



The **EDDY LINE**

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

VOLUME 33 NO. 6

770-421-9729

June 1998

June GCA Meeting

Celebrate the summer solstice (a few days early) with your GCA friends by joining us on an evening Chattahoochee paddle, Thursday, June 18, 1998. We'll run two shuttles, 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. from the Island Ford Unit. We'll take out three miles below at Azalea Drive and socialize till the sun goes down (maybe later)! Bring a favorite snack, or if you've worked up a bigger appetite, we'll have the coals hot for your burgers and dogs.

Island Ford is part of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. To get there from Route 400, go west on Northside Drive, then turn right on Dunwoody Place (almost immediately). Follow the signs to the park, turning right on Roberts Drive. Follow the park road to the end, and we'll help you find the put-in.

If you're coming to the take-out (skip the paddling -- I want FOOD!!), take Northside Drive west and turn right (north) on Roswell Road. Cross the river and turn left on Azalea Drive. You'll see the park entrance about one mile on the left.

This gentle section of the Hooch will be a great paddle for novices or those who want to usher in summer with a leisurely float.

As usual, we'll supply the drinks (lemonade and water) and ice, charcoal and paper supplies. If you have questions or need further directions, contact Marvins Cole at 770-475-3022. <

July GCA Meeting

Join us on Thursday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. to hear Sally Bethea speak about the health of the Chattahoochee River. Sally is with RiverKeeper, a watchdog group that works to keep our local rivers clean and pure. This is an important meeting that no paddler can afford to miss. Come learn what's happening, and what you can do to help preserve our own backyard river.

The meeting will be held at the 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, as usual. See you there. <

How many trees are needed to supply Americans with their Sunday newspapers every week? An entire forest -- over 500,000 trees according to Fifty Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth (363.7 f469). The average American uses about 120 pounds of newsprint annually, or the equivalent of about one tree. So, if people in the United States recycled even one tenth of their newspapers, we would save about 25 million trees every year. Why not give recycling a try?

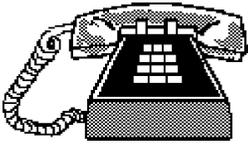


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Who Ya Gonna Call?

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

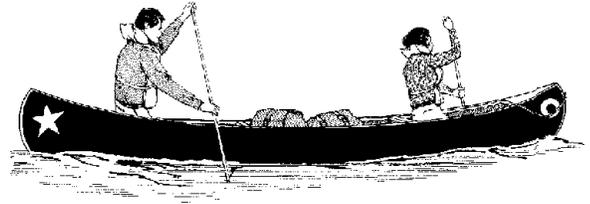
President	David Martin
Vice President	Brannen Proctor
Secretary	Jim Harvey
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Tom Martin
Recreation Chair	Karla Bowman
Resource Development Chair	Jane Hamilton
River Protection Chair	Vacant
Training Chair	Steve Cramer

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



June

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 Settles Bridge			
6	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Ray Channell	404-636-5944
7	Nacoochee Hooch (Note 2)	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	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jim Harvey	404-377-0765
13	Broad River Full Moon	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Huff	706-342-9879
14	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Susan Oehler	828-684-3973
14	Paddle With The Prez (Note 1)	Class 2-4 Intermediate-Advanced	David Martin	404-351-8208
18	Club Meeting — Food — Fun!!	Evening Hooch Paddle & Cook-out	Marvine Cole	770-475-3022
20	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Linda Delery	404-688-3047
20	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Linda Klein	404-315-7378
20	Chattooga Section 3	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dickie Tillman	770-466-1197
21	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Bill Convis	770-751-9258
27	Etowah Tunnel Section	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770-998-0350
27	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jane Rooney	404-299-0443
28	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770-422-9962

July

11	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Louis Boulanger	404-373-4775
11	Upper Hooch Full Moon	Class 2-3 Intermediate	John McCorvey	770-921-5116
11	Chattooga Section 3-1/2	Class 3-4 Advanced	Paul Ifkovitz	770-446-5096
11	Pigeon	Class 3-4 Advanced	Charles Bruce	770-974-2481
12	Paddle With The Prez	Class 2-4 Intermediate-Advanced	David Martin	404-351-8208
12	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Charles Bruce	770-974-2481
16	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun!!	Garden Hills Community Center	Marvine Cole	770-475-3022
18	Metro Hooch	Class 1 Easy Beginner	Jack Taylor	770-998-0350

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: Afternoon Trip.

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.

Roll Practice at Stone Mountain Lake on Wednesdays at about 7:00 PM thru September. Call Revel at 404-261-8572.

