

FIRST REPORT ON THE SOUTHEASTERNS. The weather Friday cleared so we could finish the last gates in time for lots of practice. Racemaster Roger Nott had designed a course with a few new angles; at least one gate was set sideways. Later Friday a full moon lit the course so brightly that I could distinguish red from green gates, but no one stayed to practice; the course was left to rednecks courting on the rocks. Friday morning the gates were fine, but the sky looked like it needed to rain before it could clear. Sure enough, as we started breakfast at NDC, the heavens opened. A nervous and sceptical bunch of racers and officials packed under the tin roof at race headquarters while Roger read the rules like we really meant to do it. I couldn't inspect boats at all, so settled for interviews with what've you got, what's your event, and stick this on your stern when it's dry. There being too much lightning to man the phones along the course, plans were made to use runners to carry results from the judging stations to the scorers' table.

Everyone marched stoically off into the rain, wondering when the river would get too high for the racers to be able to negotiate the course as designed. At least two inches of rain must have fallen, some were guessing up to four, but around nine o'clock the rain tapered off and ended. We all dripped dry while the phones were connected, and before too long the decked boats were running. After that the whole weekend went well, weather and all.

I ran the course alongside the downriver boats Saturday afternoon. The river was clearing, still the highest we've had in at least a decade for wildwater. The water was way over the gauge, I would guess about 3.6, well over the summer baseline. Through the falls, I think I made gate 16, and then barely made the rest of the gates. Next year.

I could see chili rolling down the side of the mountain Saturday evening as I prepared to sleep with one eye on the course. The next morning I bolted breakfast in order to inspect open boats. Slalom racers are a varied lot, but decked boaters tend to be clean cut State College types, while the open boat championship slalom racers tend to be Good Ol' Boys. Right out of Lonesome Dove. Their boats have a kind of rodeo air, as if they will start bucking back and forth as soon as mounted. I measured each accurately with my laser vision and slapped on the brand of approval. When I left for Atlanta, the open slalom was running smoothly.

But why am I telling you all this? You were there, along with many other GCA faithful, hanging and judging and scoring and timing, starting and roping and herding rafts, and even racing now and then. Next year. —Ed.

PADDLER'S QUICK IQ TEST: To estimate your intelligence, use this formula: IQ = 100 - (longest distance you drove toward the river this year before realizing your boat was not on your car). [Let's see... 100 minus 18... how do I turn on this darn calculator?]

6th Annual Gala Canoeing Affair...coming in mid August; watch for further details.

We wish Elaine "EJ" Jensen a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

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

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The EDDY LINE

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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, 614 N. Superior, 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 15th, call GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz, 266-3734, so he can mail a replacement copy. Please make full use of the extended trip list from the previous month before you hit the panic switch, but if the schedule runs out before you get the latest copy, you can call the editor Gary DeBacher, 634-4651, for interim info to tide you over. Or you can just plan to work on the yard....

