



Post Office Box 7023  
Atlanta, Georgia 30357

# THE EDDY LINE

Volume 43, No. 10

770.421.9729

www.georgiacanoe.org

October 2008

## October 26 at Azalea Park Fall Meeting, Elections Scheduled

GCA's annual Fall Meeting and election of officers has been scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 26 at Azalea Park in Roswell. As in past years, some members will paddle the section of the Chattahoochee ending at Azalea Park before the meeting.

The slate of officers nominated for election includes three incumbents: President Tom Bishop, Secretary Bill Fox and Treasurer Ed Schultz are all seeking re-election. Jamie Higgins opted not to seek another term as Vice-President and William Gatling, currently Resource Development Chair, has been nominated for that post.

In addition to the election, the Fall Meeting will include a picnic. Pizza will be provided and those attending are asked to bring a dish to share.

Azalea Park is on the river right bank of the Chattahoochee. From the light at Roswell Road/Highway 9, go west on Azalea Drive about .7 mile. The parking lot and pavilions are on the left. ✂

## Volunteers Needed 40th Annual Southeasterns October 4-5

GCA is sponsoring its 40th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom & Wildwater Championships on Saturday and Sunday, October 4th & 5th, 2008, on the Nantahala River, in Wesser, North Carolina. The Saturday Wildwater Championships will begin with a mass start at 3:00 p.m. and will run from the rafting put-in just below the Duke Power Powerhouse to Finish Rock near Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC).

There will be a gala party Saturday evening to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Southeasterns, the oldest slalom and wildwater races in the Southeast and perhaps the oldest slalom races in the country continuously held at one venue. The Slalom Championships will be Sunday beginning at 1:00 p.m. and, like last year, will be held just downstream of the River's End restaurant.

The Southeasterns are the GCA's biggest social event of the year. You are urged to participate by racing, spectating on or off the river, and/or volunteering to help with the races. There will be the usual classes in both slalom and wildwater for recreational boats as well as for racing boats. You can even win \$100 if you break a Wildwater course. Special awards are given for the fastest C-1 or OC-1, the fastest female and the name of fastest C-2, and the fastest overall gets engraved on the Southeasterns Trophy.

Come join the fun! For further information contact Race Master Roger Nott at 770-536-6923 or 678-316-4935 or at ocapaddler@charter.net. A registration form is on page 15, can be downloaded from the GCA website or can be obtained from Roger Nott, 2335 Stephens Circle, Gainesville, GA 30506-1115. ✂



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### Annual Fall Meeting and Elections



**Azalea Park, Roswell  
Sunday, October 26  
4:00 p.m.**



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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Tom Bishop	404.542.1118	bishop.t@comcast.net
Vice President	Jamie Higgins	404.508.0761	jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com
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Resource Development Chair	William Gatling	770.529.7103	wmgat@mindspring.com
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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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Roll Practice Coordinator	Kate Wilkerson	678.560.1071	odiek8@juno.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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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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## UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

### October

11	Upper Russell Fork	Advanced	David Bernard	540.392.5096
12	Upper Russell Fork	Advanced	David Bernard	540.392.5096
12	Broad	Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
13	Nolichucky	Advanced	David Bernard	540.392.5096
18	Nantahala	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
19	Nantahala (Note 1)	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
25	Broad	Trained Beginner	Jeff Engle	706.548.5015
25	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	William Garling	770.529.7103

### November

1	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	William Gatling	770.529.7103
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Note 1: Ferebee to Falls

### 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!

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**Signing Up:** Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

**Training Trips** are a combination of recreation and training designed 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.

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## 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. ✂

### 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. ✂



MEETING

### No Minutes

As of press time, no minutes of the July, August or September Board of directors/Executive Committee meetings had been provided to *The Eddy Line*. Meeting minutes will be published if and when provided to *The Eddy Line*. ✂

## 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! ✂

### November 8-15

### Fall Paddle Florida

The inaugural Paddle Florida event in late March was such a success that the organizers are planning a fall version. The inaugural Fall Paddle Florida will be held November 8 through 15 on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail in northern Florida. The event will be held in cooperation with the Florida Park Service and several private sector partners.

