

JON DAVID FORRESTER

NEW YEARS REVOLUTION! Starting with the February issue, the editor is going to make an effort to get the EDDYLINE back on schedule. That means the deadline of the 15th should be taken really seriously for a change, and I will be trying to get the copy to Mark Levine and the printers no later than Friday the 20th. Remember that while most late newsletters are my fault, the printer sometimes has production delays, and then a committee of GCA faithful has to gather to get the printed EDDYLINE ready for mailing. Thus you shouldn't expect a radical improvement, but with a little luck, you might get your Eddyline around or soon after the first in most months. Bulk rate don't get any better than that. Theoretically it would be possible for me to move the production schedule up even more, but a real long lead time between planning, scheduling and printing seems to make it harder for us to get to you with the latest news. Once more into the breach!

October 17, 1988: Lower Toccoa:

This was a wonderful day to enjoy the beautiful fall leaves. About 11:30 a.m. we put in at the Toccoa River Campground on Aska Road with 13 boats: 8-OC-2s and 5-KIs took out at Flat Rock Creek Road at 4:00 p.m. The water level was a little low but adequate. We only had one swim which was the last drop (when you always least expect it). She threatened me with my life if I mentioned her name. Lets just say she had never paddled a Georgia river. We assured her that this was just an initiation and not a typical trip experience. The most fun was just being out on the prettiest river in Georgia on a beautiful day in its peak leaf season. Members of the trip were: Phyllis Stilpen and Barry Koch, OC-2; Jim, Justy (11) and Jesse (9) Haga, K-1s; Cindy Haga OC-1; Neil and Naomi Sigler, OC-2; Eric Sigler, K-1; John, Debby and Tad (4) Dennis, OC-3; Margo Booth, OC-1; Gail Russo and Joan Houghton, OC 2; Marty Dyche and Cathy Overby, OC-2, Betsy Vonk and Diane Helman, OC-2; Preston (10) and Walter Howard, OC-2, Trip Leader.

HYPOTHERMIA treatment method: With the advent of winter weather, paddlers need to be concerned about the possibility of hypothermia. Prevention is best, but once present, building a fire to warm up seems common sense yet it is time consuming and often cumbersome (gathering wood, getting the fire going, dealing with wet wood, etc). A recent hiking article in the Constitution by a veteran backpacker, Mr. Burchette, offers an interesting alternative which the members of our association might consider. Discussing emergency gear, he says, "If I had to pick the most important of the items, it would be the (50 gallon) garbage bag, lighter, and a candle...if you get wet and cold...sit on the ground, pull the bag over you and light the candle...the heat generation is incredible!" Cold (30 degrees) and dry, I tried it, and...it wasn't bad. Two or even three candle stubs would kick out more heat, or better yet a small can of Sterno. CAUTION: Immolation is a potential hazard; ALSO, make a slit in the end of the bag to put your head through, poncho style, to avoid ASPHYXIATION. These are simple materials that any winter paddler could carry. A definite plus of the method is that warmth is almost immediate, so...while the hypothermia victim is getting warm, everyone else can scurry around building a fire. Anyone who tries this under real conditions give us some feedback.....Dick Hurd

Saturday, November 26, 1988 - CARTECAY RIVER TRIP

Trip Coordinate - Hank Baudet

Winter has not yet arrived in North Georgia, as Indian Summer lingers on for at least one more weekend of paddling. The temperature was still very comfortable, and the water level at a 1.4.

Although our group was small, Fred Chumley, Gordon Lindsey, Margaret Baudet, and myself, with Brett Baudet. All were paddling OC1's (Brett Baudet is 5 years old and rides nicely in the bow of my mowhawk scamp). We all had an enjoyable trip.

Everyone had paddled the Cartecay before, except Fred, who enjoyed the scenery of this river for the first time and compared it with "the narrows" on the Chattoogga.

The low water level made for some technical maneuvering through the rock gardens, but no one complained.

Everyone was an experienced boater, so leading the trip was easy and enjoyable. We all took our turns at surfing the hole at the bottom of the falls, with only one swim at this spot.

