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THE EDDY LINE

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www.georgiacanoe.org

July 2008

Don Kinser Elected President of AW

by Rick Bellows

GCA member and former River Protection Chair Don Kinser was elected President of American Whitewater (AW) at an AW Board of Directors meeting on May 17 in Sacramento, California. Don had served as Vice-President of AW, and will serve as president for two years.

In addition to having served as vice-president, Don has been a driving force in AW's efforts to end the boating ban on the upper sections of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. He was also a member of the Expert Boater Panel who did the first legal run of the upper Chattooga in over 30 years in January, 2007.

Don was elected AW President even though he couldn't talk because his jaw was wired due to a serious injury. An article about that injury, adapted from Don's email to friends and family a week after the incident, is on page 5.

Don replaced another Georgian, Sutton Bacon, as President of AW. Sutton recently took over as president of Nantahala Outdoor Center. ✂



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Members Vote to Increase Dues

by Rick Bellows

By an overwhelming majority, members attending a General Meeting on June 1 at Roswell's Azalea Park voted to raise the dues for membership in GCA. Annual dues will increase to \$35 (from \$25) and the cost of a life membership will increase to \$350 (from \$250). Though more folks seemed to be present before or after the vote, only 21 votes were cast on the dues question.

The dues increase follows several months of discussion about the financial condition of GCA. A summary of the club's financial condition as of the second quarter of fiscal 2008 (February through April) is on page 4. ✂

Betty Rose, Doug Hoffmann Take Over Advertising

by Rick Bellows

Betty Gail Rose and Doug Hoffmann have stepped up to "tag team" as Advertising Managers for *The Eddy Line*. Their appointments were approved at an Executive Committee meeting held in conjunction with the General Meeting on June 1.

Betty and Doug have already come up with some ideas to help increase advertising revenue to offset the cost of producing and distributing *The Eddy Line*. If you or your business would be interested in advertising in the newsletter, please contact Betty or Doug. Their contact information is on page 2. ✂



Printed on recycled paper

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Past Presidents:	William Crawford (1966/7)	Payson Kennedy (1968)	Claude Grizzard (1972)
	Margaret Osborne (1973)	Jack Weems (1979)	Mark Levine (1984/5)
	Andy Warshaw (1986/7)	Jim Silavent (1992/3)	Evelyn Hopkins (1994/5)
	David Martin (1998/9)	Brannen Proctor (2000/1)	Marvine Cole (2002/3)
	Vincent Payne (2006/7)		

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Cruisemaster	Steve Reach	404.579.3166	gca_trip@yahoo.com
Librarian	Denise Colquitt	770.854.6636	neiceyc@aol.com
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Keeping In Touch

To contact GCA, write Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357, leave a message at 770.421.9729 or call/email one of the folks listed above.

Groupmail: GCA maintains a group email list to help members share information of general interest. To sign up, go to gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Website: Information about GCA, forms (including membership application and GCA waiver form), a link to the GCA Store and links to *Eddy Line* advertisers are all at www.georgiacanoe.org.

All About *The Eddy Line*

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in print or pdf format. To subscribe, contact Ed Scultz at 404.266.3734 or heloeddy@mindspring.com, or mail your request to P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357.

Submissions/Advertising: All submissions and advertising should be sent to *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA, 30503-0441 or the_eddyline@yahoo.com.

Deadline: The deadline for all submissions, classified ads and commercial ads is the 5th of the previous month (e.g. May 5 for the June issue).

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Views and opinions expressed in articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official views and policies of the club. Material not individually designated as copyrighted may be disseminated **only** by paddling organizations having a newsletter exchange agreement with GCA: proper credit should be given. Publication of paid advertisements does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

July

4	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
5	Hiwassee Note 1)	Trained Beginner	William Gatling	770.529.7103
5	Nantahala	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
6	Chattahoochee (Note 2)	Trained Beginner	Dick Hurd	770.664.4770
12	Tuckasegee	Trained Beginner	Todd McGinnis	770.856.4489
19	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
19	Terrapin Creek (Note 3)	Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
20	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
20	Cartecay	Intermediate	Dick Hurd	770.664.4770
26	Nantahala	Intermediate	Steve Reach	404.579.3166

Note 1: Late start on the river: trip leader will be celebrating the Second Amendment nearby in the morning.

Note 2: Nacoochee and Smith Island Sections..

Note 3: Father/Daughter paddle. If your daughter can't make it, Mom will do. If you don't have a daughter, bring your son.

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS

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

Beginner - mild current, occasional Class 1 ripples; 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: Wednesday evenings beginning at or before 6:00, May through October, at Stone Mountain Park. For more information, including directions, see Page 4.

