

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30083

JANUARY 1975

NEWSLETTER

VOL. IX NO. 1

Deadline for March newsletter is February 17. No Extensions!
Send typed copy, if possible, to:newsletter editor:

Maureen Maloney
860 Franklin Road, S.E.
Apt. 117
Marietta, Ga. 30062

If you have racing news or results, or news of conservation activities, meetings, etc., please immediately inform newsletter editor for timely inclusion.

Membership renewals due by April 1. Start now!
Late submissions will not be included in Annual Directory. Dues \$7.50 per family or individual.
Add \$2.00 for optional affiliation with Georgia Wildlife Federation and National Wildlife Federation.

Address changes and corrections should be reported immediately to Treasurer:

Bill Heath
P. O. Box 7023
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

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FAREWELL TO CLEVE TEDFORD!

Cleve Tedford, our immediate past president, is leaving Georgia for an exciting new job in New York. We wish to extend our gratitude to Cleve for his outstanding and energetic leadership in 1974, and to wish him every success in the future. We certainly shall miss him.
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Newsletter Artist: Zack Bergen
Zack plans to contribute his fine and lively sketches to our newsletter on a regular basis at the request of the editor. His artistry will be a welcome addition.



FEBRUARY TRIP SCHEDULE. See Guidebook for river descriptions.

- Sat., Feb. 1 Little River, Ala. Class III-IV. Call Cruisemaster.
- Wed., Feb. 5 Executive Board Meeting, Fernbank Science Center, 7:30 p.m. Members invited.
- Sat., Feb. 8 Talking Rock Creek, Class I-II. Preregister with Falma Moye, 872-6398.
- Sun., Feb. 16 Upper Chattahoochee, Class II-III. Call Cruisemaster.
- Sat., Feb. 22 Broad River, Class II-III. Call Cruisemaster.
- Wed., Feb 26 GCA River Rights Benefit. An evening of hilarious entertainment. Georgia Tech Ballroom 3rd Floor Student Center, 8:00 p.m. Mark Warren 262-1967.
- Sat., Mar. 1-2 Instructor Training Session. Clyde Woolsey 766-8771.
- Sun., Mar. 2 Cartecay, Class II-III. Call Cruisemaster.

IMPROMPTU TRIP CHAIRMAN

Dee Nickerson will be the clearing house for unscheduled trips. If you wish to make such a trip, or if you have planned such a trip, please do pass the information on to Dee.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - Wednesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

The February Executive Committee meeting will be held at Fernbank Science Center in Classroom No. 1. Club members are always welcome to attend. The major items of business will be: (1) planning with David Gale of Helen, Georgia the club's role in the Upper Chattahoochee Races to be held in April; and (2) a study and up-dating of the Bylaws. If you are interested in either of these functions, be sure to attend. Your support of the one, and opinions with regard to the other, will be helpful in aiding the Executive Board to act in the best interest of the membership.

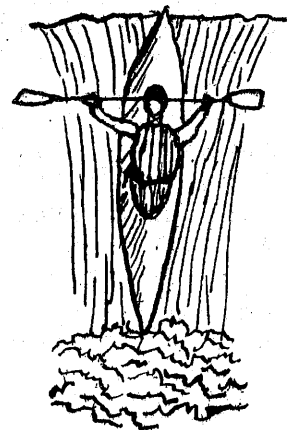
R A C I N G R E S U L T S !

Carolina Canoe Club Race, January 5, Nantahala River, N.C.

Some of the Georgia winners of this exciting and well-handled race were:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| K-1 Downriver | David Jones - 1st
Ken Strickland - 3rd |
| K-1 Cruising | Ray Stang - 1st
Joe Stubbs - 2nd
Andy Chandler - 3rd |
| K-1 Women Cruising | Lisa Heron - 1st
Karen Ruppertsberg - 3rd |
| C-2 Mixed Cruising | Cleve Tedford & Falma Moye - 2nd |

CONGRATULATIONS!



TRIP REPORTS

Talking Rock Creek, January 11

The wild rains of Friday night proved to be a blessing for a trip to Talking Rock Creek. We arrived at the put-in bright and early to find the creek pleasantly full. The river trip was estimated to be about 12 miles. The first half (or more) of the run is mostly flat, with some class I. There are many bluffs covered with moss, lichens, and ferns that are lovely, so we thoroughly enjoyed the scenery.

Several members of the group were getting a little restless - looking for rapids - so we were thinking about racing out to find another river. Suddenly around a bend the river changed, and the rest of the run became a series of class II's. None of the rapids were difficult. However there were a few surprise "holes" for those playing. We took full advantage of a beautiful day and played all the way down river.

