



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30357

June, 1980

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15, No. 6

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 15th. Submit material to Gary DeBacher, CRM, 1441 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30322. PLEASE TYPE BORDER TO BORDER (ZERO MARGINS) WITH INDENTED PARAGRAPHS (you too, Weems) 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 conservation clippings. NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THIS MONTH, AT 7:30 PM. Call Norm Reynolds for location.

TRIPS FOR JUNE

June 7	lower Amicalola class III-IV	Roger Nott	1-536-6923
8	Nantahala class II-III	John Shumaker	874-6716 at about 9 PM
8	Talking Rock Creek Class I-II (long)	Gary DeBacher	634-4651
14	12th annual Southeastern Championship Races, sponsored by GCA		
15	Nantahala River. Slalom Saturday, Wildwater Sunday.		
21	Broad River class I-II	Gary DeBacher	634-4651
21	Nantahala class II-III	Stuart Alston	355-0591
21	Chattooga III class III-IV	Stan Landers	876-6160
22	Upper Hooch class II-III	Mark Levine	926-8683
28	Chattooga III class II-III	Jim Pharr	634-2272
29	Etowah class I-II	Shelton Sawyer	h 435-1925; w 432-0048
29	Cartocay class II-III	Allen Simons	h 476-5458; w 449-4266

REMEMBER That Jim Atkins (688-6586) is impromptu trip chairman. Give him a call if you're running something not on the schedule, or if you are looking for others who are running something different.

THERE'S STILL TIME, BROTHER to repent and join the GCA race committee to help run the Southeastern Races. Contact John Shumaker, Norm Reynolds, or at least show up at the slalom course on Saturday the 14th.

Cut the Pork—Not the Parks

Trimming the budget seems to be the order of the day in Washington, but all indications are that the budget butchers are looking in exactly the wrong direction. The Land and Water Conservation Fund and other already skinny natural area preservation programs seem to be first in line for the chopping block, while only token cuts would come from the fat pork barrel. Interior Secretary Andrus suggested that two-thirds of his department's allocated cuts be taken from an already meager Land and Water Fund of \$247 million, cutting it 70 percent to only \$77 million. The Coalition for Water Project Review (of which ARCC is a member) has urged that the water resource development share of the budget could be easily trimmed. The Corps of Engineers alone is slated to get over \$3 billion in fiscal 1981. The Coalition calculated that if only the 18 largest water project items were limited to a maximum of \$30 million each in fiscal 1981, \$567 million dollars could be saved. If those same 18 projects were each cut by two-thirds, the savings would be \$738 million. That is three-quarters of a billion dollars saved just by slowing down construction of 18 projects, most of which are serious mistakes to begin with. Write your Congressman (Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senators (20510) urging cuts in pork barrel water projects and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other natural area preservation programs.

Pork Barrel Rides Again

The House Public Works Committee, showing no interest in needed reforms in national water policy, has assembled (and passed through the House) the most profligate new water projects authorization bill for the Army Corps of Engineers in decades. Called the Water Resources Development Act, HR 4788, the bill has an estimated price tag of some \$4.4 billion.

On February 29th, President Carter stated his opinion that the bill is "nothing but a travesty—environmentally unsound, wasteful and inflationary." He pledged a veto of the bill, calling it worse than the Water Development Appropriations bill he vetoed in 1978, and added, "I do not intend to allow this legislation to become law." Conservationists and tax-exhausted Americans have a duty to hold the President to this promise. Passage of the bill would make a farce of Carter's water project reforms and the new Water Policy.

Last fall national conservation organizations initiated (through the Coalition for Water Project Review) a weekly series of press announcements to expose the wasteful and destructive provisions buried in this omnibus water bill. The series, called "Profiles in Pork," has generated much interest in the bill on Capitol Hill and in the media and has served as an effective lobbying tool to confront the difficulties inherent in fighting kitchen sink legislation such as this.

We were determined not to let HR 4788 pass the House routinely even though it includes projects for over half the Representatives (over 200 new Corps projects).

cont. page 2

The above item, and others in this issue, are from the newsletter of the American Rivers Conservation Council, which is one of the most effective little conservation lobbying groups in the nation.

ARCC continued

Working with Representative Bob Edgar (D-PA), a member of the Public Works Committee who has demonstrated extraordinary courage in this and previous efforts to reform national water development policies, we developed a large number of amendments (over 200 were prepared) that Edgar and other members used to occupy some four days of House floor debate time. Although the House Public Works leadership succeeded in defeating nearly all the amendments, we felt the glaring exposure the Committee and its bill received served its purpose well.

