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THE EDDY LINE

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www.georgiacanoe.org

February 2009

23rd Annual New Year's Day Event Chili Run Honors Jay and Carol Srymanske

by Rick Bellows

Some 200 paddlers, mountain bikers and other friends of Jay and Carol Srymanske gathered on New Year's Day on the Cartecay, on the roads of eastern Gilmer County and especially at Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions (MOE) for the 23rd Annual Chili Run. The event, jointly organized by GCA's Edward Stockman and Mark Neisler of Atlanta Whitewater Club, honored Jay and Carol Srymanske, long-time operators of MOE, both of whom passed away on November 21.

With the combination of paddlers, mountain bikers and friends of Jay and Carol, the attendance was larger than for most Chili Runs in the past few years. Reasonably mild weather and a decent water level in the Cartecay, along with the emphasis on honoring the Srymanskes, contributed to the turnout.

I met paddlers or bikers who told me they had come from Tennessee, North Carolina and Alabama, and I saw at least one group of paddlers from Vanderbilt University. Though I didn't meet them, I heard a couple had come from Florida and paddled inflatables.

I also heard conversations about paddling in "the old days," in then state-of-the-art aluminum canoes, and others about the early days of mountain biking in Georgia. The guy manning the BBQ, whose name I never did get, turned out to be a college roommate of Jay's who dated Carol before Jay did.

Shuttles were provided by MOE and by the new outfitter, Cartecay Watershed (Ellijay Outfitters), which replaced River Right. The new outfitter has spruced up the put-in at the river and Lower Cartecay Road.

Some 20 contestants participated in the chili cook-off, more than had participated in any of the past 5 years. I avoided the chilies with words like "hell" in the name, but still sampled a wide range of chilies. There was also other fare, including "real" Brunswick Stew made with squirrel meat (as indicated by the stuffed squirrel beside the pot).

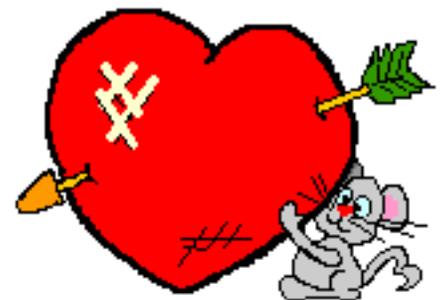
One purpose of this year's Chili Run was to raise funds which, at the Srymanskes' request, are to be donated to the American Cancer Society and Georgia Mountains Hospice. A primary fundraiser was long-sleeved red t-shirts with pictures of Carol and Jay and the words "Thanks for all the Love and Fun" silkcreened on the back.

Unfortunately, this may well have been the last Chili Run. The MOE property is for sale (\$199,000 for property, fixtures, furnishings and goodwill, if you're interested). Unless the property is sold and the purchaser continues the business and the Chili Run, or some other person or business steps up to provide sponsorship and a location, the Chili Run will likely become just a collection of memories..



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	Vincent Payne (2006/7)		

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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.georgiacanoer.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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UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

February

2	Etowah - Tunnel Section (Note 1)	Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
13-15	Juniper Springs, FL (Note 2)	Beginner	Gina Johnson	404.512.0832
14	Chattooga - Section 3.5	Intermediate	Christine Blumberg	404.375.3993
14-16	Florida Panhandle (Note 3)	Beginner	Lamar Phillips	404.229.2939
21	Chestatee (Note 4)	Trained Beginner	Karen Saunders	770.834.2151
28	Chattooga - Section 3.0	Intermediate	Mark Holmberg	678.234.5681

March

1	Exploratory Wildcard (Note 5)	Intermediate/Advanced	Roger Nott	678.316.4935
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Note 1: Vincent's annual Groundhog Day Paddle With the (Ex-) Prez.

Note 2: Ocala National Forest. Details on page 4.

Note 3: Blackwater River State Park. Details on page 4.

Note 4: Copper Mine to Highway 52 or Highway 60 (depending on weather and water level).

Note 5: Class 2-4 river, to be determined by group, not yet written up in any guide book.

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>.

**Check the calendar on the GCA website at www.georgiacanoe.org
for trips, social events, safety classes, etc.**

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call Cruisemaster William Gatling at 770.529.7103!