The gauge read 2.2. Unfortunately it is halfway down the river. There is supposed to be a gauge at the takeout but no one saw it. Essentially a good rain will bring the creek up. However, debris in the trees indicates that it could get rather wild.

Paddlers were: Don Norton, Gwen Bergen, Bill Spencer and Rick Howard in K-1s; Murray Johnson C-1 (semi); Tom Green and Falma Moye in C-1 decked. Falma Moye.

Rio Grande - American Canoe Association Winter Training Camp, December 22 - Jan. 1.

The urge to head west was very strong, so Rick Howard, Ronnie Cohn, Tom Moye and I loaded boats and began a marathon drive to Big Bend National Park in Texas. We were to meet Rodger Losier and three boy scouts to run the canyons of the Rio Grande. The ACA had scheduled trips through the three canyons of the park.

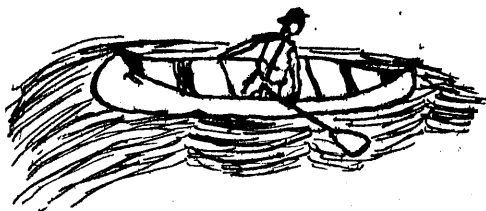
The Great American West welcomed us with 80° temperatures and blue skies (which did not last). Our first trip was a 2-day, 20-mile trip through Santa Elena Canyon. There is one rockslide rapid that can be quite nasty, however no problems arose. The water is mostly Class I & II, so it's easy to relax and marvel at the sheer walls on both sides.

Christmas was a winter wonderland. The desert was covered with ice. It was a sight to behold, but not weather to paddle in, so we partook of good food and Rodger's warm van.

We ran three other canyons: a 3-day trip in Boquillas Canyon, and two one-day trips through Mariscal and 2nd Colorado Canyon. These are all really lovely canyons. There are many side canyons to explore and lots of lazy river to relax on.

The ACA canoe camp proved to be a good place to meet many fine people. The camp, however, had an aura of disorganization. But we all have many wonderful memories: canyon walls, ice on the desert, Boquillas, Mexico, rattle snakes in December, hot springs, and bar-b-que chicken and beans on New Years.

Big Bend is a marvelous place. The rivers are mostly Class I-II, so for a family or group trip it would be ideal. Falma Moye.



THE NARROWS OF THE LITTLE TENNESSEE, January 4

Several paddlers who had driven up for the Nantahala Wildwater Races decided to take advantage of high water on the nearby Little Tennessee and run the famous "Narrows". This section of river, normally covered by Fontana Lake, slowly reveals its fury as the lake is let down in the late Fall. What is finally revealed is 2½ miles of whitewater plunging 70 feet downward to Highway 19 bridge. Most of this gradient is concentrated in the quarter mile stretch called the "Narrows". Of the five of us making the trip, only David Mason of Greenville had been there before. What we heard was a description of a long Class IV rapid that could be safely scouted from our boats. It was a beautiful, cold, clear day when we put in with the wind just beginning to blow up the river. The Little Tennessee was full in its banks, promising an exciting run. From the put-in point two miles above the Narrows we started warming up.

The approach to the Narrows was easy to spot due to the sudden appearance of mud banks and exposed rock on the shoreline that just a few weeks before had been the bottom of Fontana Lake. What lay ahead appeared to be a fairly simple looking series of 4/5 foot ledges stretching all the way across the river. Looking down a rather severe gradient to the bottom of the last ledge, over a quarter mile away we could see the river narrow down from a width of 75 yards to about 50 ft. This narrow strip of riverbed, overloaded with a large volume of water, contained 40 yards of impressive waves and holes. Going on the advice of our scouts who said that this stretch contained no keeper holes or other significant danger spots, we began the descent. We all gave each other plenty of room, dropping from ledge/eddy to ledge/eddy, stopping momentarily to play in waves and holes where we could. Reaching the last ledge we looked respectfully to the 40 yards of foam that lay below. I started down and was immediately impressed by the tremendous speed and force of the current. Realizing that at that rate the ride would be over before it started, I kicked the C-1 around almost broadside to the current, trying to paddle across the face of the big waves. I dropped sideways into a couple of small rollers and was becoming more and more impressed. As I neared the bottom of the long chute, I noticed a tight little eddy at the bottom behind a large rock fast approaching on my left. I dove into the eddy and watched my friends crashing through the waves and eventually eddy out into a larger eddy just below where I was parked.

