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The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

VOLUME 27 NO. 10 (404)421-9729 OCTOBER 1992

Management Plan Proposed for the Chattooga Watershed

By Tony Able

There will be a field trip (day hike) on October 17, and canoe trips on the 18th, to learn about a natural watershed management plan proposed for the Chattooga River watershed. Chattooga River Watershed Coalition (CRWC) has drafted a proposal for submission to the U.S. Forest Service that emphasizes biological diversity of plant and animal species, and elimination of clear-cutting of the forests.

The field trip will visit two types of areas; 1) a clear-cut to demonstrate the wrong way to harvest timber, and 2) an area proposed for clear-cutting.

The Coalition is comprised of several local and national conservation organizations that feel the Forest Service could better manage our National Forests. The Coalition is proposing "selection" style timber harvesting as opposed to clear-cutting. Selection management maintains a healthy ecological balance of various aged trees in the forest. This is accomplished through careful selection of logging areas rather than large-scale clear-cutting.

Canoe trips on several sections of the Chattooga River (depending on water levels) are planned for October 18. The canoe trips will also look at the adverse effects of clear-cutting on the watershed. The CRWC is seeking GCA's support of their plan, and is eager to present it to our club.

As a canoeing club, we should be particularly concerned with siltation to the river caused by erosion of clear-cuts. For more information contact Tony Able at 404-378-5550. □

August Streamwatch

By Rhett Smith

On a beautiful, cool August Sunday morn, GCA's Streamwatch group met for our continuous monitor of Stone Mountain Creek. I find sampling of this particular creek very interesting.

What will happen to the water quality due to the Olympic impact on Stone Mountain Lake? Rumors are that the Park plans to drain all or part of the lake, which is to be used as a sculling course, remove a small island, and fill the lake back up. After the Olympics, the island will be returned. Do you think the aquatic plant and animal life will be significantly affected? Hmmmm... Well, anyway, back to the bug count...

We took three samples, sat on the grass, asked one another what this was and that was, ooed and ahhed at the beauty of this and that, celebrated our newly gained experience in bug identification, and after about three hours, parted ways. □

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THE EDDY LINE 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 EDDY LINE 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.

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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 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 information on roll practice** - Call Roll Practice Coordinator Allen Hedden at 426-4318. **For information on placing want ads in the Eddyline** - Call Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 426-4318, or see "To place an ad" in the Want Ad section of the Eddyline. **For information on commercial ads** - Call Advertising Director Barry Hahn at 252-9538. **For water level information** - Call the number for the particular river listed in the back of the GCA Directory. □

Deadlines

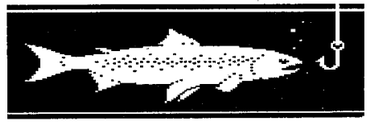
Deadline for material to be submitted for publication in the next Eddy Line is the fifth of the month. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and classified ads by the fifth of the month or they WILL NOT be published in the next issue. If you have access to a computer, please submit articles 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 across 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. □

GCA Officers

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



Video Tapes Available!

From GCA Librarian Walter Howard

The following tapes are available to any GCA member. All you have to do is :

A. Call Walter Howard at 404-694-3557 to find out what tapes are available.

B. Make arrangements to pick up the materials or have them mailed.

C. Return them ASAP with $2.00 per tape for postage so others can check them out.

The current library has the following video tapes available:

1. Expedition Earth - Bio Bio in Chile - Nolan Whitesell
2. Canoes by Whitesell - Nolan Whitesell
3. Ultimate Canoe (Niagara Gorge & Other Rivers) - Nolan Whitesell
4. First Descents (North Fork Payette) - Nolan Whitesell
5. Only Nolan (Canoe Technique) - Nolan Whitesell

The following books are available:

1. Song of the Paddle, by Bill Mason - Illustrated guide to wilderness camping.
2. Path of the Paddle, by Bill Mason - Illustrated guide to the art of canoeing.
3. Paddle to the Amazon - The World's Longest Canoe Trip

Following our Fall Membership Meeting, Nolan Whitesell donated us a copy of his video, Expedition Earth - Bio Bio in Chile. He only asks that you enjoy it but do not copy it! Also, Barry Hahn donated a great book, Song of the Paddle, by Bill Mason, to the library. Be sure and thank Barry and Nolan for their generosity the next time you see them. Thanks guys!

Any/all donations or loans to the library are welcome. Send them to:

Walter Howard
303 Charolais Trail
Cohutta, GA 30710 □

CLASSIFIED ADS

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. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

HELP WANTED - Yes, the GCA needs your help. We need volunteers to serve on committees, do data entry, label and mail newsletters, etc. Call 421-9729 and leave a message.

FOR SALE - Canoe: We-No-Nah Odyssey tandem white water tripper. 18'6", 68 lbs. Tuff-Weave crossrib lay-up. White with black aluminum trim. Bow and stern sliding seats. Fast and dry. No floatation. Two years old, very good + condition. List $1040 plus freight and tax. $700 delivered to Atlanta. Walt Hodge 205-652-2643.

FOR SALE - Canoes: Mohawk XL-13, outfitted, good condition, $550; Mad River ME, very old but still floats, $300; Mohawk Challenger, 14' solo Jensen designed, good condition, $300; Hahn Slipper C-1, 2 spray skirts, and kayak paddle, very old, but it also still floats, $100. Jerry Holladay 321-6746 (H), 299-0077 (W).

FOR SALE - Canoe, Blue Hole Sunburst with Perception saddle, knee pads. Near perfect condition. $625. Call Mike at 934-5842 evenings or leave message.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Sawyer 18' Goldenglass, fast. Excellent cruiser / expedition boat. Stored inside - excellent condition. $600. Call Rich or Mary Beth at 904-282-8091.

FOR SALE - C-1: Perception Slasher. Red, sexy, good condition, used one season. Includes air bags, fastex thigh straps, medium Harmony skirt. Boat has well-practiced roll. $550. Call Steve at 404-516-1653.

FOR SALE - C-1, White Phoenix Slipper, one year old, excellent condition, $150. Also, Famous River Machine kayak. Only weighs 20 pounds, but very strong with kevlar and carbon fiber, for only $150. Also assorted paddling gear - life vest, K-1 spray skirt, paddling jackets. Hank Klausman at 587-0499.

FOR SALE - C-1, Perception Gyramax. Blue. Includes air bags and medium spray skirt. Excellent condition. $375. Call Scott 404-442-4705.

