

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION

September 1973

NEWSLETTER

Volume VII No. 9

October Newsletter Deadline - Sept. 21, 1973

Mail items for October Newsletter to:

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



GENERAL MEETING - Friday, September 28, 1973 - 7:30 p.m.

There will be a general meeting of the Georgia Canoeing Association on Friday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Atlanta Federal Savings and Loan building at the intersection of Piedmont and Peachtree (3235 Peachtree Road, N.E.). Program will mostly consist of whatever home movies and slides you have made of canoeing, kayaking, and folboating activities during the past year. Brief reports from officers and committees may be sandwiched in while you are threading the projectors. Be sure and bring the kids (NO lifejackets or lunches required.)

LABOR DAY WEEKEND SPECIAL - Sunday, September 2, 1973

Too near Newsletter deadline to plan a trip and secure a leader, we have learned that the Hiawassee races have been postponed. It has been suggested that we try a procedure practiced by a neighboring canoe club. So---

Sunday, September 2, anyone interested in a trip on the Etowah, Upper Chattahoochee, Toccoa, or other river of your choice, meet for 7:30 breakfast at the Waffle Shop at 1933 Pleasant Hill Road (Exit at I-85) to make plans and then take it from there. Be prepared with waterwings, etc., to make a day of it. --Now we'll see who the gamblers in the club are!

NANTAHALA - September 8 and 9 - Class III

Meet at the Nantahala Outdoor Center at 10:00 to organize the shuttle. For those who haven't seen it, the Nantahala is a swiftrunning, cold stream, manuevering required, but no large drops. Flotation is advisable for open canoes, otherwise a damaging pinning is a reasonable possibility. The gorge through which the river runs is a pleasant, scenic area, and non-participants can observe the run from the bordering highway. There are camping and motel facilities on site.

Be sure to register with Dale Bergen at 377-2970. This is important because there have been occasions this summer when the power plant was not generating. Those registering will of course be notified if there is no water.

CHATTOOGA RIVER - Section III - Saturday, September 15

On Saturday, September 15, we will run Section 3 from Earl's Ford to U. S. 76. This section is 14 miles with Class II, III, and IV rapids. The trip takes about 6-7 hours. Some of the more difficult rapids can be portaged. This section should be attempted only by canoists who have good control on rivers such as the Chestatee and the Duncan Bridge section of the Upper Chattahoochee.

We will meet at U.S. 76 bridge at 9:00 a.m. sharp. The shuttle to Earl's Ford will commence promptly at 9:15.

Register with David Garrity after 6:00 p.m. Phone 634-1847.

CHATTOOGA RIVER - Section II - September 16, 1973

Meet at the State #28 bridge at 10:00 a.m. ( 3 hours from Atlanta ). It's a 5-hour trip including lunch with 10 miles of mostly Class I rapids. A few Class II rapids with a five-foot waterfall about halfway which can be portaged or run.

Please register with trip leader, Hale Sanders at 432-1606, if you are planning to go.

CHATTOOGA RIVER - Section IV - Sunday, September 16, 1973

This is about the maximum that open canoes can run, and even then common sense dictates some portages. The water level has been abnormally high this summer, and a level of more than 1.8 on the guage at the 76 Bridge will prevent open canoes from being welcome (unless you can convince the trip leader otherwise). Extra foam flotation in open canoes is mandatory. Big drops and heavy water are common and the scenery is spectacular if you have time to look at it. We will meet at the river on U.S. 76 at 9:00 a.m.

Register with Clyde Woolsey - 766-8771

ETOWAH RIVER - Class II - Saturday, September 22, 1973

Approximate running time: four hours (including leisurely lunch and swimming at the waterfall).

This is an ideal training river for beginners, but some whitewater experience is required. Also, it is an ideal trip for those who desire camping and sightseeing opportunities for non-canoeing family members. Blackburn State Park is convenient and excellent. There are gold panning, gold mine exploring, sightseeing in historic Dahlonega and Auraria, and those excellent old fashioned meals at the Smith House in Dahlonega.

Meet at the Two Sisters Restaurant on the south side of Dahlonega at 9:30 a.m., after having registered with Ross Wilson, trip leader. 875-1565.

