CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE - Dagger Encore with Perception saddle, knee pads, and thigh pads on wings provide a super snug fit for control and rolling. Yakima foot pegs and skid plates provided. Blue nylon air bags accent this fuchsia gem. Always stored inside and still in good condition. $595.00. Call Tim at 615-399-3206

FOR SALE - Heavy-gauge Royalex Old Town 16 ft. canoe equipped for general use - center block, painters (bow & stern ropes), pads for solo or tandem kneeling. Durable, maintenance-free ABS gunwales and seats. 2 wood thwarts. No longer pretty, but good paddling condition. Excellent tandem starter boat. $375. Call David at 378-9762.

FOR SALE - Whitesell Pirahna. Two years old. Heavy lay-up. Nylon airbags Perception sadddle, knee pads. Good condition - stored indoors. $950. Call Andy at 373-6683.

FOR SALE - Yellow Laser kayak - $350. Lowe internal frame pack (used four times) - $95. Woman's small Dry Fashion dry suit (new wrist and ankle gaskets) - $75. Serious offers considered. E. J. 404-479-6209.

FOR SALE - Perception dancer XT kayak with air-bags, helmet, spray skirt, and Perception paddle. Excellent condition - Only used a few times. Call Allen at 426-4318.

FOR SALE - Set of Yakima racks $3300. Comes complete with 1982 Volvo. Volvo knows way to Section IV and can get to 4-wheel drive put-in for Upper Ocoee. 138,000 mostly highway miles. Excellent maintenance. All records. Also available, Mazda 626 hatchback with sunroof. 88,000 mi. $4300. Both cars suitable for sleeping. Evi Hopkins 875-2574.

FOR SALE - Noah kayak - Original, handmade (not plastic) in new condition. Stored in garage. 404-888-0428.

REPAIR WANTED - Badly ripped Mad River Royalex canoe. I would be gratefully willing to pay someone to get it back in usable condition. Call Rob White at 876-0054

WANTED - Perception XS kayak, paddle, accessories for an 8-year-old boy. Would consider other models. Please call John Dennis at 487-5888.

HELP WANTED - Full time manager for CANOES BY WHITESELL Outpost on the Nantahala river. Must be self motivated and able to work independently. Management experience necessary. Strong desire to be a part of the Whitewater industry a must. Send resume and salary requirements to: CANOES BY WHITESELL, 2362 Dresden Drive N. E., Atlanta, Georgia 30341 □

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The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

VOLUME 27 NO. 2 (404) 421-9729 FEBRUARY 1992

New Year's Day Big Splash

'92 Cartecay Chili Run and Cook-off Hot Contest

By Jay Srymanske

Over one hundred eighty white water enthusiasts joined together for the largest Chili Run in its six year history. What began as sort of a New Year's Day joke six years ago has become a favorite tradition with Georgia area paddlers.

The Georgia Canoeing Association and Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions worked together to bring a varied assortment of canoes, kayaks, rafts, and even a two person cataraft together for a two mile trip on the Cartecay that starts out calm and scenic and ends up below Stegall Mill Rapid and the covered bridge at Blackberry Mountain. The temperature started out at about thirty-five degrees, but warmed to the low fifties by the end of the river trips.

This year's event was even a honeymoon activity for two couples that were married over the Christmas Holidays. John and Kathy Holzinger from Florida were one of the couples, and they also had the dubious honor of receiving the "First Swimmers of 1992" title, after failing to successfully navigate the S Turn Rapid.

Following the river trip, another great tradition was enjoyed: The Chili Cook-off. This year thirty-four pots of chili competed for the "best" and "hottest" titles. Bear, deer, turkey, and vegetarian style chili, as well as beef and pork chilies, were judged by a four person panel of judges to decide the winners.

After careful and lip smackin' judging, the results were tallied, and the title for "best" was a tie between Michael Collier and Patrick Gourley. The second place was a three way tie, with the other honeymooners, the Babins, being one of the tie-ers. "Hottest" chili honors went to Ty Hoffman, who is a chip off the ole chili pot. Ty's dad, Skip, won the "best" title the last two years running.

After the judging was finished, everyone enjoyed the variety of chili and other covered dish fare brought by the participants and friends of the event. As this event grows, many friendships as warm as the chili are taken home. Many thanks to all those who participated and contributed! See you January 1, 1993!

- Jay and all the MOE Folks. □

Victory Gained in Energy Battle

A coalition of U. S. Senators, supported by numerous environmental organizations, succeeded in temporarily derailing an unfavorable national energy strategy. The National Energy Security Act of 1991 (H. R. 1301, S.1220) was effectively blocked from being considered in the full Senate in November. However, the debate is far from over, and a new energy proposal is expected in some form.

The energy package had posed an acute risk to rivers because its hydropower provisions were based on the assumption that hydroelectric power is clean, cheap, and should be developed wherever possible.

Hydropower is indeed a clean source of energy. It has cleaned our rivers of immensely valuable fish species like the Atlantic and Pacific Salmon. Conservation groups such as American Rivers have worked to educate congresspersons and their staffs about the monumental environmental price already paid to harness the nation's rivers for hydropower. Experts testified before the Senate that virtually all prime, economically feasible hydropower sites have already been developed.

