GCA
GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 7023
Atlanta, Georgia 30357

THE EDDY LINE

VOLUME 48, NO. 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

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FACING YOUR FEARS ON THE UPPER NANTAHALA RIVER

by Sue Carter Martin

It is so very good to be alive. When life, now, gets tough, sad, frustrating, or lonely, I remember that it is good to be alive. I almost wasn't.

September, 2012

Ummm.... what it was like.... I remember suddenly flipping, being under water, trying to set up to roll. My paddle wouldn't move. I tried to pull my skirt and wet-exit, but I for some reason, could not even pull my skirt or push out of my boat. I put my hand up for a T-rescue, not sure if it was visible to anyone or not... Frustrated now... Hello? anyone out there? help me! I usually don't open my eyes under water, but finally I opened them, looking for air. I saw bubbles, lots of them. Desperate now for air, I arched my body, reaching up with my face, for the bubbles, hoping it was air to breathe. I took a desperate breath in, no longer able to hold my breath any longer. I blacked out at that point. Did I feel scared? No. I was frustrated and remembered thinking "I can't believe this is happening". Pain? No, no pain. Just frustration that I could not get out of my boat.

I vaguely remember waking up with a suffocating mask over my face, fighting it, trying to get it off. As soon as I heard someone explain it was oxygen, I calmed down

(cont'd, pg 4)

ELECTION OF 2014 GCA OFFICERS

On October 9, 2013, the GCA elected new officers for 2014:

Todd McGinnis—President
Jana Rogers Walker - Vice President
Ed Schultz - Treasurer
Tyler Southern - Secretary (re-elected)

A huge thanks to William Gatling, our outgoing President, for doing a splendid job. Without the work of volunteers, our club would not continue to exist.

RAFFLE FOR A DAGGER RPM

GCA – BIG NEWS - I am excited to announce the end of the year give away at the December Christmas Party! This year we will be collecting canned goods for donation to the Georgia Mountain Food Bank . For each can you donate you will get one ticket toward winning a 2013 Dagger RPM in Fuel Red! If you donate one can you get one ticket, if you donate 20 cans you get 20 tickets, etc.

This will be awesome fun and cannot wait to see who walks away with the boat. All members, non-members and soon-to-be members are welcome to participate.

Location: Garden Hill Recreation Center
Date: Saturday December 7th starting at 5pm

More details to come.

AUCTION BENEFITTING TEAM RIVER RUNNER AUG 18

Story and photos submitted by Todd McGinnis

In 2012 the Georgia Canoeing Association was looking to support a river focused organization that was bigger than the club. At the same time Laura Dillon was in the beginning stages of organizing an Atlanta Chapter of Team River Runner. Team River Runner is a not for profit organization that is primarily run through a network of Volunteers. The mission of this group is to provide active duty military and veterans an opportunity to find "health, healing, and new challenges through whitewater boating and other paddle sports." The program has expanded from its early days at Walter Reed Medical Center to become a national organization with new chapters being established; Atlanta being one of the newest.

The GCA decided it would promote and raise funds to help establish the Atlanta Chapter of Team River Runner. To help raise the funds we sought the help of Woody Callaway. Graciously the crew at Liquid Logic donated a Remix 69 for the club to use as a prize for those who donated to TRR. Each donation of $5 earned 5 tickets toward a chance to win the boat.

Each year we hold the Southeastern Downriver race and decided to include this fundraiser as a part of the race. At the end of the race we held the drawing for the winner. On the 18th of August we drew the winner's name. Our winner was Rod Fortney of Roswell, Georgia.

Rod was excited to win the boat as the Remix was a big improvement to the current vessel he was paddling. He shared with me that when he saw our post for the raffle and read about the Team River Runner Organization he knew he had to participate. In his words, "through organizations such as TRR and Wounded Warriors Project we have an opportunity to give back to those that have given for us." Rod is intimately aware of the sacrifices our military women and men make as he is the father of an Air Force pilot who is currently deployed. The club had great success with the fundraiser and we collected over $1,200. We could not have done this without all of you who donated to Team River Runner; thank you!

Also I want to personally thank Liquid Logic for donating the boat which was the centerpiece of the event. Finally, a huge debt of gratitude goes out to all active and retired members or our Armed Forces – the country owes you more than we can ever express.