Thanks to Gordon, Fred, Margaret, and Brett for a nice trip - Hank

Chattooga Section IV, 11-19-88: 45 degrees, drizzly, and the water level at 0.8 (on the bridge). Doesn't sound like a great conditions. When I arrived at the put-in at 10:30 am I was hoping that nobody would show up. Hiking seemed like a great idea. 5 kayaks and 3 canoes put on at 12:00 - not a bad turnout for a lousy day. Section IV at this level is scrappy. No one had any real trouble. Fred Stokes did 7 foot falls twice. The second time right side up. This was his first time on Section IV and he did real well. In open boats were David Ingram, Fred Stokes & Mike Brnger. Kayakers were Emily Hitchcock, Evelyn Hopkins, John Conneely, Jim Silavent, and Me (Dickey).

FOR SALE: Mohawk Scamp, fully outfitted with Perception saddle and air bags, excellent condition with less than one years use, \$550. Call 878-2586 --- ask for David

This past summer I worked as a river ranger for the Klamath National Forest. Part of my job was to run rivers in the area and this year I got to run Burnt Ranch Gorge on the Trinity River. The Gorge is a class 5+ section that could be fatal if run incorrectly.

This was a U. S. Forest Service trip and in my raft was Joe (the names have been changed to protect the guilty), and his son, Bill. Joe is the head of the recreation department for the Klamath National Forest. Joe is a great guy but he had no experience as a raft captain on class 5+ water. Also in the raft were Tom, a district recreational officer. At this point I have to plead guilty to a personal prejudice. At this point in my paddling career I find it easier to trust paddlers who have a few yards of duct tape on their equipment, or some mold on their lifevest. Tom's equipment looked brand-new, sparkling new! Also, everything was color-coordinated, down to his helmet and booties. My spider sense was tingling! The last paddler in the raft was Mitch, a good friend and almost as good a paddler as me (I hope Mitch reads this).

Burnt Ranch starts out fairly easy, class 2 and 3 fun stuff. Soon we came to a 200-yard class 4+ rapid. This was a fun rapid but one that could injure if you messed-up in the wrong place. Also, when I looked up I noticed the walls of the canyon had grown to a thousand feet. At this time I felt we were on a really serious run. I felt it even more when one of the others said this was one of the easier rapids.

We came upon Tight Squeeze, a class 4-5 rapid. Two huge boulders constrict the river and make three blind drops. We stopped to scout and Tom insisted we take the far right drop. That drop did not look too promising but Tom insisted that was the drop he took on his last trip (Tom said he had been down Burnt Ranch several times and he knew the river.) and it was the correct route. As we viewed the right drop we saw a huge boulder on one side of the drop and a sheer thousand foot cliff on the other side. We estimated a 6-8 foot drop. Tom was insistent we take the right drop.

As we paddled toward the right drop, a sense of impending doom hit me. All of a sudden we were on top of the drop. I quickly calculated a 5-foot wide slot, which is great except we have a 6-foot wide boat. One of our group yelled "High-side!" as we entered the curving slot but it was extremely difficult to high-side against a rock wall. We flipped as soon as we entered the drop. I lost my contact and almost lost my booties. It felt like I was losing my life.

When we finally got out of the river, we all gathered around Tom, asking him why in the world did he say to run the right drop. Tom said that now he remembered, that the last time he ran Burnt Ranch they had taken the right drop and had also flipped. After hearing this my confidence was not at a high point.

We continued down the river, although a bit shaky. We came to a long, sloping rapid. The raft picked up speed and at first we had an excellent line. But we soon headed for an exposed rock, on my side! I thought that if we were going to hit the rock I should really lean downstream to keep the raft from flipping backwards. Great thinking, wrong move. When we hit the rock the raft dove, catapulting me face-first into the river. I went down the river like I was going down a giant water-slide, face-first. Amazing how a rapid looks at water-level. When I finally got out of the water everybody ran up to me and asked me if I was OK. They said I had taken the worst swim they had ever seen. I told them that they should have seen it from my perspective!