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 Cruisemaster, William Gatling at 770.529.7103. 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, January through March, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Warren/Holyfield Boys' and Girls' Club near Grant Park in Atlanta. For more information, including dates and 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. ✂

Winter Roll Practice

Indoor pool roll sessions are Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on January 5, 12 and 26; February 2, 9 and 23; and March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at the Warren/Holyfield Boys' and Girls' Club at Berne and Marion Streets near Grant Park.

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

This is your opportunity to learn to roll, practice your roll to stay sharp, teach a fellow paddler to roll or work on other techniques such as wet exits, hand rolls, deep water re-entries, etc. The indoor heated pool is a great place to hone these skills during the cold winter months. ✂

Meeting Minutes (or Lack Thereof)

by Rick Bellows

As of press time, which was before the January Executive Committee meeting, no minutes of the October 26 membership meeting, the November Executive Committee meeting or the December meeting of the Board of Directors been provided to *The Eddy Line*.



MEETING

Meeting of those and future meetings will be published when and if 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! ✂

Ocala National Forest

Presidents' Weekend (Feb. 12-16)

by Gina Johnson

Haynes and I are coordinating another beautiful paddling weekend at Ocala National Forest. We have made reservations through www.reserveusa.com for the four nights at Tropic Loop at Juniper Springs State Park. Those of you who would prefer a motel can stay in Ocala and meet at the various rivers.

We will be running the Juniper, Silver and Alexander and looking for other opportunities as well. Please let me know at gjohnson@naibg.com if you can join us. ✂

Blackwater River State Park

Presidents' Weekend (Feb. 14-16)

by Lamar Phillips

Please join us for a car-camping paddling weekend over Presidents' Day weekend. We'll be paddling several rivers in the Florida Panhandle area just north of Pensacola. We'll be camping at Blackwater River State Park in Holt, Florida.

Among the trips to choose from in this area are the Blackwater River, Coldwater Creek, Turkey Creek, Boiling Springs and several others. All these rivers are very beautiful and flat with some moving water.

You can make reservations at ReserveAmerica.com. My campsites will be #009 and #010.

This will be another great opportunity for some of you new folks to share a great weekend of camping paddling. Give me a call at 404.229.9239 or email me at lamarph@bellsouth.net. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

February 2, 2009 - Annual Groundhog Day Paddle, Etowah River Tunnel Section. Vincent Payne, 770.834.8263 or anotherrierrat@bellsouth.net.

February 12-16, 2009 - Florida Camping Weekend, Ocala National Forest. Haynes and Gina Johnson, gjohnson@naibg.com.

February 14-16, 2008 - Florida Camping Weekend, Blackwater River State Park. Lamar Phillips, 404.229.2939 or lamarp@bellsouth.net.

March 28-29 - Eastern U.S. National Junior Wildwater Team Trials, Nantahala River, NC - John Pinyerd, 770.977.7603 or jpinyerd@cs.com. 

Toccoa River

Access Issues at Party Rock

by Rick Bellows

Several recent posts on the GCA groupmail have concerned the take-out on the lower section of the Toccoa River commonly known as Party Rock. Allen Pogue reported that the No Trespassing signs that appeared along One For The



“Holly,” last name unknown, runs One For The Road at 310 cfs in this 2004 photo from the AW website, taken by “GCA Steve” Reach.

Road, also known as Party Rock rapid, a few months ago are still in place. There are, however, some alternative take-outs.

Roger Nott reports that Toccoa paddlers can park along the right-of-way of Aska Road, upstream of the Party Rock parking area and can take out about 200 yards downstream of One For The Road. The owner of that property doesn't mind people using the property as a takeout and parking there very briefly to load boats.

The owner does not, however, want cars parked there for long periods of time while their occupants paddle. He told Roger that he would close his access if people start parking there for hours.

Roger suggests that anyone using the takeout “be very low key” and pickup not only his or her own trash but any trash that may have been left by other paddlers or non-paddlers. In fact, as Roger points out, that's a good policy for all paddlers to follow at any access point, particularly those on private property.

Roger also reports another potential take-out, on public property on river right and along Persimmon Creek. Reaching that takeout, however, requires paddling about two miles of flat water on Lake Blue Ridge. During the winter, the lowered water level exposes about 2/3 mile of frequent Class 2 rapids.

Robert Butera reports another take-out at Tilly Bend, on



river right just before the first houses on the flat water. The Tilly Bend take-out permits a much shorter flatwater paddle than Persimmon Creek, but requires a 15 minute uphill hike along an ATV trail. The one time I've been on the trail, on a winter run led by “Dr. Rob,” the trail was carpeted with pine needles and boats could be safely dragged except for a couple of spots.