Rod and his new "Road Cone Orange" Remix 69

CHATTOOGA SECTION 4 TRIP REPORT

By Brian Herbert

I have never posted a trip report but this was significant for me. Chattooga Section IV was always the next river progression and I was fearful because of stories that surround it. I even purchased a Nomad with the forethought of taking it to the next level. Thus, on a chilly morning at low water our group launched at Bull Sluice for my first run down Section IV. Paul Downing had extended the invite thru Facebook. Our group included me, Paul, Ethan Talley, Todd Vanderhoof, Todd's girlfriend, whose name escapes me, and Mark Mullinax.

When we reached Woodall somebody said, "When I was a raft guide at the Chattooga I didn't know what Chattooga paddling was all about until I paddled section IV. This section is what Chattooga paddling is all about. Welcome to the club!" Indeed, it is a beautiful stretch of river; waterfalls, enormous boulders, the site of "Deliverance"... I was in awe.

Recalling videos I watched, I looked forward to the side boof at Seven Foot falls. It didn't happen. I straight shot it and found out what it was like to stern squirt a Nomad. Barely avoiding the wall I finally recovered. Further downstream, the gorge setting at Raven's Chute was breathtaking. Still, Five Falls hung in the back of my mind all day. When we reached the Five falls and set Thanks Dude! Watching the guys run Corkscrew and contemplating the route, I became so focused on getting the lines right that I nearly flipped at the top. I credit the Nomad for helping me paddle thru the curler.
Next I walked Crack and helped Todd's girlfriend portage as well. She's badass, only her seventh time in a boat. On the other side we met Paul draining his boat from a proper swim thru the 'crack'.

When we reached Jawbone I was doing fine until Todd informed me this was the most dangerous rapid on the river. That kind of news is detrimental to a first timer's confidence. I was nervous but got thru it. Finally we're at Sock em dog, the most awesome rapid ever! In my mind I returned to the videos again. I really wanted to get that boof. Todd led the way. He stomped the boof. I thought it would be my best boof ever and charged the pad. At the last minute I got pushed left and into the hole. It wasn't sticky and I was able to punch it. Determined, I headed back up for a second retribution run. This time I got pushed left and pitoned into a rock. The moment was short lived when we saw Todd's girlfriend going for it. She went far left and spent time in the hole. She stuck it out longer than most would have, lost her paddle, then hand rolled up. Yup, she's badass. Everybody was yelling and clapping. It was a great finish to a great day. After a long paddle on the lake with a permagrin, my day was complete.

Photo by Jay Davis

FACING YOUR FEARS

Cont'd from pg 1

and asked what my O2 sats were (oxygen saturation). I heard I was being bossy, so I knew I was OK. It is so very good to be alive. When life now, gets tough, sad, frustrating, or lonely, I remember that it is good to be alive. I almost wasn't.

Sept 29, 2013

Oddly enough, I was calm. I spent the evening before at my camper, made a small campfire and ate a quiet dinner by the fire, with the sounds of frogs, crickets and owls around me for company. I spent a few moments with John and Shirley and some other campers, then went to bed. I woke up Saturday morning, had some leftover pizza for breakfast, and headed out to begin an epic day. I expected to be a bundle of nerves, but I had prayed for peace and protection, and I was ready to take on my nemesis, the Upper Nanty. I felt ready for whatever happened, knowing I was in God's hands, no matter what. I jammed to some music on the way to NOC, pushing away negative thoughts and worries. It had been exactly a year since my first epic adventure on Upper Nanty, and I knew I HAD to do this, for no one but myself. I and a new friend (also named Sue!) had planned to meet up at 10, and scout the entire creek. We did meet up, hitched a ride with Rick Thompson, went to the top and walked/jogged our way down, stopping at most major spots to discuss the lines. We did this almost the entire way down, but caught a ride in Rick's truck when we neared the end, as there were no more major rapids to look at.

Our group met up at the shuttle area and slowly trickled in. I didn't tell anybody, but Rob Kelly had told me he was going to try to join us, although it was a very small chance of him getting away from all the NOC festivities. Sadly, he didn't make it, but I'm sure he was there with us in spirit! At the shuttle area I believe there was more chaos there than on the river. Kayaks and boats and paddlers all over the place! I particularly remember the speedo guy with the ducky going up to the cascades and also the guy who stole my lunch. I won't mention any names, but you know who you are!

(Cont'd, pg 5)

Photo by Rick Thompson

COLUMBUS WHITEWATER: VIEW FROM A RAFT

By Stephen McKinnon

I finally got to run the whitewater course with Whitewater Express in Columbus, GA over the Labor Day holiday. I opted to go on the 1:30 trip due to the fact that high water did not run until late in the day. My trusty GPS put me right on the store so the address on their website worked for me. The store is fairly large and has plenty of t-shirts, water shoes, etc. They have the necessary waivers when you walk in so if you forget yours, you're covered. If you kayak, etc. feel free to wear your own gear. I opted to wear their PFD but my helmet.

