

The following Q and A are lifted from The Gradient, published by the Chicago Whitewater Association. The answer is provided by the association's regular answer man, Dr. CWA-PFD, BFRM.

Q. When will I know that I'm not a beginner anymore?

A. You are a beginner when: The thought of paddling in a swimming pool makes your stomach knot up. You think anyone who can roll is a superstar. You think a Mirage is a hot boat. Cold water scares you. You paddle only in groups of 20 or more. You run out and buy roof racks before you have a boat.

You are in intermediate when: The thought of paddling Class III water makes your stomach knot up. You think perfecting your roll is more important than ending world hunger. You think a Dancer is a hot boat. You get a dry suit so you can paddle as soon as the ice breaks. You have group of three or four good friends you paddle with. You choose your new car according to how it will fit your roof racks.

You are advanced when: You fall asleep while shuttling the Gauley at high water. You only need to roll three times a year. You own nothing bigger than a squirt boat. You paddle so hard that you don't need a dry suit in cold weather. You only paddle with one other person because no one else can keep up. You refer to your car as a shuttle vehicle.

You are an expert when: You get excited at the thought of paddling anywhere, even in a pool. You don't remember if you know how to roll. Your boat has less volume than your shoes. You only paddle when the air and water temperatures are each at least 60 degrees. You paddle in groups of 20 or more because everyone tags along to learn from you. You live in your car.

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Jay 635-2726

➔ Current Cartecay River Information

Call For Water Level



The
EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

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January, 1987

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 THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM, at the Atlanta Jewish Community Center at 1745 Peachtree Rd. NE, Atlanta, just north of Brookwood Station next to an Int'l. House of Pancakes. Members and interested persons are invited to attend. If you wish to submit any matters for discussion or vote, call President Andy Warshaw, 478-2104 so he can plan time on the agenda.

Jan. 1	Wild Card Hike or Paddle	Laura Jordan	233-7294
3	Broad 1-2, trained beginner	Jim McCay	1-789-2479
	Wild Card 2-3	Dewey Tate	487-2111
	Chattooga 3 3-4, advanced	David Tillis	751-1517
4	Upper Hooch 2-3, intermediate	Jay Kessler	843-1642
	Wild Card 3+, advanced	John Pinyerd	993-3678
10	Exploratory waterfall hike. Helen area.	Carol Mercer	373-6683
	Nantahala 2-3, intermediate	Jon Forrester	945-0601
	Chattooga 4 3-5, expert	Ron Towe	435-0903
11	Cartecay 2-3, intermediate	Rob Kerr W:442-4698 H:1-887-8772	
	Wildcard 3++	Peter Elkon	373-7535
17	Toccoa 1-2+, trained beginner	Brad Nichol	577-8195
	Upper Hooch or Hike	Carol Mercer	373-6683
18	Lower Conasauga 2-3, intermediate	Mark & Susan Levine	926-8683
	Wild Card 2-3, intermediate	Ben Maxwell	953-3972
24	Hike-Chattooga 3 evacuation routes.	Wayne Gentry	984-9198
	Wild Card 2-3, intermediate	Dale Bergen	469-6289
25	Upper Hooch 2-3, intermediate	Oreon Mann	522-3469
	Sweetwater Creek 3-4, advanced	Jerry Holladay	688-1842

30-31-1 Okefenokee- 3 day paddle camp. Please register by 1/12.

31	Flint 1-2, trained beginner	Eileen Lange	981-4231
	Upper Hooch or Hike	Fred Thomas	1-675-3830
	Chattooga 4 3-5, expert	Carol Mercer	373-6683
		Allen Hedden	252-6167
Feb. 1	Wildcard 1-2	Laura Jordan	233-7294
	Upper Amicalola 1-3, intermediate	Grant Luckhardt	373-2293

Jim Silavent is the cruismaster. Call him at 587-1172 to volunteer to lead trips. Rob Kerr is the impromptu trip leader. Call him at 442-4698 (W) or 1-887-8772 (H) to cook up unscheduled trips. Call Carol Mercer for impromptu class 1-2 runs or hikes in January. Jump trips for high water--- advanced boaters only need apply, class 4-5, call Nolan Whitesell during the day at 325-5330.

ROLLING PRACTICE will be held at 7 PM on Monday nights at the Whitehead Boys Club. To get there, take I-75 to the Lakewood Fairgrounds exit, hwy 166, and go east a block or so until it dead ends. Turn left and go to the 2nd traffic light. The Boys Club will be on your right. There will be a \$3 per person charge. MAKE SURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN.

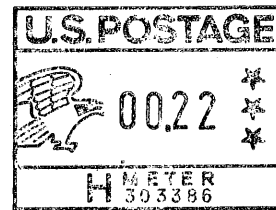
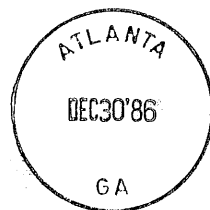
ALTERNATE SITE, for rolling practice will be the Gwinnett County pool at Five Forks- Trickum Road, Lilburn, GA. Call Jon Forrester at 945-0601 to find out the time and day of the week. (Jon did provide the details, but the editor lost them, and Jon seems to be out paddling as this is being written. Sorry about that. ---Ed.)

