

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.



October 1979

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIV, No.10

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 15th. Submit material to Gary DeBacher, 1191 Conway Rd., Decatur, GA 30030. PLEASE TYPE BORDER TO BORDER (ZERO MARGINS) WITH INDENTED PARAGRAPHS AND NO SPACES BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS. This format makes it much easier for me to lay out the newsletter.

OCTOBER TRIP SCHEDULE

October 6	Cartecay class II-III	John Shumaker	874-6716
13	Chattooga II class I-II	John Shumaker	874-6716
14	Chattooga IV class III-V	Jack Weems	938-5263
20	Talking Rock or alt. II	Gary DeBacher	288-1773
21	Chattooga III class III-IV	George Neill	294-9736
28	Hiwassee class III+	Jimmy Gunter	424-0850

Don't wait until late in the week to contact trip leaders--- you may miss them entirely. Some trips may be cancelled or changed because of water conditions. Be prepared for colder weather.

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER, 7:30 PM IN FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER. A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN DUES WILL BE DISCUSSED. ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP & ELECTION MEETING

Atlanta Waterworks October 26, 7 PM to 10:30 PM


This is an important meeting, at which you will be voting on officers and possibly on a dues increase. The meeting will begin with the usual covered dish supper. Bring a main dish and a salad or dessert sufficient for the size of your party, and prepare to share. A small fee will be levied to cover the cost of beverages, cups, etc. The meeting will conclude with various films of beautiful scenery and paddling follies.

The lodge is located at the corner of Green and Reservoir streets. If (as is most likely) you approach on Northside drive, turn west on Bishop St., go one block and turn north on Reservoir. The lodge will be just ahead at the corner of green, with parking on the right.

Questions? Call Jack Weems at 938-5263 (h) or 321-7544 (o).

POWER HUNGRY? At the time of this writing, the GCA nominating committee had found nominees for all positions except that of president. So if you are a would-be mover and shaker, but can't get admitted to discos in your wet suit, now is your chance.

NOMINEES FOR GCA OFFICERS FOR 1979-80:

President-  Kurt Holmes
Vice President- Norm Reynolds
Treasurer- Nancy Wylle
Secretary- Russ Koester
Newsletter editor- Gary DeBacher
Cruisemasters- Jimmy Gunter and John Shumaker
Training- Mark Warren
Directors at large- George Neill, Bruce McGregor

WALKING WOUNDED DEPT. We have just learned that Mark Warren had back surgery a few weeks ago. Our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery. Jay Sanders mangled a pinky while swimming his boat down a choice section of the Nolichucky. He expects to regain normal use of the finger. Dale Bergen is still wondering about the outcome on his finger laceration, which occurred, you will recall, in Bull Sluice. The surgeon found the tendons more repairable than originally anticipated, but Dale's regaining the ability to fret his guitar remains in doubt. More surgery may be performed. He can, however, grip a Norse paddle adequately. Best of luck in the long recovery process, Dale. -Ed.

SWAN SONG. As I look back over the past year, I see some accomplishments, but as always, there is still some unfinished business. I feel that it has been a good year for GCA, and the things that were accomplished were due to a lot of work by many people. There can be no mistake about it, this kind of organization requires a lot of volunteer work, and I very much appreciate all the help this past year.

I intend to remain active in the GCA, and I encourage all members to do the same. I have truly enjoyed serving as your president this past year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped so much. Let's all support next year's administration and programs.

See you on a river.

Jack Weems

Lame Duck (or is it turkey?)

* This could be the last newsletter of the year because of a temporary shortage of funds in the treasury. This shortage has nothing to do with recent mysterious trips by GCA president Weems to Venezuela, where he is rumored to have run Angel Falls in his indestructible Tupperware C-1. The reasons are more mundane: the newsletter has been costing a lot more, in spite of advertising revenues; and the Southeastern Races, while very well run, broke less even than usual because some bills from suppliers were bigger than expected. Although I have learned some ways to avoid extra expense, a better newsletter simply costs more to print. Most of your club dues are used to print and distribute the newsletter. Higher printing and postage costs, combined with a garrulous editor, may cause the dreaded DUES INCREASE to head its ugly rear once again.

