GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. Box 7023, Atlanta, Georgia 30357

August, 1982 NEWSLETTER Vol. 17,No.7

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 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.

WANT AD POLICY: Ads are "free" for GCA members selling **used** equipment only. For non-members, or for GCA members selling **new** equipment, there is a 5 dollar charge. The editor does not take want ads over the phone; please type it up and send it to the above address.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? Contact the GCA membership chairperson, who currently is Oreon Mann, 100 Waverly Way NE, Atlanta, GA 30307; phone 522-3469. The newsletter editor does such a rotten job at handling subscription problems that you are better off not working with him at all.

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM, AT THE GEORGIA CONSERVANCY HEADQUARTERS, 3110 Maple Drive NE in Atlanta, near the intersection of Piedmont and Peachtree. Members and interested persons are welcome to attend. However, if you wish to submit any matters for discussion or vote, please call the president or vice president before the meeting so they can plan time on the agenda.

ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS- HOW TO BE SURE YOURS GETS PRINTED. First, type it in a compact format, single-spaced, border to border (zero margins) across the width of 8 1/2 by 11 paper. (However, if typing is not feasible or if your typewriter doesn't produce clear copy, then double-space and send in a little early so I have time to retype.) Second, make the length fit the content. A good conservation or safety article, or a really unusual trip report, might merit several pages, but a race announcement should not run over 10 lines. Third, if your article or announcement is controversial, outrageous, or apparently irrelevant, call the editor at home (634-4651) and discuss it first. Fourth, adhere to the copy deadline, the 15th of the month. Fifth, send copy to the editor's work address, CRM, 1441 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30322.

TRIP SCHEDULE:

Every Wednesday evening in August: Evening trips on Metro Hooch, Powers Ferry to hwy 41. For the trip on Aug. 4, call Laura Jordan at 233-7924 (H) or at 526-5101 (W). For the remaining Wednesdays in August, call George Neill at 627-9829 (H) or at 482-2951 (W).

	31	Wild Card class III	Steve Holberg	633-4609
Aug.	1	Wild Card class III	Ernie Mancill	955-0622(H); 455-9301(W)
	7	Hiwassee class II+	Jimmy Gunter	H:998-8091 W:993-9372
	8	Etowah class I-II	Laura Jordan	H: 233-7294 W: 526-5101
	14	Ocoee River Festival		
	14	Ocoee Class III-IV	Oreon Mann	H: 522-3469 W: 656-3810
	14-15	BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE TRAINING SESSION. SEE ANNOUNCEMENT BELOW.		
	15	Chattooga III class 3-4	Hugh Stubbs	952-4926
	16-17-18	National decked boat slalom on Ocoee River		
	21	Coosawattee River Cleanup-- see announcement page 2. Gary DeBacher,634-4651		
	21	Chattooga section IV class 3-5	Don and Bettina George	1-787-9548
	22	Hiwassee class 2 +	Jimmy Gunter	998-8091
	28	Chattooga sect. IV class 3-5	Roger Nott	H:1-536-6923 W:1-532-5410
	29	Upper Hooch class 2-3	Britt Harriss	H:522-5977 W:252-3370

Our cruisemaster is Jerry Holladay, and he's always glad to hear from people volunteering to lead trips. Call him at 688-1842.

Peter Elkon is impromptu trip chairperson. Call him if you're trying to get a trip together for the weekend, or hoping to join one.

GCA MEMBER GENE WILKES KILLED ON ARKANSAS RIVER IN COLORADO. With deep regret I must inform those of you who have not heard already, that Gene was drowned while kayaking a difficult stretch of the Arkansas a couple of weekends ago. At present I have too few details about the incident to form even a partial account. I know you will want to keep Linda Wilkes in your thoughts and prayers. She was present on the bank at the time of the tragedy. In dealing with her loss, Linda wants to keep some distance from the whole subject of whitewater, and I'm sure you will respect her wishes.

One of the best known and liked of all our members, Gene was also the unofficial club artist, contributing a number of fine drawings and cartoons. The last piece of work he did for us was the new GCA logo which appeared on the cover of the 1982 membership directory. ---Ed.

TRAINING CLINIC FOR BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATES-- AUGUST 14 AND 15. This clinic is for open solo and tandem canoes, and for kayaks and even C-1's if enough of the latter express interest. Intermediates (by which we mean paddlers who can run the Upper Hooch comfortably and with a modicum of grace) will paddle on the Nantahala both days. All beginners must attend a mandatory classroom session on Wednesday evening the 11th. Beginners will start out on the Little Tennessee Saturday, and run the Nantahala on Sunday. Group camping will be arranged in the Nantahala gorge area. The cost of the clinic is $15 for GCA members, and $25 for non-members, of which $10 will be applied to enroll the latter as members.

To register or for more information, call George Neill at home (627-9829) or at work (482-2951). No calls after 10 PM, and please don't call George at the office number unless you cannot reach him at home. Please call early--- the number in each clinic will be limited.

