

# GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

January, 1980

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIV, No. 11

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 VERTICAL SPACING BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS. This format makes it much easier for me to lay out the newsletter. Good, high contrast photos are also welcome, as well as pertinent conservation clippings from other publications.

**DUES INCREASE.** At the general membership meeting, the members present voted unanimously to increase GCA dues to \$10.00 per year. It was clear from financial analysis that this would be necessary to meet increased publication costs for the newsletter and guidebook, and to maintain other programs as well.

DUES ARE \$10 FOR 1980. Remember to forward these to the GCA P.O. box number or directly to Nancy Wylie. Don't send them to the editor! If you have already forwarded a smaller amount, please forward an additional \$2.50. THE DEADLINE FOR DUES IS JANUARY 31. After that date, you'll start missing newsletters and your name will not be listed in the guidebook.

## TRIPS FOR JANUARY

Jan. 5	Apalachee	Class I-II (III)	John G. Shumaker Jr. 874-6716	afternoons only
12	Yellow River	Class I-II	" " " "	" "
19	Mulberry Creek	Class I (III)	" " " "	" "
26	KAYAK ROLLING PRACTICE. SEE ANNOUNCEMENT BELOW.			

John stresses that, to reach him by phone, you must call in the afternoon. These trips may be changed due to weather or water conditions, or because of the collective wishes of those who sign up. For example, we may do Flat Shoal or Lazer Creek instead of Mulberry.

John is currently planning the tentative trip schedule for the year, and would probably welcome suggestions. Watch for the great Talking Rock icebreaker trip in February. By some fluko of chance, we've always had sunny weather for this trip, and the display of icicles on Talking Rock's cliffs is quite spectacular.

JIM ATKINS has volunteered to be impromptu trip chairman this year. His phone number is 688-6586. The impromptu trip chairman helps others to organize unscheduled, sometimes last minute trips. This makes life a lot easier for the cruismaster in the busiest time of the paddling season by sparing him time on the phone. ---Ed.

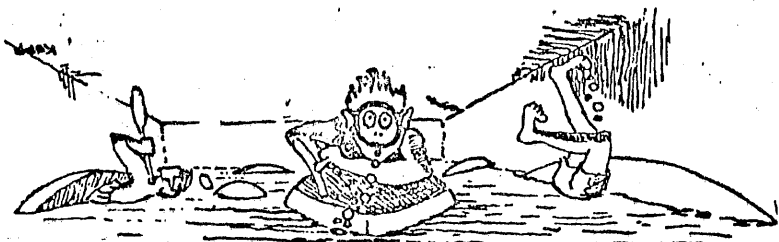
ROLLING PRACTICE FOR KAYAKS ONLY will take place from 9 to 11 AM on Saturday, January 26th, at the Northside Family Branch YMCA, 3424 Roswell Rd. NW in Atlanta. Hank and David Klausman will be instructing. Hank asks that prospective registrants obtain a copy of Eric Evans' Kayaking at one of the area whitewater equipment stores. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER for this training session by calling John Shumaker at 874-6716, afternoons only. There will be a 15 boat limit, and unregistered boaters will not be admitted. A fee of \$2 will be charged to help cover the cost of the facility. Rolling practice for C-1's will be organized at a later date. If you are interested in learning to roll your C-1, call Gary DeBacher at 288-1773.

All kayaks should be cleaned inside and out. Tape a rubber ball or piece of Ethafoam on each end, and put tape over metal paddle tips to avoid marring pool walls. John Shumaker will relate other requirements when you pre-register.

WATCH FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN THE NEXT ISSUE. Tentative plans are to meet again in the Atlanta Water Works Lodge on a Friday evening, with the usual pot-luck supper. Good films of course, and a chance to talk personally with the club officers about your hopes and plans for the coming season.

AMICALOLA CONSERVATION STILL HANGS IN THE BALANCE. Governor Busbee was recently taken down Amicalola, and is said to be very anxious to see it preserved for the public. Plans are still in the mill to use a combination of state and federal money to buy this parcel of land, but there is great need for haste, since the present owners have received offers from private developers. Letters to the Governor encouraging public acquisition are needed. Since the Federal government, including the Corps of Engineers, are involved, letters to Senator Sam Nunn and to President Carter could be helpful. Also let your state government representatives know how you feel about this, since they may have to approve expenditure of state funds. ---Ed.