At the October executive board meeting, we will be analyzing figures and deciding whether to propose a dues increase to the membership. Then, to become effective, the increase would have to be approved by a majority of the members present at the general membership meeting on October 26. The most probable figure would be \$10 per annum. If an increase is not approved, next year's newsletters may be shorter or less frequent.

Since dues do not start rolling in until December and January, we may still be unable to issue November, December and January newsletters. Now, I can't promise anything, but if you were to renew right now at \$7.50, the executive board might not have the nerve to stick you for the rest, and you would be helping us out of a temporary bind. Think about it, and please try to come to the general membership meeting. ---Ed.

Every year a new cruismaster starts out with big plans, but after a few months of calling everyone he can think of on the phone, getting betrayed by the weather, called at all hours of the night by members who can't reach trip leaders, etc., it gets mighty discouraging. Jimmy Gunter, however, is not a new cruismaster. He knows our failings, just as we know his. Jimmy and I have discussed ways of making the cruismaster job more manageable. It probably should be done by a small committee, with someone who specializes in organizing easy trips, another who organizes hard trips, and a third person who fills in between. In my opinion, the executive board meeting should be moved to a weekend in mid-month, just before the newsletter goes in for publication, so they can review the committee's work and correct problems.

None of this will help much unless we get more members who are willing to lead trips. ---ed.

Ocoee--- Saturday, September 22. It was a three boat trip in cool, cloudy weather on a muddy, high (1700cfs) river. I was in my new Perception Sage C-1, while Dave Ballard and Jim Farr--- both new to the Ocoee--- were in Blue Holes crammed full of extra flotation. I thought Jim and Dave did quite well. Dave admitted he didn't feel he was quite up to the challenge, but he handled the smaller trash well, and bought it only in major rapids--- Vegematic, Double Trouble, Spewing Rock and Hell Hole. I'm not sure he intended to run through Hell Hole; probably just wanted to skim the edge for the cameras like Jim did, but he was sucked in. Jim and I also flipped in Spewing Rock, but I managed to roll and Jim's swim was short. Anyway, Dave and Jim have some advice for those of you who, after some hot runs on Chattooga III in high water, decide you're ready for the Ocoee: it's still a big step up into much more powerful water. Dave is looking to get even within the next month, maybe at not so high a water level. I'd also like to thank Ken and Frannie Strickland, who left off surfing at Double Trouble to help me get Dave and his boat out of the haystacks and over to the bank. ---Gary DeBacher

OPENING UP THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE. Middle Chestatee, Saturday, September 8. Nancy Barker, Polly Heyward, Ellie, the kids and I all had a nice trip down the middle Chestatee in medium water conditions. I wanted to warn you all that the rightmost passage around the Islands below Coppermine has got some trees falling into it. Walk down the trail on the right bank to scout before you put in, and consider choosing another passage. I was able to remove a long-offending tree branch at the sandy beach rapid where we often eat lunch. As for the northwest passage, if you refer to that map of the middle Chestatee that I published last spring, you'll note that the northwest path through Blasted Rocks has not been runnable due to blasted rocks. Most of these I have now removed, leaving a fairly clear passage down the center and then off into the right pool. There is one large rock on the way down into the next pool which I will need to dislodge with a pry bar on some future run, but these alterations will hopefully leave the rapid much more runnable. ---Gary DeBacher

P.S. No, I did not file an environmental impact statement.

