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THE EDDY LINE

Volume 44, No. 5

770.421.9729

www.georgiacanoe.org

May 2009

Spring Gala Scheduled for May 15-17

by Mark Holmberg, Recreation Chair

The Spring Gala is planned for May 15, 16 and 17 at Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground. Campsite reservation information is on the Smoky Mountain Meadows web site, www.smokymtnmeadows.com, or sites can be reserved by phone, 828-488-3672. Make your reservations early; this promises to be a busy weekend.

Changes Coming to *The Eddy Line*

by Rick Bellows

At its March 5 meeting, the GCA Board of Directors decided to make some fundamental changes to *The Eddy Line*. The changes will directly affect both the frequency and the content of the newsletter. Indirectly, the changes will result in the naming of a new editor.

In order to save on printing and mailing costs, the Board decided *The Eddy Line* is to become a bi-monthly newsletter. Allen Hedden, who was designated to inform me of the Board's decision, tells me the expectation is that the June issue will be followed by a July/August issue and bi-monthly issues thereafter.

The Board also decided to change the content of *The Eddy Line*, removing the time-sensitive information such as the trip list, announcements of upcoming events and minutes of meetings. That information will be available only via the GCA groupmail or the web site.

The content of *The Eddy Line* is to be "entertaining and educational." Allen tells me the Board intends that to mean trip reports and articles from other newsletters and similar sources, though he also suggested it would leave room for articles on conservation and access issues and for editorials.

I have, for want of a better phrase, serious philosophical differences with the Board as to the purpose and the appropriate content of *The Eddy Line*. I have therefore notified the Board that the June issue will be my last as Editor. (If you are interested in taking over the position, I guess you need to contact Tom Bishop, whose contact information is on page 2.)

This issue of *The Eddy Line* includes three items generated by the changes. Tom Bishop's "From the President" column beginning on page 8 explains the Board's rationale for the changes. I reluctantly edited the piece for length, but made every effort not to change its substance.

An article by William Gatling on page 10 suggests now may be the time to discontinue *The Eddy Line* entirely. Perhaps even more importantly, it seeks to generate some discussion of the Board's decision.

And finally, my short editorial, also on page 10, asks some questions about the effect of the changes on GCA members.



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	David Martin (1998/9)	Brannen Proctor (2000/1)	Marvine Cole (2002/3)
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OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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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

May				
2	River TBA	Intermediate	William Gatling	770.312.2270
2	Sweetwater Creek	Advanced	Duncan Cotrell	404.289.6960
3	Fightingtown Creek	Trained Beginner	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
9	Toccoa River	Beginner	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
9	Broad River	Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.549.5015
9	Nantahala River	Intermediate	Tom Bishop	404.542.1118
10	Tuckaseege River	Beginner	Mark Holmberg	678.234.5681
15-16	Spring Gala	Nantahala, Tuckaseege, Ocoee, & more	Mark Holmberg	678.234.5681
23	Hiwassee River	Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
23	Chattooga Sec 3	Intermediate	Duncan Cottrell	404.289.6960
23	Tesnatee Creek	Intermediate	Roger Nott	678.316.4935
24	Hiwassee River	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
24	Cartacay River	Intermediate	Matthew Crawford	404.713.2605
30	Etowah River	Beginner	Lamar Phillips	770.939.5087
30	Broad River	Trained Beginner	Dan MacIntyre	404.252.9513
30	Nantahala River	Intermediate	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
31	Hiwassee River	Trained Beginner	Mark Holmberg	678.234.5681

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: The Eddy Line has not yet received word of plans for summer roll practice, but in past years summer roll practice has been Wednesday evenings, beginning in May, at Stone Mountain Lake.

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. ✂

Paddle _____ (Pick a State)

This year's Paddle Alabama will take place June 11-13 on the Alabama Scenic River Trail from Coosa to Weiss Lake. More information at www.alabamascenicrivertrail.com.

Paddle Georgia 2009 will be June 20-26 on the Coosawattee and Oostanaula, Ellijay to Rome. More information available at www.garivers.org. (GCA will be looking for help to provide safety boaters, etc.)