\* \* \* \* \*  
...pool practice



This cartoon was drawn by Kopp for the Washington Kayak Club.

### OGEECHEE OVERNIGHT CAMPING TRIP

Eleven canoeists joined trip leaders Russ Koester and Nancy Wylie on the GCA's overnight quietwater trip on the Ogeechee River near Savannah Dec. 15-16. The brightly colored boats put in at Highway 204 in brave contrast to gray misting skies, a cold clear river and stark leafless trees.

Numerous twisting side channels, winding off through eerily whispering dry cattails and black cypresses hung with blowing wisps of Spanish moss again and again lured the paddlers to explore and photograph the almost surrealistic landscape. But after a late lunch when light sleet began to fall and temperatures dropped, the group tightened and each canoe kept check on the following craft.

Downed trees across the river along a narrow stretch challenged all the boats and everyone welcomed the sight of the flat bluff where Ft. Stewart had granted us permission to camp. The rain stopped and tents went up quickly. Lou Isaf and Ted and Julia Maloof started a bright bonfire and other campers strung colored lean-tos for cooking.

The Ogeechee here is affected by tides and next morning everyone was glad they had pulled their canoes well up the bank. The water was at least two feet higher than it had been the night before.

We set off about 10 a.m., paddling leisurely, and explored an old brick-walled canal which once linked the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers by a series of channels and locks, supplying water to irrigate rice fields. Ferns and mosses clinging to the crumbling brick walls brought out everyone's cameras.

With the tide just past full and the river widening, the current, which had been rather fast the first day, was barely noticable and we all paddled harder, reaching the takeout at Highway 17 about 3 p.m. Love's Fish Camp, noted for its oysters and catfish, had been our target, but since it wasn't open until 5 p.m. some of the group headed toward nearby Savannah and Teeple's Seafood on the river in Thunderbolt for exactly the right end-of-trip atmosphere of beer, shrimp and crabs.

Those paddling with Russ and Nancy were Rich and Lori Cole, Pat Koester, Bill and Anna Belle Close, Lou Isaf, Ted and Julia Maloof, Trish Severin, Doug Woodward and Jim Karney. - Russ Koester

Section III, Chatooga, 9/16/79. An armada, or regatta, of 16 boats, 12 open and 4 decked, attacked sec. III for a total of 7 hours. We never looked at the gauge, but it was around 1.8. This was the first time I ever ran it without Garrity. If you read this, Dave, I finally got down the right side of 1st ledge! Anyway, it would be impossible to remember all the names, but there was an 11 year old named Kieth, who brought his father along, and a 9th grader from Gainesville named Jimmy Lucas, who borrowed my Mad River at lunch and successfully and intentionally ran 2nd ledge backward. Everyone ran Bull Sluice; nearly everyone tipped over, and no one got cut or bitten by Bergen's Blort. Maybe it has gone downstream. Many thanks to the Elkon's for running sweep in their black hole. Norm Reynolds

CHATTOOGA: West Fork and Section II Oct. 13

We decided to run both sections because it was such a beautiful day and because the river was crystal clear at .50 (Warwoman Rd. Bridge gauge). The Beyer family showed an adventurous spirit from the start, and even after two unsuccessful attempts at Dam Sluice, Chris wanted to try it again. — that's spirit. The only real problems we encountered were a tree lying in our path on fast water and a portage over Big Slide due to low water on the West Fork. Heath, Jean and Jeff (who sat amidships) were waked from their smug complacency when they breached and flipped on a rock hidden just below the surface of the water. As sunset came upon us we raced for Earl's Ford and beat the evening chill that followed. Autumn is beautiful on the river.

Riding tandem were Chris and Bryan Beyer in a canoe; Heath, Jean and Jeff rode as a trio in an open canoe and me.....

John G. Shumaker, Jr.