FOR SALE - Car: 1975 Ford Torino Squire station wagon. This is the famous "Lizzy" river car. Original owner. Car has 94,000 actual miles. Everything works well except air conditioning and clock. New front tires. Knows where all put-in and take-outs are in the Southeast. Priced to GCA friends at $500 to keep lizzy in the paddling family. Call Hank Klausman at 587-0499.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, fiberglass: one Old Town Prijon design, $75, and one small child's, $50, both in good condition. Phone 329-1698 nights, 727-7497 days.

FOR SALE - Car - 1964 Volvo. Great river car! Joseph 888-0428.

FOR SALE - Kayak: AQ (with 4 air bags, back band and drain plug). Paddle: Edged Silver Creek - 204 cm. Bushsport spray skirt - 33-34 waist size. Seda kevlar helmet - XL. All used 1/2 season - as new! Top quality package $1050. Call John 785-9772.

FOR SALE - Kayak, New Wave T-Bird squirt boat, excellent condition (size 9 shoes, 30 inch inseam, 145 lbs.) with new Tight skirt. $600. Phoenix Ocoee fiberglass kayak, good condition. $200 with foam pillars. Nordic Trak ski machine for off river training, like new, $350. Yakima racks with extend kit for small car without gutters, less than one year old, $150. Call Mark Watson at H 706-769-0107 or W 706-542-1869.

FOR SALE - Kayak - Noah Odyssey / Expedition. Immaculate condition!! Joseph 888-0428.

FOR SALE - Liquidation sale: Antiques, baskets, dishes, household items, vases, lamps, paddle, life jacket, lawn tools, dog leashes, antique picture frames, large airline dog kennel, classic business suits (sizes 6 & 8), blouses, rugs, water bottles, flashlights, camping gear (stoves, lamp), leather brief case, etc. Lots of quality items. Stop by, take a look, make an offer. E J, 404-479-6209 @ exit 10, I-575, on the way to the rivers.

FOR SALE - Mountain bike - Trek 800 Antelope. 20". 3 years old. Good Condition. $250. Jan Kerr, night 706-889-6566 or day 404-662-2401.

LOST - 3 paddles at the Ocoee take-out, Saturday, July 25, 7 p.m. 1 - Perception: yellow blade with black shaft (faded name and number. 1 - Wagner: white blade with black shaft. 1 - green cheapie. If found, please contact Sherry Spurr at 404-461-8760.

LOST - Paddle, Perception Harmony, with the name Mark Artis / Miami was lost on the Ocoee on Sunday, July 19. If anyone has found it please call David Stanton in Atlanta at 404-252-6962. Thanks!

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION - Kayak, C-1, C-2 technique. Beginner to competition. Steve Thomas - 921-2942 7-9pm. □

Education

Catching Surfing Waves is Fun

By Sharon Myers

A certain Nantahala Outdoor Centre instructor, who will remain unidentified, has stated that there are three reasons to paddle. Those reasons are:

1. To surf.
2. To do enders.
3. To lose altitude.

The last reason is fairly clear, and I'll discuss the second at some later date, but what about that first reason? How is it done? Let's think for a minute about wave surfing.

The easiest way to approach wave surfing is to find a small symmetrical wave that can be ferried into from a nearby eddy. Be sure that there are no obstacles immediately downstream so you'll have plenty of time to roll or swim to shore if you flip.

While you are in the eddy, take a good look at the current going by the eddy. If the current is fast, you'll need to start low in the eddy and take a few strokes to gain enough speed to cross the eddy line and ferry out onto the wave. Come out of the eddy with a small angle so you don't get spun out and turned downstream. Depending on the speed of your boat, you can use either a rudder or a stern draw to keep your desired boat angle. It might take several tries to get out onto the wave, but each time you try and miss, get back in the eddy and figure out what went wrong. Try adjusting your speed, your angle, your entry point onto the wave, and the strokes you are using until you find the right combination.

Once you get out on a wave, you'll have to use a combination of strokes and body position to stay there. If the bow of your boat is pearling (diving beneath the wave), lean back a bit. If you find yourself slipping back off the wave, you'll need to lean forward and press your feet (knees, if you are a canoeist) down into the wave trough.

You can turn the boat by placing a rudder stroke behind your hip on the side you want to turn toward and then pushing the paddle blade out. When you do a rudder, be sure that you rotate your upper body toward the side you are doing the rudder on. This insures that your arm does not get pushed behind your shoulder and lessens the likelihood of a shoulder dislocation.

A stern draw also works well to turn the boat. Stern draws turn the boat away from the paddle side. Be sure you involve your torso in the stern draw as well. You can do combinations of rudders and stern draws to turn the boat back and forth on the wave.

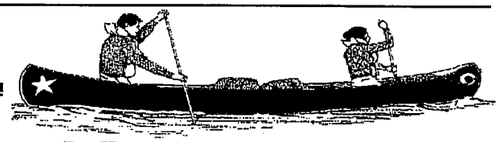
At first, you will probably want to keep your boat fairly flat as you surf, but as you gain confidence and start to surf steeper waves, you'll find that moving your body and the boat back and forth on a wave is lots more fun, and actually helps you stay on the waves better. You'll need to use your knees to control the boat edges, and paddle strokes to turn sharply on a wave.

When paddling medium to high volume boats and using rudder strokes to turn while surfing, try lifting your knee opposite the paddle side as the boat starts to turn. This makes the boat turn sharply. Try linking up turns from side to side and carve up the wave.

Experiment and try surfing on bigger, steeper, or more irregular waves. Most of all though, have fun!