Paddle Georgia alum Bill Richards, who headed it up, credits the success of the spring event in part to "Participation of our friends from Paddle Georgia and the Georgia Canoeing Association." Richards is hoping for similar participation in the new fall event.

More information is available online at <http://paddleflorida.org/>. ✂

## From the Editor

This month's edition of *The Eddy Line* is a bit shorter and a bit later than usual. It's shorter because very little in the way of articles, trip reports, announcements, letters or anything else is coming in. If you have a trip report, article or whatever you've been saving or thinking about writing, now would be a good time.

The newsletter is later than usual because the editor's day job has been unusually demanding for the past few weeks. The goal is to get *The Eddy Line* to everyone before the first of the month. I hope everyone will have this issue before October 1, and I apologize to anyone who receives it late. If you receive this issue of *The Eddy Line* late, you might want to consider getting the electronic version instead of or in addition to the print edition. ✂

## Upcoming Events of Interest

October 4-5 - 40th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom & Wildwater Championships, Nantahala River, Wesser, NC - Racemaster Roger Nott, 770.536.6923 or ocapaddler@charter.net.

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.

October 26 - GCA Fall Meeting and Election of Officers, 4:00 p.m., Azalea Park, Roswell.

## Etowah River, Falls Section

by John Miller

After reading the tragic report that Vincent Payne sent us about the death of the kayaker in a rain swollen creek in the Smoky Mountains, I thought it important to start a dialog about different rivers and creeks and what happens to them at different water levels. If any of you have experience, please share it with the group. The life you save may be your future paddling partner.

Rivers at normal flow are not the same river at flood stage. Remember that. Always. To set the stage for my report, I think it is important that you know a little about me and my paddle partner for this adventure.

I am 59 years old, 23 years of military experience, time as a scoutmaster. Lots of time spent in the woods, less time on the water. I am SCUBA certified and a fair swimmer. I am comfortable in the outdoors and in most matters (I did say most, not all) I think I display good judgment and like to think I have a little bit of common sense.

I have been paddling for a little over 4 years, mostly lakes and Class 1 and 2 rivers. I figure at the current rate of improvement I will be running the Class 3 rivers with you young folks by my 70th birthday.

My boat of choice has been a Necky Manitou, a nice rec boat of 10 feet 11 inches. I have taken her down the Nanty, but did not run the Falls. She has also been down the Chattooga, Section 2, so I do have a bit of Class 2 experience.

In March of this year I got my first whitewater boat, a sweet Dagger GT 8.1, and have been slowly but surely getting more comfortable in her. We have also been down the Nanty, but again I carried her around the Falls. I am an ACA certified kayak instructor for moving water up to Class 2. I do not have a roll but I can wet exit in a New York second. Last, I have taken a two-day swift water rescue course, which I recommend to everyone who paddles.



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

Doc is the adult in this paddling duo. He is not as old or good looking as me but that is a story for another day. I believe he has been paddling a little longer than me, both canoes and his boat of choice, a Tsunami 120 (12 feet). Doc has never paddled a whitewater boat. Again, he is a man with good judgment and common sense.

That is the duo; here is my report and what I learned.

The section of the Etowah that I am writing about is putting in under the Highway 9 Bridge near Dahlenega and taking out at the Castlberry Bridge. This is a trip of about 6 miles. It has several Class 2 rapids and one Class 4-5 rapid, Etowah Falls.

The Falls are easily portaged on river right. You can actually paddle to the top of the Falls and take out, but I recommend stopping about 50-100 yards above the Falls on river right. That way there is no chance that you and your boat will get caught in the current and make and unexpected boof off the Falls. Very experienced boaters do run this falls. I ain't one of them.



## TRIP REPORTS

The gauges I will refer to can be found at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/current/>. They are under the Cossa-Tallapoosa River Basin section. The first one is number 02388900 and is located at the bridge where we put in on Hwy 9 above Dawsonville, near Dahlenega. The second one is number 02389150 and is located at Highway 9 below Dawsonville.