Falma Moyer was having a great run but was stopped in the last and biggest hole of the series and flipped. Holding on upside down, waiting for the turbulence to subside, Falma finally made her roll on an eddy line 5 yards below me, but went back in on the current and separated from her C-1. I immediately attempted to back out of my eddy to go to her aid but was trapped on an extremely strong eddy line. After several attempts at backing out of an eddy trap only 20% larger than my boat, I finally decided that the only way out was to drive hard upstream, crash the eddy line and exit into the very same hole that had stopped Falma. I felt confident that I could surf across the hole and then peel out downstream to assist my friend.

However, rather than winding up in the hole, I suddenly found myself teetering on the wave where I lost my balance and flipped. After two attempts to roll, I felt the sickening feeling that I was falling out of my boat. Once out of the C-1 I quickly caught my stern grap loop and expected to be washed on through the rapid. But after a few moments of

(continued on page 5)

COLORADO RIVER TRIP

There is going to be a group of Atlanta paddlers running the 290 mile stretch of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon this summer. It will be a 9-day trip, probably starting on July 12. The group will be supported by a commercial outfitter that charges \$400 per person for the trip. The outfitter provides food for the 9 days and will carry personal equipment. All other expenses, including travel, will be borne by the participants.

We have room for five more K-1 and C-1 paddlers. If you are interested, please contact Jim Hobbs at 325-4200 (office), or 934-1049 (home).

1975 Guidebook & Membership Directory

It is now time to prepare for the publication of the current directory so that it may be distributed early in the year. If you have any information which might be pertinent to rivers already described, or if you can add any trip description of rivers to this section of the book, please get them written up and sent to Maureen Maloney at once. Also needed are changes of address and telephone numbers for the directory. When paying dues, include this information with your check. Send all such information to Bill Heath, Treasurer.

If the Association's Bylaws can be revised and brought up to date, they are among the material to be added to the directory. The Board would be pleased to consider other suggestions from the membership as to guide book content or format; final decisions, of course, reside in the vote of the Executive Board.

LITTLE TENNESSEE NARROWS (continued...)

going nowhere, I suddenly realized that something had me and the boat. I also quickly noticed a maddening turbulence around my feet and legs that was constantly sucking me down beneath the surface of the water. I was at some kind of vortex where the eddy line met the hole that had caused the havoc. Each time I was pulled under my feet groped for the bottom in vain. I quickly realized that the most critical thing about my situation was the minus-fifty degree water temperature. Wearing only a wool sweater covered with nylon windbreaker shirt and pants, I didn't have much time. Initially I was having trouble breathing and was choking quite a bit, but this was overcome. It was no easy feeling knowing that the only throw rope was in my boat.

After realizing what danger I was in, Kirk Stone from Greenville quickly paddled his kayak up into the mess and I was finally able to get my hand on his bow grab loop, though only after releasing my paddle. Try as he might, Kirk could not pull me and the C-1 out. He strained and I kicked, but I was hung. By some strange fit of the current my boat suddenly did a back ender and jerked out of my hand. Since it contained only two half bags, it quickly took on a considerable amount of water and was spit out of the hole. With the boat gone, Kirk was now able to pull me out of the trap. An exhaustive search failed to turn up my paddle and for some reason our only spare was left in the shuttle car. After lining my C-1 through the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of rapids, we tied two boats together and finished the trip to the bridge.

(continued on page 6)

LITTLE TENNESSEE NARROWS (cont...)

At least two very important safety rules were re-emphasized on this trip. Always carry two throw ropes in each group, and never be without a spare paddle. Those sharing in the excitement were: Falma Moye, Tom Moye, Cleve Tedford, Kirk Stone and David Mason. Thanks to Tom Lines and Libby Rose who ran the shuttle.

Cleve Tedford

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WANT ADS

Lockheed mold kayak in excellent condition. Sell or trade for canoe. Jack Cashin, 434-9434
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For Sale: One quick-n-easy car top rack with long bars for two canoes. Anodized Aluminum, easy mount, used twice. \$28.00.
Dan Langston, 296-9665
.....

For Sale: Package Deal!
One downriver C-1, 1 slalom C-1: \$200.00. Both boats are 43 lbs, strong and sturdy, good seams; thigh braces and toe chocks. Excellent for a beginner; few leaks. David Mason, Apt. 8, 925 Cleveland St., Greenville, S.C. 29607, or call 1-803-271-9685.
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For Sale: 1½ year old Grumman with colorful past, 17 ft., shoe-keel, with styrofoam block. Call Mark Warren day: 262-1967 eve: 233-5189
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NEW MEMBERS

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