- *From American Rivers* □

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THE EDDYLINE is a publication of the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc. Views and opinions expressed in articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official views and policies of the club. Articles and trip reports are edited only for grammar, punctuation, spelling, vulgar or obscene language, and to fit in allocated space. No substantive changes are made in any material published herein. THE EDDYLINE is not copyrighted, and all material published herein and not individually designated as copyrighted may freely be copied, reprinted, republished or otherwise disseminated to any other paddling organization. (Credit is appreciated.) □

"Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain -- and most fools do."
- Dale Carnegie

Who Ya Gonna Call?

The following list is provided for your convenience:

For general information about the club - Call the club telephone number and leave a message. Someone will get back to you. **To volunteer to help with club business** - Call President Jim Silavent at 587-1172, or contact the committee chairperson for your area of interest.**For information on payment of dues** - Call Treasurer Ed Schultz at 266-3734. **To sign up for a club trip** - Call the trip coordinator at the number listed on the trip calendar. **To sign up to lead a club trip** -Call Cruisemaster Karla Bowman at 923-0954. **For a change of address or for Eddyline subscription information** - Call Ed Schultz at 266-3734 or Scott Wilhelm at 449-3835. **If you didn't receive your Eddyline** - Call Ed Schultz at 266-3734 or Scott Wilhelm at 449-3835. **For information on GCA clinics** - Call the clinic coordinator listed on the clinic schedule, or call Canoe Training Directors Barney and Sherry Spurr at 461-8760, or Kayak Training Director John Bell at 404-345-5504. **For roll practice information** - Call Roll Practice Coordinator Allen Hedden at 426-4318. **For information on placing want ads in the Eddyline** - See "To place an ad" in the Want Ad section of the Eddyline or call Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 426-4318. **For information on commercial ads** - Call Advertising Director Barry Hahn at 252-9538. **For water level information** - See number listed for the individual rivers in back of the GCA Directory. □

Deadlines

Deadline for the next Eddyline is the fifth of the month. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and classified ads by the fifth of the month or they WILL NOT be published in the next issue. If you have access to a computer, please submit articles or trip reports on a 5-1/4 or 3-1/2 in. disk as an ASCII file labeled .TXT and include a printed copy (Disks will be returned if requested). Send all material to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, Ga. 30066. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated. □

Board Meetings

Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. All interested members are encouraged to attend. The meetings are at the Atlanta Jewish Community Center on Peachtree Street accross from Brookwood Station beginning at 7:30 P.M., but come a little early and socialize. If you have an item for discussion please call President Jim Silavent at 587-1172 so he can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. □

From the Board Room

Highlights of the January 2, 1992 Board of Directors meeting: Treasurer Ed Schultz gave the Treasurer's report and the Membership report. We are still solvent, and end of year membership rose from 908 in 1990 to 1057 in 1991. Kayak Training Director John Bell reported that the kayak training schedule has been firmed up. Canoe Training Director Barney Spurr announced a canoe training meeting to be held on January 14. Race Director Mary Trauner confirmed the new race date for the Southeasterns: May 30 & 31. Social Director Sabina Shievelbein reported obtaining gift certificates from REI for the first prizes in the photo contest. Environmental Chairperson Carol Mercer gave an update on the Chattooga situation: No results from the water samples yet. She also reported on a late breaking development in the Rottenwood Creek area (see associated articles in the Conservation Corner). River Rights Chairperson Dan McIntyre reported that we are still waiting for a decision from the Georgia Supreme Court on the Armuchee Creek case. There was no old business. Carol Mercer moved for the allocation of funds for a second computer for the club in order to have one for the Treasurer's and Membership Director's use, as well as one for the newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed. □

GCA Officers

President	Jim Silavent
Vice President	Evelyn Hopkins
Secretary	Bronwyn Fowlkes
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Cruisemaster	Karla Bowman
Newsletter Editor	Allen Hedden
Membership	Scott Wilhelm
Kayak Trng	John Bell
Canoe Trng	Barney & SherrySpurr

Dues are Due . Renew Today!!

All 1991 memberships expire at the end of February. Send your renewal in today to avoid missing any issues of THE EDDYLINE.

"He who hesitates is not only lost, but probably won't make the eddy."

- An old river sage -

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I then took off and ran a curving line between the Dog's ledge hole and an eight foot deep hole behind the Launching Pad. I saw the Commander and towed him the last ten yards to shore just before Shoulder Bone. He was exhausted and missing one bootie, one paddle, and one boat. Doc found his paddle; his boat headed downstream. I gave him my bootie so he could walk.

We ran a nice train of huge waves in Shoulder Bone and then eddied out to wait for the Commander as his boat booked on down the river. He rode on the back of my kayak for the next several miles through some big class 3-4 water. I was making unintentional rocket moves with the added weight on the back deck. We had to maneuver around some big holes, and the Commander helped out by kicking. The Commander was reunited with his boat less than a mile from the take-out.

The fun really began when we got back to the cars. We looked at the gauge on the way out. It read 3.85 and was dropping like a rock. We were told by other boaters that it had stabilized just over four feet. With the additional flow from Stekoa Creek, we estimated we ran Five Falls at a flow of at least 4.5 feet. Descriptions from other boaters that have run Section IV at 3.5 feet confirmed our estimates. Looks like we rode the crest down through the big stuff.

