

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

July 1977

NEWSLETTER

VOL. XII, NO. 7

August NEWSLETTER deadline is July 15th. Send typed copy to Tom Carter, 110 Peachtree Hills Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30305.

July Trip Schedule:

Please register for club trips by Thursday. Leaders frequently leave town on Fridays. Several trips have been cancelled because no one registered before they left, and some have been disappointed. The summer looks as if it will probably be dry - great for getting in some manouvering practice!

July 2	Chattooga, III, class III	Bronwyn Fowlkes, 233-1383
July 2	Upper Chattahoochee, Class III	Tom Carter, o:522-8811;h:262-3396
July 3	*Chattooga, IV, Class IV	Ken McAmis, o:391-2237
July 9	Nantahala, Class III	Oreon Mann, 522-3469
July 9	Middle Chestatee, Class II	Gary DeBacher, 288-1773
July 10	#Etowah, Class II	AnnaBelle Close, h:373-3945; o:586-8666
July 16	Broad, Class II	Nancy Barker, 874-8897
July 17	Upper Chattahoochee, Class III	Joe Blanchfield, 284-7645
July 23	Chattooga, III, Class III	Allen Lewis, 477-0502
July 24	*Chattooga, IV, Class IV	Tom Hamby, Griffin, 1-228-8180
July 24	Middle Chestatee, Class II	Eileen Lange, 633-1855
July 30	Nantahala, Class III	David Garrity, 634-1847
July 31	Etowah, Class II	Craig Lylerla, 292-2792

*These Chattooga IV trips are open to experienced open boaters as well as to decked boaters. All boaters will be carefully screened by the trip leaders, so you must talk directly to the leader.

Attend Sunday School in the morning and paddle the Etowah in the afternoon with Bill and AnnaBelle Close. Call the above numbers for time and information.

NOTE FROM THE CRUISEMASTER: I apologize for the repetition of the rivers to be run, but July and August are usually rather dry, and there are only certain rivers with water to run (you could have a canoe hike, I suppose). I would also like to thank everyone who has led trips for the club this year. We've had some new leaders, and I think this makes for a better club. However, some trips have not had very many paddlers, which is disappointing, and as I mentioned above, several have been cancelled due to lack of participation. But please keep saying "yes" when the cruiseMASTER calls.

The GCA has been using the Boys Club in Decatur for several years to practice rolling decked boats in the winter. We need to repay the Boys Club by taking some of the boys down an easy river like the Etowah. The whole GCA owes this debt, and I would appreciate some boaters who will volunteer to help me take this trip. If you could furnish a boat and a sternman, please call me at 233-1383 and we will find a convenient date. If I do not get volunteers, I'll have to call, and if I can't get enough, the GCA will lose the pool for winter use. Thanks for your cooperation.

Bronwyn Fowlkes

TRIP REPORTS

TRIP REPORT

TOCCOA RIVER, May 15, 1977, Temp: 81, Water: Clear Time: 5½ hours
Fifteen paddlers and 9 boats met at Deep Hole Camp Ground at 10 AM.
After substitute trip leader, Jan Smith, ran the shuttle, all were
safely underway by 10:30 AM. The river level (2.2 at Dial Gauge, 560
cfs flow) was just enough to slip over the continuous 1's & 2's with
only minor scrapes. Lunch break was above the long Class 2 at the
Appalachian Trail Suspension Foot Bridge (familarly known as the Bogey
Bridge). After recovering the sunken trip leader below the Class 2,
all went peacefully, taking out at Dial Bridge about 2:30 PM. Paddlers
were: C-2 Open, David Ulfik & Bill Marsh; Jeff & Vivian Viehmeyer; Ken &
Judy Barnes; Tom & Craig Brown and Jan & Mary Smith; C-1 Open, Tom
Dallinger; Barbara Osgood and Chris Smith. Chris Smith and the Browns
continued on their own to the Class 3 chute at Shallowford.

Chris Smith

Nantahala, Sat., May 28

Dark and swollen clouds achieved a timely parting to give substance to the name 'River of the Noonday Sun' -- a warm and welcome atmosphere after a night of rain.

Our small group put in at a leisurely pace and enjoyed a leisurely trip as compelled by the low, slow volume and myriad other craft which crowded the first few stretches. There were no mishaps and most of the party made smooth and beautiful runs of the Falls (notable as many preceeding us were wipe-outs).

