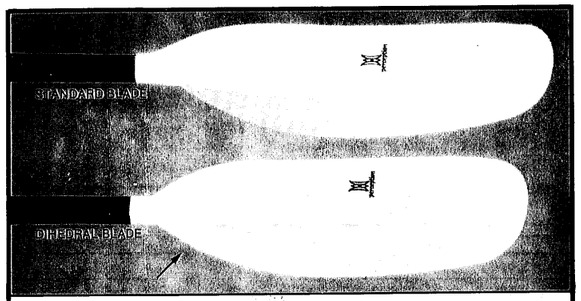

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Much more! The new Harmony Dihedral from ***perception*** offers breakthrough design concepts in its blade shape to help improve the way you're paddling now.

How?

First, the Dihedral shape of the blade means this paddle will rise to the surface naturally instead of slicing through water, very helpful for paddlers when rolling or bracing. Perception enhances this "rise-ability" with a unique design feature called the Initial Climb Stabilizer (see arrow). It's a subtle lip that helps the Dihedral do its job better, and no other paddle has it!

Second, the new Dihedral blade curves less along its length than standard curved blades, offering you better control, less flutter and a more effective backstroke. True, the Dihedral delivers slightly less down-river "bite" than the famous Harmony curved blade; lots of river runners will still opt for all-out power. But if your game is playing in holes, backsurfing waves or squirting, try your hand at our Dihedral and watch what happens.

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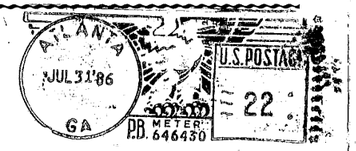


Roger & Beth Nott
2335 Stephens Circle
Gainesville, GA 30506

TIME LIMIT

The EDDY LINE

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INC.

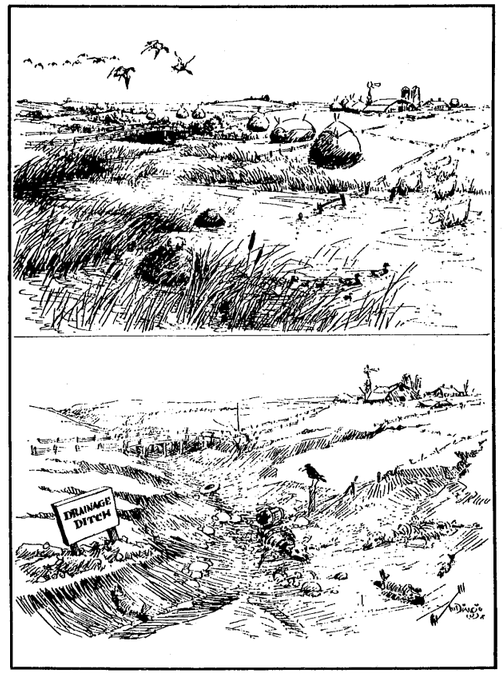
POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357 Vol. 21 No. 8 August, 1986

DEADLINE for the next newsletter is the 15th. Send material to Gary DeBacher, CRM, 1441 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30322. Please type border- to-border (zero margins) with indented paragraphs, and don't skip a line between paragraphs. This saves valuable space. Good, high quality photos, cartoons, artwork, and clippings of general interest to the paddling community are also welcome.

ADDRESS CHANGES, SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS AND MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES: send to GCA, PO Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357, attn. membership chairperson.

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM, GEORGIA CONSERVANCY HEADQUARTERS, 3110 Maple Drive NE in Atlanta, near the intersection of Piedmont and Peachtree. Members and interested persons are invited to attend. If you wish to submit any matters for discussion or vote, call the president (Andy Warshaw, 478-2104) so he can plan time on the agenda.

August 2	Nantahala	2-3, intermediate	Andy Lyons	482-1713
	Etowah	1-2, trained beginner	Jerry Peterman	395-9495
	Chattooga 3	3-4, advanced	Dennis Crain	522-7737
	Wild Card	3+	Oreon Mann	522-3469
3	Nantahala	2-3, intermediate	Roger Nott	1-536-6923
	Ocoee First-Timers	Run all the sneaks, avoid Hell Hole. Experienced help needed, also.	John DeCastro	525-4737
9-10	GALA CANOEING AFFAIR. Ocoee, Nantahala, Hiwassee, more options if it rains.			
16	Beginners kayak clinic		Wayne Gentry	984-9198
	Toccoa	1-2, trained beginner	John Rowland	945-3204
	Wild Card	2-3, intermediate	Jim Silavent	587-1172
	Chattooga 3	3-4, advanced	Dewey Tate	487-2111
17	Broad	1-2, trained beginner	Jeff Engel	1-548-5015
	Hiwassee	1-2+, easy intermediate	Sabra Hansen	688-1842
	Wild Card	2-3, intermediate	Jim Buford	434-7025
	Wilder Card	3+	Bruce Williams	231-5624
23	Intermediate Canoe Clinic		Ted Sparks (205)	236-4316
	Broad	1-2, trained beginner	Polly Heyward	237-4503
	Upper Hooch	2-3, intermediate	A.J.Cote	963-0631
	Chattooga 4	3-4, very advanced	Bob Striggow	1-782-5014
24	Nantahala	2-3, intermediate	John Berry H:451-3443	W:435-0777
	Wild Card	3+	Emily Hitchcock	874-6167
	Mild Card	1-2	Don Langford	1-324-3007
30	Wild Card	2-3, intermediate	Nancy Barker	874-8897
	Okeefenokee	day trip	Jimmy Gunter	W:928-2082
31	"	" "	" "	" "
	Wild Card	2-3	Chet Wright	W:331-3488
	French Broad	3+, experienced interm.	Bill Smith (704)	622-3381
Sept. 1	Ichetucknee, Fla.	Clear with deep springs	Jimmy Gunter	W:928-2082
	Ocoee	3-4, very advanced	Jerry Holladay	688-1842



Jay "Ding" Darling, one of the founders of the National Wildlife Federation, was a noted editorial cartoonist.