CHATTOOGA SECTION III EVACUATION ROUTES HIKE -- CALLING ALL HAIR HIKERS!!! Yes friends, it's that time once again for the Chattooga River Evacuation Routes hikes. The Section III hike will be held on January 24, followed by the Section IV hike sometime in late February. The purpose of these hikes is to educate paddlers on the trails leading out of the Chattooga River corridor, so that you know where they are in case of an emergency on one of your river trips. For most people this is a very educational day. It is definitely time well spent. Don't wait until someone gets hurt on the river, to try and find these trails. Ya'll come!! It'll be fun!! Wayne Gentry -Safety

A REMINDER - January's board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 1987 at our new meeting location. See insert for map and details.

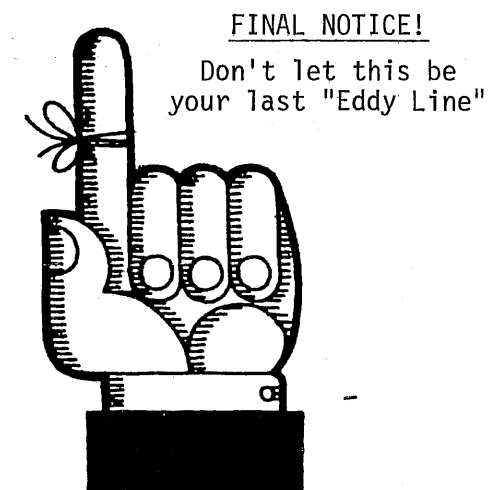
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ATLANTA, GA 30357

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Roger & Beth Nott
2335 Stephens Circle
Gainesville, GA 30506

TIME LIMIT



A Reminder —
Dues are Due!

CANOE CLINICS		KAYAK CLINICS	
ACA CERTIFICATION CLINIC	MAY 15,16,17,30,31	BEGINNERS CLINIC	MAY 15,16,17
BEGINNERS CLINIC	JUNE 18,20,21	BEGINNERS CLINIC	JUNE 26,27,28
FREESTYLE CLINIC	JUNE 27	INTERMEDIATE CLINIC	JULY 18,19
BEGINNERS CLINIC	JULY 9,11,12	WOMENS CLINIC	JULY 24,25,26
WOMENS CLINIC	JULY 25,26	CHILDRENS CLINIC	AUGUST 1
CHILDRENS CLINIC	AUGUST 1	BEGINNERS CLINIC	AUGUST 21,22,23
INTERMEDIATE CLINIC	AUGUST 22,23		
MISCELLANEOUS CLINICS		TENTATIVE CLINICS	
TRIP LEADERS CLINIC	MARCH 28,29	KAYAK RACING CLINIC	LATE SPRING
RIVER RESCUE CLINIC	MAY 9,10	CANOE RACING CLINIC	LATE SPRING
		KAYAK ACA CERTIFICATION	LATE SUMMER
		KAYAK ADVANCED CLINIC	SUMMER
		SQUIRT BOAT WORKSHOP	SUMMER

Listed above is the GCA's 1987 preliminary training schedule. The dates may change due to the availability of instructors. The clinics listed as 'tentative clinics' are clinics we are considering, but are unsure of club interest. If you would like to see any of these clinics offered, please contact either Ron Towe or Wayne Gentry. Please let us hear from you as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made. The schedule is a very enthusiastic one, and we're going to need alot of help from you qualified instructors out there. Please call Ron or Wayne to volunteer.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW GCA MEMBERS. AS YOU'LL SEE BELOW, WE HAVE MEMBERS NOT ONLY FROM GA. BUT THE SURROUNDING STATES AS WELL.

Zeb Jolly Canton,NC	Janice & Harry Maney Hendersonville NC	Greg Thurman Marietta GA
Kathy Kulper Durham NC	Reggie & Sherry Obb Athens GA	Patricia & Beck Bryant Birmingham AL
James Hagler Stone Mtn GA	Anne Wilson Gainesville GA	

CARTECAY, Saturday Nov. 22, 1986; Trip leader/Dick Hurd; Water level/ 1.8 . First, I would like to echo the sentiments of Bob Striggow in his Chattooga trip report in the December 'Eddy Line'. We can probably never stress safety enough, and with cold weather coming, we all need to think about hypothermia, about which more later.

With the river at an almost respectable level, eight boats set out in relatively balmy (mid 50*s) conditions, but the water felt Nantahala-cold, and though the sun was shining, as the day wore on it was often hidden behind the mountains. The run was without mishaps in general, all who cared to running the major rapids in good order. Our one first timer seemed to have a particularly good time. One paddler had two swims, and after the second was sufficiently chilled that we built a fire on the rocks, river-right, at Clear Creek falls, where we also lunched. I might add that this paddler did not have a wetsuit, which probably would have prevented the incipient hypothermia.

Participants: K-1/Gilbert Hind, Judy Castow, Tom and Jeanne McCormick; OC-1/myself, Stan Landers, Bruce Bishop, Gary Plumley. Special thanks to the good people at Mountain Outdoor Expeditions, who ran shuttle for us (a courtesy they extend to all GCA trips on the Cartecay).

