



# The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

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770-421-9729

May 1998

## May GCA Meeting

Always wanted to paddle down an exotic river, but couldn't figure out how to get your boat to Nepal? Paddle vicariously at the GCA meeting on Thursday, May 21, at 7:30 PM at the Garden Hills Community Center!! NOC's Travel Coordinator Bob Powell has promised us an exciting presentation of white water adventure on foreign soil (or foreign river??). Learn about the local culture, trip logistics and the best river runs during this fun-packed evening. We'll announce more information about our exact adventure destination in the May issue of *The Eddy Line*.

To find Garden Hills Community Center: From Peachtree Street, go east on East Wesley Road (8/10 mile south of the intersection of Peachtree and Roswell Road). Turn left on Rumson Road. Go about 100 yards to the first intersection and you will see the Community Center on the right.

We'll provide the refreshments, NOC will furnish the excitement, and you can bring the oohs and aahs!

See you there!!



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## Summer Roll Practice

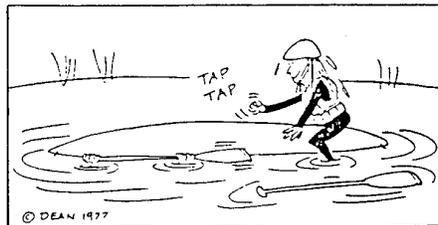
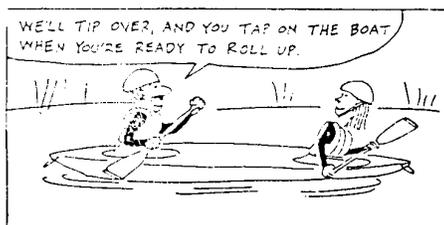
Joint AWC / GCA Summer Roll Practice will be held at Stone Mountain Lake this year beginning in May and running through September. Sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays at 7:00 (or earlier). Admission is free once you enter the park (a season pass is highly recommended if you intend to attend multiple sessions).

To get there, enter the park from the Stone Mountain Freeway entrance and take the first left. Continue about a mile until the road crosses the dam and take the first right into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

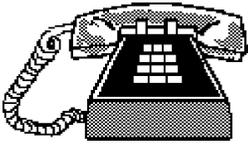
Use the area around the ramp to load and unload boats only. There is a fair amount of power boat traffic putting in and taking out at the ramp. Once in the water, try to stay clear of the ramp for the same reason.

Note: Park regulations do not allow "swimming" at this location, so if you are in the water spotting for someone, an explanation to the park officials may be in order. So far no one has been cited for a violation there.

Volunteers are needed to help with kayak, canoe and C-1 rolling. Your help 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, 770-421-9729, and leave

a message. Someone will get back to you.

**To volunteer to help with club activities** - Call President David Martin at 404-351-8208 or contact the committee chairperson for your area of interest.

**For information on payment of dues or membership status** - Call Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404-266-3734.

**To sign up for a club trip** - Call the trip coordinator at the number listed on the activity list.

**To sign up to lead a club trip** - Call Cruisemaster Jason Schnurr at 770-422-9962.

**For change of address or for *Eddy Line* subscription information** - Call Ed Schultz at 404-266-3734 .

**If you didn't receive your *Eddy Line*** - Call Ed Schultz at 404-266-3734.

**For information on GCA clinics** - Call the clinic coordinator listed on the clinic schedule, or call Training Director Steve Cramer at 706-208-8382.

**For information on roll practice** - Call Revel Freeman at 404-261-8572.

**For information on placing want ads in *The Eddy Line*** - Call Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770-426-4318, or see "To place an ad" in the Want Ad section of *The Eddy Line*.

**For information on commercial ads** - Call Advertising Director Jim Kautz at 770-321-9826 or Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770-426-4318.

**For information on videos and books available from the GCA Library** - Call GCA Librarian Tom Martin at 770-662-0058. ✂

## Board of Directors Meetings

Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of even months (Feb., Apr., etc.). All members are encouraged to attend. The location is the Atlanta Jewish Community Center on Peachtree Street, beginning at 7:30 P.M. Ask at the front desk for the room location, as it varies from month to month. If you have an item for discussion, please call President David Martin at 404-351-8208 so he can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. ✂

### GCA Executive Committee

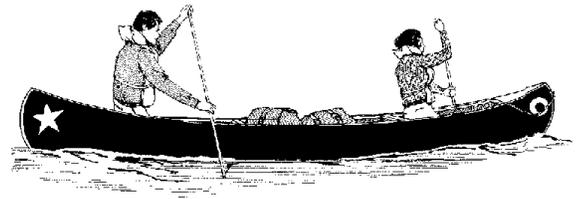
President .....	David Martin
Vice President .....	Brannen Proctor
Secretary .....	Jim Harvey
Treasurer .....	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair .....	Tom Martin
Recreation Chair .....	Karla Bowman
Resource Development Chair .....	Jane Hamilton
River Protection Chair .....	Vacant
Training Chair .....	Steve Cramer

## Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication in the next *Eddy Line* is the fifth of the month, i.e., for the January issue, material should be submitted no later than December fifth. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and want ads by the deadline or they MAY 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 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, or as a text file on a 3-1/2 inch high density MacIntosh formatted disk, and include a printed copy (Disks will be returned only if specifically requested). We can also accept Word Perfect version 5.0, 5.1, and 5.2, and Microsoft Word for Windows files in IBM/DOS format, as well as some other word processing program files. Contact Newsletter Editor **Allen Hedden at 770-426-4318** for specifics. TO SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA MODEM, Call **Allen at 770-426-4318** for instructions. Our modem supports most transmission speeds and protocols. TO SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA EMAIL, sent to **gacano@mindspring.com**. All want ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Send all material to: **Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, Ga. 30066**. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Thanks for your cooperation. ✂

*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. *Eddy Line* material published herein and not individually designated as copyrighted may be copied, reprinted, republished or otherwise disseminated to other paddling organizations with a newsletter exchange agreement. Proper credit should be given. ✂

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



<b>May</b>			
2-3 Races, Southeastern Championships — Nantahala River, NC — Slalom, Wild Water & Down River -- Volunteers and racers needed — Call David Bowman at 770-923-0954 to volunteer.			
9 Middle Tellico	Class 2-3+ Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770-422-9962
9 N. Tyger (SC)	Class 2+ Easy Intermediate	David Bookstaver	803-278-0971
10 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Chuck Creekmore	770-995-5788
10 Paddle With The Prez (Note 1)	Class 2-4 Intermediate-Advanced	David Martin	404-351-8208
10 Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770-720-6269
16-17 Crooked River State Park (GA)	Sea Kayaking (Note 2)	Don Bailey	770-830-0365
16 Lower Chestatee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770-998-0350
16 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Pat MacLeod	205-231-2279
16 Chattooga Section 4	Class 3-4+ Advanced	Dirk Bertrand	770-978-1964
17 Etowah Cleanup Trip (Note 5)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Brannen Procter	770-664-7384
17 Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Peter Chau	770-594-9078
17 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Toebben	770-804-9416
21 Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun!!	Garden Hills Community Center	Marvine Cole	770-475-3022
23 Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Roger Toebben	770-804-9416
23 Chestatee Cleanup Trip (Note 4)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim & Maggie Griffin	770-498-3695
30 Upper Amicalola Cleanup	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	John McCorvey	770-921-5116
30 Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Jim Maier	770-941-1490

<b>June</b>			
4 Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited		Atlanta Jewish Community Center	
6 Chattahoochee - Buford Dam	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770-998-0350
To Settle Bridge			
6 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Ray Channell	770-998-3895
7 Nacoochee Hooch (Note 3)	Class 1+ Easy Beginner	Tom Martin	770-662-0058
7 Leaders Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Clay Noble	770-383-9850
13 Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim & Maggie Griffin	770-498-3695
13 Broad River Full Moon	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Huff	706-342-9879
13 Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Harvey	404-377-0765
14 Paddle With The Prez (Note 1)	Class 2-4 Intermediate-Advanced	David Martin	404-351-8208
18 Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun!!	Garden Hills Community Center	Marvine Cole	770-475-3022

Note 1: Paddle With the Prez monthly trip will be Class 2-3 or 3-4 depending on season and availability. Call David Martin for details.