For the sake of this report, we will refer to the Hwy 9 Dawsonville gauge since this is the one I looked at most. For the record, the reading on the upper gauge is usually lower than the gauge on the Dawsonville one.

*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.

Epton, Martha  
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H: 478-218-2203  
Email: riverswimmer74@yahoo.com

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Suwanee GA 30024  
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Email: woodall4@comcast.net

As you all know, in late August we saw more rain than we have in ages. As the rain fell, the rivers and creeks were rising. The computers and phone lines were hot with people wanting to know what to run, who was going, what levels were safe. Excitement was in the air; there was water in them thar hills!!

On August 26, a group of us started plotting a trip down this section of the river. I have been down it before, both in my Necky and my Dagger, at water levels between 4 and 4.5 on the lower gauge. (For future planning, I would not want to drag my boat down this section if the lower gauge is below 4 feet. Ever.) Doc had never paddled it before but was anxious to give it a go. All summer the lower gauge has been hanging around 3 feet. Not good.

At 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday the gauge was at 4.42 and climbing. Looking good. By 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday it was at 6.58 and going up. Looking good. By 5:00 p.m. it was at 7.74 and we were beginning to wonder. At 9:00 p.m. it was at 10.06 and we were having second thoughts. For those of you who are new or inexperienced, note how fast the water level climbed with heavy rains in the area. Almost 7 feet in just a few hours.

At this time we decided we needed a backup plan. We did know that with the rain mostly stopped, the rivers would start to drop like a rock. So this is what we decided: we would check the gauges at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday and make a decision of whether to paddle the Etowah or run the Hooch

from Buford Dam to Settles Bridge. The only thing we knew for sure is that our boats were going to get wet somewhere.

Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. the lower gauge was back down to 7.16 and continuing down, so we decided to drive to the river, give her a good look and make an on site judgment call. Because the decision to paddle was made at the last minute, work conflicts and miscommunication dropped our group from 8 maybes to 2 positives.

Doc and I drove to the take out at Castleberry Bridge and did a walking scouting trip of Castleberry Rapids; Class 2, rocky and technical run at levels around 4-5 on the gauge. After giving the rapids a good look from the river right bank we saw nothing that caused us any concern. As a matter of fact, the rapids looked much more inviting with water higher than 4.5.

We were close to a go but had one more stop to make. We drove to the put-in and again walked the river and gave her a good look. No excess debris was noted. Of course the water was higher and swifter than I had paddled before but we both decided that it was not so bad that we could not paddle against the current if we encountered river wide strainers and had to turn back. When we put in at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday the lower gauge was at about 6.7, about 2 feet higher than I had run before.

From this put-in, it is about .75 miles to the first Class 2 rapid, Chuck Shoals. This is Class 2 at levels around 4 feet on

the lower gauge. Chuck Shoals is also a very rocky and technical run, not very long but boy do you scrape the bottom off your boat at normal flows. When we came to this rapid, again we gave it a good look. It was clear and for the first time I saw it with water over the rocks. wW actually had a clean line to shoot through that sucker. I knew from experience that if we cleared Chuck Shoals and did not encounter any serious strainers the rest of the run would be a hoot and really not dangerous.

So off we went, shooting over the rocks I was used to dragging on, misty rain, no one on the river but the two of us, life does not get much better. When we reached the Falls, we beached out boats and sat at the top and had a very nice lunch break. It is hard to believe there is such beauty so close to Atlanta, and sad to think that most people are too busy to ever see it.

The run at this level was much more fun and exciting that it is at lower levels. According to our map, we had 6 solid Class 2's to enjoy. At lower levels, you can debate whether they rate a 1 or a 2 rating. Since no one but Doc and I were there, we voted. Everything was a 2 except the Falls: we gave her a solid 5 rating.

We had been paddling and playing for about 3-4 hours when we reached Castleberry Rapids. Our scout from the bank was right on the money and we encountered no prob-

**You might be a paddler if ...**

**You keep your boat on top of your vehicle, just in case you happen to come across an interesting stream.**

**Posted by "Mania" on the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association groupmail.**

lems.

