FOR SALE: SILVER CREEK CANOE PADDLE, 58" LG., USED 4 TIMES - $60. ILIAD CANOE PADDLE, 58" LG., LIKE NEW - $40. CALL MICHAEL MCCURDY AT 993-4983.

FOR SALE: WHITESELL PIRANHA SOLO WHITEWATER CANOE - FULLY OUTFITTED. $500. 573-6633 DAYS OR 252-6167 EVENINGS. ALLEN HEDDEN.

For Sale: Kayak, Prijon Design, high volume, float bags, Norse paddle, spray skirt, helmet, very good condition, excellent beginner boat. $300. Call after 7 PM, (404) 292-9369, Don Simmons.

FOR SALE: black Perception Mirage Kayak (good condition), split flotation bags, two spray skirts (one new Hydra spray skirt), two Norse kayak paddles. $500. Excellent package for beginning boater. Call Greg Grant at 615-755-4143(O) or 615-344-2573(H).

**Perception Saddle** for open canoe. Like new but already close-cell foam padded and blocked, ready for installation. A steal at $45.00! Andy Lyons Work 233-2230 Home 482-1713

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To order, just send $10.00 plus $1.00 postage per buckle to:

GCA-BELTBUCKLE
P.O. BOX 7023
ATLANTA, GA. 30357

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INC.

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GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION
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ATLANTA, GA 30357

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BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 660

Nott, Roger & Beth
2335 Stephens Circle
Gainesville, GA 30506

TIME LIMIT

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INC.

# The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357 Vol. 23, No. 8 August, 1988

DEADLINE for the next newsletter is the 7th! Send material to Gary DeBacher, 659 Scott Circle, Decatur, GA 30033. ** NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS! ** Please type border-to-border (zero margins) with indented paragraphs, and don't skip a line between paragraphs. This saves valuable space. Photos, cartoons, artwork, and clippings of interest to paddlers are also welcome. Ads are free for members selling used paddling equipment only.

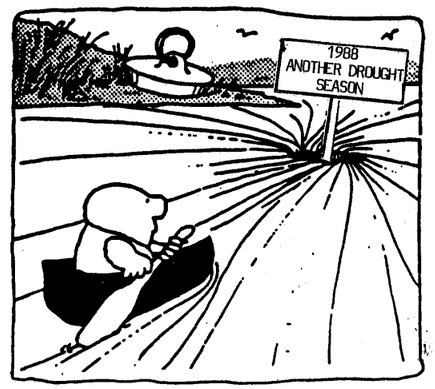
ADDRESS CHANGES, SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS AND MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES: send to GCA, PO Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357, attn. membership chairperson.

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. 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.

**EDDYLINE LATE?** If your Eddyline has not arrived by the 10th, contact GCA Secretary Ed Scultz. If only a few newsletters are late or missing, Ed may mail backup copies. If many newsletters are late, we may all have to tough it out, getting schedule information from Ed or Gary DeBacher (634-4651), being reasonable about how much time and information we expect over the phone. Bulk rate mailing worked well the first two months, but some April newsletters were quite late. Make full use of the extended trip schedule in the previous issue before you hit the panic switch.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| August 6 | Nantahala | 2-3, interm. | Jim Jones | 893-3284 |
| | Wildcard | 3+, advanced | Rob Kerr H:1-889-6566 W:442-4698 | |
| 7 | Metro Hooch, Jones Bridge to Roswell Rd. class 1, 12 miles. [DATE CHANGE] | | Gary DeBacher | 634-4652 |
| | Nantahala | 2-3, interm. | John Miles | 487-8362 |
| | Ocoee | 3-4, very advanced | John Bell | 977-0893 |
| 13 | Metro Hooch, Morgan Falls to Standing Peachtree, class 1, 12 miles. | | Gary DeBacher | 634-4651 |
| | Nantahala | 2-3, interm. | Barry Hahn | 252-9538 |
| 14 | " | " " | Jeanne Peters | 633-6487 |
| 20-21 | GCA SUMMER GALA! TRIPS BOTH DAYS ON HIWASSEE, OCOEE, NANTAHALA. SIGN UP NOW! | | | |
| 27 | Mildcard | Class 2 | Jimmy Gunter | 427-0706 |
| | Ocoee | 3-4, very advanced | Oreon Mann | 522-3469 |
| | Full Moon Metro Hooch Run | | Carol Mercer | 373-6683 |
| 28 | Wildcard | 2-3, intermediate | Bruce Bishop | 641-1542 |
| | Ocoee | 3-4, very advanced | Evelyn Hopkins | 255-7018 |
| Sept. 3 | Hiwassee | 1-2+, easy intermediate | Dan MacIntyre | 252-9513 |
| | Wildcard | 2-3, intermediate | Andy Lyons | 482-1713 |
| 4 | Leader's Choice | 2-3, int. | Laura Jordon 1-803-836-8498 | |
| | Nantahala | 2-3, int. | Tom McCormick 1-912-653-2012 | |
| Labor Day | " | " " | Jeanne McCormick " " " " | |
| | Wildcard | 2-3, intermediate | Allen Hedden | 252-6167 |

BIG RAPIDS CAUSE HEAVY BREATHING? CALL GCA AT 421-9729 AND RECORD A SAMPLE FOR ANALYSIS.