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

Announcements

GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing over 160 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 "gacano@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 gacano

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 gacano@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. ✂

GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.mindspring.com/~gacano>. 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. ✂

New Improved Electronic *Eddy Line*

Beginning with the November issue of the *On-Line Eddy Line*, we started sending a .pdf (portable document format) file in addition to the .txt (text only) file to our email subscribers. This format allows subscribers to view formatted text, graphics, page layout — virtually the entire *Eddy Line* — just as it appears in printed form. Plus you can see it several weeks before the printed copy

arrives via snail mail.

The .pdf version requires only Adobe Acrobat (or some equivalent) software in order to view it. Acrobat can be downloaded for free from the Adobe web site at <http://www.adobe.com>, or if you don't have web access, you can contact the editor, Allen Hedden, at gacano@mindspring.com and he can (legally) email you a copy of the software, that is if your email program supports attachments. The .pdf file also prints out to look just like the paper copy (except the logo on the front page is not in green, but most of the photos are in living color).

To subscribe to the On-Line version of *The Eddy Line*, send a request via snail mail to (& enclose a check for \$5.00 made out to GCA):

GCA
c/o Ed Schultz, Treasurer
3060 Pharr Court North #315
Atlanta, GA 30305

Or on your annual renewal form, just check the block for the *On-Line Eddy Line* and include the extra \$5.00 with your check for your annual dues.

In either case, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS so we can send *The Eddy Line* to you electronically. ✂

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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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 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. ✂

Recreation Fee Demonstration Project

from the Cherokee National Forest

Starting in April 1998 we will charge a \$2 per vehicle, per day, parking fee for all parking along the Hiwassee River from Reliance to the Appalachia Powerhouse. You may purchase an annual parking pass for your vehicle for \$30 at the different Ranger Stations or the Supervisor's Office in Cleveland. This pass will be good anywhere on the Hiwassee, Tellico or Ocoee Ranger Districts that have a parking fee. It will also be good Forest wide. We will also raise our fees for camping at Quinn Springs to \$10 per day and at Lost Creek campground to \$7 per day.

To collect the fees we will install self-service pay stations at Childers Creek, Big Bend, Towee Creek and Powerhouse Boat Launch area. There will be instructions at each of these pay stations telling you how to deposit your money in the fee tube and to fill out and display the stub on your vehicle dashboard.

Benefits: The Hiwassee Ranger District will be able to keep 95% of all these new fees to offset some of the cost of providing high quality recreation facilities and customer services. We will spend the money, that is collected at those recreation areas. The money will be used to cover cost of recreation maintenance, rehabilitation of some sites, improvements, and operating cost. We would like suggestions on what things should be fixed at these areas first.

The camping fee is good in all areas of the Cherokee National Forest that require fees for that day to park. As an example, if you are camping at Quinn Springs, then the fee you pay there for camping entitles you to use the day

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Wilderness Instruction in Safety and Emergency Response
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Sharon Downing, The Lovely Assistant (706) 865-9099

use (parking areas) along the Hiwassee at no extra charge.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the:

Hiwassee Ranger Station
P.O. Box D
Etowah, TN 37331

The Ranger Station is located on Mecca Pike (Highway 310) in Etowah, TN. Our Ranger Station is open from Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. From May through September we will be also open on Saturdays. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

June 6 — Western Carolina Rescue Rodeo — Chris Bell, 704-258-8806

June 13-14 — Rhino Rodeo Camp, NOC

June 18-21 — White Water Open Canoe National Championships — Richmond, VA — Ed Sharp, 540-752-5400

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

July 15-17 & 20 — Dixie Division Camp Challenge — Bryson City, NC — Mike Hipsher, NOC

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
 September 26-27 — Surf Kayak Nationals — Cape
 Hatteras, NC — Pam Malec, 800-948-0759
 Oct. 30-Nov 1 — NOC Guest Appreciation Festival
 Nov. 20-22 — Fall Knobscorcher Mountain Bike Race
 Nov 26-28 — Slalom Thanksgiving Training Camp (pri-
 marily for juniors — all athletes welcome)
 Dec. 5-6 — Bryson City Citizens Race / Slalom & Wild
 Water Race ✂

Thank You, Elizabeth and Bill

by Tom Martin, Member Services Committee

On your next trip to Florida, I hope you plan to paddle and hike and possibly camp.... you know, experience the REAL Florida. We have books in the library that will help you with your planning including "A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida" by Elizabeth Carter and John Pearce and RECENTLY DONATED "A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida" a new publication authored by Elizabeth F. Carter. Thank you, Elizabeth Carter!

Also, while trying to plan a trip on the well-known Edisto River in South Carolina, I realized that we did not have a book on South Carolina. Bill Edwards drove to South Carolina, bought "Paddling South Carolina" by Gene Able and Jack Horan, and DONATED it to the GCA library. Thank you, Bill Edwards!

