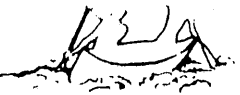


# GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.



P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

September, 1980

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15, No.9

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 15th. Submit material to Gary DeBacher, CFM, 1441 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30322. 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 conservation clippings.

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF SEPTEMBER AT 7:30 PM, AT THE GEORGIA CONSERVANCY HEADQUARTERS.

## TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6	Ocoee class III-IV	George Neill	294-9736
7	Upper Hooch class II-III	Dennis Abernathy	W:422-7230; H:1-967-6124
9 & 10	Army Corps of Engineers public meetings on the proposed Chattahoochee River Reregulation Dam. See announcement elsewhere in this issue.		
13	ETOWAH CLEANUP TRIP	SEE ANNOUNCEMENT BELOW	
13	Cartecay class II-III	Mark & Sue Levine	926-8683
14	Nantahala class II-III*	Alan Simons	W:449-4266; H:476-5458
20	Chattooga III class III-IV	Stan Landers	876-6160
20	Hiwassee class II+	Polly Heyward	237-4503
21	Chattooga III class III-IV	Allen Lewis	469-6319
21	Chattooga IV class III-V	Roger Nott	1-536-6923
27	Wild card class III	Steve Hoberg	633-4609
28	Metro Hooch training session	Gary DeBacher	634-4651 See announcement elsewhere in this issue.
28	Ocoee class III-IV	Peter Elkon	373-7535

\*At this time of year, prospective Nantahala paddlers should check in advance before driving to Wesser; the river may be "shut down" while the power tunnel is being inspected and serviced. Or, they may not be running water on weekends because they don't have enough. -Ed.

ETOWAH CLEANUP TRIP-- Saturday, September 13; meet at the hwy 19 put-in at 10 AM. Bring two or three plastic garbage bags per boat. This is a good chance to demonstrate our care for the rivers and to rid one of our favorite streams of accumulated trash. Let's have a good turnout. The GCA executive board is considering a request by the Georgia Conservancy to use our club mailing list to send information on its conservation workshops. If you wish to preserve the sanctity of your mailbox, now is the time to complain.

THIS IS IT!! Public Meeting on the Chattahoochee River Reregulation Dam. The Corps announcement says "Plan A provides for the construction of a 4,100 acre-foot reregulation reservoir extending from Buford Dam downstream some 6.3 miles. Plan A is the plan selected by the Executive Group as the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will not necessarily be the final selected plan, however. The public meetings provide an opportunity for concerned citizens to express their support or opposition to the preferred plan or to bring to light information that may not have been considered by the study group." And that's that - the Corps will not be discussing Plan B which is essentially continued operation as is - it does NOT involve raising Lake Lanier.

WHERE AND WHEN: Gainesville Ga, September 9 at 7:30 PM at Holiday Hall, Holiday Inn, 726 Broad St., SW; Atlanta, Ga. September 10 at 7:30 PM at Holiday Hall, Holiday Inn, 175 Piedmont Avenue. Please plan to attend the meeting whether or not you plan to speak - lets show that we are interested. For more information call Nancy Wylie H: 256-1172; Office 881-2283. or read article in last month's newsletter.

More on the above: Changes in the pattern of flow during the day may have a significant effect on recreation. Specifically, flow rates during the day may be increased. This could mean that the shoals below Powers Ferry would be substantially washed out at times when many of us are accustomed to use them to practice eddy turns, etc. Trout fishermen may be unable to wade safely in the higher flows. An increased sediment load could have a bad effect on the fish. Whether the different flow pattern would be easier or harder on streamside vegetation is hard to predict. Even though we may not get an artificial slalom course if no re-reg reservoir is built, there are many reasons to consider opposing this project, not the least of which is the bad precedent of an ugly reservoir being built in National Park boundaries.

Those who want to be better prepared for the big meeting on the 9th and 10th may wish to sit in on the Citizen's Task Force meeting on September 2nd, Ramada Inn North, Shallowford Rd. & I-85, at 7 PM in the white building behind the main motel. --Ed.