For weekday Ocoee trips (Monday, Thursday, Friday) call Greg Grant, 1-615-755-4143
Call Rob Kerr for impromptu trips, 1-889-6566. **Wunnerful Wensday on Metro Hooch- call Gary DeBacher at 634-4651.
Float the Unknown- call Exploration Chairman Roger Nott for exploratory trips after heavy rains (whatever those are!):1-536-5263 [Gainesville].
To volunteer to lead trips, call Jim Silavent at 587-1172.

SURVEY UNCERTAINTIES. You'll note elsewhere in this issue that we may be surveyed about various aspects of recreational usage on the Ocoee, and that the results will influence decisions about your access to the river in the future. I am especially concerned about this survey, because Clemson University is again involved. It was a Clemson survey which misconstrued actual public opinion and was used by the USFS to justify their view that river traffic may someday be limited so that boating parties on the Chattooga seldom see one another and experience a sort of exclusivist wilderness experience.

The problem was that the Chattooga Clemson survey did ask users how they felt about other paddlers on the river, and did ask them, in effect, whether they would prefer to be more nearly alone on the river; and the results showed that they would like more solitude, and so would I. Everyone likes solitude. What the survey did not ask is, "Are you willing to give up your present fairly ready access to the river and even put up with permits, advance reservations, or even lotteries, in order to be assured that, if you do get on the river, you will be relatively alone?" If the question had been put that way, I think nearly all surveyed users would have said NO, they would rather put up with some crowding in return for ready access.

Someone must think Clemson does good surveys, or they would not have gotten in on the contract for the Ocoee, but I'm not convinced. Fortunately, the Ocoee is not a wilderness river, and there is no danger of policies being set which attempt to create the impression of solitude. But watch for questions which might be used to justify unnecessary restrictions, particularly on private paddlers. I think the Ocoee traffic could be eased and ordered by removing the less competent rafting outfitters from the river. How we cull out incompetent private paddlers, I don't know.

Then there is the issue of whether private boaters should be charged to run the river. I wouldn't object to $5 per run to defray the cost of administering the system, but I still reject the notion of fully reimbursing TVA for lost power generating capacity.

As for limiting access, I think any system of permits should be applied only to those Saturdays and Sundays where there is really serious crowding. Boaters who can show up in the cooler months or on weekdays in the summer should not have to mess with permits until such time as crowding is serious at those times as well.

If anything strikes you as fishy about the questions you are asked, you should write a letter to both the surveyors listed elsewhere in this issue, and make clear to them what you don't want to be concluded from your answers. —Ed.

## GEORGIA WHITEWATER PADDLERS TURN HEADS AT PRE-WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bloomington, MD - Five Georgia paddlers represented America by being on the U.S. Whitewater Team at the Maryland International Canoe & Kayak Championships (Pre-World Championships). The international event, held June 23-26 on the Savage River in western Maryland featured the top whitewater racers of 20 countries. Overall, the U.S. won metals in 15 events and Georgians contributed to 3 of them. The Pre-Worlds's are a dress rehearsal for the Whitewater World Championships which will be held on the Savage June 11-25 1989.

There are two disciplines of whitewater racing: Slalom and Wildwater. Slalom paddlers must negotiate a series of 25 "gates" while Wildwater paddlers race downriver 3 to 6 miles. International competition in Slalom and Wildwater features events in men's kayak (K-1), women's kayak (K-1W), men's decked canoe (C-1) and men's tandem decked canoe (C-2). The Savage river, which amounts to one continuous 5 mile long rapid, provides some of the best whitewater for racing in North America.

Whitewater is an amateur sport, and unlike much of their foreign competition, U.S. paddlers receive no support from their government. Americans may have sponsors, but typically, U.S. athletes pay their own way. With the Pre-World's and the World Championships being in America for the first time, we have our strongest whitewater team ever. And Americans are more enthusiastic than ever with the news that Slalom will be back in the Olympics in 1992.