We ate a big dinner at the Dillard House, all beaming at our accomplishment - to be among the few paddlers that had run Section IV at flood. The Commander was kind of quiet during dinner, and once again I asked him if he was OK. He finally admitted to being in some pain. His boat had gotten him between the legs during his ordeal, and the hole had power-douched his sinuses. He would have told us earlier, but he had overheard the Doc saying something about neutering. Monday his manhood was black and blue (literally and figuratively).

Tips for running big technical water:

1. Bring a spare paddle.
2. Know where the walk-outs are.
3. Scout all major drops; lines change.
4. Know when to portage.
5. You may be on your own; rescue is difficult at best.
6. Bring a shrink.
7. Discretion may be the better part of valor.
8. And for the men, prevent neutering: Wear a cup. □

ATTENTION WINTER BOATERS

Are you tired of spending 15 minutes getting out of your dry suit to answer the call of nature? Do you abstain from that last cup of coffee so you can make it to the take-out? well, friends, your problems are over. Patagonia, famous maker of outdoor clothing for over a tenth of a century, is proud to present new Drysuit Diapers. Made of soft, absorbent, pile fabric, these babies will handle your largest urges and come back for more. In famous Patagonia colors - purple, teal, orange, and red. Available in regular, or "hair boat" thickness, for those who get the urge more frequently. Available wherever fine overpriced outdoor clothing is sold.
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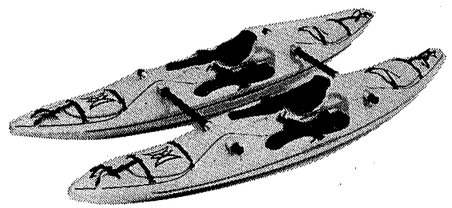
What's new for 92 ?



A whole flock of newly designed canoes and kayaks. And though many of them won't be ready untill next year, some of them are already here. Like ...

the Perception Proline series of kayaks
or the Perception Revolution cataraft
or the Dagger Genesis big water canoe
or the Dagger Freefall steep-creek kayak
or the Enigma plastic squirt boat
Just to name a few.

So come on by and let us show you what's new in 92.
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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

February				
1	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Oreon Mann	522-3469
2	Kennesaw Hike - Easy 5 mile after church hike		Mary McKean	565-8288
2	Tellico	Class 2-4 Int.-Advanced	Jim Silavent	587-1172
3	Roll Practice	Jesse Draper Boys' Club	Allen Hedden	426-4318
6	Board of Directors meeting		Atlanta Jewish CommunityCenter	7:30 P.M.
8	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Sabina Schievelbein	925-9437
9	Sweetwater Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced	Evelyn Hopkins	875-2574
9	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Karla Bowman	923-0954
10	Roll Practice	Jesse Draper Boys' Club	Allen Hedden	426-4318
14-17	Florida Flatwater	Class 1 Beginner	Rhett Smith	279-1995
14	Exploration Wildcard	Class 3+ Advanced	Roger Nott	404-536-6923
15	Etowah Tunnel of Love	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner (Bring your Valentine)	John & Lori Bell	404-345-5504
16	Upper Hooch Smith Island	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Patrick Wolfer	8am-5pm 903-5960
16	Tellico	Class 2-4 Int.-Advanced	Julie Keller	939-0202
17	Roll Practice	Jesse Draper Boys' Club	Allen Hedden	426-4318
22	Little River	Class 3+-4+ Advanced	Greg Grant	615-344-2573
22	Locust Fork	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Ron & Linda Hardy	205-820-7473
23	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Doug Pratt	636-6027
23	Little Pidgeon Middle Prong	Class 3-4 Advanced	Greg Grant	615-344-2573
23	Mulberry Fork	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Ron & Linda Hardy	205-820-7473
24	Roll Practice	Jesse Draper Boys' Club	Allen Hedden	426-4318
29	Mulberry Fork Races	Birmingham Canoe Club	Helen Sparks	205-969-2847
29	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Tom Sieswerda	404-865-2105
March				
1	Mulberry Fork Races	Birmingham Canoe Club	Helen Sparks	205-969-2847
1	Mountaintown Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jay Srymanske	404-635-2726 or 2545
2	Roll Practice	Jesse Draper Boys' Club	Allen Hedden	426-4318
5	Board of Directors meeting		Atlanta Jewish Community Center	7:30 P. M.
14	GCA Spring General Membreship Meeting		See Announcement in March Eddyline	
28	Okefenokee Swamp or blackwater rivers - Overnight call early!		Tom Martin	662-0058

TO VOLUNTEER TO LEAD TRIPS: Call the Cruisemaster Karla Bowman at 923-0954. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flat water to class 5 white water. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

CHATTOOGA TRIPS are limited to 12 boats on ANY section on ANY trip, club trip or private (USFS regulation). Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

WINTER ROLL PRACTICE: Indoor roll practice this winter is on Monday nights and will run through the last Monday in March at the Jesse Draper Boys' and Girls' Club in College Park. To volunteer to help with roll practice, call Allen Hedden at 426-4318.