Fall-runners were David Ballard, CO-1 (who also graciously ran sweep), John Yount, CO-1 (who was soloing his open for the first time), and Les Davenport & Leah Trifanoff, CO-2. Don Simmons (K-1) was busy with his camera, and Eileen & Stacey Lange (CO-2) and yours truly (CO-1) lacked the energy. It was a very pleasant trip and nice to meet new people.

-Maureen Maloney

Tesnatee/Chestatee, Sunday, May 29, 1977:

Twenty-five people in fifteen boats turned out on this warm, sunny day. The river was running unseasonably low at 1.87 on the Chestatee gage, so that we paddled only the last mile of Tesnatee Creek. Even so, some of the rapids on Tesnatee Creek and the last, class III rapid on the Chestatee were too low for a good run. This last rapid, an old dam which washed out about 5 years ago, is very difficult to run cleanly. All the other rapids had plenty of water and were run well by the group.

We stopped for lunch at the confluence with the Chestatee and paddled up to Grindle (or Glen) Shoals, a spectacular series of class VI ledges, below which there is a fine swimming spot.

Many of our party had good runs of the dramatic coppermine rapid, including the tandem teams of Les and Lea, the Georges, the Lawrences and the Langes. Mark Albitz spotted a doe on the beautiful stretch of the river below the coppermine, and she gave the lucky folks in front quite a show as she bounded across the shoals in front of us. We took out on a county gravel road 4/5th of a mile above Highway 52 bridge, and most of the group got together afterwards at nearby Northside Restaurant for a family style country feast consisting of 27 different meats and vegetables on the table! (5 miles north of Dahlonega on Highway 19)

Many thanks to Les and Lea for running sweep. Those paddling were: Gary Aten, Mark Albitz, Mary Godson, Ann Merry, Pat Jeanson and Bonnie Wolf in kayaks; tandem teams of Tom and Craig Brown, Cliff Brown and Ken O'Kelley, Les Davenport and Lea Trifamoff, Bettina and Don George, Eileen and Stacy Lange, Knox (Jr.) and Knox (the 3rd) Massey, Phil and Sarah Lawrence, and Roger Nott and Beth Shipp; in a Co-3(?) were Jan and Marla Albitz and Beth Merry.

- Roger Nott

NANTAHALA RIVER, Saturday June 11, 1977

The Nantahala beckoned and our flotilla of 17 boats headed down Patton's Run. After a minor spill we collected boats and bodies at the bottom with little difficulty. At the gauging station we picked up two more of our party and set out again. Another spill in the quarry introduced two more of the group to the icy waters, but the weather witch was kind, the sun returned, and bodies and spirits were warmed. Even though we had quite a few paddlers who were new to the river nearly everyone elected to run the falls with quite a display of canoe handling. But Eileen and Stacy Lange stole the show with a turn-about, backward, but upright technique. Everyone cooperated in helping each other and, some of the new paddlers learned a few new tricks. Polly Heyward recorded much of the action at the falls on film. Paddlers were: Nancy Barker in a C1; Mark and Priscilla Evans (guests from the Birmingham club), Brook and Ian Brower, and Marian Barker in K1's; Craig Yerla, Polly Heyward, and Jim Atkins in C10's; Barbara Hart-Dick Turner, John-Carol Yount, Tom-steve Johnson, Barbara Osgood-Tom Dallinger, Doug Merriman-Jim Williams, Les Davenport-Tommy Thompson (guest), Eileen--Stacy Lange, Ray-Tommy Keel, guests Danny--Becky Radcliff, and John-Tee Brower in C20's.

Tee Brower

Trip Report: June 12 Toccoa

A beautiful day greeted us at Deep Hole as we pushed off at 11 A.M. Even though the thermometer reached 94° in Atlanta, the hemlock and rhododendron forest, helped by a brisk breeze, made the temperature seem 20° cooler on the river. The major rapid has been somewhat changed by construction at the top. Now it is best to enter this rapid at the left bank, crossing to the right and completing the run as usual. Otherwise the river is the same scenic trip we have known through the years. Everyone seemed to enjoy the leisure pace as we ended at Dial at 4 P.M.

Paddling K-1: Bill Grubbs, Pat Janas, Lee Ann Lyerla.
C-20: Craig and Jeanette Lyerla, Doug Payne and friends (2 boats), Keller and Martha Carlock, Ron and Shirley Tansill, Bob and Gus Elliott.
C-10: Trish Severin, Bob Milton, and yours truly.

David Schwab

TRIP REPORTS Continued

Upper Chattahoochee--June 18, 1977

To me the upper Chattahoochee began at Ga. 115, but two in our party had made the run from Ga. 255, so this was where we put-in. Those beautiful trees over-hanging the river in the morning mist were something to behold. A few ripples and then the rapids at Smith Island; much exposed rock, yet a good run was made by all.

