Mountaintown
Outdoor
Expeditions

End of Season
Boat Sale and Swap Meet

Sun. Nov.8, 1987 2 pm

New & Used Canoes & Kayaks

Old Town & Mohawk Canoes
Noah & Perception Kayaks

Bring your Boats & Equipment

Swap or Sell

Mountaintown Outdoor Center

Lower Cartecay Rd.

Ellijay, Ga.

New Hours

Fri.- Sat.- Sun.- Mon. 10 am- 7 pm

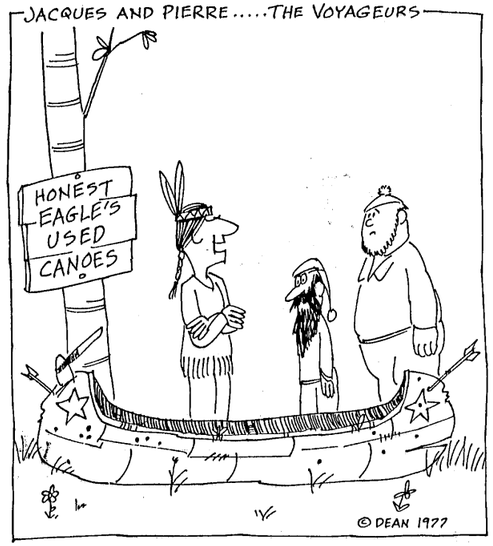
404- 635 - 2524

Cartecay water level

New & Used Equipment & Paddles

Ga. State A T B Championships

Dec. 5 & 6, 1987



"This one was owned by a little old squaw who only paddled it to church on Sundays. Unfortunately she got caught in the crossfire when we massacred the missionaries."

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 7023
ATLANTA, GA 30357

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ATLANTA NOV-5'87 GA

U.S.POSTAGE 00.39 H METER 303328

Roger & Beth Nott
2335 Stephens Circle
Gainesville, GA 30506

TIME LIMIT

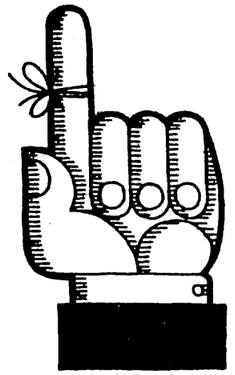
GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INC.

The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357 Vol. 22, No. 11 November, 1987

DEADLINE for the next newsletter is the 15th. Send material to Gary DeBacher, CRM, 1441 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30322. (Do not send to his home address, or it will get lost in the fallout of the typical nuclear family.) 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. Want ads are free for members selling used paddling equipment only; see details elsewhere.
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 Intl. House of Pancakes. Members and interested persons are invited to attend. If you wish to submit any matters for discussion or vote, call President Allen Hedden, 252-6167, so he can plan time on the agenda.

Nov.	7-8 Little River Canyon Hiking Weekend		Gwen Bergen	377-2970
	7 Wildcard	Class 2-3	Rob Kerr	641-9108
	Chattooga 4	class 4-5, expert	Roger Nott	1-536-6923
	8 Wild Card	2-3, intermediate	Dale Bergen	469-6289
	Wilder Card	4+, expert	Peter Elkon	373-7535
	14 Metro Chattahoochee Cleanup-- see announcement below.			
	Toccoa	1-2, trained beginner	Jimmy Gunter	427-0706
	Chattooga 3 first timer		Jim Buford	434-7025
	15 Upper Hooch	2-3, intermediate	Nancy Barker	874-8897
	Chattooga 4	4-5, expert	Allen Hedden	252-6167
	21 Nantahala	2-3, intermediate	Bob Striggow	1-782-5014
	Chattooga 3	3-4, advanced	David Ashley	498-7462
	22 Etowah, tunnel section, class 1-2		Walter Howard	422-3091
	Cartecay	2-3, intermediate	Bill Gay	297-0027
	26-29 Okeefenokee canoe camping and/or day tripping. Call early so trip leader can arrange for enough alligators permits.		Don Langford	1-324-3007
	28 Nantahala	2-3. Call before Wednesday.	Brenda Burnette	425-9671
	Wildcard	3+, advanced	Jim Silavent	587-1172
	29 Upper Hooch	2-3, intermediate	Gerard Aberson	971-5914
	Sweetwater Cr.	3+(4), advanced	Jerry Holladay	321-6746
Dec.	4-6 (Fri-Sun) 2nd Annual Cumberland Island Camping Trip		Carol Mercer	373-6683
	5 Wildcard	1-2, trained beginner	Dave Bowman	923-0954
	Upper Amicalola	1-3, easy intermediate	Ed Schultz	266-3734
	6 Wildcard	2-3, intermediate	Bruce Bishop	641-1944



A Reminder — Dues are Due!