We had our brief safety talk as usual & headed to the school bus for the short ride to the GA put in. This is right near the dam & they were beginning to release as we put on. Pretty neat that not only does the siren sound, but "talks" about high water coming and to seek higher ground. The first rapid is Ambush & was created recently. Fairly fun and I can see this as a good challenge for kayakers especially at high water. I think at medium levels you could walk back and run another lap. Water temps were awesome and the "lazy river" float was neat. Basically a fairly shallow stream near some Heron nesting trees that joins back up with the main river. They talk about "nose-n-toes" here too.

To me the next significant rapid was "Gooder'n Grits" but I did not have a pen to write down all the names. From downstream looking back it does not look daunting, but at 8500 or so CFS I think I would be a little nervous in a kayak. It reminds me of 7 foot on Chattooga, but wider and an almost straight down drop with some pretty big trains waiting on you. "Heaven's Gate" (on the Georgia side/hydraulic controlled) was the next toughest rapid to me. Pretty good drops & we had to ferry over pretty hard to it first. Good Wave is right after that & is pretty significant at higher water. A good bit of paddling in between all the rapids.

Would I do it again? Most likely yes, but I will probably do the high water trip next time. I can imagine what the "Gate" looks like in a kayak at high flow.

FACING YOUR FEARS

Cont'd from pg 4

Eventually, we all made it to the top in 2 separate bus trips. Troy Haas was to be my guide, as he was experienced with the creek and the lines. We prayed together before putting in, and again, I had much peace and faith that all would be right, and so it was.

We had a great trip, it was lots of fun, challenging, and certainly there were times when I was very anxious, but remembered who was with me and who was guiding us. I really had the best group on the river that day. They were all positive, encouraging and supportive. Troy was an absolutely wonderful leader, although I did have to back-paddle occasionally while he did some roll practice in some hairy-scary spots! I tried to stay about 20 feet or so behind him and not cuss at the people who inadvertently got between my boat and his. I was locked in on Troy's boat, very focused on his route, but at the same time keeping my eye on the river, following Troy but reading my own lines and sometimes having to make last second changes according to who was interfering in my planned route. That is part of paddling, being able to adjust and make split second decisions if you cannot follow plan A.

Thus began some carnage at Troll Hole. I do believe Troll Hole really must like me! I got to do some close up inspection of the river bottom.

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Keeping In Touch

To contact the GCA, write Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357.

Groupmail: GCA maintains a group email list to help members share information of general interest. To sign up, send an e-mail 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 http://www.gapaddle.com.

Facebook: Visit the Georgia Canoeing Association Facebook page for photos, video, trip reports, or to join an upcoming impromptu trip.

20TH ANNUAL GCA CHATTOOGA CLEANUP

Saturday, August 24, 2013
Story and photos by Roger Nott

We had great weather and a hard-working crew for GCA's annual Clean-up of our adopted section of the Chattooga, from Thrift's Ferry to Hwy 76. They were: Russ Abney, Jeff and Roxanne Lankford, Don Robertson and Jeff Salembrier in kayaks; Chuck Wilburn in an inflatable C-1; and I in my 16-foot Buffalo OC-1.

We cleaned the parking lots and river access areas for about 2 1/2 hours before putting on the river. Our Clean-up was originally scheduled for May 25th but was postponed due to high water. Unlike most river trips, clean-ups are better at low water. We had 2.03 on the USGS Hwy. 76 gauge, probably higher than we have had on the club's 19 prior Chattooga clean-ups. We were not able to see and access much trash under the water but were still able to collect ten bags full from the river's edge. This year's record total rainfall had brought a lot of flotsam to the river's eddy areas. Some trash was somewhat tricky to collect.

This bottle was well guarded. I used a LONG stick to relocate this 4 1/2 foot water snake.

Pictures submitted by Roger Nott

We had a great trip, which was followed by welcomed refreshments and, for many of us, good pizza, libations and further camaraderie at Humble Pie in Long Creek.

FACING YOUR FEARS

Cont'd from pg 5

I knew exactly how I wanted to paddle it, I planned on angling to the right eddy (CPR eddy) at the bottom but there was Troy in the bottom, doing roll practice again, so it was time for plan B. I actually back paddled smack in the middle of my descent, trying to avoid hitting him. But we did have a boat collision at the bottom, and as he rolled upright I went over to inspect the fishes. I didn't see any Trolls, by the way. All was good, I set up and rolled somehow. I don't even remember it taking any effort and I do believe I had some angelic assistance. I came up with a shout and a triumphant grin on my face, thrilled that I didn't swim Troll Hole like last time. Ok, well technically, it was a body surf last time. We all regrouped in the big eddy and then continued our way down to the bottom. Other than a couple of near-flips for me, it was quite uneventful the rest of the way.