UPPER HOCH SAT NOV 29: WATER LEVEL 2.5 ft Trip leader Carol Mercer

An uneventful trip with plenty of water. After a great roller coaster ride on the river, the main questions to be asked were: Why did one of our kayakers do a wet exit in an eddy--some people do anything to get their name in the Eddy Line, right Tom? Would one of our paddlers get stopped by the Fuzz again and what would be his excuse this time? Finally, who does the adorable take out puppy belong to? Be sure to scratch his/her ears the next time you paddle the Hooch. Our paddlers were: K-1 Tom and Jennie McCormick, Hugh Stubbs, and Bob Jelly: OC-1 Barry Hahn, Ted Maloof, Gerard Aberson, Walter Howard and yours truly.

Bob Striggow's trip report, in the December issue, points to a problem that should be of concern, not only to trip leaders and river professionals, but to all paddlers, whether they are occasional flat-water cruisers or hard-core whitewater fanatics.

Striggow's specific complaint stemmed from the fact that paddlers arrived for the Chattooga section IV trip without safety ropes: I believe this issue merits further, more vigorous discussion.

The safety rope is considered by most professionals to be one of the most fundamental pieces of paddling equipment. Being improperly equipped has led to a number of accidents and injuries. Les Bechdel, five time U.S. Champion and co-author of the book "River Rescue" states, "The most useful tool in any rescue, from the simplest capsize, to the most complicated Tyrolean rescue, is the safety rope, ... every paddler should carry one."

The whitewater paddler has a critical need for a safety rope, and the flat-water paddler, even though his river trip may seem less threatening, will find many situations where a safety rope is a necessity. It is also a good practice to develop the habit of carrying the proper equipment on all trips.

Cris Leonard, in a near-miss at Sweet's Falls on the Gauley River, gives direct credit to his own rescue rope, for saving his life. Cris, paddling an open boat, became vertically pinned in the drop in Sweet's Falls. His boat partially collapsed around him, pinning his leg in what he described as a "vice-grip". The river poured over his head and he said his options for rescue were limited. Several hours of shore-based rescue attempts proved futile. With hypothermia approaching, Cris remembered his own throw bag, tied in its usual spot in front of him. He was able to tie the rope to the boat and throw it downstream. After his rescue, he said, "The fact that a rescue line may be needed for self-rescue justifies every paddler carry one."

Paddlers showing up for trips on whitewater of the Chattooga IV class, sans ropes, indicates a need to examine the more obscure implications of the issue. If a paddler feels that the most fundamental safety precautions are unnecessary, what other risks is he willing to take? And with whose life? When paddling in groups, the safety of one person affects the safety of all. The group is only as strong as it's weakest link, and a paddler who does not make safety his number one concern is a hazard to the group and a detriment to the sport in general. Placing the burden of rescue on the shoulders of the trip leader is an abdication of individual responsibility.

Whitewater boating is a rewarding sport, but its dangers cannot be ignored. Paddlers must assume responsibility for their actions on the water. Paddling with a group does not alleviate these responsibilities in any way. If anything, one must become more cautious, as each member of the group is obliged to every other member of the group. There is also the matter of setting a good example for less experienced paddlers.

The reputation of the group and the sport are at risk and any display of carelessness or foolhardiness on the part of an individual can only be detrimental to the paddling community as a whole. Our freedom to paddle the rivers we choose, without the intervention of "do-good" government agencies, rests on self-regulation. Self-regulation means each paddler exhibiting a safety-conscious attitude, and this means carrying a safety rope. It is such a small price to pay.

Editorial Comment: I think anyone must agree that there is no good reason for paddling without a throw rope. There are, however, some significant practical problems as to where to put the damn things, at least for decked boaters. Most kayakers will not have room to strap a full size throw bag under or between their legs without some risk that it would impede a wet exit. It can be stuffed behind the seat, but it is not easy to yank it back out between the typical seat cutout and the floatation bags. Certainly a kayaker could not get his throw rope from behind the seat if he were pinned in the boat! As for C-boats, there may be room to strap a throw bag between the knees in a Gyramax, but in my Phoenix with its full pedestal and knee blocks, there is no room between the legs, in front of the knees, or behind my large feet to stow a full size throw bag. If I take the time to stow it alongside one of the float bags, I guarantee that you'll drown before I can get it out. I have to be content with a ratty 5/16", 50 foot bag rope that I found on the Chattahoochee, just barely better than nothing. I could go without bow floatation bags like certain "expert" paddlers I know, but I consider full float bags and a full pedestal more likely to save my own life than my throw rope. Since it is clearly an advantage for a paddler to be able to reach the throw bag even while still seated in the boat, we may need new compact bag designs with thinner, stronger rope, and these may need to be carried on the front deck, the PFD, or the spray skirt. In the meantime, I will tolerate the justifiable impatience of Dean, Bechdel, Walbridge, etc., as long as they recognize that there is at present no good way for many decked boaters to carry a rope. —Gary DeBacher