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Conservation Corner

DOT Wants Your Park

Metro Hooch in Trouble

By Carol Mercer

Cobb County Department of Transportation (DOT) has proposed a new massive interchange at the junction of I-285 and I-75, called the Kennedy By-pass or Parkway. The purpose is to "improve transportation in the 'Platinum Triangle' (eg. Galleria, Cumberland Area) area to meet current and future needs and to provide sufficient access to the proposed Cobb Civic Center" that is to be in the Galleria vicinity. According to the Cobb County Land Use Plan, this area is designated as a "Regional Activity Center" and has no restrictions on density. That usually means high and higher.

Moreland Altobelli Associates has been hired by the county to conduct the initial planning and design work. Moreland of Moreland Altobelli Associates is the former Mr. Tom Moreland of DOT (you may remember him from the Presidential Parkway controversy in Atlanta). Moreland Altobelli Associates have prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 4f Evaluation to comply with NEPA and federal DOT legislation. A 404 permit is also required due to a stream crossing (Rottenwood Creek).

The project is to be funded with 70% federal dollars and 30% Cobb County dollars. Cobb's 30% is to be funded by a 1% sales tax and the Cobb Community Improvement District (CID). CID's funds in part will come via increased millage rates on property taxes in the county. This CID is Georgia's first self-taxing district created by the Georgia General Assembly at the request of the area business and community leaders.

THE PROJECT REQUIRES 3.5 ACRES OF FEDERAL PARK LAND FROM THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (CRNRA), PALISADES SECTION, for a ramp connecting I-75 to the Kennedy Parkway. Where is the Palisades Section? It is our normal take-out! Follow the hiking trail from the take-out upriver, cross Rottenwood Creek, turn left and hike along the creek. When you get to the bridge across the creek (sewer pipe), cross it, and to your right and left is the area DOT wants to pave/take for construction. After you cross the creek, turn right and hike upstream to the old Akers Mill Ruins (ruins of a 19th Century Grist Mill). Not only will you find the ruins, but wonderful beaches and a gorge made by the creek. The area is beautiful and it is hard to believe you are inside a large city. Tracks of raccoon, beaver, muskrat, river otter and mink have been found in the area.

Discussions have apparently been held between the National Park Service and Moreland Altobelli over the last several months regarding the taking of park service land. However no representatives from DOT or the FHA have been present until recently. A meeting was finally held in mid-December with all parties present.

DOT has suggested to the National Park Service that the land be compensated for on a 1 to 1 basis with land from north Atlanta, possibly Medlock Bridge area. We do not know if the National Park Service is still considering this offer. However, we do know that the land in the Akers Mill Road area is very valuable, perhaps much more so than that at the Medlock Bridge area. Neither Moreland Altobelli nor the Cobb DOT would release data to inquirers from conservation organizations. The National Park Service here in Atlanta was very non-committal regarding the project. Conservation groups have finally "found" maps of the area and specific roadway alignments. That is why I was finally able to write exactly where the by-pass would be and what area would be taken by DOT.

The By-pass is called the Kennedy By-pass as it cuts approximately 18 acres of land owned by a Kennedy Estate in Cobb County. The highway would follow the perimeter of the land, opening it up for development on the way, the idea being that the estate would donate the right of way to the county. If the land is donated, the cost of the road is much cheaper for the county. In the process, the estate gets the land opened up for development (that means more money in their pockets and a loss to the public of parkland). The draft EA and the Section 4f Evaluation considers only two alternatives, the proposed road alignment and a no-build situation. But the current alignment was developed by the county to provide the greatest access to the developable land (Kennedy Estate) and leave as much of that land for development as possible. That is why the highway is aligned in the perimeter of the land close to Rottenwood Creek.

Do you want your park land exchanged so someone else can make money? We haven't even considered yet the impact of the construction on the creek and hence the Chattahoochee River (siltation and gas/oil run off from the proposed road), or the loss of a beautiful area of parkland to the public. What about those folk who

MORE ON CONSERVATION

We scouted Raven Chute; things were getting serious. The lunch rock on river left was covered, and the pillow off of it fed a carnivorous hole. The main ledge was a river wide reversal with a three foot wide seam right of center. I went first and powered on through, with the others watching. The Trip Shrink went next. He was one foot too far left and was stopped, flipped and held. The boat started to drift out a bit. He rolled to my yells of "Paddle! Paddle! Paddle!" Too late, he slipped back in, window shaded three times, and then got sucked into the deepest part of the hole out of sight. Fifteen seconds later a yellow helmet rose up on the boil line, and then back down for another round before popping out. I quickly towed him to shore and made sure he was OK. He said he was (liar, how could you be OK after that trashing!). The Commander and Doc watched the ordeal from shore. I bulldozed the boat in fifty yards downstream, then started off in pursuit of the paddle, which I recovered half a mile downstream. I waited a few minutes and down came the crew in triple rig (no spare paddle) to provide stability for Jeff in the big class 3 water. I started paddling toward him. He flipped and missed two hands rolls before the Commander Eskimo rescued him. I handed off the paddle to cheers just before we hit some four foot waves.