Announcements



Monthly 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. ✂

Second Quarter of Fiscal 2008

Financial Statement

by Ed Schultz, GCA Treasurer

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 2,500.00
Interest	\$ 553.98
Sales	\$ 119.36
GRES Fees	\$ 1,400.00
Roll Practice Fees	\$ 1,378.00
River Access Contributions	\$ 325.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 6,276.34

Expenses:

General/Administrative (phone, web, supplies)	\$ 478.52
<i>Eddy Line</i> Printing, Mailing	\$ 3,612.64
Postage Due Account	\$ 40.00
Directory Printing	\$ 1,804.36
GRES Expenses	\$ 285.85
Roll Practice Expenses	\$ 1,125.00
Affiliate Dues	\$ 225.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,571.37

Net Increase (Decrease) this quarter: (\$ 1,295.03)

Funds available 04/30/08:

Operating	\$ 3,440.15
River Access (Restricted)	\$ 38,693.26
Life Member (Restricted)	\$ 24,154.31
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 66,287.72

Keep Your Email Address Current

Each month numerous "copies" of the pdf version of *The Eddy Line* bounce back due to bad or outdated email addresses. If email to you bounces back, you will be deleted from the recipient list until we get an updated email address.

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. If your email changes, please "unsubscribe" and resubscribe with your new address.

Thank you. ✂

Support Our Advertisers

The GCA web site now features a "GCA Supporters" web page with links to those who support GCA financially by advertising in *The Eddy Line*. Help those who help us — patronize our advertisers, And when you do, let them know you saw their *Eddy Line* ad and appreciate their support. Thanks! ✂

New and renewing members in the quarter were 11 fewer than the number enrolled in the second quarter of 2007. The second quarter loss of \$1,295.03 contributed to the further decline in operating funds available to the club. ✂

Summer Roll Practice

GCA Summer Roll Practice is held at Stone Mountain Park at 6:00 p.m. (or earlier) on Wednesday from May through October. Roll Practice is free, but you'll have to pay to enter the park. A season pass is recommended if you plan to attend multiple sessions.

DIRECTIONS: Enter the park from Stone Mountain Freeway (East Entrance); take the first left; continue about a mile until you cross the dam; take the first right into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

The boat ramp has a lot of power boats putting in and taking out, so use the ramp to load and unload only and park away from the ramp. Once in the water, 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. ✂

Following the path of least resistance is
what makes rivers and men crooked.

Anonymous

Upcoming Events of Interest

July 10-13 - 2008 Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver National Championships, French Broad River, Section 9 (between Barnard and Hot Springs - www.fbcanoeracing.org/nationals.html).

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

October 4 - Berkeley County Blueways Paddlefest, Old Santee Canal Park, Moncks Corner, SC - www.berkeleyblueways.com - Archie Thompson, ilike2kayak@juno.com.

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

Paddling Without a Facemask

by Don Kinser

As some of you already know I had a freak accident on lower Big Sandy Creek on the afternoon of May 1. Brent Austin, Brent's friend Scott, Charlie Walbridge and I were enjoying a magnificent day on the river, the level was a sweet 6.15 feet, the river was running green and clear, the weather was warm and sunny, a perfect spring day on a great river in northern West Virginia.

We were all boating well and enjoying the day until we got down to First Island rapid. Unfortunately that is where the fun stopped at about 4:15 p.m.

After navigating the first and second part of the drop cleanly, I went over the bottom drop on line and was pushed left toward the rock on the bottom left. The rock was pillowed at this level and I thought I would ride off the pillow and around the rock. Instead I was quickly and violently flipped over the top of the rock and struck my chin hard, just left of the centerline of my jaw, on the down river side of the rock. Instantly I knew something was very, very wrong.

Fortunately I remained conscious throughout the entire episode although quite dazed. After missing an attempted roll I exited and quickly got to the shore. My buddies gathered my gear and we began to assess the situation.

I was sure at the time that I had knocked out some teeth or at least cracked them up pretty good. As it turns out this was not the case. The teeth were still solidly in the jawbone, but the bone was displaced. The blow had cleaved my jaw cleanly in two and pushed the left side of my jaw back into my mouth, tearing the tissue on the inside of my mouth.

To say the situation was bloody is an understatement. Interestingly, however, there was no external laceration. In addition to the clear break in the front of my jaw was a less serious, non-displaced fracture on the left rear of my jaw.

Charlie has some rolls of gauze in his first aid kit that I



November 8-15 - Fall Paddle Florida, Suwannee River Wilderness Trail - <http://paddleflorida.org/>.

stuffed in my mouth to stem the bleeding. As we debated our options it became quite clear to me that the quickest way to the hospital was to get back in my boat and paddle the remaining 2 miles or so to the confluence with the Cheat and our vehicle.

So we got was back in our boats and headed for the take out. I managed pretty well but did swim once before the takeout. I am sure in hindsight this was the best decision and probably saved several hours getting to the hospital.

Once got to the car we made our way to Charlie's house and then Charlie drove me to Ruby Hospital at WVU in Morgantown. Charlie, Brent and Scott were all you could ever ask for in a river buddy and did their best to help me both on the river and afterwards, getting me to the hospital, breaking down my campsite at the Cheat Festival, shuttling my car around, picking Nanci up at the airport, etc. I want to thank each of them for all their help.