COOSAWATTEE CLEANUP TRIP AUGUST 21. At the suggestion of Bill Dean, a GCA member who has a place at Beaver Lake Estates, a little ways off one bend of the Coosawattee below Ellijay, GCA members are invited to paddle the Coosawattee, a really nice big river which isn't scheduled often, and pick up some of the litter along the banks. Some possible inducements: Trucks will be sent to pickup points for the trash, so you won't have to t is low, we may shorten the trip by putting in at the Estates, leaving just the most interesting part of the river. And Dean thinks he can tow us across Carters Lake to the takeout with a powerboat. Gilmer County is cooperating in this venture, so it would be nice to have a good turnout. To check on final details and volunteer, call Gary DeBacher at 634-4651.

DESECRATION AT SMITH ISLAND. To most GCA members, Smith Island on the Upper Chattahoochee is something of a landmark, a nice place to look at, and a convenient place to bail after running the narrow class II+ to the island's left. When I first ran that rapid in 1974, it looked worse than Corkscrew to my untrained eye. The last time I ran it, the rapid had mysteriously lengthened into a series of pleasant little pools punctuated by nice little drops.

In recent years DEVELOPMENT began to head its ugly rear in the environs up and downstream of Smith Island, but right at that spot, the only change worth noting was a pleasant looking A-frame chalet up the left bank, put up by Fort Rabb, who later became a GCA member. He sold it to a Mr. Miller who continued to act as a good steward for his piece of land. Unfortunately, Miller did not own the island. It was a part of an upstream parcel of land which was recently leased to a man who decided to put some commercial campsites in.

So recently I got a call from a woman who had led a party of pre-teen canoeists down to Smith Island, only to find that all sorts of dirt, rocks and trash had been shoved out from the left bank, blocking the usual approach to the island's left. As you know, the rapid right of the island can only be run at higher levels, and isn't safe for most paddlers running this section anyway. Some trees on the island had also been cut down. I believe the woman knew Mr. Miller already; at any rate, she soon learned of his valiant efforts to stop the desecration of Smith Island, and enlisted the help of others to try and help.

Mr. Miller had called the Army Corps of Engineers, who control dredging and filling of interior waterways, and also the Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. A man from the Corps office in Mobile arrived first. Doubtless he found the effects of the bulldozer inspiring, but he said to Mr. Miller that as he estimated an average flow of less than 5 cfs was passing left of the island, the lessor was free to block the passage with anything he chose, even old car bodies. Next came a woman from the EPA. She estimated a much higher flow of around 30 cfs and said that the Corps should have stopped the work. The last I heard, DNR hadn't come out at all. Mr. Miller finally got some action from the local county constabulary, who convinced the lessor to do less with his bulldozer for the time being.

Probably the immediate issue will be settled by whatever passes for land use planning up there. We shouldn't assume that the person trying to put campsites on Smith Island is a country cousin of James Watt. Probably he has some beautiful vision in his head of an alabaster bridge arching from the left bank to the head of the island; perhaps just a pedestrian bridge, incapable of carrying Winnebagos. Maybe he isn't hostile to paddlers, and will be quite content to have them run the rapid however they can. This isn't a river rights issue yet. But it sure makes clear what some of us had been shouting already, that you can't treat a river like just another parcel of real estate. Something in what philosophers used to call Natural Law says that no one man or little group can ever really own a river. It either belongs to all of us, or to none of us, and we all share responsibility for what is done with it.

At the next GCA Board Meeting, I'm sure we'll discuss what to do about this situation. Government agencies at all levels, especially the Corps of Engineers and Joe Tanner at DNR, need to hear from us that they are continuously derelict in their duty to protect our rivers. If the Corps did a reasonable job of just living up to its legal mandate, a lot of silt- producing development could be prevented, and their expensive reservoirs wouldn't fill up with mud so soon. DNR is usually laying low to avoid upsetting a private property conscious state legislature. They lay so low most of the time that they don't even promulgate any suggested guidelines for wise development around rivers.

It shouldn't always be necessary to buy a river to preserve it. But until we get our elected and appointed officials to develop some viable alternatives, we'll always be buying too little, too late. --Ed.

FIRST (AND I HOPE THE LAST) CORRECTION TO THE 1982 GCA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:

Eileen Lange (Stacy)
5493 Covent Way
Lithonia, GA 30058
H: 981-0965

FOOTLOOSE ALONG THE MIDDLE JACKS AND THE LOWER UPPER CONASAUGA

Recently I hiked into the Cohutta Wilderness at Penitentiary Gap to complete my survey of the Jacks River. Since the official trail short-cuts a couple of loops of the river upstream of Jacks Falls, I had to resort to wading and rock-hopping. The upper loop was staightforward enough; in fact there is a good unofficial trail along the old narrow gauge railroad bed. The lower loop was a good deal rougher, and included two pretty decent waterfalls. This loop also passes the mouth of a creek which is a kind of gateway to the "uncharted" northeast corner of the Cohutta Wilderness, an area without any maintained trails other than the perimeter ridgetop trail over Frog Mountain. Walking up the creek a ways, I discovered that it is not all that uncharted. Clearly the railway once passed this way also, and while there were few campsites, there was evidence of recent visitation. If there are any truly secret places in Georgia, I've yet to find them.