12-7&9 CPR course, Mon. and Wed. 6-9 PM, American Red Cross Bldg., 1925 Monroe Drive, Fulton Service Ctr. $10. Call Carol Mercer, 373-6683.

To volunteer to lead trips, call Jim Silavent at 587-1172. Pray for rain.

METRO HOOCH CLEANUP. The Atlanta Whitewater Club with assistance from the Park Service is sponsoring a Chattahoochee River Cleanup. This is planned for November the 14th, a Saturday, at 9 AM. The Park Service is providing the plastic bags, so we need people with & without boats. Please come and help us spruce up our river. For more information call Brad Waggoner at 998-2945.

Lower Toccoa, Sun., October 18, 1987 - The Lower Toccoa is one of the few whitewater streams in Georgia which normally is runnable throughout the year; in fact, in some ways it tends to be more fun at low levels when the water is clear and does not wash out the numerous small shoals. Maneuvering was the day's biggest challenge, as .72 (98 cfs)on the "Dial" gauge,on river right about a mile upsteam from Shallowford Bridge,is very low, though passable without scraping at most of the rapids. I find the flat bottomed boats such as the OCA's Margo Booth and I paddled to be ideal for this type of water. Dave Riley did well in his Dancer, and Ed Schultz looked like a pro in his beautiful new green Courier. Highlights of the trip included cloudless, 80 degree weather; brilliant, peak leaf color;good company; a couple of playspots; and being able to paddle very close to a flock of 8 ducks which contained domestic whites, Mallards, and crossbreeds. We ran from the park at Aska to the head of the lake. A new bridge at Dial is being built. All the land around the old bridge is posted, so it remains to be seen whether the new bridge's right-of-way will allow access here. Also, I was sad to learn that the 150 year-old house on river right by Dial Bridge was a recent arson victim. - Roger Nott

SMITH ISLAND UPDATE 10-23-87

NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT GCA MEMBERS DON'T RISE TO THE OCCASSION WHEN HELP IS NEEDED. THE AUCTION HELD AT THE FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RAISED $2485. THE RAFFLE BROUGHT IN ANOTHER $3065 AND THIS, ADDED TO PRIVATE DONATIONS, RAISED JUST UNDER $7,000 FOR THE GCA RIVER RIGHTS DEFENSE FUND. I KNOW THAT EACH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER JOINS ME IN A SINCERE, HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS IMPORTANT CAUSE.

I ALSO WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WHICH CONTRIBUTED CASH OR PRIZES FOR OUR AUCTION AND RAFFLE.

BLUE HOLE CANOE
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN SPORTS
BROAD RIVER OUTPOST
CANOES BY WHITESELL
CHATTAHOOCHE RAFTING INC.
CREDIT RATING BUREAU
GARY POLIZZOTTO CHIROPRACTIC
GO WITH THE FLOW
HIGH COUNTRY
JAY KESSLER INVESTMENTS
MAD RIVER CANOES
JIM BUFORD KAYAK INSTRUCTION
MIKE MCCURDY CANOE REPAIR
PERCEPTION
RIVER EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS
SCISSORS SANDY
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN SPORTS
SOUTHEASTERN EXPEDITIONS
WHITEWATER SHOP
WILDEWOOD SHOP
XANADU MOUNTAINEERING

AS I ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING, MR. LANKES HAS SOLD HIS PROPERTY ON THE CHATTAHOOCHE RIVER. OUR ATTORNEYS ARE BUSILY HAMMERING OUT AN OFFICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE LAWSUIT EVEN AS I WRITE THIS ARTICLE. I FEEL WE ARE NEARING A MUTUAL AGREEMENT AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT ON THE SMITH ISLAND MATTER FOR THE DECEMBER EDDYLINE.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND DONATIONS OF TIME AND MONEY. IT HAS BEEN MY ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO BE A PART OF THIS ALL IMPORTANT RIVER RIGHTS BATTLE.