For David Jones, a Buckhead dentist, winning the silver metal in the C-2 Wildwater Team event was a bitter-sweet victory. Jones has been on the team for 9 years consecutively and has been a U.S. National Champion 3 times. But in spite of this, Jones' U.S. teammates were not strong enough to beat the Europeans during previous years. His partner, Mike Hipsher, from Bryson City, NC is a former world champion.

For newcomers to the team, John Pinyerd of Marietta and Martin Bay of Sandy Springs, winning the bronze metal in the C-2 Wildwater team run was an answered prayer. Last year Pinyerd had been told that he may have to give up paddling and have surgery on his shoulder. But a weight lifting program was prescribed as therapy and Pinyerd has been religiously lifting ever since. Bay is one of the fastest improving whitewater racers in the nation.

Steve Thomas of Lilburn and Mike Larimer of Marietta really turned heads. Finishing 8th place in the individual slalom C-2 event and taking the silver metal in team slalom C-2 removed any doubt about their ability to compete well in international competition. In the '87 world's in France they had finished 25th. Going from 25th to 8th in world competition in just one year is indicative of the amount of effort they have been putting into their training.

What's it like training for world competition in whitewater? Afternoon workouts on the Chattahoochee, can be grueling. It doesn't matter if it's 100 degrees and there's an enormous horsefly is doing touch-and-goes on your neck or its 20 and there is ice forming on your paddle, you can't miss a stroke. If you do, you just lost a stroke to another competitor. Other training is typically squeezed in before work or during lunch. The Georgia crew also frequent the nearby Ocoee River in Tennessee to enhance their white water skills. In addition, they are active in the Georgia Canoeing Association, the Atlanta Whitewater Club, and the American Canoeing Association. All of this has to be balanced between career and family demands, which amounts to quite a juggling act.

As my cousin Lefty Over once asked, "what does all this have to do with the price of frog fur in Fairburn?" Plenty! For the last few years, David Jones was the only Georgian on the team. Then Nick and Dan Myers made the Team a couple times in C-2 Wildwater. In '87 Larimer and Thomas made the Team in Slalom. But in '88 things really got rolling for Georgians with the addition of Bay and Pinyerd in Wildwater and Fritz Orr on the Development Team. And the future even looks brighter. David Watson of Marietta, and Matt Taylor of Atlanta represented the U.S. at Barcelona, Spain in the Junior World Championships (which are held for world class competition younger than 18). And all Lefty thought the Chattahoochee was good for was floating his beer cans.

Article by John Pinyerd

Salida, Colo., July 13, 1988, THE ARKANSAS RIVER:

The Browns Canyon run constitutes the most scenic whitewater run I've seen yet, surpassing even the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande. It is also the site of the biggest, fastest, Class-III (Western) rapid I've ever done without the aid of a canoe -- Zoom Flume.

After driving 1100 miles from Beaumont, TX, it was a treat to reach Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center (RMOC) in Howard, Colo. Travelling alone this trip, I picked up Tom Karnuta from RMOC as a guide and we set out to do Browns Canyon, about a nine mile run. River flow was about 900 cfs.

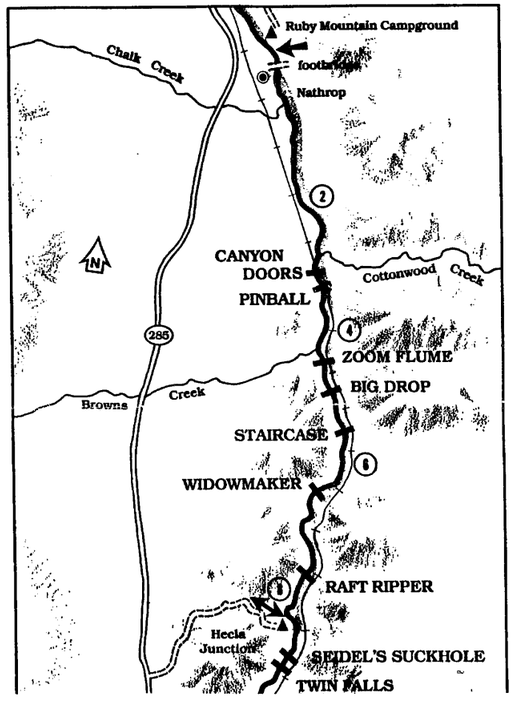
The Arkansas at its very widest is about half the width of the Ocoee and in the canyon is reduced in many places to about one-third the width of the Ocoee. What happens to 900 cfs squeezed into such a narrow channel was an experience quite new to me. The water was so fast and forceful that it seemed I was always a stroke behind where I wanted to be.