June 10	Broad River Cleanup (the other bank...)	Rhett Smith	493-6472
	Upper Hooch Cleanup ---you gotta love it...	Oreon Mann	522-3469
	Chattooga 3 3-4, advanced	Gwen Bergen	993-2336
11	Hiwassee 1-2++, easy intermediate	Jimmy Gunter	427-0706
	Upper Hooch Cleanup (scrape, wash, rinse...)	Jim Biasco	426-8587
17	Mild Card Cleanup--- gentle to your hands...	Dave Richardson	421-0727
	Nantahala 2-3, intermediate	Jerry Peterman	257-1749
	Wildcard 3+, advanced	Dennis Craine, Jeanne Peters	633-6487
17-18	Beginners Canoe Clinic--- see flyer for details.		
18	Toccoa 1-2, trained beginner	Jimmy Gunter	427-0706
	Chattooga 4 3-5, expert.	John Bell O: 422-1250 H: 434-7273	
24	Broad 1-2, trained beginner	Jeff Engel	1-548-5015
	Nanty 2-3, intermediate	Evelyn Hopkins	255-7018
	Chattooga 3 3-4, advanced	Doug Klaucke	873-5691
25	Hiwassee 1-2++, easy intermediate	Greg Grant	1-615-344-2573
	Cartecay 2-3, intermediate	Julia Crosby	995-9434
	Ocoee 3-4, very advanced	David Ashley	498-8495
July 1	Etowah 1-2, trained beginner	Nancy Barker	874-8897
	Nantahala 2-3, intermediate	Barry Hahn	252-9538
2	Hiwassee 1-2++, easy intermediate	Brenda Burnette	425-9671
	Cartecay 2-3, intern.	Dick Hurd	664-4770
	Chattooga 4 Trip coordinator needed.		
4	Upper Hooch 2-3, intermediate	Oreon Mann	522-3469
6	Thursday GCA Board Meeting. All welcome. See above for details.		
8	Etowah 1-2, trained beginner	Polly Heyward	237-4503
	Nantahala 2-3, intern.	Roger Salas	1-673-6392
	Chattooga 3 3-4, advanced	Scott Wilhelm	449-3835
8-9	Women's Canoe Clinic		
9	Toccoa 1-2, trained beginner	Dick Hurd	664-4770
	Upper Hooch 2-3, intermediate	Jimmy Gunter	974-3843
	Ocoee 3-4, very advanced	Greg Grant	1-615-344-2573
15	Nantahala 2-3, intermediate	Dave Bowman	923-0954
	Lower Amicalola 3-4, advanced	Rob Kerr	1-889-6566
15-16	Beginner's Canoe and Kayak Clinics		
16	Upper Amicalola 1-3, easy intermediate	Bill McClendon	973-5864
	Chattooga 4--- Trip Leader Needed		



Tickets are now available for the 1989 World Whitewater Canoe and Kayak Championships and may be purchased through Ticketron offices, by calling 1-800-543-3041 (Toll Free) or from local outlets in Allegany and Garrett counties Maryland. The price of a ticket includes parking, transportation to and from the site, entrance to World Championships races and on-site entertainment.

Race dates are June 17 and 18 for the Wildwater Championships and June 23, 24, and 25 for the Slalom Championships. A special Open Boat Canoe Slalom Race is scheduled for June 22. Tickets for bus transportation only are being sold for this race. Spectator access to all racing events is by bus or train only, as there will be no parking available at the race site.

CONNECT THE DOTS! After this issue, we will no longer accept trip reports and articles printed in "draft quality" with a dot matrix printer. The separated dots do not reproduce well, so that either I have to drive to Kinko's to fatten the dots by photocopying them once or twice, or Mark Levine has to peel the copy loose at the printer, photocopy it there, and paste it up again. We have no objection to dot matrix per se, but we need for you to set your printer for "near letter quality" so the dots overlap. If your printer does not do overlapping dots, you can either buy a new printer (some with excellent N.Q. print are less than \$250) or hunt around for one of the utility programs which will induce a "dumb" printer to do N.Q. Some Epson and Okidata printers can be updated to do good near letter quality by buying new ROM chips for less than \$50. I can put you in touch with sources.

AND CHANGE YOUR RIBBON! Several writers using typewriters or daisy wheel printers leave us in the same situation. Their ribbons are so old that we end up having to photocopy what they have written so it will show up well in the newsletter. Even famous paddlers who spend over a grand on new boats every year have been known to use the same ribbon for a decade. Time to reverse priorities: any decent boat should last a decade, while a printer ribbon should be changed every year whether it needs it or not. —Ed

A WORD ABOUT CLUB TRIPS

In reviewing our policies and practices on club trips over the past several years, I have noticed a few items which deserve special mention here because of the possible legal ramifications in the future.