FIVE FALLS! We eddied out river right just above Entrance Rapid. We pulled our boats up about two feet above the level of the rising water. Thirty minutes were spent scouting Entrance, Corkscrew, and the Crack. The rocks were steep, covered with leaves, and slick as ice. To avoid a slip into the maelstrom below, we clung to trees, roots, and poison ivy vines. Upon returning to our boats, we found them just barely clear of the ever rising water. The water had come up at least another foot!

We discussed the risks of running this continuous class 4 & 5 white water. If you flip - roll, and roll quickly! If you swim, you are on your own! The slick banks and high volume made setting ropes impractical.

The line through Entrance started center, worked right through 3 foot waves, and then tweezed between two large holes at the bottom. Shrink flipped on the edge of one of the holes, but rolled up in milliseconds.

The center and left side of Corkscrew were two big holes with no line in between. We ran down the right side of Corkscrew (only class 4) and pulled away from an undercut at the bottom.

Middle Crack and Left Crack combined into one crack and one terminal hole. Right Crack (then Middle Crack) was death. The boil line was 25 feet downstream, and the cushion off a river right rock helped feed this hungry beast. The Doc nervously performed the "must make" ferry above Crack to carry it on the left. The rest of us ran a tight line down Far Right Crack (now Right Crack). This channel had changed since we had scouted it 20 minutes earlier with the rising river.

A ferry below Crack put us in position to scout Jawbone and Sock-em-Dog. We spent ten minutes scouting, and the river rose another 3 or 4 inches.

The run down Jawbone started center and worked left through some waves. The line then took a narrow tongue splitting two holes, and hit a 2 foot jet through another hole. We then had 25 feet to see, set up, and make a difficult move to avoid a big hole just below Hydroelectric Rock (now only three feet tall). I ran cleanly and eddied out in a sliding eddy on the left. The Commander ran next. He was two feet off line, and stroked maniacally as he stalled and slid back into the final hole. I could see his paddle occasionally, and after 15 seconds he exited his boat and was ground along the bottom (it was gravel, he said). He surfaced in the wave train leading into Sock-em-Dog and dropped over the lip and out of sight into the river-wide hole at the base of the Dog. I was in a dilemma: Chase the Commander or wait for the others? I waited to make sure of their fate. Doc got turned backwards above the hole, but reacted well, just managed to ferry out of the hole's grasp, and pulled out left to portage the Dog. Our shrink followed cleanly and made a beeline to the eddy on river right above the Dog so he could exercise proper discretion. He was having such a difficult time fighting his way to shore in the floating debris in the surging eddy at the lip of the Dog that he considered jumping out of his boat onto the steep, slick bank.

CARTECAY RIVER RACE

Slalom Race
Saturday, February 15, 1992, 1 PM

Down River Race
Sunday, February 16, 1992, 11 AM

Classes: Men - Women - Open Canoe - Kayak - Decked Canoe For Plastic And Glass Boats Solo, Tandem - Unisex and Mixed
Down River Race is 2 miles - class I, II, III
T-Shirts to All Racers - Prizes
For info - Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions
Day: 404-635-2524 Nite: 404-635-2726
P O Box 86, Ellijay, Ga. 30540

Preregistration Advised Lodging: M.O.E.-tel Hostel (reservations required) Free camping at M.O.E.
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!!

Mohawk Canoes

MULBERRY FORK CANOE AND KAYAK RACES
February 29, March 1, 1992
Garden City, Alabama
35 miles north of Birmingham

SATURDAY
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Open Boat Cruising and Championship
SLALOM:
Decked Boat Championship
Dixie Division Open Boat Championship
HOTDOG CONTEST

SUNDAY
SLALOM:
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ACA SANCTIONED

Contact:
Birmingham Canoe Club
P. O. Box 951
Birmingham, Alabama 35201
Karen Gowins - 205-326-4654 or 205-967 3970
Helen Sparks - 205-969-2847

More Yakima Rack Info

By Adrian Freeman

Regarding recent information in the Eddyline about Yakima paddle rack failure, I too have a story to tell. I was headed home from the Nantahala on my first trip after having purchased the Yakima paddle rack. Suddenly a noise, I looked back to see my Silver Creek paddle sliding down the center of the highway. I hit my brakes, pulled over, and ran back to rescue my paddle fortunately before anyone came. Shortly afterward the whole world drove by.

Upon close examination I found the strap on the front rack had slid loose from the buckle. The rack on the back held securely, but the force of the wind pulling the paddle up and to the rear simply broke the rack itself away from the main Yakima crossbar. With a little experimenting I found it very easy to insert the strap through the spring loaded buckle in the wrong direction. When this is done the strap slides out very easily. When inserted properly it is seemingly impossible for the strap to slip free without breaking the strap. The problem is that it is not real obvious which is the right direction for the strap to be inserted through the spring loaded buckle, especially in the dark, and when tired after a day on the river.

Immediately after this incident, I purchased two 2-foot Northwest River Supply straps to supplement the Yakima straps. Fortunately my paddle sustained virtually no damage during its forty mile an hour slide down the road. □

Chattooga IV at 4.5 Feet

By Kevin Golic

Sunday, December 1, a day that will live in infamy. David Wallace (The Commander), Dr. Cindy Otto (Doc, Trip Veterinarian), Jeff Shaw (Trip Shrink, a necessity for running flooded rivers) and I (Probe) left home expecting a mellow day, 1.2 feet likely, and 1.4 if we were lucky. The Commander pointed out on the drive up that the Tallulah was running high and muddy. Our hopes rose when we saw Stekoa Creek was also high and murky.