- From "The Paddler", newsletter of the Carolina Canoe Club. □

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



October				
3	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Pat Hagan	393-1420
3	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Nancy Barker	874-8897
3	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Rhett Smith	297-1995
4	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Julie Keller	939-0202
4	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dirk Bertrand	978-1964
10	Chattooga II	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Laura Jordon	803-836-8498
10	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Ledvinka	706-353-3027
10	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Polly Heyward	237-4503
11	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Margo Booth	487-8084
11	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	John Grubbs	979-0897
11	Lower Flint below Yellow Jacket Shoals - Exploratory Trip	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Patsios	477-9747
17	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Dan & Elise MacIntyre	252-9513
17	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Bill Mann	242-7748
17	Ecological day hike on Chattooga		Tony Able	378-5550
17	**Fall General Membership Meeting - First Baptist Church of Decatur - 6:30 PM - See flyer this issue.**			
18	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Oreon Mann	522-3469
18	Chattooga IV	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	706-536-6923
24	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dewey Tate	631-9877
24	Lower Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	706-536-6923
24	Chattahoochee - Buford Dam to Abbot's Bridge	Class 1 Beginner	Tom Martin	662-0058
24-25	Chattooga III Overnight	Class 3-4 Advanced	Joan Farrell	370-1030
25	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Beginner	Jim Gunter	514-4153
31	Halloween Wild Card	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	John Bell	404-345-5504
31	Halloween Wild Card	Class 3-4 Advanced	Mark Levine	971-5866
31	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Ron Hardy	205-820-7473
November				
1	Etowah	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Gunter	514-4153
1	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Bill Kelly	926-4925
7	Chattooga II	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Laura Jordon	803-836-8498
7	Tugaloo Lake	Flat Water, Foliage	Tom Sieswerda	706-865-2105
7	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Tim Kaylor	205-236-8067
8	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Tim Kaylor	205-236-8067
8	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Barry Hahn	252-9538
8	Nacoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Gunter	514-4153
14	Coosa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Ron Hardy	205-820-7473
14	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Margo Booth	487-8084
14	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706-548-5015
14	Chattanooga Aquarium	Day Trip	Gwen Bergen	664-1657
14-15	Chattooga III Overnight	Class 3-4 Advanced	Terry Pierce & Bill Reeves	325-5853
21	Etowah	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Gunter	514-4153
28	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Margo Booth	487-8084

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.

Announcements

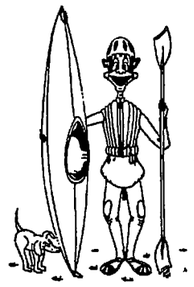
From the Boardroom

Highlights of the September 1992 Board of Directors Meeting

- Tom Sieswerda announced that he had completed the revision of the emergency phone number list used by the Club. The new list will be issued to all trip coordinators as part of their pre-trip package and will soon be published as a flyer in the Eddy Line.
- Treasurer Ed Schultz gave the Treasurer's report. Ed requested that all committee chairs get their fiscal 1993 budget requirements to him well before the end of the month so the new budget can be prepared.
- Ed also reported on Membership. The end of August figure was 960 individual and family memberships.
- Cruisemaster Karla Bowman reported on the upcoming Trip Leader Training Clinic at the NOC.
- Canoe Training Director Barney Spurr reported on the August Intermediate Open Canoe Clinic. He also inquired about the status of minor waiver forms for Club events.
- Safety Director Stewart Stokes reported that so far 27 people had signed up for the River Safety and Rescue Clinic, and that as usual, it was expected to be a sell-out.
- Social Director David Newbern announced the location and agenda for the Fall General Membership Meeting in October. The planned program included a silent auction and used equipment swap, the annual election of officers, some discussion on current River Rights issues by Club Counsel, and last but not least, the big covered dish dinner.
- River Rights Chairman Dan MacIntyre reported on the Armuchee Creek case. The trial date is still set for February 1993.
- ACA Representative Oreon Mann announced the upcoming ACA Dixie Division Meeting and the Instructor Methods Workshop, both to be held at the NOC.
- Public Liaison Jim Patsios reported on the activities of the Georgia Greenways Council. He believes they are on the way to becoming one of our strongest allies in river rights and conservation activities.
- Ed Schultz proposed an amendment to the By-laws adding the Membership Director to the list of officers allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms. After some discussion, the motion was passed.
- Mark Levine moved that we renew our agreement with the AJCC to hold our monthly meetings at their facility and make an appropriate donation to AJCC. The motion was passed. □

Canoe Camping Earthskills Practice

If anyone is interested in canoe camping and earthskills/ survival training along with enjoyment of the outdoors, call Jan Bragg (404) 587-2316 after 6 p.m. or leave message. We'll also work on map reading and general navigation skills. Lots of good fun and camaraderie! □



The President's View

By Jim Silavent

The 1992 year has been a good one for the GCA. This is the result of the accomplishments of many people. As president, I want to thank all the people who contributed their time and energy. Special thanks have to go to Allen Hedden for the outstanding job he has done as Newsletter Editor, to Mary Trauner for the great job she did as Race Director for the Southeasterns, to John Bell and Barney and Sherry Spurr for coordinating the kayak and canoe training, to Dave Newbern who took over as Social Chairman when his predecessor moved to Washington state, to Carol Mercer for the fantastic job she has done as Environmental Chairperson, and to Andy Warshaw and Dan MacIntyre for leading the club's river rights effort. This is only a partial list of people who deserve recognition for what they give to the GCA.

The one thing that I have learned this year is what a special group of people paddlers are. Fortunately, all these people will be back in the same or new positions next year. Being involved in the GCA is both a fun and rewarding experience and I encourage you to get involved. We all worry about the time it takes, but rest assured the payback is worth it. With almost the entire slate of officers and committee chairpersons back for 1993, I expect things to run smoothly again.

One of our major goals for this year is to find a replacement for every officer and committee person for the 1994 year. I hope you will feel honored and excited when someone from the Board calls and asks you to get involved in running our club.

The River Rights Legislative Committee recently meet with Joe Tanner from the Department of Natural Resources to discuss our interest in securing the "right of common passage". Mr. Tanner was very gracious and understanding of what we are trying to accomplish and

You Are Your Brother's Keeper

Sharing a white water adventure with friends is a unique and lasting experience. It bonds those who share this sport together in a very special way.

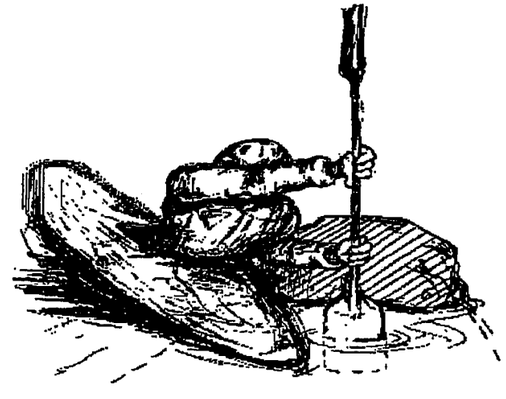
Whether you realize it or not, river running is dangerous and should never be taken lightly. You go to the river with friends to have a good time, get exercise, and hone your white water skills. You expect to get wet, have fun, gain more experience, and enjoy the company of your fellow paddlers. You don't expect to be spindled, folded, mutilated, or die, although it is always a possibility.