ANDY WARSHAW

NANTHALA, Saturday 9-19 Trip Coordinator: Barry Hahn

It drizzled enroute and there was doubt that anyone would be at the put-in. But one by one everyone arrived for a day of fun on the dam release river. For Sally Price it was to be a special day, her first solo trip on the Nanty in her Dancer. She was both anxious and excited which added enthusiasm to the group. We waited for the usual entourage of rafters to clear the inlet, and then we were off undaunted by the light drizzle.

Intrepid paddlers this day were: Bill Pennington from Clemson, S.C. in his OCA, Carol Mercer-Sunburst II, Scott Crozier-Dancer, Jeff and Kathy Hunt-tandem Blue Hole, and Ben Fouts-ME equipped with a new "Super Saddle" who ran sweep, and myself-ME. Somewhere along the river before Ferabee Park, the bottom dropped and we all got wet. So, we pushed onward to lunch with only a few eddy turns and little playing. Bill Pennington's wife had baked some delicious pastries and he was gracious to share them with the group. Someone was eating sardines. Any guesses? It had gratefully stopped raining while we ate. Lots of rafts on the river up to this point. Don't they know it is to rain all day?

A little playing at Delbar, Whirlpool and Surfing rapids. Boy, that tandem pair work nicely together, but will only admit to five trips together. Scott Crozier has mastered Surfing Rapid. And, Ben Fouts has mastered all aspects of playing this river. When we got to the Falls, Ben stopped above the falls to be ready with a rope if it should be needed. I was to be ready with a rope below the Falls. So, you guessed it, I demonstrated how not to make the run. Eddied out above left. Almost made the tongue, but a perfect DUMP. Wet and embarrassed, I watched the others do well. Scott even brought Sally's K-1 down. Win some. Lose some. But not rained out. The radio said .3" of rain. Could they have erred where they put their decimal? Thanks to Ben for sweep and support. I hope everyone had a good time as Sally did.

ENVIRNOMENTAL CORNER

Duke Power Co has announced plans to build another pumped storage facility in the pristine Jocassee Watershed, located in Oconnee County, S.C., North East from Lake Jocassee and just South of the N.C. state line---in an area of scenic rivers and beautiful waterfalls.

WHY GCA--WHY OUR CONCERN--although we dont paddle there--WE ARE CONCERNED WITH RIVERS AND ACCESS TO THEM. Many of us not only paddle, but also hike (not just to put-ins) and backpack.

This project is to be built in the beautiful Coley Creek Wilderness Basin. Coley Creek is nestled between the mighty Thompson and Horsepasture Rivers, two remote wild and scenic rivers in the south east. The waterfalls on these rivers are unsurpassed for their natural beauty---NO POWER LINES AND ROADS PLEASE.

There are major envirnomental concerns regarding this project---another lake would have to be created to serve as a upper resovior;this lake would flood much of the unspoiled Coley Creek basin. Also--due to location, miles of paved roads would have to be constructed to provide access to the site, secondary roads constructed, transmission lines hung, and chainlink fences constructed, There is also the damage and distruction to wildlife-all animals, birds and fish. COST -- TRY 3.3-3.8 BILLION DOLLARS; also, Duke Power Co is now selling electricity to FL and NY and will honor outside contracts before furnishing electricity locally. The coalition formed to protect the Jocassee Watershed needs our help---letters to N.C. and S.C. congressmen and senators asking for protection of the watershed and Coley Creek Basin, as well as stating opposition to the project. The JOCASSEE WATERSHED COALITION--has asked very critical questions regarding pumped storage hydro's technology--it may very well be obsolete--and the serious questions, why destroy our wilderness in the SE to sell power out of state, when it appears that it is not needed here.