Objectionable provisions exposed in the debates were:

- a project for the primary benefit of the Dupont Company (Gulfport Harbor, MS);
- 55 provisions reducing or eliminating local cost-sharing responsibilities;
- dozens of projects without reports from the Chief of Engineers on cost and feasibility;
- authorization of projects without final wildlife mitigation plans and without protection for cultural resources;
- waivers of benefit cost analyses;
- approval of the Burlington Dam project in North Dakota which would wreck a national wildlife refuge and damage Canada;
- a marina in the District of the Subcommittee Chairman;
- a monument to the Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C.

The Department of the Army itself found 125 provisions of the bill objectionable. Joining conservation groups in opposing HR 4788 were Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, Americans for Democratic Action, Howard Jarvis and the National Taxpayers Union. 127 Members voted against final passage of the bill, which indicates sufficient support to sustain a veto.

How Did Your Representative Vote?

Omnibus Rivers and Harbors Bill. The vote is on final passage of HR 4788, the Water Resources Development Act, which authorizes over \$4 billion in new water projects. The bill waives laws, established procedures, cost-sharing and the like for influential Members. It authorizes many environmentally damaged dams and drainage projects, undercuts

- AYES--283**
- Ahdnor
 - Addabbo
 - Akaka
 - Albosta
 - Alexander
 - Ambro
 - Anderson, Calif.
 - Andrews, N.C.
 - Andrews, N. Dak.
 - Annunzio
 - Anthony
 - Archer
 - Ashbrook
 - Ashley
 - AuCoin
 - Badhnan
 - Baralis
 - Bailey
 - Baldus
 - Barnard
 - Bauman
 - Beard, Tenn.
 - Benjamin
 - Bennett
 - Bereuter
 - Bethune
 - Bevill
 - Bing
 - Bingham
 - Blanchard
 - Boggs
 - Boner
 - Bonior
 - Bonker
 - Bouquard
 - Bowen
 - Brademas
 - Breaux
 - Brooks
 - Brown, Calif.
 - Brown, Ohio
 - Broyhill
 - Buchanan
 - Burgener
 - Burison
 - Burton, John
 - Frost
 - Fuqua
 - Garcla
 - Gaydos
 - Giulmo
 - Gibbons
 - Gilman
 - Gingrich
 - Glan
 - Goldwater
 - Gonzalez
 - Gore
 - Gramm
 - Gray
 - Quillen
 - Hagedorn
 - Hall, Tex.
 - Hamilton
 - Hammert-schmidt
 - Hance
 - Hanley
 - Hansen
 - Harsha
 - Hawkins
 - Hefner
 - Hefl
 - Hillis
 - Hinson
 - Holland
 - Horton
 - Howard
 - Huckaby
 - Hughes
 - Hutto
 - Hyde
 - Ichord
 - Jenrette
 - Johnson, Calif.
 - Johnson, Colo.
 - Jones, N.C.
 - Jones, Okla.
 - Jones, Tenn.
 - Kasten
 - Kemp
 - Kildee
 - Kogovsek
 - Nichols
 - Nowak
 - Oakar
 - Obersstar
 - Ottlinger
 - Panetta
 - Pashayan
 - Patten
 - Patterson
 - Pepper
 - Perkins
 - Peyser
 - Preyer
 - Price
 - Rahall
 - Rallsback
 - Rangel
 - Regula
 - Reuss
 - Richmond
 - Rinaldo
 - Roberts
 - Robinson
 - Roe
 - Rose
 - Rosenthal
 - Rousslet
 - Roybal
 - Royer
 - Rudd
 - Satterfield
 - Scheuer
 - Schulze
 - Sebellus
 - Shelby
 - Shumway
 - Shuster
 - Simon
 - Skelton
 - Black
 - Smith, Iowa
 - Smith, Nebr.
 - Snowe
 - Snyder
 - Solarz
 - Spellman

FROM THE COASTAL CANOEIST'S "CaNEWS"

(1979)

No one knows for sure how many people drowned this year in the dozens of major rivers and numerous creeks flowing out of the snow-capped mountains around Kernville, California. A Los Angeles Times survey of ten counties disclosed that through mid-May and the end of June over forty-one hikers, fishermen, and floaters have been reported missing and presumed drowned. Because of high water, only a few of the bodies have been recovered.