*W. H. Wilson  
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kept on to ...*

*1000 ...  
W. H. Wilson*

## NOTES ON THE PUBLIC RIGHT TO USE RIVERS - Margaret Tucker

In the last year, we have seen no trespassing signs going up on many favorite rivers. There is no doubt that the landowner has every right to control use of his streambank property, but there is a good deal of confusion over whether his control extends to the paddler on the water. The official position of the GCA, approved by the executive committee August 6, 1973, is that we do have the right to use the rivers. However, in the near future, some of our members are probably going to be stopped on a river and told that they are trespassing. If this happens to you, it is important that you act with courtesy and with caution. Here are several steps which you can take:

1. State "I submit that this river is in principle and in fact navigable and a waterway of the state, hence open to use by citizens of the state."
2. If further challenged as to navigability, you can argue, "This stream has been used by the citizenry at large for over 20 years and hence passage would be legal even if the stream were not in principle navigable."
3. If you are physically forced from the stream, you will want to act with caution for your safety; however, if you are able to assert an opinion without provoking harm, declare that you believe your rights have been violated. Be courteous and patient, but firm.
4. If a law officer is called, do nothing which could be interpreted as resisting arrest; however, you should make it clear that you believe you are within your rights to float the stream.

In summary, DO NOT ask permission to use the river. ALWAYS ask permission to cross private property for launching or take-out. It appears that a man-made obstruction such as a fence or dam on a river can be portaged without the landowner's consent; however, obtain permission if possible.

Please report any challenge to the right to float a river to a member of the executive committee. Also, we need help in researching cases on the public right to river use. If you have legal skills or just free time, please call Margaret Tucker, 355-6207.

### RIVER LEVEL INFORMATION NEEDED

Claude Terry is compiling a list of water levels on various rivers and recommendations about difficulty at that level. If you have been watching the gauges and have some opinions about what level is best for open boats, for kayaking, for staying home by the fire, etc., please give them to Claude. We will print the list in the Newsletter if enough information is gathered.

### GCA BROCHURE

Enclosed you will find a copy of our new information brochure. Its purpose is to give us something to keep in sporting goods stores, public park and recreation agencies, and to give out at boat show and other club meetings to let people who might be interested in canoeing know we're out here. If you need extra copies or if you know a spot where we should keep a supply, call Tom Lines at 233-9545.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1974

A nominating committee has been appointed: Clyde Woolsey, chairman, Tom Hamby, Bronwyn Fowlkes, Dale Bergen, Craig Iyerla. They will make a report in the November Newsletter, so if you have nominations for next year's officers, please get in touch with one of them immediately.

## SPECIAL RELEASE ON OCOEE RIVER

TVA has agreed to give us water in the Ocoee River September 29 & 30 so we and the Tennessee canoe clubs can determine the best water levels for a championship slalom and downriver course. If you have been itching to get on big, big water here's your chance. Call Margaret Tucker, 355-6207.

## RACES - RACES - RACES

Gauley River Downriver Race (Eastern U.S. Wildwater Championships) on the Gauley River, Peter's Creek to Swiss, West Virginia. Don't know exact date, but entry fee is \$4 per boat, postmarked before Sept. 9, 1973. Two dollar late fee for late or on site entries.

Second Annual W. P. Southeastern Intercollegiate Canoe Race - sponsored by Western Piedmont Community College, Morganton, N. C. - class II water - Saturday, October 6, 1973.

Your editor has about seven applications for each of these races. If anyone is interested, give me a call and I'll gladly mail you an application. Call Nancy Collins - 366-4315.