WOMEN'S CLINIC: The two things everyone had in common at the women's clinic were their gender and their enthusiasm.....as for everything else, there was an interesting variety. Ages ranged from hotshot Cass Luckhardt (about 10) to middle age plus. Abilities ranged from those who were taking their first shot at solo to those who wanted to fine tune their skills. Part of the first day was spent on the lake at Big Canoe (appropriately named), the rest on the Amicalola down to 53 Bridge. The second day was spent on the Broad River. Many discovered, for the first time, that , yes, it is possible to load boats on top of a truck--even if you are short....and, yes, it is at least as hard and not as much fun as ferries, eddy turns, etc. Several boats looked like brightly colored centipedes as everyone chipped in to share the load. Then, just as everyone thought the hard part was over, lo, the mystery of the bowline and the taut line hitch was revealed. Another highlight was Bronwyn Fowlkes (whose strength to weight ratio could be compared to mighty mouse--yes, I'm jealous)... anyway, Bronwyn gave a short talk on getting strong which is likely to be taken to heart by those who found their muscles giving out when it was time for the boat to be lifted over their head. The real stars, of course, were the students who did great on the river (no spills the second day) and tenaciously attacked the lifting, tugging, and tying. Knowing you can do it if you want to is a good feeling. A special thanks to Jane Rose and Mary Trauner who, along with Bronwyn, helped me teach the clinic. The stars were Barbara Turner and Dorothy Hart (tandem), Debbie Meyers and Margaret Palmer (tandem), Arabelle and Cass Luckhardt (tandem and solo), Marilyn Fordham(solo open), Sally Burn (solo open), Rachel Rottschafer(solo open), Carol Lowthian (tandem), and Levonne Painter, kayak.

--Barbara Osgood

Broad River -- August 25. Here's a new idea for trip leaders who like to guarantee sunshine and nice paddling weather. Tommy Fowlkes requested that we play "Blue Skies" on the tape deck before we reached the Broad. It worked, and I'm a believer because we left the rain in Atlanta. There obviously had been rain in the vicinity earlier as the river was muddy and higher than the usual summer level. Park Fowlkes, on his first river trip, ran tandem with his mother, Bronwyn, and Tommy was my partner til lunch. Then we played musical canoes and traded bowmen. Both boys ran the waterfall beautifully. Later, after running the slide, Tommy jumped ship and bodysurfed to his heart's delight. The last time he disappeared into the rooster tail only to pop right up like a fishing bobber. That life jacket really got a workout.

Many thanks to Mark Levine and Russ Koester who patiently baby-sat with us. Perhaps their thoughtfulness stemmed from reminiscing of a boyhood first canoe trip. -- Polly Heyward

Coppermine River, N.W.T. (7-15-79 to 8-8-79)

I, along with non-GCA members Ron Mullet and Dave Brown, flew from Yellowknife to Lac de Gras and paddled the Coppermine 426 miles to its mouth north of the Arctic Circle. We traveled in 3 17' canoes fitted with spray covers and set up for solo use. Lac de Gras was 2/3 covered with ice and the water temperature was 37°F. Ron, who spends a lot of time on the Ocoee, described one long rapid as "a high volume Ocoee". The country and water was beautiful and the trip was very enjoyable. I will be glad to help, any way that I can, anyone planning a trip thru the barrens or in Canada (last year we did the Missinaibi).
IKE MAXWELL

WANT ADS

For Sale- Perhaps the best C-1 Crowley ever built, though certainly not the prettiest. In continous service since 1974; many ugly but effective patches. Inside 3-layer nylon patches in the end are preventing the kind of end splits which plagued similar boats. Base price: \$95 with float bags and after a necessary repair to a seam. Preventive replacement of certain other patches is negotiable at extra cost. Call Gary DeBacher at 288-1773

Ken and Fran Strickland still have a Phoenix Match II downriver kayak for sale for only \$200. 1-374-6506 (GA)

RACE NEWS. Sorry there's no space for more, but Ken Strickland finished a creditable 6th in the wildwater K-1 event at the U.S. Nationals on the Savage River.