Each weekend rangers and deputy sherrifs from the Kern River Canyon north to the American River report that dozens of "river-runners", using inner tubes, rafts, or even logs, are being rescued after capsizing in the turbulent water.

THE PROBLEM: extreme high water due to the rapid melting of an unusually heavy, wet snowpack following several years of extreme drought. For example, on the Kern, where eight drowned and 28 were rescued, water was running 400% higher than normal. The runoff was so high on the Tuolumne that two professional raft outfitters cancelled their may and early June trips.

One deputy sherrif attributed much of the problem to DRINKING. "People with common sense would not do some of the things they do up here. But they get a little drunk and forget their common sense" But there are other problems, like:

1. The airline pilot who tied himself into a small raft and set off down the Kern, only to tip over and be dragged through the canyon.
2. A young man bet his companions that he could swim across the Kern.
3. An adult leader of a boys group allowed a youngster to ride in a raft, but FOR SAFETY a rope was tied to the boy and the other end was held by someone running along the road. The raft tipped; the rope got hung up.
4. Two adventuresome youths tried to ride the river on a log. Only one made it back up when the log tipped over.

the objectives of the Year of the Coast with unsound harbor and beach projects and sets dangerous precedents like taking housing developers who build in hazardous areas off the hook. "No" is the correct vote.

NOES--127

- Applegate
- Aspin
- Atkinson
- Barnes
- Beard, R.I.
- Bedell
- Bellenson
- Boland
- Bolling
- Stanton
- Brinkley
- Brodhead
- Broomfield
- Burton, Phillip
- Byron
- Carr
- Clay
- Collins, Tex.
- Conable
- Conte
- Convers
- Cotter
- Coughlin
- Courter
- Crane, Daniel
- Udall
- D'Amours
- Dannemeyer
- Deckard
- Dellums
- Derrick
- Derwinski
- Davine
- Dodd
- Dougherty
- Downey
- Drinan
- Early
- Edgar
- Edwards, Calif.
- Erlenborn
- Evans, Del.
- Evans, Ind.
- Fenwick
- Fish
- Fisher
- Pithian
- Florio
- Forsythe
- Fountain
- Gephardt
- Gradison
- Grassley
- Green
- Grisham
- Giuarini
- Guido
- Hall, Ohio
- Harkin
- Harris
- Hatcher
- Hollenbeck
- Holtzman
- Hopkins
- Hubbard
- Ireland
- Jacobs
- Jefords
- Jeffries
- Jenkins
- Kastenmeier
- Kelly
- Kindness
- Kosmayer
- LaFalce
- Latta
- Lee
- Leahy
- Levin
- McDonald
- McClintock
- Markley
- Marks
- Martin
- Mavroules
- Mazzoli
- Mica
- Michel
- Miller, Calif.
- Minish
- Moffett
- Moorhead, Calif.
- Neal
- Nelson
- Nolan
- O'Brien
- Paul
- Pease
- Petri
- Porter
- Russell
- Quayle
- Rathford
- Ritter
- Roth
- Russo
- Sabo
- Sawyer
- Schroeder
- Echberling
- Sensenbrenner
- Shannon
- Sharp
- Strom
- Stuck
- Stark
- Stewart
- Stockman
- Stouder
- Tauke
- Vento
- Walker
- Waxman
- Whittaker
- Williams, Ohio
- Wolpe
- Wyder
- Young, Fla.

NOT VOTING--23

- Anderson, Ill.
- Crane, Phillip
- Davis, S.C.
- Emery
- Gowdy
- Griffing
- Hightower
- Holt
- McCloskey
- McDade
- McHugh
- Murphy, Ill.
- Obey
- Prichard
- Rhodess
- Rudino
- Rostenkowski
- Runnels
- Santini
- Ullman
- Whitten
- Wyatt
- Yates

I find it surprising that Newt Gingrich, a Republican who talks a good game of fiscal responsibility, decided to vote for this pork barrel bill. Check the list and see how your own Congressman voted. If he voted "no," send him a note of thanks and ask him to vote to sustain Carter's veto. If he voted "yes," help him change his mind or take him inner tubing on Section IV at 2.5. --Ed.

It's always with a little anxious anticipation that I put on Section 4 for the first time each spring, and this trip was no exception. The 76 gage was at 2.17892 feet which we found out later to be about .00002 feet too high in a few places.

