

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30357

February 1977

NEWSLETTER

VOL. XII NO.2

March Newsletter Deadline: February 15th

Send typed copy to:

Tom Carter

110 Peachtree Hills Ave. NE

Atlanta, Ga. 30305

FEBRUARY TRIP SCHEDULE: (Br-r-r-r)

Please refer to river descriptions in your Directory.

NOTE: Cold weather paddling is for properly equipped, ADVANCED paddlers ONLY. The trip leader's discretion is to be respected. There is a section in the Directory on cold weather paddling that you should read before considering any trip in February or March. Remember that cold air and cold water upgrade the difficulty of rivers. A wet suit of some kind is practically essential.

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| February 2 | Executive Committee Meeting: 7:30pm. Fernbank Science Center |
| February 4 | General Membership Meeting: 7:00 p.m. St. Phillips Cathedral, 2744 Peachtree Road, NW, in Bishops Hall. Movies of the Colorado. |
| February 5 | Mountain or Fightingtown Creek - Gary DeBacher, 288-1773. |
| February 6 | Upper Chattahoochee, Class III - Allen Lewis, 477-0502 |
| February 12 | Talking Rock Creek, Class II - Gary DeBacher, 288-1773 |
| February 13 | Cartecay, Class III - Carlton Shuford, 262-7750 |
| February 19 | Locust Fork, Class III - Jack Weems, 938-5263 |
| February 20 | Little River, Class III-IV - Jack Weems, 938-5263 |
| February 26 | Chauga, Class III - Ken McAmis, 233-1383 |
| February 27 | Chattooga III, Class III-IV - David Garrity, 634-1847 |

Please try to register for GCA trips by the Thursday before the trip is scheduled. Many times the trip leader plans to leave on Friday night. You may always take your chances, however.

The 1977 tentative trip schedule will be printed in the 1977 Directory this year. It will be subject to change (but I doubt it) so be sure to consult your NEWSLETTER each month. This year's schedule has been scientifically planned in consultation with the Farmers' Almanac. There have been some who scoff at the idea, but we'll see. So far in January the Almanac has not been too successful, but the record may get better. We will keep score.

ADDENDUM TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING INFORMATION

We previously stated our meeting this coming Friday night will include a covered dish supper prior to the movies.

Paper plates, cups, coffee, etc. will be furnished by the club.

The Church Director of St. Phillips has forewarned us that the thermostats in Bishop's Hall will be set low. Those planning to attend should dress accordingly; sweaters, paddling jackets, wet-suits or whatever.

SPECIAL NOTE - SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WILDERNESS HIKE - SAT. FEB. 5th.

We will meet early at the Dillard Motor Lodge in Clayton, Ga. and hike somewhere into the greatest wilderness area south of the Smokies. The trip will be led by a noted expert in the field of ecology. Bring warm clothing, sturdy hiking shoes, rain gear and a sack lunch. You'll be rewarded with an exhilarating hike, breathtaking beauty and a great time with some wonderful people. Several groups of hikers will meet at Cagle's Restaurant at 6:00 PM after the hike to relate the day's adventures.

For details call Allen Lewis at 477-0502

PHOTOGRAPHS SOLICITED FOR THE 1977 GCA GUIDE BOOK

If you have any pictures which you think would be suitable for inclusion in the forthcoming GUIDE BOOK, please submit them to the art editor Bill Close, 225 Forkner Drive, Decatur, Georgia 30030, for his consideration.

Send either color or black and white PRINTS; no slides or negatives. If you wish the material returned, be sure to provide your name and address, and indicate that return is desired. As the GUIDE BOOK is being layed out now, please put your pictures in the mail immediately, or as soon as you can have them processed

GEORGIA WATER QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM SEMINAR--FEB. 16, 1977--ATLANTA
The Second Annual Georgia Water Quality Control Program Seminar will be held in Atlanta on February 16, 1977, from 9 AM to 4 PM, at the Atlanta Civic Center, Room 201, 395 Piedmont Avenue. This Seminar, co-sponsored by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the Georgia Conservancy, will emphasize the total state activities required under Section 106 of Public Law 92-500, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. It will be free and open to the public.

MINUTES
GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

5 January 1977

Attending

Jack Weems
Ken McAmis
David Garrity
Gary DeBacher
Bronwyn Fowlkes
George Baughman
Allen Lewis
Hank Klausman
Pat Blanchfield
(for Joe B.)
Anna Belle Close
Maureen Maloney

Visitors

Gerald Marshall
Dave Dostall
Bobby Gaas
Wiley Holcombe

The following Committee Chairmen have been appointed to the Executive Committee:

Membership Kathy Shuford
Safety Carlton Shuford
Conservation Allen Lewis
River Exploration & Info.. Gary DeBacher
River Rights Defense David Garrity

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In the absence of Marvin Albitz and guest speaker, Jim Talley, Legal Counsel for the Department of Natural Resources, Ken McAmis convened the meeting by suggesting that David Garrity speak in Mr. Talley's place. After synthesizing the background of the GCA's efforts to gain access to rivers which have been closed to canoeists by landowners, the involvement of the DNR, and current status of the problem, comments and questions were invited.

