

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION

June 1973

NEWSLETTER

Volume VII No. 6

Thanks everybody for the great work in getting reports and other items in on time - really makes getting out the newsletter on time a much easier job.

Mail items for the July newsletter to:

Mrs. Nancy Collins
867 Lynwood Ct.
Forest Park, GA 30050

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DEADLINE!! June 18, 1973

Just a reminder about safety!! Please follow all rules and regulations! Mike McConkey sent me an article and some pictures from the Seneca, S. C. Seneca Journal and Tugaloo Tribune about an Atlanta man drowning in the Chattooga. He evidently fell off a raft and one of the pictures was of a raft with the following caption, "More thrill seekers float their raft down the river over the spot circled, where rescue workers thought the body of Charles Rich might be trapped in a 'suck hole' caused by large rock formations under the water.....Several of these rafts, canoes, and kiaks (their spelling) filled with weekend river paddlers hindered and delayed the search for the body. Let's all be careful and not let carelessness and disregard for safety measures spoil our fun on the rivers.

FLINT RIVER - Saturday, June 2, 1973

On Saturday, June 2, 1973, we will run the Flint River from Spewrell Bluff (the site of a proposed Corps of Engineers' Dam) to the Talbotton Road Bridge. This section has about 2 miles of fairly continuous Class II-III rapids, and is approximately 11 miles long requiring 4 to 5 hours on the river. The best of the rapids is Yellow Jacket Shoals (Class III) which is too long to be portaged and ends with a jagged 5-foot ledge. At higher water levels, this can be a good run in an open canoe. The rest of the trip is primarily flat water. Whitewater experience is required for this run.

We will meet on the square in Thomaston at 8:30 a.m. sharp for a fairly long car shuttle.

Pre-register with David Garrity: 634-1847 (evenings after 7:00 p.m.) by Thursday, May 31, 1973. Anyone failing to pre-register will be responsible for arranging their own car shuttle.

FLINT RIVER - June 3, 1973 - Sunday

Welcome to the Flint River which rises in Atlanta and flows almost due south to join the Chattahoochee. The section we are to canoe is one of the most scenic parts of the river and is ideally suited to whitewater canoeing for the whole family.

The trip is scheduled for Sunday, June 3, from 9:30 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. and will be a 20 mile float from Georgia highway 74 to Sprewell Bluff.

Those of you who want to make the trip should meet in Thomaston, Ga. on the town square at the county courthouse at 9 a.m.; the party will depart at 9:30 a.m. for the river.

You should eat before you come and bring your own canoe, paddles, lunch, raingear, dry clothes, lifejackets, and any other needed items as none will be provided. A local guide will be along to point out places of interest and answer questions.

Reservations must be made with Daniel C. Griffis in Atlanta by Thursday, May 31 - phone 634-6421.

NANTAHALA RIVER - June 9, 1973

For information as to class of rapids, length of trip, where to meet and when, please call the leader, Forrest Cole - 435-9949. *255-4110 Fowkes*

TUCKASEEGEE RIVER - Sunday, June 10, 1973

The Tuckasegee is a pretty river in western North Carolina below Lake Glenville (Lake Thorpe on some maps). We will run section 1 which is a fairly short trip along North Carolina highway #107. The river is Class 1-2 with a good rapid at the beginning and one Class 3 rapid which we may or may not take. Since the river is a "power" river, there won't be a lot of straight paddling. The run is easy, and excellent for beginners, but we do need some experienced paddlers. You'll enjoy the beautiful river.

Unfortunately, this section of the Tuckasegee is about 4-4½ hours from Atlanta, but since there is a Nantahala trip scheduled for Saturday, many may be in the area. On the map it looks like 2-2½ hours from Wesser, N. C.

Mr. John Waldroop, who will operate the power plant for the group on SUNDAY, owns the River Park campground on the East Fork of the river and has camping facilities for tents, campers, motor homes, etc. We will put-in here. To reach the campground from Atlanta, take I-85 north to Fair Play, S. C. Go to Walhalla, S. C. and take route #28 north to #107 which goes off to the right to Cashiers, N. C. Go through Cashiers on #107 to Lake Glenville to the first bridge over the Tuckasegee. There is a sign for the campground here - it is about 2 miles from the bridge on state road #1135. If you are coming from the Nantahala area, it's the 4th bridge after you leave Sylva, N. C. (Don't be alarmed if the river looks black below Sylva - it's not polluted where we will be.)