A couple of days later I hiked down to the lower upper Conasauga. You will gather from a trip report elsewhere by Hank Klausman that a few of us fools have been running the lower upper Conasauga. With a watershed area of only 20 square miles and a steep gradient, it has enough water to be properly runnable on perhaps only 20 or so unpredictable days in the year. Hank submitted his report at least 3 years ago, maybe 4, but I censored it, because I knew that word gets around amongst advanced and expert paddlers without much help, and that publicity would just lead to some damn fools trying to run the section who didn't belong on anything so difficult.

As you know, I have a thing about guidebooks. Sure enough, when Sehlinger and Otey published theirs on N. Georgia, they included the upper Conasauga and even (blanch) Overflow Creek. So the word has been out for a while and the damnfools are flocking to their demise.

Boaters access the runnable section at Chicken Coop Gap, where a gravel road passes near the river above a slope so steep that if it weren't for the trees, you could just about climb in your boat at roadside and otter-slide your way an eighth of a mile down to the river. But don't try it. As I drove down the road in July, I wasn't too surprised to see a green VW Rabbit parked at Chicken Coope with canoe racks on the roof. After all, I keep my racks on my car too. Presumably the party were hiking along the new USFS trail which runs along all but the last three miles of the lower upper Conasauga. There wasn't enough water for even many of the lesser rapids to be decently runnable, much less the bigger drops.

I planned to hike the lowest section, so I drove to Murray Lake, a primitive campground, or campground for local primitives, I've never decided which; and I soon found that the best way down to the river was straight down the bed of Murray Creek. Normally I don't recommend bushwhacking creeks in the Cohuttas; most are narrow, steep, and choked with rhododendron bushes. But Murray Creek is different, a real gem. I only hope the USFS has the sense to buy it while they have the chance. The creek bed consists of broad broken ledges, easily negotiated except during high runoff. Down toward the river they get steeper, but I had no serious trouble climbing down. On reaching the river I found I was just above the last class III rapid, and could see the pool below where the river breaks out of its gorge and into Alaculsy Valley. I turned to hike the three trail- less miles upstream to just below Hickory Creek, where the new USFS trail comes down from near Murray Lake. Nearly all the serious action in the 6 mile run from Chicken Coop Gap to the Alaculsy Valley occurs in these three miles.

I made reasonable progress along the old railroad bed, just slowed a little by having to dodge a lot of poison ivy. When I had covered about a third of a mile, I came to a strange sight: three dark green 16 foot Old Town canoes, sans float blocks and with inadequate gear suggesting they were being run tandem by not very experienced paddlers. There seemed to be nothing wrong with the boats; where were the paddlers? I couldn't have passed them on the way. The gorge is so narrow that you just can't miss six people. The boats were not parked near any obstacle, like a rapid which needed scouting. I figured they must have left some gear upstream, a camera or something, and had walked back to find it. There's a little thief in every one of us, and it did occur to me how easy it would be to paddle one of those nearly new boats out, hide it in the brush, and pick it up later. But the poor turkeys had probably suffered enough already, so I kept my thin veneer of civilization intact.

Continuing upstream, I was soon forced to take to the river bed. Still no paddlers, although I saw an occasional blue-green scrape on the rocks. The major drops were just plain not runnable, and even the intervening class II's had scarcely enough water to let a tandem boat blunder through. It got to raining pretty hard, and I took a hard fall (instant Karma, my wife would say) for trying to walk and chew gum at the same time. Rock hopping requires concentration, and even then you've got to expect some hard falls. Arguably this is one of those things which "responsible" folks don't do alone, but I felt a lot safer than any six turkeys blundering downstream in unblocked tandems.

Those of you who have run this section at proper water levels will recall the rooster- tail drop we portage in mid- run, the one where Sam McClesky tried to sneak left, only to find a "terminal" eddy? Well, the bad news first: the rock which creates the rooster tail is firmly welded to the surface of the planet. The good news is, it really isn't undercut and there isn't room to get pinned underwater. You'll just break both seams and both legs. A little portage never hurt anybody.

Still no paddlers. I wondered, had they gotten within half a mile of the end of the gorge, only to be forced to walk by darkness? Did they get so discouraged by dragging one drop after another, only to quit with just one class 3 left? I was never to find out. I located the trail head along a stretch of easy water reminiscent of the Etowah. The initial miles below Chicken Coop must have lulled some of the paddlers into thinking the trip would be a piece of cake.

As I walked the trail up out of the gorge, there was a helicopter cruising low somewhere upstream. Rescue mission? It veered up before coming into view. Later I asked at the store in Cisco whether they had heard of canoeists having to walk out of the gorge. No-- but there'd been a diving accident at the last pool a day or two before. A youngster had damaged his neck and bruised his spinal cord, but his motor function was returning rapidly, so he'd probably be OK. The store owner told me the mouth of the gorge is owned by a man in Atlanta who is tolerant of folks coming in to swim. Again, 'twould be a ggod idea for the USFS to buy that land before it passes to the hands of a developer with big ideas.

If the person with the green Rabbit and the three new canoes reads this and resents my calling him a turkey, let him answer these questions. Is it sporting to shoot ducks out of season? Do you trap trout in the shallows with a net? Then I guess it must be real canoeing to drag boats down the river bed in July. See you on the Ocoee, as you chase your boat from the bank. --Gary DeBacher

FOR SALE: HOLLOWFORM KAYAK, "RIVER CHASER" MEDIUM VOLUME POLYETHELENE. USED TWICE, $375 AS NEW. CONSIDER TRADE FOR CRUISER KAYAK LIKE PHOENIX APPALACHIAN OR VAGABOND. LOU ROSSWAAG. CALL 972-1351 OR 873-1074 AND LEAVE MESSAGE.