And this year's Paddle Florida will be held October 15-19, covering 123 miles of the Suwannee River, from Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park near Live Oak to Manatee Springs State Park. More information at bill@paddleflorida.org. ✂

May 2-3 and June 13-14

Kayak, Canoe Classes Scheduled

by Gina Johnson, GCA Training Chair

We are forming an intermediate kayak class which will be held on the Nantahala on May 2-3 and we are looking for canoers to participate in a class on the Tuckasegee or the Nanty - your choice.

June 13-14, you'll have your chance to experience the most fun the river has to offer. Have two engines in the boat! A paddle on each side equals "training wheels!" Haynes and I will be teaching a beginner tandem whitewater canoe course. If you don't have a whitewater tandem boat, we will help you find one to borrow or rent.

We will be camping both weekends at Smokey Mountain Meadows in Bryson City. The cost is \$65 for the two days.

If you're interested in participating or would like more information, please email me at gjohnson@naibg.com or call me at 404.512.0832. ✂

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! ✂

Members Can Benefit From ACA

by Kate Wilkerson, GCA Member Services Chair

The GCA is participating in the Paddle America Club (PAC) program through the American Canoe Association (ACA).

GCA members may join the ACA, or renew their ACA membership, at a discounted rate. Individual memberships are available to GCA members for \$30 per year (\$10 discount) and family memberships are available for \$40 per year (\$20 discount).

Founded in 1880, The American Canoe Association is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling, stewardship support to help protect paddling environments, and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport recreation.

Benefits of joining the ACA include *Paddler Magazine*, exclusive access to ACA's Sugar Island, significant discounts on Subaru vehicles and products from our industry partners, access to hundreds of ACA-sponsored events and regular updates on critical paddling issues.

GCA members must note GCA's PAC affiliation on their ACA renewal form. GCA members who wish to join the ACA may enroll at <http://www.americancanoe.org>. ✂

Time is like a river made up of events which happen, and a violent stream; for as soon as a thing has been seen, it is carried away, and another comes in its place, and this will be carried away too.
Marcus Aurelius, *The Meditations* (167 CE)

Upcoming Events of Interest

June 11-13 - Paddle Alabama, Alabama Scenic River Trail, Coosa to Weiss Lake - www.alabamascenicrivertrail.org.

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

June 20-26 - Paddle Georgia, Coosawattee and Oostanaula Rivers, Ellijay to Rome - www.garivers.org.

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

October 15-19 - Paddle Florida, Suwanee River, bill@paddleflorida.org.

February 2, 2010 - Annual Groundhog Day Paddle, Etowah

Same Weekend As The Chick Paddle "Whitewater Warriors" Weekend

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

This is another smoke signal for the first "Whitewater Warriors" weekend, August 21-23 on the Nantahala River. (If the Chicks, being women, change their minds, this date will change...yeah, I know.)

GCA "Braves," i.e. "Whitewater Warriors," will camp as a "War Party" at the Smokey Mountain Meadows Campground (www.smokymtnmeadows.com) on Friday and Saturday nights. Please make your own reservations, and try for campsites 44-53. A "Scouting Party" will go to dinner in Bryson City both nights. A "Pow-wow" will be held at Smoky Mountain Meadows for those braves who prefer to have dinner there. Evening campfires will erupt (please bring firewood).

Spring Membership Meeting

by Mark Holmberg, Recreation Chair

Thirty attended the spring meeting held at Lake Acworth on March 22. I estimate there were twenty GCA members and ten prospective members that shared good food and an interest in paddling.

The cool windy weather kept most from venturing onto the lake. However, after lunch a group went to the metro Hooch for an afternoon on the water.