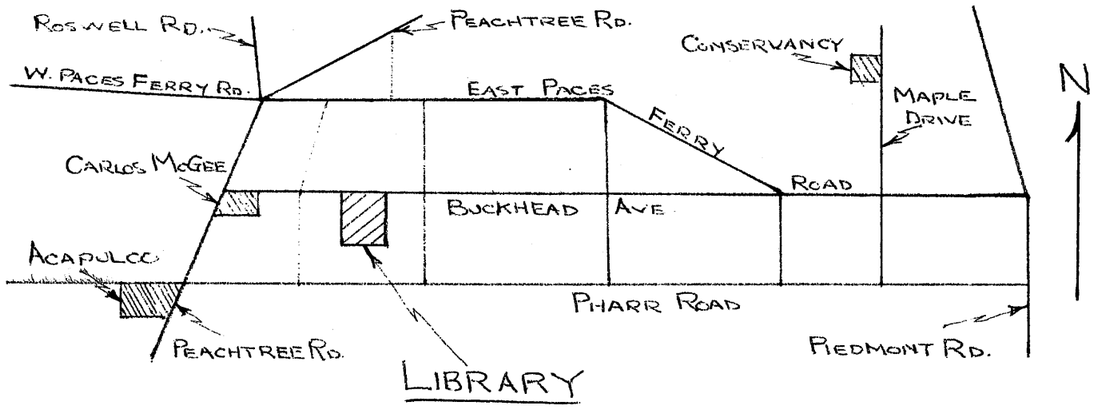
Rolling practice Tuesdays 5-8PM Stone Mountain lake. Call Laura Jordon for details, 233-7294. Metro Hooch on weekday evenings- call Gary DeBacher, 634-4651. Bruce Williams may run the New River (very advanced) in W. Va.; check with him at 231-5624. Jump trips (if it rains) Upper Amicalola with Laura Jordon (233-7294); or Upper Hooch/ Smith Island with Andy Warshaw, 478-2104.

CHATTAHOOCHEE DANGER. The gunfire by Dennis Lankes at Smith Island on the Chattahoochee River was the main topic of discussion at the well-attended GCA board meeting on July 1st. According to Dave Gale of the Wildwood Shop, Mr. Lankes has recently been calling the Sheriff's department to announce that he will be taking target practice on the river that day. Mr Gale said that on one Saturday in May, Mr. Lankes shot from his land on river- left toward a group of college students on a Georgia Southern College clinic. That Sunday he shot toward Mr. Gale who had sent a Boy Scout troop down the right side while he went down the main channel on the left side of the island.

There was a lively discussion as to our river rights and what can be done to maintain them. While there is little doubt that Mr. Lankes had no right to shoot at anybody, there is a question under Georgia law about the public's right to use "non- navigable" rivers. Mr. Gale is planning to seek a court injunction to enjoin Mr. Lankes from future interference with his business. It was the consensus of the board that the River Rights Committee should watch developments closely and recommend action by the GCA if warranted.

It was agreed by those attending the meeting that this article should be written to advise GCA members of the danger at Smith Island. A number of members felt that while we should stay off Mr. Lankes' property on river- left and off Smith Island, we should continue to use this lovely and popular section of the river in order to maintain our "right of passage." Each member will have to weigh the benefits and risks and make his own decision. --Evelyn Hopkins

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHANGES MEETING DATE/PLACE.....Beginning with the September regular meeting, the Executive Board will meet the FIRST THURSDAY of the month at 7:30 PM a the Ida Williams Branch Library at 269 Buckhead Avenue, NE Atlanta. This shift from the long used Georgia Conservancy office on Maple Drive is caused by the Conservancy's move to new headquarters on Holcomb Bridge Road. The map below shows the location of the library and the former Conservancy office on Maple Drive.



BULL SLUICE DIFFICULTY IN LOW WATER. Chris Jelley of Southeastern Expeditions wrote to object that I should not have said in the last issue that Bull Sluice is only a class 3 below 1.5 feet. Actually I did not state my own position, I said "some would argue, with reason...". The reason is that Bull Sluice is a lot easier to paddle properly at moderate to low- moderate levels. Really low water levels are another matter.

Mr. Jelley passes along some very important safety information, that at this season's very low levels, the Bull has been posing some unusual challenges: "Not only is De-Cap Rock undercut, but Georgia Rock immediately below the sluice is too. At lower levels, the top drop becomes very steep, resulting in a swamped boat. The boat then runs the lower half full of water and the bow is forced under the rock on the Georgia side. The back of the boat is then swept under De-Cap, resulting in one of the worst pins imaginable. In both cases the river was below .9 feet, it took two days to free each boat, and the canoes were totally destroyed."

Mr. Jelley notes that, "It is a common misperception that low water means a rapid is safer." Several other rapids on the Chattooga are easiest at intermediate levels. Corkscrew is easiest for me at about 1.8, and gets steadily more difficult at lower levels. Jawbone is easier at 1.3 than at 2.3, but one is more likely to get flushed under Hydroelectric Rock at the lower level.