This trip was originally scheduled for the Chauga gorge, but with the rain having eased off considerably over the past week, it appeared that there would not be enough water. So with Hank Klausman arranging the shuttle (and that's another story) 8 of us put on the river at about 10:30.

We soon "encountered" the river as one in our midst swam at Screaming Left Turn. The action really picked up at 7 foot falls, where two more swam and one roll was made. This seems to be a very intimidating ledge although I can't understand why. The water is only traveling at about 100 miles per hour into what looks like a giant washing machine, and is smashing against a rock face that is undercut. Piece-a-cake! (If you make it).

Raven rock rapid was especially nasty at this water level. I have never seen anyone have trouble here before, but on this day it was taking its share of flat landers.

Of course Five Falls was rather sporting. Crack was no place for sane people. The cheat on river right was tried by some with varying degrees of success, but most carried on the left. Corkscrew was not as bad as might be imagined, but Jawbone was tough and Sock-em-Dog was horrendous. Hank, John and Mark all gave this one a shot with 2/3 success. Not bad at this water level. And yes shoulderbone caught one of us completely by surprise.

Our group was Hank Klausman, Jay McClure, Greg Hughs, and Mark Hartley in K1; John Shumaker in C1 open; Ken McAmis, Bronwyn Fowlkes, and myself in C1.

Jack Weems

P.S. Ask John about Sock-em-Dog at 2.2 feet.

Also for you trivia lovers, some of the locals call this one Sock-n-Dog.

UPPER AMICALOLA - May 17

Despite day-long rains, a couple of tandem flips in cold class II rapids, and the final distress of having two of our shuttle vehicles burglarized, most paddlers agreed that this is a river that needs to be included on GCA schedules more often. Paddling C-2 opens this day were Walt Elliott and Bobbie Moore, Ben and Carolyn Whitehill, Mike and Elaine Laster, Tom and Shirley Pritchard, and Amy Delaplaine and John Houser. In C-1 opens were Mark Levine, Arabelle Luckhardt, and myself.

The wild azaleas were still in bloom, and some mountain laurels had just begun. Other interesting wildlife included many birds, especially a wild duck that followed us down most of the river. The gauge was at .9' when we put in, but the heavy rains had raised that to 1.1' by the time we took out - plenty of water even for the tandems, almost too much for a tandem Mad River Malecite. Everyone scouted and made successful runs over the five-foot ledge that spans the river just below Cochran's Creek. Virtually every slot on the ledge was attempted except for extreme river right, which in the past has proved quite bumpy.

Several shuttle vehicles had been left in a highly visible position at the take-out next to the highway 53 bridge. Two Volkswagen busses were broken into sometime during the day, with tools, clothes, luggage and tapes stolen. The audacity required not only to steal clothes and personal effects, but also to break into cars in daylight in full view of a well-travelled highway makes one suspect that we are not dealing here with mere amateurs. Surely these thieves must be the same as those who have made this take-out (which is also the put-in for the Lower Amicalola) infamous enough to warrant mention in the GCA Guidebook. The warning still applies, but the solution is far from clear. -- Grant Luckhardt

The best defense against theft is for each and every one of us to leave an empty car. Thefts will continue to occur as long as thieves can reasonably expect to find items of value. Just wait until our "professional" thieves of the Amicalola realize that more cars are nearby at the Etowah, the Middle Chestatee, the Cartecay and Talking Rock. Then we'll really have trouble! Since Amicalola seems for the present to be more of a trouble spot than other streams, consider paying someone in Dawsonville to shuttle your put-in vehicle back into town. You might start by inquiring at the Gulf station, where the owner has always been friendly and interested. You could also leave word with the County Sheriff in Dawsonville, or perhaps with the local State Trooper stations, and ask them to take a pass or two over the bridge during the day.

Exploration Trip--STEKOA CREEK: hwy 441 to sec.IV Chattooga River April 19-20.

Sometimes giving names to natural formations helps to count and distinguish them from each other, but a waterfall usually stands out alone and distinguishes itself by its size. To help remember the number of waterfalls on this "creek", naming them in order of descent was attempted: Log Jam Falls; Harvey Wallbanger; Cutthroat; Slide-N-Bail; Twin Falls (between hwy 441 and Wolfe Cr. Rd. Bridge); Little Five Foot Falls; Horseshoe Falls; Canyon Crack Falls; Hanging Rock Falls; Little Five Falls (between Wolfe Cr. Rd. Bridge and Chattooga IV). A few waterfalls were left unnamed but overall 15-20 waterfalls existed to create formidable and spectacular scenery well suited for hiking..