Note 2: River And Ocean. Beginner Thru Advanced.

Note 3: Afternoon Trip.

Note 4: Coordinators For Other Cleanup Trips Are Needed. Call Jason Schnurr At 770-422-9962 To Sign Up.

**Signing Up** - Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

**Training Trips** are a combination of recreation and training designed to attract those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors practicing what you learned in the clinic and expanding your skill level.

**To Volunteer to Lead Trips:** Call the Cruisemaster, Jason Schnurr, at 770-422-9962. 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.

**Summer Roll Practice** is at Stone Mountain Lake on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM until dark from May thru September.

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## GCA Library Items Available

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Tom Martin at 770-662-0058 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling.

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

Tom Martin  
6339 Danbury Lane  
Norcross, GA 30093

The following items are currently available:

### Videos:

A Second Helping - A Review of Kayak Basics  
Canoes by Whitesell  
Cold, Wet & Alive  
Expedition Earth - Bio Bio in Chile  
Faultline  
First Descents (North Fork Payette)  
Grace Under Pressure  
Kayak Handling - The Basic Strokes

Only Nolan (Canoe Technique)  
Path of the Paddle: Quietwater  
Path of the Paddle: Whitewater  
Plunge!  
Prijon Wildplay Wildwasser Sport  
River Rescue-The Video  
Solo Playboating!  
Southeast Whitewater  
Southern Fried Creek  
Take the Wild Ride  
The C-1 Challenge  
The Kayaker's Edge  
Ultimate Canoe (Niagara Gorge & Other Rivers)  
Waterwalker  
Whitewater Bloopers  
Whitewater Groove  
**Books:**  
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida, Vols I and II  
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Tennessee, Vol I  
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida  
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed/Emory Watershed  
A White Water Handbook for Canoe and Kayak

Brown's Guide to the Georgia Outdoors  
California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers  
Canoeing & Kayaking  
Canoe Trails of the Deep South  
Idaho Whitewater  
Path of the Paddle  
Paddle to the Amazon - The World's Longest Canoe Trip  
People Protecting Rivers: A Collection of Lessons from Successful Grassroots Activists  
Mountain Get-Aways in GA, NC & TN  
Northern Georgia Canoeing  
River Rescue  
River's End - A Collection of Bedtime Stories for Paddlers By Bill Sedivy  
Song of the Paddle  
Southeastern Whitewater  
The Chattooga Wild and Scenic River  
The Digest Book of Canoeing  
Whitewater Home Companion: Southeastern Rivers  
The Georgia Conservancy's Guide to the North Georgia Mountains  
They Shoot Canoes, Don't They?  
Waterfalls of the Blue Ridge  
White Water Handbook for Canoe and Kayak

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## Announcements

### GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing nearly 150 subscribers, and the number is rapidly growing. Thanks to Mike Kaplan and our friends at Kaplan Communications (an Internet Access Provider) for providing software and server space for the GCA email list.



Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gacanoes@kapcom.com" you automatically reach all subscribers to the list with the message. Anyone can use the address — it's just another email address — and all subscribers will get the email. The list is an "open list", i.e., anyone can subscribe to it mechanically by sending an email to "majordomo@kapcom.com" and on the first line of the body of the message type:  
subscribe gacanoes

You will receive a verification that you are subscribed and a welcome message with instructions on how to unsubscribe and various other commands available through the service. Be sure to save this information for future reference.

All GCA announcements and forwarded email from other sources concerning new river access issues, late breaking news items of interest to the paddling commu-

nity, etc., will be sent out via the GCA email list at gacanoes@kapcom.com. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe to the list using the above instructions. Also, don't be shy about using the list to send out or to request information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

By the way, should you change or lose your email ID, please take a minute to "unsubscribe" your old ID and/or to "subscribe" your new one. ✂

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### GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.mindspring.com/~gacanoes>. We are adding information and links of value to paddlers with each update. Send your ideas for updates to Charles Clark: cbclark@mindspring.com.

Thanks to **Mindspring Enterprises** for furnishing GCA with web space for our page. ✂

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### NOC Changing Discount Card Program

Mark Wiggins, Vice President of Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) Retail, has announced a change in the NOC discount program for paddling club members, which includes GCA members. The NOC is not providing discount cards as it did last year. Instead, club members should provide a copy of their club newsletter, such as the GCA's *The Eddy Line*, as proof of membership.

The NOC offers club members a 10 percent discount in NOC retail stores and by mail-order on regularly stocked items. This discount does not extend to boats, which Wiggins states are already competitively priced.

To receive the discount when making a purchase at NOC stores, a club member must present his or her newsletter to the salesperson at the checkout register. The NOC Outfitter Store will issue a discount card at that time for those who find a card more convenient. If ordering by phone, the customer must inform the salesperson at the time of placing the order that he or she is a participating club member.

If a club member does not have a newsletter or an NOC discount card when making a purchase, the customer will receive a receipt signed by the salesperson. The customer may return to NOC with his or her newsletter or discount card and the signed receipt to receive a credit on a subsequent purchase.

Should you have any questions, please call Mark Wiggins at 704-488-2176 ext. 142. ✂

## Ocoee Raft Trips For Sale!

(Proceeds support the ACE Junior Team)

Need a good gift idea? ...an employee bonus? ...a fun, wholesome, cool activity for your church youth group this summer? How 'bout a raft trip for two... for four... for twenty?

Thanks to a generous arrangement by Larry Mashburn, former Chair of the Atlanta Center of Excellence (ACE) Board and current proprietor of the Ocoee's latest greatest rafting company, Ocoee Adventure Center (OAC), the ACE Junior Team members are busy selling raft trips to subsidize an extensive junior development program now underway with ACE. Funds raised will support "Project 2004," a new outreach effort designed to develop interest among younger paddlers with sights on the 2004 Olympic Games.

Depending on whether or not the desired trip date is a "peak" day, trips range from \$34 to \$42 per person. Groups of twelve or more qualify for group discounts. If you are interested in inquiring about a trip or referring a friend, co-worker or neighbor, please leave a message on the ACE voice mail at 770-937-5073.

The OAC opened just last spring and, already is among the most popular outfitters in the region. According to Larry, "Our customers seem to like the Ocoee Adventure Center best because we take our time so that our rafters enjoy longer-than-typical trips. Playing and surfing is a priority for us. And, we're the fastest route to the Ocoee from Atlanta and one of the closest outfitters to

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the put-in. In addition, the Upper (Olympic) section of the Ocoee is expected to open for 16 days in 1998, providing extra white water thrills!" The OAC also offers catered lunches, mountain bike rentals and guided trips, and sit-on-top float trips on neighboring Class I and II water.

Larry, through his association with ACE, and his wife, Joellen Dickey, through her leadership of ORCKA, have been long-time supporters of recreational boating and white water racing. ACE gratefully acknowledges this latest gesture of support. ✂

## Thank You, Walter

Many, many thanks to Walter Howard for compiling, maintaining, promoting and operating the GCA Library. Walter has been doing this service since the beginning of time and has sent out several hundred tapes and books, contributing to the knowledge and enjoyment of many club members. Walter has enjoyed doing it. Thank you, Walter, for a job well done.

Until we get another REAL librarian, we have an artificial one. We still welcome donations. We're also willing to pay (\$5 to \$10) for used VCR tapes in good condition as funds are available (NO bootleg copies). Call

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BEFORE sending. We can only pay for tapes on our NEED list and only AFTER we've had a chance to inspect them. We accept ANY donations of course... and THANK YOU.

Please, when you check out tapes, try to take no more than 2 or 3 and keep them for no more than 2 or 3 weeks. We know that there will sometimes be extenuating circumstances. This is OUR library.

We won't repeat the details here, but response has been good to the request for folks to develop and maintain LISTS. One additional list we want to develop is of member owned BOATS AVAILABLE (for a fee) to the membership to be used for trips and training clinics. This list would NOT be made available complete, but only the information made accessible as needed (e.g. training clinic coordinators would have the list in order to respond to requests from participants). We already have a few boats on the list.

We will need INFORMATION for these lists and that is a way EVERYONE can help. Call Tom Martin (770-662-0058) for ???