Zoom Flume is a narrow section with large rocks on one side, a rock wall on the other side, and has water folding in on itself from both sides. The main flow pushes you right at a large midstream rock -- just when the boat is full of water and the hidden drops in the rapid are showing up. This was the biggest water I've tried.

At the very top of Zoom Flume I got too far left. Halfway over the first drop I hit a large rock with the left stern of my Rogue. It felt like I'd been hit with a car. The right gunwale immediately dipped into the main flow of the Flume and I was swimming next to the inverted Rogue. Just as I reached out and got my left hand on the gunwale, the midstream rock came up and knocked the boat up and away to the left. I slid off to the right over a drop -- which, with a canoe, is actually the preferred route. Dropping into a deep pool, I kicked up to the surface and got a breath just before going over the next drop. Down in the next pool I kicked up and more to the right, coming to the surface near the slanting rock wall. Having by now developed a real desire to get out of there, I grabbed at a crack in the rock on river right and missed. The next crack was larger and I got a handhold, stopped my momentum, and climbed out.

Tom had caught my boat on river left and was waiting for me. This is why I try new rivers with a guide -- safety and backup rescue.

All along this river are beautiful mountains and forested campsites, which made it all worthwhile. The hot dry air was a wonderful relief from the humid, stifling air of Beaumont and the water temperature was cool and pleasant. This will be one of my favorite rivers for a long, long time. Besides, I need to go back and try Zoom Flume again.




- **PUT-IN** • BLM boat access on left bank, at Ruby Mountain Campground. **(See Frog Rock and Milk Runs.)** For a longer float, put in 2 miles upstream at Fisherman's Bridge.
- .3 Open country and Class I and II water.
- .6 Chalk Creek enters on the right. Railroad bridge. Cottonwood Creek enters on the left.
- .3 **CANYON DOORS (III).** Upper and Lower.
- .5 **PINBALL (III+).** Boulders block the bottom of a series of ledges. Rafters often portage at low flows.
- .3 Browns Creek enters on the right.
- .5 **ZOOM FLUME (III+).** A long chute becomes a ramp that ends in a hole, then boulders litter the channel.
- .8 **BIG DROP (III+).** As the river bends right.
- .7 **STAIRCASE (III+).** Also called **Giant Steps** and **Seven Falls.** A series of drops, each tougher than the previous.
- .5 **WIDOWMAKER (III+).** It's hard to find a clean route. A big recirculating hole in the middle is called **Devil's Punchbowl** or **Washing Machine.**
- .5 **RAFT RIPPER (III+).** Also called **Razor Rocks.** After a drop, watch for sharp rocks on the left. **CEMETERY (III).** Also called **Last Chance.**
- .1 • **RIVER ACCESS** • Hecla Junction Recreation Site (BLM) on the right. A dirt road leads to Highway 285. Many boaters take out here because of serious river access problems at Stone Bridge or, at high flows, to avoid the big rapid downstream.

Submitted by: Howard Pitts
P.O. Box 7741
Beaumont, TX 77726-7741

Member: Big Thicket Voyagers
Georgia Canoe Association

20th ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN U.S.
SLALOM AND WILDWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS
June 11 and 12, 1988
RACE RESULTS

**Wildwater/Open Boats**

OC-1 Champ:
1) Robert Powell 60:24
2) Doug Cameron 61:58
3) Michael Collier 64:37

OC-2 Champ:
1) Tim Dixon / Todd Murdock 57:28
2) Jack Krypnick / Berry Edward 60:12
3) Dana Worley / Steve King 64:55

OC-1 Cruising:
1) Leonard Baker 61:11
2) Mark Warren 61:55
3) Stephen Kramer 65:59

OC-2 Cruising:
1) Steve Scarborough / Joe Pullium 60:45
2) Jim Perkins / Dave Gale 61:12
3) Thomas Borg / Peter Werner 63:23

OC-2 Mixed Cruising:
1) Karen Baldzer / Don Giddens 63:12
1) Brigitte Taylor / Frank Crane 63:12
2) Gwen Bergen / Doug Klauke 65:09
3) Susan Webb / Robert Webb 67:01

OC-2 Jr/Sr (Men & Women)
1) Joe Dean / Greg Dandridge 65:26
2) Brad Nichol / Josh Nichol 65:32
3) Tanda Drudung / Kerri Feistel 73:10

**Wildwater/Decked Boats**

C-1 Champ:
1) David Benner 52:51
2) Kent Ford 53:21
3) Harold Deal 57:20

**Wildwater/Decked Boats**

C-2 Champ:
1) David Jones / Mike Hipsher 50:23
2) John Pinyerd / Martin Bay 52:42