The weather was an unbelievably warm 75 degrees. This combination of warm air and cold water was reminiscent of Gauley Season. At times visibility was less than 20 yards on the river, very eerie and ominous.

We started off with clean runs of Bull Sluice, a good omen. As we passed the gauge it read 2.45, and less than 30 minutes earlier it had read 2.1! We were having difficulty changing our frame of mind from mellow to serious.

We were all getting some good flight time at Surfer's Rapid. Doc got launched almost out of her boat on one ender. Her skirt blew, and after a couple of roll attempts and banging off some rocks, she hung out for an Eskimo rescue from the Commander. As I rolled after an ender, part of a tree went floating by my face. The eddy was also becoming noticeably squirrely. The river was still rising rapidly.

As we headed toward Woodall, we were discussing our highest runs. All of us had been down in flows ranging from 2.6 to 2.8. The river was now higher than any of us had ever seen it. We had a couple of nice surfs and enders above Woodall. We ran the right hand sneak on Woodall. The hole at the bottom of the first drop hit everyone hard, but all runs were clean.

Six foot waves led down to Seven Foot Falls. The surfing was excellent, with many large and glassy waves. I led on down to Seven Foot and was planning to run, but noticed water running in slots I'd never seen. A quick scout on the right just above the drop caused me to hoot as I looked into the hole I would have boofed sideways into without scouting. My hoot seemed to increase the others' anxiety. We ran the sneak down the right side. Our estimate was 3.5 feet and still rising at this point.

More large play waves, but we blew by them as thoughts of Five Falls dominated the conversation. Stekoa Creek could be heard from 100 yards upstream as it pumped out what we estimated to be 800-1000 cfs of brown water. Stekoa Creek Rapid was a joyride full of six foot waves and large but obvious holes.

We eddies out 3/4 way down Deliverance on the left and then ferried back right just above a monster hole. The eddy below Deliverance Rock was reminiscent of the Grand Canyon, and it got the better of Doc, but a quick roll put her back on top. Above Raven Chute I got a couple of good surfs and an ender on a big smooth wave.

use the park that don't have access to North Fulton County or those of us who hike the trails? What will we see on our hikes? After crossing the creek on the main trail and turning left, the trail forks, one to Rottenwood Creek and on up the hill to a really neat view, which will be no longer. I sure don't want to look at a multi-lane highway.

There is an alternative to the take or swap of park land, that is to build the road further inside the land owned by the Kennedy Estate. The developable land would be reduced by the realignment, but the park land would be spared. If park land is not taken or swapped, no rigorous 4f Evaluation would be required and the processing time for federal approval would very likely be shortened.

We need GCA volunteers to take a stand and say no to DOT. It can be done successfully, I know from personal experience. It does take time and commitment. Your conservation committee needs help and more help. We need to line up people to write letters, make telephone calls and help organize and contact other clubs. Since I will be unavailable in early February, Sabina Schievelbein has agreed to take your telephone calls and put you to work. Please call her at 925-9437. □

Cobb County Activists Needed

By Carol Mercer

If you believe in conservation, want to help protect the Chattahoochee River, are willing to write letters and make telephone calls, and live in Cobb County, please call and get involved. Even if you don't live in Cobb County, we need your help! We especially need people to be able to go to public hearings, days and evenings. Hearings should be sometime in February.

The Cobb County Department Of Transportation wants to pave part of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area near Rottenwood Creek and turn it into a road (See previous article). Although many of us are involved with the river, most of us live in Dekalb, Fulton or Gwinnett Counties.

GCA needs people to write letters to state and local officials, as well as the National Park Service, make telephone calls and help with organizational activities. Voters who live in the county who write and call their county commissioners will carry more weight than those from other counties. After all, you can threaten not to vote for the person when it is election time if they support the road! Since I will be unavailable for a couple of weeks in early February, Please call Sabina Schievelbein for information at 925-9437. □

Trip Reports

Broad River

By Jeff Engel

December 7, 1991. Despite warnings by the weather man that the weather might not cooperate, we had a beautiful day, warm for this time of the year and sunny. The sky was almost completely cloudless. Even the wind, when it blew, was behind us. We remembered Pearl Harbor by not getting bombed, although a few vultures circling overhead seemed to wish otherwise on us. A great day for a relaxing paddle. Paddling tandem were Julia Crosby and Dave Bowman, and in solo canoes were Pat and Joyce Hagan, and coordinator Jeff Engel.

December 21, 1991. I volunteered to lead two trips down the Broad in December because I have usually had bad luck with December trips: Nobody has wanted to go. So this year two trips made it. The weather for this trip was predicted to be warm and nice, so naturally it was cool and cloudy. The water was noticeable lower than two weeks earlier, but nobody had to get out and walk.