This uncovers a key problem with our traditional method for classifying rapids, which depends primarily on complexity and size of the rapid and the consequent difficulty of execution. This system does not work well for rapids which are relatively easy to paddle correctly but extremely hazardous if you make a mistake. To take a trivial example, I was damn near killed in the lunch stop rapid on the Broad, but that rapid is only class 2 and will never be any more at normal water levels. Similarly, Nantahala Falls may beat the tar out of you if you try to ease through the upper hole, but it's never been more than a class 3 in normal water, even though old guidebooks by open boaters listed it as a class 5. Recently there have been attempts to modify our system for classifying rapids to give extra information about unusual penalties for mistakes and about problems peculiar to the type of boat in use, but the perfect system is not yet in sight. I think Mr. Jelley means to say that Bull Sluice gets both somewhat more difficult and significantly more dangerous as water levels drop below a foot, which taken together will justify retaining its class 4 rating. —Ed.

Dear Dr. Surf,

You seem to be able to surf anything. Is it possible to surf brain waves?

M.T. Head

Dear MT,

Of course it's possible to surf brain waves. Most kayakers' EEGs show signs of standing waves,* reversals and eddies. The only problem is one of magnitude. Most river runners lack sufficient intellect to produce the volume of encephalographic flow necessary to float a pingpong ball, let alone a Dancer. The literature, however, details the experimental work of a Princeton boater who would sneak his kayak into Einstein's office and surf the etheral cerebral resi due at the end of the noted genius' day. The paddler made one apparently fatal mistake. After becoming quite skilled at surfing the quiet, settling brain waves in Albert's office he took his boat to the scientist's house one evening to ride the real quantum mechanics and gravitational energy when our illustrious hero felt skilled enough to try an endo. The following morning was the first time that the researchers at the high energy facility identified new subatomic particles released only when masses of polyethylene disappear into black holes. Goods luck with your brain wave surfing, but try to stay away from the Ivy League institutions... maybe start with the Commerce City High School.

Dr. Surf

*These can be eliminated through bayoufeedback training. This humorous item is from The Spray, newsletter of the Colorado White Water Association. --Ed.

SURPRISES ON THE METRO HOOCH. Our weekday evening runs have been full of little surprises. Some of the wildlife is getting quite tame; we've seen muskrats grazing on waterweed, beavers that scarcely bother to get out of the way, and mallards landing next to kayaks in an eddy, apparently hoping for a handout. One Wednesday evening we found the body of a poor soul who had been missing since the weekend. We're so well trained in what to do right after a drowning that we feel doubly at a loss for what to do when we arrive entirely too late for lifesaving efforts. Anyway, we managed to get the body onto a nearby island and informed a ranger at the takeout, who got out his walkie talkie and said, "Some kayakers have found our missing item," this phrasing, he explained, to avoid attracting unnecessary attention.

Just last Wednesday I arrived at Powers Island expecting low, predictable water levels and found instead more water running than I have ever seen except right after a storm. Most of the familiar rocky landmarks were covered and there was a wide variety of surfing waves in every rapid. In the second rapid I found Wayne Gentry lounging back in a cushy hole in his squirt boat, reading the evening paper. I put on my nose clips and tried a little timid surfing myself. Why was the Corps of Engineers letting all this water run downstream with no end in sight to our record drought??

This past Saturday morning it was just about as high. Great fun, I hope you catch it before they close the taps again. I heard on the news that they are dropping Lanier by 14 inches a week, apparently to meet downstream water needs. They've announced that the Hooch in south Georgia will be closed to barge traffic next month. Maybe the extra water is to let the barges get out of the system before the shutdown. The Corps of Engineers has a reason for everything it does.... -Ed.

One Weekend, Four Deaths: Now What?

From The American Canoeist, June, 1986

On the weekend of March 15-16, 1986, four experienced kayakers drowned. This is more than normally die in a year, and is thus deserving of a greater than usual amount of thought. The accidents were as follows:

A 43 year-old Washington lawyer died as a result of an end-to-end pinning between two trees on a section of the North River in Virginia. He was paddling a T-slalom which lacked front or rear walls and full flotation bags. Water level was very high in a channel greatly changed and badly obstructed by the '85 flood. There was only one other member of his group along, and that person capsized and swam in the early stages of the rescue. Tools which might have been helpful were lost as a result.

A young North Carolina man died on the Lower Gauley River that same day. He was paddling an extremely low-volume "squirt boat" for only the 4th time when he made that trip. River flow was estimated at 20,000 cfs plus at the accident site; he was apparently running the rapid above Screaming Hell when he disappeared from view. No one could find him, and after a thorough search they notified authorities. He was recovered at some distance downstream with PFD and the sprayskirt still in place. Experts hypothesize that he was pinned in a strainer located as much as five feet under water.

In Pennsylvania, a 59 year old open boat paddler arrived at the Tohickon Creek for a scheduled release and found the stream running over 4 feet. At this level, hydraulic action equivalent to the Cheat River at 3 feet plus is found. Rather than run elsewhere, he launched and swam several rapids. He was acting strangely afterwards, so his friends helped him work his boat to shore. He collapsed while dumping his boat and died of a massive heart attack.

Lastly, a Texas man running with a commercially sponsored expedition was killed on the Jatate River in Mexico. He apparently bailed out while running a Class V drop in a remote canyon and became trapped under a boulder. Details are sketchy, but reports are that he was not qualified for the trip and had misrepresented his ability to the leaders. We'll know more later.

As a practical matter, no one follows the AWA Safety Code recommendations "by the book" at all times. But it should be noted that accidents often occur when a number of minor shortcuts combine with bad luck or severe environmental conditions; you don't have to make "one big mistake" to find yourself in trouble. Each of the above accidents followed that pattern.