That was the end of another great day on the Etowah. Doc and I have both decided that we would give this section a very hard look at levels between 7.5 and 8.5 and would probably run it at those levels. But we would repeat our process. Park and scout the lower rapids from the bank. Since they are so similar in difficulty to the upper rapids, if they looked safe to run, we could do it again.

I know this has been wordy, but I do hope that some of you enjoyed it and more important, got enough information to help you plan a trip on this part of the Etowah. This is my advice:

1. Wear a helmet and spray skirt, even with a rec boat, at these water levels.
2. Never run anything you have personal doubts about. Better to portage and paddle another day than to have your body pulled out of a strainer 2+ feet above the water levels because you used poor judgment.
3. Never run a river for the first time when it is at or near flood stage.
4. If you want to paddle a river that you have never been on before, find a buddy who has and get on out there.
5. Learn which gauges to watch and what the levels actually will mean to your paddling experience on your favorite rivers.
6. With a little planning and common sense, rain and higher than normal levels are a real treat that we should take advantage of.

One thing I will admit we did wrong. For safety, you should always have at least 3 paddlers. In this our judgment might have been a little weak but if I had the decision to make again, I would still be writing this report. I trusted that my experience and my paddle partner would keep me out of trouble.

As I sit at my desk writing this on Sunday morning, wishing I were on the Nanty with Doc and the rest of my paddling buddies today, the lower gauge is at 3.81 and still dropping. Watch the weather: if that river starts to rise again, you will find us back on it.

If any of you have any questions for me about this river, never hesitate to contact me. Paddle safe but paddle something. ✂

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## Cartecay at Flood Stage

by Todd McGinnis

On the Tuesday before Labor Day week we were still getting rain and the Cartecay was rising again. At the last minute I decided to take a conference call on the road and go boat the Cartecay with Garth Brown, Barry White (the boater not the singer) and Joel.

At 4:00 I ran to the garage to pick a boat: would it be the Allstar or the Mamba? About 5 minutes before the boat selection I had checked the gauge and it said 3.5 feet and the gauge is always lower than reality. I had paddled it at 3.5 before in a playboat so that was a viable option but the voice in my head kept saying "Mamba."

I have learned not to argue with the voices and loaded the Mamba and gear and took off. When I got to the river there was a local sitting at the put in with a mixed expression on his face - he looked as though something challenging had just occurred in his life.

This fine young chap just experienced the hole that reveals itself at the bottom of Whirlpool. Mind you, at 3.5 feet it kept a canoe one time for upwards of 40 minutes (sans boater), and that day upon arrival the Cartecay seemed much, much higher than 3.5 feet.

The guy, who was not small, proceeded to tell me that it worked him over and over and when he thought he was out it took him back for some more. I expected that hole to be there so I already considered the right line would be the right line that day.

Okay, back to boat selection. I choose wisely that day as the river was between 4.5 feet and 5.5 feet. The locals said it was 6 feet. Who knows, but it was big.

### Rapid Breakdown

Surf Rapid was gone. The only noticeable feature was the porch, which by the way had water up to its bottom.

S-Turn had standing waves higher than the ledge (minimum 6 foot standing waves). I ran those through the clean, easy center line. A couple other boaters opted for the far left line which was a safe Class 2 slide. Next up was Whirlpool.

At Whirlpool we took the eddy and got out and scouted. It was the river right run and you wanted to keep a safe distance from the keeper hole and lean forward and paddle. One thing to notice was that the river right side was a recirculation feature with logs, trees and other such debris.

Well, even the right line wanted the paddler to at least think they were going to make close and intimate friends with the hole, but luckily with the right line it just teased us. I went first and took the eddy below and waited for the others to follow.

The next paddler was Garth. He lined up for the right line and then backed off and went back to the eddy. It was curious

why he made that move. Then, shortly thereafter, it became evident why: about a 6 foot section of someone's porch made its way through the rapid and proceeded downriver. Garth went forward and then Barry and Joel.