Charlie and I arrived at the WVU hospital about 7:30 or so and I was impressed with how quickly I was processed into the ER, given treatment and diagnosed. By about 9:30 I had been x-rayed, cat scanned and seen by several doctors.

However at that point things almost took a bizarre turn. They wanted to give me a prescription for pain, discharge me and let me go home and see my own doctor, telling me that I had up to ten days to have the surgery. I was dumbfounded and couldn't imagine spending another 48 - 72 hours with the left side of my jaw shoved back into my mouth. Besides I was 700 miles from home and by myself.

This fact seemed to change the equation and finally I was admitted to the hospital and put on the surgical "add on" list (i.e. standby list). They told me not to expect surgery before late Friday afternoon or even Saturday.

continued on following page





These members have recently joined GCA. New members are the life blood and future of the club — call one near you and arrange to paddle together.

Avers, Christine
2611 McClane Drive
Doraville GA 30340
H: 770-936-0162
Email: chrisavers@yahoo.com

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Gainesville GA 30506
H: 678-965-5519
Email: beebe-brett@yahoo.com

Cronheim, Milton & Claire
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H: 706-343-0079
Email: mcronheim@yahoo.com
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Email: rcrowe@bartowcountybank.com

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Email: tcruce@bellsouth.net

Fladger, Ben
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Email: charlene_idd@yahoo.com

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Email: lasorv@yahoo.com

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O: 770-986-5051
Email: nsw1@earthlink.net

Now that I knew what the situation was it was time to call Nanci, my wife. That call went like you might expect. She wanted to know everything and I didn't want to talk any more than absolutely necessary because of the pain. We successfully communicated and she made plans to fly to Morgantown on Friday to help get me back to Atlanta.

I was greeted early Friday morning around 6:30 a.m. by Dr. Michael Hurst and learned to my surprise that they were ready to fix me up right then. I was whisked off to the OR where they installed a titanium plate and wired my jaw shut. Surgery

went great and I was back in my room by about 10:30. I had to spend the night in the hospital Friday night and was discharged early Saturday morning. Nanci drove me back to Atlanta, arriving Saturday evening. Thank goodness for pain meds.

Interestingly enough, Charlie and I had sat at Big Splat and debated the merits of helmets with face protection just 45 minutes prior to the accident. As we watched some hot shot young boaters run Big Splat (while we portaged), Charlie exclaimed that he would never paddle a river where he

needed a face mask like they were wearing. I told Charlie I thought they were a good idea and was considering getting one.

Had I had a face mask I probably wouldn't be writing this email right now and would be eating a really nice dinner tonight for my birthday instead of sucking something unappealing through a straw. I think I want a new helmet for my birthday!

I want to thank Brent, Charlie, Sandy (Charlie's wife) and Scott again for all their help. I want to especially thank Nanci for coming up there and getting me and putting up with my whitewater addiction. A broken jaw can make one somewhat grumpy and she is an angel.

I visited a doctor here in Atlanta for a post operative evaluation and follow-up. He says things look great and I can expect my jaw to be unwired in about 4 weeks. While the

AW Responds to Delay in Chattooga Access Decision

Editor's Note: After several delays throughout the fall and winter, the US Forest Service (USFS) announced a draft Environmental Analysis based on its "Visitor Use Capacity Analysis" of the boating-banned upper Chattooga River would be made public March 7. Instead, on March 10, a notice was posted on the USFS website that the draft Environmental Assessment was "undergoing internal review" and would be posted "as soon as it is available for public review and comment." Nothing further has been posted.



ACCESS

On June 4, Kevin Colburn, National Stewardship Director of American Whitewater, sent the following letter to Chief Abigail Kimbell of the USFS.

Dear Chief Kimbell,

On January 15, 2004, Regional Forester Robert T. Jacobs signed the Record of Decision (ROD) approving the Sumter National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (RLRMP) which contained a total ban on whitewater boating on twenty one miles of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. On April 16, 2004 American Whitewater, under regulations at 36 CFR 217.8, filed a timely notice of appeal (#04-13-00-0026) regarding this decision.

On April 28th, 2005, Gloria Manning, as reviewing officer for your office, issued a decision regarding our appeal, well after the September 23, 2004 administrative deadline. The appeal decision confirmed American Whitewater's claims that the RLRMP violated both the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and thus reversed the decision to ban boating. The appeal decision called for a new ROD based on a user capacity analysis by April of 2007. The appeal decision also confirmed our assertions that use must be limited equi-

continued on following page

discomfort remains, the pain is pretty much gone.

As I write this, it is just about one hour short of one week since the accident. I have already lost 9 lbs. It is harder than you think to get 2000 calories a day through a straw!

Editor's Note: Don's jaw was unwired May 30 and he is well on the way to recovery and is back at work. He ended up losing nearly 25 pounds on his involuntary liquid diet. Fortunately, not being able to talk didn't keep him from being elected President of American Whitewater on May 17.