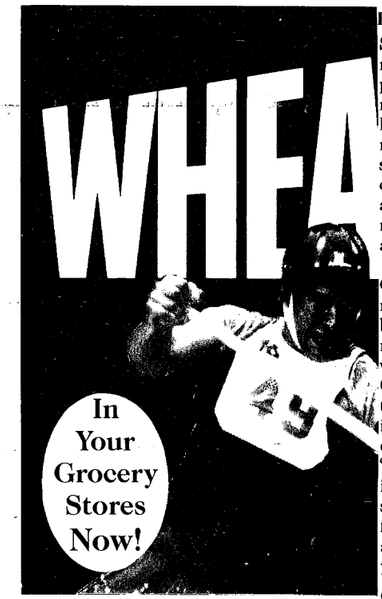
In the case of the Washington lawyer, an inadequately outfitted boat combined with a small party and a dangerous riverbed led to trouble. There is no doubt in my mind that if a strong party of four had been involved, or if he had installed a rear wall or full sized float bag, the incident would have been laughed about in a bar that evening. The dangers of these flood-rearranged riivers are not to be taken lightly, particularly on fast, flatwater stretches at high water.

The North Carolina man was pushing his luck when, after only three previous outings in his new "squirt boat", he attempted the Gauley at 20,000 plus cfs. In the cold of an early March runoff most people would be quite excited enough running in a conventional craft. Squirt boats, especially those of extreme design, increase an individual's exposure to the forces of moving water. They are very tiring to handle; the victim was said to be exhausted prior to his sudden disappearance. We don't need to know exactly what happened to suggest more caution here, particularly in cold, early season runs.

The Tohickon at 4 feet is a run suitable for only the most experienced open canoe paddlers. Given the cold water, I suspect I would not have tried it without a prior "scouting run" in an open canoe. As a season opener for a 59 year old man clad only in a wetsuit, it seems like an excessive risk. Although he collapsed on dry land and is thus not technically the victim of a boating accident, there is no doubt in my mind that the repeated dunkings upstream caused the problem to ocurr then rather than later. The next day, when water levels dropped to a pleasant 2 feet, the river made for a delightful open canoe run.

The Texas man apparently misrepresented his skills to the leaders of the

Continued on page 9.



Four Deaths - Continued from page 1.

Slickrock Kayaks expedition according to my sources. This is something that keeps people who lead trips from sleeping at night; there is no real way to prevent it. Each person, even on commercial trips, is responsible for his own safety when he steps into a kayak or canoe. Nothing can change that. We all need to think twice about our qualifications for unknown runs, and should be prepared to portage as much as needed for safety.

Where does this leave the rest of us? Obviously, there are risks involved with river running which can be minimized but never eliminated. We cannot live in a risk-free society on or off the water. It would pay, however, to review the Safety Code to become more aware of those times when we may inadvertently increase the odds of an accident, and re-evaluate our participation when the "deck" gets stacked against us. While intelligent risk-taking is the basis of our sport, we need to stop this epidemic of fatalities so that we and our friends will be around to paddle another day. I invite your comments and observations.

Charlie Walbridge, Chairman
Safety Committee

FOR SALE: Famous River Machine Kayak. Keylar layup with float bags and ethafoam walls. In excellent condition and weighs only 24 pounds. New cost is $950, asking only $400. Call Hank Klausman at 955-0553.

FOR SALE: Kayak, Noah JETI, white, very good condition - $350. Call Allen Grumbine, (803) 288-0212 after 7 p.m. or (803) 242-3131 during day.

FOR SALE: BLUE HOLE OCA; FITTED WITH CENTER AND "CLARK" END BLOCKS, KNEE PADS AND "GRUNCH" PADS. EXCELLENT CONDITION. $675. DAVE LOTT 396-2528 (WORK) OR 928-4175 (HOME).

MOHAWK ABS 16 FT. SMALL SCRATCHES ON BOTTOM NEVER BEEN ON RIVER
2 YEARS OLD $325 CALL CRAIG SMITH 944-7763

WITHOUT A PADDLE: HIKING IN TO THREE FORKS. Why should you read this?? Because Three Forks is one of the most spectacular pieces of river scenery in the east. Part of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River system, Three Forks is nestled down amongst the mountains and forms the headwaters of the West Fork. Some of you may have paddled the West Fork, which runs four easy, low gradient miles from a bridge on USFS road 86 down to join section 2 of the Chattooga just below hwy 28. A few of our crazier readers have paddled the section just above, seeing Three Forks by paddling down to it on Overflow Creek. There is probably no easy, risk- free way to see Three Forks, although I thought there was before Ellie and I tried one Saturday in June.

Georgians drive to Three Forks on Warwoman Rd. which exits Clayton next to Hardees and runs ENE through an interesting valley formed by faulting (the Warwoman Shear) rather than erosion. Little streams sneak in and out of this valley in all directions. One of them is Warwoman Creek, which joins section 3 across from Earl's Ford. Warwoman Rd. is the fastest way to get to hwy 28 and the put-in for section 2, but we instead turned NW on USFS 86 just after crossing the West Fork. This gravel road runs upstream along the West Fork, and then crosses another bridge, the highest put-in for sane paddlers. We followed the road about two miles farther, to John Teague Gap on Bent Ridge. Here we found the marked trailhead for a long trail which runs from Rabun Bald some miles to the West, down to Three Forks a little more than a mile to the east. We should be able to handle just a mile or so of trail, I assured Ellie, even if it had to get a little steep toward the end.