At Blackberry we picked up two boaters. The regular center line was a wall of water and the rapids immediately below were full-on Class 2's. The center line had about an 8 foot wall of water. The left line was no longer the only left line as it disappeared and a new left line opened far river left and followed the bank.

That was the easiest route down the rapid. The other options were to take the center line and contend with the wall of water and hope it did not kill your momentum or hope you did not find that section of porch that floated by. The final option was to take the path that used to be the left line chute and take the meat at an angle.

Most of us choose the old left line and smacked the flow at an angle and had an adrenalin rush as it blinded us for the moment and we trusted our balance and paddle skills. All came through Blackberry in fine shape. At the take-out we left two pickup paddlers behind and the four of us proceeded to DNR.

The high levels introduced us to some fun standing wave/boogie water sections. Mr. Twister was beefy and fun. I ran it right took the eddy behind the first rock and then took the second drop hugging the second rock. Barry got one hell of a squirt and challenged EJ for skill and grace. I know that was his intent: sweet move Barry.

Narrows was uneventful, but Clear Creek Falls was nothing less than great. The regular line was there. If you miss the line on a normal flow line you might hit some rocks, but on this day no telling what you might hit. It was late and we were running short on daylight, so we opted for the center line. The center line is the one that does not exist at normal flows. Everyone ran it nicely and then we made our way to the take-out.

With daylight dwindling, our group searched intensely and finally found the DNR take-out. The next challenge was the hill of mud: we all got out and it was great fun.

Five foot and above is an awesome run but takes some additional skill the usual Cartecay river runner does not practice on this river:

- 1 - Ability to eddy out when you must to scout;
- 2 - Keen river scouting skills;
- 3 - Seal launches from 3— 6 feet above the water line;
- 4 - A strong roll.

I ran the Cartecay again at 1.4 three days later and it was a different river all together. All the low water lines that allow kayaks were clogged with debris and it appears this is a river that needs to be run now at a minimum level of 2 feet unless the river gets cleaned up. 

## Upper Chattahoochee River

by Allen Pogue

August 30, 2008. The Upper Hooch was at about 700 cfs (maybe 1.3 feet). The group was Allen Pogue, Steve Smyth, Edward Stockman, Douglas Ackerman and Allen Hedden.

I wasn't able to get any time off during the arrival of the remnants of Tropical Storm Faye. Fortunately there were still a few things running four days later, including the upper section of the Chattahoochee River. The "Upper Hooch," as it is known, is a free flowing Class 2-3 run that ends up in Lake Lanier. The weather was excellent, if a little hot, and the level was sufficient, around 700 cfs early in the morning, slowly dropping throughout the day. Steve assured me that it was the highest he had run it.

The water was slightly cloudy and had a peculiar smell to it. I'm not sure if this was due to impurity or if it was some natural odor. I decided not to worry about, being glad to run a free-flowing river for the first time in a few months.

The geology of the river shortly downstream from the launch features a lot of boulders and bedrock formations. At the level we had, this made for highly technical Class 2.

There were frequent signs of the recent high water levels in the Hooch, mostly in the form of obvious erosion of sand deposits. Many were cleanly cut away to expose the

lamina.

After a somewhat lengthy shuttle-setting process due to some confusion about the proper meeting point (situation normal), we got underway. The Upper Hooch immediately impressed me with more rapids than I anticipated. I had been expecting more of a Class 1-2 run but the river has many solid Class 2 and even some 2+ rapids with numerous possible lines and an abundance of play spots. Most of the play spots are of the type suitable for squirt moves and flat surfing moves such as flat spinning. The lines tend to be very technical and the riverbed is a maze of shelves, slots, chutes, and boulders. It's an eddy-hopping playground.

In terms of scenery, the Upper Hooch was much better than I expected. There are some houses and well-marked private property, but for the most part the run is tree-lined, with some cool rock formations in places. You can easily imagine that you are immersed in wilderness, at least during a few lengthy segments.