## MORGAN FALLS FLOAT REPORT - Saturday, July 21

Two folboats, 2 kayaks and 2 canoes comprised the small GCA flotilla which wended its way downstream on Saturday, July 21 among the hundreds of rafters and tubers afloat on the Morgan Falls stretch of the Chattahoochee. Ours was a congenial group which lunched on a muddy sandbar (or was it a sandy mudbar?) below Johnson's Ferry Bridge. We moved leisurely under the full summer sun, the leaders reminiscing back to the days when the GCA, strung out 25 to 50 strong, were the only craft upon the water. Then came the days of the Tech Raft Race which certainly did its bit to popularize the river that kisses a great metropolis. But, oh the debris and litter which followed in its wake! We remembered, too, individually soloing this stretch and piling our canoes high with beer cans, styrafoam, innertubes, beer cans, oil drums, plastic paraphernalia, beer cans, ad nauseum, with other civic-minded youngsters out on the same mission. Today--in 1973--the picture is different. The river is full of people, each experiencing this touch with nature in his and her own way, with this great difference--the river is cleaner-lots, lots cleaner, we're happy to report. (That is, as far as looks is concerned. The microbe count may be higher due to real estate developments and sewerage--we're not competent to report on that.) But for all intents and purposes, it does appear that the present generation is learning the lesson: PITCH IN! It is certainly to be hoped that at least one corner has been turned in the fight on pollution--that of the regard of the individual. If so, we can hope it will eventually carry over into legislative and commercial channels.--End of editorial.

A folboat and 2 canoes continued to H'way 41 after the others took out at the new Fulton County Recreational Perimeter Road facilities.

On the river were: Cass, Gordon & John Robbins, Alice & Sarah Tumblin, Linda & Dale Wilson, and Bill & Anna Belle Close, leaders.

## CHATTOOGA RIVER - Section II Report, Sunday, July 22

A hastily assembled crew met for the Chattooga II trip and took off in water as low as this leader has seen it, "ought point two," somebody called out. But it was water and it was the Chattooga and it was sunshine and we were happy. Perhaps the most unusual sight was that of two "frog-men" attired in wet suits floating down the river on their backs, half asleep sometimes. And when we stopped at the 5-foot drop to play, they passed us again. Both the left and right side slots were run by one of our Hale and hearty members. A thunder storm threatened, but though we experienced a bit of rain, the storm never quite caught up with us. Down at Earl's Ford, while a few of us waited for drivers, the frog-men caught up with us once again to round out our trip and make the story complete.

On the river were (again with other rafters and tubers): Bob, Dee & Lucy Milledge, Maureen Maloney & Hilley Crystal, Hale Sanders, Bill & Harriet Spencer, with Bill and Anna Belle Close, leaders.

## NACOOCHEE SECTION OF CHATTAHOOCHEE REPORT - Saturday, July 28

The leader gave a briefing about the river before the trip started at the wooden bridge, but wondered later if it had been necessary--or maybe it's an illustration of how helpful a few descriptive words of what to expect may be--for every canoe was handled with expertise. In fact, it is felt that any pair of these canoeists would be competent to lead this section in the future.

The water was quite low so that there were a few draggy spots on the left side of the island a short distance below put-in. The right channel since the Memorial Day weekend flood has been cleared of the big trees that used to bar its passage. However, as the current presently sweeps into the branches of a sycamore, it was advisable not to take that route as we had one canoe with a family of 3 children and an 11-month old along. They were all accomplished sailors, however; it should be stressed.

We lunched at the flat rock and the youngsters were like tadpoles playing in the water. It was a truly leisurely trip with some of our members stopping to witness a water moccasin trying to swallow a good-sized fish; until some fishermen hi-jacked the moccasin's meal! Can you imagine!

At the H'way 255 end of the trip, another shuttle was run to Mrs. Wycke's store, and 3 canoes continued through the Smith Island section of the river.

Members and guests were: Bob Milton & Steve Bowen, Marsha Smith & Joe Carini, John and Suzie Helmlinger & Afton, Peter, Andy & Dina, T. W. (Hank) Harris, Tom Green, Barbara Martin, Amy Dalaplane, Ann Jackson and Jack & Mary Kay Armstrong, with perhaps one name missing. If so, please supply to the leaders: Bill & Anna Belle Close.

## TOCCOA RIVER - Deep Hole to Dial - 7/29/73 - Bob Milton

Eight boats, including two that stayed "up country" after Saturday's ride on the Chattahoochee, made the trip. The Boy's Club group cancelled out, so we had the river to ourselves. All our boats were running at least tandem, but the river was still high enough to keep dragging to a minimum. A real pretty day, and a group that was uniformly able and agreeably unhurried made for one of the more pleasant rides I've had. Though the rivers this summer have shown much evidence of high water, the Toccoa managed to top them all, with two trees, each nearly two feet in diameter, and one obviously from someplace else than the immediate bank, in the water. Fully as instructive in the power of moving water as is trying to free a pinned canoe!