THEFT AT THE CHATTOOGA. There has been a rash of thefts from cars in the parking lots at the Chattooga. Local constabulary and the Forest Service rangers have not been able to devote the time and resources necessary to control the problem. Some of the outfitters have discussed sharing the burden of posting a stake-out. Cars are most vulnerable when left overnight, or in the middle of the day when most paddlers are away from their cars and on the river. Don't make yourself vulnerable. leave a car that looks empty and is empty. --Ed.

SINGIN' THEM OL' DELIVERANCE BLUES. Not to be alarmist, but there have been a couple of instances of drunks pointing guns at "river rats" along the Chattooga this season. In one case the drunk actually had three rafters leaning up against a tree at Sandy Ford, and I'm sure they were wishing that Burt Reynolds would show up with his bow and arrows. Both incidents were reported to local police, but since no formal charges were filed, I doubt that the police did anything.

To put this in perspective, you are more likely to be troubled by armed drunks when wandering around the city than when on the river. How should one handle this sort of thing? The following is purely my own opinion, for what it's worth. If you find yourself near a drunk on or near the river, quietly get away from him. If one pulls a gun on you, regardless of what he is saying, don't stay there looking shocked, or try to make friends, or argue or threaten what you will do once you get back to civilization. Just quietly leave, and tell your friends to do the same. Drunks with guns are unpredictable, but they are least likely to shoot someone who is leaving without threats or arguments. I would not hang around, even if the guy shoots over my head or through my boat. And don't hang around just because your friends are too dumb or dumbfounded to leave. Get off to a safe distance yourself. Then if something worse happens, you're free to get help.

It is very important to avoid conflict with gun-toting locals. Remember, on future trips, you're out there exposed in the open; they're back in the brush watching. Not that I recommend just letting a gun-brandishing incident pass. You should go to the police and swear out a specific complaint, and tell them you plan to come as often as necessary to pursue the matter in court. Just passing along a license number or the like will do no good. Probably the local police will be quite helpful and sympathetic, but if not, try the state police.

Just remember, avoid drunks like the plague, whether or not they brandish guns. Avoid exchanging insults or threats with them. Stay friendly if it seems to do any good, but otherwise, just clear off quietly before things get worse.

---Ed.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FLOATS IDEAS FOR CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The National Park Service is seeking comments and suggestions from those interested in the way the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area will be used, developed, managed, and possibly expanded.

Alternative ways of dealing with the park have been outlined and will be discussed at three public meetings during the first week of October.

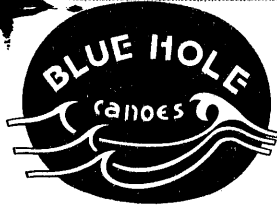
The schedule for the meetings is as follows:

October 2 - 7:30 p.m.
North Gwinnett High School
Level Creek Road
Suwanee, Georgia

October 4 - 7:30 p.m.
Georgia State University
Urban Life Center, Room 201
Piedmont and Decatur Streets
Atlanta, Georgia

October 6 - 9:30 a.m.
North Fulton County Annex Auditorium
7741 Roswell Road
Sandy Springs, Georgia

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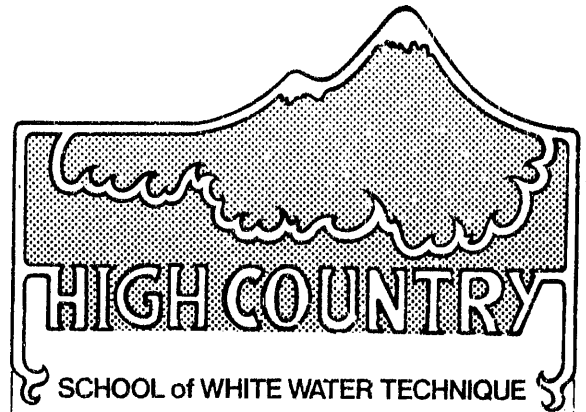
- Lean and slim in the water, with a lot of flare in the freeboard for stability when the going gets tough. Plenty of reserve cargo capacity.
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SPECIAL RATES FOR GCA MEMBERS..
ON ANY CANOE OR KAYAK CLINIC - WRITE FOR DETAILS.