For Sale: Norse canoe paddle, 5 feet, six inches, nearly new, \$30  
Stuart Coffin paddle, five feet, eight inches, \$15  
Call Ross Wilson, 256-9256, or 255-1012.

Coosawattee- Saturday, September 30. This was the first official GCA trip on the Coosawattee since Carters Lake inundated the best part of the river back in 1975, and 13 boats turned out to make the run. The Cartecay gauge--- the only accessible one in the area--- read 2.2, which translated into decent but not exciting water. In my only previous run, with the Cartecay close to 3 ft., the waves on the Coosawattee were much bigger. But since I was the only person to have seen the river before, nobody else was disappointed, and even after we all ground out the 4 1/2 mile paddle on the lake to reach the take-out, everyone insisted that they were glad to have made the trip, including the folks who had driven three hours from Knoxville, Tenn. There were no spills or mishaps, but I remember Sue Levine avorting an ignominious fate at one rapid with an enormous beavertail-slap low brace. Besides the Levines, other names and faces I remember include Larry Mashburn, Keith Boyer and company, Russ Koester, Polly Heyward, Peter Elkon and Sally Brun. With a favorable wind, we'll do it agin this season! --Gary DeBacher

A Trip On IV- Sunday, October 7. We met at the 76 bridge: McAmis, Fowlkes and I properly equipped with C-1's, and Dave Garrity with his Mad River Explorer. The weather, if a bit brisk, was otherwise perfect. Since the water level was 2.15 (!), we had to coax Dave a bit to get him to try IV in an open boat. Dave knows IV very well, but like us, he prefers decked boats when the waves are really high.

Setting shuttle was an adventure in itself. Dave's car overheated halfway in, so we left it to cool off. Having deposited Ken's Volvo down at the lake ramp, we took off in first in my Renault to claw our way back up the hill. When I went to shift to 2nd, I had no clutch. Two cars down. SOMEBODY up there doesn't like Sunday paddlers! But we managed to collect Dave's car and limp back to the Baptist Church. Turned out Dave's car just needed a little holy water, while mine had shed a bracket so that the clutch cable was swimming loose. I steered while Ken fished for gears, and we took some tight curves at ridiculous speeds to avoid downshifts, thus finally rejoining Bronwyn at the put-in.

What would Steve Martin do in a situation like this? Maybe I should play it safe..... deal with the clutch problem right away, while mechanics can still be found on a Sunday... forego the paddling, and see that I can get back to Atlanta before dark... do the sensible thing... Naaagh! To hell with cars! We got on the river!

I guess the first part of IV down to Woodall really isn't much harder than III, although Screaming Left Turn is a peach and I never can figure out what the rule is on where to run Jumble. At Woodall, we ran the sneak ledge on the Georgia side. Some said run it right, some left, it all looked bumpy from below, and next time I'll portage and stretch my legs.