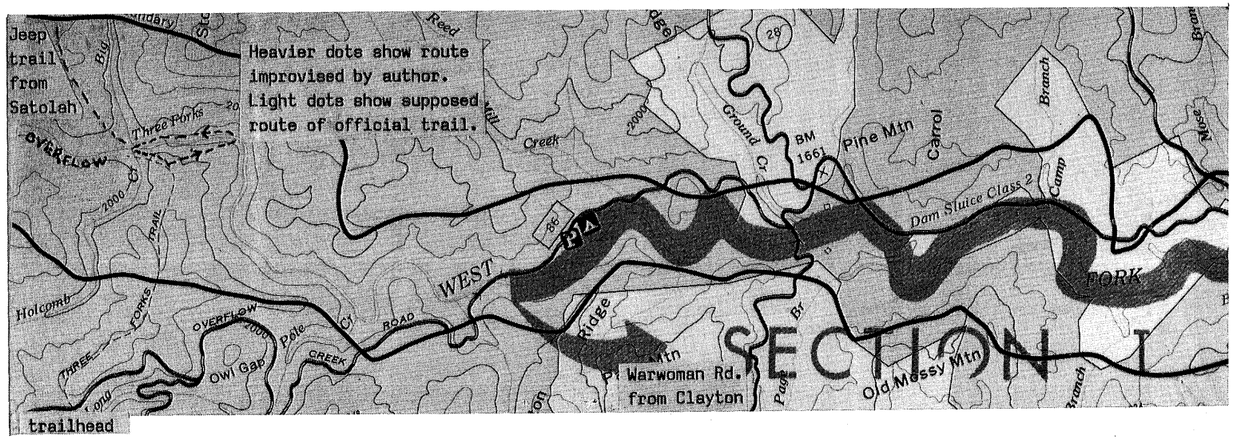
All this is shown clearly on the Chattooga W & S River map, which you can purchase from the USFS. Naturally, there is little detail concerning the trail, just a dotted line from the road to the junction of Holcomb, Overflow and Big Creeks, our goal. The first mile of trail was fairly new, replacing an old jeep track blocked off at the trailhead. It descended easily along the north side of the ridge, through mature second growth forest. About the time we heard falling water to our left, the new trail merged with several older, steeper, more eroded tracks. None was marked or blazed. We followed the shortest path to the sound of water, which proved to be not Three Forks, but Holcomb Creek dropping into a narrow defile. Upstream the gradient was mild, a pleasant trout stream. The falls was the first of several linking pools shaded by steep sides and rhodedendron thickets. Too narrow and tree-choked for boats, although some of the potholes could swallow a tandem, and too steep for us to simply work our way down the creek. We walked back up into the assortment of crisscrossing trails and tried to find the right one. There was distant shouting below which certainly must have come from boys splashing around Three Forks itself. We came to a small clearing with some fire rings and tried to find a path down in the right direction, with no avail, so we backtracked a little and followed a rather obvious trail which angled down the slope to the northeast. I felt we were being forced downstream of our destination, but before too long we came to a very steep but relatively short scramble down to a streamside campsite. Once down, I recognized a big, slanting double ledge just downstream; I had seen it before in one of Hank Klausman's films of an Overflow Creek run.

We stopped to eat lunch and take a swim. There was plenty of water, the drought notwithstanding, and it was cool enough (68 degrees F by my trick temperature watch) that it must have come from recent rains in the Chattooga highlands. The air was surprisingly cool also, in the upper 70s on a day when Atlanta enjoyed the upper 90s. Just this one rapid was spectacular, even by Chattooga standards, and made us all the more determined to reach Three Forks upstream. There was no trail, so we worked our way up the rocky bank.

Soon we encountered a trout fisherman, who told us the Forks was a mile upstream! I found this hard to accept, but clearly we had been forced a good ways downstream by our trail. Continuing upstream, we were forced to cross and recross, at first by wading and later by swimming across the pools separating spectacular drops. We passed another fisherman, and then the boys whose shouts we had heard earlier. Pausing occasionally to appreciate the cliffs, potholes, house-sized rocks and sloping drops, we reached our goal in late afternoon. Holcomb Creek came down from the southwest, finally emerging from its narrow defile. Just upstream from the opposite direction was Big Creek, coming down a series of wider ledges. Between them, from the northwest, came Overflow Creek, looking relatively canoeable compared to the other Forks. I waded up Overlow for a quarter mile, stopping at the first of a series of upstream drops.

Between Overflow and Big Creek was an obvious trail which on the Satolah, GA topo is shown as a winding jeep trail from the hamlet of Satolah, on route 28 just this side of the NC border. That would do us no good, since our car was in the opposite direction. We could, of course, go back the way we came, but I was determined to find the more direct route shown on the USFS Chattooga map. While Ellie relaxed in the sun, I carefully combed the south banks, but never found a sign of a real trail. Even on one of the longest days of the year, time was getting short. We first tried to work our way up past the drops on Holcomb Creek, hoping to get within scrambling distance of the falls we had seen earlier in the day, but the rock walls on both sides soon choked down on the stream, and the drops became too steep to attempt without helmets and rock climbing gear. We then tried to work our way up the steep south bank, pulling ourselves up through the rhodedendrons, but this soon seemed fruitless and dangerous as well, too much like the climb in Deliverance. We worked our way downstream along the slope, trying to find some way around a sheer rock wall looming overhead. I was even getting worried about getting back down to creekside, since it is often harder to climb down than to climb up. But then I saw a couple of cans in the brush. Was there a trail nearby, or had this trash been thrown down the slope from far above? By an overhang I found a suggestion of a trail. We followed it upslope; the gradient still seemed close to 60%, but it appeared to round off ahead of us, as if the top of the ridge might be near. Our trail was more like a game track, which nothing larger than a racoon could thread easily, but the gradient slowly decreased. Finally we emerged into the little clearing with the fire rings, now filled with tents--- the same clearing where I had failed to find a way down earlier in the day.