K-1 Champ:
1) Roger Myers 50:12
2) Scott Barloga 51:20
3) Mark Melrose 51:30

K-1 Cruising:
1) Eric Giddens 59:42
2) Edward Reed 61:05
3) Charles Brewer 61:52

K-1 Cruising Women:
1) Elaine Jenson 66:30
2) Laurie Searle 70:07
3) Laura Lang 70:32

K-1 Cruising Women Jr:
1) Allison Jennings 66:07
2) Terra Feistel 66:14
3) Jennifer Jennings 68:17

**Slalom/Open Boats**

OC-1 Champ Short:
1) Frankie Hubbard 297.7
2) Phil Foti 355.2
3) Harold Deal 375.2

OC-1 Champ Medium:
1) David Benner 301.4
2) Tim Kelly 391.3
3) Ted Sparks 411.0

OC-1 Champ Medium Women:
1) Helen Sparks 569.6
2) Belissa Russell 628.7
3) Lynn Shaw 833.2

OC-2 Champ Medium:
1) David Benner / Steve Scarborough 283.9
2) Ted Sparks / Don George 401.9
3) Nick Meyers / Dan Meyers 407.2

**Slalom/Open Boats**

OC-2 Champ Mixed:
1) Helen Sparks / Ted Sparks 393.1
2) Steve Scarborough / Annie Scarborough 412.4
3) Kathi Smith / Gil Jackson 526.0

OC-1 Playboat:
1) Mark Warren 369.9
2) Nolan Whitesell 399.5
3) Scott Barloga 453.5

OC-1 Standard:
1) Roger Nott 514.6
2) Jim Morgan 719.8
3) Joe Trawick 869.5

OC-2 Standard (Men & Mixed):
1) Jim Morgan / Leonard Baker 605.6
2) Stewart Stokes / Andy Warshaw 845.7
3) Frank Crane / Brigitte Taylor DNS

**Slalom/Decked Boats**

C-1 Champ:
1) John Pinyerd 220.5
2) Michael Larimer 220.8
3) Albert Mitchem 222.6

C-2 Champ:
1) Michael Larimer / Steve Thomas 210.3
2) Crae Dalton / Rick Murray 306.3
3) Barry Lang / Laura Lang 322.7

K-1 Champ:
1) Eric Giddens 191.2
2) Craig Dalton 193.0
3) Andrew Smith 218.7

K-1 Champ Women:
1) Becky Weiss 218.9
2) JoAnn Bogner 230.3
3) Carol Moore 291.7

**Slalom/Decked Boats**

K-1 Champ Jr:
1) David Watson 181.7
2) Eric Giddens 186.6
3) Trey Greene 444.2

C-1 Cruising:
1) Phil Watford 367.9
2) Frank Crane 415.8
3) James Harrell 471.8

K-1 Cruising:
1) Craig Denton 200.7
2) Charles Brewer 279.6
3) James Gordon III 287.9

K-1 Cruising Women:
1) Carol Moore 293.4
2) Carla Simpson 331.6
3) Denise Lund 368.5

K-1 Squirt:
1) Al Barnett 278.3
2) David Brown 314.6
3) David Tillis 820.9

## OCOEE RIVER USER SURVEY

If you have been on the Ocoee since July 1, you may have been given a user survey form to complete either at the put-in or the take-out, or you may have been questioned by a surveyor. This user survey will be taking place through October 15, 1988. The purpose of the survey is to gather data on who uses the river and how frequently, and what sort of changes and/or improvements users may like to see. This data, along with TVA's boat count and head count for each day, will be used to determine the river's user capacity and to develop an Ocoee River Management Plan for the future. If you should be surveyed, please take the time to respond. Response to the survey is one sure way for private boaters to have a voice in the future policies for managing and/or limiting traffic on this highly popular river.

If you are not surveyed, and you would like to comment on any aspect of future Ocoee River Management Plans, you may write to the people in charge of the user survey at the addresses shown below:

William E. Hammitt
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996
-or-
Cary D. McDonald
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634

Some possible actions that may be taken as a result of this survey are:
1. Limiting permits on commercial usage.
2. Limiting private boater access by use of a permit system.
3. Charging a user fee for private boaters (commercial users are currently charged a fee, but they are there to make a profit; private boaters are not).
4. Assigning put-on times.
5. Use of a quota system (private boaters vs. commercial users).
6. Recreational releases on the Upper Ocoee (not a likely possibility).
7. Improvements in parking and other facilities at access points.

