

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30357

NOV. 1976

This is

TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 6 Toccoa Don Norton 288-6219
7 Upper Chattahoochee Don Norton 288-6219
13 Chattooga III Don Norton
14 Etowah " "
14 Chauga " "
20 Northset River Gary DeBacker 288-1773
21 Flint Don Norton 288-6219
27 Tellico Weekend Don Norton " "

This will be the last newsletter until the new year comes around. However, that doesn't mean that there won't be river trips and good stories to tell of cool days and good water. If you have a trip you want to take, spread the word and get the paddlers out. Then write that trip report and send it in to the new newsletter editor, Tom Carter, at 110 Peachtree Hills Ave. , Atlanta, Ga 30305

As the retiring newsletter editor , I'd like to thank all the people who have helped and contributed this year. I feel that we have improved some this year and I'm sure that under Tom, the newsletter will continue to grow in quality. Once more, thank you all,

Carlton Shuford



Get your dues in before January 1 to have your name (and spouse's) address, home and office phone numbers listed correctly in the 1977 GCA GUIDE BOOK.

* * *

Do you own your business, or are you in a position to place advertisements for your company? If so, consider advertising in the 1977 GUIDE BOOK. Not only will you enjoy a member's discount, but you will also make your enterprise known to fellow members who would be happy to deal with you.

Contact Anna Belle Close, for information on available space and rates: 225 Forkner Drive, Decatur, Georgia 30030.

ROLLING SESSIONS

November 5th will start the rolling sessions held at the Samuel L. Jones Boys' Club in Decatur. The Director asks that we make sure the BOATS ARE CLEAN INSIDE AND OUT, AND THE POOL BE CLEARED BY 8:45 PM. A garden hose will be outside for our use in cleaning boats, and there is a clock in the pool area for our convenience. Rolling starts at 6:00. The address is: 450 East Lake Drive. If you have questions call Bronwyn Fowlkes, 255-4110, or Mike Rainey, 926-2371. These sessions will be held each Friday night during the winter months.

DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE FOR THE YEAR NOVEMBER 1, 1976 to OCTOBER 31, 1977.

Still a bargain at \$7.50 per family. Those who have joined since October 1, 1976 will be credited for next year. Deadline is January 31, 1977, after which you will no longer receive the NEWSLETTER and you will be dropped from the membership and not included in the Directory. Please don't wait until January - why not drop a \$7.50 check in the mail today, to the Club address, marked attention: Treasurer. Thanks, Carter Fowlkes.

GCA T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

The shirts sold like hot cakes at the Annual Picnic, so if you missed that, order your club shirts when you pay your dues, or call Carter Fowlkes at 255-4110 (nights) or 581-3331 (days). Shirts are white, with the GCA logo and green trim on the sleeves and neck. The logo is personalized for canoe, kayak, or C-1 paddlers and shirts come in small, medium, large and extra large. An additional style has a small standard logo in the upper left corner, giving the appearance of a crest. A great Christmas present! The club has invested \$845 in these shirts and we have to move them. The price is only slightly above cost, as a benefit to members, if picked up, at \$2.25. If mailed, \$4.00 each to cover the exorbitant cost of postage. Use the order form below, or use the phone.

Please send me _____ T-shirts as indicated:

_____ Tandem canoe logo - small, medium, large, x-large (circle)

_____ Tandem canoe crest logo - small, medium, large, x-large

_____ kayak logo - small, medium, large, x-large (circle)

_____ C-1 logo - small, medium, large, x-large (circle)

_____ Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ shirts, payable to G.C.A.

_____ I'll call you and pick them up at your house (4602 Dudley Lane NW), or office (C&S Bank at Five Points, downtown).

Send mail orders to: GCA, P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Ga. 30357.

Signed _____ Phone _____

For those that have asked:

Margret Osborne has been transferred to Washington D.C. and is living in Arlington, Va. Anyone wanting to paddle in West Virginia should give her a call. Her new address appears in the address changes in the rear of the newsletter.

NEW CLUB OFFICERS:

President-Marvin Albitz

V. President- Joe Blanchfield

Secretary- Maureen Maloney

Treasurer- Carter Fowlkes

Directors-at-large-- George Baughman & Hank Klausman

Cruisemaster- Bronwyn Fowlkes

Newsletter Editor- Tom Carter

Training Director- Mark Warren

Racemaster- Ken McAmis

Altamaha River-November 11-14--- Tentatively, leave early Thursday morning, Nov. 11, spending Thursday night near Sasavilla Bluff. Paddle past Ft. Barrington on Friday to the lower Altamaha camping that night on another river bluff arriving at Darien on Saturday afternoon. This trip is in conjunction with the "Man in the Landscape" Conference. For information, Call Maureen Maloney at 292-9584 day or evening.