Thanks to all members who made the day a success and special thanks to Kate Wilkerson and Lamar Phillips. Kate brought the GCA banner and picnic supplies and Lamar made a poster with pictures from a variety of GCA events. Lamar also helped cook hamburgers and hotdogs. A non-member commented to me after lunch that he appreciated all the friendly people that made him feel welcome. ✂



River Tunnel Section. Vincent Payne, 770.834.8263 or anotherriverrat@bellsouth.net. ✂

Saturday and Sunday mornings we will hold a full "War Party" Council to plan the paddling attacks for the day. We will paddle rivers from Class 1-2 up. There will be an "Attack Party" and a "Battle Party" on the Nantahala. If some warriors prefer not to paddle the whole river, we will have a "Tenderfoot Party." Warriors who want to paddle different rivers will form individual "Raiding Parties" to paddle those rivers.

Let's make this first GCA "Whitewater Warriors" weekend a success. Please email me at x113jdt2@bellsouth.net or call 770.998.0350 with questions or suggestions to make "Whitewater Warriors" weekend a big success, and to create a list of those GCA "Braves" who expect to attend.

Warrior names already taken: Chief Silver Fish, Sitting Paddler, and Runs With Scissors. A warrior must demonstrate certain paddling achievement(s) before he can have "Chief" before his name....more on these later. Smoke signals with more details will be sent in later issues of the *The Eddy Line*. ✂

Official Meeting Minutes Board of Directors, 03/05/09

by Bill Fox, GCA Secretary

Participants: Tom Bishop, Dan MacIntyre, Ed Schultz, Lamar Phillips, Kate Wilkerson, Mark Holmberg, Allen Hedden, Roger Nott, Jay Manalo, Mark Levine, Bill Fox.

Minutes of the February 2, 2009 Executive Committee meeting were read and approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OPEN ISSUES:
Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)



MEETING

continued on following page

The Association saw a net decrease of assets in February 2009 of \$467.82 on revenues of \$1,011.77.

Current general account operating fund balance is \$2,005.76.

Ed has filed the association's income tax return for 2008 showing net assets of \$65,090.00 for the 2008 tax year.

Ed stated the expenses for hardcopy printing and mailing of the Eddy Line are currently averaging \$1,000.00 per month.

A general discussion ensued regarding the continuing costs associated with hardcopy printing of *The Eddy Line*. Allen Hedden moved to change distribution of printed copies of *The Eddy Line* to a bi-monthly printing and mailing with the editor having discretion for the date of publication. And further, that the general content of *The Eddy Line* be changed to reflect a more educational and entertainment focus. Finally, that time sensitive and repetitive information no longer be published in *The Eddy Line*, but rather, be posted in a timely manner on GCA's website. All administrative and logistical procedures to accomplish the above will be vested in and be established by the editor.

Motion was seconded and approved.

River Protection (Chair Haynes Johnson)

Haynes' application for appointment to the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council has been ap-

proved by that council.

Member Services (Chair Kate Wilkerson)

Kate reiterated prior information regarding GCA having officially become an ACA Paddle America Club and now able to participate with ACA insurance policies.

Recreation (Chair Mark Holmberg)

No new information. Spring Gala remains scheduled for May 15-17.

Training (Chair Gina Johnson)

Chair not present. No report submitted.

Resource Development (Chair William Gatling)

Chair not present. No report submitted.

Legal (Chair Dan MacIntyre)

Dan reported that GCA currently has 75 members participating in GEAN.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Southeasterns

Although she was not present, Gina provided the Board with a written statement indicating her opinion that due to an apparent lack of interest among the paddling community, the Southeasterns event last year was poorly attended, lacked sufficient volunteer support to adequately staff the races, and was potentially dangerous. Gina consequently felt that GCA should withdraw its sponsorship of the event.

A general discussion followed regarding the feasibility of GCA continuing to sponsor the Southeastern Races. General sentiment appeared to be that while the Southeasterns may not be potentially dangerous, that GCA should continue sponsorship only if high caliber racers choose to participate and volunteers sufficient to adequately staff the races also participate.

Allen Hedden moved that GCA withdraw its sponsorship of the slalom portion of its Southeastern U.S. Slalom & Wildwater Championships this year. Motion seconded and approved by a vote of 6 ayes and 2 nays.

The Board agreed to request John Pinyerd be asked to coordinate the holding of the 41st Annual Southeastern U.S. Wildwater Championships on the Nantahala this year at a date to be determined.