Dr. Rob also points out the “no shuttle required” trip from the Sandy Bottom put-in to the Tilly Creek take-out. Paddlers can park at intersection of Shallowford Bridge Road and Old Dial Road, walk about 15 minutes upriver (but downhill) along Old Dial Road to Sandy Bottom. The uphill ATV trail from the Tilly Bend take-out leads right to the parking area at the intersection of Shallowford Bridge and Old Dial Roads.



ACCESS

The American Whitewater website (www.americanwhitewater.org) page for the lower Toccoa includes Robert's complete description of the Tilly Bend take-out. Information is also available at pages 102-105 of Welander, Sehlinger and Otey, *A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to Georgia*. 

Pickens County

Danger on Long Swamp Creek

Todd McGinnis reports a combined access and safety issue on Long Swamp Creek near Jasper in Pickens County (sometimes known as Cove Creek). The narrow, steep, Class 3-4 (5 in places) creek, which includes a couple of waterfalls, is normally from Grandview Road to just upriver of Cove Road, a distance of about 2.8 miles.

The normal take-out, above the Cove Road bridge at the old quarry, is now blocked off. Unfortunately, taking out below the bridge is no longer possible because a property owner has placed a cable across the creek. The cable would be about neck high at normal, non-runnable flow and anywhere from

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.

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H: 731-225-2057
Email: jbhatchett21@gmail.com

Cook, Julie & Rusty
5512 Boggs Drive
Stone Mountain GA 30087
H: 404-202-7881
Email: gadragonfly@comcast.net
Email: rustycook64@comcast.net

Davis, Allyson
416 W. Woodlawn Ave
North Augusta SC 29841
H: 803-593-9231
Email: davis@atc.edu

Hatchett, Josh
5527 Suffex Green Lane

Walker, Elizabeth &
Vigil, Kenn
905 Clearbrook Course SW
Marietta GA 30064
H: 678-354-5672
O: 678-524-1202
Email: evigil@speakeasy.net
Email: carvedwalnut@yahoo.com

about waist high to slightly below the surface when the creek is runnable.

At any runnable level, the cable is a mortal danger to boaters. If you have occasion to paddle Long Swamp Creek, or know anyone who does, DO NOT venture past the Cove Road bridge. Information about Long Swamp Creek is available on the American Whitewater (AW) website. ✂

High Water Dangers

by Rick Bellows

As this is written in early January, we are enjoying a period of substantial rainfall that has many streams and rivers in and around Georgia running at levels we haven't seen since 2005. As a result, the GCA and other paddling groupmails have been busy, mostly with people setting up trips to rivers that are unrunnable, or at least scrappy, at lower levels.



SAFETY

The posts have also included warnings of several high-water related dangers. Allen Hedden, for example, warned of a long log that had been in a flat section of the Middle Tellico having become lodged in a rapid further downstream, where it presented a new danger to paddlers. (Allen later reported that log was removed by

Steve Smith, formerly known as "Chain Saw Steve" and now, for reasons Allen didn't specify, known as "Swims With Chain Saws.")

Several other posts mentioned the various dangerous items that have turned up over the years in high water, including the usual trees, logs, etc. and less usual items such as docks, lawn furniture, cows and the famous Cartecay River porch.

As Allen pointed out, high water will often change a river or stream, sometimes dramatically. The usual rapids may be washed out, or they may develop new and dangerous holes. New rapids may be created, and overhanging branches may become strainers. And, of course, big water is usually faster



Long Swamp Creek Falls at very low water level. Photo by Chris Gorman, from the AW website.

moving water, allowing less time to read the river and avoid the unfamiliar hazards.

Some of the hazards of high water are primarily risks for whitewater boaters, who are at least accustomed to scouting, reading the river and generally being alert for such dangers. But high water can also dramatically change flatwater and mild streams and rivers, posing dangers to paddlers who may be less accustomed to watching for them.

When the water level is abnormally high, scouting becomes more important than ever. Take the time before you put in to scout from the bridges, the road or wherever you can get to the river. Scout everything you can't clearly see, including the rapids you're familiar with. Scout from the bottom of rapid to the top - the usual route may be unavailable or unsafe.

Watch carefully for any hint of new or temporary dangers, and don't forget to keep your ears as well as your eyes open for new dangers.. And check behind you once in awhile - high water moves logs, porches and cows faster than usual, too. ✂

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Universal River Signals

from the American Whitewater website

These signals may be substituted with an alternate set of signals agreed upon by the group.