Th... th... that's all (for now) folks!!! ✂

"The fear of the river is the beginning of wisdom."  
- Charlie Walbridge.

## Spring and Summer Instruction Schedule

by Steve Cramer

Elsewhere in this *Eddy Line* you will find a flyer listing and describing all of the currently scheduled GCA clinics. Well, all but one, which has its own article. We have at least one of each level of each boat type, except we're still putting together a beginning kayak clinic that includes men. Women can take Carol Leonard's clinic on May 30-31, which will also include women open canoes taught by Karla Bowman and colleagues. We will be adding clinics month to month, so keep watching.

For those who are interested, we will probably do another Ocoee Primer late in the season. ✂

## Upcoming Events of Interest

May 8-10 — Tsali Challenge Triathlon (paddle, bike, run)  
June 6 — Western Carolina Rescue Rodeo — Chris Bell, 704-258-8806

June 13-14 — Rhino Rodeo Camp -- NOC

July 11 — NOC Citizens Mini-Camp and Race / Slalom

July 18 — US Junior Olympic SE Qualifier / Slalom -- Nantahala River

July 25 — NOC Citizens Mini-Camp and Race / Slalom

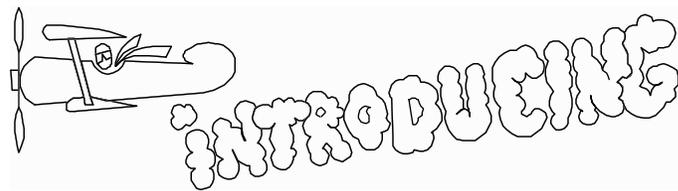
Aug 1 — NOC Citizens Mini-Camp and Race / Slalom

Oct. 30-Nov 1 — NOC Guest Appreciation Festival

Nov. 20-22 — Fall Knobscorcher Mountain Bike Race

Nov 26-28 — Slalom Thanksgiving Training Camp (primarily for juniors — all athletes welcome)

Dec. 5-6 — Bryson City Citizens Race / Slalom & Wild Water Race ✂



## Welcome New Members

The GCA would like to welcome the following new (and nearly new) members. New members are the life blood and the future of the club. Thank you for joining us!!

### February:

Steve & Kellie Anderson

Jeff & Christine Andrews

Bambi A. Bloom & Dena I. Dingler

Brenda & Rick Bradshaw

Acworth GA

Roswell GA

Ball Ground GA

Atlanta GA

Susana Capper  
 Joni Chastain  
 Norm Clark  
 John R. Davidson, Jr.  
 Erik T. & Beth C. Eppers  
 Jann & Leslie George  
 Cindy Griffin  
 Jim & Clint Harris  
 Don & Karla Harvill  
 C. E. Kirkpatrick  
 Roger Lance  
 Bobby R. Lane  
 Michel & John Laxson  
 Joe & Audrey Lyle  
 Chet McDonough  
 Barry & Allen Nicholls  
 David K. Ray  
 Jimmy Reed  
 Steven Shoaff  
 Allen Sinquefield  
 Dan Stephens  
 Jane Vandeventer  
 Parker & Judy Waller  
 Brian Worsley  
 Blake & Deborah Yates

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 Anthony Fiumera  
 Steve Frandzel  
 Rhonda T. Griffith  
 Willy Hazelhurst  
 George Hedrick  
 Janice L. Horton  
 Burt Hunt & Dick Butterworth  
 Charles Johnson  
 Michael & Lisa Kiblinger  
 Jean Kois  
 Maureen Lange  
 Beverly Letterman  
 Michael & Maryann McGinnis  
 Michael & Janet Montgomery  
 Donald & Rita Orr  
 James Peterson  
 Butch & Shawn Pope  
 Carson Randall  
 James Spearman  
 Roy & Susan Stevens  
 Dennis & Kris Susa  
 Ricardo Torrey  
 Tom Welander  
 Bryan Williamson

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 Athens GA  
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 Marietta GA  
 Atlanta GA  
 Smyrna GA  
 Selma AL  
 Madison GA  
 Decatur GA  
 Belton SC  
 Gainesville GA  
 Macon GA  
 Lawrenceville GA  
 Alpharetta GA  
 Cleveland GA  
 Alpharetta GA  
 Roswell GA  
 Atlanta GA  
 Atlanta GA ✂

**March:**

Michael Armstrong & Debra Penfold Gainesville FL  
 Honey & Alan Barnes Atlanta GA  
 Lewis Becton Marietta GA

**Extreme Paddler  
 Dies on Upper  
 Blackwater**

by Bob Gedekoh

On Sunday, March 29, Tim Gavin, one of the premiere extreme boaters in the Mid Atlantic States, died in an entrapment. The accident occurred in the Sticky Fingers Rapid on the class V+ Upper Blackwater River near Davis, West Virginia.

While many who knew Gavin were not surprised that he perished in a kayaking accident, the circumstances surrounding his death have left his friends puzzled and shaken.

For many years Gavin kayaked the most difficult and dangerous rivers in the east. Not uncommonly he boated alone, even under adverse winter conditions. Gavin made solo runs down menacing rivers like West Virginia's Lower Meadow and the Upper Blackwater. He helped



pioneer hair runs like Upper Red Creek and Seneca Creek. But Tim Gavin's paddling accomplishments were not limited to the Appalachians. In fact, he solo boated both the Black Canyon of the Gunnison in Colorado and the "forbidden" class V Canyon of the Yellowstone.

But while Gavin was known to be a daring risk taker, no one could have foretold that he would die paddling a river that he knew well, at a low to moderate level, on a warm, sunny spring day in the company of a close friend

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— who is also an accomplished steep creeker.

"Tim had probably paddled the Upper Blackwater more often than anyone," one friend said. "He knew every inch of that river." Ironically, Gavin had reportedly been referring to the rock sieve where he died as "Only a Matter of Time" because he believed that it would eventually claim the life of a Blackwater boater. Equally ironic is the fact that during the past year Tim Gavin appeared to have been paddling more cautiously and conservatively. "He was thinking a lot more about safety," said one of his friends, who helped recover his boat and body. "In fact there was full floatation, a throw rope, pulleys and a first aid kit in his kayak when he died."

The Davis Gauge on the Blackwater was at three feet (about 300 cfs) when the accident occurred. Blackwater regulators consider this a low to moderate level, one that is considered ideal for first-timers. The Sticky Fingers Rapid lies roughly midway through the exquisitely technical two plus mile steep creek, which has a gradient of about 250 feet/mile. Sticky Fingers is the second major rapid below Tomko Falls, a prominent landmark. Although Sticky Fingers is not one of the most visually distinctive rapids on the river, it is difficult and dangerous. It has been the site of other close calls.

At low to moderate levels, the conservative line starts with an upstream ferry from river right to a tiny eddy against the shore on river left. After leaving this eddy headed downstream, the boater crosses back to another eddy on river right, skirting a pour over and an undercut rock sieve. The initial right to left ferry is made in front of a slot which drops over a ledge just above the sieve. Gavin died attempting this slot.

The center slot is known to be runnable at higher levels and is regarded by some as a high water sneak. But one expert boater who helped recover Gavin's body emphasized that the "slot line" is still potentially negotiable at 300 cfs, albeit risky. Reportedly Gavin often ran the slot line, even at lower levels. There is no doubt that Gavin was familiar with the "slot line" and that he chose to run it intentionally.

Mike Moore, an accomplished extreme boater and Gavin's close friend, was running the conservative low water line when he realized that Gavin was in trouble. When he reached the bottom eddy, Moore left his kayak and scrambled upstream. But by the time he reached the site of the entrapment most of Gavin's boat and his body had disappeared beneath the water. The entrapment and subsequent submersion of the boat and its passenger occurred within seconds.

Moore managed to attach his throw rope to a grab loop. He struggled for forty minutes attempting to dis-

lodge the boat, unable to ascertain if Gavin was still trapped inside.