About five of the waterfalls took a rope to portage by lowering our canoes down vertical canyon walls ranging over twenty feet steep. At one point towards the middle of the first day Stan Landers and I ran a steep class III slide which formed a deep hole at the bottom and caused us to swamp. Thinking it was a cinch compared to the many portages behind us, we both casually bailed and to our surprise nearly went over two large waterfalls: one immediately following the other. After we portaged these two identical falls we became more cautious and patient for the rest of the trip.

Just before running into the Chattooga River, Stekoa Creek becomes very fast, narrow, and deep which summoned mental reminiscences of a narrow Five Falls section-- complete with keeper hydraulics, boulder strainers, and few rescue pools-- which we portaged. The estimated 10 miles took $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours the first day and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour the second day. And so, there we were within dim view of the Chattooga River at the end of the first day, darkness came quickly and we had no flashlight or camping gear (the hazards of exploration) two miles from our shuttle vehicle.....

I would like to thank Norm Reynolds for leading the section III Chattooga River trip in my absence on Sunday (April 20). At 2.6 I know that I missed leading a good trip.

John Shumaker, Jr.

Chattooga III, 4/20/80... I arrived at the bridge expecting to meet trip leader John Shumaker and the ever present Stan Landers. On the way up, Allen Simons and I wondered if they would be there, or down on Stekoa Creek pulling their boats out after their trip the day before. John was there; Stan was sleeping in a motel; neither had their boat. It seemed they ran out of daylight, and there were more falls on the creek than they expected. They got out around midnight, on foot, and had to go back for their boats. John was mad at Stan because he checked into a motel! Guess we're all getting a little soft. Anyway, the river was running at 2.6, and we had David Ashley, Steve Hoberg, Ronnie Davis, David Shield, Allen and me in C10's, and Scott Zimmerman in K1. Scott was the only one who had run it at that level, and was very helpful, as in: "Is there room for us all to land on the rock at 1st Ledge?" There was, but it was crowded. Ashley, Davis, and Zimmerman ran Bull Sluice, with pretty much success. The rest of us portaged. My mother raised a lot of ugly children, but no foolish ones. We were down the river in about one hour less than usual, due to the water level. I was home (Doraville) by 8:30, a new record. We had a super trip. Everyone but Allen had run it before and he ran it like his boat had eyes. A few of us swam some, and on one occasion we got some help from a raft trip guide, who hopped in a derelict canoe and took it to shore, explaining, "I've never been in one of these things before."

Norm Reynolds

FOR SALE: K-1 VICTOR by PERCEPTION, Float Bags included. Boat is river worthy, but needs patching. \$75.00-Stuart Alston 355-0591

FOR SALE: Canoe carrying thwarts. Handcrafted of ash, with stainless steel hardware for installation. Designed for Old Towns, but will fit others - Mohawk, etc. \$10 a pair. Call Grant Luckhardt at 373-2293.

FOR SALE

Large volume HAHN C-1 mold in good condition, paper patterns, wax, etc. \$125. Call Bill Crowley at 921-8353

I can't find a copy of his last month's ad, but Doug Woodward still has some good used equipment for sale, including a couple of very well-made junior kayaks. --Ed.

NATIONAL HYDROELECTRIC POWER STUDY: The Corps of Engineers is proposing the following sites in Georgia for consideration for hydro power generation. For more information, or to submit comments (SOON - the official comment period is over), write U.S. Army Engineer Division, South Atlantic, 510 Title Building, 30 Pryor Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303, ATTN: SADPD-P with reference to National Hydroelectric Power