Stop: Potential Hazard Ahead. Wait for "all clear" signal before proceeding or scout ahead. Form a horizontal bar with your outstretched arms. Those seeing the signal should pass it back to others in the party.



Help/Emergency: Assist the signaler as quickly as possible. Give three long blasts on a police whistle while
continued on following page





waving a paddle, helmet or life vest over your head. If a whistle is not available, use the visual signal alone. A whistle is best carried on a lanyard attached to your life vest.

All Clear: Come Ahead (in the absence of other directions proceed down the center). Form a vertical bar with your paddle or one arm held high above your head. Paddle blade should be turned flat for maximum visibility. To signal direction or a preferred course through a rapid around obstruction, lower the previously vertical “all clear” by 45 degrees toward the side of the river with the preferred route. Never point



toward the obstacle you wish to avoid.

I’m Okay: I’m okay and not injured. While holding the elbow outward toward the side, repeatedly pat the top of your head.

Concussions: Tips for Immediate Management

by Dev K. Mishra, M.D.

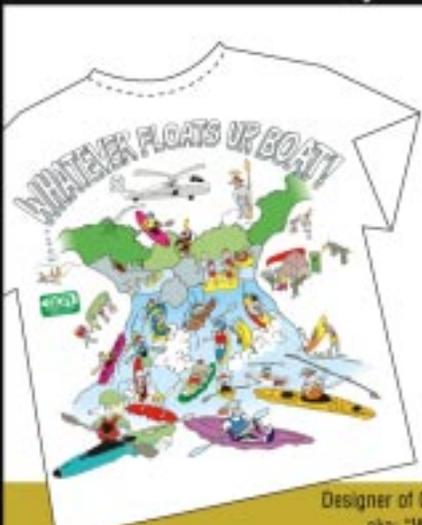
Editor’s Note: This article was circulated by the Georgia Youth Soccer Association, but as long as there are rocks and trees in and along the rivers and streams, concussion is an issue every paddler ought to know something about as well.

Concussion is a controversial and tricky medical topic, but any coach or parent who works with soccer players needs to know what to do if you are faced with a situation in which you suspect a player has had a concussion.

Let me first define what a concussion is: it’s an alteration in brain function that occurs from a direct blow to the head. If a player takes direct contact to the head, the most common complaint after a concussion is confusion. Other very common problems include a short-term inability to recall events just prior and just after the moment of contact, headache, or light-headedness. In more severe incidents there may be loss of consciousness (the player is “knocked out”).

There seems to be a tendency to minimize the potential severity of a concussion — we’ve all heard an announcer make an off-handed comment along the lines of “wow, he got his bell rung and I bet he’s really going to have a headache tomorrow.” Well, there is a growing base of very solid scientific evidence that even so-called “mild” concussions can be serious injuries.

Betty & Rose Design



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

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Some New Research on Concussions

Concussions are probably under-reported, in that many athletes will get a very mild concussion and not report it to the coach or trainer. One Canadian study of youth soccer players ages 12-17 reported an amazing 48% of their athletes with symptoms of concussion at least one time during only one season. A study of male and female soccer players in the Atlantic Coast Conference reported about one concussion per team per season. The “real” number of concussions is still subject to debate.

Whether headgear reduces the number of concussions is also controversial. The Canadian study showed that the number of concussions was much less in the players wearing headgear, but there are not many other studies showing a reduction with headgear. We don't have consensus on headgear.

The most interesting new facts about concussion involve gender differences. It appears that female athletes do “worse” than males with concussions. An excellent study from the University of Pittsburgh showed that females reported more symptoms from concussions, they did worse on tests of reaction times, and there was a trend toward females doing worse on tests of memory and visual motor skills. These trends are supported by other scientific studies.

Findings reported at the 2nd International Symposium on Concussion in Sport are changing the way we treat concussions. Among their findings are that with even simple concussions, the player should not return to play the same day, the player should be evaluated by a physician, and that return to play follows a stepwise process over 7 to 10 days.

What Team Physicians Do

For trained team physicians, we look for responsiveness if the athlete is “down,” then we assess their airway (whether there is any obstruction to breathing), whether they are able to breathe, and their circulation or heartbeat (these fundamentals are known as the “ABCs”).