Moore then left the canyon and recruited several other boaters who were in the area. They hiked into the canyon that evening but were unable to extract the boat. The kayak, and later the body, were recovered from the undercut sieve the next morning by a team that included local volunteers, state park authorities, as well as a number of Gavin's boating friends. They included Mike Moore, Gary Ward, Ed Radar, Roger Zbel, Jesse Widdemore, Terry Peterson, Ben McKean, Mike Genoska and Andy Horton. Jeff Snyder handled the difficult and dangerous in-water component of the recovery. Gavin's body was subsequently removed from the deep, rugged canyon by helicopter.

Many of Tim Gavin's boating friends attended his funeral on April 2 in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Gavin worked there at his family's business, the Cliffside Inn. He is survived by his parents, brothers and sisters, and a four year old son, Eric.

Tim Gavin's death is causing many of his friends to reexamine their motives for kayaking extreme white water. Last year twenty canoeing and kayaking deaths occurred in the United States, more than twice the usual number. Many of these fatalities involved well-known experts challenging difficult rapids.

"This just proves, once again, that running extreme white water is inherently dangerous, even under the best of circumstances," one acquaintance observed. "If you tackle difficult white water frequently, there is a good chance that you, or one of your friends, is going to get nipped. If it happened to Tim, it could happen to anyone."

"Being good helps, but it is no guarantee," another friend continued. "Within the last year... Dughold Bremner, Rich Weiss, Chuck Kern, Pablo Perez... and now Tim Gavin. These were all cutting edge paddlers. And when you consider how many 'wannabees' are attempting the same runs, the prospects are frightening."

This information was obtained from first hand accounts, and this article will appear in the May / June issue of American Whitewater. ✂

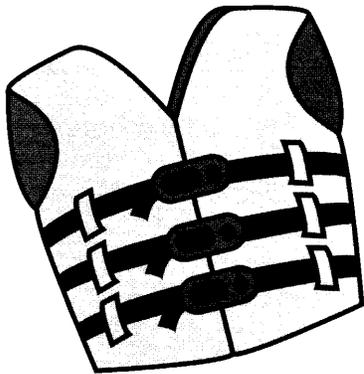
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## Cutting a Victim Out of His Spray Skirt

by Joddy Collins

Recently a paddler died on the Ocoee, not from paddling, but from blood loss when a rescuer cutting his spray skirt to remove him from his boat cut his femoral artery. I also know of another incident where a paddler's thigh was cut. This paddler was out of his boat and

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**BOAT SMART FROM THE START.**

**National Safe Boating Week — May 16-22**

tangled in a strainer with a limb through his spray skirt and his head going under; the rescuer cut his thigh while cutting the spray skirt from the limb by feel. Since cutting spray skirts seems to be a problem, it needs to be addressed by the paddling rescue community. In both of these incidents, the victim was wounded when the rescuer stabbed through the spray skirt to cut the victim loose. **DO NOT STAB!!!** A sharp knife will **SLICE** through a spray skirt easily.

Cutting a paddler out of his boat is analogous to gutting an animal; you want to remove what's inside the cavity without damaging it. Anyone that has butchered an animal knows that gutting the animal is a delicate task. If you jam the knife in you cut the intestines and end up with waste-flavored and useless meat. The preferred method of cutting is to slice the gut open at the crotch (bunching) and with your finger on the knife tip split open the belly. With this in mind, I suggest the following method be taught at rescue clinics.

Keep your knife sharp. It's easy to do with the "no brainer" sharpeners sold.

**Situation 1** - Extracting a paddler from his boat. If

you **CANNOT** pull the skirt loose and **MUST** cut the spray skirt:

**KEEP IN MIND**, the **GOAL** is to get the paddler out of the boat without injuring him. So cut a hole big enough for you to poke your hand through the spray skirt and into the cockpit. Quit cutting as soon as you can get your hand through a cut in the spray skirt and pull it off the cockpit rim!!!

**Method 1** - You may be able to cut the spray skirt on the outside or top of the cockpit rim, avoiding the danger of cutting the paddler. **SLICE** the spray skirt material on the outside or top of the cockpit rim until you can get your hand through the hole to pull the spray skirt off.

**Method 2** - If you must cut the skirt from around the cockpit, grip the blade so only about an inch is exposed. Slice the skirt at the cockpit rim until the blade is through the rubber and you have a hole big enough to put your hand through and pull off the spray skirt.

**Method 3** - Holding the knife with your finger on its tip, insert your hand down the back of the spray skirt between the paddler and skirt with the knife toward the skirt and slice out, cutting the spray skirt waistband. If you can use both hands for cutting, then hold the spray skirt waistband away from the paddler's body with one hand and cut with the other hand.

**Situation 2** - Extracting a paddler caught in a strainer with limbs puncturing his spray skirt.

**Method 1** - If the paddler is stable with the skirt above or in the water so you can see it. Take more time and cut the skirt carefully until the victim is free. Don't cut the paddler.

**Method 2** - If the skirt is tangled under the log or water and you cannot see what you're cutting, then:

Holding the knife with your finger on its tip, insert your hand down the back (if possible) of the spray skirt between the paddler and skirt with the knife toward the skirt and slice out, cutting the spray skirt waistband. If you can use both hands for cutting, then hold the spray skirt waistband away from the body with one hand and cut with the other hand.

Some Comments about Paddling Knives:

Any knife used by paddlers should have the following features:

1. Single Edged - will not cut your hands as much as a double-edged blade will when holding by the blade.
2. Able to be stored out of the way, yet easily and quickly accessible.
3. If it folds, it should be able to be opened with one hand easily, and the blade should lock in place.
4. Most blades now are made from 440 stainless steel. The metal should hold an edge and not dull too easily. The

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metal should not be so hard that it is frustrating to sharpen.

We would all like to think that WE will never be in a situation where we are cutting someone out of their spray skirt or boat, but the facts are, sometimes paddlers

need to be cut out of their boat or skirt AND YOU MAY BE THE FIRST RESPONDING RESCUER. So visualize and practice safe leadership, paddling and rescue skills and techniques. See you on the river.

- *From the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club newsletter.* ✂

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## Sea Kayaking News

### **Spring Sea Kayak Training Weekend**

by Steve Cramer

We have a slightly different idea in store for the sea kayak training weekend. Rather than stay in a motel Saturday night, we will paddle out to Morris Island on Saturday morning, hold the clinic there, and do an overnight on the beach. Sunday we'll do a little more clinic, then go surfing or tour around Charleston Harbor. Or both. As usual, we will be assisted and instructed by our friends at Coastal Expeditions. There will be beginner instruction and also more advanced skills work, including rolling if you want.

Fee for this clinic is \$140 for both days. This includes use of a boat and paddling gear. If you have your own sea kayak the fee is only \$120.

You'll need your own camping stuff. If you're interested or would like more information, call me at 706-208-8382 or email [cramer@coe.uga.edu](mailto:cramer@coe.uga.edu). ✂

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### **A Tough Playground**

by Don Bailey

On a recent mid-March Saturday morning, I was paddling with a group of sea kayakers on the waters of Cedar Key, Florida. The day had dawned exactly as forecast; heavily clouded, and sustained winds out of the Northwest at fifteen knots, maximum air temperature 55 deg. F., and surf temperature around 63 deg. F. Close inshore there was a nasty, confused chop running around one foot. Further off the lee shore, we expected larger waves to be present. The diurnal tide had been full around 0135, and would be at low tide around 1600. This meant that the tide would be ebbing around noon time, a factor that comes into play later in this story.

Several paddlers who showed up at City Beach that morning elected not to paddle, due to the weather conditions. Fourteen others launched their boats. Skill levels in the group that put in ranged from 'Novice Paddler' and 'Proficient Paddler' to 'Advanced Paddler.' Most had received training in solo and assisted rescue techniques,



and most had been paddling for at least a year.

To those who chose to stay on the beach, we respected your choice. It was perhaps not easy for one's ego to turn away with the group looking on, but rule number one is to be comfortable with your acceptable risk level limits.

On the other side of the coin, those who want to expand their abilities in this or any other sport must push the envelope just a little further past the last experience. And, for these, I don't think that they could pick a better group to do it in, from the standpoint of safety and instruction that was readily available and freely given by some of our highly experienced fellow paddlers.