COUNTY	STREAM	PROJECT	EXIST. CAP.	COUNTY	STREAM	PROJECT	EXIST. CAP.
Baldwin	Oconee	Lake Sincl	45000	Lumpkin	Etowah Riv	Watershed	
Baldwin	Oconee Riv	Milledgevi		Macon	Flint Rive	Hightower	
Bartow	Etowah Riv	Kingston		Macon	Flint Rive	Miona	
Bibb	Tobesofkee	Lake Tobes		Mitchell	Flint Rive	Lower Vada	
Burke	Savannah R	Steel Cree		Monroe	Towaliga R	High Falls	
Butts	Ocmulgee R	Lamar Ferr		Monroe	Ocmulgee R	Juliette D	
Carroll	Chattahoc	Cedar Cree		Montgomery	Oconee Riv	Cypress Br	
Cherokee	Etowah Riv	Canton		Murray	Cousawatte	Reregulati	
Cobb	Chattahoc	Vinings		Muscogee	Chattahoc	Columbus	
Columbia	Savannah R	Augusta Ca		Muscogee	Chattahoc	Oliver Lak	60000
Crisp	Flint	Lake Black	15200	Newton	Yellow Riv	Porterdale	1600
Dooley	Flint Rive	Mountain C		Oconee	Oconee Riv	Barnette Sh	2800
Dougherty	Flint Rive	Flint Five	5400	Rabun	Tallulah	Lake Burto	6120
Effingham	Savannah R	Low Stokes		Rabun	Tallulah	Mathis-Ter	16000
Elbert	Broad Rive	Tallow Hil		Rabun	Tallulah	Nacoochee	4800
Floyd	Oostanaula	Armuchee		Richmond	Savannah R	Eagle Poin	
Fulton	Chattahoc	Morgan Fal	16800	Rabun	Tallulah R	Tallulah F	72000
Habersham	Tugalo Riv	Tugalo Lak	45000	Richmond	Savannah R	New Savann	
Harris	Chattahoc	New Riverv		Screven	Savannah R	Bull Pen P	
Harris	Chattahoc	Goat Rock	26000	Screven	Savannah R	Dicks Look	
Heard	Chattahoc	Franklin		Screven	Savannah R	Low Johnso	
Jackson	North Ocon	Corry Cree		Washington	Oconee Riv	Toomsboro	
Jasper	Ocmulgee R	Lloyd Shoa	14400	Wayne	Altamaha R	Goose Cree	
Jones	Ocmulgee R	Dames Ferr		Whitfield	Conasauga	Tilton	
Laurens	Oconee Riv	Dublin		Wilkes	Broad Rive	Anthony Sh	
				Wayne	Chickasaw	Waynesboro	

Georgia Canoeing Association needs to keep track of these projects, and which the Corp wants to push further. If you are interested please contact Nancy Wylie, 4245 Rickenbacker Way, Atlanta, Ga. 30342 (404-256-1172). We would like to set up a state-wide network to keep track of water issues. (NOTE to out-of-Georgia Resid. There are about 200 proposed sites throughout the Southeast - write to the CORPS at the above address to find out which rivers in your state are affected.

Hudson and Broad, 4/26 4/27... It rained in Atlanta, and most of th campers did the wise thing and stayed home the first day. The Pritchards, Tom, Shirley, and daughter Bonnie (11) met us, me, Chris, Maria, Astrid, and Tony. (9, 8, and 4) at the golden arches, amid a first rate storm, and we went anyway. Turned out it did not rain a drop on us. We camped on a huge sand bar under a near full moon. We walked the kids and dog (ours) around the one hard rapid on the Hudson. Only thing wrong was the fishing was nonexistent. Next day on the Broad we removed th dog, the gear and the children, and picked up a hast of people whose names I never did get down. Some I remember were Pat Beach and Rudy Swigert, who had just emerged from a course George Neill had worked on for Cobb Cty. Ted Maloof was soloing for the first time. There was a guy in a K1 who knew the river well. It was only my 2nd time on it, and it helped, since my memory isn't that great. There were three other tandems, a man named Charlie and a blond girl, a man with teen son, who electrified us all by running the falls backward, as a bush they were holding peeled off through the bowman's fingers, and making it! And there was another tandem of two guys. In general, a relatively inexperienced group of paddlers did a super job of getting down a relatively difficult river. One boat developed a fist sized hole about 100 yds above the take out bridge, but the hole was caused not by a mistake on the part of the paddlers, but merely by hitting a small but sharp rock with a boat that wasn't built for contact. It's amazing how Royalex has created a whole generation of canoeing "experts."

