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THE EDDY LINE

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March 2009

Paddler's Invention Stimulates the Economy

by Vincent Payne

Are you like me, always on the lookout for some new paddling gear that won't eviscerate the budget? Do you need a really functional dry box to store your essentials while paddling so that your stuff is dry when you need it? Then you will be pleased to learn about the "Gatlin Box."

The Gatlin Box is named after that famed paddler, William Gatling, whose best idea to date was to marry Xan Gatling. As they say in the country, even a blind hog will find an acorn sometimes. But that's another story for another day.

William's second best idea was the Gatlin Box. It is effective at keeping important stuff dry when you are traveling by canoe or kayak and even during your occasional out-of-boat experiences.

The boxes are clear so you can see at a glance what is inside and where it is, thus enabling you to retrieve objects quickly and efficiently. You can get one for very few coins and, unlike the Gatling Gun, you are not required to pay for a background check or purchase a costly federal permit.

To further promote cheapness, I will walk you through the manufacture of your very own Gatlin Box. Peanuts and mixed nuts are often sold in small square containers that are clear, strong and have screw on lids. These boxes are 7.5x5x4.5 inches and contain about two and a half pounds of nuts.

Begin by purchasing or borrowing a box of nuts. Eat the nuts or dump them on the floor. The box must be empty. If you are picky you can wash and rinse the box out. If you are really picky you can remove the label.

Now cut about two feet of small cord and tie a loop tightly around the neck of the container. The cord is used to secure the container in your boat. Keep it long enough to do that job without being long enough to entangle yourself.

I have an obsession with carabiners (yet another story for another day) so I tied a small one to the loose end of the cord which allows me to quickly clip the box onto my boat and remove it just as quick. Remember how difficult knots can be in small cord, especially once the cord is wet and when you are cold.

Now you must select the key items that you need to carry. This is the fun part. I have a small first aid kit, a space blanket, a pair of latex gloves, half a camp towel, six large wire ties, a flat pack of duct tape, a can of tuna fish, some antiseptic wipes, individual packets of Tylenol and Advil, a small multi tool with a flashlight, waterproof and regular matches, a fat candle, a sunblock packet, a big carabiner, and a roll of toilet paper. There are probably a few other items but this list is the bulk of it.

The trick is to fit everything into the Gatlin Box. What doesn't fit gets left behind so you find yourself thinking about what is essential and what is nice to have.

Remember that you only need enough of anything for one trip. You can
continued on page 9



What's Inside...

Announcements	4
Club Information	2
Instruction/Training	4
Meeting Minutes.....	6
Racing.....	5
Roll Practice.....	4
Trip List.....	3
Trip Reports	9
Upcoming Events.....	5
"Whitewater Warriors".....	5

GCA Spring

Membership

Meeting

March 21

Lake Acworth

Details on Page 4



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President	Tom Bishop	404.542.1118	bishop.t@comcast.net
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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	William Gatling	770.529.7103	gca_trip@yahoo.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

March

1	Exploratory Wildcard (Note 1)	Intermediate/Advanced	Roger Nott	678.316.4935
7	Cartecay	Intermediate	Mark Albitz	404.966.4620
8	Etowah (Note 2)	Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
14	Broad	Beginner	Connie Venusco	404.633.8038
21	Lake Acworth	Flat Water Games	Spring Meeting	See page 4
22	Flint River (Note 3)	Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
22	Chattooga (Note 4)	Intermediate/Advanced	Peter Elkon	404.314.3861
28	Toccoa	Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
28	Little River (Note 5)	Advanced	Roger Nott	678.316.4935
29	Lower Abrams Creek (Note 5)	Intermediate	Roger Nott	678.316.4935

Note 1: Class 2-4 river, to be determined by group, not yet written up in any guide book.

Note 2: Falls section if water level permits, otherwise Dawson Forest section.

Note 3: Spruell Bluff to Highway 36.

Note 4: Section 3 or 3.5. depending on water level.

Note 5: Great Smokey Mountains, Tennessee.

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 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 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 Berne Street and turn left. Go 1/2 mile and you'll see the facility, a large brick building

March 21 on Lake Acworth Spring Membership Meeting Scheduled

by Mark Holmberg, GCA Recreation Chair

The spring GCA membership meeting will be Saturday, March 21, at Cauble Park Pavilion 4 on Lake Acworth starting at 11:00 a.m. We will eat about noon: hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, but bring a picnic dish to share.