Ocoee River Trip - August 2, 1980 - Hank and David Klausman, trip leaders

GCA paddlers are really looking good. David and I were just back from Colorado where we ran the flooded Arkansas, Roaring Fork, and Colorado at Glenwood Springs with some real hot dogs like Roger Paris, but our GCA group looked just as good on the Ocoee. We had 6 Opens and 8 Decked boats registered, and everyone showed up. The water was low, about 1000 cfs, but we had some interesting times, and just about everyone on the trip had their own special experience:

Jim Farr in an open boat kept jumping out to cool off or pouring water on himself. He ran most rapids so clean, only used his bailer to cool off. Roger Nott with his weird bow and stern only flotation ran every thing clean as usual. He is the most steady open boater I know, but we must get him to surf some holes more. David Bitler was in his open boat which is a battered survivor of his attempt to run Sope Creek in Atlanta. David said he doesn't plan to try Sope Creek again. George Neill has become a real expert open boater since he first joined GCA. He surfed the hole at Hero's Right/Turkey's Left and the one at Eight Ball (Diamond Splitter). Oren Mann and his brother in law from Florida were each in opens, and both did great. The brother in law did get knocked out of his boat when he collided with a K-1 (I think it was Jim Barrows). Boat and swimmer ran next little drop separately, then paddler climbed into boat to find little or no water inside.

The decked boaters included Sally Burn in a funny boat with only one blade on her paddle. But she ran the Ocoee clean for the first time. She kept saying that if she flipped in Tablesaw she would not try to roll, but we kept fussing at her to try. Didn't need to, as she ran every thing upright, even through Splice and Dice on left side. Scott Simmerman in K-1 has become a very aggressive paddler. He jumped into most holes and rolled several times. Jim Barrows was very steady, except for being run over by open boat, but he managed to stay up. Wayne Sawyer, a new GCA'er took several swims because he is not convinced there is no difference between a river roll and a pool roll. At Tablesaw, he rolled at bottom, but got knocked over again and took another swim, but I hope it proved to him that he could come up. John Martin, our youngest paddler at 16 or 17, really impressed us. He had never paddled Ocoee, but said he had a "blast proof" roll. I put him with my David who talked him into jumping into the hole at Eight Ball. John got flipped up stream and his paddle was torn out of his hands and kept in the hole. John washed out, and on the second try ROLLED UP WITHOUT HIS PADDLE. The paddle could not be seen, but we thought it was in the hole. George Neill put his open into the hole, but nothing happened. Then Tom Delaney put his K-1 in, flipped over and rolled up still in the hole, but with two paddles. Modest Tom said he did not do this on purpose, but John does owe him the price of one Mitchell paddle. David and I had a fine time in K-1's. David kept trying to pop up everywhere and managed to blow out both front seams on his Kevlar boat. I was wise enough to use my plastic pig Mirage, and was able to get about the best pop up (almost ender) of my career in the Witches Hole or Hell Hole above the bridge. I hope everyone had as fine a time as I did. Hank Klausman

METRO HOCH TRAINING SUPPLEMENT. The beginners' training session in August went tolerably well, in spite of the fact that we had too much water on the Metro Hooch Saturday, washing out the best series of eddies, and too little water on the Middle Chestatee Sunday. All the trainees tried real hard to learn everything asked of them, and the highlight of the trip was watching most of them try the more difficult class III route through "Blasted Rocks" on Sunday. Everyone made it, and several had better runs than I did. Our thanks to instructors Norm Reynolds (aided by daughters), Beth and Roger Nott, Owen Bergen, and David Stubbs. David actually didn't have any kayaks to instruct on Sunday. The only one to show up disappeared mysteriously on the way to the river.

Since I had charge of the solo opens, I had a chance to observe again the great difficulty which beginners so boated have in learning to move the boat efficiently in a straight line. This is a difficult skill to demonstrate or explain, but so much else--- ferrying, charging at eddies properly, etc.--- depends on it. If you are planning to get started in solo open, I would suggest that you first paddle stern for a couple of sessions in a tandem, concentrating on the J stroke. This will make it much easier for you to learn the C-stroke when paddling solo. Before showing up for your first solo training session, take your boat over to Stone Mountain Lake on a couple of evenings and just practice straight line paddling until you get the hang of it. This will save you a world of trouble when trying to learn the other skills.