Another note on want ad policy: Dear Don. I hope you sell your Sears, but I haven't run your ad because you didn't include your full name. I don't mind leaving the last name out of an ad, if the seller has a reason, but I can't tell if you are a GCA member entitled to run free ads unless I know your name. Yours, Ed.

ETOWAH CLEAN-UP, Sun., June 20, 1982 - We had a beautiful day, rhododendron in full bloom and an enthusiastic crew. There was nothing like as much trash as we encountered 2 years ago, but we bagged and hauled out that that was there, keeping the aluminum cans separate partly to pay for the case of beer we broke out at the take-out. Again this year we cannot take credit for a great deal of cleaning at Castleberry Bridge; we could have spent the whole day there; by the time we got there we were too tired and thirsty to pick up the vast amount of trash there. Cleaning, paddling, swimming and drinking were: Mark Rhodes, Yasko Chanoki and Doug Kesler in K-1s; Richard Blews, Pat Keller, James McCay, and Bill Smith in OC-1s; Malcolm & Nancy Murphy, Mark & Heather Rucker, and Beth & I in tandem opens. - Roger Nott

UPPER CONASAUGA by Hank Klausman

A funny thing happened on the way to the Tellico on June 3. We ended up on the upper Conasauga. Three charter members of the Klausman Kamakazie Kanoe Klub - Jack Weems, Sam McClesky & I - were heading to the Tellico, but decided to check the "gage" (tree trunk with elbow) on the way at the upper Conasauga. We were delighted to find the water was touching the lower part of the elbow, which is decent water. As we were in one car to save fuel, we had to arrange shuttle with a nice local native, named Calvin Silvers, who drove us to put in. He lives on the river about a mile below the normal take out, so we just paddled to his house. He wouldn't let us pay him, so Jack gave him something more valuable than his money - some of his beer. After sliding down the class 5 hill to the put in, we started out on absolutely clear water, even though almost at flood level. The first mile or so of this 6 mile run is mostly class land 2, with short streches of flat water. But the river is never more than 2½ to 3 boats' lenght wide, so it is a very technical river with small eddies. Then the action picked up with class 3 and 3+ stuff right regular. A few of the rapids are close enough together so in combination and at a bit more water they could be called class 4 in my opinion. There is one rapid which is a big slide by an overhung rock with about a 6 foot drop where I decided to study the fish and even swim with them briefly. I believe that was the only time anyone flipped all day. There is another rapid called "launching pad" wherer the water goes over about a 6 foot drop directly onto a flat desk sized rock. It then rooster tails at least 6 feet into the air at this water level. Sam who hardly never portages ran this thing on the left down a very narrow chute and almost never got out of the violent eddy it threw him into. But by then we were laughing, as the real danger was hitting the launching pad rock if you go down the chute too far right or get turned sideways. There are about 4 miles of solid class 3 ledges and some are very close together. Be sure to always scout any of these you cannot see, as this river seems to always have a rock in the middle of each rapid, especiallyat the bottom. Then the rapids stop abruptly, but you are right at the take out. Very exciting and easily one of most beautiful rivers around, and we have movies to prove it

Anyone interested in a trip down the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande, Big Bend National Park, Texas in late September please call Richard or Joanie Cathey 934-3237.

River Rescue/Safety

The river rescue technique which follow are those which will be taught at the Nanthahala Outdoor Centers' River Rescue Workshop on May 1-3, 1981. Our thanks to Roger Fleming and Les Bechdel for putting together the diagrams and descriptions and to Dave Mason for passing on this information to us.

TYROLEAN SNATCH

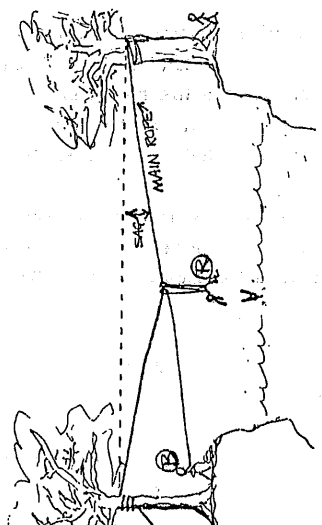


FIG. 1 - Main rope is anchored to one point (tree, rock, etc.) on far bank and wrapped around adjacent anchor point so that the person (A) belaying the main rope has the option of releasing tension on main rope in an emergency. Rescuer (R) is attached to the main rope by means of a Z-system, utilizing 3 carabiners (see Fig. 2). Person (B) belays the rescuer (R) so that the victim may be reached.

TYROLEAN SNATCH

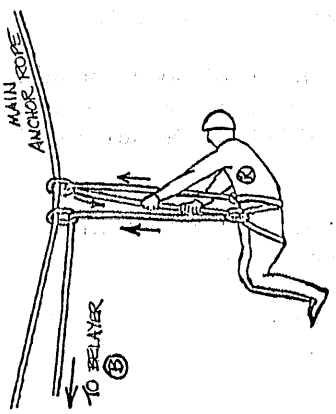


FIG. 2 - Shows rescuer (R) being hoisted with assistance from belayer

FIG. 2 - Shows rescuer (R) being hoisted with assistance from belayer (B). Conversly, (R) may be lowered by (B) to facilitate reaching victim. Note, this system depends heavily on (B) keeping (R) in the best position for helping victim, and also makes it possible for (B) to pull both (R) and victim toward shore when contact is made.