HIAWASSEE RIVER REPORT - August 11, 1973 - J. W. Harrell

We had a clear sunny day and the river was beautiful. Four open canoes running tandem put in at the parking area below the Appalachia Power House and took out at Webb's store at Reliance. We made two runs which took about eight (8) hours including shuttle time. It was a full day.

The water was low, but still exciting. Two novices were with us, and we had no trouble with the rapids. We spent about an hour swimming at "Devil's Chute". Manning the four canoes were: Bob Pearre and Bill Markert, Lamar Furr and Jim Hunnicutt (guest), Tom Green and Barbara Martin (guest), and John Pardue (guest) and myself.

NANTAHALA RIVER TRIP REPORT - August 4 - Margaret Tucker

Well, it seems TVA did not have enough water to generate on Saturday. Several people changed to the upper Chattahoochee with John Krickle, John Simmons, his nephew, and I ran Section 3 of the Chattooga.

My apologies to the three registered people I could not reach Friday afternoon or evening. I hope you found water somewhere. Anyone interested in forming a committee which would try to get TVA to guarantee water on the Nantahala as they do now on the Hiawassee?

BEGINNER KAYAK CLINIC

Beginners kayak clinic to be taught by The American Adventures beginning the 25th of August. Sessions will be directed towards anyone with little or no experience in kayaking and shall consist of weekend sessions progressing proportionally to the boaters increase in skill; also weekly afternoon rolling sessions will be taught. Kayakers should try to supply their own boats as a very limited supply of boats can be furnished by the store. Lessons will start on lake at Camp Chattahoochee and progress to Chattahoochee River and Nantahala River as weather permits.

Anyone interested should contact Gerald Marshall or Mike Jackson at the American Adventures (237-1914 or 872-4845 HOME) and Bronwyn Fowlkes with the GCA.

FOR SALE

Kayak - Epoxy, polypropylene lay-up. Good condition, Femat. Bright, paisley deck. \$140.00. Charles Woolsey - 766-8771.

Get 'em while they're hot! Four kayaks (4) - all for \$124.99. Call Stephenson-- 478-8825.

Hank Klausman has arranged a 20% discount for GCA members on the purchase of Pyrawa inflatable canoes and Kaik rafts through him. These are top quality inflatables manufactured in France and sold by Sears and Montgomery Ward. Pyrawas are the official whitewater canoe of the Boy Scouts of America. Hank has been testing these inflatables all summer on the Chattooga, Upper Chattahoochee and Nantahala. If interested in these durable and convenient boats, call Hank at home evenings - 255-7420.

LAST, BUT MOST IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE CRUISE MASTERS

Due to a September-October vacation, the Cruise Masters have tried to secure leaders for the remainder of the canoeing year. We have been successful except for the following tentatively scheduled trips: Sunday, Oct. 7 - Alcovy, Saturday, Oct. 13 - Altamaha, Saturday, Oct. 27 - Etowah, and Saturday, Nov. 3 - Ogeechee.

If you want to see these trips develop into reality and are willing to lead one or two, call Bill and Anna Belle Close immediately so that firm arrangements can be made for publication in October and November Newsletters. If leadership does not develop for these trips, they will be cancelled.

AGAIN, let your Cruise Masters be the "middle men" for unscheduled trips throughout the fall and the winter, when the Newsletter goes into hibernation. Call Bill or Anna Belle Close at 373-3945 if you are getting up a trip or want to go on one. We'll help all we can.