I did start to relax after Troll Hole and got to see the rest of the river that I missed my first trip down. It is a beautiful creek, but not one to paddle without good boat control and experienced people to follow. We did have several first timers, including Samantha and Jeremy Thompson, who rocked it, as usual! I'm not sure if I was considered a first timer or not.

After we finished Upper Nanty, we all pretty much dispersed, some going back to do upper again. I figured, why mess with success, so, Jeremy, Samantha, and I continued down to enjoy the rest of Nanty. It was a good, beautiful day. Thanks very much to all who were brave enough to paddle with me, who supported, believed in me, and smiled with me the whole trip. Thanks especially to Troy for his leadership, and John Roberts who captured most of the trip on video. This was certainly a challenge for me, and I truly appreciate everyone's support, from the bottom of my heart. Love you all, you are the best!!!

Photo submitted by Rick Thompson

RIVER TEACHINGS

Throughout our paddling life there will be those moments where we progress at a rapid pace and then plateau. This is a normal cycle of learning. As paddlers, we learn new techniques that are developed to help us advance in the sport. As these motions become routine, we tend to lose the focus on the execution of these skills. In many cases it is not evident to the paddler that his skills have slipped and it takes other forces to remind him to get focused. These reminders can come from a friend or an instructor, but in many cases the first reminder will come from the river.

If someone paddles the Nantahala or the Ocoee all the time there are moves that are made instinctually and in many cases the river will let them get away with less than stellar form. It is not until the routine is switched up either by taking new lines, trying a different boat or getting onto a new river that one starts to feel the need to execute more precisely. Let me share a couple of examples:

Example one: Eddy catching on the Nanty – There are many forgiving eddy lines on this river. One can execute a perfect eddy out but in some cases if they drop down too far the water is not too fast and there is time to paddle back up into the eddy. Or if they miss it all together they have safe water below. An approach to eddy catching that is too relaxed develops bad habits. These bad habits can catch up with a paddler at the wrong time; like when trying to get into that must-make move into an eddy above a hole. The next thing they know, they are in an epic side surf in a hole they had no intention of playing. Always treat the eddies as if you must make them and have a plan B or C if you miss them.

Example two: Rolling on the river. The first rule is to practice your roll! Practicing in flat water and the pool is awesome but take it to the river and practice in the rapids. Remember to be patient when you roll; it is not a race. There is a tendency to try and roll up too fast and while we do not want to mash up against a rock, an extra moment of pause is typically ok. Let us compare Surfing Rapid and Whirlpool rapid on the Cartecay River. If you are playing at Surfing and flip there is a calm pool of water to roll up in so you roll right up. However, if you are goofing off in Whirlpool and you flip you cannot just roll right up; you may want to, but it is better to wait a second and feel the water and then roll. That water is dynamic and fluffy and if you roll too soon you will more than likely flip back over. So practice patience because once you get on something bigger you do not want to rush it. If you flip in corkscrew on section IV you want to get the most out of that roll!

The river is one of the best teachers because it will only let a paddler get away with so much. It will take advantage of that sloppy technique and knock you into a rock or send you for a little swim. I have been there, missed an eddy and dropped right into a place I did not want to be. No two ways about it, something in my technique or approach to that rapid was poorly executed. It may be sloppy technique, or it could be a misread of what the water is doing. In the case directly above, I was in a no-win situation and should have realized what the water was doing and that the move was risky at best. As paddlers, we need to recognize this and practice reading the water as well as working on better form.

Recognizing the need to improve skills is seen every day in other sports – the best batters in baseball go through slumps and their batting average drops from the high 300s to the low 200s. They are still awesome but need some help and that is why they turn to the batting coach. It may be that their form has slipped or that they are swinging at balls that drop to the left and away. They recognize this and work on improving and not swinging at those tempting pitches.

Let's face it, most of us are out here to have fun and we are not in it to win awards or make a career of it but we do want good habits. It does not matter if as a paddler you want to paddle the Cheoah or simply stay on the Nanty it is always good to practice the basic skills. Read a book on techniques, watch a video on strokes and then next time you are on the river practice one of those techniques repeatedly. Ask a friend to give you pointers or if you are up to it sign up for private instruction.

