall, and you are to bring containers to pack out human waste. And for females, a pee container is strongly recommended, unless you are way more gymnastically skilled than us.

The platforms are tucked in coves off of the main channels and must be reserved in advance. They are attached to the shore with a device that allows them to raise and lower with the tide. The water was low enough when we were there that the platform at low tide was not quite level, but still more level than many campsites I have stayed at.

Reasons to go to the Tensaw delta include the numerous different-sized waterways to explore, from large mainstem

rivers to narrow creeks. There are three overnight camping platforms scattered in such a way as to allow for a multi-night trip. The delta is mostly Forever Wild land, which means it is protected from development. You will have to share the area with power boaters and hunters, which means you might want to consider what time of year you go if those bother you.

The vegetation is largely bottomland hardwood forest complete with wildlife and birds, including the anhinga that guarded the entrance to the cove where our second night's platform was located both years we were there. I imagine there are plenty of mosquitoes in warmer weather, although there were only a few when we were there.

Most waterways are passable year round, but Globe Creek and Bear Creek require a lot more water than was present this last Thanksgiving. I would strongly recommend getting the large glossy map (free) from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, and checking out the Bartram Canoe Trail website (www.bartramcanoetrail.com), which you will need to do anyway to reserve a platform. While there, you can link to sites that help you determine water levels!

Editorial Let the Sun Shine In

by Rick Bellows

This issue of *The Eddy Line* was to have contained an update on how the effort to wean the membership from the print edition was going. That update was never submitted.

Back in the early fall, the previous Board concluded the membership would better understand the club's financial situation if financial summaries were printed periodically in the newsletter. No such financial summary has ever been submitted.

This issue contains minutes of the December Board meeting (which, it should be noted, were received in time for the February issue: the decision to postpone printing them another month was mine.) No minutes of the January Executive Committee meeting have been submitted. Nor for that matter were minutes of the October or November meetings.

The December minutes mention a "discussion" of changes to the newsletter and that the "President will write a letter explaining the Board's decision." The minutes include no reference to any vote, much less any indication of what the vote was or who voted which way.

Part of the issue with the minutes is the lack of a

Nothing on earth is so weak and yielding as water, but for breaking down the firm and strong it has no equal.
Lao Tzu

Secretary. But I at least was not aware we didn't have a Secretary until it was mentioned in passing in an email in late December or early January, and nothing about it was posted on the groupmail until well into January.

The lack of information certainly does not mean the Board or the Executive Committee is doing anything illegal, immoral or fattening, or that they're doing a bad job. But it does mean the membership has little or no idea what is being done. Lack of information from those chosen to represent the membership of any group will tend to breed mistrust, suspicion and negative impressions. Even worse, it breeds apathy.

As pointed out in William Reeves' Letter to the Editor on page 14, the Board and Executive Committee do a difficult job that requires difficult decisions. Those decisions will sometimes disappoint or even anger members. But keeping the membership informed of the issues, the decisions and grounds for them will make those decisions more acceptable.

Besides, keeping the membership informed is just plain right. Members should have easy access to up-to-date, accurate and complete minutes of Board and Executive Committee meetings, in *The Eddy Line*, online or both. The Board and Executive Committee should make a conscious effort to let the sun shine in.

And anyone willing to help out by serving as Secretary should contact President Tom Bishop. This is an opportunity to become one of the people who make the decisions. ✂



EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

by William Reeves

I am writing to comment on the February *Eddy Line*. First-off, disappointment rolled over me when I failed to find my expected trip report on the Gates of Lodore section of the Green; I wasn't aware that some members wanted "less articles of things going on out West."