To celebrate the coming of Winter, two member of the trip decided to go swimming, or at least that was their claim. It was just a reminder that there are still some tricks left in the old Broad. Yakking down the river were Alicia Rezak and Dennis Carlson, and in OC-1's were Micah Rice, Julia Phillips and JeffEngel. □

Cartecay Birthday Run

By Adrian Freeman

I can't believe I am 39 years old. That's almost 40, isn't it? But, I can think of few things better to do than paddle on my birthday. I felt not many would call to go on this trip due to the some 180 people having just run this river four days earlier during the Chili Run. However I had 24 sign up, 18 show, and 15 actually went down officially. (Three hooked up with other people they met at the river.)

The weather was in the low 50's with mostly overcast skies, the water temp was 49 degrees, and the water level was 2'5". We split into two manageable groups with Ted Jackson (thank's Ted) leading a group of seven boaters. They were Ted and Lissa Jackson (K-1's), Steve and Evan Cramer (K-1's), Cole Calhoun (K-1), Tom Davidson (K-1), and Tom Southern (K-1).

Ted started off telling me his trip was uneventful. Then he proceeded to tell me about four swims, two by the same boater in two successive but unsuccessful runs on Stegall Mill Rapid at Blackberry Mountain. So this is uneventful? I guess so, compared to some swims I've heard of.

If Ted's trip was uneventful, I don't know what to call mine, un-uneventful... maybe? We had no swims and only two combat rolls just below S-Turn while playing. My son Nathan and myself were the guilty ones. Our group consisted of myself, and my two sons, Nathan and Nicolas Freeman (K-1's), Pat and Joyce Hagan (thanks for running sweep)(OC-1's), Barbara Barylska (K-1), Pat Dickey and Doug Pratt (OC-2).

All of these folks made this Sunday, January 5th trip a pleasant birthday. Thanks guys and gals! □

More Trip Reports

Upper Chattahoochee

By Barry Hahn

December 21, 1991. It was the Saturday before Christmas. The first day of winter. Six intrepid canoers braved the mild weather and cold water for some fun. Those good folks with warm hearts were: Debbie Deem C1, Joyce Hagan, Pat Hagan, Fred Henneike, Louie Reynolds and myself in OC1's. (Did you notice none of the K boaters?)

Anyway, I wish to thank Louie for being sweep. It should also be noted that Louie wore a red and white Santa hat and had an inflatable little Santa standing on his stern air bag. Neat! No rain during the previous week left the water level a little low at 1.8'. About twelve vultures in trees near the ledges were quite visible and captured my attention for a while. No threat. We were with Santa Claus. □

Craven's Hammock: Okefenokee Swamp

By Roger K. Thomas

December 6-7, 1991

For our third annual December trip to the Swamp, we chose the Craven's Hammock canoe trail. Cheryl and Gordon Young, Julia Phillips, Xeno Rasmusson, Melissa Zwahr, and I launched from Stephen Foster State Park about 8:30 a.m. on the 6th for the 10.5 mile paddle via the River Narrows. The Ranger discouraged us from attempting the shorter 9-mile trail, because it was congested with aquatic plants (the last 5 miles to Craven's Hammock are common to the 9 and 10.5 mile routes).

The next day on our return trip, we met a group that was paddling to Craven's Hammock. They said the shorter trail was difficult but passable, so we decided to take it. It was hard work, but we all agreed that the beauty of the swamp seen there was worth the effort. Especially beautiful was the cypress-filled lake closest to the Suwannee River Sill. However, even the later section reflecting a great fire (I think in the 1950s) was interesting, too. Unfortunately, the fire-damaged section offered too many opportunities to run aground on stumps not visible in the tannic acid stained water. Running aground in a 17-foot aluminum canoe offers a new experience in extrication to those more familiar with whitewater play boats. REI's "Canoes" brochure got it right when it said aluminum canoes "stick to rocks."

The dark water creates a nearly perfect mirror, and one can become mesmerized by the imperceptible change from reflection to reality. The canoe trails vary from "lakes" to passages that are barely wider than a canoe. A large lake in the Okefenokee is typically narrower than a North Georgia river and may be only about 100 yards long. Some turns in the narrow passages don't appear to be able to accommodate a 17-foot canoe... but they always did.

We had our lunch stops both days at the Suwannee River Sill, a controversial, 1960s Corps of Engineers' attempt to control water levels in the swamp. The "logs" seen at first glance on the banks behind the spillway were soon recognized to be the first six alligators of the trip. The weather was warm both days, and we estimated that we saw more than a hundred 'gators during the trip on the banks and in the water. Passing a 'gator in a narrow stream gave the first-timers something to adjust to, but they soon became as pleased to see them as the rest of us.

We also saw many turtles and species of birds, most notably water turkeys, kingfishers, woodpeckers, egrets, and herons among many of the common passerine birds one sees just about anywhere in Georgia... we saw no sand hill cranes this year although we saw many last year. The only snake seen this year was on Craven's Hammock. It was either a coral snake or one of its mimics. We didn't attempt to resolve the question of mimicry and gave our reptilian friend its due respect. The only mammals we saw were squirrels, raccoons, and deer. Last year, when it was colder and the swamp was much lower, we also saw some otters.