So I never did find the "right" way down the trail on the USFS map. I don't know whether the Three Forks trail really leads all the way to Three Forks, or whether it exists only in the mind of a cartographer. I don't know if you'd be better off hiking down from the north, since the jeep trail from Satolah is much longer than the trail from John Teague Gap. All I know is this: if you feel it was worth almost any amount of trouble to see Five Falls or Jacks River Falls, the Narrows or the upper Conasauga, you just have to find a way in to Three Forks.-Ed.



CHATTOOGA RIVER NEEDS YOUR HELP!! Don't let developers put "mountain homes" in and near the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor! You thought that "we, the people" owned all the land around the Chattooga? Not so! Take a look at the map sold for paddlers, hikers and fisherpersons by the USFS and you'll see patches of private land encroaching on the river corridor in sections 1, 2, 3 and on the West Fork. One SC parcel is so close to the river that the owner could play the bad guy in Deliverance as you paddle by. (Shades of Smith Island!)

The Forest Service needs to acquire several key tracts of this private land now before it is offered to developers for another summer home subdivision or worse. The problem is that the Forest Service needs to get the money from Congress through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which the Reagan Administration has been trying to choke off since 1981.

We have a chance to help the Forest Service. In September the Senate will consider an appropriations bill which will provide money for the Land and Water Fund. Both of Georgia's senators have indicated that they are supportive of money for the Chattooga properties, but THEY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. Senator Mattingly is a member of the Appropriations Committee. He has helped before to get money to acquire land along the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, and is willing to do the same for the Chattooga as long as he perceives plenty of grass roots support for protection of the Wild and Scenic River. That is why we need your letters.

You don't have to write anything fancy. Just tell your senators that you support funding for the acquisition of inholdings along the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River by the Forest Service, and that you want to protect this nationally reknowned river. You can also mention the economic importance of tourism is Rabun County and of recreation throughout the southeast. Don't leave land along the river to be bought, developed and eroded. Write your senators today! Their addresses are The Honorable Sam Nunn or The Honorable Mack Mattingly, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, call Jean Sokol or Ron Tipton at 355-1783.

MIDDLE FORK OF SALMON RIVER, JUNE 28 to July 4, 1986, by Hank Klausman ***

The Middle Fork River Expeditions Company ran raft support for 6 paddlers and some Georgia rafters. In kayaks were Hank and David Klausman, Chuch Gregory. In C-1's were George Neill and Betsy Darken. In open canoe was world paddler, Tom Berkowitz. CArol Beardmore was in rafts, and Carol Berkner was backpacking that week and met us later. This was the first trip of the year on Middle Fork, due to heavy run off from snow pack which was biggest in years. Water level was perfect at 4 feet which is medium high. I had paddled this river in 1978 at 2½ feet and this was much different. Water was very fast and cold- about low 40's at put in. Technically it started out like the Ocoee, then got bigger and pushier. It is a very busy river with Class 2 rapids most of the time and very little flat water. However, it is not a scary river for good paddlers, and the hardest rapids were Class 3 plus and low Class 4. There was always a safe path to run if you have good boat control. We played in most rapids, and spent over an hour playing at Marble rapid. Scenry was outstanding on this first river to be designated as Wild and Scenic River. We took off on July 4th in the rain, and that night in Stanley, Idaho it snowed on us. I have some great videos of trip and plan to show them at next GCA PICNIC.

*** Hank is organising a rafting/kayaking/sightseeing trip to COSTA RICA in late October. Call him at 955-0553 for details.

Coosawattee:Sat. June 21: Trip leader--Bill Dean: A hot, sunny summer day, a great group of paddlers and 1-o-w water. How low was it?? So low we followed white arrows and dots spray painted on the rocks to mark the channel. This was a "paddle by arrow" trip. After a fun paddle, water fights and a few dunks, we were met at the Lake by a pontoon boat(arranged for by our great, wonderful leader) and towed across the lake to the take out. Our paddlers were: OC-1--Dick Hurd, Carol Mercer K-1--Lee Harrell OC-2--David and Ron Tansill, Tom Johnson and Joe Wilson, Jay Harrell and Betty Davenport, and Paul Ducas and Bill Dean. Great trip Bill--lets go again when it rains. This was typed and edited by an unnamed paddler, but authorized by Bill.

Upper Hooch Trip - May 31st Beautiful weather, decent water and plenty of boats were the order of the day for this Saturday trip. A total of 13 boats showed up including several of those funny looking water crafts with tops on them. Because of the number of boats involved it was decided that we should split the group into two groups. Ed Shultz graciously accepted the position of group leader of group A. Within the first five munutes of the trip Rob Curr, lead boat for group B, decided to demonstrate the upper hooch swim technique.

Group B also participated in "stand up surfing" contests in the small hole below horseshoe. A great time was enjoyed by all. Paddlers of both groups included Rob Curr, Bill McClendon, Bill Moore, Tom Shawe, Merryl Nason, Ed Shultz, Larry and Elaine Howard, Barry Hahn and several other names that I am unable to read because I kept this list in my PFD for two weeks after the trip...John Berry

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For Rent: Spacious three bedroom (sleeps nine comfortably) two bath mountain house. Fully equipped kitchen. Deck and beautiful view. Sixteen miles from NOC $175.00/week. call Barney or Sherry Spurr for information at 404-4618760

WHITEWATER RETREAT. Secluded year-round house for sale. Seven miles from the NOC- Nantahala Gorge. Two bedrooms, bath, dining area, slate-floored living room with large stone fireplace, south facing with large windows and sun! Spring water, easy access, 2 acres, two outbuildings, garden spot. $39,900. David 'Dauphine', 2113 Clearwater Dr., Marietta, 977-9547.