I guess that's why this sport is so unique. Unlike most other sports, you are your brother's keeper. You should always be aware of the dangers of the river and watch for the one behind you, as well as each other's back. Every time your fellow boater flips over in a hole or gets trashed in a rapid, you should make sure he rolled up or self-rescued. If the paddler didn't, you should be there in a heartbeat to rescue him and his gear. The paddler is always the number one priority!! Gear can always be replaced or retrieved later. You start out the trip as a close-knit team and you finish the day together and in one piece. WE ARE FAMILY!

We paddle together, eat together, shuttle together, and camp together. One for all and all for one! That's the way it is.

We share the thrills and spills, and the agonies and the ecstasies of each other's defeats and triumphs. Paddling white water is the most intense and exhausting, yet exhilarating and challenging, exciting and rewarding sport most of us have ever taken up. The sport is as unique and special as the people who participate in it.

- From "The Confluence." □



ACA Appeal for Funds

Slim Ray Fund and Disabled Paddler Fund Opened

Slim Ray, a noted river safety expert, severely injured his back in a kayaking accident on the Middle Green River in Southwestern North Carolina in July, 1991. This accident left him without the use of his legs. Ray is currently at the Toms Rehabilitation Hospital in Asheville, N. C. He is currently getting used to being in a wheelchair and expects to be in outpatient care for about a year.

Ray will need a specially adapted van and a number of other expensive items to resume activity, therefore a motion was made at the 1991 Congress to establish a fund for this purpose. Checks for donations should be made out to the "ACA Slim Ray Fund" and sent to:

American Canoe Association
Suite B-226
7432 Alban Station Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22150

A second fund was also established at the Congress. This fund was established for projects to help the disabled paddler in general. Money donated to this fund will be tax-deductible. Checks made out to "ACA Disabled Paddler Fund" can be sent to the same address. □

You Know You're Very Much a Paddler If...

By Peter Boling and Sue Ivie

1. Your long distance phone bill has more calls to river gauges than to people.
2. "Polypro" brings to mind an odor rather than a fabric.
3. Being eaten is not always a good thing.
4. A release has nothing to do with sex.
5. You know that strainers are not for vegetables and spaghetti only.
6. You know that take-out has nothing to do with Chinese food.
7. You buy new vehicles based on their roof capacity.
8. You're only available for social engagements during a drought.
9. You can spell "Youghiogheny".
10. You do most of your surfing in fresh water.
11. You think swimming should be done only in pools.
12. A roll is always sweet.

- From Coastal CaNEWS

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

By Don Ellis

It was Saturday, June 13, and it had rained all the way to the put-in of Big Atlantic Creek! Surf was up! I was excited, for not only was I going to spend four days paddling, but for a change, I was to be accompanied by my wife, Gini, and my little girl, Brittany. Rarely do we go on a paddling trip as a family.

For the next four days I paddled Big Atlantic Creek with the water level fluctuating as much as 5 to 8 feet during a six hour run. Must have had something to do with the combination of the rainfall, the time of day, the phase of the moon . . .

There were a lot of folks surfing the dynamic waves. Many spectators lined the banks, much like you see on river right as you paddle through Table Saw on the Ocoee on any given hot summer day.

It was glorious. Not one raft did I see. Not one decked boat did I see. Just me in my Dagger Caper open solo boat and several folks on surf boards, and a number of brave souls body surfing and playing in the water close to the banks.

I had heard of paddling legends the likes of John Hiscox, Bill Hay, Rick Parker, Eugene (Bo) Rocker, Barnett Williams, Archibald Barasshol and others sing the praises of what white water Big Atlantic Creek had to offer. This was my chance. Four days at Fernandina Beach provided me the opportunity to surf to my heart's content.

I started off as usual, fairly conservative. The waves would break right at me or just in front of me and I took great care to maintain the correct perpendicular angle to the waves to prevent being turned sideways and being trashed.

By now a crowd had noticed me in my solo boat. I had nonchalantly glanced over my shoulder a couple of times to be sure it was me they were watching. Make no mistake, it was me. Of course, it may have had something to do with my red Pro-Tec helmet and blue Highfloat PFD, as well as my being in a canoe. Just like in a free style rodeo . . . all eyes on Dub.

Well, as the Beach Boys once said, "Catch a wave and you're sittin' on top of the world. Don't be afraid to try the greatest sport around . . ." Staged and ready, I sit in the world's largest eddy waiting on the right wave to be pushed inward by the Old Man in The Sea.

Here it comes! Paddle toward shore to gain that first momentum and let the wave catch me up in its trough. Here I go! Careful now, don't let it turn the boat. Oh man, this is exactly what I didn't want to happen. Well, at least it turned me so I have my left side brace to fall on. One last glance toward shore confirms that the folks are still intent on how I'll do. I sort-of-grin to myself and boldly extend my paddle toward the crowd on the beach in preparation for my brace. Wham!!! Boy did somebody turn out the lights!

What happened to "sittin' on top of the world?" I was being flushed along the bottom of the earth! Which way is "downstream" in the ocean's surf? Well, ol' Dub is here to tell you ain't toward the shore line! It took several more tries to figure that out, but it all makes sense now.

Instead of the creek moving and the wave/hole combination being stationary, it is the other way around in the ocean. The creek is stationary and the wave/hole is moving. The smooth green tongue is coming into the hole on a creek. We work hard in most cases to brace on the downstream side of the wave/ hole, where the water is frothy and most always more foamy and violent than on the smooth green tongue side. So it is with ocean surfing . . . the smooth green side, the side toward shore, is the UPSTREAM side.

Don't brace on that side, it won't work! Rather, brace on the side going out to sea. It will work most every time for you. Unless of course, you are in Daytona Beach during some freak Fourth of July ocean landslide that creates a small tidal wave capable of wiping out cars and other large house sized objects!

It took most of the first day to get used to the ocean surfing. I was finally able to keep my boat straight on a wave. When I did, it would almost always put me high and dry onto shore. What a ride. It took most of the next two days to get over my sunburn. That's OK though. I have a feeling that Big Atlantic Creek will have enough water to float anytime I'm ready. It gave new meaning and feeling to going to the beach. □

spent approximately 1-1/2 hours with us. We want to thank him for his efforts to support river rights. The Club is working hard to win legislative support as well as continuing our court case to secure this "right of common passage", while at the same time protecting the rights of landowners.