Don is a experienced whitewater kayaker who was one of the boaters on the "expert boater panel" who paddled the upper Chattooga as part of the Forest Service's User Capacity Analysis. If this can happen to Don, it can happen to any of us who paddle whitewater. Consider getting yourself a helmet with a facemask for your next birthday.



Milt Aitken on the upper Chattooga, January, 2007. Copyrighted photo by Brian D. Jacobson, Trout Lips Video, LLC.

tably if limited at all, that solitude is equally important to all wilderness compliant users, and that safety concerns cannot justify a boating ban. The appeal decision allowed the boating ban to continue while the user capacity analysis was carried out.

Well over three years have passed since your office granted our appeal of the 2004 RLRMP decision to continue the unjustifiable boating ban. The Sumter National Forest is now well over a year late in producing a user capacity analysis and a new decision. Worse yet, there is no decision timeline in sight.

The appeal decision stated that "If additional time, based on unforeseen circumstances, is needed, the Regional Forester should contact this office to establish a mutually agreed time for completion." We are aware of no "unforeseen circumstances" that justify any delay, and have received no communication regarding the status of our appeal in since the Sumter Forest missed a published release date for the Environmental Assessment of March 7, 2008.

The delay is unwarranted and in violation of the appeal decision. We respectfully ask that you provide us with an update on the status of our appeal, a rationale for the delay, and prompt deadline for its completion including any intermediate milestones. The impacts of the delay and its continuation of the unjustifiable boating ban are felt deeply by paddlers who

are still barred from experiencing the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River by kayak, raft or canoe.

Furthermore, we want to alert you that the many preliminary alternatives presented last summer and fall by the Sumter National Forest fail to pass the most basic tests of law, regulation, or the appeal decision. All the preliminary alternatives propose to ban boating on the uppermost 2 miles of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River without any factual basis, thereby replicating the successfully appealed 2004 RLRMP decision on a smaller section of river. In fact, the Sumter National Forest arbitrarily excluded this portion of the Chattooga River from the user capacity analysis. Most or all of the alternatives also single out paddling — likely the smallest and lowest impact use — for harsh and unjustified limits and/or bans while allowing other users much greater freedoms including unlimited use. Any decision that does not treat all users equally will be in clear violation of the appeal decision, the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

We ask that your office assure that the new ROD rigorously follows the appeal decision which calls for equitably treatment of wilderness compliant uses, a rational fact-based decision, and full compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Wilderness Act, and other relevant laws.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this issue and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Kevin R. Colburn
National Stewardship Director
American Whitewater



Betty & Rose Design

Brochures
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Collateral
Annual Reports
Logos
Billboards
Point-of-Purchase
Ad Specialty

Designer of GCA River Rats at Play teshirt
aka: "Whatever Floats Ur Boat!"

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Response Access Issue on Spring Creek

by Andy Warshaw

To All Georgia Paddlers:

I read with extreme interest the article written by Tim Mersmann in the June *Eddy Line*. It prompted me to dig out my old scrapbook and review a part of our club history that I think deserves to be readdressed.

As only us old timers may remember, in 1987, the GCA filed a lawsuit against a property owner who owned land on both sides of the Upper Chattahoochee River near Smith Island rapid. The suit was filed after the landowner threatened many paddlers, first with a baseball bat and a German shepherd dog and later a handgun.

Through the work of many GCA members and some really dedicated attorneys, the end result was a Consent Order in Civil Action File 8714263-06, signed by Judge Brantley of Cobb County Superior Court on December 1, 1987, granting passage to river travelers through any piece of property owned by the defendants. The Consent Order also

allows portages and the retrieval of personal property. The order lists 77 stretches of navigable rivers located within the state of Georgia, including Spring Creek in Colquitt County. While I stress that this Consent Order does not grant the absolute right to navigate these rivers, it is a huge step in

obtaining the passage that we all seek. It lays a solid foundation and precedence that can be used in any court of law to defend paddlers who may find themselves arrested for simply floating down a river.



Madola Road to the Ocoee Confluence Fightingtown Creek

by Allen Hedden

Sunday, April 27, 2008. The weather was pleasant - just at the end of some rainstorms, mild and overcast. Edward Stockman, the Trip Coordinator, advertised the trip as a Fightingtown Creek trip but, as always, Edward had a back-up plan.

We met at the McDonalds in Blue Ridge and debated whether to go with plan A (Fightingtown) or plan B (Toccoa). We decided there was a decent chance of water in Fightingtown, so we convoyed to the put-in and did a visual check on the river and decided it looked minimally runnable.

Participants were Edward Stockman, Doug Ackerman, Jack Taylor, Dave Soltice, Dawn Southern and Allen Hedden (OC-1); Steve Smith, Kelly Harbac, Lisa Haskell, Christine Blumberg and Greg Spencer (K-1).

We set shuttle, leaving most of the vehicles at the confluence with the Ocoee. Shuttle is short and straightforward: Madola Road to Mobile Road, right turn, continue to take-out (name changes near McCaysville). For the majority of the participants, this was a first run on Fightingtown. The creek is usually only runnable after a good rain or during very wet seasons.