I am a fairly accomplished paddler and a certified Kayak Instructor but I recognize there are things I need to improve upon, so I continue to take instruction. This year alone, I took two sessions from Endless River Adventures as well as two river rescue courses. Yes, it can definitely be humbling but I get something out of it every time. This statement is not made to beat my chest but drive the point home that no one is above taking instruction of any type. You can do the private instruction by yourself or with a group.

Next time you are on the river and you drop that ferry angle, blow an eddy or flip in a rapid, think about why it happened. If you focus on what the river was teaching there may be a valuable lesson to be learned. As a final thought, it does not matter how much one paddles or practices skills, there will *always* be missed moves. The point here is not to over-analyze every move so that it makes paddling no fun but merely to encourage awareness of what you are doing to help develop conscious skills and not paddle on autopilot.

Todd McGinnis
ACA Level IV Whitewater Kayak Instructor
ACA Level III River Rescue & Safety Instructor

US SLALOM NATIONALS REPORT

by Roger Nott

September 28 and 29 saw some great slalom racing though Nantahala Falls.

In Men's C-1 Charlotte resident Casey Eichfeld and Peachtree City's Benn Fraker continued their close rivalry of recent years with Casey pulling ahead of Benn by 0.42 seconds on his final run. Young Zach "Bug" Lokken raced to the bronze.

In K-1W Dana Mann beat second place kayaker Ashley Née, followed by Evelyn Van Horn in third.

In C-2 Fraker and Silva NC resident Scott McCleskey beat Eichfeld and Devin McEwan by over 4 seconds. Will Coggan and Gabriel Machado raced to bronze.

Colleen Hickey dominated the C-1W class. Young paddlers Sage Donnelly and Chelsey Easley earned second and third.

In the Men's K-1 class Richard Powell earned his first national championship, beating fellow Gastonia NC resident Michal Smolen by 0.74 seconds. Atlanta resident Jim Wade raced to third place.

Congratulations to all who competed and thanks to the many volunteers and to race director Zuzana Vanha, who is retiring from race management and will be getting married in a week.

"Chattooga Mist" watercolor by Jay Davis

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

By Dick Hurd, MD
From The Eddy Line, June 2006

If a member of your party were struck by lightning while you are camping, hiking, canoeing, or kayaking in the "wilderness" of north Georgia, would you know what to do that might save their life? There are some things you can do to minimize your risk, and the better news is that a lightning strike may be survivable, especially if those with the victim know what steps to take.

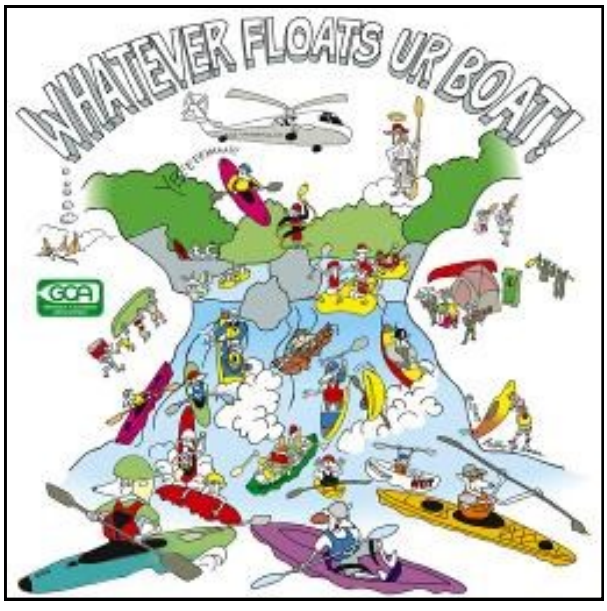
The best option is to be aware of the risk factors, and be aware of the weather when you are out doors. A simple "rule of thumb" is the 30-30 Rule: If the time from flash to bang (thunder) is less than 30 seconds, seek shelter, and do not venture out until 30 minutes after the last thunder. You can estimate your distance from the strike by counting the flash to bang in seconds, and dividing by 5 to derive the distance in miles. If you are on a river or lake when this happens, get off the water onto shore, and get well away from the water. If you hair stands on end, or you hear a crackling noise or smell ozone, or objects develop a blue glow of St. Elmo's fire, this indicates a strike is imminent, and you should assume The Lightning Safety Position: Crouch on the balls of your feet, preferably on your PFD or some insulated pad, keeping your head down; do not touch the ground with your hands.