It was the strong feeling of those present that DNR's advice to postpone action indefinitely was unacceptable; that we run the risk of losing the case by silent default; and therefore that the following steps should be taken: 1) Marvin Albitz will be requested to appoint a chairman for the purpose of instituting action/strategy; 2) David Garrity will discuss the Chestatee situation with Commissioner Jones in Dahlonega and request his assistance in general and, in specific, to talk with chief protagonist, Mr. Morrison; 3) Commissioner Jones to be invited for belated canoe trip; 4) GCA committee to lobby DNR to more aggressive action, including publishing law journal articles with a view toward influencing courts to enforce recent Supreme Court ruling; 5) George Baughman will request assistance from the Legal Department at the University of Georgia in Athens.

All actions will pend discussion with Commissioner Jones; Mr. Garrity to advise results.

The meeting was then moved on to discuss the National Paddlers Registry fee of \$12.50 for paddlers who wish to be officially recognized by the A.C.A. as winners in championship racing events, specifically as question pertains to the Southeastern National Championship Race. Agreement was reached to enforce this registration; prominent notice will be printed in the 1977 race application.

Further to the Helen, Georgia races, Ken McAmis has been unable to contact Dave Gale but urges the GCA to plan to provide all possible support and assistance this year. All agreed.

Trip Leader Training Session is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, for extensive classroom session in Atlanta. Tom Hamby has agreed to assist with the program, as has Dr. Dellinger for the First Aid segment. Details of session will be discussed at February Board meeting.

Bronwyn advised of the First Aid Training course which will be sponsored by the Red Cross beginning February 14.

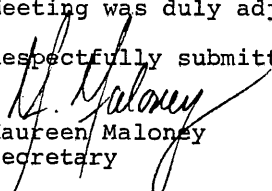
Ken objected to newsletter policy of printing names of trip leaders who do not write trip reports. It was agreed that this practice would be discontinued, but that all trip leaders would be encouraged to write reports or to find someone else to write and submit them for publication in the newsletter.

Cruisemaster presented finalized 1977 trip schedule for comment. Thursdays will continue to be latest registration day. She also plans to encourage South Georgia paddlers to lead southern river trips.

General Membership Meeting will be held February 4 at St. Phillip's Cathedral; Millar Templeton's Colorado River movies will be shown.

Meeting was duly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Maureen Maloney
Secretary

Lower Soque River- exploration, November 7.

The Soque is that rather muddy, nondescript river which joins the Chattahoochee below horseshoe. Some people would have you think it flows right out of the Buford landfill, but the topographical map shows $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of mild gradient (5 ft./mile) between the last Habersham Mills dam and the Chattahoochee in a well-forested valley devoid of farms or cabins. In short, it looked like it could be rather nice, so I drove in to horseshoe and poled upstream to the Habersham Mills powerhouse. The Soque was low and almost clear, with just enough water to run the rapids without dragging. There were more rapids than I expected, especially in the upper three miles, but all were little class I or easy class II with only one ledge too steep to ascend by pole. A nameless creek on the south bank ended in a large waterfall and shoals. The forest was old second growth with no evidence of recent timber cutting. Some dumped cars above hwy 105 were the only serious eyesore. Just below the old and leaky power dam were some big ledges which are all that is left of two miles of tough rapids submerged beneath the Habersham mill-ponds.

Notwithstanding the pleasant, unspoiled scenery, the Soque is too easy to interest most GCA members. Those wishing to run it anyway would need to get permission at Habersham Mills to drive down the private road to the put-in. A trip from there to Duncan Bridge would cover just $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Or one could put in at hwy 105 (1.8 miles down from the Mill) and paddle on past Duncan Bridge to Mud Creek or Bellton Bridge on the Chattahoochee, a pleasant 13 mile trip for tandem boats with lots of forest and occasional easy rapids. Late summer and autumn might be better for the Soque; the smaller rapids would wash out in rainier months and the water would be muddier. As for pollution, it's too shallow to swim in anyway, but it doesn't look or smell polluted, and handling a wet pole before lunch did not leave me with dysentery. -----Gary DeBacher, river exploration

Cartecay - January 2, 1977

After days of rain, four of the adventurous polar bear club, the true names and numbers of the membership to be held secret, head for the Cartecay and a good day of paddling. As our two car caravan traverses the length of that famous town of Woodstock, the clock at the Bank is seen to say 14 degrees. Surely it lies. At the bridge at Talking Rock Creek, the creek is partially iced over and we begin to believe. At the Dairy Queen in Ellijay, we take the water temperature and record 32 degrees with an air temp. of 22 degrees. When the combined temperature is less than 100 degrees one should wear a wet suit. Since 22 and 32 equaled 54, we needed two wet suits, so we cancelled the trip and went off to explore other creeks and river access areas.

- Carlton Shuford

Nantahala - January 9, 1977

Speak of clouds and threats of rain in Atlanta. Take four intrepid and perhaps slightly mad paddlers. Add one river and the chain of events is inevitable. Our story opens with four people waiting at 6 am for the arrival of 6 others who phone to say we have lost our minds and they have not. Undaunted, our heroes proceed to the Nantahala for the day. The weather gets progressively worse. Soon the rain has turned to sleet as they cross Neal's Gap. At Andrews, N.C. the sleet becomes snow. Not to be deterred, our heroes press on. As they descend to the gorge, the snow falls as thick as a rain shower and there is two to three inches on the ground. Do our heroes turn around and go home? No, they unload the boats and have one of the most stimulating runs ever. After lunch at the Center, getting home is considered, along with the 6" of snow now reposing on the gentle hills. After a snow ball battle and due considerations of staying, we meet with a friendly snow plow and head home with a camera full of snow pictures and wonderful memories of white snowy banks and a jet black river.

- Carlton Shuford