If you have further questions, write or call one of the co-chairman of the coalition:

Jocassee Watershed Coalition
Bill Thomas, Co-Chair
P.O. Box 272
Cedar Mountain, North Carolina
28718 (704) 885-8229

Jocassee Watershed Coalition
Jerry Beck, Co-Chair
P.O. Box 1836
Easley, South Carolina
29641 (803) 843-1293

Letters against the project may be sent to the following senate and house members(N.C & S.C.)

North Carolina Senate:

Robert Swain
612 Northwestern Plaza
Asheville, N.C. 28801
(704) 255-7703 (W), 298-5970 (H)

Dennis Winner
81-B Central Avenue
Asheville, N.C. 28801
258-0094 (W), 254-2493 (H)

Charles Hipps
505 N. Main Street, Suite 305
Waynesville, N.C. 28756
452-2866 (W), 452-2452 (H)

R.P. (Bo) Thomas
P.O. Drawer 220
Hendersonville, N.C. 28793
692-6472 (W), 692-1051 (H)

North Carolina House of Representatives:

Marie Colton
392 Charlotte Street
Asheville, N.C. 28801
253-7350

Narvel J. Crawford
15 Edgemont Road
Asheville, N.C. 28801
252-6972

Gordon Greenwood
P.O. Box 487
Black Mountain, N.C. 28711
669-7961

Martin Nesbitt
6 Maple Ridge Lane
Asheville, N.C. 28806
252-0490 (W), 255-8114 (H)

South Carolina Senate:

Alexander S. Macaulay
P.O. Drawer 428
Walhalla, S.C. 29691
(803) 638-9507

Nell W. Smith
P.O. Box 68
Easley, S.C. 29641

J. Verne Smith
P.O. Box 528
Greer, S.C. 29651

South Carolina House of Representatives:

Thomas C. Alexander
207 N. Pine Street
Walhalla, S.C. 29691

Edward W. Simpson, Jr.
104 Lewis Road
Clemson, S.C. 29631

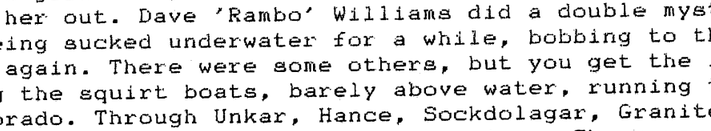
Larry Martin
P.O. Box 247
Pickens, S.C. 29671
859-6323 (W), 859-9951 (H)

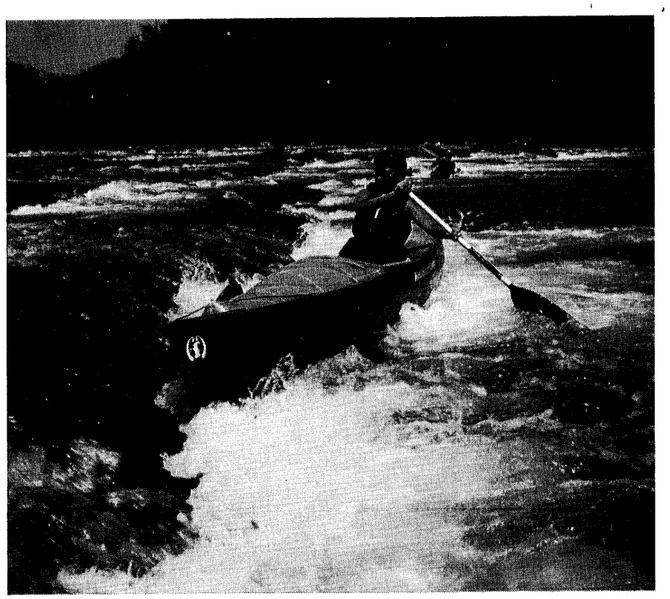
Robert Neil McLellan
P.O. Box 796
Seneca, S.C. 29679