SOUTHEASTERN WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS, June 14 & 15, 1986, Nantahala River - The Nantahala was without doubt the place to be this weekend. There were many exciting competitions, not the least of which was the come-from-behind victory of the GCA in the Southeastern Cup. The Atlanta Whitewater Club boasted a strong team who attempted to repeat their 1985 win and held the edge after the first day's decked boat slalom and wildwater competition. However, the GCA was very strong in the open canoe slalom competition on Sunday and decisively won. The TSRA, Suwanee Outing Club, Carolina Canoe Club, E. Tennessee Whitewater Club and several other clubs were represented among the medal winners. Kent Ford designed a fast-flowing slalom course with comparatively few cross-ferries and upstream maneuvers, as has been the trend in international racing in the past few years. Some of the open boaters, your reporter included, struggled anxiously with gates 13, 14 and 15, which demanded an upsteam in the left eddy above the falls, a reverse mid current just below it, and a downstream forward at the edge of the top hole. It was a fun course and was well handled by many competitors. The results:

SLALOM RESULTS:	First Place:(5 pts.)	Second Place:(3 pts.)	Third Place:(1 pt.)
C-1 Championship	Steve Thomas	Michael Larimer	Horace Holden
C-1 JR Championship	Adam Clawson	Dan Meyers	Drew Lacy
C-2 Championship	S.Thomas/Larimer	Clawson/Meyers	Doug Cameron/Steve Puckette
C-2M Championship	Laura & Barry Lang	Shippey/Holden	Becky Weiss/Dan Bunta
K-1W Cruising	Evelyn Hopkins	Linda Van Deusen	Elaine Jensen
K-1 Cruising	John Denton	Chris Osment	Darrell Allison
K-1 Squirt Boat	David Brown	Wayne Gentry	Michael Wilson
K-1 Championship	Steve Thomas	Scott Barloga	Kelly Strickland
K-1W Championship	Becky Weiss	Cat Potts	Susan Shippey
OC-1 Short Championshp	Frankie Hubbard	David Simpson	John Hammond
OC-1 Medium Championship	Frankie Hubbard	Fritz Orr	Nelson Smith
OC-2 Championship	John Hammond/John D'Orazio	Sparks/Don George	Nolan Whitesell/John Hurst
OC-Playboat	Nolan Whitesell	Brad Nichol	John Hurst
OC-1 Standard	Roger Nott	Andy Warshaw	Roger Salas
OC-2 Standard	John Pinyerd/John Denton	M.& F.Seco de Lucena	David Tillis/Ed Kevitt
OC-2M Championship	Ted & Helen Sparks	Dave Benner/Sharon Saunderson	Carmel Modica/Fritz Orr
C-1 Cruising(unofficial)	Betsy Darken	Mark Levine	Third registrant Did Not Start

(Note: GCA members are underlined, although some of these club members raced for other clubs or did not designate any club to represent, perhaps an easy way out for folks with dual loyalties.)

WILDWATER racers had to contend with very low water and, for some decked boaters, racing on the same day as their slalom runs. The Charlie Patton Award trophy was won handily by long-time racer Tom Popp in an impressive low water time of 55 minutes, 55 seconds. Tom did well in the C-1 Championship Slalom too, falling 1/3 second out of third place. For the first time the K-1 Championship Class did not make. Long time GCA member Ken Strickland showed up ready to race, this year with his long time nemesis David Jones absent, but the other registrants failed to show. Consequently Leigh-Ann Williams in the K-1W class in 58:29 garnered the Julie Wilson Award trophy. Perhaps this award is more appropriate for a woman anyway; indeed the award was on at least one time awarded to a woman, Ken's better half, Fran Strickland. The other WILDWATER WINNERS are:

C-1 Championship	Thomas Popp (55:55)	Douglas Cameron	Michael Larimer
C-2/OC-2 Championship	Gary Duren/Scott Anderson	Jim Morgan/Leonard Baker	Laura Lang/James Meyers
OC-1 Championship	George Stockman(57:31)	Nelson Smith(57:58)	John Hurst
K-1W Championship	Leigh-Ann Williams(58:29)	Susan Bradley	Linda Van Deusen
OC-2M Cruising	Leslie Campbell/Roger Shepherd	Gayle & Joe Dean	Barbara & Chris Osment
OC-2 Jr./Sr.Cruising	Eric & Don Giddens (62:58)	Don & Ron Towe	Dan & Danny Southerland
OC-2 Cruising	Frank & Mike Seco de Lucena	George Hedrick/Chris	Kohler Peter Werner/John Borg
OC-1 Cruising	Walt Hodge (67:13)	Larry Castillo	Stan Landers
K-1 Cruising	Jeff Martin (61:00)	Thomas Decuir (61:01)	William Thompson (61:16)

VOLUNTEERS worked (and sometimes played) long hours & ran this race as smoothly as any I can remember. Their hard work and expertise was particularly vital this year because, due to the drought, we did not have water at the falls until 11:30 am. So as not to run into the wildwater race at 4 pm and the heaviest public use, we had to run the slalom efficiently and we did! The Chairpeople were Gwen Bergen-Timing; Dale Bergen, Road Traffic; John & Tee Brower, Starters; Gary DeBacher, Boat Scrutineer; Jim Flemister, Course supervisor; Wayne Gentry, Safety; Jerry Holladay, Chief Judge; Havis Johnson, Communications; Laura Jordon, Publicity; Ed Kevitt, Ass't Registrar; Dennis Crain, Registrar; Mark Levine Hospitality; Oreon Mann, Equipment & River Traffic Control; Betty Davenport, Scoring; Andy Warshaw, Lodging; Kent Ford & Don George, Slalom Course Design. Roger Nott, Race Master

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TAX WRITE OFF! Non-Profit Organization needs Kayaks and equipement for instruction. Donations or low price. Have tax numbers. Please contact David Tillis at Anneewakee School. (522-1628) from 9:00am to 7:00pm.