Because of the small, tight nature of the streambed and



Dave Soltice runs one of the rapids on Fightingtown Creek while Christine Blumberg and Greg Spencer look on. Photo by Allen Hedden.

the propensity for strainers and deadfalls, Edward had limited the size of the trip. It can become quite a zoo getting a couple dozen boats over or around a massive strainer.

Setting off downstream, there were a couple of riffles to warm up on, followed by sections of flat water interspersed with short Class 1 & 2 rapids. We had a strainer drill set up, with a signal from the lead boat, and designated boaters to exit their boats to help others negotiate the strainers. We used the drill several times.

Some of the strainers were simple to negotiate by nudging the boats over, others had to be portaged. One big triple strainer was extremely complicated, requiring several assistants in the water to guide/push/pull boaters over and around.

Fightingtown is a beautiful creek, but has become well on the way to being another Cartecay as far as development is concerned. Some of the new homes fit fairly well into the scene, being set back from the streambed and having ample natural vegetation to screen their presence. Others are more obtrusive, built on the flood plain with expansive manicured lawns, decks, boardwalks, docks, etc. And there is no shortage of "No Trespassing" signs.

The trip was uneventful for the most part, with one exception. It was Dawn's first time out solo in her Sequel, and at one point on a bend in the river the current pushed her into some overhanging limbs. As novices tend to do, she leaned away from the limbs (and spiders) and the inevitable happened: she flipped in the current. Several boats went by, seeing her hanging on to the boat stuck in the overhanging limbs, and each paddler implored her to "Let go of the boat!"

What was NOT so obvious was that her foot was somehow stuck in the boat, which was in turn lodged in the limbs, and the only thing keeping her head up was hanging on to the boat. Thank goodness she had the presence of mind to ignore the advice of the passing boaters. A rescuer was able to wade out to assist and hold her up while getting her foot untangled from the boat and freeing the boat from the limbs. A very scary episode for a new paddler!

Pictures are at http://canoeist.smugmug.com/gallery/4891351_RsoLM. Many thanks to Edward for coordinating the trip! A fun day on a rapidly disappearing resource.



Chestatee (Copper Mine Section)

by Karen Saunders

We were ready to run something local so 6 of us headed up to run the Copper Mine section of the Chestatee near Dahlonega on May 17. Paddlers were: Robert Harris, Jean Brown, Buddy Goolsby, Lamar Phillips, Tracy Cruce and myself.

We got an early start, got the boats to the put-in and set about dragging/carrying the 3 canoes and 3 kayaks down the embankment and the 1/4 mile to the put-in below Copper Mine rapid. Copper Mine is a Class 3 rapid, and is usually runnable, but there is a tree completely across the main center chute and that only left some rather dicey sneak routes which most of us wouldn't even consider. We opted for putting in below the rapid, hence the long carry.

Anyway, we got off to a great start and just enjoyed the beautiful scenery and the riverside flowers. This section clips along with a shoal or small rapid around every bend and the current was good. The rock formations on the river bottom run parallel to the current, and that got us in trouble a couple of times. I picked a route which ended up bottlenecking into some technical rapids. It definitely sharpened our river skills.

We got to Blasted Rock Rapid and scouted for wood. This is a solid class 2—2+ rapid and some rock dodging is in order here. Most of us ran it clean around the big rock at the bottom, some went right over the top and we had a few rock climbers and one swimmer. The second drop sent another one swimming, but we all enjoyed the excitement.

Around the bend several tried their luck side surfing on a small but surprisingly strong little drop. Tracy headed in for her first side surf in her rec kayak with no skirt and ended up chest deep in water, still in her kayak. It was a hoot to see her paddle her little submarine over to the side to dump it. We all had a good laugh.

There is another good little rapid on downstream and there was an assortment of runs through this. Robert and I managed to do some rock hugging here and I got through backward. Robert took a swim, but not before giving us some good photo opportunities on how to do a brace.

It was over too soon with the run only taking about 3 hours. The takeout is brutal under the Highway 52 bridge and Lamar found a better spot a little ways upstream by an old bridge abutment that we will use next time.

Keep in mind if you run this section that it is public land where you put in above Copper Mine Rapid, but you must cross private property to put in below the rapid. Please be courteous, quiet, don't linger here and pick up any trash others may have left. The take out is public right of way and has parking on a small dirt road before the bridge on the right from Highway 52. 



Robert Harris surfing on the Copper Mine section of the Chestatee. Photo by Karen Saunders.

Coossawatee Below Carters Lake

by William Gatling

The Coossawatee flows under Highway 411 south of Chatsworth and warranted more investigation. "Delilah" Cruce, Xan Gatling and I put in just below the re-regulation dam.

Within sight of the put in is the only rapid. Unlike most rapids, this one looked worse from land than on the water. It is a very straightforward clear channel into a fast 2 foot V with a huge pool at the bottom.