I recently had the opportunity to attend a short ceremony organized by the Trust for Public Land at the Ocmulgee River. The event was to celebrate the recent purchase of 815 acres on the river by the Forest Service. Wyche Fowler was there to speak and paddle a short stretch of the river. Mr. Fowler is on the Appropriations Committee, and was instrumental in getting funds set aside for this purchase. I also had the pleasure of meeting Dubose Porter, a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, who is running for Speaker of the House against long time Speaker Tom Murphy. Dubose has been active in legislation to protect our river corridors and in the Preservation 2000 program put forward by Zell Miller.

One final note of interest is a call I got recently from George Yates, a GCA member. George had learned of proposed regulations for the new Dog River Reservoir that would permit kayaks but not canoes. Being a kayaker my first reaction was "this makes a lot of sense". However, George, being an open boater, didn't see things quite the same way. With George's guidance, I was able to speak with the Douglasville/Douglas County Water Authority. Since this question had also been raised at a public hearing on the reservoir usage, they were already aware of this issue. Mr. Pete Frost, Chairman of the Authority, has indicated that this should not be a problem when the final regulations governing use of the reservoir are issued. Thanks, George, for bringing this issue to our attention and for getting involved. □

Conservation Corner

"Deliverance" of the Chattooga River

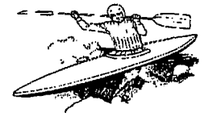
The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the U. S. Forest Service took another major step on June 26, 1992, to protect the watershed of the Chattooga River. Congress was convinced to appropriate funds in 1992 to acquire the headwaters of the West Fork of the Chattooga River. TPL conveyed 439 acres of prime recreation land in the headwaters of the West Fork to the USFS on June 26.

Congressmen Ed Jenkins and Lindsey Thomas, as well as Senators Wyche Fowler and Sam Nunn, worked to influence Congress to fund the acquisition. The acquisition will serve to protect the clarity of the Chattooga River, as well as providing significant recreational resources of its own.

The land features Buzzard Rock, excellent mountain streams, and forests that provide habitat to a wide variety of wildlife. According to Forest Supervisor, Ken Henderson, the acquisition assures additional protection for the watershed, and provides added protection for the Cedar Cliffs botanical area.

TPL, a national non-profit land conservation organization, specializes in securing threatened land at favorable prices and holding it until it is permanently secured, recovering its original investment costs, allowing funds to be continuously recycled. In a 1991 survey, Forbes Magazine rated TPL as one of the most efficient charitable organizations in the country. □

Trip Reports



Cartecay River

By Dick Hurd

Sunday, August 8, 1992. The bad news was that the river at 1.8 could have used a bit more water. The GREAT news was that we got to use the new take-out: the DNR and Georgia Power have opened a road to the river which allows a take-out 40 to 60 minutes paddling time below Clear Creek, eliminating all the dreaded flat water paddling on the lower section of the river. I know that Jay and MOE have been urging such a take-out for years, and we thank him for his efforts.

Directions are as follows: going toward Ellijay from the put-in, turn left at the bottom of the hill after the Lutheran Church. If you pass Bootleggers on the right or the county prison on the left, you missed the turn. Proceed past the garbage collection site on a fairly good gravel road, up and down some hills, to a large gravel parking site at the river. Scout the take-out at the river so you will recognize it when you reach it.

Our flotilla of 13 boats included several new members and several first-timers on the Cartecay . We played at all the rapids, and some ran the major drops several times. Our group was evenly divided among canoes and kayaks, and included: Warren Carlson, Frank Ciccone, Sabra Hanson, Jerry Holladay, Seth Holladay, Brook Holladay, Chris Weeks, Charles Clark, Barron Wester, Robin Booth, Cathy Bender, Chris Jaswa, Thomas Morrer, and myself. □

"A closed mouth gathers no feet." - *Anonymous.*

More Trip Reports

Broad River

By Jeff Engel

April 4, 1992. The Broad is such a wonderful river in mid spring. Things were just starting to bloom. Water level was comfortable. Temperature was a little cool, but still pleasant. Wind was blowing at 50 MPH except when it gusted. And, let's face it, a day on the river beats the heck out of one doing the chores at home that need to be done.

We had a great time, everybody stayed upright, and we even got to see an osprey with a pretty large fish in its talons fly by.

We held a series of races, holding our paddles in the wind and being blown downstream faster than we could have paddled. That demonstrated another superiority of canoes over kayaks: double bladed paddles make terrible sails.

Paddling and sailing were: Julia Phillips, Curt Cole, I. Webb, Carl Smith, Bruce Rowan, Pat Hagan, Joyce Hagan, and coordinator Jeff Engel. □

Ocoee River

By Oreon Mann

July 3, 1992. The day before July 4th, there were not as many boats on the Ocoee as on a typical Saturday, or even a Sunday. Participants were Louie Reynolds, Robert Pasmanich, Barry Smith and myself in OC-1's, and Walker Hester in a kayak. We all had good runs. I tried the right side of Hell Hole again, which is a straight run. Everyone had a great time, I know I did! □

Weekday Ocoee Trip

By Greg Grant

Thursday, July 23, 1992. Where do chemistry professors go when they have a day off during the summer? Why up to the Ocoee, of course! Joining me for a Thursday Ocoee trip were Fred Henneike, Chemistry Department at Georgia State, and my colleague from Chemistry at Tennessee - Chattanooga, Rob Mebane. We ran into GCA member Fred Stokes at the put-in, and he joined our group. Everyone had a great day, especially Fred Henneike on only his second open boat Ocoee trip. Since it was Thursday, there was no waiting for parking or boat loading, and plenty of time for hole playing and surfing—a great way to beat the weekend Ocoee crowds of July and August. Also, all four of us were paddling red open boats, which is getting to be a habit on my trips. I hope I paddle with all of these guys again! □

White's Creek of Rhea County

By Greg Grant

Exploratory Trip; Friday, March 20. When you think of spectacular sandstone cliffs, eagles, and a plateau that starts with a "C", perhaps the Green River in Utah or the Colorado River in Arizona come to mind. However, a real gem of the Cumberland Plateau, White's Creek in Rhea County, Tennessee, offers a lot to upper-level intermediate and advanced boaters. Rob Mebane, Tim Henderson, Greg Albritton, and I were able to catch this run at a moderately low water level.