After this we had several near flips and a carry. We did get to see a 30 lb. salmon being caught. The locals say they lose one fisherman a year to drowning. I felt that if our trip continued as before, we might add a rafter to the list.

Flip for more →

We came to another 5+ rapid. A perfect run would take the left side on a sloping drop for about 40 yards. You then came to a 5 foot drop. You have to turn sharp right after this to avoid a killer strainer downstream, and then you continue for about 40 yards of rough stuff. The crucial move is the 5 foot drop and right turn. Well, since that move was crucial we didn't make it. But we were lucky enough to flip away from the strainer. As we flipped, Bill screamed, "God help us!". My thought exactly! Well, we all made it out of that one but we did have to rescue Mitch from the middle of the rapid.

We finally got to the end of the run. My knee started to swell and stiffen. The river had exacted a price from me beyond getting scared and wet. It tore the cartledge in my knee and caused an operation. I am better now but I have learned not to go on a raft trip with people who don't have a little mold somewhere on their equipment. Be careful, there could be a Burnt Ranch Gorge out there for you.

\$1.2 Million Later, Lake Alma Project Is Killed by EPA

By Charles Seabrook
Environment Writer

After more than \$1.2 million of federal tax money was spent in a fruitless effort to build Lake Alma in South Georgia, the project was officially killed Friday by federal authorities.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), saying the 1,400-acre lake would destroy valuable, productive wetlands, invoked its rarely used veto power to kill an Army Corps of Engineers permit to build the lake. It is the first time a Georgia project has been vetoed by the EPA, and it is only the 12th time the agency has used the veto nationwide.

The veto, signed by Rebecca W. Hanmer, the EPA's acting assistant administrator for water, upheld a recommendation by the agency's regional office in Atlanta.

Alma Mayor James Deen, a long-time advocate of the lake, said he was "disappointed but not surprised" by the EPA's decision.

"I think it's wonderful the EPA vetoed this project," said Georgia Conservancy Director G. Robert

Kerr. "It means that projects of this kind should be looked at on an individual basis to determine if they are environmentally sound. If they're not, they shouldn't be built."

Efforts to build the lake by damming Hurricane Creek on the outskirts of the city of Alma have caused bitter strife in the area during the past 20 years. Alma and Bacon County officials, who conceived the lake in the 1950s, said the lake would bring visitors and prosperity to the area. Opponents called it environmentally unsound.

Not many ads this month; maybe lost with the Xmas cards. Wait, here's one from Walt Hodge. It seems he didn't place as well in the Southeasterns after his doctor made him give up steroids, so he's selling his Wenonah Kevlar C1-W downriver racing boat for \$375 so he can buy a good correcting typewriter and write his life story. You can call him or Wenonah at (615) 628-2116 (W) or 615-628-2133(H).

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Vol. 24, No. 1 January, 1989

ADDRESS CHANGE? SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEM? Write to GCA Membership Chairperson, P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357. The editor does not do these things. Deadline for the next newsletter is the 15th! Send material to Gary DeBacher, 659 Scott Circle, Decatur, GA 30033. Please use a decent ribbon and 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.

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.

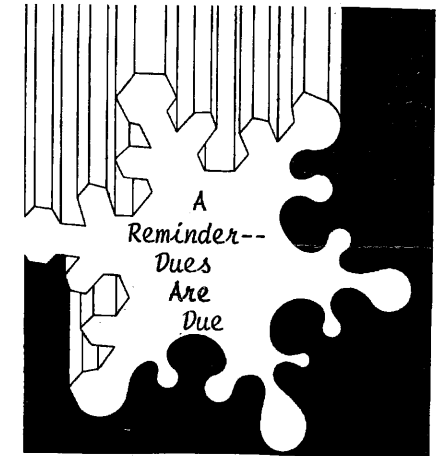
EDDYLINE LATE? If your Eddyline has not arrived by the 10th, contact GCA Secretary Ed Scultz. If only a few newsletters are late or missing, Ed may mail backup copies. If many newsletters are late, we may all have to tough it out, getting schedule information from Ed or Gary DeBacher (634-4651), being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