This represents a tricky issue. Western whitewater is, well, BIG whitewater in a spectacular setting (no more spectacular than in Georgia but a different species of spectacular). Equally important, multi-day raft or canoe supported western whitewater trips are: 1) readily available (all year); 2) for any paddling skill-level; 3) just remember if you're doing a private trip someone must be proficient in wilderness survival (and the others must have a clue); 4) for entire families (9-year old TR plays a major character in my essay); and 5) available in any price-range: about \$1,000 for 7 days door to door with 4 on the Green; less than \$2,000 for 3 weeks with 14 days in the Grand Canyon, several days doing creeks in Colorado, and the rest driving; or, \$10,000, or thereabouts, for a deluxe commercial trip down the Grand Canyon. I write up my family-style trips in the lower price range.

But, that's not why I'm writing this. My article wasn't in the February *Eddy Line*. It was "An All-Business *Eddy Line*." I was

pissed; then I read it.

It was tremendous, well edited, and a fascinating read. I was unaware of the serious financial difficulties confronting the club. I was also unaware the club leadership had determined that part of their solution to the problem involved making the e-mail version of the *Eddy Line* the default option and the paper version by request only.

Before I critique their decision I want to make it clear that the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, volunteers all, are responsible for such decisions, they must consider a variety of issues of which most members are not aware (and probably don't want to worry about, so they don't participate in business meetings), and it ain't an easy job. Rick Bellows participates in this (albeit it less than he considers optimal). I don't agree with him that "the Board made a quick and easy decision instead of a careful and informed one."

I do agree that their decisions must consider views of the membership. Rick summarized some of the difficult issues wonderfully in his editorial and I have some additional thoughts.

First, at this stage of my paddling career, my major association with the GCA centers on *The Eddy Line*. I suspect my history is similar to many old-timers. My family joined the GCA in 1989 and the club taught us to canoe. Hawk/Myra and Will/Barb tandem canoed on many beginner and intermediate club trips. Will and I became ACA whitewater canoe instructors and taught in many beginner/intermediate clinics. Will, Tommy and I conceived and lead intermediate creek clinics for years. I organized GCA land navigation and caving (yes, caving) trips. I was one of Allen's loyal and prolific writers.

Wow, that was going on 20 years ago. We got pretty good, went well outside organized GCA trips, and time to do GCA activities drifted away. Now, Will is in Laramie, Myra's in Boynton Beach, and Hawk/Barb do a couple of big Western expeditions with Will et al. each year, extended sea kayak trips, and multi-day flat water canoe trips (all with established paddling buddies). I look forward to my hard copy *Eddy Line* and read it at my leisure in the kitchen or on the crapper.

To me *The Eddy Line* represents the GCA brand. As Rick noted, 80% of the family membership fee I pay entitles me to an *Eddy Line* subscription. I shouldn't have to specifically request it in the format I signed-up to get.

I don't really care if I can get an electronic version "weeks early." GCA issues just aren't equivalent to those represented by my electronic subscriptions to *Science*, *BMC Genomics*, or the *Journal of Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

The cover-page portion of Tom Bishop's essay got my attention. It was well written and persuasive. Then, I turned to page 14, which Rick beautifully buried way at the end. I was not impressed. "Number one you save a tree." I thought *The Eddy Line* was published on recycled paper, which all good GCA'ers recycle a second time.

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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.

Chattooga River Cabin Rental: Beautiful historic restored barn, three bedrooms, woodburning fireplace - on West Fork, near Overflow Creek takeout, short drive to Section II or III, 20 minutes from Section IV put-in, 12 miles from Highlands. Plan now for when it rains or come for excellent hiking, mountain biking, road biking, waterfalls, fishing, etc. \$150/night for up to three couples, 10% discount for GCA'ers or extended stay. Frank, 678.488.9677.

House For Rent: Santa Fe River House (Florida). A charming, rustic two bedrooms, two baths, fully furnished and equipped house on the Santa Fe River located five houses downriver from the Hwy 47 Bridge south of Fort White, Florida. Excellent location for boating the Santa Fe, Suwannee, and Ichetucknee and for swimming and scuba diving in many nearby springs. One bedroom sleeps two people, another bedroom sleeps three, and there are two double futons in the living area. A/C and heating. \$150/night for 8 people. Minimum stay is two nights. Weekly and monthly rates are available. Myrtie, 770-953-1325.