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

Re-instated Members:

William A. Bason  
16 North Boylan Ave.  
Raleigh, N. C. 27603

Harold C. McKenzie, Jr.  
2930 Habersham Road  
Atlanta, Ga. 30305  
233-1722

Richard C. Trimble  
133 Windsor Drive  
Calhoun, Ga. 30701  
629-4741

CHANGE of Address:

William B. Webb  
1037 Cottage Place  
Shoreview, Minn. 55112

James E. Cole  
3256 Covington Dr.  
Apt. B-10  
Decatur, Ga. Tel. # 288-1372

John H. Krickel  
Box 15216, Emory Univ. Branch  
Atlanta, Ga. 30333 633-6962

New Members:

Ms. Luanne Caldwell  
Box 79, Tift College  
Forsyth, Ga. 31029  
912-994-9024

Robert J. Fennessy  
420 Farnsworth Road  
Spartanburg, S. C. 29301  
576-2359

John S. Glover  
919 Harvard Place  
Charlotte, N. C. 28204  
704-375-1659

Robert L. Goldstucker  
7180 Twin Branch Court  
Atlanta, Ga. 30328  
394-2801

William E. Hanson  
Route #3  
Dawsonville, Ga. 30534  
864-6623

Sterling Holbrook  
Cranford Apt. 2-C  
Dixon Street  
Newnan, Ga. 30263

Richard Jester  
Route 1 Fischer Rd.  
Sharpsburg, Ga. 30277

John O. Kirby  
5422 Rosser Road  
Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083  
938-5029

Kenneth H. McAmis  
1688 Castle Way  
Norcross, Ga. 30071  
448-9456

William S. Moore, Jr.  
1781 Warren Ct., NW  
Atlanta, Ga. 30318  
351-5022

Charles D. Newberry  
Route #1  
Gray, Ga. 31032  
986-6932

Samuel W. Norwood, III  
330 Thornwood Dr.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30328  
252-8213

Clay Ratterree  
4005 Tuxedo Road  
Atlanta, Ga. 30342  
261-7777

Donald H. Robinson  
2115 Copsawatee Dr.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30319  
636-2772

J. Mike Shadrix  
Rt. #9 Box 560  
Carrollton, Ga. 30117  
832-2246

J. Chappell Summers, Jr.  
4832 Village Creek Dr.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30341  
458-9765

W. Scott Wilson  
12 Featherston Dr.  
Newnan, Ga. 30263

Irvin Winer  
400 Valley Road, NW  
Atlanta, Ga. 30305

Ronald D. Ziska, 3580 Cold Springs Lane, Chamblee, Ga. 30341 - 457-0055

## SAFETY ON THE RIVER - "You're the Key In '73"- Tom Hamby

During the past year with the rapid rise in popularity of canoeing and rafting, we've noted, an alarming increase in deaths on rivers. Why has there been a 97% increase in deaths on rivers? Everyone has a different answer to this question. It would appear that public interest in the sport of canoeing has been generated much faster than public information on safety has spread. After researching many of these drownings, I've found common elements in each case.

The first and most common element is that no fatalities have been associated with organized canoeing association trips. This fact points out that white water skills are the most important ingredient for white water safety. This also leads to the question of how much responsibility should the Georgia Canoeing Association and its members exert in regard to canoeing safety. First, we must all practice safety rules and regulations and set the example. We should continue to conduct training sessions stressing safety. When unsafe acts are observed, we should point these out to unknowing individuals. The emphasis which white water canoeists place on safety is in itself an admission of the potential hazards.

It behooves all of us to realize what the general public, forest service, and other similar groups think, when they hear of deaths of canoeists. To some, these reports immediately bring to mind rules and regulations to restrict or stop the use of a particular river. We should all realize that no system has yet been devised to protect fools against themselves; however, all of us should display, practice, and emphasize the safe way to everyone we come in contact with both on and off the river. The important thing to remember is that you can prevent an unpleasant experience by simply asking a few questions.

Several other elements were always prevalent in recent boating accidents.

1. The rivers were high and turbulent or flooded.
2. The water and air were very cold.
3. Life jackets weren't being worn or were undersized in some incidents.
4. Protective clothing (wet suits) was noticeably absent.
5. Paddlers apparently lacked the experience and/or common sense necessary to recognize situations which were beyond their abilities.
6. Boaters were alone or with inexperienced groups.

Have you ever subjected yourself to one or more of the above conditions? If you have, I hope that you learned from your experience.

Now comes the question of how to safely enjoy a canoeing trip on a Class III or IV river. The following is a synopsis of the American White Water Affiliation Safety Code.