If you have opinions on any of these options, please include them in your comments to the surveyors. -Allen Hedden

Pictured: Georgia paddlers at the Pre-Worlds; (left to right): Fritz Orr, John Pinyerd, Steve Thomas, Mike Larimer, David Jones, and Martin Bay.

**OCOEE, THE WHITEWATER STREAM OF CONSCIOUNESS; June 18, 1988**

**We had five trip participants from all over the Southeast. As usual for a summer weekend trip at the Ocoee "zoo" there were many strange and wonderful sights. Probably the strangest of them all was John Bell who had temporarily abandoned his usual squirt boat and was running Double Trouble in his lean, green OCA. Thanks go to Rob Mebane for running sweep. Hot fun in the summertime! Trip Participants: Steve Vinyard, OC-1, from Anniston, Al; Royce Hughes, OC-1, from Buford, Ga; Tom McCormick, K-1, from Pembroke, Ga; Rob Mebane and Greg Grant, OC-1s, from Chattanooga, Tn.**

**Greg Grant**

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**TENNESSEE HIWASSEE; July 9, 1988**

**This trip was originally scheduled for the NC Hiwassee, but it had to be changed when TVA cancelled all recreational releases except for the Ocoee and TN Hiwassee due to the drought. So we kept the river the same, but moved the state. There were fourteen paddlers in nine boats. Several paddlers who were recent graduates of the Beginning Kayak and Canoe Schools confidently demonstrated the skills they had learned. Everyone had clean runs through Devil Shoals, and the cold water was a fine way to beat the July heat. Thanks go to my wife, Carol (paddling for the first time in almost two years) for assisting with the trip and to Don Hixson for running sweep. This was a great group of people to paddle with, and it was a very enjoyable day! Trip Participants: OC-3: Faith, "B", and Bill Mann from Atlanta, Ga; OC-2: Hugh and Jane Agee from Athens, Ga; Brannen Proctor and Kathy Darko from Atlanta, Ga; Carol and Greg Grant from Harrison, Tn; OC-1: Jane Meacham and Don Hixson from Chattanooga, Tn; K-1: Mark and Chris Beyer from Canton, Ga; Harmon Taylor from Atlanta, Ga.**

**Greg Grant**

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CHATTOOGA SECTION IV TRIP JUNE 19, 1988: Although the river was only running .88 on the 76 bridge gauge, three hardy paddlers braved the rocks and 95+° weather for a fun filled day. Steve Vineyard from Alabama in an open boat enjoyed an excellent first trip. We were all quite impressed, especially Dick and Zach Gowin who hiked down the Possum Creek Trail to Five Falls area to capture the event on the film. Dave Lambeth assisted Emily Hitchcock in providing kayak assistance.

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NICK ARROYO/Staff

**Steve Thomas of Clarkston shows the style that earned him and Marietta's Mike Larimer a fourth-place finish in the C-2 Slalom, their second consecutive appearance on the U.S. Team.**

# Age proves to be no obstacle to local whitewater paddlers

**By Kent Mitchell**
*Staff Writer*

For David Watson, it was the beginning of a promising career. For Dr. David Jones, it was the beginning of the end of an illustrious career.

The two metro Atlantans, representing different generations of whitewater paddlers, qualified recently for international competition.

On the East Race Waterway near South Bend, Ind., Watson, 14, of East Cobb, overcame the chicken pox to qualify for the U.S. Junior Whitewater team for the first time. Watson finished third in the 1988 Junior K-1 (one-man kayak) Slalom trials last weekend and will compete this summer in Barcelona.

On the Peshtigo River near Crivitz, Wisc., Jones, 40, won a place on the U.S. Whitewater team for the ninth consecutive time and announced that he would retire from active competition after the 1989 World Championships. Jones, an Atlanta dentist, and teammate Mike Hipscher of Bryson City, N.C., finished second in the C-2 (two-man canoes) Wildwater event.

The top three finishers on the East Race Waterway qualified for the Junior team. The top six finishers on the Peshtigo made the U.S. Team.

Watson said he caught chicken pox from his brother, who had it the previous week, and it began breaking out while he was a South Bend hotel.

Watson said he was feeling tired because of the illness, but "seeing as how I was there, I decided to go for it."

Jones has been on the U.S. Team every year since 1980.

"I've kind of promised my wife this (the World Championships in 1989) is it," Jones said, "so we're really going to push from here on."

The World Championships will be held in the United States next year, the first time ever in this country and only the second time ever outside of Europe.

Jones and Hipscher finished 11th in last year's World Championships. Jones said the dominant Europeans participate more widely in the sport and take it more seriously, but the U.S. team is getting deeper.

He and Hipscher were nearly a minute better than the next best canoe in last year's trials, but this year the top three teams were within 10 seconds of each other.