And, of course, bring a boat to paddle on the lake. We will setup a course with buoys and have contests for solo and tandem kayaks and canoes.

The park is located at 4425 Beach Street. From I-75, take exit 278 toward Acworth by turning left on Glade Road. Travel 0.6 mile and turn right on Lake Acworth Drive/GA-92. Then travel 0.7 mile to the ramp toward Acworth, on the right. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right on Old 41/Main Street. Travel 0.3 mile to Academy Street and turn right. Academy Street becomes Beach Street.

Please let us know if you are planning on attending by sending an e-mail RSVP to holmberg.mark@yahoo.com by March 18. We hope to see you there. ✂

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! ✂

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 heated indoor pool is a great place to hone these skills during the cold winter months. ✂

GCA Training Weekends Planned

by Gina Johnson, GCA Training Chair

GCA will be hosting training weekends May 2-3, June 13-14 and August 15-16 for kayak and canoe instruction ranging from flat/moving water to Class 3 whitewater. We are planning on camping at Smoky Mountain Meadows and using Lake Fontana, the in-town section of the Tuckasegee, the gorge section of the Tuckasegee and the Nantahala.

We are happy to have anyone join us for the training weekends, including non-members of GCA. The cost will be \$65 per class for members and \$85 per class for non-members.

Advance registration will be necessary so we know who is coming and what skill levels we need to accommodate. If any of you have checked retail canoe/kayak training prices you will know what a great deal this is.

This is a great opportunity to work on your skills. Participants can start as beginners in May/June and upgrade to the next level of instruction for the August class!

Please let me know if you are interested in assisting with the instruction as well. Call 404.512.0832 or email gjohnson@naibg.com or haynesandgina@windstream.net. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

March 21 - GCA Spring Membership Meeting, Lake Alatoona. More info on page 4.

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

April 11 - 12 Mile River Canoe and Kayak Race, Clemson, SC - Jim Normandin, 864.836.7400 or paddler98@bellsouth.net

April 18 - Coosa River Basin Initiative Race and Canoe-A-Thon, Rome - Joe Cook, 706.232.2724 or www.coosa.org.

June 13 - Back to the Chattahoochee Race and River Festival, Atlanta - Tammy Morrissey, 404.352.9828, ext. 12 or www.chattahoochee.org.

October 10 - Suwanee River Challenge and Marathon, White Springs, FL - Rod Price, 407.227.5606 or rodbprice@hotmail.com.



more information, contact Joe Cook at 706.232.2724 or go to www.coosa.org.

The annual Back to the Chattahoochee Race and River Festival will take place June 13 in Atlanta. This will be the first event for the 2009-2010 Series and will include 8 mile and 10 mile races for all classes.

Series awards for the 2008-2009 Series will also be presented at the Back to the 'Hooch event. The source for more information is Tammy Morrissey at 404.352.9828, ext. 12 or online at www.chattahoochee.org.

The Suwanee River Challenge and Marathon, with races of 26 miles and 52 miles for all boat classes, is scheduled for October 10 in White Springs, Florida. More information is available from Rod Price at 407.227.5606 or rodbprice@hotmail.com.

For more information about the Georgia Flatwater Series itself, contact Larry Castillo at 404.406.7367 or lcastillo@mindspring.com.

2009 Flatwater Series Schedule Released

by Rick Bellows

Dates for 2009 events in the Georgia Flatwater Series have been announced by GCA member Larry Castillo. A non-Series flatwater race, the 12 Mile River Canoe and Kayak Race, will be held April 11 in Clemson, SC. Despite the name, the race is actually 8 miles long and open to all classes of boats. More information is available from Jim Normandin at 864.836.7400 or paddler98@bellsouth.net.

The Coosa River Basin Initiative Race and Canoe-A-Thon will take place the following Saturday, April 18, in Rome, Georgia. The race will be 13 miles and is open all classes. For

Same Weekend As The Chick Paddle "Whitewater Warriors" Weekend

by Jack Taylor (a/k/a Chief Silver Fish)

A small poll was unanimously in support of a "Whitewater Warriors" weekend. This is the initial smoke signal for the first "Whitewater Warriors" weekend on the Nantahala River the same weekend as the Chick Paddle on the Hiwassee River.