NPS PROPOSES TO CUT CRNRA IN HALF

The National Park Service (NPS) is now planning to reduce the size of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) to almost half the size authorized by Congress in 1978. This plan comes less than a year after public hearings on the draft General Management Plan when NPS's "Preferred Plan" was to keep the CRNRA exactly as proposed and authorized by Congress. In the fall of 1981 NPS stated that Alternative 1, an expanded, 12,000 acre park "best meets the requirements of the CRNRA's enabling legislation". NPS was, however, recommending the 6,300 acres suggested by Congress because of "current economic conditions".

In 1981 Georgia Canoeing Association adopted a position which supported expanding the CRNRA beyond the minimum authorized by Congress to the 12,000 acre park which NPS described as Alternative 1.

Now less than a year later, NPS is proposing to reduce the size of the park to almost half the size they "preferred" before. It would be reduced to almost a quarter the size of Alternative 1 which NPS described as the "optimum plan in terms of recreational opportunities and facilities, environmental interpretation, protection of significant resources and scenic quality ... developed with the assistance of property owners, conservation and user groups, ... through the Planning Assistance Committee." (Hank Klausman and Nancy Wylie represented GCA at the Committee meetings).

The current proposal would trade off 700 acres of land near Buford Dam for smaller amounts of land downstream. Many of these downstream areas would be "access points" - essentially parking lots - for rafting and other river uses. There would be a shift in emphasis from land-based recreation to water-based recreation, and an "intensification" of river use downstream of Morgan Falls.

At a public meeting on July 15 NPS said they were proposing the smaller park because of a shortage of funds. Many citizens pointed out that the three-year planning effort required by Congress was for the best Management Plan and that Congress (not NPS) should determine if the money were available. Citizens also objected to the reduction in park size, the intensification of recreational use downstream of Morgan Falls, the decrease in family recreation opportunity, as well as the loss of hiking trails and wooded areas. Wooded areas would be replaced by concessionaire/parking areas such as are now at Johnson Ferry.

NPS should hear your views on this new proposal. Please write Robert M. Baker, National Park Service, 75 Spring Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303 (And send a copy to your Congressmen).

GCA MEETING ON RIVER ISSUES IN GEORGIA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 7:30 PM, Georgia Conservancy Library - 3110 Maple Drive, Atlanta. The Executive Committee agreed at its last meeting to write letters and follow developments on the following issues: 1. Plans to build a paper mill on the Broad River. 2. A Corps of Engineers study of water resources in the Athens area. 3. Results of studies of a papermill discharging waste (treated) into the Flint River.

GCA needs to show more interest in these types of river problems if we want help from other groups on white-water river issues. We are giving other organizations the impression we only care about the Chattooga and the Ocoee.

Submitted by Nancy Wylie

UPPER HOOCH, Sunday, July 18.
We had a gorgeous sunny day for the trip. The river was a little low at 1.8, and very scrapey; some sections were a real pain. Stan Landers, who ran lead, proved to be the hot-dogger of the day with his interesting ender (in an oper boat) at the bottom of 3 Ledges. We spent a lot of time at Horseshoe. Most everyone ran it more than once. Along the way we acquired several other paddlers. The trip started with 11 boats and ended up with about 20. After Horseshoe, several folks swapped boats and got their first experiences in kayaks and C-1's. Official trip members were: OC-1: Ted Maloof, Stan Landers Ferris Maloof, Mike Laster, Hank Miles, John Miles (his little son in a BIG boat). OC-2: Julian Maloof/Bobby Prince, Dick Hurd/his wife, Phyllis Wolfe/ Pan Stearritt. Kayak: John Howard, Joanne Howard, Wayne Gentry. Decked C-1: yours truly (leading my first trip) Laura Jordon.

FOR SALE: Kayak - Phoenix Savage, flotation bags, spray skirt, and Dagger paddle. $450 - Larry Mayfield - 292-3178.

... you've heard of holes so strong they suck birds out of the air?
Well, here's a raft that really sucks....

PINBALL MACHINE
Sacrifice $250; 241-8175.

RAFT-6 MAN
Electrolux Sweeper 938-9741

PINE PARK

Chattooga Section IV

Spawned on the Ocoee, nutured by the rains of afternoon thunder showers, an impromptu trip on Section IV was enjoyed by a group of GCA paddlers on Monday, July 5. The gage showed 1.45 downstream which turned out to be a respectable water level for a super fun trip. We were proud of first-timers Rich Cole and Mark Levine who ran everything without blinking an eye - well - maybe one blink and a little adrenalin.

Everyone made 7-foot, and we entertained a S.E.E. group at Raven Chute with good runs and surfing. We then ate lunch and had a refreshing swim in Raven Rock Pool. Our paddlers had some spectacular runs of the 5-falls with our rope setters and safety boats making well coordinated rescues at Corkscrew. Mark Levine and his trusty camera recorded the events on film.