### AMERICAN WHITE WATER AFFILIATION SAFETY CODE

- I. Personal Preparedness and Responsibility
  1. Never boat alone (minimum of 3 boats)
  2. Be a competent swimmer.
  3. Wear your life jacket. Helmets recommended for Class IV rivers and above.
  4. Have a frank knowledge of your boating ability.
  5. Know and respect river classifications.
  6. Beware of cold water and of weather extremes.
  7. Be suitably prepared and equipped.
  8. Be practiced in rescue, self rescue, and first aid.
  9. Support your leader.



- II. Boat Preparedness and Equipment
1. Test new and unfamiliar equipment.
  2. Be sure craft is in good repair.
  3. Have a spare paddle readily accessible and also bailers for open canoes.
  4. Install flotation devices.
  5. Have bow and stern lines - 3/8" diameter 15-foot long.
  6. Use spray cover wherever required.
  7. Carry repair kit.

- III. Group Equipment
1. Throwing line 50-foot to 100-foot of 3/8 in. rope.
  2. First Aid Kit.

- IV. Leader's Responsibility
1. He must have full knowledge of the river.
  2. He does not allow anyone to participate beyond his proven ability.
  3. He must know what conditions in weather, visibility and water to expect.
  4. His decisions in the interest of safety are final.
  5. He designates the necessary support personnel.

- V. On the River
1. All must know group plans, on-river organization, hazards expected, location of special equipment, signals to be used.
  2. Lead boat knows the river, sets the course, is never passed.
  3. Rear-guard or "sweep" is equipped and trained for rescue, always in rear.
  4. Each boat is responsible for boat behind.
  5. Keep party compact.

- VI. If you Spill
1. Be aware of your responsibility to assist your partner.
  2. Hold on to your boat; it has much flotation and is easy for rescuers to spot. Get to the upstream end so the boat cannot crush you on rocks.
  3. Leave your boat if this improves your safety, your personal safety must come first. If rescue is not imminent and water is numbing cold or worse rapids follow, then strike for the nearest shore.
  4. Stay on the upstream end of your boat.
  5. Be calm but not complacent.

- VII. If others Spill
1. Go after the boater, rescue the boat only if it can be done safely.

This safety code has been worked out by the experienced white water clubs of the A.W.A. It is the recommendation to boaters by the folboat and canoe experts in all parts of the country.

There are several other safety rules of thumb which should be followed.

1. Don't canoe where you don't want to swim.
2. If the water temperature and the atmospheric temperature is less than 100 degree F total, a wet suit should be worn.

If the aforementioned safety code is followed, I'm sure you can have a safe and enjoyable trip. Also you can develop an attitude toward safety which will rub-off on everyone you contact and could possibly save an individual or group from having a bad canoeing experience.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the GCA met Monday night, August 6. Bill Crowley reported that there is \$2261.12 in the bank account. The main item of discussion was our right to use Georgia rivers. (See Margaret Tucker's discussion on page 3 of the Newsletter.) GCA members should report all incidents of this type to the Secretary, Cleve Tedford.

Claude Terry reported that he is presently writing "River Trails" brochures for the state. Dr. Terry says that he will submit the brochures to the GCA for approval before final publication. Claude Grizzard proposed that we host the National Open Canoe Downriver and Slalom Championships next year in conjunction with the Nantahala Race. The committee voted to sponsor this event. Tom Hamby recommended that we order club patches for the membership. Tom will see that these patches similar to the club stickers (state border) will be available in the near future.

### CARDIO PULMONARY RESUSCITATION CLINIC

The Georgia Heart Association has agreed to conduct a CPR Clinic for interested GCA members. The clinic will be held October 1-2, 1973 starting at 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. each night at the Academy of Medicine, 875 West Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Robert Cunningham will be the instructor. The course will include instructions and demonstrations of the CPR technique, movies and slides of emergency procedures, actual hands on training using mannequin, and a written examination.

Those interested must register with Tom Hamby (ofc. 763-2568, home 971-9670) or Margaret Tucker (355-6207) prior to September 20, 1973.

### FOR SALE

Take-down wooden Kayak paddle. Used once. Excellent spare paddle. \$20.00. Call Cleve Tedford - 233-7111 (office) - 458-5670 (home).