Just a note to extend hardy congratulations to Bob Butterworth and his new wife Fran, who were married at the 76 Bridge on the Chattooga and have set up house at 1842 Crossland Ave., N. Augusta, South Carolina 29841, 803-279-3703

Withlacoochee River Trip - Labor Day Weekend: With northern rivers reliably low, the urge to head south very strong, I loaded my boat and gear Saturday morning, double-checking on the Cutter's, the suntan lotion and making sure to throw in ponchos when thinking of Saturday of the Nantahala Races.

Stacy and I were to meet the Savannah contingent...Les Davenport and Tee, John and Ian Brower...and Nancy Grant from Athens at twelve noon. I arrived two minutes early. There weren't exactly blue skies up above but it wasn't raining. We ate lunch, caught up with John and Tee's news of running some pretty hairy stuff in Maine, and leisurely ran shuttle. Putting in at 2:30 to run 20 miles of flatwater seemed absurd. It seemed more absurd when the skies opened so wide it was hard to tell where the "air ended" and the "water began." We decided to wait out the shower. By the time anyone conceded this was not a light shower we were cold and drenched in a down-pour. For once, unbreathable plastic felt cozy. This type of rain continued to visit us intermittently throughout our weekend. I hate making camp in the rain but warm spirits of the group were a much stronger force than the dark of a rainy night, the mud and a campground leased to giant mosquitoes. With Cutter's, good food and good people to the rescue, one can awake next morning to the delight of more rain. By this time it had become par for the course and nobody paid much attention to it.

What we did pay attention to was the magnificent abundance of beautiful oak and cypress trees with branches luxuriantly overhanging the river beds; Withlacoochee limes floating freely on the blackened tannic waters; limerock formations in intricate patterns, some revealing cold, crisp, crystal-clear natural springs recessed beneath undercut rock. Here we replenished our water supplies. Isolated sandpipers flittered over water and sands. Occasionally, we saw signs of a beaver's body behind a log ferrying the river, heard loud splashes of fat fish or saw schools of little ones. Crazy insects moved as an enormous unit making water plays on the river. We hoped to see the deer who made the fresh tracks. All along the way were the cypress stumps forever poking through the earth making for mind flights of imaginary planets that had suddenly become realities.

We felt transported to a jungle in another time and place. Before our eyes were the telltale marks of our planet's history; signs of the millions of years ago Ice Age covering the area with glaciers; of plates beneath the earth shifting to meet the strain of the weighty ice. The great oceans came and rose and then receded and the water levels subsided. Rivers were formed where ocean had been before and slowly through the centuries the river lowered itself closer to its bed. It is hard to imagine this lovely, "soft" river as a wide, high river covering the huge limerock now nakedly exposed to the air. (I would say ~~was~~ "exposed to the sun" but we didn't see much of that.)

The entire first day we saw neither house nor active bridge. Sunday's trip brought signs of the return of civilization with houses spotted along the east bank of the river. Some people had given themselves a fine view and cleared every single tree, not even leaving a wedge to guard my eyes from their unsightly insanity four feet from the bank's height. We could hear infrequent cars on the road that must have been not too far from these homesites. There were occasional fishermen showing off longstrings of 20 and more fish.

We never managed to find enough rapids to count the 60 Class I and II rapids Tee's guidebook promised, but the waters moved at a nice pace. I couldn't believe that with all our stops for fun and games I had done about 17 miles before 1:00 p.m. Stacy did her first trip in the stern Sunday and with a full load handled the boat very nicely in the few Class II rapids we encountered. We had travelled from Ga./Fla. border on Ga. 31 to the Withlacoochee-Suwanee Rivers confluence south 32 miles, and then up the Suwanee to the State Park nearby. Now we hung the very longest clothes line of wet gear for six people. Ian took us for a moonlight hike to find the screech owls he swore he spotted earlier. They had their days and nights mixed up and we didn't find them but found a magnificent sink and a fourteen foot high limerock pillar near the top of the river bank. Our communal spaghetti dinner properly digested, we returned to our campsite. Monday, we headed back to our respectful cities taking a special sharing each from the other and from the Withlacoochee.

MIDDLE FORK, BROAD RIVER - Exploration, September 19

The Middle Fork originates at Lake Russell, and joins the North Fork just west of Victoria Bryant State Park. I put on the river at hwy 51 (poor access) and poled 3.5 miles upstream to the Atkinson county bridge, encountering about a dozen class I and easy class II rapids along the way. These included three 20-24" ledges which I was not skilled enough to ascend by pole. Poling back downstream was of course much easier, and the round trip took 4 hours.