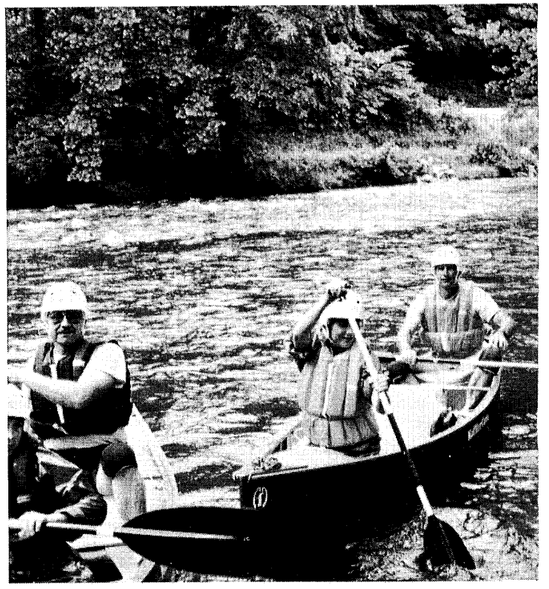
FLINT RIVER, SEPT. 19th, SPREWELL BLUFF TO HWY. 36 BRIDGE. The gauge at Hwy. 36 indicated just under 7 ft. and at that level there was bound to be a little scraping in the rock gardens. The only part that was really nip and tuck was the route to the right of Owen's Island. The sighting of a really big heron, however, made the trip on that side worth getting stuck a couple of times. Other than that, there was plenty of water for a good run and folks were able to play at all the regular drops. The weather was overcast and we did get one very small shower but the clouds kept the temperature just right. The funniest part of the day had to be the absolute silence of the group when we stopped at a scenic overlook and fooled them into thinking the put-in was located several hundred feet almost straight down the mountain. Everyone was so relieved to learn that was not the put-in they never once complained about the water level. Paddlers included Bruce King, Steve Freedman, Bob Schmidt, Julie Bass, Anita and Don Langford.

The Grand American Torqueathon - Squirt Boaters Invade the Grand Canyon

Susan Wilson and myself, Wayne Gentry, were lucky enough to be invited on an all squirt boat trip down the Grand Canyon last September lead by Risa Shimoda Calloway and Forrest Calloway. We had eighteen torquers from Michigan, Virginia, D.C., Boston, New York, North Carolina, and Georgia. Our boats ranged in size from a Silon to Risa's Pro Jet with a two inch cut. We had a very strong group of boaters, but I don't think anyone slept well on the night before the putin. Everyone was dreaming about cramped feet for 225 miles and twelve days, the swirlies, and eternal mystery moves. As we arrived at the putin with our small sparkling boats, metalflake helmets, and an assortment of exotic sunglasses, the boatmen at Lee's Ferry stared in disbelief. When everyone got in their boats and started doing squirts and bow pivots in the flat water at the putin, they realized that they were in for quite a show. The Colorado turned out to be the most outrageous squirt boating river any of us had ever paddled. Stern squirts and bow pivots could be done in virtually every eddyline without the fear of crunching your boat. The Jet set was doing mystery moves (none eternal) and mush moves in the eddylines. We splattered the vertical walls of the Inner Gorge. We spun down the long tongues into the rapids standing vertical on bow pivots. We surfed waves and blasted holes. And there's nothing quit like doing rocket moves off of the huge standing waves. For the most part, these moves were intentional. We were not out of control as some people thought we might be. There were a few instances where the river toyed with us. In Hance rapid, I hit the mush behind a hole, did a mystery move, bounced off the bottom of the river, and then came rocketing to the surface. Susan was stood up vertical in a whirlpool at Bedrock rapid, swallowed by the river like a gold fish, and was not seen for five or six seconds when the river belched her out. Dave 'Rambo' Williams did a double mystery move at the same place, being sucked underwater for a while, bobbing to the top, only to be sucked down again. There were some others, but you get the idea. It was really wild seeing the squirt boats, barely above water, running the huge rapids on the Colorado. Through Unkar, Hance, Sockdolagar, Granite, Crystal, and Lava, we partied and played our way down the river. There were many highlight runs. Risa demonstrated why she was named as one of the top ten paddlers by purposely running headlong into the big hole in Crystal and emerging unscathed. Paul Marshal ran Granite rapid vertical from top to bottom, switching from bow to stern in a very smooth, controlled run. Forrest was the expert at spinning down most drops vertically. Bob Taylor managed to go under the last big wave hole in Lava Falls and emerge ten feet downstream standing on his bow. Susan demonstrated the proper way to run Lava with a perfect line down the right side. The boats performed really well in the big water. They were great on the flat stretchs too, because there were always interesting eddylines to squirt in. The boatmen, all kayakers themselves, decided to get into the act by first trying out some of the boats, and then doing a little L1 and L2. They found a large log on the bank and rode it through two medium sized rapids; first solo and then tandem. One of our favorite pastimes on the trip was torqueing it up for other trips we encountered along the way. We would meet a raft trip or a group of surface boaters and suddenly everyone was vertical, with bows and sterns flying everywhere. The biggest show was when we saw an NOC trip pulling into their camp for the night at the head of a rapid. Everyone unloaded their bag of tricks in that rapid. The funniest comment about the group came from a woman surface boater from Utah at Lava Falls. Forrest and Risa were entering the tongue on the right side of Lava, vertical, on bow pivots. The girl said "How do they expect to make it through this rapid? They can't even control their boats in the flat water!". Forrest and Risa, of course, continued down, making the rapid look simple. Paul Marshall from Virginia captured the trip on video, which will be available next spring from Marshall Arts Productions. It was a superb river trip with good food, incredible scenery, excellent hiking, great whitewater, and super people. We felt like missionaries in the Canyon, spreading the word of squirt boating to the West and showing people that the fun of squirting is not restricted to eddys.