I then assess for any potential spine injury, and if it is suspected, we properly immobilize the athlete's spine to protect them from injury during movement. If there is no suspicion of a spine injury and the athlete is responsive enough to walk, we will go to the sideline where a thorough assessment is performed.

For me, the most critical part is being able to tell whether this is the same athlete I've known in practice — are they at the baseline I've come to know. There are also several tests for orientation, memory, and concentration that we will typically perform.

What You Should Do on Your Field

I believe that the new evidence we have points to even “mild” concussions as potentially serious injuries that demand great care. With that in mind, and also given that most

coaches or parents are not medically trained, I recommend the following:

*Look at the “ABCs” first — if you have any question, call 911 immediately.

*If you are concerned for a spine injury, do not move the athlete, call 911.

*If the athlete is responsive but appears to be confused, you should suspect a concussion, remove the player from the game or practice and DO NOT let him or her return to the game or practice that day.

*Someone should observe the player on the sideline for symptoms of confusion, headache, or light-headedness.

*If those symptoms do not return to normal in 15 minutes, the player should be transported to the nearest Emergency Room.

*For players whose symptoms return to normal in less than 15 minutes, I believe they should still be evaluated by a physician in the next day or two.

(Dev K. Mishra is an orthopedic surgeon in private practice in Burlingame, California; Team Physician at the University of California, Berkeley; Medical Director of the International Children's Games and a member of the team physician pool with the U.S. Soccer Federation. Dr. Mishra's website is: www.thesoccerdoc.com).



Photo of the Month



This man a) is demonstrating how to hand paddle a canoe; b) is demonstrating how he carries his backup paddle; or c) missed the lunch stop? Actually, this man is Frank Seco De Lucina, and ACA-certified canoeing instructor who was just clowning around while paddling the Perdido River in Florida (in a group ranging in age from 62 to the 80's) in early December. The photo was taken by Allen Hedden.

The paddle, by the way, is a 1977 model Dagger paddle, made by the company before it closed and reopened as a manufacturer of kayaks. It's a “second,” rescued by Frank from a trash bin at the factory and used ever since.

Scouting for Paddle Georgia 2009 Coosawattee River

by Jamie Higgins

Several of us paddled the Coosawattee Sunday, December 14. Joe Cook, David Robinson and Vincent Payne were in solo canoes while Doc Stephens was in a rec yak and Karla Vinnacombe, Kelly Harbac and myself were in ww boats.



TRIP REPORTS

Since the inception of Paddle Georgia (<http://garivernetwork.wordpress.com/> has a few photos of the river), the Georgia Canoeing Association has provided support by setting up safety on the more difficult rapids. This Coosawattee run will be the first day of Paddle Georgia 2009 and we wanted to scout the rapids so we'd know where we need to set up safety for Paddle Georgia.

The weather was a very chilly, overcast 38 degrees that morning and the thermometer would never get above 46 the entire day. We put on the river in Ellijay around 10:40. I'd never paddled this river so I was excited to explore another North Georgia treasure.

The Coosawattee is a 13 mile run and is rated Class 1-2. Depending on the lake level, 9-10 miles of the river is whitewater while the last 3-4 miles is lake paddling until you get to the first take out on Carter's Lake. Only Doc and Joe had run the river in October, and at that time the river was running just below 1 foot. The Coosawattee gauge on AW was at 1.6 feet, so we figured we'd have good water to explore the river.

The river starts slow with only occasional Class 1 shoals. I was expecting more of a wilderness experience, but there were lots of houses along the river. The closer we got to the lake the less we saw of houses and the river became more of a rock strewn beauty which produced more numerous and spirited rapids. We had GPS's with us and we noticed that after Mile 4 the rapids really started to pick up.



The first significant rapids started around Mile 5. One rapid around Mile 5 stands out in my mind because it was a slightly tricky ledge. At this ledge, there was a scrapy, bumpy slide on river left and middle right was a twisty, S-turn type rapid. You entered into a chute going left and cut hard left to right. It required quick maneuvering skills, but there weren't any horrible consequences and at the bottom was a nice pool for recovery. At lower water levels, the river left slide might not have been doable.

After that there were a few more straightforward rapids and ledges. Around Mile 8, Mountaintown Creek entered on river right. I'd paddled this river before. It's a fun river, but I think the Coosawattee had a few more Class 2 rapids on it.