Back to the topic at hand. Because I feel that most of our trainees did not get a chance to practice eddy turns and ferrying under optimum conditions, I am tentatively scheduling a supplementary training session on the Metro Hooch on the afternoon of Sunday the 28th of September. This is primarily for the people who took the August training session, but if you give me a good reason and I have enough room, I may include others who need similar practice. Expect to work your arms off. Please call me well in advance at 634-4651 if you are planning to attend. ---Gary DeBacher

CANOE TRAILER FOR SALE. Carries six canoes; shallow shelves for small gear below. Old, but good condition. \$300. Call Williams, 452-0545

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. Wildwater Ltd. needs a river guide to serve out the remainder of the season, until October 15. Paddling skill is not necessary--- they will train you--- but you must have certification in a comprehensive first aid course. They are also planning to hire some guides for weekends only. If you are interested, call Barry Dombro at 1-803-647-5336.

FOR SALE: Bill Crowley built C-1, float bags & spray skirt included, all in good condition for \$250.00. Dick Rekau at (404) 953-0625 (O) or 451-4598 (H).

FOR SALE---CANOE TRAILER. Rack holds eight boats, good condition. \$225.00 Call Jerry Holladay, Office 688-8970; home 688-1842

FOR SALE: PERCEPTION CANOE, YELLOW ABS NANTAHALA MODEL, BRAND NEW! \$550. CALL DICK TURNER 475-4220

BROAD RIVER - August 2: The Broad River, sentimental to some of us who officially began paddling on its waters, provided its usual delightful trip. The day was sunny, with temperatures in the mid 90s, and the water was quite low. However, the entire river could be run clear. Lunch Boulder lived up to its name. Following the last canoe came a four-foot snake, which swam across the channel to the opposite shore with "lunch" in its mouth--a six-inch fish. We surfed at Lunch Boulder and at the island (despite Gary DeBacher's frightening experience)\*. Paddling solo were Polly Heyward, Carlton Shuford, Nancy Parker, Phil Daniel and Bronwyn Fowlkes (plus Tommy and Park). Tandem paddlers included Rich and Lori Cole and beginners (who did quite well) Sylvia Crawford and Memmon Thunderbark.--Russ Koester, trip leader.

\*Who was it that said that those who will not learn from history are condemned to repeat it?? The ledges that snagged my leg are still there, and if it happens to someone else, that person may not be so lucky as to get loose. I just can't understand anyone surfing in a place which is known to contain such a dangerous hazard. The only mitigating circumstance is that my entrapment occurred when the water level was high and the current moderately strong. At more typical summer levels, those ledges are closer to the surface, but may not trap a leg so solidly.  
--Ed.

Nantahala, Sunday, July 20

A large group of 18 people with 13 boats showed up for this Nantahala trip. Most of this group had driven over Saturday after a run down the Hiwassee River. We met at the put in at 10:00 Sunday morning and watched a large crowd gather as we waited for our shuttle and for the water to be "turned on". Finally, at about 11:00, the water was released and we eagerly prepared. Among our group were several new comers to the Nantahala so our run promised to be interesting as we put in at 11:30.

There were three tandem boats with first time paddlers in the bow. First timer Dennis Latimer and his partner, Russ Koester had a clean run thanks to a great low brace by Russ in the falls. First timer Chris Mullholland and his partner Don Simmons, bailed their way down the river in an Old Towne Tripper. First timer Karen Fierke and her partner Bobby Vassey had a fine run in spite of a spill in the falls.

Other tandem couples were Mike and Wendy Fraser and Richard and Lori Cole none of which had ever run the Nantahala before. Mike and Wendy had only one spill surfing a rapid and although they took on a boat full of water, had a successful run through the falls. Richard and Lori weren't quite so lucky in the falls but otherwise had a fine run.

Also first timers on the Nantahala were Walt Sanborn, Jr. and Sr. paddling K1's. They disappeared from our group just below Delobar's Rock and it wasn't until Gorgorama Park that we saw them again. The Sanborn's are very capable paddlers so I wasn't worried about them being alone on an unfamiliar river. Bran Proctor was also paddling the Nantahala for the first time and had an excellent run in a C1 open. He had a clean run highlighted by a backward run through the falls sandwiched between two rafts. Way to go Bran!