DEAR EDITOR,

We are the satisfied owners of a 35 mm Canon Aqua Snappy -- sample pictures are enclosed.
Best picture taking range is 10-15 feet from the subject. We have found that 400 ASA film is the best for water action shots.
I recently had one of this camera's film negatives enlarged to an 11"x 14" picture with very pleasing results.

Sincerely,
Cones- Tony, Cathy, Heather

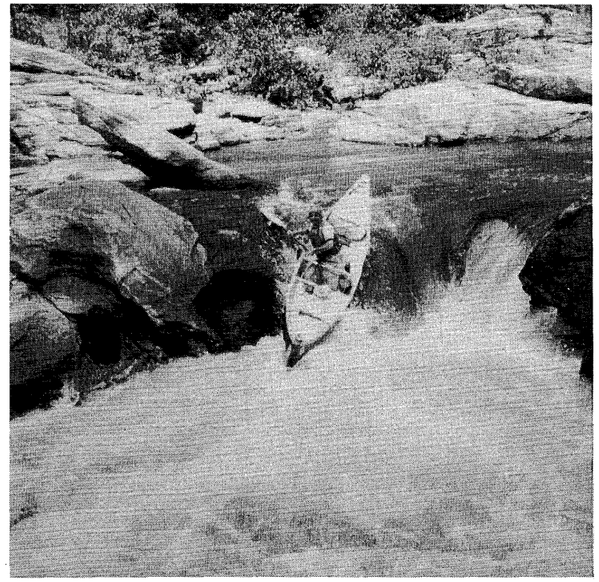
P.S.- It's a great land camera too!

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The Canon Aqua Snappy is probably the least expensive submersible camera (not too deep- I think the limit is about 33 ft.) It is fixed focus with an aperture limited to give acceptable depth of field, so it is wise to use a reasonably fast film to get proper exposures on cloudy days. I have seen Aqua Snappy cameras for as little as $105 from New York discounters; for $120 you get some extra accessories.

Sunday Sept. 20,87 Cartecay River Gauge 1.5 Jay Srymanske

Abright sunny day for the first of cool fall paddling in Gilmer County. After hoping for some rain during a long dry summer our wish came true. About an inch of rain came earlier in the week to raise the level from 1.1. With the number of first timers for the long trip on the Cartecay, we decided to give it a try. The water was low for the trip but it was a good safe level for those to see what to expect at another time. The over all trip went well with the low level rock to rock push offs in the thinner areas. However there was one near major mishap at the "Narrows" near Clear Creek. Kevin Stafford after successfully running the rapid once with his mother tried again but wasn't so lucky the second time. Kevin and his partner overturned with Kevin's leg being pinned for a few moments between the boat and a rock. It first was hard to tell the extent of the injury but luckily it turned out to be a severe bruise of his calf muscle. Being the young tough adventurer he was he managed the rest of the long trip out. (8hrs. including lunch) Folks that paddled K-1 Sally Farmer, Jason Pickering,Pat Wolfer, Bob Mauney. OC-1 Rose Stafford, Kevin Stafford, Joe Scribner, Tom Pickering, Fred Stokes, Bryant Kachel. Otter- Margie Gilmore. Sunburst- Libby Smith. Rogue- Tom Lovelace, Carol Srymanske, Jay Srymanske and son Roy (2 yrs. old)