Jan. 7	Exploration Wild Card	Roger Nott	1-536-6923
	Wild Card	Hank Baudet	476-4760
	Wild Card	Oreon Mann	522-3469
8	Hike	Dick Butterworth	993-6513
	Wild Card	Gerard Abersson	971-5914
	Something Else	Andy Warshaw	(W)455-8844
9	Monday Rolling Practice	Allen Hedden	252-6167
	" "	Jon Forrester	945-0601
14	Leader's Choice	Barry Hahn	252-9538
	Whatever	Hal Herndon	(W)432-8705
15	Intermediate Sunthineruther, class 2-3	Dave Bowman	923-0954
16	No Monday rolling practice— pool closed.		
21	Wild Card	Oreon Mann	522-3469
	Lower Amicalola	Jim Silavent	587-1172
22	Wild Card	Bruce Bishop	641-1542
23	Monday rolling practice	Allen Hedden	252-6167
	" "	Jon Forrester	945-0601
28	Moderate Hike	Susan McGilvary	668-9566
	Wildcard or Chattooga 3 (permit permitting)	Doug Klaucke	873-5691
29	Lower Conasauga	Susan & Mark Levine	926-8683
30	Monday rolling practice	Allen Hedden	252-6167
	" "	Jon Forrester	945-0601
Feb. 3-4-5	Clayton area hiking, etc. Cabin at Blackrock	SP. Mary McKean	565-8288
4	Exploration Wildcard, class 2-3, experienced	Roger Nott	1-536-6923
	Wildcard	Andy Warshaw	(W)455-8844
5	Upper Hooch	Jim Biasco	426-8587
6	Monday rolling practice	Allen Hedden	252-6167
	" "	Jon Forrester	945-0601
11	Wildcard	Oreon Mann	522-3469
	Talking Rock	Gary DeBacher	634-4651
12	Etowah Tunnel of Love. PG-13	John Bell	977-0893
	Strange Brew	Hal Herndon	(W)432-8705
13	Monday rolling practice	Allen Hedden	252-6167
	" "	Jon Forrester	945-0601
18	Middle Chestatee	Carol Mercer	373-6683
19	Fightingtown Cr.	Mark & Susan Levine	926-8683
	Ditto Monday rolling practices— see above.		

Sweetwater Creek trips Dec.-Feb. when water is up— call Jerry Holladay 321-6946
Carol Mercer is Cruisemaster— Call her at 373-6683.

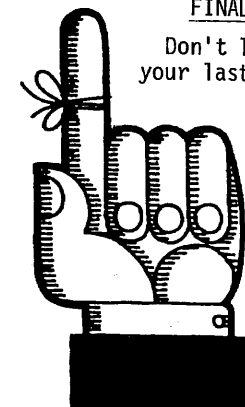
ALTERNATE ROLLING PRACTICE— A second site for Monday rolling practice will open at Mountain Park Pool on Monday, Jan. 9 from 8 to 9:15 PM. This is a great location for NE Atlanta boaters. Help will be given to anybody trying to roll any craft. (We need instructors for surfboards and inner tubes.) To get more information, call Jon Forrester at 945-0601. Last day for rolling practice at Mountain Park Pool will be February 27.

READ THE FINE PRINT! The fine print at the top of each page doesn't change often, but that won't help you if you've never read it! Recently a couple of hapless members, both of them better looking and better paddlers than the Editor, foolishly sent address change cards to him. Well, he didn't have any stamps, didn't have their phone numbers (they having just moved), and promptly lost said cards in the fallout of the typical nuclear family. This could have been avoided if they had read the fine print. The Editor does not do hand rolls, address changes or subscription problems, he merely prepares the Eddyline copy for the printer, and seeing how he does that, you should be glad to know that GCA has a MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON who takes care of addresses and subscriptions.—Ed.



FINAL NOTICE!

Don't let this be your last "Eddy Line"



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

TIME LIMIT