This section has just half the watershed area of the Hudson or Alcovy, but it is open, clear of trees, and just deep enough to run even in this very dry month. The scenery is very much like that of the Hudson but on a smaller scale. There are occasional pastures and clearcuts, but most of the run is well forested with frequent small rock outcrops.

I would not schedule this as a club run, but it might be of interest to someone in the Athens area seeking really easy rapids for a group of novices. In that case one would logically put in at hwy 106 and warm up on the 4 miles of pastoral flatwater preceding the first rapids at Atkinson county bridge. Since hwy 51 is a steep take-out, strong backs should be available.

I must also acknowledge Steve Johnson's very accurate notes left from his exploration of this section back about 1971. -----Gary DeBacher

CHATTOOGA III - October 10, 1976

After a week of anxiously watching the rain fall in Atlanta, a group of GCA paddlers greeted a sunny, crisp, fall morning at the 76 bridge. The gauge was reading 2.45 feet, and the anticipation of good water was as invigorating as the nip in the air. A quick shuttle followed by a slow walk down to the river, and we were off. The leader filled out a permit registering 13 paddlers in 10 boats - Stuart Alston in a kayak; Ken McAmis, Bronwyn Powlkes, Carlton Shuford and Gary DeBacher in C-1 decked; Tee and John Brower, Eileen Lange and Tom Thompson, Larry Brett with a guest, Ken Davenport, in tandem opens; Tom Hamby and Marc Heilweil in solo opens.

One of the members appeared to be afflicted with some strange disease at the beginning of the trip. Both hands were swollen into a shapeless mass and strangely discolored, being generally bright yellow with blotches of red. This condition disappeared as the day warmed up. We later decided we had been witness to the first observed case of Bonnie's Hot Poagies on the river. Hopefully this strange malady will not spread to other members of the club, but the advent of cold weather may cause an epidemic.

The trip down to Sandy Ford was fast and exciting. There were several spills by the open boats but nothing serious until just below Dick's Creek. A Blue Hole with no flotation got pinned on a rock, and it required quite a bit of time and effort to get it loose. Fortunately, the boat wasn't seriously damaged, but the lesson is worth noting. Open boats that run white water should have flotation. To paddle without adequate flotation is inviting disaster. As an owner, you may be willing to risk the loss of your boat by running without flotation, but it just isn't fair to the other trip members to expect them to help free a boat that shouldn't have been pinned in the first place. In addition, hazardous situations can be created by the loss of a boat on a remote wilderness river by leaving the owner stranded.

At Sandy Ford, three of our group decided it was time for them to take out. Several spills had left them shivering in the cool air, and they wisely decided not to tempt the Narrows and the long paddle on to the bridge. Some local people on the scene agreed to give them a ride back to the cars, so we left them on the shore and continued on down the river.

We reached Bull Sluice just in time to see an unidentified kayaker run over the first drop into the hole at the upper end, surf it all the way down and go over the second drop, upside-down on the South Carolina side of decapitation rock. That sight, plus the roar of the Bull, caused all our group to decide to run the rocks on the extreme right with our boats over our heads. We all had a good clean run, and after a brief pause to watch some foolhardy-types running the Bull straight off the end, we continued on to the bridge.

At the highway we were surprised to find our three companions had not yet arrived. Our concern for them was intensified by the fact that they had the keys to the shuttle car. We finally got a ride to the top and brought two cars back to the bridge. Just as we got back to the river, our three companions arrived on a dump truck load of sand with their boats on top. Their adventure is worthy of its own trip report, but one of them will have to tell that story.

Ken McAmis

WANT ADS

Grummen 17 ft. with foam block installed. Lots of dents but no leaks and it knows all the rivers very well. \$200 Call Craig Bowman 325-5856

For Sale: Canoe , Grumman 17ft., 60 lbs. excellent condition \$275
telephone 766-8755 Chris Hollingsworth

For Sale: used Kober Kayak paddle 212 cm. \$15 Mark Warren off. 262-1967

For Sale: Pavelbone Slalom Kayak mold (similar in volume to Lettman IV)
\$150 , Some cloth and mat for building boats. Call Clyde
Woolsey 432-8571 or 435-7547

For Sale: Aqua-float , deluxe foam life vest, unicellular plastic
foam with vinyl coating- will never waterlog. Coast Guard approved
med. child 45-90 lb. \$10

Peter Storm - extra small kayak vest \$10

Car jack \$7.00

Heavy wool alpine sweater for canoeing \$3.00

Call Eileen Lange for any or all of the above. 633-1855

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