The guage reading just above Ga. 115 noted a low 2.1. This low level was fully appreciated from there on down to the take-out at Duncan Bridge, what with all the scraping and need to drag over more than one rock. The rapids were run with no problems and enjoyed by all, but we wished so many times for just a little more water.

Spills...there were none actually recorded, but the crew of a C-2 (Larry Gayle and Noel Hunter) did say something about being "thrown out" of the boat at one point. Yours truly (C-1) admitted to a minor spill while waiting in an eddy (in an eddy !!) for another boat to clear the rapids.

Bob Elliott and his 10 year old son were running a new Coleman canoe; a better father and son team would be hard to find. John Sanders and Steve Harris captained a Grumman that looked like something out of the jungles of Vietnam (camouflaged complete); they called it some romantic name like the "Mad Hunter". Lastly, a patriotic touch was given our little fleet by the presence of Alan Toney and Britt Harris paddling a covered C-2 that was a true replica of "Old Glory".. covered in stars and stripes from stem to stern.

A fun trip...hope all enjoyed it as much as I did.

Dave Ballard

WANT ADS WANT ADS WANT ADS WANT ADS

FOR SALE: 16' Mohawk Fiberglas shoe-keel canoe, yellow, excellent condition, no cracks or cosmetic damage. \$170 or will negotiate trade for kayak. Call Joe Mulvey H-974-4971, O-355-4760.

FOR SALE: One kayak, only used once. This is an excellent white water boat, \$225. Spray skirt, paddle, helmet and floation also available. Call Pete Peterson at 875-7171 or 284-3511

FOR SALE: Rogue by Fiberglass Technology Kayak; in very good shape; very tough boat with no leaks; just right and very forgiving for someone just getting into kayaking. \$175.00. Call Mark McComb, home 237-3735 after 6 p.m. or, during the day, at work 522-6060 ext. 2831

TROUBLE WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS ON THE UPPER
CHATTAHOOCHEE RUN

On Sunday, May 22, 1977 the Canoe School from Georgia Tech was making a run down the Upper Chattahoochee River - from the 115 bridge down to the take-out at Duncan Bridge Road. A very unpleasant incident involving local residents of White County occurred at the take-out. Essentially, students from the Canoe School were assaulted by local residents who were having a "beer blast" at the take-out and who were very, very drunk. Details of the incident are as follows:

Georgia Tech's Sunday Canoe School consisted of 23 open canoes - mostly tandem - with a total of 37 people. At about 6:00 p.m. on this particular Sunday afternoon, half the group finished "playing" at Horseshoe, and headed on down to the take-out on the right bank (looking down stream) about 1/3 of a mile up river from the old, ruined iron bridge. This take-out is at the base of the last rapid on the run, across the river from the small trailer community. At about 6:10, the first boats to arrive found a group of about 8 locals - mostly young, in their early 20's - having a beer party up by the river in the vicinity of the "turn around". They seemed to be "doing their own thing" and seemed to ignore the canoeists. The 13 boats were portaged up the bank and placed in a cleared area about 20 feet from where the locals were having their beer party. The two groups seemed to pay no attention to each other. Since one of the drivers was back up at Horseshoe still playing around, the group just sat in the canoes and talked for about 10 minutes. The locals and the canoeists continued to pay no attention to each other. About 6:20 the rest of the boats came on down, and were portaged up, making a total of 21 boats there in the clearing. The 4 shuttle drivers walked up the dirt road to the paved road, got the shuttle car, and headed back to the put-in to pick up the canoe trailers which had been left by Mrs. Wikes store.

Shortly after the shuttle drivers left, one of the drunk locals drove out and came back with a friend. When their vehicle got back to the take-out (which is a large circular turn around), they began doing 360° circles in the turn-around, spinning their tires and throwing mud all over everyone in the area - both locals and the Georgia Tech Canoeists. When one of the canoe instructors asked them to stop, they got out of the car and tried to pick a fight with him. (It is interesting to note, that as the two guys got out of the car, they fell down - apparently too drunk to stand up.)

When they challenged the instructor to a fight, the other 7 or 8 in their group came over and gathered around - and the situation got progressively worse. They kept trying to goad the Tech student into a fight - and he wisely declined to do so.