No competition intended just something to have going for the GCA "Braves" on the same weekend.

"Whitewater Warriors" will camp as a "War Party" at the Smokey Mountain Meadows Campground on

Friday and Saturday nights. A "Scouting Party" will go to dinner in Bryson City both nights. A "Powwow" will be held at Smokey Mt Meadows for those braves who prefer to have dinner there. Campfires will be planned for both nights. The theme for these will be the same as the theme was around the campfire in

"Blazing Saddles."

Saturday and Sunday mornings we will hold a full "War Party" Council to plan the paddling attacks for the day. If we have enough Warriors, we will have two groups on the Nantahala, an "Attack Party" and a "Battle Party." If some Warriors do not want to paddle the whole river we will have a "Tenderfoot Party." If there are Warriors who want to paddle different rivers, we will form individual "Raiding Parties" to paddle those rivers.

Smoke signals with more details will be sent in later issues of the *The Eddy Line*.

Correction

Due to the advancing age and decreasing mental function of the editor, the "Photo of the Month" in the February issue of *The Eddy Line*, taken by Barry Smith, was erroneously credited to Allen Hedden. *The Eddy Line* regrets the error.

Official Meeting Minutes Executive Committee, 11/06/08

by Bill Fox, GCA Secretary

The meeting was held via FreeConferenceCall.com. Participants: Tom Bishop, Dan MacIntyre, Ed Schultz, Lamar Phillips, Kate Wilkerson, Gina Johnson, Mark Holmberg, Vincent Payne, William Gatling, Allen Hedden, Haynes Johnson, Bill Fox. A quorum of the Executive Committee was "present."

Minutes of the October 2, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were read and approved as submitted.



MEETING

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OPEN ISSUES:

Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)

The Association saw a net decrease of assets in October 2008 of \$331.28 on revenues of \$1,079.10. Current

operating fund balance is \$1,814.65.

As previously approved, the Treasurer continues to submit a detailed monthly financial statement to be published in *The Eddy Line*.

Discussion followed regarding costs and desired distribution of next year's membership directory. Allen Hedden moved that distribution of printed copies of forthcoming directories be limited to new members and those members receiving a printed copy of *The Eddy Line*. All other members are to receive an on-line emailed copy of the directory. Further, that GCA cancel its USPS Bulk Rate permit and receive any refunds due. Motion was seconded and approved.

River Protection (Chair Haynes Johnson)

Haynes is currently on the list of applicants for consideration for appointment to the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council.

Member Services (Chair Kate Wilkerson)

Kate reported that arrangements for winter roll practice, Jan thru March, have been finalized and a schedule established.

Insurance for roll practice needs to be instituted with ACA.

Kate is now the contact point for GCA equipment, i.e., banners, radios, etc.

Recreation (Chair Mark Holmberg)

Mark Holmberg was appointed to the chair of this committee at the 2 October meeting.

Spring Gala will be scheduled for May 16-17. Alternative site suggested of Smokey Mountain Meadows.

Training (Chair Gina Johnson)

In amplification of her report in the November issue of *The Eddy Line*, Gina initiated a general discussion regarding the committee's progress on establishing an annual events calendar and the types of activities and procedures the calendar will contain.

In support of the calendar, Gina proposed GCA conduct three training weekends to be scheduled May 1-2, June 12-13, and August 14-15 of 2009. The logic behind the scheduling was to start basic training with beginning paddlers and provide an avenue for their advancement to trained beginner by August. Moreover, contrary to current practice, Gina proposes that training participants not be required to initially join GCA in order to receive training, but that they be encouraged to do so sometime during their training sequence. It is felt this will broaden the appeal of GCA while serving the primary purpose of training new paddlers.

Precise details regarding fees, insurance, instructor scheduling, etc. will be reported when they are firmly established.

Resource Development (Chair William Gatling)

President Bishop appointed William Gatling to fill the vacant position of Cruise Master.

OLD BUSINESS:

Certified Instructor Trainer

The proposal to obtain a certified kayak instructor trainer with the objective of enabling GCA to certify instructors within GCA remains tabled.