MORE ON THE SOUTHEASTERN WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS: This year there were 125 entries, slightly more than last year and the largest number since 1982. The 1973 race had 400 entries, and we exceeded 300 in the peak years 1972 - 1977. Since that time almost all races, throughout the country, have become less popular. Perhaps we have turned the corner from our low point of 1984. At one time almost every large paddling club in the Southeast sponsored a major race with open and decked wildwater/downriver and slalom. Most of these races had fallen by the wayside by the early '80's, though Birmingham's annual Locust Fork Races have been reborn on the Mulberry Fork and seem particularly vital. The Dixie Division of the ACA (MS, AL, GA, FL, SC, NC, TN, KY & WV) has a tradition of breeding strong racers but may be losing ground as we lose the races in which we can compete. I hope that we'll soon see the revival of strong races once sponsored by such clubs as the ETWA, CCC, and TSRA and many more as well. It would be fun to see a club cup, the Southeastern Cup or one like it, awarded to the club whose members score the highest in races throughout the Dixie Division. The GCA obviously has an advantage in the Southeastern Cup, as we sponsor the race and have a large number of volunteers who compete, up for the weekend. One way to generate more interest in the club competition would be to attempt to get more clubs to co-sponsor the Southeasterns. How much better it would be, however, to have more races! Perhaps the ACA Dixie Division could promote and coordinate such competition.

Most nationally competitive racers begin racing in their teens. In the early years of the Southeasterns we had large classes for youth in such categories as under 12, 12 to 14, 15 and 16, and 17-18. The kids are still paddling today, but we are not involving them in racing and other GCA activities as much as we used to. Slalom races for youngsters might start below the Falls, while the downriver race could be shortened.

The honor roll of race volunteers for the 18th Annual Southeasterns includes (but is not limited to) the following in addition to the chairpeople: Fran & David Ashley, Ken Baer, Ben & Radine Bergen, Susan Bradley, Dave Bowman, Jim Brooks, John Browers, Sallie Burn, Leslie Campbell, Mike Collier, Betsy Darken, Les Davenport, Maria Dempsey, Joe & Gayle Dean, Peter Elkon, Carla Fields, David Frierson, Bettina George, Barry Hahn, Sabra Hanson-Holladay, Jay & Lee Harrell, Allen Hedden (who won a purple heart, breaking his ankle hanging the last slalom gate and yet working like a slave all weekend), Cathy & Darrell Hood, Ev Hopkins, Elaine Jensen, Jim Jones, Jan Keadle, Rob Kerr, Stan Landers, Stacy & Eileen Lang, Anita & Don Langford, Susan Levine, Charles & Cathy Leake, Susan Liebeshind, Walt, Lee, Walt Jr., & Selena Lynch, Mary & Harvey McKean, Mark Nagy, George Neill, Brad Nichol, Beth Nott, Barbie Osment, Jeanne Peters, John Pinyerd, Jim Pope, Ralph Pritchett, Jim Rogers, Belissa Russell, Roger Sallas, Ed Schultz, John & Robert Shumaker, Roger Shepherd, Jim Silavent, Alan & Debi Simons, Barney and Sherry Spurr, Ted & Helen Sparks, David Tillis, Stewart Stokes, Malcolm Tobias, Donnie, Ron and Sandra Towe, Nolan Whitesell, Michael Wilson, Chet Wright, and Amy We-forgot-your-last-name. I am certain I have omitted a few who helped and also have put in a few who volunteered to help but may not have actually done so. Many others volunteered but may not have been needed. THANK YOU ALL!
P.S. Also the racers on Sunday pitched in and took down the slalom course in near record time. Of particular note in this job were Frank and Mike Seco de Lucena of Atlanta, who were a pretty fine racing team too. Financially, we almost broke even, which is what we aimed to do. Roger Nott

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Cartecay River: Sunday, June 1: A game group of 14 paddlers in 12 boats met at the put-in and were on the river by 10:45, just ahead of a group three times our size who appeared to be venturing on the water for the first time, and nominally under the guise of Floyd Junior College. This type of activity may be the fate and the future for the Cartecay. Our weather was ideal, but at 1.4, the water left much to be desired: we did a great deal of scraping and "rock picking". We had three first timers, no mishaps, and some interesting runs at the two major rapids, also some amazing demonstrations of rolling (or the attempt) both kayaks and canoes! It was a pleasant trip and an easy group to lead. In kayaks were: Lissa Jackson, Stephen Dye, Sam Smith, Laurie Searle, Tom McCormick, Jean McCormick, Jason Hurd, and in canoes: myself, Bruce Williams, Bruce Bishop, Dan and Elise MacIntyre, and Chris and Sharon Hodges.....Dick Hurd

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Upper Hooch: May 11, Trip leader--A.J. Cote Pretty day, clean run, water level around 1.6. Paddlers: Wayne Sanders--K-1; Jerry Peterman, Gerard Aberson, and yours truely -OC-1; also one other(lost list). Plead guilty to charges of late report and other infractions.

WHITEWATER RESTAURANT MANAGERS

The Nantahala Outdoor Center is looking for restaurant management personnel. We have an immediate opening for an assistant manager in our present restaurant and will also be interviewing for managerial positions in our new restaurant, scheduled to open in April 1987. We are seeking applicants who will be comfortable with the lifestyle of the mountains of western North Carolina in a community of outdoor people. Interested persons should contact John Burton, Nantahala Outdoor Center, US 19W, Box 41, Bryson City NC 28713.