Paddling on this beautiful Chattooga Day were: Rich Cole in K-1; Don George in -well sometimes a C-1 and other times an ME; Bettina George paddling whatever boat suited her fancy at the time; Jim Farr and Mike Gordon solo in ME's; Mark Levine in his trusty Bluehole bathtub; Ted and Helen Sparks tandem in their ME; John and Tee Brower in their Explorer, and the "Good Raft Geobrowdav" under the guidance of Brook Brower, propelled by Peter Gordon, Edith (Mike Gordon's friend) and Kim (Brook's friend). Larry and Betsy Smith had "good works" to take care of, but couldn't stay away (like the cat of song fame) and came back to assist the raft crew from Soc-Em Dog across the lake.

Tee Brower

Lower Dead River, Maine, 6/20/82; Now that you guys have us back on the mailing list, and since I am in the habit of writing trip reports, and since I enjoy seeing my name in print, I submit the following: We started early (8:00) Sunday AM at Webb Store in West Forks, Me. They provide shuttle service for $7 per boat, for a two hr 4WD drive over logging streams, some of which are big enough to run. The truck had 3 opens on top, 4 opens & 4 K1's on the trailer, and all the occupants thereof in th truck. They put us in 16 miles upstream from our cars, somewhere closer to Canada than anywhere I've ever heard of. I was told to expect 16 miles of rapids, but I wasn't expecting one 16 mile rapid. The Dead is about the size of the Ocoee, and has continuous rapids reaching good solid class III, with some class III stretches running for one or two miles without pools. With one 100 yd long exception, the pools are such that if you need to bail between rapids, you should usually catch an eddy. Many people wouldn't call them pools. Anyway, if you survive the truck ride, you should be able to handle the river. Anyone who is fairly comfortable on the Nantahala, and in decent shape, would enjoy the trip. It is not a good place to try if you're unsure of your ability, as it is a ridiculous walk out, and a swim in most places would mean a very long ride for your emty boat, assuming you could catch up to it. At the end of July, the Dead hosts the Nationals. I'm hoping to see some Georgia plates on some of the cars up there! Y'all come.
Norm Reynolds, a voice crying in the wilderness. PS I noticed in last month's news-letter an excerpt of a Cartecay trip, of which one boat was a tandem paddled by Dave Garrity and "friend." I wonder: Are they still friends? and, I would like to advise "friend" that there is trouble around the next bend in the river.

OCOEE RIVER, Sunday, June 20, 1982

What is so rare as a day in June? An uncrowded Ocoee on a summer Sunday, that's what! We had a beautiful day; fine, hot and sunny, water level 1100-1200 cfs and fairly clear for the Copper-hill basin. The river was remarkably uncrowded, and the rhododendrons were in full bloom, as our group gathered their collective wits and pushed off. It seems to me that the paddling is more difficult at a relatively low level like 1100 cfs than at 1400-1600 cfs, because of the exposed rocks and trickier cross-currents. We had a few swims, of course, but the group stuck tight and rescued boats and bodies very well, which is essential if the Ocoee is to be run safely. A couple members even decided to play tag with the bridge, but without damage to themselves or their boats. Pushing those Blue Holes down the river were Mark Levine, Ben Maxwell, and Fred Thomas. Bob Brazier, Leroy Robbins, Hugh Stubbs and Brad Wyche looked on while David Stubbs surfed all the holes (all K-1), and Richard Lawrence and I in C-1's wished for trainer blades.

-David Ashley

I've decided to go ahead and run the following letter without doing any investigative reporting because at the level of communication described, the writer is obviously the final and indisputable judge of what he felt was conveyed. I know some of the parties in question, and find it hard to believe that they harbor any strong feelings toward "kids" or kayakers. But speaking as one who never has been much good at conveying initial friendliness, whether I felt it or not, I'll have to admit that I may respond differently to teenagers I don't know than I do toward middle-aged C-boaters. As to whether decked boats belong on cleanups, obviously the carrying capacity of a decked boat is quickly exceeded, but I can shag cans from under the banks with much less expenditure of time and energy than can open boaters. Finally, if you can't contribute something toward reconciliation of this issue, it's probably best to just forget it for now and try to manage better next time. -Ed.

Dear Editor,

I have been a member or the Georgia Canoe Association for many years and I have been paddling a canoe for six years. I have been on many trips with GCA down rivers on one day and overnight trips. On almost every trip I have encountered a constant problem - age. I am eighteen years old and have been paddling a canoe since I was twelve. I have become a very good paddler in an open boat by many people's standards. I am an aggressive paddler and will try almost anything as long as there isn't a high risk to my life or anyone else. But the same old problem keeps popping up when I go on GCA trips. I arrive at the meeting place and tell them I am with the GCA trip and their reaction is a look that chills your bones and an attitude that is obviously none too friendly. They take a look at me and say to themselves, "My god, I'm going to have to play babysitter to this child." I wonder if his mommy knows he's out." That's the attitude they project towards me. Don't get me wrong, there are some exceptions to the rule. There are those that look upon me as an equal and I enjoy their company and the trip. It's the ones that exile me before they give me a chance that burn me up.