Derek C. Hutchinson, one of the foremost icons of sea kayaking, states in one of his books that the 'Novice Paddler' should go on the open sea only when it is calm, and then only under strict supervision, for he is feeling his way in an unfamiliar environment where the least change of sea or wind can put him in great danger. The 'Proficient Paddler' can handle his kayak on the sea under reasonable conditions, having good confidence in the seaworthy qualities of his boat, his balance in it, and in his equipment.

"He knows the minimum number of paddlers on the sea together is three and he is able, with the assistance of his two companions of the same standard, to rescue himself should he accidentally capsize," continues Hutchinson, who then seemingly goes on to say that the 'Advanced Paddler' could reasonably be expected to walk on the water, and talk with God... "and can go forth upon the open sea with but one companion, provided he is equally qualified." I mention these maxims for reasons that will become apparent as this story unfolds.

We launched from the white sand swimming beach on Cedar Key, very close to the scheduled time of 0900. We quickly paddled across Daughtry Bay and rounded Piney Point, a distance of 1.4 nautical miles. Now we turned to a compass heading of NNW, and it was like hitting a brick wall as we paddled straight into the teeth of that 15 knot wind, frequently gusting to maybe 20 knots or more. On top of that, there was a tidal current flowing in the same direction as the wind, and it felt like I was towing a concrete block behind my kayak. The confused chop was

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treacherous, and kept us guessing about which way to lean as we practiced our high and low braces. In all, it took nearly two hours to paddle about 1.5 miles to Hodgson Hill, and what a workout!

We took a well-earned rest there on the beach before turning to a SW compass heading for North Key, which lay 2 miles off. Now with a following wind and sea, this leg of the trip took only about twenty minutes, or at a speed of around six knots, paddling only enough to maintain steerage way, and staying right side up in the treacherous chop. A good rush.

Once landed on North Key, the group wanted to go exploring. They particularly wanted to view a cemetery which dated back to the 1800's, and was on the opposite side of the island. Unable to walk very well, I volunteered to stay on the beach with the boats. They left amid the same old banter heard so many times before, "If anyone wants my boat while I'm gone, be certain to get a good price for me, and a ride back to the mainland." In the lee of a weather-blasted palm tree, I huddled deeper into my anorak and fleece against the cold bite of the wind, and was looking back across the water toward Cedar Key.

Perhaps ten minutes passed before I spied two kayaks heading out from Piney Point. They obviously were making directly for my position on North Key. It was quickly apparent that that was a big miscalculation, because taking the set of that 15 knot wind and tidal current into consideration, they should set at least a 45-degree ferry angle to the North in order to make landfall where I was.

By the time they were only one-third of the way across the channel they were being set to the Southwest at an ever-increasing rate. At this time they were about one mile from me, and ten minutes later they were set more than one mile off their intended course. Alarmed, I could do little more than watch.

Suddenly, I saw the white flash of an upturned hull, and I knew one of them had capsized. With my naked eye I could just make out that he was assisted back into his boat by his companion, and in a reasonable amount of time, at that. The pair were still being swept rapidly out into the Gulf where the waves were much higher. It is a simple fact that if you come out of your boat because of wind/sea conditions, getting back in puts you right back under the same condition that caused you to capsize to begin with.

Sure enough, the tell-tale white flash of upturned hull appeared a second time. And for the second time he righted his boat and regained the cockpit, but this time the kayak was still flooded, and he foundered in three-foot seas, unable to regain enough control to put the spray

skirt back on and pump the boat out. Now he was in the water for the third time, cold and exhausted, his resources spent, nothing left but to cling to his overturned boat and hope that something good will miraculously happen before it's too late. His companion stayed with him, but all she could do at this point was try to keep his spirits up.

By now, the pair were rapidly diminishing specks on the far horizon, and anyone who hadn't followed the action from my vantage point three miles away wouldn't even know they were out there. A man with two small boys in a rented motor boat arrived at the beach where I was standing. He was totally unaware of the unfolding drama, until I quickly described the situation to him. Citing his inexperience as the reason, he refused to go to the rescue.

He was probably right, if he had gone he would simply have joined the party of those requiring rescue. Just then, my party arrived back at the beach, and I pointed out to them where I had last seen the foundered kayak. One of them produced a pair of binoculars, and we were able to get a fix on them. The motor boater agreed to let one of our party pilot his boat out to them, and next came a request for tow ropes, which were quickly located, as well as six flares just in case the situation worsened. Our man took off in the motor boat, which because of its small size took quite a pounding in the wind and three-foot seas.

Meanwhile, it turned out that another of our party (who had been among the last to return to the beach) had a VHF marine radio, and with it we were able to reach the Florida Marine Patrol boat that was moored at Cedar Key. They got underway immediately, and reached the distressed kayakers at about the same time as our man in the motor boat, who at that point opted to let the professionals handle the rescue. The Patrol boat took the foundered kayaker on board, along with his boat. The other paddler elected to paddle back to Cedar Key, a feat of considerably strong paddling, accomplished much to our amazement!

When we were all ashore at Cedar Key once again, we learned that the off-course pair consisted of a man and a woman. The man was the recently-acquainted companion of the woman, who regularly paddled with this group, and was known as a very strong paddler, as we had just witnessed. In fact, on the last outing, she reportedly handled seven-foot seas with ease.

The man was another matter, having considerably less paddling experience and skills. When we saw him ashore, he was still blue in the face, and teeth chattering, as he sat in a car with the heater on, wrapped in a blanket. If he hadn't been plucked from the water when he was, the outcome may have been grave indeed.

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There are lessons to be learned from this recreation session on our dangerous and unforgiving playground. First of all, basic planning is essential, even for a short trip with the destination in sight! At the very least, get a NOAA report on wind and sea conditions before shoving off, so you know what to expect. Be aware that the conditions you are expecting can change in a matter of minutes.

Binoculars are not the frill many of us thought them to be. A VHF radio is just almost as important as your PFD, and we were lucky to have even just one along in this large group. Everyone on this trip should have been carrying visual signaling devices, per Coast Guard regs, but most weren't, including the pair who got into trouble.

Everyone should have a tow rope aboard — what if you get a muscle spasm in your back, or a cramp in your shoulder, and can't paddle? It happens. The unlucky pair didn't have ropes, either. If they had gotten a chance for a tow from a passing boat, they may have been out of luck all over again.

Many of us in the group were wearing wet suits, the couple in trouble were not. Anyone who might have gone into the water that day would have been very grateful for one. Derek Hutchinson's stern warning about the numbers and skill levels of people paddling together on the sea takes on more significance now, as does Murphy's Law.

Don't be a loser on this playground, friend, it's for keeps. ✂

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## Chattahoochee Canoe & Kayak Race

Wildewood Outfitters and The Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club is sponsoring a 20 mile Canoe and Kayak Race on the Chattahoochee River from Helen to Wildewood Outfitters on Duncan Bridge Road - Hwy 384, Saturday, May 16, 1998. The race starts at 8:30 AM at Habersham's Nacoochee Winery located on Hwy 17/75 North across from Nora Mill.



Race Watch

Registration fee is \$15 per paddler. A Pre-race meeting will be held race day at 7:30 AM in the parking lot of the Winery. The Habersham's Nacoochee Winery, Sandy Bottoms Cabins and the Wildewood Outfitters are co-sponsoring the race.

### Registration:

Pre-registration: \$15 per paddler. Applications must be received by May 8, 1998, to be guaranteed a T-shirt on race day to all finishers.

Race Day registration: \$20 per paddler — T-shirt will be mailed to finishers only.

For Information: Call Anne Gale 706-865-4451 or Gary Gaines 770-532-9588, or mail to: The Wildewood Outfitters, PO Box 999, Helen, Georgia 30545.

### Rules & Regulations:

Classes: Must have 3 like crafts to form a class.

Canoe: Solo: cruising and championship. Tandem: cruising and championship

Kayak: cruising and championship

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST WEAR AN APPROVED PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD) DURING THE ENTIRE RACE. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!!!**

### Special Prize Drawings for Paddlers:

One Night Stay at Sandy Bottoms Cabins, special bottles of Habersham Wine with custom race day labels, Perception Wave life jacket from Wildewood Outfitters, fourteen mile bike rental trip for four from Woody's Mountain Bikes. ✂

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## River Access

### West Fork of the Chattooga Closed Again

- Reported by Frank Crane, who owns property in the vicinity.