The water was warmer and more cloudy than other dam released rivers. The current was surprisingly brisk. On water that seemed still, we were moving along at 2-3 miles per hour. The scenery was nice and it didn't seem to warrant the lowly "C" that *A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to Georgia* bestowed upon it. There was some river trash, but nothing really bad.

We chased several blue herons down the river. Schools of large carp swam under the boats. Turtles were suspiciously missing. Several houses were scattered along the banks. Most were not noteworthy, but there was one made from a railroad caboose.

After lunch the number of tires seemed to increase. Then it increased even more. The scenery grade started to seem very appropriate.

During the last quarter of the trip, there were three strainers. All were passable, but required some creative

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maneuvers.

Getting the boats up to the parking lot involved climbing up a steep incline and dragging the boats up with a rope. The take out at Highway 136 has extremely limited parking. I'm glad we went, but this is not a river that I would repeat anytime soon. ✂



Caboose house on the Coosawatee. Photo by Tracy Cruce.

Moreland Avenue to Bouldercrest Road South River

by Tom Welander

We stood on the front porch with PFDs and paddles that morning. We were hitting a wall after going through the usual motions to go paddling. An unrelenting blast of wind from the west had taken the proverbial wind out of sails. 30 mph headwind on the Ocoee? No, thanks. Lake Tugaloo? Fuggetaboutit.

What a waste; substantial rain had fallen the day before. It wasn't until after we conceded the day to household chores that the light bulb went on: this was begging to be "Get to know your watershed day." There were precious few places to paddle with the wind at our backs and one stood out. We decided to paddle inside the Perimeter, downstream from our very own plumbing.

We scouted our two options. Intrenchment Creek looked utterly inviting. It was tranquil, pretty and, I suppose by the dubious virtue of being immediately downstream of the sewage treatment plant, free of trash. Best of all, access was easy along some quiet, unpopulated (dare I say "country") roads. A sign from the city of Atlanta boasted of \$20 million in recent

continued on following page

upgrades to the treatment facility. We nodded in approval. To our noses, it was a credible boast.

Next we scouted the South, which was in an altogether different mood that day. It had spiked eight hours prior and was still carrying a load of stormwater along at a strong clip. The Forest Park gauge reported 100 cfs. Also in contrast to Intrenchment, the put-ins and take-outs were on major honkin' thoroughfares.

We weighed the pros and cons of each. After more consternation and deliberation, Suzanne dowsed the answer. Gentle Intrenchment Creek was the friendlier of the two options but the paddling pendulum swung elsewhere...toward where the water was.

Putting into the South River at Moreland Avenue had many elements of a commando attack. I hit the emergency flashers and stopped along the curb just long enough drop off Suzanne and toss boats off the car. An ill-advised hasty crossing of six traffic lanes brought me to a driveway at the trucking company across the street. Fire ants bit my toes while I parked, chased my dry top in the wind, and sprinted back across the street toward the boats. It was good to be out of sight and away from the traffic when we carried the boats down and into the cool dank darkness beneath the bridge.

We launched and peeled into the zippy river as quickly as we could. Sunshine flashed momentarily as we emerged from beneath Moreland Avenue. And just as quickly, the swift current ushered us into a thick tree canopy that cradled us in a nicer kind of shade. The 15 or 20 foot-wide stream ran straight ahead as far as the eye could see between high vertical banks and a ceiling of leaves. It resembled a canal, a bright green hallway decorated with the occasional plastic grocery sack. It was good. It was alive and beautiful...a triumph of nature over human interference. Our pursuit of



Suzanne Welander in the "bright green hallway" of the South River. Photo by Tom Welander.

deviant behavior was paying dividends once again.

The swift current combined with few eddies made the paddling interesting. One of the attractions along this stretch is the fabled Constitution Lakes complex. I was expecting a chain of lakes. Would you believe it's actually nothing like the Boundary Waters?? No lakes were visible. Only the GPS could tell we passed that spot on the map.

A deer hopped into the stream just ahead of us, and crossed with more alarm and difficulty than it had anticipated. Fumbling, I managed to get a photo of its unrecognizable bum; there's another one of those for the scrapbook.

Passing the confluence of Intrenchment Creek brought us into our neighborhood's watershed. I let the triumphant feeling of being reunited with our very own DNA linger for a moment or two. Some men's voices above and beyond the tall banks called to one another, hurried and insistent. Whoever it was, they were up to something at least as mischievous as we were, so we shushed each other and laid low until their car engines gunned and sped away.

There are three or four shoals between Intrenchment Creek and I-285, and a nice little boof spot on the downstream side of the interstate. The stream had no objectionable odor except where these drops aerated the water; at those places the smell of effluent and chlorine was similar to the metro Chattahoochee. It was all fun and games until I got splashed in the mouth while carving a wave in the chute below the Bouldercrest bridge. Then I was ready to call it a day.