Last year I paddled with GCA down the Nantahalla River one time. I had talked to the trip leader and he said that my friend and I could camp with the group. My friend and I met the trip leader and his wife at the NOC the night before and they told us where we could set-up our tent. We went to the campsite and were greeted with the best yet. I walked up and told them I was with GCA, my name and that the trip leader had told us that we could camp with the group. I was polite and offered my hand only to have it bitten off. They gave us the meanest looks and said that we couldn't camp with them and we would have to find our own spot. We left, told the trip leader about the little instance and where we would be if he needed us any earlier than the scheduled time for the next day. I would like to add, that we paddled circles around the majority of the group with the exception of the trip leaders and maybe one or two of the others.

There is also another problem that I have noticed this year and that is the attitude of people about kayakers. I don't know why people have to criticize kayaks and the people who paddle them. I just bought a kayak this year to go along with canoeing. Since I have started paddling, I have noticed the way people treat decked boaters. I took my kayak and paddled with GCA on the Nantahalla at the beginning of June and everything went fine. I really enjoyed myself. Then I went on one the river cleanup trips down the Etowah and was totally disillusioned.

I called early in the week to ask if my two friends and I could join them on the trip. I told them we would be paddling our kayaks the day before on the Upper Hooch and would like to help them the next day. The trouble started once I mentioned the word kayak. I was told everything but straight out not to come. We showed up at the put in ten minutes late because we had trouble finding dry wood for breakfast where we camped because it rained there. I apologized for the delay and explained why we were late. Our being late didn't mess up anything in my opinion because everyone was walking around cleaning up and shooting the bull.

One of my friends ran shuttle and said that he heard them saying things like, "I can't believe they brought kayaks." At least we showed up. Kayaks or no kayaks, we showed up to do our part in cleaning up. We were there because we cared about the river but they refused to see that and there was that ever present problem of age. No one gave the impression that they wanted to talk with us. It was a very cold trip and the cold wasn't from the water. Yes, we picked up trash, alot of it.

Not every trip with GCA has been bad and not all of the paddlers are rude and unpleasant. I have met many paddlers that I want to run more rivers with but I don't know how to get in touch with them. I know that I may be on a few people's blacklist for writing this, but I feel it had to be said. I hope that people will recognize these few problems and try to correct them. I don't want to be treated superior to anyone else, just as an equal. Don't judge someone because of what he is paddling and for that matter, don't judge him because of his age either. Give the paddler a chance to prove himself - and if he isn't that good, don't condemn him but help him instead. Have an open mind. Sincerely, Mark Rhodes.

Broad River, July 11. It sure is nice to have a reasonably wet year, as the Broad had more water in it than I have seen the past couple of July's. It wasn't high, though. The weather was ideal, so several of us went swimming, some deliberately, some not, and some both. We swam at the lunch rock, waterfall, and roostertail. Yes, we did do some paddling too. My condolences to those who spent a lot of time on the telephone, Eileen, and then messed up connections. Paddling OC-2 were Selena and Walter Lynch, Mark and Marty Rucker, Doug Fortenberry and guest Bill Cheatum. Hank Miles (OC-1) told me he was bringing 2 rug rats. They looked more like river rats to me (John, OC-1, Lee, K-1). Other K-1 were Wayne Gentry and Joe Booth, a parapelegic and guest of Doug. OC-1: Frank Fitch, Ted Maloof, Don Dawe, guest of Becky Engel and trip leader Jeff Engel. PS. My apologies to those whose names I got confused. My memory is one of the few things worse than my paddling technique.

TWO PHOENIX KAYAK FLOATATION BAGS-ONE YEAR OLD-BOTH FOR $30.00-MARTIN KELLER 475-3436

TVA Defies State Mandate on Ocoee

As we mentioned in our last issue, the Tennessee Commission of Public Health has required that the Tennessee Valley Authority file a permit to rebuild their planned diversion flume on the Ocoee River. Now, the TVA is suing the state rather than file for that permit. The Ocoee River Council has joined the State as a co-defendant. The commission required the permit because the project might lead to a degradation of water quality or affect a resource of regional or national importance.

One of the directors of the TVA, S. David Freeman, dissented with the rest of TVA's board, and sent a letter to the Commission of Public Health agreeing that they should file a permit. He feels, however, the state should grant the permit.

A decision is still expected in the court case over whether or not the TVA can charge boaters and outfitters for recreational water releases.

In the meantime, because of reduced projected electrical needs, TVA has cancelled construction on three nuclear power plants.

"We simply don't need all the plants we have under construction," Freeman said.

What You Can Do:

Write your own senators and representative asking them to consult with the Tennessee delegation in support of the preservation of the Ocoee.

The Ocoee River Council's legal liability in the suit is growing rapidly. Contributions are desperately needed to help them in the fight against TVA. The Council's address is: Route 1, Ocoee, TN 37361.

Citizens for Gauley Formed

The Army Corps of Engineers is still proposing to build a hydropower project on the Gauley, diverting water from the first 3 miles of the river below the dam. The comment period for the proposal has ended, and the State of West Virginia has come out in favor of the most environmentally damaging of the alternatives, the proposed "Long Tunnel" alternative.