The West Fork of the Chattooga is shut down again; you may want to pass that along to interested parties. I understand the Office of General Council in Atlanta, (the folks that reached the "verbal agreement" with the land owners last fall that was never formalized) are planning

a day in court in the next couple of weeks to try and seek relief.

Interesting side note: All the USFS folks asked for in their agreement was right of passage for boaters, but if the attorneys are successful with the judge, the landowners may be forced to allow most all traditional activities, (boating, wade fishing, hiking, horseback riding on two fords that cross the property, etc.) that have been occurring over the past 25 years of what was essentially USFS management of the property for public use. ✂

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"I'm not a vegetarian because I love animals; I'm a vegetarian because I hate plants." - A. Whitney Brown.

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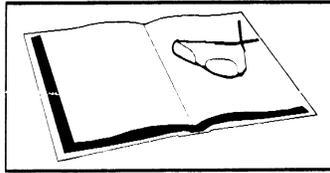
## Book Review

### **Never Turn Back**

by Murray Carroll

I guess you have heard the old saying, "I couldn't put that book down until I had finished it", well that's nearly what happened when I picked up "Never Turn Back". The book, written by Ron Watters, details the life of white water pioneer Dr. Walt Blackadar of Salmon Idaho.

Blackadar, a New Jersey native, moved to Idaho after graduation from Medical School in 1949 so he could be near the outdoors that he loved. He became a local legend for his exploits in fishing, hunting, river rafting and conservation causes. Dr. Blackadar didn't try kayaking until 1967 when he was 45 years old. He fell in love with



the sport and a short four years later he made a solo kayak journey down the treacherous rapids of Turnback Canyon on the remote and wild Alsek River in Canada and Alaska. Blackadar went on to become the best known paddler in the United States

during the 1970's, being featured on the American Sportsman TV show and in several movies.

The book doesn't gloss over Blackadar's shortcomings, but it puts into perspective the fact that there's a lot more to life than just watching TV and waiting for the grim reaper to appear at the door. Blackadar was drowned in a kayaking accident on the North Fork of the Payette in 1978, the victim of a nearly river wide strainer, and is buried near his beloved Salmon River.

- From "River Write", newsletter of the Huntsville Canoe Club. ✂

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## Exploration

### **Advanced Run — Mossy Creek**

by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

*Mossy Creek*

*Section: New Bridge to Hooch at Mud Creek or Belton Bridge*

*Scenery: Excellent*

*Appropriate for: Advanced*

*Miles on River: 3 on Mossy; 2 on the Hooch (to Mud Creek)*

*Months Runnable: October-June or after rain*

*Difficulty: III-IV (V)*

*AWA point scale: 21 at sane levels*

*Gradient: 108 ft/mile (classic drop and pool)*

*Gauge: Hooch at 2.4' probably absolute minimum. Footing on river left bridge piling must be under water. If it looks low it is. If the Hooch is over 8' then Mossy is too high.*

*Runnable level min: Unknown, Max.: Up to flood (bad idea)*

*Hazards: Long steep rapids, waterfalls, boulder sieves, undercuts, hydraulics*

*Scouting: Possible from bank or mid-river at all drops.*

*Rescue Index: Good on upper Mossy, more difficult as you near the Hooch*

*Portages: Possible for all drops.*

*Distance from Atlanta: 60 miles*

Mossy Creek is full of waterfalls and slides and can be truly impressive at flood stage. It starts with a quarter mile or so of flat water and class I shoals. Then comes a cute little warm-up ledge, followed around the corner by an impressive horizon line. It is impressive because the

river completely disappears from sight and in the distance way way way below you is a meadow with a water wheel. Don't let this horizon line intimidate you. The first rapid, Waterwheel, drops 40' or so and is made up of three sliding falls, each bigger and tougher than the previous, but each with a small recovery eddy. It can be run blind, and can be run right, left, or middle. Take note of the rebar on the right. A sluice leads to an apparently functional waterwheel and mill. At high levels Waterwheel becomes one single drop with a keeper hydraulic. If you unass here at flood your boat will be gone for good. At least it's an easy walk out up the driveway.

There is a nice pool next to the mill, but at the end of this is an even more awesome horizon line marking Ratchet Rapid. It wouldn't hurt to scout. Ratchet begins with a 6 or 7 foot vertical drop, which is followed by a series of ledges, each with its own hydraulic. We usually run far right then cut river left across the face dropping into each ledge where ever. If you start far right you must boof (left or right) to avoid pinning. Ratchet can also be run starting far left at the top. The rapid ends in a large pool at the bottom.

The next mile or so following Ratchet includes smaller falls and shoals. Then comes the BIG DROP.... Broken Butt Falls. It will be obvious and you should seriously consider scouting. Actually, this advice is superfluous since the horizon line is truly monstrous and scouting will come naturally. Broken Butt Falls drops at least 30 feet at slightly less of an angle than Oceana. The fun run is far left where there are two launching ramps. The smarter run starts river right and cuts across the face towards the left. There are several little ledges that will help you to accomplish the traverse.

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Broken Butt Falls is followed by a river wide natural dam and straightforward drop. Then come some more drops, a boulder garden and attendant sieves. The Boulder Garden is technical, has several interesting slot moves through undercuts, and continues all the way to the Hooch. It will take another 30 to 45 minutes on a relatively flat Hooch (two fun little rapids) to reach Muddy Creek.

To get to Mossy Creek, take I-85 north to I-985. Continue on I-985 through Gainesville where I-985 transitions to highways 23 and 441 going towards Tallulah and Clayton. Relax until you reach the first stoplight. Wake up and continue on (you will pass a hill on road left that is covered with old school buses, then you will pass the Haversham Winery tasting room to your left) to the next stoplight at highway 384 AKA Duncan Bridge Road. Turn left onto 384 and continue through two intersections. After crossing the Hooch (Wildewood Outpost, on the right) take the second left (at the Peanut Shack) onto New Bridge Rd. Continue 3.7 miles to the Mossy Creek bridge (it is the SECOND bridge).

To run shuttle, continue on New Bridge Rd another 0.9 miles until it ends at Skitts Mill. Turn left onto Skitts Mill and continue 1.7 miles to Forester Road. Turn left onto Forester, which after 1.4 miles merges into Belton Bridge Road. Turn left onto Belton Bridge road and go 3.5 miles more to Pea Ridge Road. Before reaching Pea Ridge, you will cross the Hooch at Belton Bridge and there are several large take-outs just past the bridge. However, to save a mile or so of flat water paddling, go all the way to Pea Ridge Road. Turn left on Pea Ridge and go 0.5 miles to the bridge at Muddy Creek. The take-out is just over the bridge on the left.

There is a very appealing take out just before the bridge (also on the left) but, looks are deceiving. As an aside, if you continue on Pea Ridge you will hit 384; turn left and you'll cross the Hooch. If you go the opposite way on Pea Ridge it hits the freeway just past the stoplight (Belton Bridge exit). 

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## **Beginner/Intermediate Creek — Stevens Creek, SC (Hwy 283 to SR 21)**

**by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)**

*Stevens Creek, SC*

*Section: Highway 283 - State Route 21*

*Scenery: Tranquil pine forest with minimal human intrusion*

*Appropriate for: Experienced trained-beginner & inter-*

*mediate*

*Miles on River: 5*

*Months Runnable: Winter, spring or after rains.*

*Difficulty: Easy class II*

*AWA Point Scale: 12 points*

*Average Width: 40 feet*

*Gradient: 15 feet per mile*

*Gauge: None known*

*Runnable Level: Min: Footings of middle piling (at put-in) at water level, Max: Flood*

*Hazards: Boulder sieves, possible dead falls*

*Scouting: Boat scouting possible at all rapids*

*Portages: Should not be necessary, but easy at all rapids.*

*Rescue Index: Surrounded by roads, flat terrain, but no houses contiguous to river*

*Distance from Atlanta: 150 miles*

Roaring over Park's Mill dam, Stevens Creek plunges steadily down the same fall-line as the Chauga. Few Georgia paddlers have run it and those that do may hesitate to recommend it. However, it is documented as class II/III in the AWA Nationwide White Water Inventory. The run is similar classic drop-pool to the Chauga. However, Stevens' pools are a bit longer and its drops involve significantly less verticality. Even though the drops don't approach Super Sock-em Dog in pucker-factor, they are very technical and provide opportunities for an excellent workout.