Once again the importance of a river park with a take-out below Clear Creek came to light with the accident on this trip. Though this mishap wasn't as serious as it first appeared, the potential was there and keep in mind it could be you! Please write to me or the Ga. Power rep. in Gilmer County stating the advantages of a park and how it will some day prevent an injury from becoming a serious problem by having no access for help. Also with river property being bought and developed all over, this park will help guarentee outdoor recreation space for all. PLEASE WRITE - Jay Srymanske c/o M.O.E. P O Box 86 Ellijay, Ga. 30540 or Jim West c/o Ga. Power Industrial Blvd. Ellijay, Ga. 30540



Roger Nott runs right at Seven Foot Falls (left), while he and John Bell await Fort Rabb plunging over the ledge at Sock 'm Dog during the 9-20-87 GCA trip on Section IV.(by Hank Miles with Hal Hearndon's camera.)

Chattooga Section IV, Sun., Sept. 20, 1987 - We had a beautiful, cloudless day and 1.3 on the downstream gauge. John Miles was paddling Section IV for the first time and had a strong, confident run. A few swims were had at the usual places (Seven Foot, Corkscrew, and Sock 'm Dog), but overall we had a strong group which worked well together. We stopped at Seven Foot Falls for lunch and fresh muscadines. I discovered that paddlers aren't the only critters who appreciate these succulent wild grapes: after I had picked about a qt. in one spot on the edge of the cliff 25' above the falls, I noted that I was being scrutinized from three feet overhead by a tightly coiled copperhead. I consoled myself some with the theory that he probably would prefer to keep eating the muscadine in his jaws than to bite me but nevertheless left him a few within his reach. Our 7 boats gave us an ideal size for good fellowship and safety as well as expediting our run despite a good deal of play. John Bell led the kayaks with sidesurfing stunts at Raven Rock Rapid. However, he had more trouble nearby at a place some of us Gainesville paddlers have called Forte's Hole since Dr. Rabb spent one Sunday afternoon there several years ago; he sidesurfed valiently, though somewhat desperately, for about 10 minutes until he was able to tie my throwrope to a thwart and I was able, just barely, to haul him and his sweet pea green OCA out, miraculously still upright. As far as I know, the place, a 2½'ledge on river right just above Raven Chute, has no other name and is fairly innocuous at higher water levels. John learned, however, that at 1.3 this keeper's exit was underwater. We weren't able to persuade Forte to do an encore this afternoon. Dinner at Louise's capped a perfect day, enjoyed by John Bell, Hal Hearndon, and John Miles in Kayaks and Ben Fouts, Hank Miles, Forte Rabb, and me in OC1's.-Roger Nott

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1987 Whitewater Open Canoe National Championships, Ocoee River, June 23-24, 1987 - GCA and Dixie Division open boaters dominated most of the slalom and combined classes on what was probably the most demanding course ever used for the OC Nationals, though the Downriver race on the Hiwasssee on Sunday, June 25, was much tamer (and the yankees did considerably better). Congratulations to Carrie Ashton - OC1 SHORT Women, Ted and Helen Sparks- OC2 Mixed, Bunny Johns and Carrie Ashton - OC2 Women, Mark Clark and Dave Paton - OC2 Open, Ray McLain - OC1 Med. Masters, Frankie Hubbard - OC1 Medium Open, and Kent Ford - OC1 Short, who won their slalom divisions. Combined winners were Fritz Orr (OC1), Dave Benner and Steve Scarborough (OC2), and Wayne Dickert and Bunny Johns (OC2M). Nolan Whitesell won the "ACA Solo" wildwater race on Saturday in 33 min., 32.56 sec., though it is rumored that he lost a good deal of time when he stopped to surf the upper hole at Double Trouble, just besting second place Fritz Orr by less than 10 seconds. Robert Harrison and Jeff Talman were the "ACA Tandem" wildwater winners in 33:31.88. Doug Cameron and the team of Paul Brown and George Walsh took the gold in the Ocoee Solo and Tandem Wildwater races. GCA paddlers Nolan Whitesell (3rd, OC1 Combined), Roger Nott (3rd, OC1 Med. Masters), and Ted and Helen Sparks (2nd, OC2M Combined) also earned medals. Mssrs. Scarborough, Cameron, Ashton, McLain and many others deserve laurels for a race very well run. At this point it looks as though the 1988 Nationals will be back on the Nantahala on July 1 - 4.