Not to be confused with White's Creek of Morgan County (a tributary of Clear Creek in the Emory-Obed system), this is one of the most scenic Class II-III runs that I have ever paddled. To my knowledge a description of this run has never appeared in a guidebook. The skill level required for White's Creek would be comparable to running the middle Tellico at average water levels — a high-level intermediate run. This is certainly not a class III-IV run. If you are looking for that, try White's Creek's hefty brother to the south, the Piney River.

The first half of the run is tight and technical and reminiscent of Crab Orchard Creek. Great surfing opportunities abound during the first couple of miles. About three miles into the run there is a rapid I call Pinball because each time I have run White's Creek, somebody has pinned a boat there. You start right and finish left, with the pinning rock lurking in the middle of the left channel.

Just below this rapid, you will come to the most dangerous spot on White's Creek - Eagle Rock Rapid. Scout and portage river left! Most of the flow goes into a terrible under-cut cliff on river right. Boat pinning possibilities are high, so walk or line your boats along the shallow left side. This makes a good lunch spot.

A few more rapids bring you to the confluence with Piney Creek (not Piney River) which enters from river left and doubles the flow of White's Creek. Here, the character of the river dramatically changes to a non-technical, Nantahala-like, fun run. The second rapid below the confluence is called Surf City and certainly lives up to its reputation. Two outstanding side-surfing waves put this spot right up there with Jaws on the Nolichucky or Hollywood Hole on the Ocoee as great surfing holes.

The run continues for about four miles below Surf City, for a total of eight miles. Depending on how much you play, a trip on White's Creek would last about 3-4 hours.

Shuttle directions. Take U.S. 27 to Spring City,.

imaging in athletics. In white water, this means visualizing yourself making the precise maneuvers that it will take to run a rapid smoothly and safely. Watching a veteran paddler execute those maneuvers will help. Try visualizing; it should be a part of your decision making process. If you can't visualize yourself making the necessary moves, you probably should not attempt the rapid. Of course, sometimes you may be lucky; there might be a safe sneak route as an alternative to a strenuous carry.

Remember, a portage is not an unconditional surrender, or even a defeat. Adjust your attitudes before you hit the river.

When I'm invited to paddle some steep creek that I have never seen before, I expect to do some portaging. Sometimes I don't, but I always anticipate it. And if I portage, I don't usually qualify my experience by saying, "I didn't really 'paddle' that creek. I walked two of the rapids."

Still alive, I tell the breathless tale.

- Reprinted from the Chota Canoe Club Newsletter, June, 1992. □

Traits of a Successful White Water Organization

By Ric Alesch - From American Whitewater

1. A few dedicated people. The need for a few dedicated folks may seem obvious, but it cannot be overstated. The success of the organization will probably rise and fall with the efforts of relatively few individuals. As a general rule of thumb, about 5-10% of the members will be active participants. The rest will be passive members that send in their dues, read the club newsletter, and occasionally attend a club function. The most active people will form the basis for the board of directors. It is critical to have a highly dedicated leader serving as the president.

2. Club sponsored trips. Possibly the most important and common activity for most white water clubs is to organize club sponsored trips for all levels of boaters.

3. Purposeful general meetings and social events. If meetings are held time after time with no specific purpose, members will eventually tire of rehashing the same old issues and probably start complaining about a lack of focus. A combination of general meetings and social events is desirable. Each general meeting should have an identified purpose, such as a special presentation on a current issue, a safety clinic, a conservation talk, etc.

4. Fiscal responsibility. A successful white water club should responsibly spend the funds gathered through dues or other sources.

5. A commitment to have fun.

Paddle Talk

By Steve Thomas

A few weeks ago Pat Toole asked me if I did paddle repair, and since I've had a little time on my hands lately, my quick replay was yes. "Well the other day on the river a little piece of wood came out of my Kayak blade."

She brought the paddle to rolling practice and I proceeded to pull rotted wood out of the throat of her treasured Silver Creek paddle. It's sort of hard to watch someone take apart something that you have an emotional attachment to. Which brings up a thought: Is it just wood paddles, or your first paddle?

I can remember that I have had some feeling tied up in paddles. They have been there during your moments of joy on the river, also at times when things weren't quite joyful, maybe a dip, or maybe a rough practice in the gates.

I broke my first kayak paddle during a temper tantrum at a training session, and yes, I learned something from it: They don't bounce that well off your boat rim.

Well, old friends need help every now and then, and if your friend gets a nick, especially if it's wood, take the time to fix him up. If your wooden paddle does not have hardwood edging, watch the throat because water can get into the grain and cause a lot of damage. (ask Pat!) It doesn't take much time or expense to maintain wooden paddles, and I personally think that they are worth a little bit of my time to keep them river-worthy.

I have used a combination of graphite shafts and wooden blades that will last for years, but I'll have to admit after working on Pat's and hearing her talk about getting her "baby" fixed, I ordered a totally wood paddle a week later from Mitchell. Last Friday when I saw the box in the garage, you would have thought Santa Clause had come in July. I don't have pictures in my wallet yet, but it may not be long! □

Portaging: The Kind of Good Sense that Needs to be Developed and Encouraged

By Carroll Wilson

"You portage, You wussy!" proclaimed the t-shirt on an endangered specimen at one of eastern America's paddling Meccas a few years ago.

That taunt was ringing in my ears a few days later as I gingerly lowered my boat off the dry side of a vertical ledge of Tennessee's Tellico River. But so did the words of one of our most respected local paddlers. "Once I aspired to be the best kayaker in this part of the country. Later, I decided that what I really wanted was to become the oldest kayaker around here."

To portage or not to portage... if you're a paddler, sooner or later, that is the question. Not those arduous carries in northern lake country that keep chiropractors in the well to do, or those 60 foot waterfalls that even northeastern tongue-lollies forego. I mean class three, four and five rapids that are a piece of cake to some paddlers and extremely inappropriate for others.

Many view portaging as an unconditional surrender. "If you portage two or more major rapids, you shouldn't have paddled it," I once heard somebody declare. This same reckless opiner had cried foul after reading the account of a kayak descent on North Carolina's ferocious Horsepasture River, a descent that had included several portages. Well, I have since seen the rapids between the major waterfalls on the pell-mell Horsepasture, and I'll concede that its first descent was, in fact, quite an accomplishment.

My own first portage occurred in 1980 at tremble-making Bull Sluice on the Chattooga. I was one of only two in a party of eight who chose, with considerable chagrin, the snake-infested walk around the Sluice on the Georgia side. As our trip leader, the legendary Bunny Johns, came over to help me with the carry. She said, "I think you're wise to portage at this water level."