Our take-out was a wooded stretch along River Road, just downstream of Bouldercrest. A road sign at this makeshift access point promotes a sediment removal project executed jointly by the Corps of Engineers and DeKalb County. What remains of that abandoned enterprise is a rusting rig—a small barge of some sort that used to float but is now scuttled in the river, leaking enough petroleum to leave a sheen spanning the river from bank to bank. Hopefully, it will get dealt with soon. ✂

Vindicated by Paddle

by Jim Morris, Converse, Texas
from paddling.com

I was building a Chesapeake 17 kayak and had finally gotten it far enough along to launch. During this building period I'd taken a rash of ...teasing ... from my two friends about building a kayak instead of buying, my wood-working skills (attempting to amputate a hand with my power saw didn't help), how fast it would reach the bottom, how much time I'd actually spend right side up, yada, yada. I'm proud to say that at no time during this did I commit any bodily harm.

But now it's time to float the boat so the two friends and I decided to go to Inks Lake State Park for the weekend. They would rent one of the park canoes. On the way up, I continue

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.

For Sale: All boats are like new: Necky sit-on-top w. seat, rudder - \$950; Necky Looksah Sport w. rudder - \$950; Necky Zoar Sport w. rudder - \$750; Gortex drysuit, men's small - reduced to \$475; 3 pr. Warner paddles - \$110 each; paddle carrying bag - \$30; 2 splashskirts - \$40 each; safety gear - \$30; 2 pr. kayak dollies - \$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.

Canoe For Sale: Esquif Zephyr, 11'3" - fast, responsive and very light (only 37 lbs.) - outfitted with minicell bulkhead saddle and ultralight nylon bags. More details at www.esquif.com. Paddled twice: 6'4" seller prefers a bigger boat. \$1,800 investment, will sell for \$1475. Call Alan: home 770.534.5857, cell 770.634.6993. (05)

Whitewater Canoes For Sale: Whitesell 14' canoe, Perception saddle with dry storage, Dagger wooden paddle, new airbags - \$300; Old Town H2Pro canoe, foam saddle. aluminum paddle - \$200. In Peachtree City. 770.486.4972 or Barylska@comcast.net.

For Sale: Dagger Impulse 13 foot whitewater canoe with pedestal saddle, knee and ankle pads, nearly new thigh straps and airbars. In good shape with normal scratches. Call Lamar at 404.229.2939.

For Sale: Perception 16 foot sea kayak in good condition, only paddled a few times. Call Lamar at 404.229.2939.

Wanted: Racks to carry 1-2 kayaks on a 2008 Toyota Matrix (sub-compact). Call Laura at 404-297-6419.

to manly endure the pathetic attempts at witty comments on my "pile of kindling" and my supposed kayaking skills.

We arrived late in the afternoon, too late to get a canoe, but I decided to take the yak out for its inaugural float. It'd only been 20+ years since the last time I was in a kayak so after about five strokes it dumps me. Of course, my self recovery skills are just as rusty so I end up pulling it back to shore. I did manage to spend about 30 minutes in it without getting dumped again. In fact, that was the only time that weekend I got dumped.

But my initial, ah, exhibition of kayaking skills resulted in more ribbing around the campfire that night, with many promises not to paddle off and leave me in their wake.

So finally we launch both the kayak and the canoe the next day, just piddling around the lake. I spend an hour or so getting used to the kayak again and am doing a pretty good job, really getting back into the feel of it. And then the guys in the canoe pass me going the other way, stroking right along, with a comment that they'll slow down and give me a break in a minute. I start to dig into the stroke and lean into the turn when inspiration hits me, and I start stroking even harder. Within a couple of minutes I had caught up to the canoe, passed them, and was leaving them in my wake.

Going backwards.

I didn't get any wise cracks for the rest of the trip. ❄



Editorial

A Step In the Right Direction

by Rick Bellows

One problem I have with GCA is that important issues are decided at meetings in Atlanta, depriving members who can't attend those meetings due to time conflicts or distance of a voice on those issues. A case in point is the June 1 decision to increase dues: I don't fault the decision, but I'm appalled that it was made by only 21 members.

Fortunately, steps are being taken that could provide a way for more people to take part in club decisions. Resource Development Chair William Gatling is championing the use of a service called "dimdim" that allows for groups to conduct meetings online rather than having to assemble in one place (or sit in traffic burning \$4-a-gallon gas trying to get there).

The service would allow members to hear/see the discussions at Board and Executive Committee meetings. Members with microphones could also participate in the meetings. (Those without microphones could participate by typing messages, but I found that distracting when I tried it.)