Additionally, Elizabeth Carter has donated hundreds (maybe thousands) of magazines covering canoeing since the Ice Age. I can envision these as an excellent research resource. We need a "mag" keeper to note the contents in an organized fashion for easy retrieval AND to respond to requests for copies of articles. Thank you again, Elizabeth Carter!

On trips that I lead, I point out that while no one is legally required to help in a rescue, I expect everyone to do SOMETHING. We need volunteers who are willing to donate 2 or 3 hours a year in service to the club. There is

Cutting Those Spray Skirts...

- From the GCA email list.

by Allen Sinquefield

While browsing through the May *Eddy Line*, I reread the article about using care when cutting a paddler out of his spray skirt.

A better suggestion might be to carry a simple Wyoming blade. The design embeds a razor blade inside



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Ocmulgee-Altamaha Excursion

June 13, 1998, Hazlehurst, Georgia. Enjoy a scenic tour of the Ocmulgee & Altamaha rivers in a canoe, kayak. Bring a bag lunch and picnic on sand bar. Push off 8 a.m. Lumber City Bridge Hwy. 341. Entry fee \$5.00 per person; canoe rentals available w/ 2 paddles, 2 life jackets, laundry bag, \$34.00 per day. Sponsored by Hazlehurst-Jeff Davis Tourism, 912-375-4543. ✂

the crook of a plastic or metal hook. This hook pulls the material away from the kayaker, while exposing them only to the outside of the protective hook. The hook also insures that the knife is cutting the full thickness of the material, and is much easier and safer to use when having to cut someone out by feel. Since the knife is dragged across the material instead of

sawing through it, you get the kayaker out of the boat much faster.

It might not be as macho as a serrated stainless blade, but I venture to say it is more effective for what it is designed to do.

by David Martin

This is a tremendous hint to all. For some time now we have been mentioning this tool in Swift Water Rescue courses. It is known in the professional rescue world as a "seat belt cutter". It has a petite cousin known as a letter opener. The full size seat belt cutter is flat and compact. It can safely and quickly cut the wet suit off of someone if there is a need to expose a wound. It is capable of cutting through half inch rope.

There is much to be said about replacing that macho river knife with this tool. It is available from the Rescue Source, Rescue 3 International in California, 1-800-45-RESCUE, approximate cost of \$5.50 (hard impact plastic w/stainless steel blade).

Be safe out there.



River Traffic

by Chuck Creekmore

The following is a slightly edited version of my post on the rec.boats.paddle newsgroup. My only point in writing it was to remind myself and others to be considerate with traffic flow on crowded rivers. The RBP response has been most positive. Instead of searching for blame, most are searching for a way they can act more orderly to prevent injury to themselves and others. I am reminded how very proud I am to be associated with paddlers. We are really a pretty thoughtful group.

Play boaters rule the Ocoee! I know that. I seldom paddle through Hell Hole out of consideration for the rodeo boaters. To their credit, they do not tie up all the other rapids in the river, which gives me and others like me a chance to run the river and play the upper rapids. Sessions on the upper rapids of the river are generally held to short periods and the play boaters there usually clear out for down river paddlers or otherwise give signals when it is time to paddle through. I try to respect these conventions.

It was on Sunday about 2:00 PM at Double Trouble on the Ocoee. There were many boaters on the river. I came to the upper part of the rapid and saw that there were 4 or 5 kayaks eddied out on the left bank above the entrance to the rapid. It is a fairly long entrance. I thought that these people were paddling as a group and perhaps discussing the run. Below, I saw some paddlers on the right and some on the left next to the first wave of the rapid.

There is a large rock left of the first standing wave

and a big eddy on the right just below the first standing wave. I thought the way was clear for the moment. I skipped the upper eddy and proceeded down the middle of the entrance to the rapid. Then I saw him. A "Hot Dog" cutting "Z's" across the first wave of Double Trouble.

I don't know when he came in or if he had always been there, but there was plenty of time for him to clear the way when he saw me. I felt bad that I was going to cause him to break his surf to make way for me. It was too late for me to eddy out now and I was headed for the hole. But he just kept on surfing! I did not want to hit him, so I paddled toward river right, as hard as I could, attempting to avoid the hole and reach the eddy on river right. It looked like I had made it. I would cut the right side of the hole and "Hot Dog" would have the left side of the hole to continue on.

I was aimed right and paddling hard as I came to the hole near the right side. Just as I hit the hole, "Hot Dog" made a clockwise turn bringing the back quarter of his boat right into my chest. It was a low volume stern boat that had sharp angled sides. I was hit with a loud crack and a thud. I went over like a 10 pin hit with a 17-pound bowling ball. I was knocked out of breath and at that time did not know the extent of my injury. But now I had to contend with the loud noise of the rapid and the rising and falling sensation as I passed upside down through the rapid.