If you witness a person hit by lightning, this is an in-beneficial. The injured person may have sustained a cardiac arrest (not to be confused with a heart attack) as well as a respiratory arrest (not breathing). They may appear dead. Start CPR immediately if practical. This may be difficult in the midst of a thunderstorm with heavy rain and continued lightning; also be mindful of the dictum not to endanger your own life to rescue another.

The heart has a pacemaker, and it may (not a guarantee) spontaneously restore a normal heartbeat. Spontaneous resumption of breathing may also occur, but may take up to 30 minutes. So start CPR immediately; if the pulse returns on its own, all you have to do is continue the breathing part of CPR and you may save a life! After 30 minutes, if there is no heartbeat and no breathing, further efforts at resuscitation are probably futile.

Time is of the essence! If the victim does not get assistance with breathing, the heart gets no oxygen, and will go into cardiac arrest again. Also, permanent brain damage occurs after three minutes of no oxygen. If the victim lives, they may have other injuries, and transport to a medical facility becomes your next order of business. A word about CPR in the wilderness is appropriate, because it is much different from the situation you have at home or at the shopping mall. The biggest difference is that you don't have any backup: 911 is either not available at all, or is many hours or miles away. CPR is an expedient until the Medics arrive, and they may not arrive in a timely fashion or at all.

I want everyone on the trip to know what to do in case someone gets hit. See you on the river!



TALLULAH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LAURA DILLON

The GCA has agreed to sponsor the November 16th and 17th Tallulah Gorge whitewater releases, and we can use your help. November 16 & 17 will be the final weekend of the five scheduled whitewater release weekends in 2013, and we're expecting a large turnout. Located at the scenic Tallulah Gorge State Park, http://www.gastateparks.org/TallulahGorge, in Tallulah Falls, GA, Tallulah is a Class IV-V river.

We are in need of volunteers to assist in several different capacities. The volunteer shifts on both Saturday and Sunday are from 8am-12pm and 11am-4pm.

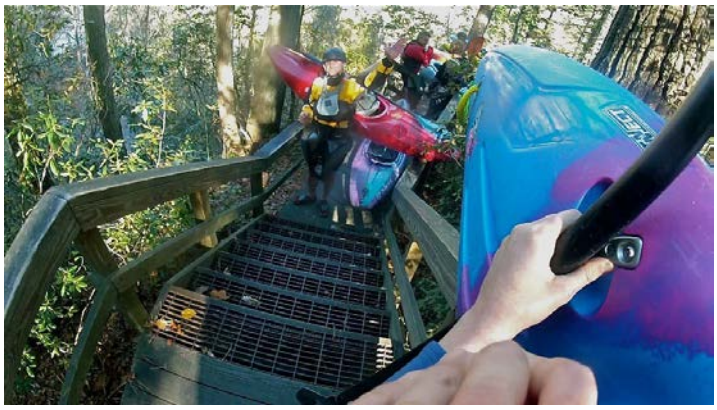
There are four volunteer stations:
(1) Three people man the Registration Desk at the top of the stairs where:
*you collect the Waivers and make sure they have filled it out properly (ICE numbers and allergy sections filled in.....Alex Supertramp is not a paddler and neither is Donald Duck though both have turned in waiver forms in the past!!),
*you stop the general public from going down the steps,
*you control the flow of boats and paddlers down the steps to avoid overcrowding at the put in and remind the boaters to go from landing to landing so they don't have to stop on the stairs and hold their boats.

(2) Two people are at the Bridge:
*to stop the general public coming across and onto the stairs.
(Only boaters, Rangers and volunteers are allowed on the stairs during the release)
*coordinate with the registration desk and put in to regulate the flow of paddlers on the stairs and at the put in.
*communicate with all parties in the event of an emergency. Preventing the public from entering the south stairs at the swinging footbridge, which sits 80 feet above the gorge floor (1-2 volunteers per shift)
Note: The second shift will last until 4:30pm

(3) Two People at the Put In:
*keep the deck as organized as possible (have paddlers stack boats and move down to the end of the platform if they are not putting in)
*coordinate with the bridge and registration desk to regulate the flow of paddlers.
*keep in touch with everyone via radio if we have an emergency and request assistance if needed.
We had record numbers over the last couple of releases. With this increase in the numbers the volunteer's job has become even more important, to keep the day flowing smoothly. There is only a five hour window in which to get all of these boaters (as many as 370) down to and on the water. The first boater can pass the registration desk as soon as we get the word from the Rangers that the water has stablized, which is usually between 9.30am and 10am, the last boater passes the registration desk at 2.45pm. As you can imagine it gets pretty busy!!