The stiffer competition at the trials could make a big difference in the World Championships and the Pre-World.

Four other Atlanta area canoeists also qualified for the 1988 U.S. Whitewater Team.

John Pinyerd, 31, and Martin Bay, 27, both of east Cobb, placed fifth in the C-2 Wildwater event, and Steve Thomas of Clarkston and Mike Larimer of Marietta were fourth in the C-2 Slalom.

For Thomas, 38, and Larimer, 35, it is the second year in a row on the U.S. Team. Although the two fared badly last year in the World Championships in France, Jones attributed it to first-time nerves. He said they should do much better in 1989 if they qualify.

Pinyerd and Bay, the Georgia contingent's newcomers to the U.S. Team, have a bright future, Jones said.

The decked canoe used by Jones, Thomas and Larimer and Pinyerd and Bay closely resembles a kayak. Like kayakers, canoeists seal themselves into the boat — and seal water out — by wearing neoprene rubber spray skirts. But like paddlers of open canoes, they kneel, instead of sit, and they use single-bladed canoe paddles. Kayakers use the paddle with blades at both ends.

Time is the big factor in both events. The Wildwater event is strictly speed, a downhill run similar to the downhill skiing event. Slalom competitors must also negotiate a series of gates.

With a PFD like a pair of bib overalls, Steve really does look old in this photo. In real life he just looks wild and crazy. The article is from the Sunday Journal-Constitution.

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FILLER SECTION: NOODLING DOWN THE NANTAHALA— THE CITIZENS RACES AND OTHER DIVERSIONS

I know the Ocoee is what the Big Boys Eat, but I can't take the heat: the water temperature, that is. When it's hot,hot,hot, give me that cold, clear Nantahala water. Why, on a good day, I can even get some fog; it's like reading water without my glasses. Maybe the rafts should have to blow foghorns.

The Nantahala has been Old Reliable this summer, coming on before 8 AM and running a decent 3.2 even on weekends. A lot of people complain about the heavy traffic, and it sure is heavy in mid-afternoon, like playing musical eddies. I had beat the crowds once by going up on Friday July 1, and stayed overnight for another run on Saturday. I was sceptical when told that the water would be turned on between 7 and 8, but on the way to the put in at 7:50, there it was, already flowing past the gauge. The parking lot was empty except for some Texans laboriously donning full wet suits and paddling gear. Sure must be hot in Texas. Actually, lots of folks overdress for the Nantahala, but maybe that's a little safer than underdressing.

I was on the water in short order, played a lot, took my time, and didn't see another boat until I reached Delebar's Rock at 10! (Maybe the Texans overheated before they reached the water.) This was the 4th of July weekend! I saw very few boats and rafts that morning until I reached the Falls, and even then there were plenty of breaks between rafts for surfing. I asked one of the veteran NOC guides whether this wasn't a little unusual. Were people actually avoiding the Nanty because they feared the crowds? She said no, that if the water comes on early, and if one puts on early, then there is no crowding problem on the river.

I have tested this revolutionary idea on subsequent Saturdays, and it really does work. The closer to 8 AM you get on the water, the better, but I have put on as late as 8:50 and still found the numbers quite tolerable. In some summers this would not work, because the power company didn't turn the water on until 10 or later, by which time a crowd of sweaty and impatient paddlers would be at the put in. But in this crazy year, with western North Carolina in the heart of the drought, the power company apparently has extra water because they didn't run water at all in March and April.

Here's the bad part. To take advantage of this phenomenon, you have to leave Atlanta around 5 AM. When I first came to Atlanta in '74, it took over 3 1/2 hours to get to the Nantahala. Now, using I-75, I-575, hwy 5, hwys 76 and 60, and then the standard route 19 from Murphy to the put in, it takes about 2 hours and 50 minutes, including short stops. For your next several trips to the Nanty, try leaving an hour earlier each time, until you're leaving at 5 and arriving around 8. You may find the payoff is worth it.

With a reduced risk of getting run over by a raft, one can look for lots of extra surfing waves, many of them near the top or in the middle of rapids rather than at the bottom. There is a cute wave on the left just a few dozen yard below the put in. Another choice wave is halfway down amongst the multiple eddies below Pyramid Rock. Kayakers are better at wave surfing than us C-1 paddlers, because they can back into them in reverse more easily. Some of the best surfing on the river is had not at Surfing Rapid or Lesser Wesser, but at the last wave in Quarry Rapid and at Whirlpool just below. But Quarry, especially, is a madhouse on Saturday afternoon, with both eddies jammed and a stream of boats through the center. In mid morning, it is a private circus.