• Trip Coordinators

Use of the term "trip leader" carries the connotation of setting one apart as a "leader", or expert, and departs from the "common adventurer" policy adopted by the club. It also leaves one in a very tenuous legal position in the event that an accident on a club trip leads to litigation. All trip coordinators should refer to themselves as such, not as "trip leaders", in all conversations and correspondence, including Eddy Line articles, concerning their trips. Please note that this does not negate the need for a "lead boat" on a trip. The lead boat is merely the first boat in the procession.

• Club Trip Schedule

The club would prefer not to list wild card trips in the trip schedule. New members and inexperienced paddlers have remarked to me about wild card trips and their preference to have a specific river listed in the trip schedule. It gives them the opportunity to look up the rivers in a guide book or other reference and decide on which river to try to paddle without having to call each trip coordinator and find out on which river the trip will actually be run. I realize that after five plus years of drought, it often seems futile to list a particular river when you sign up to coordinate a trip, especially when you have to sign up six to eight weeks in advance. Rest assured that your effort to do so will be greatly appreciated. Then if the week of your trip arrives without enough rainfall for water in that particular river, feel free to change the location of your trip to another river in an area with more water or move it to a dam controlled river. Believe me, your trip participants will understand.

Also, perhaps several years down the road we may once again be involved in a legal battle to preserve our right to paddle a specific river. The fact that we have scheduled trips on that river and published said schedule over the years will weigh heavily in our favor in court, especially if we use the "public easement" approach to the litigation.

• Trip Reports

The club would appreciate having each trip coordinator file a trip report for publishing in the Eddy Line. I realize that everyone can't be like Poe or Shakespeare in their use of the English language, and that we all can't be funny, cute and entertaining in every report we write. But please keep in mind that people have egos, and they enjoy seeing their names in print.

And as I mentioned above, it is not inconceivable that we could be involved in some river rights litigation in the future. These trip reports serve as evidence that we actually ran trips on a particular river rather than just listing them on a schedule. They also provide a valuable source for names of specific individuals who paddled a given river during a given time period in the event that witnesses need to be called. So, even if you just list the date, the river, the coordinator and the participants, please write a report. The Eddy Line serves as a chronicle as well as a newsletter. Remember, the river you help save may be your own favorite river.

Allen Hedden
President

CARTECAY, Sunday, April 23. We met at Mountaintown Outdoor Expedition under mostly cloudy skies, but as we drove off toward the river, the sun came out and provided a nice day. The reading at the gauge was 2.1. Paddlers were Fitz Brundage and Ben Bergen in kayaks, Cullen Bailey, Les Davenport, Don Simmons, Dale Bergen, and myself in solo canoes, and John & Tee Brower in a tandem. Wild azaleas were in bloom, and Les got some pictures. After a number of years in a kayak, Cullen had recently purchased a new Mohawk XL13, which he was still breaking in. Ben was new to kayaking, and did quite well. Dale, his father, only gave him one piece of advice, something about which way to lean. Don was in his newly acquired solo boat, a Mohawk Scamp. John, Tee, Les, Cullen, Fitz, and myself ran the long run after leaving Don, Dale, and Ben playing in the rapid above the covered bridge, where they were going to take out. All had good runs. Thanks to everyone for a great time, and thanks to John & Tee for running lead. -- Brannen Proctor

FOR SALE: SAWYER SHOCKWAVE in Goldenglass lay-up, gray with black trim, 4-way solo touring seat, \$485.00; **LOTUS CAPER**, ivory color with beautiful wood trim and contoured sliding seat, \$850.00. Both canoes are like new. Call Wayne Guerke (Tifton, GA), 912-386-2104.

Red Perception Mirage II kayak, foam walls, front air bags, safety line w/ cleat, sprayskirt, and wood paddle. \$375 Call Mark Wolff @ (904) 791-2168 (office) or (904) 473-2815 (leave message).