(4) One or two people at theTake Out:
*to check for parking passes
*to ask boaters to leave as many cars as possible at the put in as the Take Out parking gets over crowded.

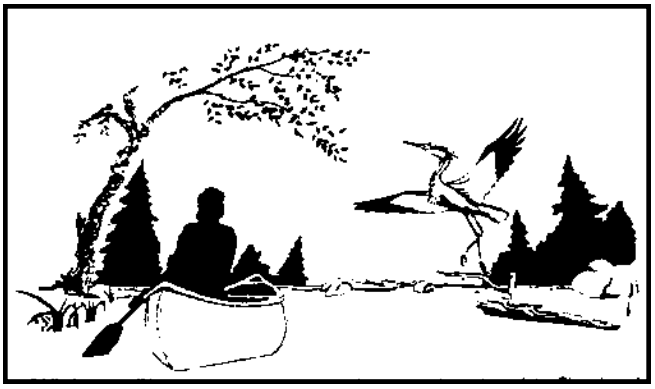
If you are able to help out, please let me know what day/ shift/desired volunteer station you are interested in. I can be reached at dillon3938@yahoo.com.



TRIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

11/15-18	Florida Panhandle Camping and Paddling	Everyone	Lamar Phillips—404-229-2939
12/7	Christmas / Holiday Party	Advanced	Rick Thompson—678-907-1378
1/17-1/20/14	Manatee Paddle (Florida)	Everyone	Jay Davis—404-713-7586

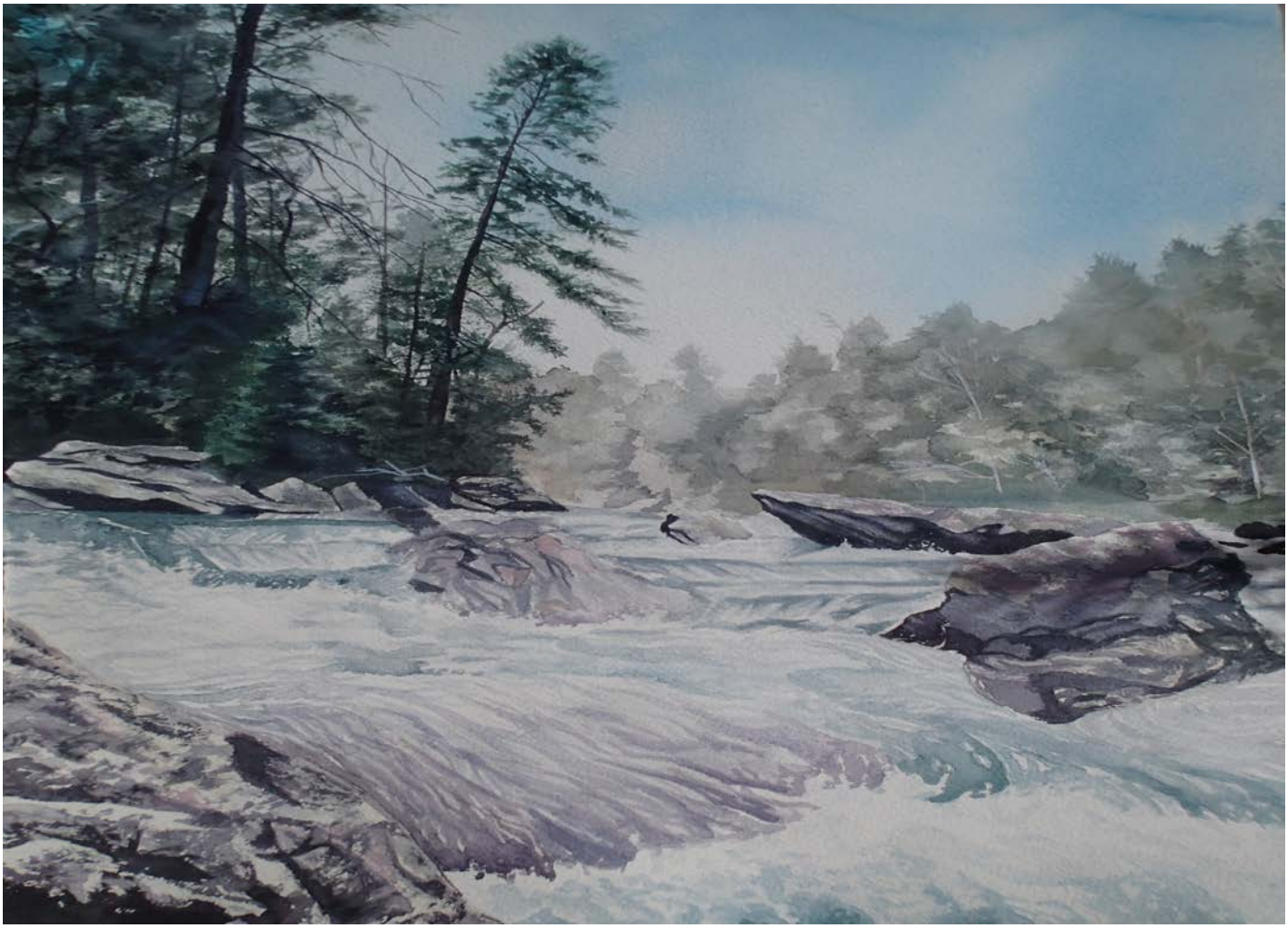
Check the calendar on the GCA website at http://www.gapaddle.com for additional trips, social events, safety classes, and more.



Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call Cruisemaster Shirley Tharp at 706-814-0207!

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.

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 Shirley Tharp at 706.814.0207. 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: see gapaddle.com for information



"Screaming Left Turn" watercolor by Jay Davis

KEEP YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS CURRENT

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

When the 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 re-subscribe with your new address.

ALL ABOUT THE EDDY LINE

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in print or pdf format. To subscribe, contact Ed Schultz 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*, at: **the_eddyline@yahoo.com**.

Deadline: The deadline for all submissions, classified ads and commercial ads is the 15th of the previous month (e.g. August 15 for the September/October issue).

UPCOMING FLATWATER TRIPS with the Georgia Conservancy

2013-2014 Georgia Conservancy Stewardship Trip Program For more information visit www.georgiaconservancy.org.

11/15 - 11/16 - Okefenokee Adventure at Stephen C. Foster State Park

1/31 - 2/2 - Sapelo Island and Blackbeard Island Camping and Canoeing Trip

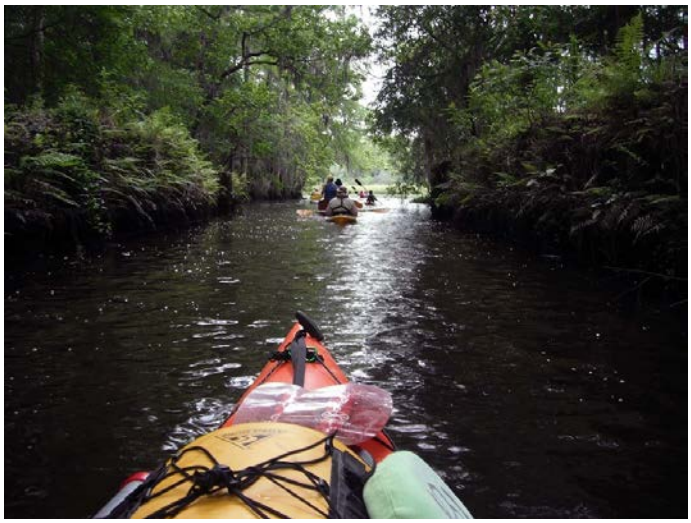
3/1 – Oyster Roast on the Coast

3/16 - 3/17 - Flint River Paddle at Montezuma Bluffs

3/28 - 3/30 - Altamaha River to Sea Paddle in Darien

Check our event calendar regularly as we will update trips and events year round. The Georgia Conservancy also hosts a "Meet-Up" website called Georgia Outdoor Stewards where our partner nonprofit, community groups and clubs host service and stewardship hikes year round. Visit www.georgiastewards.com today and signup for a trip or event!

Photos submitted by Marie Hagins Short



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The Eddy Line, © 2013, is published bi-monthly as the official newsletter of the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., publication address: 3060 Pharr Court North, #315, Atlanta, GA 30305. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Eddy Line*, c/o Georgia Canoeing Association, P.O.Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357.

THE EDDY LINE

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
www.gapaddle.com

The purpose of the GCA is to have fun and promote safety while paddling.

GCA is a member-operated paddling club with over 500 family and corporate memberships comprising more than 1500 Individuals. Canoeists and Kayakers of all ages and paddling abilities are equally welcome. Some of our mutual interests include whitewater river running, creeking and playboating, river and lake touring, sea kayaking, paddle camp outs and competition and racing activities. We espouse conservation, environmental and river access issues as well as boating safety and skills development. Group paddling, training and social activities of all kinds are conducted throughout the year thanks to the volunteer efforts of our many members and friends. Membership is NOT limited to Georgia residents.