We arrived at Craven's Hammock about 3:30 p.m. expecting to camp on a platform, as is the case on most canoe trails, but along with camping on the ground (some wondered how far the 'gators came ashore!) we also got to have a fire (a metal fire ring is provided). Before dark, some of us took solo paddling trips exploring in the vicinity of the hammock, and each commented on how much s/he enjoyed the solitude. The night sounds were surprisingly few compared to last year, but an occasional cacophony of bird calls, especially the barred owl, promised an interesting, crescendoing experience. However, these usually faded too soon, so we entertained ourselves with stories, readings (Cheryl's of Hawthorne's "The Birthmark" was memorable) and tall tales of amusement and adventure.

For those not familiar, canoe trail reservations can be made by telephone not more than 60 days in advance. Getting a desired date or trail may mean being the first to call when they open at 7:00 AM sixty days ahead of your desired date. For information and a trail map write or call:

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
Route 2, Box 338
Folkston, Ga. 31537

Telephone: 912-496-3331

Cost of the map is about fifty cents. Southern Georgia Canoeing also has some useful information. □

"I have tried everything. I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work!"
- Thomas Edison -

The Carolina Connection

North Fork of the Catawba River

By Michael Bridges

It's cold outside. The rain is pouring down. It's January 2, and the tingle from yesterday's GREAT Chili Run is beginning to settle down. All this water turns my thoughts to a favorite Tarheel Creek. In my mind I'm going to Carolina (Apologies to James Taylor, but it makes a good lead-in).

The North Fork of the Catawba River flows into Lake James, near Marion, North Carolina. In Carolina Whitewater, Bob Benner gives it a class 2-3 rating. The GCA Directory, however, lists it as a class 2-4. Split the difference, there's enough here to keep things fun. The North Fork is definitely a springtime run, with a small watershed and a fast run-off. Not too many people run it these days, since during the recent drought years it was virtually unrunnable. Guess everybody found other rivers, which is fine with me... I like my creeks uncrowded!

Put-in and take-out are both easy. Just drive up, stop, take the boat off the racks, and slide right into the water. After 500-600 yards of shallow riffles, the river splits around an island. Run the left side, and take out before the end of the island to scout Rock Garden, a good class 3. This rapid is reminiscent of S Turn on the Cartecay, but longer and slightly more technical.

The next two miles offer some very interesting (and pretty) class 2-3 water leading up to Railroad Bridge Rapid. This is a very definite horizon line, so pull off to the right and scout. Railroad Bridge is about an eight foot drop run just off the right bank, with some zig-zag maneuvers on the way down. There's a nice pool at the bottom, followed by another drop of about four or five feet, very similar to the first. From here, the rapids become spaced a bit farther apart, and the scenery shifts to a more pastoral setting.

One particular point of interest is a LOW railroad bridge just below a nice class 2-3 rapid against a small bluff river left. Open boaters will need to tuck forward as if setting up to roll in order to clear this thing. From there, it's an easy float til the river deepens, you pass under a bridge, and there's your shuttle car on the right!

We've seen wild life in the upper sections of the river. Deer, woodchuck, hawks, etc. The easy access, combined with some fun water, makes this run worthwhile if you're in the area and there's enough water. With a little luck, maybe I'll see you there this Spring! □

Safely Speaking

On Life and Rescue Seminars

By Tom Logan

Paddling the rivers is not unlike living life itself. Both are experiences we move along in, and because they're new and ever changing and can't be controlled by us, we make mistakes. Not because we're wrong or inexperienced or bad, but because we're human. And so, when it happens that we make a mistake and take the wrong route or it turns out that what we saw isn't at all the way it appeared, we need the courage, humility, knowledge, and skill to rescue ourselves, or allow someone else to rescue us.

- From "Paddle Georgia" - The Central Georgia River Runners' newsletter. □

GCA Photo Contest

Reminder: Don't forget - entries are due in the GCA Photo Contest by February 29! To enter your photo in the Action, Environmental / Scenic, or Comedy categories, print your name, address, phone number, and entry category on the back, and mail to: GCA Photo Contest, C/O Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, Georgia 30066. Include a self addressed, stamped envelope of the proper size if you want your entries returned. By submitting a photo, the entrant gives permission for the photo to be published in the Edyline or the GCA Directory. Entries must be at least 4x6 and no larger than 11x14. Action includes any aspect of paddlesport. Environmental / Scenic must have a body of water involved. Humor - any paddling or paddling-related activity. Entries will be displayed at the Spring General Membership Meeting in March. First place in each category will receive a gift certificate from REI for $25. Prizes will be awarded for second and third place also. ENTER TODAY!! □

MORE WANT ADS

TO SHARE - Secluded country house, acreage, furnished or unfurnished. Cherokee County at Ga. Highway 20 & I575 - exit 10. Easy access to north Ga. rivers. Prefer environmentally and health conscious person. Very reasonable rent. Interlink service provides local rates for Atlanta area long distance phone calls. 404-479- 6209 - E. J.

TO PLACE AN AD - Want ads are free to dues-paid GCA members. Send your type-written ad to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Dr., Marietta, Ga. 30066. NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. □

CANOEING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION CLINIC

To be held at the Nantahala Outdoor Center with NOC staff instructor trainer
Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday
March 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22

LIMITED ENROLLMENT
Contact Gwen Bergen
664-1657