Dear Gary:

May 14, 1979

Although it was not a sanctioned GCA trip, Dale Wintland and I were sufficiently impressed with our rafting excursion to want to submit some sort of "trip report" for your review and perhaps to unquestionably confirm many of the heretofore construed rumors and what many think are misconceptions regarding West Virginia's New River:

New River/Thurmond, West Virginia/May 6, 1979/water gauge level 6'0" (20,000 CFS +) River can be run from -2' to +8'

I. Part 1 of Lower Section:

Approximately 70% flat water (drift-speed 5 to 6 mph)
Class 1 through 3 rapids, mostly waves in the 3's resembling Ocoee's "Double-Trouble", but longer with numerous reversible sprints.

II. Part 2 of Lower Section:

- A) Class II thru V (mostly IV and V) rapids (and many of the V's are pushing VI's at and above this level).
 - B) "Humpers" (waves) up to 15', house-sized undercut rocks, sprints and "Killer Blorts", two or three large enough to swallow Bull Sluice in its entirety) are prevalent.
 - C) Except for the 5 to 6 mph (+) "calm spots" at the bottom of most rapids, the New River makes Ocoee seem like the Etowah at low water.
 - D) Of 12 major rapids, 6 to 8 are occupied by gargantuan river trolls, wall-to-wall sprints and probably the most bodacious blorts imaginable.
 - E) Eddies perpetually had 3" to 8" double reversing sprint-like waves at their shear lines, making "peelouts" into the class IV's and V's in even our 20 ft. rafts feel a bit "tippy" and super exciting.
 - F) Woodall Shoals, in its omnibus entirety, could have been lost in any one of two or three of the "Killer blorts" we passed.
 - G) Many of the bodacious blort families are somehow hidden from upstream view and several easily stopped our 20', 12 man raft even under full power.
 - H) The class V sprints were perpetually perverted, inverted, reversible and unquestionably bodacious.
 - I) The scenery between rapids is magnificent.
 - J) Our guide stated that only one open boat has made it through this section in over ten years and that boat literally had wall-to-wall floatation (also the river was reasonably low).
- III. For those who haven't seen the New River, but think they want to run it, we offer the following RECOMMENDATIONS:
- A) Multiple radar controlled throw-ropes
 - B) Thorough Scouting
 - C) An overabundance of intestinal fortitude
 - D) "Jock-like" physical conditioning
 - E) An updated will
 - F) The intelligence to portage without question (we have classified the New River's lower section, in it's entirety, an honorable portage.

- G) Leave open boats home unless the level is very low, and even then don't necessarily plan on making it to the takeout.
- H) A blort-proof roll
- I) A small, portable aqua lung.
- J) Sprovit repellent (large economy size)
- K) Armour clad body flotation

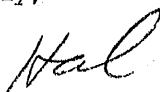
IV. Even with all this we're anxious to get up a group of decked boats to attempt to run this magnificent river (at a more sane 2.4-3.0 maximum water level according to our raft guides).

However, as far as we are concerned we'll need a "trip leader" who is intimately familiar with the river and paddlers who are willing to scout every rapid from top to bottom (and two or three paddlers who are rated "advanced experts" with throw ropes).

While we do not in any way intend to underrate our normally bodacious "local" river, this stream is DEFINITELY "BIGWATER".

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to "Wildwater Unlimited" for an exceptionally well organized, pleasant, exciting, and highly informative trip.

Sincerely,



Hal Herndon

By Gaulty, Hal, those raft guides sure do like! A whole group of GSU open boaters made it down that section with just regulation float blocks. A friend of mine on that trip ran everything upright except Lower Keeney, where he was subjected to the nth boat phenomenon, many others having succeeded there also. Since the water wasn't that low, they did have to bail a lot.

---Ed.