President Bishop and the members present noted that they had no objection to another organization, such as the NOC or other paddling clubs, organizing the slalom portion of the Southeasterns this year.

Back to the Chattahoochee River Race & Festival

Tammy Morrissey, representing the Chattahoochee River Keepers, submitted a request that GCA again support the annual Back to the Hooch River Race by providing a committee to conduct timing of the races as was provided for last year's event.

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by
Vincent Zappia

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The Board committed to provide the requested timing volunteers. Lamar Phillips committed to obtain a chairperson and marshal the requested group of volunteers.

MEETING ADJOURNED



From The Trash Queen 'Hooch, Soque Clean-Ups Planned

by **Bonny Putney, GCA "Trash Queen"**

Happy Spring all you Georgia Paddlers!

Getting to be that time of year when all good Georgia paddlers start thinking about their favorite river and that perfect day on it. While you are putting together your trip schedule, please allow one day this season for a clean-up.

With the low water levels of the last couple of years, then the sudden monsoonal rains we have had, much trash just laying around has made its way to the river. I had to cancel 2 clean-ups scheduled myself last year because there was not enough water to paddle, so it has been a while since many rivers and river sections have been cleaned up.

I have the following clean ups scheduled:

Chattahoochee River

May 2 - Section 1 - Sautee Creek to Highway 255 Bridge;

May 10 - Section 4 - Highway 384 (Duncan Bridge) to Mossy Creek;

June 7 - Garrard's Landing to Azalea Drive - Clean the Course;

July 18 - Belton Bridge to Lula Bridge (Lake Lanier);

August 2 - Section 2 - Highway 255 Bridge to Highway 115 Bridge;

August 9 - Section 3 - Highway 115 Bridge to Duncan Bridge (Highway 384)..

Soque

July 26 - Old Cannon Bridge to Duncan Bridge

Since I work part time for Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, they are on the Chattahoochee and tributaries. If you want to join me, I will have dates, times and additional information on the website.

I really need other paddlers who want to lead a trash trip and put it on the website schedule. The GCA has adopted a section of the Chattooga for clean-up so we need someone to take the Thrifts Ferry to Bull Sluice portion Section 3 and lead a trip.

Another place screaming out for a clean-up is the Coosawattee along the Paddle Georgia Day One schedule. I hate for visitors to see this trash.

Here are a couple of tips if you decide to schedule and lead a clean up:

* Take a small section of less than 5 miles so you don't overload yourself and burn out your helpers

* Figure out how to handle the trash once you get it to the takeout. Many counties and cities, NPS, even some outfitters

will be more than happy to help you dispose of the trash, you just need to ask BEFORE you start. If you do this on a whim and end up with a bunch of trash, please make sure you get rid of it properly, or you become part of the problem.

* Trash sticks with the grabbers work great. Just FYI, they sink, so make sure you attach a small piece of a noodle to them so they float. I have a UCR supply of these sticks, and will lend them out of you need them. You can also stick them into areas you can't see BEFORE you stick your hands in.

* GO SLOW, make sure your group stays together and help even out the trash. Canoes are wonderful! Nothing like a good garbage barge. Have everyone sign a waiver.

* Some things are better left alone. Very large, heavy items are many times just too big to move. Safety first. Many of the objects that should be left - like tires - are holding the bank up or anchoring the sand. Moving these objects will just destabilize the bank and cause more erosion.

* Try and get rid of water in objects you pick up. Water and dirt are heavy. Mesh bags work great.

* HAVE FUN! Getting wet and dirty is part of the deal, so

continued on following page



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plan for it. A change of clothes is a good idea. Bring snacks, water and hand sanitizer.

* If you find any really cool old bottles, please hang on to them. I make art out of them and will give you a bounty.

There are few things you can do as an individual and make a big difference in a short amount of time: this is one of them. If you love your river, show it some care. Not only will you feel great, don't underestimate what you do for the paddling community, keeping areas open and having communities welcoming paddlers. If you need help you are welcome to contact me.

Hope to see you all on the river this season!