Putting in between eight and nine, even if you play 'til your arms drop off, you'll reach Lesser Wesser around noon and drag yourself out of the boat around one. What to do with the rest of the day? Why not hang around for the Citizen's Races? First, go get some lunch at Slow Joes, and you'll notice the numbered slalom gates trailing off from the rental raft landing down past the bridge to the NOC Pavilion. About 16 gates, five of them upstream. You can start practicing now if you want; registration isn't until 4 PM, with the race at 5, by which time enough NOC staffers will be freed from their regular jobs so they can help out, or race. But my advice is, give Joe's chili some time to settle and rest your arms. Visit the store, do some people-watching, and when the traffic starts to ease a bit, think about running shuttle.

I've used the NOC free shuttle system several times, and it works pretty well. You sign up at the counter in the rentals building, which assures that there will be a place for you on one of the next buses. If you don't sign up, there may be room for you on the bus, but don't count on it; the buses are often loaded to the last seat, and there are no ceiling handles for standing. I'm amazed that the buses get over the one lane bridge as promptly as they do.

Once you drive your car to the bottom, NOC has designated a small boat loading area just behind the Pavilion, opposite the RR tracks. If you're staying for the race, or hanging around to eat at Relia's, try to wait as late in the afternoon to run shuttle as you can, and park where you will not take space needed by NOC raft and rental customers. You may find non-critical space behind the tracks opposite Worser Wesser or up the hill in the least-used fringes of the lots.

When race time rolls around, and you have spent 4 practice runs trying to figure out what Kent Ford had in mind when he put gates 8 and 9 at that impossible angle, or upstream gate 13 in the current instead of the eddy, Kent will paddle out and move those gates where they should have been all along. Not Kent's fault, he put the course up in early morning before the water was on. Registration is $6 for the first race,which gives you two runs and a T-shirt. Additional races are just $3 if you are content to go without another shirt. There is a short competitors' meeting, at which Kent tells you that there are no penalties for touching gates, but the usual 50 second penalty for missing one; and no starting order, but please group yourselves with boats of similar speed. The course is set up so that the upper half of the gates can be judged by the starter, and the lower half by a judge at the finish.

Perception and NOC have sponsored three Citizens' Races, and if this newsletter isn't as late as usual, you may have a chance to attend the last one on August 6. The Perception races have included awards for top finishers in the decked boat classes, while open boaters raced for score and glory. At the final race, there will be a drawing from all the entrants in the Perception races for a Perception boat of the winner's choice, plus some good NOC prizes.

The first race was lightly attended by outsiders, but local juniors and just-off-work NOC staffers filled out the ranks and posted some good times, while I at least made all the gates. The second race was heavily attended, including a good student contingent in tandem and C-boats from Eastern Carolina University, and I again made all the gates with a slow time in the 140 second range. Adem Clauson, just back from placing 3rd in the juniors in Spain, posted a time around 97 seconds, if I remember correctly. I think Kent must have discouraged the NOC staffers from competing so the large entry could be run in reasonable time, and with credit to Kent and his team, I had both runs in before 7 and all runs were done well before 8.

On alternate weekends, Mad River and NOC have sponsored two races with awards for open boats and also-ran times for decked boats; the first, on July 16, was lightly attended, but the T-shirts were very nice. Paul and I got the Tripper through all the gates on one run, and were not penalized on our other run when one of us didn't make it through gate 11. The judge said one was enough. Our time was a ponderous 182 seconds. The last "open boat" event will be on July 30, before you read this, but you can race open boat on the last "decked" event the following Saturday.

I think Kent Ford, his NOC helpers, Perception and Mad River deserve a lot of credit for what is becoming an increasingly popular series of easy races. Kent said that there are tentative plans to run 6 or 7 Citizens' Races next summer on every Saturday from mid-July through the latter part of August. ——Ed.

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A reminder.... WANT ADS ARE FREE TO PAID-UP GCA MEMBERS SELLING **USED** PADDLING-RELATED EQUIPMENT ONLY. Ads for "new" equipment, or things like cabins, lots, rentals, bikes, sailboats, cars, etc., must include $5 for up to 2 lines, $10 for up to 5 lines. If you're not in the membership directory, call me or clip and send your newsletter address. Type your ad if possible. Keep it short, single-spaced, across the full width of the page. Please include all that you're selling in a single ad. Mail your ad before the 15th of the month to: Gary DeBacher, 659 Scott Circle, Decatur, GA 30033. Sorry, no ads taken on the phone. FREE ADS THAT DON'T FIT THIS FORMAT (5 lines or 7/8 inch vertically) WILL NOT BE RUN.