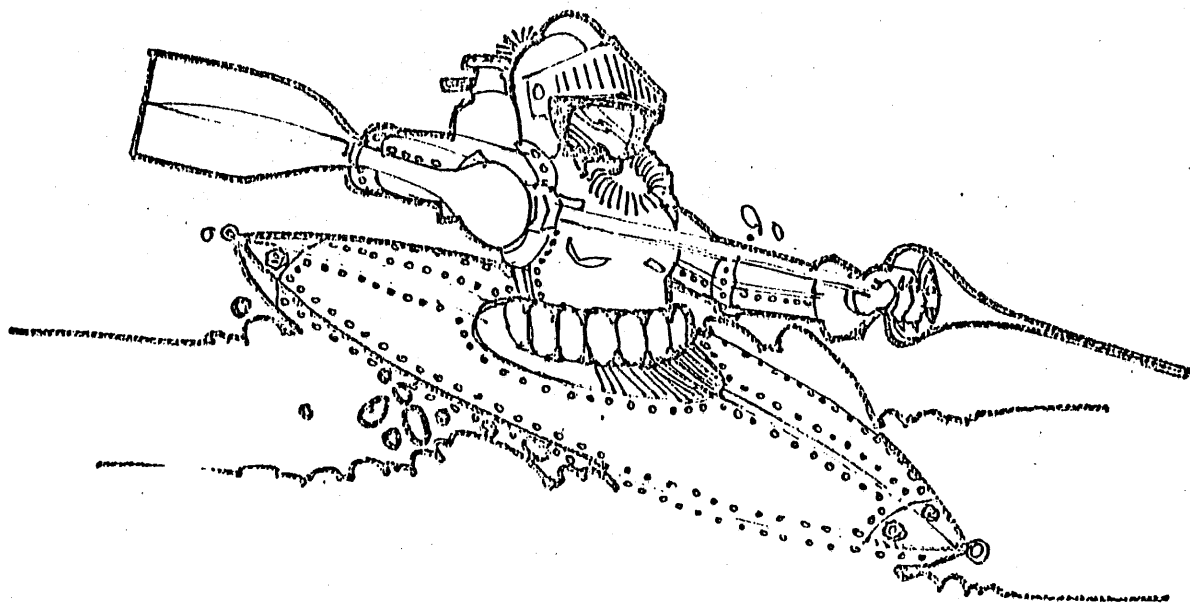
Next comes the double stopper wave, and then Seven Foot Falls! Ken and Dave ran beautifully. I got vague advice, entered too straight, skimmed right over the hole at top speed and hit the rock wall head on. If I had been in my old Hahn instead of my Sage, I'd have blown the seams out right back to the cockpit, but as it was, I only had to pound the seat and walls back about 3 inches. Bronwyn got blorted, but managed to roll just before floating out of sight.

Then the Stekoa Creek slalom, Deliverance Rock, a brief look at Long Creek Falls, and down to Raven Rock Rapid. The diagonal curlier was a 4 ft. wall at 2.15. Dave tried down the center, got his open so far over his face was in the water, and rolled it back up! The approved method at this level is to enter just a little more to the right than usual, hit the water wall sideways, and bounce off, kind of like a big mirror image of Vegematic.

Then past Camp Creek and down to Five Falls. I got a rope out for Entrance Rapid, but noone needed it. Then a short ferry to scout Corkscrew, which three of us ran, successfully. I scouted the right crack in Crack, and was intending to try it, counting on speed to get me past the hole, when three kayaks in a row ran it, got stuck, flipped and unloaded. Most folks portage Crack above 1.9. It ain't Woodall, but it's tough.

As is Jawbone. The eddy was tough to make, so Ken ran straight through. He flipped in the drop past hydroelectric, but rolled back up in the same motion. I tried the same route, but fell off the tongue and found an eddy I wasn't looking for. Dave snuck into the eddy from behind, came straight out without ferrying, and had a beautiful run. Everybody was portaging Sock-'Em-Dog, except for a couple of kayaks who lucked through. I amused the rafters by climbing into the Sage and sliding off the edge of the portage rock into the pool 8 ft. below.

In spite of our earlier car problems, we were first boats past Shoulderbone, Possum Creek, and onto the lake, where headwinds were brutal. That and a long shuttle later, I lay under the Renault, blinking dust out of my eyes, and wiring the clutch linkage in place with a piece of coathanger while McAmis complained about my getting grease on his tools. The end of a perfect day. --Gary DeBacher

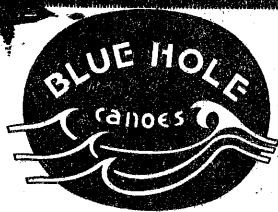


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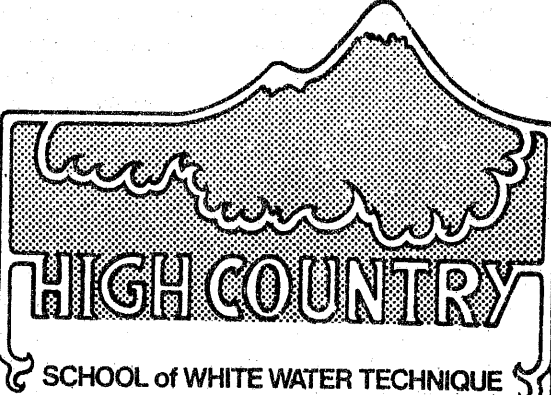
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