GCA Website

President Bishop reported that our new webmaster, Matt Crawford, is making excellent progress in developing GCA's new, revised, scintillating, and altogether awesome website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Georgia Environmental Action Network

Dan MacIntyre reported that GCA currently has 24 registered individual memberships in GEAN. However, to join GEAN the Association is required to have 50 individual members.

Southeasterns

Gina reported her observations on the Southeastern Races and the problems she observed when there is a lack of sufficient volunteers and an alternative type of event, i.e., rodeos, is held rather than a racing event.

A general discussion followed regarding the feasibility of continuing to conduct the Southeastern Races. The issue was determined to be the purview of the BOD and should be brought forward at a forthcoming BOD meeting.

Mission Statement

No new progress has been made on developing a new mission statement for the Association.

MEETING ADJOURNED



Unofficial Meeting Minutes Executive Committee, 01/08/09

by Bill Fox, GCA Secretary

The meeting was held via FreeConferenceCall.com. Participating: Tom Bishop, Dan MacIntyre, Lamar Phillips, Kate Wilkerson, Gina Johnson, Haynes Johnson, Mark Holmberg, Vincent Payne, Bill Fox. A quorum of the Executive Committee was "present."

Minutes of the November 6, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were read and approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OPEN ISSUES:

Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)

December ended with a positive cash flow of \$978.60 on an end of period balance of \$66,402.78. Current operating fund balance is \$2,750.16.

Kate has payment for three electronic memberships coming in. 84 of 134 December ending memberships have so far renewed. This is 62.7 percent. In 2007, 126 of 153 December ending memberships renewed. This is 82.4 percent. However by December 31 only 105 or 68.6 percent had renewed. So we might expect about 23 more of the December renewing memberships to arrive in January and February. Thus an expected renewal of 80 percent

River Protection (Chair Haynes Johnson)



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

2175 Lenox Rd B5 Atlanta GA 30324 404.597.0218 mobile
678.705.1730 fax/phone bettygrose@gmail.com
www.bettygrose.com

Haynes remains on the list of applicants for appointment to the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council, but has not yet received final affirmation.

Member Services (Chair Kate Wilkerson)

Kate reported that one additional on-line application has been received.

In elaboration of the issues surrounding ACA insurance noted at the November meeting, Kate reported:

The American Canoe Association (ACA) has changed its insurance policy rules and regulations. An event cannot span more than 1 month, and each pool session is now considered an event. However, I was able to secure an ACA insurance certificate which covers January's indoor roll practice sessions as a single event. I will not be able to submit February's roll sessions as a single event, nor March's roll sessions as a single event to the ACA for insurance coverage. On Monday, January 5, the first indoor roll session of 2009, I charged non-ACA members a \$5 event fee, which provides the individual with ACA insurance for GCA's indoor roll practice sessions for the month of January.

The GCA is currently an Affiliate Club of the ACA. I would like to change GCA's status to a Paddle America Club of the ACA. The annual fee for the Paddle America Club is the same as an Affiliate Club, \$225. Paddle America Club enrollments and renewals only occur in January. Since GCA's affiliate club renewal isn't due until April 2009, the ACA will only charge GCA \$100 to become a Paddle America Club. GCA's Paddle America Club renewal fee would be due in January 2010.

Through ACA's Paddle America Club program, one insurance certificate is issued for the entire year of events. The GCA will no longer have to send a \$25 application fee for each event's insurance application.

We will need to submit an initial schedule of events to the ACA as soon as possible. The ACA is very flexible regarding modifications to the event schedule. An event addition can be made up to 4pm eastern time on the business day prior to the start of an event. Event cancellations need to be submitted as soon as possible after the event cancellation.

If the GCA becomes a Paddle America Club, we can offer our members \$30 individual membership (a savings of \$10), or \$40 family memberships (a savings of \$20). ACA 6-month introductory memberships can also be offered to new ACA members for the price of \$10. ACA membership applications are going to be available at each roll practice session. If a roll practice session attendee is not an ACA member, I will have to charge them a \$5 event membership for each indoor roll session, beginning in February.

Recreation (Chair Mark Holmberg)

Chair proposes CGA hold a general membership meeting at Lake Allatoona on March 28. Details will be forthcoming
continued on following page

ROCK/CREEK Down Under

Jump into Spring Special!!!