For Sale: Necky sit-on-top w. seat, rudder - \$950; Necky Looksah Sport w. rudder - \$950; Necky Zoar Sport w. rudder - \$750; Gortex drysuit, small - reduced to \$475; Stolquist drysuit, needs gaskets - reduced to \$100; Kotata drytop - reduced to \$100; 2 bunny suits - \$20 each; 3pr. Warner paddles - \$110 each; paddle carrying bag - \$30; 2 splashskirts - \$40 each; safety gear - \$30; 2 pr. Kayak dollys - \$70 each; Therma-rest - \$50; Eureka tent w. fly, ground cloth - reduced to \$100. \$2800 for all and will include all extra camping tubs of stuff; chairs, tarp w. adj. poles, ridge pole, free surf board. Email murphey.j@cox.net and be sure to specify item(s) of interest in subject line.

Gear For Sale: (Selling to make room for new kayak.) Perception Torrent WW Sit-on-Top, yellow, lightly used, hatch with mesh bag plus thigh straps and padded seat with pocket for lunch, adjustable foot pegs, self-bailing. Stored in garage, out of UV. \$650 new, yours for \$350. 2 Piece Sit-on-Top Kayak Paddle, Point

fiberglass shaft 90.25" long with padz grips, \$60.

60" Werner carbon Bandit spooned WW canoe paddle, wood laminated, T-grip, 18"x7.75" blade, \$190 new, lightly used, light weight, good deal at \$110.

60" WW canoe or raft guide paddle, old school style laminated woods, big 20"x8.5" blade, from Whitesell/Sawyer, with edging material on sides and bottom. Used 1/2 season - \$85.

Shredd Ready "Sherlock" Bright Red WW kevlar helmet, S-m with rear ratchet adjuster, front and rear brims, used twice by ex. \$125 new, \$65 now.

Custom Kevlar Helmet, L-XL with new Shredd Ready liner, one of a kind flashy old school glitter green & purple - \$25. Harmony Wave PFD, side zip, adult M, blue and black, front pocket and lash tab, used twice by ex - \$30.

Kokatat Gortex Paclite Paddling Jacket, women's M, blueish purple, Velcro neck tab, Velcro waist tab, used twice by ex - \$168 new - \$75.

Can deliver to Nanty in spring or come to Southern Maryland to test paddle and see D.C. Other pickup arrangements can be made. Email canoeru@comcast.net or call 443.624.8662.

"You can print it out. Printers are quite reasonable these days." I own one of the unreasonable photo-quality ones attached to a fully loaded Dell Precision 690. Tree-wise, ink jet color printers use quality paper, most print just one-sided, and as a bonus they gobble ink and electricity. Worse yet, to access an electronic copy of *The Eddy Line* I have to take the time to boot-up the computer, search my e-mail, download the attachment, and print it. I spend all day at work on a computer. At home, I'd rather slit open my paper *Eddy Line* and use the computer for serious photography, not more e-mail.

My experience leads me to believe that if the e-mail version of *The Eddy Line* becomes the default option and the paper version by request only the paper version will become extinct like the Ivory Billed Woodpecker (extinct means gone

forever). I will likely be one of members lost to the GCA. Loss of this population is one of the issues that the Executive Committee and Board of Directors must consider.

In my opinion, the underlying issue involves development of a strategy to get more members. This strategy should consider developing a portfolio of activities of interest to those who the Member Survey documented as not participating much in GCA trips. Developing the activity portfolio must somehow address augmenting the outstanding, but woefully small, group of dedicated Trip Coordinators.

At day's end, the Executive Committee and Board are responsible for the health and survival of the GCA. They have to make hard decisions with consequences and I hope the entire membership pulls together to help them. 



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