Newcomers to the GCA, Bob Hardy and John Jackson, from Elbert Co. joined us both in C1 opens. Bob enjoyed a clean run while John's red Mohawk ran the falls without him. Also paddling C1 open was Alan Simons in his brand new Pathfinder. Last but not least, paddling C1 opens were Susan and myself.

The river was crowded and the day was hot, but I'm sure that all will agree that this was an enjoyable day on a very fun river. Mark Levine

THE RAFTING EXPERIENCE. Still too lame to kneel in my C-1, I recently broke down and ran the Ocoee twice in a rubber raft. Though I've been running rivers in one sort of craft or another since 1960, this was my first-ever trip on any inflatable larger than an inner tube.

The trip was organized by a friend who had access to a Campways Hopi, a fairly stiff and substantial 6 man whitewater raft similar to what the commercial outfits are using. Since it was Tuesday, the Ocoee was running about 1600 cfs and was very uncrowded. Two C-1's and a solo open ran with us, accounting for three of our group, so we had just four to man the raft on our first run, and three on the second. Being the one in the raft who was largest and also most familiar with the river, I got to sit in the stern, which, let me tell you, is the place to be on a lightly loaded raft. Through rapids like Double Trouble, the stern steersman flies up and down over about a six foot range, and must keep his big feet wedged under a thwart to avoid being flung out. Surprisingly to me, it is not too hard to cook up enough teamwork to make the raft go where you want it to, which in the case of Powerhouse Rapid, was the chicken route to the right of Hell Hole. Our most thrilling and anxious moment came when we ran Heroes in the afternoon with just three in the raft. We got stuck in the hole, and while I hung my body as far downstream as possible to try to drag us out, the two paddlers in the bow started scrambling back away from the mouth of the hole to help. After a couple of minutes, we managed to get loose, loaded with water.

Anyway, I enjoyed it about as much as I have making the same run in a C-1, and would suggest again that those of you who are never going to get around to running the Ocoee or Section IV in your own boats should consider a raft run. If you join a commercial trip, try to run together with some friends-- you'll have much more fun than if you are just another customer on your own. ---Gary DeBacher

# SAFETY

safe ty, 1 sē'ti; 2 sē'ti, n. [-rēs, 1-tēz, p.] The state or condition of being safe. (1) Freedom from danger or risk. (2) Freedom from injury.  
In canoeing, as in any such sport, "freedom from" may not be a realistic aim. This column is dedicated then, to reduction of danger or risk of injury.

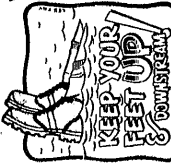
It may be the

## EXCEPTION TO THE RULE that saves your life!

We've been hearing (and repeating and practicing) "keep your feet up and downstream" for as long as we've been involved in whitewater paddling. It's seen us through many a tough spot. It's helped us avoid coming face to face with that menacing killer, foot entrapment.

Because of 76 issues we did a piece on the "feet up" rule on the last issue. It illustrated how tragedy strikes. Since that time each issue of Coastal CANEWS has carried this reminder. The burden of the message has consistently been DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STAND IN RAPIDS UNLESS YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO.

However, we must recognize that there are situations in which floating on one's back, even with feet high and downstream, is not the preferred posture. Before someone concludes that a rule is a rule and kills himself trying to obey it, we'd better get on the record quickly with a few exceptions:



If you're headed for a dam or falls or a bigger-than-all-outdoors hole, you'd dam well better roll over in your best freestyle position and swim out of there. Head upstream at a slight angle to the current and be no worse off for having tried.

In approaching a layer of ice, following the rule could get you into this position—and it may be a considerable distance to the next air hole.

Your chances would be greatly improved if you could pull your torso and throw your legs against the current. Could be a surge of effort. Could be a tangle of branches. —arms forward.

There may be other exceptions to the rule which don't come immediately to mind. The important thing is to think your way through a situation. Anticipate the next probable event and whatever you're on your back or your chest, whether your feet are headed downstream, UP OR DOWN, TO SPAN IN MOVING WATER UNLESS IT'S TOO SHALLOW TO SWIM. But NEVER ATTEMPT to stand in rapids unless you have the skill, the strength, the experience and conditions exist that make the odds in your favor. That can come only from considerable experience and years of very keen observation.