Unfortunately, at the same time the group of locals came over to the car, the rest of the canoe school got up and came over. The group of locals started pushing, shoving, and hitting the canoe instructor, then randomly picked out students from the group - one student in particular who was bigger than the rest of the group - and starting punching them also. The big student was thrown to the ground, kicked and beaten. Other members of the canoe school were able to reach down and pull him out of the fight, and drag him back behind the canoes; the locals did not follow.

At this point, some of the more coherent members of the group of locals tried to step in and calm things down. The canoe school withdrew to the vicinity of the canoes; however some of the more drunken members kept taunting the class - insulting them, and urging them to come fight. It was a real bad scene. (Luckily, the student which had been kicked sustained no major injuries except a big bruise below the left eye).

After an "uneasy truce of about 10 minutes, the shuttle vehicles returned. Several instructors came up and informed the drivers and the trip leader what had happened; the trip leader quickly told everyone to get all the gear loaded as quickly as possible, to ignore the locals in spite of their continued taunts and invitations to come fight, to not even think about changing clothes and to "get the HELL out of there" as quickly as was humanly possible. As the group of Tech students began to quickly load the equipment, the locals attacked again. One of the more drunken members of the group had a brief verbal interchange with one of the shuttle drivers who had just arrived on the scene and who really did not understand what was going on, then hit the driver in the face with a beer can, making a large cut above his left eye, which bled profusely. One of the shuttle vehicles pulling one of the trailers had luckily been driven in to form a kind of "natural barrier" between the locals and the Tech canoe school; the injured driver was pulled over behind the canoe trailer, out of the way. For the remainder of the loading, one of the drunk locals kept trying to get over at him and punch him - but luckily one of the more coherent locals continued to restrain him.

All the equipment was loaded in record time and everyone piled into the vehicles. At this point, the locals retreated over to one side into a small group - as though they were having a conference. An older local - approximately 30 - went over to the group, evidently to try to talk them into stopping the destructive behavior. The group turned on him, savagely beat him, threw him to the ground, and continued to kick him and beat him. This happened as the Tech group was pulling out - and seemed to serve as a "diversionary tactic". Bleeding badly from what looked like cuts, gashes, and a broken nose, the man struggled to his car and was able to drive away, speeding out ahead of the Tech group. (As soon as the 4 shuttle drivers had returned, and found the tense situation, one of the cars had immediately driven back out to try to get the local authorities. He drove back up to the closest farm house, where the farmer called the White County Sheriff's Department, who immediately dispatched a deputy to the scene.) By the time the Tech group had made it out from the take-out to the paved road, the authorities had not yet arrived. Since the locals had thrown rocks at the departing vehicles and shown other signs of continued hostility, the group was afraid of being pursued by the locals. Therefore, the group decided not to wait for the deputy, but to leave the scene as quickly as possible.

The entire party quickly drove to the outskirts of Lula, where they stopped and treated the 2 injured students using the trip first aid kit. The group then drove straight back to Atlanta, making only one brief stop to gas up. Luckily, all the injuries proved minor.

For future reference, several conclusions can be drawn from this incident:

1. This particular take out should not be used by canoeists. The local residents evidently consider it their "private turf" and do not like intruders upon it - especially when they are there having one of their beer blasts. Canoeing groups should use the take-out further down the river, underneath the old bridge, on the left bank.
2. On this particular Sunday, the Georgia Tech group estimated that - in addition to themselves - 6 large groups came down the river, comprising a total of between 100 and 150 people. The possibility exists that at least some of the local residents consider this large influx of "outsiders" to be undesirable - to be an invasion of their privacy. The possibility exists that, if this is the case, vandalization of parked automobiles may begin to occur - probably not at the put-in by Mrs. Wike's store - but most likely at the take-out. Probably vehicles with Fulton County license plates (or other county license plates not in the vicinity of White County) would be wise to take special precautions against vandalism if parked at the take-out.
3. The possibility exists that the "invasion of turf" is especially bad in the case of large groups - such as the Georgia Tech canoe school. When this "armada" of canoes and people descended on their beer-drinking area, it is possible that the locals were particularly incensed - more so than if it had been a very small group which did not essentially dominate and take over the area.
4. Groups - both small and large - canoeing this section of the Upper Chattahoochee might want to consider totally avoiding any areas - either along the river, or at potential take-outs - where there are young male local residents consuming alcoholic beverages. This probably applies to the beach below Horseshoe, and the beach below the "canoe-eating rock" - as well as the two potential take-outs. Also, as happened in Georgia Tech's case, one should consider the possibility of locals arriving on the scene and causing trouble while shuttle is being run.

For further details concerning this incident, call Miller Templeton at Georgia Tech, 894-2564.