The rapids really started to pick up below Mountaintown Creek. There was one series of a couple of Class 1-2 type ledges. Most of the ledges required good river reading skills and you sort of had to pick your way around. Most chutes were either on the far river left or far river right and occasionally there were strainers that you had to watch for, but you could see them from upstream. At this water level, most ledges had more than one line to choose from.

The last significant rapid is around Mile 9. It's a cool ledge with both far right and far left lines to choose from. I think the far left line had the most water. The remainder of the river was Class 1 shoals and then at approximately Mile 10 we hit the calm waters of Carter's Lake.

The remaining three miles was lake paddling, but it only took us about an hour. Carter's Lake was quite scenic and the little slough still held its narrow riverine appearance. I'll have to go back with my sea kayak and venture along the lake one day as well.

We had to make sure we followed the right bank otherwise we could be deceived and go the wrong way. The Ridgeway Boat Ramp take-out is at the first slough on the right. You don't want to miss it or you'll be paddling another 4 miles to the next take out.

We knew we were on the right track when we saw the sign on a point saying "Slow" with several buoys lining the shoreline. Around the corner was the boat ramp. We got off the river/lake around 4:15.

It took us about 5 1/2 hours to make the paddle. We did stop once for a few minutes for lunch, and once to rescue a swimmer, but other than that we didn't piddle or play around much so you can expect a long day.

The other thing to note is that there are very few places to stop to either take a nature call or eat lunch. The further you go down the river the fewer houses you see. There are no houses once you get to the lake.

Joe and Doc said that when they paddled the river at 1 foot that there weren't as many lines to choose from, but most rapids were runnable and that the line was pretty apparent.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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For Sale: Prijon Tupo Duo Tandem Kayak - \$800; Stohlquist Charc Drysuit, Model 56115, Gore-Tex, men's size M/L with front zipper, spray skirt tunnel, front relief zipper, full latex booties - needs both wrists cuffs replaced, but

neck cuff recent and footies fine - \$500; Mesh Backpack Stohlsac, medium - \$10; Lotus/Patagonia Shop short sleeve paddling jacket - \$100 new, used, twice - \$25; Stohlquist short sleeve paddling jacket, men's medium - \$10;

Rapidstyle Polartek fuzzyrubber long paddling pants, men's medium - \$25; Perception nylon long paddling pants, men's medium - \$10; Lotus short sleeve fleece paddling shirt, men's large - \$10. Hank Klausman, klausgp@bellsouth.net or 770.587.0499.

All and all it was a great adventure, but I wish it had been about 5 degrees warmer and sunny. The river is really unique and the rapids are really a lot of fun. I guess the 3 mile lake paddle has kept many whitewater boaters from trying the river out. I will paddle the river again, but hopefully when it isn't so cold.

FERC Approves First River-Powered Hydrokinetic Project

by Kevin Colburn, AW National Stewardship Director

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved the first installation of a hydrokinetic device at an existing FERC-licensed hydroelectric project, to be located on the Mississippi River in Hastings, Minn.

Hydrokinetic devices generate electricity from waves or directly from the flow of water in ocean currents, tides or inland waterways. This marks the first time that FERC has approved the installation of a hydrokinetic device at an existing project, where it will generate power into the nation's electricity grid.

The licensee for the existing project, the City of Hastings, plans to install two 35-kilowatt hydrokinetic units suspended below a floating barge in the tailrace of the dam. The hydrokinetic units would have an average annual generation of 364 megawatt-hours.

"I am thrilled to support today's historic order that allows for harnessing more power from the Mississippi River," FERC Commissioner Philip Moeller said. "I commend the City of Hastings and the federal agencies that approved this innovative approach toward developing more renewable electricity. I hope this is the first of thousands of similar projects that produce clean and renewable power from in-stream flows at existing dams."

While this all sounds rosey, there remain major problems with this project and the technology in general. For starters, the project will lose money. According to FERC, the project would actually cost the power company \$61,700 (\$169.45/MWh) annually to operate.

More importantly, this form of hydrokinetic technology is

likely inconsistent with public recreation. The project is cleverly sited in a public exclusion zone at the base of an Army Corps of Engineers dam, so the project likely will have few or no impacts on river-based recreation. If indeed there are "thousands of similar projects" eventually built in rivers however, the recreational impacts could be huge.

AW supports testing of hydrokinetic projects and we hope that the technology will be responsibly sited and operated only in cases in which the environment and public uses will be protected. We are actively involved with the Hastings Project and nationally to assure that deployment of this technology does not impact rivers or our enjoyment of them.

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