The By-Laws, which require actual membership meetings for major decisions like elections or raising dues, should be changed to allow for greater participation by those who can't make it to Atlanta. In the meantime, though, the Board and Executive Committee should strive to increase online member participation in the decision making process. ❄

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTION 2008

Whitewater Kayak

Nantahala Falls Weekend

Tom Bishop, bishop.t@comcast.net

September 6 & 7

Recreational Kayak and Canoe

Duckie Day- rented inflatable kayaks

Introduction to Whitewater

Gina Johnson, haynesandgina@alltel.net

July 19

Sea Kayak (call for class fees)

Steve Cramer, cramersec@charter.net

Sea Kayak Basics - Charleston

Sept 20 — 21

Sea Kayak Strokes Athens area

August 9 (tentative)

Whitewater Canoe (Solo and Tandem)

Trained Beginner

Jim Albert, jimalbert@gmail.com

August 16 & 17

Intermediate

Haynes Johnson, haynesandgina@alltel.net

August 16 & 17

Advanced

Marvine Cole, marvinequilts@earthlink.net

To Be Rescheduled

Safety

Basic Whitewater Safety

Gina and Haynes Johnson, haynesandgina@alltel.net

July 26

INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & CLINIC INFORMATION

Clinics will be taught by ACA-certified instructors and qualified assistants. In order to provide individual attention, the maximum student-to-instructor ratio is 4:1. Events will be coordinated by GCA Members. Space is limited.

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

BASIC WHITEWATER SAFETY:

This is not a Swift Water Rescue course, but rather a one-day safety course focusing on the skills needed to immediately effect a rescue after an incident has occurred. It follows the American Canoe Association's Basic White Water Safety curriculum and is a full day of learning and practicing simple safety concepts and rescue techniques. The morning is demonstration and land-based exercises, including throw ropes. The afternoon is water-based exercises, including self-rescue, rescue of others and retrieval of boats and gear. If you've never taken a river safety course, or haven't taken one recently, this is an excellent first course or refresher course. The only prerequisite skills are basic paddling techniques such as those learned in a beginning paddling course.

RECREATIONAL KAYAK:

This class is designed for recreational kayak boaters who want to experience moving water and Class 1 & 2 whitewater. Basic safety will be reviewed and river skills will be practiced.

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS

SEA KAYAK:

These courses are for longer, narrow kayaks with rudders or skegs. The beginner class is two days of basic strokes, maneuvers, and rescue skills. One day is on quiet water, the second is in mild surf. Instruction level will be geared to the skill level of the participants. For more information see <http://webpages.charter.net/cramersec/skflyer.html> and <http://www.acanet.org/sei-coastal-kayak.htm>

TRAINED BEGINNER WHITEWATER KAYAK & CANOE:

Participants should have had fairly recent beginner level instruction and at least 5 days of white water experience after the instruction. Participants should be able to do basic maneuvers on Class 2 rivers (eddy turns, peel outs & ferries). Polish-up beginner skills, plus bracing and rolling (kayaks).

INTERMEDIATE WHITEWATER KAYAK & CANOE:

Intermediate clinic participants should be comfortable paddling class II-III whitewater such as the Nantahala, wish to master the roll in rapids (kayaks), and learn how to play confidently in Nantahala-type waves and holes. Intermediate kayakers should

have a 100% flatwater roll and a 50% reliable combat roll in class II rapids. Saturday morning lake session working on strokes and rolls (kayaks) and an afternoon session on a Class 2-3 river working on turns, surfing, eddy hopping, etc. Full day Sunday trip on a Class 2-3 river.

ADVANCED KAYAK AND CANOE:

Advanced clinic participants will practice the maneuvers taught the the Intermediate Whitewater Kayak and Canoe class, but on Class 3 water

SWIMMING ABILITY:

You must be able to swim and should not panic with your head under water. Beginning kayak clinic participants will spend a lot of time upside down inside their kayaks on the lake. All students will practice swimming & self-rescue skills in rapids.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Whitewater paddling is a physically and mentally challenging activity that requires fitness, flexibility, and a positive attitude in stressful situations. Kayaking is a high-risk activity for individuals with a history of shoulder dislocations. Applicants should discuss potential physical limitations with the Coordinator before signing up.

EQUIPMENT:

You must furnish all of your own equipment. You will receive a detailed list of required and recommended equipment.

REGISTRATION AND FEES:

To register for one of these clinics you must be a member of the Georgia Canoeing Association. For an application to join the GCA go to the GCA Web Site at <http://www.georgiacanoe.org/membership.htm> or call 404.421.9729. Dues are \$25. Classes are \$65 per person for a two day clinic or \$35 for a one day event, unless otherwise stated. To register for a clinic, call the coordinator of the clinic for more information, including questions on your skill level and/or course objectives. You will NOT be registered until the coordinator receives this completed form and a check for appropriate fees. Please don't wait to register. All classes are subject to being closed due to student limits or being rescheduled or canceled if there are insufficient students registered. Registration closes ten days before each class due to insurance and planning considerations.

CLINIC _____

NAME _____

AGE _____ **SEX** _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL _____

ALLERGIES OR PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES: _____

DISABILITIES OR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS: _____

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:

If you wish to cancel or switch to another date, please notify the Clinic Coordinator as soon as possible. If you cancel at least 10 days before the first class session your fees will be refunded. After that, refunds will be made only if a replacement is found.

Clinics will be conducted rain or shine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GINA JOHNSON AT haynesandgina@alltel.net.



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