It was just the salve my smarting ego needed.

Such careful decisions begin with scouting, which means they often begin in the mind of someone else: an experienced trip leader. The trip leader must shoulder the responsibility to initiate and direct the scouting of any rapid that even one of the party may want to walk around. This means scouting from the bank above and below a rapid. Eddy or island scouting should only be a last resort. It should be a given that you scout from the side of the river on which a portage is possible. A portion of the responsibility also rests on the trip leader to deflect and nullify group pressure in its many forms.

A leader should imploy these kinds of statements: "There's no damn shame in walking this one." Or, "Even experienced paddlers have problems here sometimes."

The leader ought to make a special effort to defend an apprentice from the scoff of others in the group, and ward off attempts to minimize the risk that a rapid may pose. If a rapid really is a piece of cake, say so; if it's harder than it looks, make that known too. If you believe the rapid in question is comparable to something else your tyro may have run, show him how the two are related. Remember to offer assistance, if needed. We can all name a few places where a solo portage can be more dangerous than the route on the river.

Of course, American "sue-mania" aside, the decision to run or walk around a rapid is ultimately each individual boater's. Most group pressure is subtle, and only the individual can resist it. Only you can discipline yourself to do your own eyeballing, without looking about to see who is preparing to run the rapid and who isn't.

Only an individual can evaluate his or her own ability by asking, silently, "Have I ever paddled another rapid almost as difficult as this?" If the answer is yes, and the conditions are right, you may want to go for it. On the other hand, if it looks much more difficult, carry. The final decision is, and ought to be, agonizingly private.

Never portage a rapid without looking at it first. You'll want to study the features that trouble you. As you do, you're improving your water reading ability and laying the basis for its successful negotiation in the future.

Don't always be reassured by group support. Numbers mean you will be evacuated if you're injured, but numbers can't prevent every conceivable injury. You paddle your own boat.

There is a rapid known as Lower Factory Falls on Alabama's Bear Creek that, at a typical level of flow, is a sieve of torrential undercuts. No amount of group support at the bottom of that cataract, which is in my mind unrunable, could significantly reduce the danger that it poses.

Most of us fear embarrassment more than injury. Don't let your decision making be too influenced by the dread of ridicule.

If a rapid looks as if it can be run (or swum) safely, and your trip leader assures you that it is not particularly dangerous, go right ahead when your turn comes, even if you fear you might be baptized. This is how you will learn to overcome performance anxiety and improve your paddling skill.

Much has been written in recent years about positive

Tennessee. Continue north on 27 about 10 miles past Spring City (towards Rockwood) through Roddy until you come to the White's Creek Bridge on 27. The take-out is upstream of the bridge on river left. A memorial downstream of the bridge on river right marks a tragic event on White's Creek - several Boy Scouts and a scoutmaster drowned in 1929 while camping when a flash flood came down the Creek.

To get to the put-in, drive back into Spring City and take TN 68 towards Crossville. Ascend the plateau on 68 (We're going down there!?!) and take the first right at the picturesque community of Grandview. This is Possum Trot road. Continue on Possum Trot Road about five miles until you come to the put-in bridge. Put-in is on river left, downstream of the bridge. There is a hand-painted gauge on the bridge.

We paddled White's Creek at 0.75' on the bridge gauge, and I have subsequently paddled it at 1.0', which is probably an ideal, average level. The difficulty of this run increases dramatically with an increase in the gauge reading, so a reading of 1.25' is probably a safe maximum for this run. I would estimate that you would need a flow of at least 4000 cfs on the Emory at Oakdale in order to have enough water to paddle White's Creek, so it definitely is a high (but not too high) water run.

It takes about an hour to get up there from Chattanooga. If you are on your way up to the Plateau from Atlanta, check out White's Creek! It's some great paddling! □

Nose to Nose on the Nanty!

By Tim Kaylor, Coordinator

August 8, 1992. After visiting the River's End and discussing a certain "Alabama eddy hog" Eddy Line article with the author, Frank Able, I went to the put-in a little early to fill out the permit and unload my stuff before any of the others arrived. However, a South Carolinian, Terry Thrasher was already there preparing his new, never been wet before, never been paddled before, Dagger Impulse. This boat was so new, the floatation bags hadn't been installed, though Terry was busily performing that task.

As I began to unload, I noticed Jerry Williams, who hails from Tampa, Florida, turning in with his Sunburst II easily riding on top of the Hertzmobile. The Louisiana Flat Water Woman was the next to arrive with her C-1 sitting proudly atop its transport vehicle. Yes sports fans, that's right, Debbie Deem is back in Duluth and in the white water groove, and I'm mighty glad to have her around again.

A fellow Alabamian was the next to make his presence known. Marty Campbell from Decatur, that's Decatur, Alabama, his wife Cindy, daughter Tanyell and son Logan came on the scene. Logan, who's four years old promptly demonstrated his truly southern courtesy by walking over to me to say, "And how are you today," while Tanyell filled me in on Dad's life history.

Greg Borgen, another South Carolinian, joined the crew, and after several minutes of enjoyable conversation, we decided to run shuttle. Thanks to Cindy, Tanyell and Logan who stood guard over our boats and equipment. Thanks, Marty for running shuttle in your Blazer and making it a wonderful ride for me, back to the put-in.

We got on the River and had only gone a short distance when two folks in our group decided to test the temperature of the Nantahala water with the well known and scientifically proven full body immersion and water displacement method. This test yielded an answer quickly, as it usually does. We collected the bodies, boats and gear, made sure everyone was OK and continued on.

There were no further water temperature tests performed, but an analysis of "how many rafts can be put on a river and humans still get down stream?" seemed to be appropriate. Nose to nose rubber boats with an occasional hard boat sandwiched between them was the rule on this expedition. If you don't believe me, ask Marty about Nantahala Falls, the racers route and rubber rafts. Good, clean second run, Marty.

We ate lunch at Ferebee Park with about 200 other people. It seems there's always someone you know at the Nantahala . This trip was no exception. At Ferebee we talked to Bruce Fussell and his brother Matthew. About two thirds of the way down, at Surfing Rapid, we talked to Beverly Reynolds and were joined on the river by one of the Alabama Contingency of the GCA , who was initiated into membership this past winter, Mr. Louie "Atomic Fireball" Reynolds.

Jerry and I were both a little wasted from our Friday Ocoee trip, but we still managed to get in, literally between rafts, a little play time. I finally got to paddle one of the new Dagger Genesis boats, thanks to Marty.