In the meantime, a new organization to save the Gauley has been born. CITIZENS FOR GAULEY RIVER, "a coalition of fishermen, canoeists, hunters and others who use, enjoy, and appreciate the Gauley River and are concerned with the responsible management of the river and the wild lands through which it flows" was formed. Among its goals are:

1) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act designation of the Gauley River between Summersville Dam and the town of Swiss, with management by the state or private non-profit entity;

2) Inclusion of this section of the Gauley within the West Virginia Natural Streams Preservation Act;

3) Adoption of the non-structural alternative plan by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rather than the "long tunnel" plan;

4) Addition of Whitewater recreation for Fall season as a state purpose for the operation of Summersville Dam.

Individual membership is $10, organizational membership is $50.

For more information, to join, or to make a contribution, write:

Citizens for Gauley River
Post Office Box 7165
Cross Lanes, WV 25313

Tennessee's Big South Fork Threatened by Railway

"To use an Act that was designed to protect a magnificently scenic natural area as a device for subsidizing a coal-hauling operation seems to be a travesty of the law."—Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

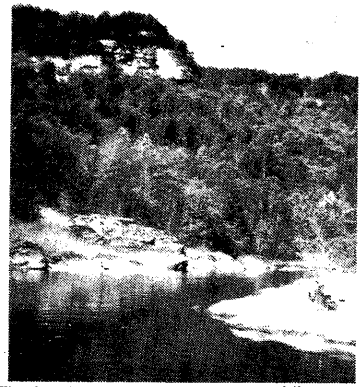
The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, which flows north through Tennessee to Kentucky, faces an intrusion in the possible return of a long-dead commercial coal-hauling operation—to be constructed along the river with $40 million in government money. Not only is the plan (a Corps of Engineers project) a government subsidy of a commercial operation of dubious quality, it is also invading a national recreation area.

The Corps narrowed the many alternatives for the old bed to five options, headed by the $40 million option to rebuild 32 miles of the railway for coal-hauling and scenic tourist runs along the river. Other options included an exclusively-commercial or tourist railway ($35.9 million and $39.8 million, respectively), a 12 mile rubber-tired tram ($12 million) and a 38 mile bike path at $8.4 million.

The Corps announced their preferred alternative: the commercial-plus-scenic railway. There are different good points and drawbacks to each of the four "nonpreferred alternatives," depending on one's value given to a bike trail or scenic railroad (one might serve more people, while another might provide a more unique wilderness experience). But the points *against* any plan that includes commercial hauling are clear.

First, it was clearly not the purpose of the Act creating the National River and Recreation area to subsidize a coal hauling operation. The stated purposes are: conserving and interpreting the unique area, preserving the free-flowing streams and integrity of the gorges, and developing appropriate *recreation*. Economic considerations are mentioned only insofar as they apply to recreation.

Second, the railway would bring on environmental damage, both directly and indirectly. Sixteen bridges would go up, impacting stream banks and water quality. More than 118 acres would be cleared. Commercial railroad use would pose threats not even presented by the scenic-only railroad: accidental spills of fertilizer, coal or limestone into the river.



The Corps proposes to reconstruct and finance a coal-hauling railroad along the Big South Fork, a National Recreation Area.

An indirect damage—increased strip-mining activity to the west as a result of a federally-built and maintained railway—would lead to worsened water quality through runoff from mining within the Big South Fork Watershed.

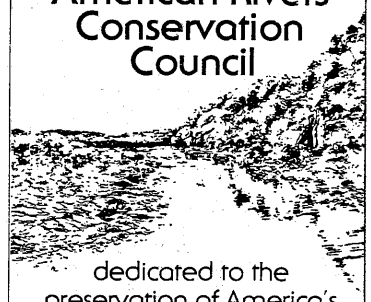
The commercial-plus scenic railway would be the the most expensive alternative, but surprisingly, could not be economically justified, according to Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. Benefits would go almost exclusively to one small group of people (namely coal operators in the Jamestown, Tennessee area).

Why, then, is this expensive construction plan being moved forward when other plans—a bikeway, tramway, or merely a hiking path—would serve scenic and recreational purposes at a fraction of the cost?

Although the deadline for comments to the Corps has passed, TCWP is urging supporters of the Big South Fork to write to Senators Howard Baker and James Sasser.

Trout Unlimited, Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, the Kentucky Rivers Coalition and others have joined TCWP in opposing the plan. Although the deadline for comments to the Corps has passed, TCWP is urging supporters to write to Senators Howard Baker and James Sasser.

American Rivers Conservation Council



dedicated to the preservation of America's free-flowing rivers.

ARCC serves as a national clearinghouse for technical and legal information while stimulating legislative action to increase the number of rivers protected under wild and scenic river laws. ARCC also actively pursues other innovative methods of river preservation.

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The rivers of America thank you!

American Rivers Conservation Council
323 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 547-6900

GLEN CANYON DAM "PEAKING POWER" PROJECT SCRAPPED - Once again the concern of the public was instrumental in the scrapping of an unwanted river fiasco. The Department of the Interior project was to increase the generation capacity of the Glen Canyon Dam. Such organizations as the National Organization of River Sports (NORS) opposed the project and throught their efforts, enough public concern was shown and the project was scrapped. This is firm evidence that attacking such projects early, in addition to letter-writing campaigns can be successful in stopping unwanted water projects.