Good News and Bad News From American Rivers

The good news is that, on March 25, Congress passed the most comprehensive river protection and public lands bill in decades, securing permanent protection for 1,100 miles of rivers in eight states and 350,000 acres of land along 86 new Wild and Scenic Rivers.

None of the rivers are in Georgia or the Southeast. Two of the rivers are in Vermont and one in Massachusetts - the rest are in the West.

The bad news is that Georgia's Flint River is #2 on

American Rivers' 2009 list of America's Most Endangered Rivers. The threat to the Flint, one of the few rivers in the Southeast that still flows unimpeded for more than 200 miles, is a new proposal for two dams.

The proposal is not new, but has been dusted off as the drought has spurred a search for new water supplies for Metro Atlanta. The 2008 General Assembly passed a bill to encourage the construction of new water supply reservoirs, and a November study of potential sites recommended the two new reservoirs on the Flint as well as expansion of current reservoirs on its tributaries.



From the President *The Eddy Line* Will Be Published Bi-monthly: Why?

by Tom Bishop, GCA President

While the rain drought might finally be ending, it seems that everyone is strapped for cash these days. At the GCA we also have long-standing financial issues - a cash drought if you will.

Month after month the club's cash accounts slowly but surely leak away. We are in a situation now where we will run out of working capital in a few months time, if we keep

spending the same amounts. It is a very simple calculus; more money out, less money in, will mean zero money to operate the club in the very near future.

Month after month the single biggest line item on our budget is *The Eddy Line*, our venerable newsletter. We spend around \$1000+ for printing and mailing costs every month. Unfortunately, we don't take in enough money to cover that cost, even with the recent rise in dues, and with quite a few of us receiving the electronic version only, and voluntarily forgoing our right to the printed version. We are simply running out of funds.

Let me repeat that: many GCA members take only the electronic version, and we have not missed out on paddling trips, timely information, or club activities. We have a new and evolving website created by Matthew Crawford that members can go to and get information about upcoming paddling trips, timely information, or club activities.

This new website is not a static brochure, but a living document of the club where members can get timely information, post stories, photos, and video and connect with the other members of club. Check it out and plan to stay for a while. It's a big place, it is our presence on the web, and I am proud of it.

At the board March board meeting the question of what we are going to do about our financial state again came up. A proposal was made and approved by the board for the club to publish *The Eddy Line* on a bimonthly basis. We also decided to de-emphasize time-sensitive announcements, meeting minutes and repetitive information, which can be announced on the website, and go to more entertaining, educational content.

We are making this change to improve *The Eddy Line*. Our printed newsletter is a document that can last for years. Printing the minutiae of daily operations quickly makes it stale, while putting in information that has no time limit will keep it fresh so that someone picking up *The Eddy Line* a year later will find it interesting.

When I get the electronic *Eddy Line*, I glance at the trip list, go skip the next 5 or 6 pages of information that we repeat month after month, and go directly to the small bit of room that is left for trip reports, educational articles and stories about my fellow club members, and whatever lunatic ideas and adventures they come up with. That is what the club is about.

Never once has someone come to me and said, "Boy, those meeting minutes were sure an interesting read. We should have more of that!" (sorry Bill) or "Wow! That financial report had me on the edge of my seat!" (apologies Ed). But I have had many conversations about the varied and interesting articles that have been published in *The Eddy Line*, from the incoherent musings of Vincent Payne to the fantastical fiction of Debra Berry and the reports of exciting Wildwater

success from John Pinyard, as well as all of the trip reports that members have contributed over the years; that is what makes *The Eddy Line*.

The idea is to make *The Eddy Line* a more readable, interesting, and in general a better newsletter that is more representative of the interests of our club. Something we can point to and say "Yeah, my club published that, and I'm proud of it."

Certainly some of you will not like this decision. The one thing I can count on as President is that there is always someone willing to criticize, someone willing to rant, someone willing to be outraged, someone willing to quit. The board will be accused of being out of touch, lazy, negligent, and not addressing the real problem. If you wish to have input then attend the meetings.