EXTRAVAGANZA TRIP: Chattooga III 1/2 - April 29: Would you believe there was a large group? Would you believe they were all very, very nice people? Why not. It was the Spring Extravaganza. I only served as the ground coordinator and how not to run the Bull at 1.3'. There were two groups who were led on the river by better than I Ghunga-Din. Special thanks to the leaders: Ron Towe, Dave Bowman and Jim Flemister. Special thanks to whomever swept for the second group. I believe it was probably Barney Spurr. Guess who swept for the first group? Me, of course. Assigned there because of my beloved pipe made Ron feel like he was still in the city. These non-smokers are really getting brazen. However, I suppose he had a point. Anyway, back to the rear of the first wave.

Well I suppose you want to know who was in the group. On with the cast. First though I need to pay special tribute to a special event. Seems that Louise Martin had a bridal veil on her helmet. A very pretty bride if I must say so. Didn't see the lucky guy until dinner and told Doug congratulations. May you both enjoy many, many years of happy paddling together.

Oh yes, you still want to know who all the other nice people were. Well, they were: OC2- Steve and Pete Hill, Candy Heck and Didi Tyson; OC-1 me, Dave Bowman, Karla Fields Bowman, Dave Richardson, Betsy Vonk, Dirk Beaugard, Ronald Mac Donald (really), Barney Spurr and Sherry Spurr, Ron Towe; and finally those folk who use double paddles K-1: Jim Flemister, Ruth Stiles, Cullen Bailey Nancy Beckmann, Gregg Hood, Polly Prather, Beth Rolle, Louise Martin, Nancy Stroup and Jim Biasco. That's nearly two dozen of the finest.

I hope everyone had a good time. I know I did. Even consigned to the back of the pack. It was a great and wonderful day. I did not identify myself because I embarrassed myself at the Bull. Still, three for four isn't bad. Lets get together again real soon. Now that Spring is here we should go every week-end. See y'all.

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EJ's Column:

I've been listening to hundreds of audiotapes on broad spectrums of topics ranging from "Why are you here?" to "What Corporate Officers Need to Know" to "Why the Japanese work so well as Team Players". The theories are very interesting and create many thoughts.

For example, do you know what "thinking" is? One author said it's contemplating the facts of life from the highest point of view. I liked that; it reminded me of the universal sense of appreciation that I get when on the river. And, with that in mind... I'd like to express appreciation to some fellow paddlers. (Doesn't everybody just love the feeling of appreciation?)

Recently, I was privileged to observe several of our GCA Experienced and Learning Paddling Instructor heroines and heros practicing "teaching methods": They were great! I salute EACH and EVERY ONE who participated in that Methods Workshop! Whatta Bunch! I'm particularly proud of my own gender representatives and not at all surprised that they were there! We can ALL be "proud" of the earned skills, eagerness to learn, ever-present sense(s) of humor, and dedication to sharing that we have in our club. (Just imagine if we all created the time to share in some way....My goodness, what would it be like? Could it be that "Creating the Future" is Our job."

Oh, by the way, 80% of the state of Wisconsin is recycling nearly everything! And by 1990, they'll be at 100%. Are YOU recycling yet? (It's a great way to begin sharing.) See you in the eddy, EJ

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A NOTE TO BONEHEAD SURFERS. Twice on the Ocoee I have come down through the main chute of a difficult rapid, and in spite of taking some evasive action, have collided with someone surfing a wave or hole. These were apparently very capable paddlers who simply didn't give a damn. They saw me coming, and were willing to take a chance on getting speared. Of course, they were also willing to put me at risk of injury. Now, as far as I know, the old rule has not changed: the boat coming down the main route through a rapid has the right of way over boaters surfing, ferrying, or waiting to come out of eddies. Sometimes we are tempted to make exceptions. For example, Hollywood Hole to the left of Diamond Splitter is very popular for surfing, but not as a downstream route; most boaters run right of Diamond Splitter. Good thing, too, because it is real hard for a surfer to get out of that hole in time to avoid a wayward raft. At Double Trouble, by contrast, the surfing waves are smack in the middle of the main route. It's easy for a surfer to get out of the way of a boat coming downstream, and there's no excuse for not doing so. If any of you surfers have something sensible to add on this issue, I will be glad to print it. —Ed.