The only thing that detracted from the experience was the abundance of outfitter clients and non-PFD-wearing locals. At first we didn't see many other paddlers, but after a while we started to see a lot of rental boats and "civilian" amateurs on surf-skis and ocean sit-on-tops.

There were a few guys in jeans, tennis shoes, and t-shirts, with no sign of a life jacket. As far as I could tell, they swam every single rapid. You could always look ahead into the distance to identify the next rapid by the fact that someone would always be standing up in it trying to turn their sit-on-top right side up.

Eventually the geology seemed to change a bit and there were more even ledges, until we got to the last big rapid, Horseshoe. Horseshoe was the most interesting single drop to run, although the adrenaline was somewhat stymied by the fact that some kid just deliberately jumped in and swam the rapid like it was no big deal.

After Horseshoe, the river quieted down a bit, with only a few minor Class 1 rapids and plenty of time to talk before we reached the take-out. It was another great day on the river and I get to add a new stream to my list. Thank you Steve, Edward, Douglas, and Allen for allowing me to join them for some tropical storm free-flowing water. ✂

## Chattooga III Low Water Paddle

By Roger Nott, Trip Coordinator

This trip was originally scheduled for Tesnatee Creek to take advantage of the peak flowering of its lush mountain laurel, but we had to switch it to the Chattooga due to very low water. We only had 1.35 on the Hwy. 76 USGS gauge. This made for slow going, though there was almost always enough water to keep from scraping, if one was careful. We had a

*continued on following page*



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**For Sale:** 4 Yakima Q towers with Pathfinder clips and one 78 inch crossbar, \$100. Also older fiberglass cartop carrier, \$25. Herb, 770.414.0158, 678.571.2132, [bruderherb@mindspring.com](mailto:bruderherb@mindspring.com).

**For Rent:** Cozy 2BR, @ bath cabin on an acre with creek, 2 miles from Lake Notely - 1 hour from Nanty, 45 min. from Ocoee, 25 min from Toccoa, Cartecay. Great monthly deal for paddlers or friends of (w. references). 678.613.2533 or [www.emerald-creekcabin.com](http://www.emerald-creekcabin.com).

**For Sale:** Mohawk Maxim OC01 playboat, 8'10", red w. yellow bags, factory outfitting, 3 years old, excellent condition only used 3 times, stored indoors. Weighs 41 lbs. Rockered plan-

ning hull for experienced paddler. Belongs to BSA Troop 16, Gainesville. \$1221.25 + shipping new: will sell for \$750 OBO. Roger Nott, 678.316.4935, [ocapaddler@charter.net](mailto:ocapaddler@charter.net).

**For Sale:** Like new Ocean Kayak Drifter, olive, moderately used - Perception Torrent, patched, yellow - each \$350 OBO. Ben Simms, 770.845.6900 or [BenSimms@aol.com](mailto:BenSimms@aol.com).

**For Sale:** Red Blisstick SCUD, used 3 seasons, good condition, no oil canning. Great river runner/creekboat. \$450. Christine, 404.375.3993.

**Wanted:** 2 rec kayaks, one for 9-year-old boy and one for his mother. Need something that will track well for flat water and Class 1, maybe Class 2.

Tracy, 404.583.4032 or [tcruce@bellsouth.net](mailto:tcruce@bellsouth.net).

**For Sale:** Diesel 65 in very good shape. Bought new Spring, 2004 and used in warmer months through 2006. Usual scratches, but long life remaining. Very stable and carves well into eddies. Would like to keep it, but need to sell to finance larger replacement for larger me. Photos on request. \$700. Jim, 205.251-0092, [jim@moonwellness.com](mailto:jim@moonwellness.com).

**For Sale:** Yakima lowrider canoe rack. Includes cross bars, gunwhale brackets, locks and tie downs. Cost over \$300 new, selling for \$100. Dick Sturtevant, 229.244.1303, [dksturt@bellsouth.net](mailto:dksturt@bellsouth.net).

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beautiful, mostly sunny day, though it did rain briefly while we were at lunch and swimming at the large overhanging river left rock just below Eye-of-the-Needle.