We will meet by the river in the River Park Campground at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 10. Please be on time. Let's have a nice turnout - Mr. Waldroop has been extremely cooperative in consenting to run the power plant for us on Sunday and at a time other than the usual operating hours. Please register by Thursday, June 7 with Bronwyn or Carter Fowkes at 255-4110. Failure to register will be considered discourteous, and if we don't know you're planning to come, we will leave you. **DON'T FORGET LIFE JACKETS - it's the law.**

COOSAWATTEE - June 16, 1973

For information about this trip, please call the leader, Scott Price - 971-0236.

TAKE FATHER OUT TO LUNCH AND CANOE THE ALCOVY TOO! (June 17, 1973)

On Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day!), we'll take our annual family float on the beautiful little Alcovy River near Covington with a new twist - a lunch stop at the charming Old Mill Restaurant at the halfway point. The price for this delicious "all you can eat" buffet with 3 meats and 4 or 5 vegetables, plus dessert, is regularly \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. However, we have arranged group rates of \$2.75 for adults and \$1.75 for children if we have more than 20 persons register by Thursday night, June 14, with Nina Morrison at 939-4753. Bathing suits or shorts, etc. are O.K. Those who do not wish to eat at the restaurant may picnic on the bank with the new owner's permission (Don Barber of WQXI-TV and Mrs. Barber). The Old Mill is open until 8 p.m. for those who wish to return for dinner.

The Alcovy is primarily a gentle flat water stream with some easy, but shallow, Class I-II rapids suitable for beginners and children, plus an optional quarter mile stretch of Class III rapids below the takeout point for kayakers. Last year there was only one log pullover in this nine mile stretch, which takes about 5 to 6 hours, including the lunch stop.

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the put in to unload, with the shuttle leaving for the bottom promptly at 10 a.m. DIRECTIONS FROM ATLANTA: Take I-20 East to the U. S. 278 exit at Covington. Take a right turn and go to the downtown courthouse square, then take Georgia 36 south. At the intersection with Georgia 213, take a left on 213 and go to the bridge over the river.

CHATTOOGA RIVER - Section III - June 23, 1973

Saturday, June 23, we will travel to the mountain area between Georgia and South Carolina to run the beautiful and often challenging Chattooga River. Section III is approximately a 12 mile run, and if this is your first time on this stretch of the river, it may seem like 12 miles of solid white water. However, along with numerous Class III ledges and one Class IV ledge (which can be portaged) there is indeed some flat water. At the water level normal for late June, this run should present few problems for paddlers with a basic knowledge of white water strokes and techniques and some practice applying them.

We will meet at the U. S. 76 bridge at 9:30 and leave for the put in at Earl's Ford.

Please register with the Albitz's at 469-8848 by Thursday, June 21.

CHATTOOGA RIVER - Section 2 - June 24, 1973

Meet at 9:30 a.m., Sunday morning, June 24, 1973, at Highway #28 and the river (Russell Bridge). We will leave promptly at 10:00 a.m., and the shuttle has to be run. Bring a lunch in a waterproof bag, and an extra change of clothes to have at the end. BRING A LIFEJACKET for each person in the canoe.

Please register by Thursday, June 21, 1973 with your trip leaders, Jean or Brian Schott at 325-4931. When you register, please indicate whether or not you think you can help on the shuttle. Please register by Thursday, June 21, 1973.

CHATTOOGA RIVER - June 24, 1973 - Section IV

As most of you know, this is one of the most difficult and dangerous runs that we schedule. The words difficult and dangerous are beginning to have more meaning to us as we read of more and more drownings in whitewater. Only decked canoeists and kayakers with a reliable roll should attempt this section. It may be run by expert solo open canoeists if the gauge at 76 reads less than 1.8 (opinion). Pre-registration with the trip leader required. The trip leader reserves the right to arbitrarily reject or eject any applicant. Meet at the U. S. 76 bridge at 9:00 a.m. Shuttle leaves for the lake at 9:05.

Register with Cleve Tedford - 458-5670 or 233-7111.

NANTAHALA RIVER - June 30, 1973 - Class III

Last chance to practice for the Southeastern Championship Races, July 7.