After loading the boats and equipment, we all got into some dry clothes and there were nine for dinner at River's End. As usual, the conversation was fun, stimulating and informative. Thanks to each of the boaters and their family members for providing me with yet another great day with the GCA. See you next time! □

The Big Laurel Creek gauge at the U. S. 25-70 bridge has been repainted, and a new gauge painted alongside it.

More Trip Reports

Ocoee River

By Oreon Mann

July 25, 1992. This was a very crowded river, maybe the worst day of the season. Participants were Louie Reynolds and Joe Winters in OC-1's, Connor Dowling in a C-1, and in my trusty Russian made cataraft, Barry Smith and Oreon Mann, trip coordinator. Once again we made the straight run down the right side of Hell Hole. Everyone had a great time, I know I did! □

Nantahala River

By B. Jan Bragg

Saturday morning started with light patches of drizzle and fog on the drive to Nantahala, and the fog remained during a good distance of the upper section. Certainly didn't stop the multitudes of rubber rafts. So thick at times on those narrow river turns that one could have walked on them across the river.

Our great group of canoeists included Scott Bellue, (also known by other aliases) OC-1, David Jecha OC-1, Lauren Levin OC-2 with guest Kathy B., David Cox K-1 and coordinator Jan Bragg OC-1.

The river ran a bit above the normal, sometimes bumpy release common during summer months. It was a first time run for Lauren. She and Kathy B. (previous experience K-1) handled the water like old pros!

No one swam in spite of the "grab" in both holes at the falls, and the fact that Dave Jecha ran it backwards - great technique - not to mention the initial perseverance in the face of challenge (or simply no choice?). Oh well, Dave, it's the resilience shown in the follow through that generated those whistles and howls, and the fact of staying dry - what a man!

I won't get into the matter of Scott's rope throw and accompanying gymnastics, but will thank him and Dave J. for their help in alternating sweep. □

October

The evening water's still as space
And as clear as London gin
I sit down beside the fireplace
Down at the one-pine inn

The residents murmur quietly
And inspect my tender skin
Approving of the evening meal
Served at the one-pine inn

There's dirt beneath my fingernails
And hair on my unshaven chin
But nobody seems to really mind
Here at the one-pine inn

The supper is stew, as usual
Served in a sooty tin
But it's hot and filling and what I need
For my stay at the one-pine inn

I had to park my own canoe
And drag my own stuff in
And after midnight it gets right chill
In October, at the one-pine inn

But the Management responds to all complaints
With an awkward lunar grin
And serves an after-dinner round of peace
Again, at the one-pine inn.

- Anonymous

- This poem was reprinted from the newsletter of the Houston Canoe Club, to which it was submitted anonymously, with no return address, in an envelope with Canadian postage. Thanks, Canada!

Sex and the Art of Kayaking

By Jennie Goldberg

Do you want to be able to put it where you want it and when you want it? If so, then practice your slalom racing skills! Do you or have you ever found yourself reciting any of the following myths?

MYTH 1: White water slalom racing is for competitive type people: I want to paddle for fun.

FACT: Even if you don't ever want to be a "racer" or race seriously, practicing on slalom gates and participating in fun races will make you a better recreational paddler. You'll have more fun because you'll be in control.

MYTH 2: Racers never get any exercise because a slalom course is a couple hundred yards long.

FACT: Believe me, it can be exhausting! It's amazing how much great paddling is to be found without having to run a shuttle. A real calorie burner, too.

MYTH 3: Yeech! My friends will think I'm a "racer head"!

FACT: Yeah, well maybe... until they're the ones stuck in the hole getting trashed, and you're confident and calm in the eddy below.

MYTH 4: People who race are too wimpy to paddle class V white water.

FACT: Being able to maneuver down a slalom course will teach you the skills and technique you need to handle difficult white water. You can have the thrill and rush of making class IV or V white water moves but with class II-III consequences! (or class I consequences if you're playing on flat water gates).

MYTH 5: I'm not good enough to race yet. You have to be a "racer" to practice on a slalom course.

FACT: Slalom courses are the place to learn white water skills! Those poles hanging in the way give you immediate feedback and help you develop the skills to put your boat where you want it.

I must admit that my confidence, technical ability and strength in recreational paddling vastly improved once I started practicing slalom. I highly recommend it.

- Adapted from the newsletter of the Washington Kayak Club. □

"Every human being has a sacred duty to protect the welfare of our Mother Earth, from whom all life comes. In order to do this, we must recognize the enemy - the one within us. We must begin with ourselves."
- Leon Shenandoah, Chief of the Onandaga Nation.

Different Strokes

Is It White Water or Whitewater?

By Allen Hedden

You would think that at least paddlers, of all people, would agree on the term used to describe the rapids that many of them paddle -- white water.

"Wait a minute!" you say. "What do you mean, 'white water?' What about the 'American Whitewater Affiliation,' the 'Atlanta Whitewater Club,' and all the other organizations with that word in their name? Are they all wet?" (no pun intended.) Well, in a word, yes!

Even though popular usage in the paddling community would seem to indicate otherwise, all reference material I have located refers to "white water" (two words). Several dictionaries and all the spelling checkers on my PC support the two word version.

According to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, you may eat whitefish caught from North American streams, play among the whitecaps in your favorite rapid, or whitewash a controversial subject in the newsletter, but you paddle on white water rivers, which may be lined with forests of white oak, white poplar and white pine, serving as habitat to white-tailed deer.

Or a white-collar worker vacationing in the Arctic could go through a white-out. And your old Hahn C-1 has become a real white elephant. I love a language that has such consistency!

In my position as Newsletter Editor, I see vast amounts of literature on the subject of white water, and I think the majority of the references I see in that literature are to "whitewater," even down to the names of organizations and publications.

There are some notable exceptions who use the two word version - the Colorado White Water Association, abbreviated CWWA, which is very adamant about its name, and the White Water Theme Park, to name a couple.

My rule of thumb as Newsletter Editor is to leave proper names, like clubs and newsletters, alone whichever way they are spelled, but to correct references to rapids shown in text as "whitewater" to read "white water". To say I don't make little changes like that would be a white lie!

They say a rose by any other name smells the same, and no matter how it's spelled, white water is white-water is whitewater is fun, fun, fun! And remember, folks, popular usage is what puts things in the dictionary. So, who knows what will be in Webster's Eleventh New Collegiate Dictionary! □