Enjoying a great day, all clean runs, and frequent intentional swims on this most beautiful river were Priscilla Dixey, Alex Edl, and Robbie Short in kayaks and me in my Howler OC-1. ✂

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## Tuckasegee Gorge Chick Paddle Reunion

by Roger Nott, Trip Coordinator

The enthusiasm of the highly successful Chick Paddle two weeks earlier continued as our day of the Tuck was spiced with the fun-loving good humor of our 12 spirited gals. Paddling this fine, sunny day were Sheila Abner, Tracy Cruce, Kelly Harbac, Ron Hardee, Lisa Haskell, Michael Kellis, Susan Locke, Cindy Powell, Karen Saunders, Pauline Tynne and Carol Winters in kayaks; the tandem open team of Helene and Howard Rogers; and OC-1 paddlers Kevin McInturff, Angela Sauv, Jack Taylor, Connie Venuso and me.

We had the fun, medium water level of 646 cfs at the

Barker's Creek USGS gauge near the take-out. We split into two groups of nine boats each, met at lunch, and enjoyed a fine day on the river with no significant mishaps.

We saw abundant wildlife, including, a number of Canada geese and several not very shy turtles sunning themselves along the side of the stream. The name "Tuckaseegee" is an Anglicization of the Cherokee word "daksi-yi," pronounced "dahkshi-yi" in the local Cherokee tongue and meaning "Turtle Place."

The river used to be usually spelled "Tuckaseegee," which is the spelling used in Bob Benner's Carolina Whitewater since its first printing in 1973. Now North Carolina state maps spell it "Tuckasegee," though one often also sees "Tuckaseegee." No matter how one spells it, the Tuck is a fun paddle and a great resource when most free-flowing streams are dried up. ✂

**In politics, absurdity is  
not a handicap.  
Napoleon Bonaparte.**

# 40th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom & Wildwater Championships October 4 & 5, Nantahala River, Wesser, NC

REGISTRATION FORM (please fill out completely):

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_ USACK # (if current): \_\_\_\_\_

PADDLING CLUB AFFILIATION (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**WILDWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 3:00 p.m. (1 ENTRY)**  
Check-in and late registration: 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. - Competitor's Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

Circle Class: K-1 K-1W C-1 C-1W C-2 C-2M C-2W OC-1 OC-2 OC-2M OC-2W

Circle 1: Championship Cruising

Partner's Name (partner must register separately): \_\_\_\_\_

**SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1:00 p.m.**  
(ENTRY LIMIT: 2 solo, 2 tandem, maximum 3 total)

Check-in and late registration: 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Sunday  
Competitor's Meeting: 12:15 p.m. Sunday, between old and new bridges on river left at NOC

Class(es):

Championship: K-1 K-1W C-1 C-1W C-2 C-2M C-2W OC-1(Short) OC-1(Medium) OC-2 OC-2M OC-2W

Cruising: K-1 K-1W C-1 C-2 C-2M C-2W OC-1 OC-2 OC-2M OC-2W

First Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name (partner must register separately): \_\_\_\_\_

Second Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name (partner must register separately): \_\_\_\_\_

Third Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name (partner must register separately): \_\_\_\_\_

FEES:	First Race: \$15 (\$10 if received by October 2)	Amount: \$ _____
	Additional Races (\$5 each - 4th event free)	Amount: \$ _____
	Event Fee for non-USACK members* (\$10)	Amount: \$ _____
	TOTAL (make check payable to Georgia Canoeing Assn.)	TOTAL: \$ _____

\*USA Canoe/Kayak (USACK) will need to show current membership at onsite registration/check-in.

Please return completed form, payment and completed waiver (USACK Waiver Release Form.pdf to:  
Roger Nott, 2335 Stephens circle, Gainesville, GA 30506-1115.

For online registration or questions, contact Roger Nott at [ocapaddler@charter.net](mailto:ocapaddler@charter.net) or 678.316.4935.

On-site registration will be at race headquarters, between the old and new bridges on river left at NOC.



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