First-timers should be well-practiced on rivers such as the Upper Chattahoochee and Chestatee. This water is fast with standing waves and plenty of rocks to dodge. Open boats should have flotation. The water is always cold, so wet suits or vests are helpful.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Nantahala Outfitters, Wesser, N. C. There are camping facilities at the Lost Mine Campground one mile from Wesser. Nantahala Outfitters has a motel and restaurant.

Register with Dale Bergen by Thursday, June 28 - 377-2970.

There is a possibility of a run on the Oconaluftee River, Sunday, July 1.

CALLING ALL CANOEISTS!!!

You are desperately wanted and needed in a summer program co-sponsored by Friends of the River and the Junior League of Atlanta! The purpose of this project is to educate underprivileged inner-city junior high students about our Chattahoochee.

The format of the program entails 10 short trips down the river with 20 canoes. Each canoe will have 2 students and a canoeist.

The trips are planned during the weekday mornings (about 10:30-1:30). Lunch will be furnished. The first trip is June 21st.

It would be ideal to find canoeists who could do all 10 trips - but if you can't, and would like to canoe any trip - please contact immediately!
Mrs. Jo Allison Brown - 252-2358 or 233-6485.

CHATTOOGA RIVER REPORT, Section III, April 28, 1973 - Bill Heath

The scheduled trip on Section III was altered to Section II because the river was relatively high, 2.7 on the gauge at U. S. 76, and it was a cold, windy day. Our party was composed of 5 tandem open canoes - Bronwyn Fowlkes and Jim Fletcher, Bob Kerckel and Jim Zapp from Florida, Hank Schroder and Cliff Brooks from Florida, Henry Clark and his friend Joe, plus two open solo canoes, Vic Kiefer and Bill Heath.

We had two minor mishaps resulting in one tandem team getting wet twice. It was an interesting trip at this level, 1.7 on the gauge at Hwy 28. The 5 one-foot falls required some maneuvering, but there were many channels. The 5-foot falls was easily run on the left. Five of us camped out at Earl's Ford Saturday night to see if the river would drop, so we could try Section III on Sunday.

Sunday, April 29, 1973

The gauge at Earl's Ford read 1.8 and at U. S. 76 read 2.4, so we set out on what proved to be the best trip I've had on Section III. We were two open tandem teams, Bob Kerckel and Jim Zapp, Hank Schroder and Cliff Brooks, and an open solo, Bill Heath. We had two incidents. The first was when Hank's "square stern" busted a seam in the stern and began leaking badly. A little duct tape and running the stern end forward for the rest of the trip solved the problem. The second incident was when the lone solo got careless in a Class II and overturned. The four Floridians did a fine job of running this section tandem without an upset.

ETOWAH RIVER, April 21, 1973 - Ross Wilson, reporting

This outing, which in the past has been a rather popular event for families and beginners, again drew a large attendance, with approximately forty-five being present, in spite of the fact that it had been scheduled as a one-day event and was sufficiently early in the spring for the water to be a bit cold for those who happened to get dunked.

Those who attended were amply rewarded, as it was a pleasant day, and the Etowah is one of the more beautiful and interesting of our rivers, even though there is little on it beyond Class II.

Let us hope that the powers-that-be will next year resume the policy of scheduling it later in the spring for two days, so we can have the pleasure of camping at Blackburn State Park with activities for those in the family who do not canoe, such as gold panning, and sight seeing, and another day of canoeing on the Chestatee or lower Etowah for those who do.

FOR SALE - K-1 "Woodward Special". Epoxy, polypropylene glass lay-up; used, Excellent condition, spray skirt included, \$175.

Call Julie Wilson - days 873-6661 ext. 438
nights - 874-9038.

After June 9, call Ross Wilson - days - 255-1012
nights - 875-1565

FREE BOOK ON RIVERS IN THE UNITED STATES - Forrest Cole

I asked my friend, Jack Kissner, who is the President of Folbot Corp., in Charleston, South Carolina, for a number of a new publication for our GCA Club members. The book covers many, many rivers throughout the United States, which you may be interested in. Among these are, of course, our Southeastern rivers and rivers such as, the Colorado, Sun Valley and Yellowstone, River of No Return—Salmon River, the Columbia River, the New River, etc.