Norm Reynolds

UPPER TALLULAH RIVER: Sat., April 19, 1980; The Tallulah River flows out of the high mountains of Clay Co., N. C. and might be paddled as a very small stream for about 3 miles in the NE corner of Towns Co. As it enters Rabun Co. it cuts a beautiful, narrow gorge, falls 250' in a mile, and is paralleled by a gravel road from which a spectacular view can be had. We put in at the bridge at the end of the gorge and paddled 6 2/3 miles to a point at the head of Lake Burton, the first of five downstream impoundments which now rob us of further flow between that point and the confluence with the Chatooga at Lake Tugaloo. (There is a small amount of water with no appreciable gradient flowing between a few of the lakes. Also the waters of Tiger Creek cover most of the river bed along Hwy 441 between Lake Rabun and Tallulah Falls Lake along the "Lower Tallulah," which seldom has enough water in it for a very interesting run but can be combined with a section of Tiger Creek for a fun run at high water levels.) The first mile of the run is very constricted, falls at 45'/mile, cuts through steep, rocky banks shaded by lush rhododendron, and is closely followed by a gravel road, along which are scattered numerous waterfront Forest Service tent camping sites. Here tight maneuvering was required, particularly through a narrow class III chute through large boulders and at a nasty 3' drop at the end of the first mile. Several of our party took very cool swims in the crystalline mountain water, much to the delight of scores of curious trout fishermen. After the first mile and just before the river leaves the Tate City Rd. its gradient becomes an average of 25'/mi. with the river falling through class I and II rapids for the rest of the trip. There are some farm houses and pastures, particularly in the second half of the trip, as the graveled, Tallulah River Rd. parallels the river in this part of the run. Much of this section is flanked by gently sloping hardwood forests and copious mountain laurel. There is a partially washed out bridge at mile 4 which must and can easily be portaged on the left. We encountered no other hazards, and all had fine runs in this last 5 1/2 miles. We had a mostly sunny and warm day and plenty of water. The gauge at the last bridge near the take-out read 3.22, a medium level. The Upper Tallulah is a lovely run which I would guess would have water during the winter, spring and early summer of most years and would be runnable at the same times as Section II of the Chatooga. For those camping and paddling near Clayton the Upper Tallulah could be paired with Section II, which is somewhat less difficult, in a weekend. I would rate it as a Junior Intermediate stream roughly equal in difficulty to Mountaintown or Talking Rock Creeks. It might also be paired with the nearby Upper Soque.

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta take Hwy 197 to Hwy 76, 25 miles north of Clarkesville. Go east (right) 3 1/2 mi., crossing Lake Burton, to the first paved left, which is off Hwy 76 about 7 mi. west of Hwy 441 at Clayton. Go 2 mi. to Blalock and turn left at the first gravel rd., which leads to the take out at the first bridge and gauge. (We kept bearing left here to take out 2/3 mi. further at the head of the lake. Little is missed if one exits at the gauge.) To reach the put in, go back to the pavement, turn left (north) & go 2 1/2 mi. to the 2nd gravel rd. to the left at the Forest Service's Tallulah River Park sign. One can put in anywhere when one gets to the river 1/2 mi. down this rd. Some of our less experienced members put in below the class III. Most of the party started at the second bridge, about 1/2 mile above the Coleman River confluence, just below several class VI rapids in the gorge. This area affords some excellent camping and hiking in the Coleman River Scenic Area.

Participants (first GCA trip on the Upper Tallulah): Brooke Brower and Barclay Fouts in K-1; James Lucas & Nancy Barker in C-1; John & Tee Brower and Wendy & Mike Fraser in tandem opens; Polly Heyward, Russ Koester, Richard Cole, John Lucas, Ben Fouts, Les Davenport and I in solo opens. - Roger Nott (Exploration Chairman)

Now that our editor and some of our more intelligent paddlers have brought to our attention that sophisticated hullforms can be created with fiberglass type materials, you might be interested in knowing that I have in my yard 17 different open canoe models- some of them quite enjoyable to paddle. We also stock paddles and P.F.D.'s and usually have upwards of fifty paddles in stock from Kevlar 49 to all wood construction. We sell this stuff, but mainly deal with it for the joy of handling quality equipment and supporting the sport/art form. Decked boat people may not understand this.

Last week we paddled, for the fifth time, the Buffalo National River thru the Arkansas Ozarks. The trip, as we usually do it, from Ponca to Norfolk on the White River is 148 miles and can be done easily in 6-6 1/2 days. The upper section, Ponca to Pruitt, cannot usually be run past June 1 due to low water. It is a beautiful trip with clear water and bluffs to 525 feet. Although it cannot be called a wilderness trip, there are many miles with no signs of civilization's impact. I would be glad to assist anyone planning a trip to BNR and probably have most of the data needed readily at hand. Ike Maxwell 404-324-3515.