For all GCA members
Bring this ad in for 20% off all paddling accessories
&
10% off all kayaks and canoes (excluding Jackson)
These discounts are for in store purchases only!



Free Ocoee Koozie with purchase

rockcreek.com/kayak



ph. 888.707.6709

on the website.

Spring Gala will be May 16-17 at Smokey Mtn Meadows.

Training (Chair Gina Johnson)

Chair reports that current plans are for the association to offer training to AAP members at a rate of \$85.00 per two day class. Same training schedule will be offered to GCA members at \$65.00.

Gina expressed an interest in GCA striving to become the safety and training entity for the general Atlanta area. This has the potential to be a major income producer for GCA.

Vincent Payne suggested adding a training event to the schedule approximately two weeks prior to Paddle Georgia which is scheduled for June 20-26. Vincent advised the first day of Paddle Georgia is real white water for which w/w training would be particularly useful.

Gina will firm up the training schedule and Vincent will inform the Paddle Georgia folks about the training.

Resource Development (Chair William Gatling)

Chair not present. No report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Certified Instructor Trainer

The proposal to obtain a certified kayak instructor trainer with the objective of enabling GCA to certify instructors within GCA having seen no progress, it was withdrawn.

GCA Website

Matt reports the new website - www.gapaddle.com - is up and running. When it appears to be running smoothly, the old site will be taken down. Matt requests that comments or suggestions for the website be forwarded to him.

Georgia Environmental Action Network

Dan MacIntyre reported that GCA currently has 44 of the 50 individual memberships required for GCA to join GEAN. Dan will post membership applications to the website.

Dan has attended his first meeting of GEAN which was conducted via conference call. Dan asked for help with GCA attendance at various environmental meetings. Haynes volunteered to attend the Metro Water Planning District meetings in Morrow, GA.

December Board of Directors Meeting

President Bishop reported the December BOD meeting had no quorum, therefore no meeting, therefore no minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Water Planning Boards

Dan MacIntyre presented a brief discussion of the importance of GCA's participation in the various upcoming public hearings on the long-term water plans for the 15 county Metro Water Planning District.

MEETING ADJOURNED



resupply your box before your next trip. For instance, most of us won't need an entire roll of Charmin for a day trip but one of those little rolls of camp tissue may be just the ticket.

You can also put your lunch in a Gatlin Box. Wet sandwiches are not cool. It is rumored that a Gatlin Box will keep your food from smelling of wet polypro booties like the inside of your kayak. When placed safely in a Gatlin Box, your childish juice drink won't get squashed or the straw get misplaced.

Now what did we spend. The box is a container that would have been tossed after the nuts were eaten, so let's call that FREE. I already own several miles of small cord left over from various projects like tying in airbags, so let's call that FREE. The small carabiner came on a spray bottle of Deep Woods Off, so let's figure that to be FREE!

So free plus free plus free, carry the one, wow, that's zero coins. Free is good. The Gatlin Box is good. Life is good. SYOTR



The completed and loaded Gatlin Box. Photo by Vincent Payne.

Etowah River Annual Groundhog Day Tunnel Run

by Vincent Payne, GCA Groundhog-In-Chief

Two years ago no one signed up for this annual trip because the weather was horrid. This year the weather was only somewhat miserable, temps in the forties, dropping into the thirties but tempered by sporadic rain. Six diehard and committed paddlers showed up for this premier trip.

Two solo canoes carried David and Josh, two whitewater kayaks with Lisa and Vincent and two longer kayaks contained Doc and Bonny. We paddled, scooted and pushed our way down stream to the tunnel. All told there were about half a dozen spots that were difficult to pass because the water was low but I never had to get out of my boat.

The rest of the time it was easy paddling. There were no river wide strainers this year. A few submerged logs along the route did present some problems, but nothing serious. This group was well outfitted for the day with appropriate gear, clothing and glad-to-be-here attitudes.

Once we arrived at the tunnel we talked about what to expect and what to do if things turned bad. As always the option to paddle around was offered. Everyone wanted to run the tunnel including the three first timers.

Doc went through first and Bonny watched to see him exit. Then in turn each of the first timers - Josh, Bonny and Lisa - disappeared into the darkness. Bonny filmed her tunnel passage: look for the link on the GCA website.