Of particular interest is a couple of articles on exploratory trips of the Rio Grande Canyon, the Artic, Guatemala, Panama, and Mexico. This would be a nice book for your library and is available to you on request from me. Any of you wanting one, please call my secretary, Jeri Chambers (404) 355-7450, and she will see that one is mailed to you.

If you are particularly interested in exploring, I think you will find this book most interesting. You will also find many pictures that some of us have made on the Chattooga and Nantahala Rivers. Some of you may have met Jack Kissner on the Chattooga or other rivers from time to time. He is a very dedicated person to the preservation of our rivers and is working presently with friends in Congress to get the Chattooga declared a Wild River. He, at one time, many, many years ago held the White Water championship in his Folbot, the forerunner of the Kayak. He originally made Folbots in Europe, more than thirty years ago. I have already noted to him that he has many scenes on rivers without lifejackets which he, of course, turned red in the face over. However, he says the pictures he simply could not resist publishing.

WANTED

Information on canoeing trips you have taken in the southeast. Include such items as: directions, maps, location, time required, distance, facilities available (water, stores, camp sites, etc.), access points, and other essential information. Will be used for Eagle Scout Project - collection of canoeing trips in the southeast. Will not be used for profit. Will be used to distribute to Scouters interested in canoeing trips. Send to: LARRY ALLEN, Rt. 6 Dover St., Marietta, Ga. 30060. Telephone - 926-3319.

FOR SALE

2 used Kayaks, most popular designs, \$140 and \$165; brand new, never been wet, orange 70 cm. C-1 decked canoe \$175; used Hahn C-1, excellent shape, comfortable cruising canoe and hot slalom racer, \$175; 2 used Norse paddles 59" & 65" - will sell or trade for 62" Norse. Contact - Cleve Tedford, 233-7111 days, 458-5670 nights (Atlanta) - 7545 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody, Georgia 30338.

FOR SALE

Almost brand new Lettman 70 cm C-1. Very river ready, extra strong lay-up. Epoxy. Price: \$175 - including sprayskirt. Contact: Bruce Loehle - 633-5639.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION

Dear GCA Members,

As a result of my participation as a novice trainee in this year's Spring Canoe and Kayak Clinic, I thought the club members might be interested in an outsider's impression of the club and its President. It can be summed up in one word—OUT-STANDING! The entire experience was much more than I had bargained for, from the quality of the instruction to the thrills and the pure enjoyment of the sport itself. I was astounded at the degree of learning and kayak skill the two-day clinic imparted to the trainees. The instructors exhibited a high degree of expertise in the sport which served as an inspiration to the trainees. Appearing committed to doing a thoroughly professional job, they held safety as a primary objective, with learning and fun close behind, but even so there was an abundance of fun. In no one was this personal competence more clearly demonstrated than in your President, Maggie Tucker, to whom I was fortunate to be assigned on the second day. She gave care and individual coaching when appropriate and was at all times completely in control of the group. She was especially on top of the situation when I suffered a very painful shoulder dislocation in the middle of one set of rapids. Maggie towed me to the shore and administered immediate first aid. Then she and Mark Reimer rushed me downriver to the takeout point in a canoe, setting what must have been a new world record for that stretch of the Chattahoochee.

I was and remain overwhelmed at the mature and completely competent way Maggie and Mark shouldered this responsibility and congratulate the Georgia Canoeing Association on their judgement in selecting such a remarkable leader as Margaret Tucker. Thank you for the training and the opportunity to share in this wonderful sport, I can't wait to recover and get back on the water. -R. Philip Kenny

NOTICE TO CLUB MEMBERS

Chuck Hamilton and Steve Christian (both members) are now representing Mohawk Canoes for the State of Georgia. Chuck and Steve are doing business as Georgia Canoe - phone 469-4887 or 876-1943.

EXCERPTS FROM LETTER TO GCA FROM FOREST SERVICE

The Forest Service wants us to know that we are now having a serious Southern Pine Beetle epidemic along the Chattooga River. They plan to take action against these insects to try to prevent additional losses of trees within the River Zone. They plan to remove the infested trees where possible and treat with Lindane where removal is not possible. Where the chemical is used, special precautions will be taken to prevent water contamination. Where they use removal for control, they plan to follow it with normal erosion control measures and grassing to prevent sedimentation.