If you live in Athens or farther east and are tired of the Broad, then Steven's Creek might be for you. The numerous class II rapids encompass a variety of technical scenarios for beginner and intermediate level paddlers. There are straightforward small drops with forgiving surfing holes. There are several longer rapids suitable for eddy hopping and ferrying. Finally, there are a couple simple boulder gardens allowing the possibility of pinning or sieving but without terrible consequences.

To get to Stevens Creek, take I-20 east for about two hours. Exit north at highway 221 (exit 61) towards Appling. At 3.2 miles this branches and Hwy 221 (also called Scotts Ferry Rd) goes off sharply to the right heading towards Clarks Hill (Strom Thurmond Reservoir). Take 221; it will cross Strom Thurmond Dam (you can't miss it) and will join Highway 28 about 15 miles after the freeway. Continue left (north) on 221/28 through Parksville. When you reach the next town, Plum Branch, turn right onto Highway 283 (it's well marked). Go 1.7 miles to the bridge that crosses Stevens Creek. Put-in is just below the dam (Parks Mill).

To get to the take-out, continue 1 mile more on 283 and turn right onto SR 21 (in White Town). After this junction continue 3.6 miles to the bridge over Stevens

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Creek. The take-out is on the left and is obvious. This area had old Private Property postings.

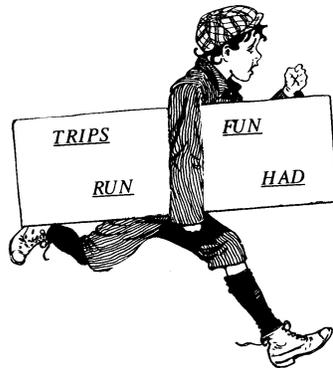
The creek isn't that difficult, but the put-in can be. Stevens Creek only runs after major rain, and the red clay road down to the river is slicker 'n snot. We took two jeeps down and out no problemo; one (unnamed) driver started down in his truck, hit the brakes, locked up and slid all the

way to the bottom; a second (also anonymous) driver followed like a lemming. It took about an hour (and a 70 foot piece of Army green line) to get them back up. If this happens to you, there is a fire ant nest at the bottom of the hill (towards the dam), spinning your tire will throw nest and ants onto anyone pushing an appropriately positioned vehicle. ✂

## Locust Fork

by Dane White

Another ordinary run down the Locust Fork. The Fork is about 40 miles north of Birmingham, Alabama. It's a great class II-III river when it's running between 400-1200 cfs. You can even get the water level by calling 1-800-525-3711;6;32. It takes about 2 1/2 hours from Atlanta. But, I'm digressing from our ordinary run on 14 March.



It was ordinary weather. Sunny and mid 60's. It was one of the nicest days this spring.

We had an ordinary group of paddlers. Ordinary you say? Well, maybe not. We had 17 boaters! K-1s included Ray Channell, Byron Jones, Tony Colquitt, Alan Reid, Larry Fisher, Hays Dunnam, Gary Latham, Louie Reynolds, Greg Shepherd, Knox Worde, Susan Blanton, Terry Howell and myself. OC-1s included Barry Smith, Kay Hess, Cathee Gallant and Bart Keith. We had a lot of ordinarily GOOD boaters.

We took our time and played on anything that looked interesting. Everyone scouted Double Trouble. This ordinary looking rapid is deceiving. You start on river right and work your way down to river left on the first drop. The current wants you to go right and pushes into a huge undercut boulder. Today, the boulder had a strainer which stuck out about five feet. We had several near misses from the strainer.

Louie had a great run, but got his bow under the strainer. While his bow was pulled under, he popped his skirt. He ended one way and his boat ended the other. Cathee also had a great run through the rapid, but went for the strainer. Her OC-1 broached for a second, then she went under the strainer. Both Louie and Cathee were rescued by good rope throws before they went over the second three foot drop.

After lunch, we continued past the towering cliffs and the covered bridge. Everyone scouted Powell Falls. Most gave it a try and all were eventually successful.

Several of us hiked to Skirum Creek Falls. Others floated down to Ender Hole to watch the play boaters do their thing. We eventually had to go to the ordinary take-out. It's intense, but short!

Ordinary run down the Fork? No, it was an extraordinary run. Great boaters, weather, and conversation. These are some of the reasons we love to paddle. Thanks to everyone for making another extraordinary trip down a beautiful river. ✂

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## Chattooga, Falls Creek to Woodall

by Charles Bruce

March 29, 1998. It was a pretty day and the river level was 2.2, a great day for a hike. So, we put in at Falls Creek. I swear every time I put in there, it will be the last time.

We had seven boaters: Tim Branscomb, Dave Chaney, Jonathan Sheeber, Jennifer Bruce and myself in Kayaks, Bruce Fussell in C-1 and Kay Hess in an open canoe.

Putting in at Falls Creek gives you a little time to warm up before the Bull. We scouted Painted Rock and all had good runs, that means upright. We had four attempts and four successful runs at the Bull. Bruce Fussell had a good run through even though he was numb from the waist down from sitting in that C-1. Tim Branscomb, changing his mind about not running the Bull after seeing it was the slide, not the double drop route, also had a good run.

Below the highway 76 bridge was just delightful. Jonathan Sheeber had some good pop-ups at surfing rapid and Jennifer tried it in her new SPARC, good bye yellow crossfire. Kay Hess, the only open boat, finally got tired of watching the decked boats show off and demonstrated how to roll a canoe in Screaming Left Turn and how to go down the next rapid backwards. Impressive!

Thanks to everyone for a good time and special thanks to Dave Chaney for helping drag everything up Woodall. ✂

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**There are usually three sides to a controversy — yours, the other person's, and the right side.**

## Excerpts from a Travel Journal

by David Martin

Selangor River, 60 kilometers northeast of Kuala Lumpur, 03/16/1998.

This day (Monday) was for traveling to Tracks Outdoor and scouting the river for good teaching locations. They (Rubin Gann and Carl Traeholt, owners) felt this was best done by running the river, so we geared up.

They down played the difficulty of the river and the dry season low water level. Elizabeth and I took to this rather large ducky while Carl and Froeje (visiting friend of Carl's) paddled kayaks. We were dropped off at the put in by one of the guides. A quick look downstream showed a boulder strewn, pick and choose, low water run. With the exception of a couple of nice class III drops, the low water became a problem. The kayaks were squeaking through but the large duck was hopeless. After about a mile, we pulled the duck out and waited while Carl and Froeje paddled on to the outpost to get the car. This took only thirty minutes and Elizabeth was relieved to be back on solid ground.

Carl indicated that the lower half of the run had bigger drops and more water. He thought we should give it a try. Elizabeth stayed at camp and I took the large duck by myself. The first mile from camp was a pleasant jungle run with more water and great jungle scenery and I was wishing that Elizabeth had come along. Then Carl suggested we get out and scout the upcoming rapid, called First Canyon.

A scout from a couple of angles qualified this as a class V, creek like drop full of boulders and undercuts. At higher water levels it would be less technical but much pushier as the drop is about fifteen feet in forty yards. Carl demonstrated the run and Froeje and I helped each other carry our boats to a point just at the bottom of the drop, an easy portage to a tricky reentry.

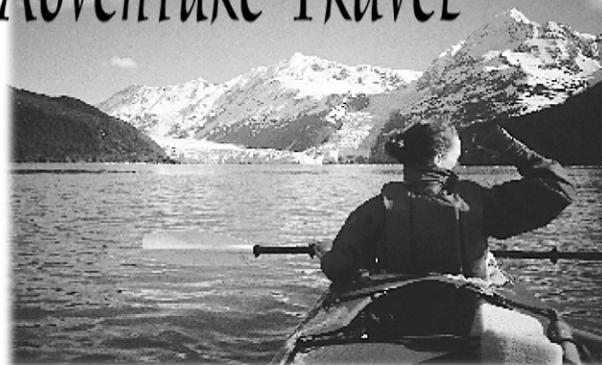
Soon we came to the next rapid, named Entrance to Second Canyon, similar to First Canyon but a little more open and a little less difficult. There is a must make, left to right move at the bottom to get away from a nasty looking river left chute (is something starting to sound familiar here?).