BOOK REVIEW-- The Obed/Emory Watershed by Monte D. Smith, copyright 1980 by Rucker Associates and Monte Smith. Can be obtained by sending \$7.95 to Rucker Associates, P.O. Box 121335, Nashville Tenn. 37212.

One of the more reliable methods of getting a book reviewed is to send a free copy to the reviewer. When I received a copy of this guidebook in the mail from Monte Smith, I spent an enjoyable evening reading it from cover to cover, not just because I have always had a special fondness for streams in the physiographic region known as the Cumberland Plateau (of which Little River Canyon is the nearest instance), and not because the guidebook is exceptionally well thought out and organized, but rather because it is liberally salted with tales of those mythic heroes and characters whose misdeeds have graced so many issues of the TSRA newsletter, men like Dick Wooten, Norman "Foolishcats" Knight and the notorious Eugene "Bo" Rucker. Without departing from the limits of friendly kidding, the author nevertheless leaves the impression that if Rucker should ever quit TSRA and join the Tennessee congressional delegation, the average IQ of both groups would increase significantly.

There are great advantages to focusing a guidebook on a particular watershed within one physiographic region, rather than adhering to arbitrary boundaries like state lines. In this case, Smith describes 18 runs of widely varying difficulty, no less than 142 miles of canoeable streams within the Emory/Obed watersheds with rapids of at least class II difficulty. He devotes entire chapters to helping the reader learn how to understand water levels, river gradient and difficulty of rapids within this one region. Thus the reader can predict the water level on any of the 18 runs with a fair degree of confidence by calling TVA for the current reading on the Oakdale gauge, located on the Emory river. One can decide whether a particular run is within his competence by consulting a chapter with comparative ratings of the difficulty of well-known southeastern rapids like Lesser Wesser and Corkscrew and the "name" rapids of the Emory/Obed system. My only serious difference with his ratings is that, as author of 101 Wrong Ways to Run Dick's Creek Ledge, I cannot agree to his calling it an easy Class III. I also suspect that the author may be a little more free than I am with the appellation "expert" paddler. For example, he suggests that the minimum skill level for a run on Daddy's Creek Canyon is "expert," and compares the difficulty of the run with that of section IV of the Chattooga. I know several paddlers who have had good runs on both streams at various water levels and would never refer to themselves as experts. This is a minor point, however, since the numerical ratings of stream difficulty should leave the reader able to make sensible decisions. The most sensible decision would be to read the guidebook and then make your first runs in the company of TSRA paddlers who know these rivers. Guidebooks do not replace knowledgeable companions.

The book includes a number of black and white photos, from which one gathers that, in the minds of many Tennesseans, the word "block" does not mean boat flotation, but something altogether different, perhaps the makings of a platform for one's inoperative cars, as in the well-known observation that a rich man in Tennessee is one who has three cars up on blocks. Or it may be that there is a severe regional shortage of styrofoam bead block, caused by the enormous demand for dock flotation material on the many TVA-created lakes in Tennessee. And perhaps truly expert open boat paddlers scorn float blocks. But this is all idle speculation. As an example, in the guidebook, we read how Dick Wooten, blockless as usual, saw his boat disappear entirely in Rockgarden, pried it loose from the nether regions with a log, straightened its bent-double form, and ran most of the remaining rapids standing up. This must be a staple of TSRA river comedy, for I have seen him do the same thing on the Ocoee, and others have caught the Wooten Show with only minor variations on section IV of the Chattooga.

All kidding aside, this compact little volume, which will fit neatly in the glove compartment of your car, includes everything you could conceivably need to know in order to plan trips on the Obed/Emory system, and takes its place among the very best-written of river guides. ---Ed.

From GCA member Steve Cantrell: "I would like to give a big 'Thank you' to George Neill who was leading a trip on Chattooga III on the 26th of July. I had some friends on the river just ahead of the GCA group. One of them slipped on a rock at the Narrows and cut his knee vevry badly. We had a first aid kit, but lacked the skill which George supplied to fix the knee so we could get him out of the woods.

We could not make the tape stick to the knee sufficiently to weather the trip out of the area. George dressed the wound and then used an Ace bandage to cover and protect the dressing. It provided flexibility also. A great idea!"

Ace bandage can come in real handy in such situations. Just remember not to wrap too tight, and check later to see if swelling requires an adjustment. --Ed.