I bummed a ride in David's canoe and provided some

high quality bow ballast. We tied my stubby kayak to the back of David's 15 foot Mad River and took one of the boniest tunnel rides ever. Using a powerful spot light to look around, the floor has some large rocks that create a good bit of turbulence and can really knock your boat around.

Once out on the other side we confirmed that everyone had made it through in the upright position and grinning. This is the preferred method of exit. To paraphrase a few thoughts shared in the pool below; "I had no idea that it was that long," "it was totally dark," "...and loud," "very cool, I'm really glad I ran," "my feet are cold."

The rest of trip we found low water a few more times but it was mostly an easy paddle with only the occasional rain drop. We stopped at the old mill to admire the old building and the stand of huge bamboo. The mill is not long for this world. The foundational lumber is starting to fall. It is only a matter of time before the building collapses. This landmark is best viewed from your boat.

continued on following page



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The take-out was less traumatic this time as most boats were lighter kayaks and we all helped each other move them along the path. We ran shuttle, got every one packed and then adjourned to Beef O'Bradey's for beverages and burgers.

Mark your calendar and tell your boss, in 2010 on

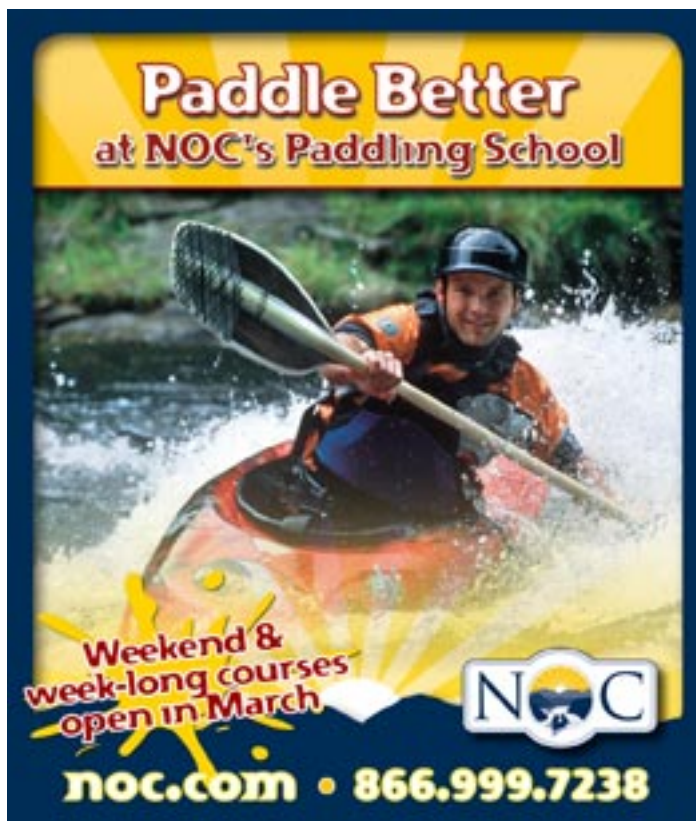
MLK Weekend

by Lamar Phillips

We had 31 brave souls participate in a rather chilly weekend of paddling streams in the Ocala National Forest area. About 20 of us gathered around a good camp fire Friday night to exchange tall tales of paddling and other adventures and make our paddling plans for the weekend.

On Saturday morning we all met at the Juniper Springs to sign in and set our shuttle. By the time we all got on the river, it was 11:30 a.m. There weren't as many rental boats on the river as we expected, most likely due to the weather. By the time we got on the river, it had warmed up considerably.

As usual, the renters were banging into each other, trees, stumps, and anything else in the river. There were a group of middle aged folks in aluminum rental boats having a ball, even though they had turned over and been in the water several times. As I passed one boat being pulled up on the bank to dump the water, one of the group whispered to me, "Would you believe he's in the Coast Guard?" Most of our



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Tuesday, February 2nd, we will again try to beat the groundhog at his own game. None of us saw our shadow so we prognosticate there shall be an early spring with lots of water. Oh yeah, and warmer days.

SYOTR.



group was in front of the renters so they were able to just enjoy a beautiful, leisurely paddle.