Most anyone can rip out a one-sided email and complain. It is much harder to make a positive contribution. Please remember that we are all volunteers here, we are all genuinely concerned, none of us particularly want to go bi-monthly, and we are forced to take this action out of necessity.

Last time I looked, printers want to be paid, and the post office does not deliver on credit. Print media of all kinds are reducing their size, cutting staff, and disappearing from the publishing landscape. We are not immune to this trend.

I wish all of you good health and better paddling! ✈



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Killing The Eddy Line

by William Gatling
from www.gapaddle.com

It is time for *The Eddy Line* to stop publication. It was the crown jewel of the GCA for years, but time has passed it by.

Around the country newspapers are shutting down. This is because they can't compete with the rapid news cycles that we have come to expect. This is also true with GCA's top notch newsletter. I will miss it, but its time has passed.

In March the Board of Directors voted to reduce publication to every other month. This only serves to prolong the inevitable. The highly prized trip list will come to an end and *The Eddy Line* should end too.

Only a handful of GCA die hard volunteers are keeping the trip list afloat now. The Executive Committee was not among our trip coordinators in March. Being a coordinator is not a requirement to be on the Executive Committee, but supporting the club when possible should be. This disregard for club the trips seems to be evident with how *The Eddy Line* demise is being handled.

Raising the dues from \$25 to \$35 per year was not enough to save the publication, even though the original motion to raise dues included the understanding that "the dogs would be called off" pressuring members to only take the

on-line version. Killing *The Eddy Line* would enable the club to drop dues to ridiculously low levels and still have more operating cash than we do now.

The idea of making a bi-monthly edition "more interesting" is pure crap. The content of *The Eddy Line* is dependent on member submissions and Rick's creativity. Stripping away its ability to have any news worthiness is the end.

The Yahoo groups mail list and the website have made *The Eddy Line* obsolete. News and trips can be posted in minutes. Instead of one editor, the website can have as many as we want.

The most incredible feature of the website is one that you would never notice until you use it. That is the ability to search for old content. Well written articles go into *The Eddy Line* to be read once and die. An article posted on-line can be recalled when ever information from it is needed.

I loved *The Eddy Line*, but if it can't live with dignity then it is time to let it go!

(Come on people, there has to be some discussion about this!) ✂

Editorial

Just A Few Questions

by Rick Bellows

Rather than expounding on why I think the Board's changes to *The Eddy Line* are ill-conceived, I thought instead I'd just ask some simple questions:

Did you see the details of the training courses scheduled for May 2-3 and June 13-14 on the GCA groupmail before you saw them in *The Eddy Line*?

Had you heard about the potential benefits of joining the ACA before you read them in *The Eddy Line*?

Were you aware of the upcoming Hooch and Soque clean-ups before you read about them in *The Eddy Line*?

Did you see William Gatling's response to the Board's decision on the website before you saw it above?

Do you have a computer, internet service and the skills to look up the trip list, upcoming events, minutes of meetings, etc. on the website? Will you remember to do it? If you do remember, will you take the time and trouble to do it?

If your answers to all these questions are "yes," perhaps I'm wrong about the need for a monthly, service-oriented newsletter and you should let me know that.

If not, perhaps the Board is wrong and you should let them know that.

In any event, it won't be as big an issue to me as it is now. I volunteered to edit a newsletter intended to serve the GCA membership, not to focus on entertainment. I've resigned as Editor (prompting, I suspect, the defensive remarks near the end of Tom Bishop's "From the President" column) and the June issue of *The Eddy Line* will be my last. ✂

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Non-business ads are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business and non-member ads are \$5 for up to 50 words, \$10 for larger. **Ads must be received by the fifth of the month to be published in the following month's issue.** Mail ads to *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441 or email to the_eddyline@yahoo.com. Please, no phone-in or hand-written ads. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

For Sale: WET SUIT: NRS Little John HydroSkin G2 Titanium plus NRS Neoprene Jacket, men's large, still fresh and like new, used 3x: Together \$140. Howard Hall 678-376-7689, hhall1950bellsouth.net (ask for photos).