It looked like I could handle it after Carl's demo run, so I went for it.

The duck started acting like it was eighteen feet long and very resistant to direction change. After a spin at the bottom, I had no choice but to try to run the left chute. I got lined up and went for it. The duck stuck fast halfway through the chute and began to submerge. Carl and Froeje were on the cliff above me and I was able to extend

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my paddle to them and climb up and out. The duck remained stuck with my throw rope attached in it and inaccessible.

Carl had a throw rope, which we attached to my rescue vest. While they belayed me, I went back down in the chute to try to get a line on the boat and push it free. When I got to the boat, it became clear the only way it was coming out was straight up. The more I tried, the closer I got to slipping under the boat and into the chute. I was having visions of Left Crack on the Chattooga.

Changing the strategy, I had to get a line on the duck and get out of there so we could pull from a point of safety. The problem here was that I was on the only line. I was able to get a carabiner and prussic loop on the boat and then attach that to my belay line. Switching my tether, I was able to get back up the rock face to the other guys. After a huge sigh of relief we easily pulled the duck up and out of the crack and into the pool below Entrance Rapid. (If this is sounding like a description of Five Falls on the Chattooga, the similarities are striking.)

A scout of Second Canyon showed a short ten foot drop from river right with a full 90 degree left turn followed by an immediate 90 degree right turn, the whole river in one eight foot channel, no options. We lined the duck through and portaged the second boat. Carl, who

has more than one class V first descent under his belt, ran it OK. Later he admitted the rafts had about a 50% success rate on this drop at various water levels. The saving grace is a large calm pool below the drop.

The final rapid, called Chicken Drop, bears a striking resemblance to the double drop at Bull Sluice, except that Decap Rock has moved to the middle of the upper hole. Carl got in trouble, rolled up at the bottom, we portaged.

The Selangor River is best described as a two to three hour run through a boulder-laden riverbed. The rapids rank class III to V and the run is very creek like in that the drops are steep and technical. It is a great run for the right boat. The river runs along a road for some portions and through second growth jungle all of the way.

Although the scenery is beautiful and the water is warm (afternoon air temperature everyday was 102), sadly the river is laden with trash. The roadside parks are overflowing with piles of trash, which periodically the picnickers simply set fire to. Carl says that this is a problem throughout most of Malaysia. People just don't seem to care and expect the government to come in and take care of them. Burning as a way of agriculture, trash control, etc., is common in Asia and is a terrible problem. Blue skies and a view of the sun are uncommon during the dry season. Don't ever doubt that everyone's continued efforts at conservation of our environment are necessary.

This was a wonderful trip on an exciting river. I'll

## Swimming and Degradation in West Virginia

by Arthur Blankenship

We got the absolute p\_\_s knocked out of us by a monster hole at the bottom of Well's Falls on the Arden section of the Tygart River. After the carnage, we wriggled ashore and noticed one of our group was not getting out of the water. We ran up to her, visualizing all kinds of savage possibilities, when with a wry smile she said, "I'm okay, I just gotta pee." I realized I also had the urge, so back in I went for relief.

A spontaneous decision to run the beast had been made on a scant scout from above: Perhaps there was a need to balance perspective with a prime run of the Upper Yough the day before; maybe there was a need to beat back the roots of boredom on what was turning out to be a less than hoped for river pounding; perhaps there was unconscious knowledge that this would be the last rapid in a four day river odyssey. All I know is that we had survived, that the raft had not even flipped and was currently spinning circles in an eddy ominously close to the hole.

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write more about the trip, and the reason for being there,  
next month. ✕

Well's Falls has very strong current cutting diagonally from the left; when flow from the right meets this current, it forms a four foot high wall of water that requires serious toll before allowing passage. It force fed us such river treats as:

- Body slamming raft mates and a rocket launch down into the froth.
- A subtle, though menacing, wrenching of the body as it makes contact with the freight train current. It sometimes takes days to realize you've twitched a muscle in your back.
- Scraping of flesh on submerged undercut rocks, and a game of bob and twirl as you try to gain access back into the world of air.
- Sucking in water as you careen through standing waves.
- And of course, a fleeting glimpse of gear floating into the void of lost.

After taking a large bite out of the four foot wall of wildness, I was blasted down into the hole and thrown under a rock shelf beneath the water. There was a surreal womb-like calmness, kinda like being suspended in a calm

eddy under the water. I could sense the mass of rock shelf looming overhead, a dark shadow in periphery, visualize the dark belly of the rock against the lighter colored water and sky, and see the blur of current screaming by a few feet away.

Eric was overhead up against the rock, having trouble exiting the underwater eddy; he left bits of his flesh on the rock. Though the calmness was inviting, I knew I'd better go ahead and leave, so I balled up: I spun through the water with blazing speed, and surfaced with the usual spit and cough of the gasping.

From the bottom of the rapid our mistake was obvious: The line is to the left, not down the throat. A series of diagonal waves makes entrance challenging; run these high, then turn for a last second plunge over the ledge: exhilarating!

The rest of the crew went up to fetch the raft as I walked downstream in case it achieved peel-out. One of them jumped in the water to reach the boat, and a spectacle ensued as he tried to crawl inside with the raft circling around the eddy, sometimes edging ghastly close to the hole. Success was eventually realized, and I was plucked from my perch.

We had already portaged twice: once around aptly named Undercut Rapid, with an absolutely boat stopping hole just above two wicked undercut shelves jutting in from the left: one higher in the air to knock you out of your boat, the other lower in the water to grab your body; and of course, a line that seemed no bigger than a thumbnail.

The other portage was around a 15 vertical feet high, almost river wide (150'?) Moats Falls, which barely had enough water for the kayaks that were running it, much less for a raft. At the right level it is runnable, being basically class 3-4 over the middle of the drop. So a portage of Well's Falls was out of the question, particularly with miles of flat water below and no **VISIBLE** undercuts. So we paid our toll, and it was worth every gasp for air and shiny carabiner it cost us. ✂

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- Dave Barry

### Top Ten Paddler Pick Up Lines

by Julie Keller

10. Can I ride to the river with you?
9. Want to paddle tandem together?
8. I got your phone number from your paddle.
7. You look sexy in fleece!
6. Sure I'll paddle Section III at 0.9 feet!
5. Let's go streaking!
4. Want to do enders in my hot tub?
3. Come sleep in my tent.
2. Can you help me get my dry suit off!
1. Have I seen you on the Ocoee?

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**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Red Mohawk Scamp with Perception saddle, air bags, paddle, life jacket and helmet. This is a white water boat "very" similar in hull design to the Whitesell. Stored inside, very good condition. \$425. Call Charles Bruce 770-974-2481.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe Trailer, 8 boat, decent shape, has '99 tag, has lots of use left, \$350. Jerry Holladay, 404-321-6747 (H), 404-299-0077 (W).

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**FLEET SALE** - Paddles: Canoe paddles: 57+ - 57+, excellent condition - \$50-\$75. Kayak paddles: 204-206, excellent condition - \$75-\$120, NEW Blackburn edged, 200 cm - \$135, NEW Silver Creek, 202 cm - \$160. C-2s: Patriot, excellent condition, bowrigh - \$500, Grok Shark, good condition, great for cruising or racing - \$400, Torrent XL, fair condition, cockpits centered - \$200. Call Steve Thomas - 770-455-0476.

**FOR SALE** - Kayaks, 1 + yr. old Savage Scorpion, real good shape. Rodeo seat, back band, and steel nose cones. \$425. New Wave Cruise Control, good condition w/ backband. \$325. Kirk @ 770-499-2089, kduchow@huber.com.

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**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Prijon Rockit. Excellent condition, used one season, stored indoors. With air bags, back band and spray skirt. Red. Outstanding creek boat! \$535. Call Kevin @ 770-532-9728.

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