Back at camp, we had another great meal and a large group enjoying our fire. On Sunday morning, we all met at the put-in for the Silver and Ocklawaha River. We split up and some of us went up to Silver Springs Park and portaged our boats .7 mile to the river and paddled up to the springs and back down to the Ocklawaha.

The larger group paddled the Ocklawaha. Karla, Jamie, Leigh Ann, David, and Don paddled up the Silver River to the portaged put in. Karla and Jamie paddled on upstream a couple miles to the springs while the others floated back down to the Ocklawaha

They picked Don up at the take-out, went back to camp and found a large black bear in front of Jamie and Karla's tent. Honking the horn and Jamie's yelling and waving at the bear had no effect. Eventually the ranger came and ran the bear off.

We only had about 12 folks join us around the fire because some were heading home early. Monday morning was spent packing up wet gear since we had a good rain during the night. Karen, Lisa, and Keith came by on the way to paddle the Ichetucknee on the way home.

We all had a great time and saw some beautiful scenery, loads of birds, alligators and other animals and the weather was great during the day for our paddles. We had many new folks to enjoy their first camping trip with the GCA and other members who had not been to this area before. The group is looking forward to another trip soon.



Upper Amicalola Creek

by Haynes Johnson

What a way to start the year. Water everywhere and lots of rivers to run. For the first time in a long time, paddlers had to decide if there was too much water for a safe run.

Earlier in the week, after 7 inches of rain, this beautiful little creek had crested near 5 feet. While the AW website classes this water level on the Upper as a medium Class 2 run, most paddlers who have paddled this river above 4.5 feet would agree that its waves, holes and ledges take on a decidedly Ocoesque flavor, and are not exactly trained beginner material. Due to the high water with low temperatures, short day length, and the marked propensity for the Upper to produce world class strainers, a small group of us did a scouting run on January 7 at 2.4 feet.

The morning of January 11, the river was running at 1.3




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and the temperature was 32 degrees at 10:00 a.m. Thirteen boaters showed up to make the run; there were five kayaks and 8 open boats. The merry band included Martha Abbott-Shin, Tom Bishop, Jake Collins, Mike Collins, Kelly Harbec, Mark Holmberg, Gina Johnson, Jaimee Johnson, James McCay, Edward Stockman, Pauline Thynne, Kate Wilkerson, and your humble trip coordinator.

This entire section of the creek flows through public property. Much of the shoreline is vegetated by mountain laurel, rhododendron, wild azalea, silver bells, hollies, hack berries, and other native shrubs. Spring time runs along this creek are spectacular with everything in bloom. Many of the white pines have been killed by the bark beetles, so eventually the banks will have an over story of hardwoods. Several areas of tornado damage are apparent on this section.

The rapids build in intensity to several challenging Class 2 drops prior to the confluence with Cochran Creek. These drops have distinct horizon lines, something unusual for Class 2 rapids. Edward scouted these rapids and then guided the group safely through without mishap.

Cochran Creek is a large tributary coming in on river left. On this day, the water coming out of Cochran Creek was very muddy, indicating that some soil disturbing activity was in progress upstream.


Below Cochran Creek, an even more dramatic drop

awaited our flotilla. A river wide 5 foot vertical drop provides quite a challenge on this Class 2 run. Edward again acted as probe, and pointed the way. The entire group successfully negotiated the ledge, thus reinforcing the theory that upright is all right.

With energy stores recharged by a lunch stop made short by the chilly weather, we headed off to finish up this creek. Several more solid Class 2 rapids were run with style before reaching the Devil's Elbow, a large meander with swirling eddy lines and the Steel Bridge, which could provide an alternate take-out or put-in.

Downstream from here, several more rapids challenged our group with only minimal swimming until the dread play hole just upstream from the take-out. The dynamics of this last rapid were not adequately explained by the trip coordinator. Something about "run just right of the hole and eddy out" did not correlate for quite a number of the troupe. A number of nice runs, nicer combat rolls, and a few swims occurred, but at least nobody swam all the way to the take-out.

A few folks did some playing but due to short-chilly-day syndrome, most people headed for the vehicles. Shuttle was run relatively efficiently with only one "aw \$#!T!" moment resulting from keys left at the take-out.

Thanks to all who participated in this trip. If we ever have a wet year again, this could be a regular club run. 



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