For Sale: SPRAY SKIRT: SEALS, size 7 (rec kayak), medium-duty, nylon, easy-to-find release strap. Used 3x, like

new, \$45. Howard Hall 678-376-7689, hhall1950@bellsouth.net (ask for photos).

For Sale: Prijon Dupo Duo Tandem Kayak-\$600; Stohlquist Charc Drysuit, Model 56115, Gore-Tex, men's size M/L with front relief zipper, spray skirt tunnel, full latex booties in good shape, needs both wrists cuffs replaced, but

neck cuff new, \$400; Mesh Backpack Stohlsac, medium, \$5; Lotus/Patagonia Shop shortsleeve paddling jacket, men's medium, cost \$100, used twice, \$20; Stohlquist short sleeve paddling jacket, men's medium, \$10; Perception nylon long paddling pants, men's medium, \$10; Lotus short sleeve fleece paddling shirt, men's large, \$10; Hank Klausman, 770-587-0499 or klausgp@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, March 28

Upper, Upper Chattahoochee

by Roger Nott

This GCA trip was scheduled to be a two-day camping safari to the Tennessee Smokies to paddle Little River and Abrams Creek. However, when several folks backed out at the last minute and we feared that we might have too much water in the Smokies, we moved the trip to North Georgia to take advantage of recent heavy rains.


On Saturday open boaters Kevin McInturff and I and kayakers Jay Manalo and Alex Edl met at 1:30 p.m. at Robertstown. The Helen gauge was at 1.8, so we shuttled north on FS52 to paddle one of my most favorite runs.

We slid our boats down the mountain along a ridge 100 feet past the gated north end of FS52B. Using very long painters and belaying off trees, we got to the river in about 15

minutes.

From our put-in the Chattahoochee drops at a rate of ninety feet per mile for just over four miles, through nearly continuous Class 2 and 3 shoals and a most delightful natural slalom course. The level was low but passable for the first mile and a third to Jasus Creek, but nearly ideal after Low Gap Creek entered in another two-thirds of a mile.

As usual there were a few deadfalls to avoid, but we never had to exit our boats. Though it had rained heavily that morning and 3.75 inches since Wednesday, the rain stopped while we were on the river and we enjoyed balmy weather in the 60's.

We only had one short swim, played like otters and enjoyed the excellent water quality and a most wonderful trip. Afterward Alex, Jay and I enjoyed a delicious feast at Ma Gooch's in Cleveland and planned our Sunday paddle. 

Sunday, March 29

Warwoman Creek/Chattooga River

— Earls Ford to Sandy Ford

by Roger Nott


C-1 paddler Bill Pennington, kayaker Alex Edl, and open boaters John Browner and I met at the Highway 76 Chattooga parking lot at 11:00 a.m., thinking our scheduled Abrams Creek trip was moving to the Chauga Gorge. However, after a further powwow, we decided to run Warwoman Creek down to Sandy Ford, where we took out on the Georgia side.

It had rained about four and a half inches since Wednesday and we had a wonderful level, 2.7 on the USGS gauge at Highway 76. At this level Mattress was a Class 4 and most of the rocks were generously covered. We had a partly sunny day in the low 50's and winds gusting to 20 mph. Though we were seldom aware of the wind till we got to Earl's Ford, on the

Chattooga it challenged us a good deal at times.

Warwoman was delightful this day. The water quality was very good and for most of the time the pace was relaxed. We had plenty of time to enjoy the most beautiful forest, thankfully replete with many still flourishing hemlocks.

There were many delightful Class 1 and 2 rapids and four Class 3-4's which definitely heightened our adrenaline levels, as did the powerful rapids on Section 3, including the Class 4 water at Dicks Creek Ledge and just upstream of Sandy Ford. We had a couple of rolls and one swim, but the recoveries were quick.

John Holley and friends were also paddling Warwoman this afternoon, and we saw many GCA friends on the Chattooga, including Tom and Suzanne Welander, Milt Aitkin, and David Asbell. Our wonderful trip and fellowship continued that evening with the addition of Tee Brower and the delicious food of La Pachanga's Mexican Restaurant in Clayton. 



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