WHERE IS IT GOING TO END? Over the last few years, the introduction and evolution of squirt boats has lead many people to ask this question. Squirt boats have given new meaning to the term 'low volume'. Recently Susan Wilson and I met Jeff Snyder at the putin for the Upper Gauley. (Jeff and his brother Jimmy were two of the first people to experiment and build squirt boats. They are now considered the leading authorities on the aport.) Snyder was not going to paddle the river that day; he was there to swim it! Yes, that's right, swim the Upper Gauley from Summersville Dam through Insignificant, Pillow Rock, Lost Paddle, Iron Ring, and Sweet's Falls, to the takeout at Panther Creek. He outfitted himself with two full wetsuits with padding in between, a helmet with a face gaurd, a pfd, and some low volume swim fins. He had already swam the Gauley several times. He said the first river he ever swam was the Upper Yough, a Class V run near Friendsville, MD. Others boaters who knew Jeff said that he didn't just swim down the river, he liked to do some playing on these rivers too. Someone told us about him 'body splatting' Pillow Rock. They also had seen him swim into pour overs, get tumbled around for a while, then swim out the bottom, just for the fun of it. Though we didn't get to watch him swim anything, we saw him at the takeout and he didn't look any worse for the wear. He didn't even have any visible bruises. It was obvious that he had to know what he was doing. We asked if he had ever been hurt doing this and he responded that he had cut his elbow once in Meat Cleaver on the Upper Yough, and required seven stitches. We asked him if he ever got scared and he said "Yes, but I like being scared. I really get into it". In the short time we talked with him he never bragged about these feats, he was just out for some fun and thrills. At this point we were thinking this guy must be crazy. By talking to people who know Snyder, we learned his secret to not only surviving, but enjoying swimming rapids that most paddlers fear to paddle. He basically grew up on these rivers and knows them intimately, from extremely low water to flood stage. He only swims rivers that he knows extremely well. Through experimenting with kayaks, squirt boats, and swimming in rivers for so many years, he also has an incredible knowledge of water. He understands what is happening both on top and below the surface of these rivers. He experimented by swimming individual rapids before moving on to whole rivers. I still think he's a little crazy, but he definitely has stacked the cards in his favor. Please don't all you Ocoee and Chattooga buffs go and swim these rivers because you've paddled them a hundred times and figure if Snyder can make it down the Gauley, I should able to make it down the Ocoee. But you wonder, if twenty years from now, the Georgia Canoeing and River Swimming Association might reprint this article and laugh about what the old time paddlers thought of their sport of river swimming. Submitted by Wayne Gentry.

RESPONSE TO GREG GRANT'S PERSONAL COMMENT CONCERNING KEVIN HICKEY'S DEATH ON THE OCOEE

I am concerned and hurt that someboby has died while floating on the Ocoee. The Ocoee is a wonderful river that many of us have enjoyed. I disagree however with Greg Grant's inference that some of the outfitters on the river exhibit negligence by permitting customers to swim various places on the river. The place where Hickey died is a perfectly safe place to swim in a river. He died of cardiac arrest on his third swim. He didn't hit a rock. He didn't drown. This is simply not negligence by the outfitter.

A year ago my wife and I were passengers on one of the Nantahalla Outdoor Center's trips down the Ocoee. Our guide encouraged us to swim one of the easy rapids. My wife did and had a safe, wonderful time. I think the NOC is one of the best outfitters, but I guess Greg is referring to them too.

The outfitters operating on the Chattooga river encourage their passengers to swim in surfing rapid. There is nothing wrong with that, and certainly no negligence.

It is sad that this death has happened, but there does not appear to be any questionable conduct by the outfitter. Sometimes bad things happen even though nobody is at fault and this appears to be one of them.

JACK WISSNER