I set up and waited for the noise to calm down and hoped that all my parts would work when I attempted my roll. They did. I was up! I paddled over to the eddy on the right. When I took a deep breath, it felt like I had just been hit in the chest with the full force of a Mike Tyson roundhouse punch. The pain was on the front left side of my chest, just below armpit height. No problems with the shoulder. No blood. No protruding parts. All seemed structurally OK. After all, I had just rolled.

I looked across the river for "Hot Dog" to see if he was OK. I could not tell which one he was and there was no commotion over there. Just then, David, an open boater

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paddling with our group went floating by after his inverted boat. I took off, pain and all, and chased him down along with Slate, another boater in our group. We got David to an eddy and decided to stop right there for a sun and lunch break.

Trying to pull my boat up on the bank showed me just how sore I was. It was extremely painful whenever I pulled in a way that used my chest muscles. The pain was worse on the front left side of my chest in an area about the size of a softball. The tail of the "Hot Dog" had whacked me pretty hard. The reality of just how lucky I was began to set in. My PFD and the fact that my face and hands were not hit saved me from more serious injury.

I got back in my boat to check out my paddling dexterity. I ran Surprise and Hollywood Hole rapids to see if I was up to Table Saw and Diamond Splitter. The pain kept me from paddling aggressively on the left side and I decided that it was not wise to go on until I determined the extent of my injuries. I got out at Go Forth Creek. It is the first time that I have been knocked off a river.

Nothing is broken. I am sure that all will be better next week. It could have been much worse. My ears are OK. At least kayakers don't bite.

Perhaps I was wrong when I entered the rapid. Maybe I wasn't. I don't know. But after I saw a paddler in the hole, I at least tried to fix it by paddling off to the side. Hopefully the clockwise turn by the other boater was just bad timing for me and he meant me no harm. Hopefully, I caused him no harm when we collided. I will always try and give those in the hole time to clear before I press on down. But if we make a mistake in judgment or timing, let's both try and pass by without harm. Believe me, it hurts to do otherwise. ✂

River Traffic 2

by Chuck Creekmore

Author's note: This is a follow up to the Ocoee Incident relating to traffic flow. The original message set off quite a stir on the RBP news group. I really wanted to send a positive message to my fellow boaters. Many of the responses were negative.

We can solve problems if we all work together to try and find a common and reasonable solution. Fighting is not the answer. I only want to tell my paddling friends to be careful and try and prevent injuries to others no matter who has the "right of way".

Can't we all just get along? I feel like Rodney King after the LA riots. I did not mean to create such a fiery reaction, pitting our citizens against each other and incite some to set our community in flames.

I posted an accident report on the internet news group, news:rec.boats.paddle and on our local GCA email list, describing a collision on the Ocoee river between another kayaker and me. The report detailed the circumstances of the collision involving a play boat surfing a wave, and me in a boat running the rapid. We both held our course too long before taking the evasive action required to allow passing each other without harm. We collided.

The report was my way of pointing out the potential for such collisions when playing too long in a hole or delaying too long when you see yourself bearing down on paddler at play. I am aware of the "right of way" guidelines that are published in many of the kayak guidebooks and magazines. As a member of the GCA, we go over those rules, as well as the river signals for "clear, stop, go left, go right and help" prior to every club sponsored river trip.

On very crowded rivers, sometimes it is very difficult to explicitly follow all the river traffic rules under all circumstances even though we try. Mistakes happen which can result in an injury. I think both paddlers need to be responsible and adjust to avoid a collision, no matter who was initially right or wrong. I was not looking to establish blame. I just wanted to express this point of view. I love kayaking. I love the Ocoee.

I am concerned that my style of writing the report may have set some paddlers off against each other. The responses set play boaters against down river runners, open boaters against kayakers, and just about everyone against rafts. Some people said that they hated the river itself. All of the above groups were eloquently defended on the RBP board. The paddling community is not that large. We all need to help each other. There are plenty of outside groups with an agenda contrary to our interest to worry about.

There were those who wanted more rules, more government help, and sort of a kayak police force to enforce all these rules. We already have enough rules and too much government help, in my humble opinion. I will rue the day when the kayak police patrol the river and give out tickets.

I also used the term "Hot Dog" to describe the play boater in the report. Some took offense at calling play boaters "Hot Dogs" or "Hole Hogs". I feel badly about using the term "Hot Dog" in my report. To me, a "Hot Dog" would be someone with the skills well beyond that needed for conditions at hand and whose purpose is to show off in front of a lesser skilled crowd.

The play boater in my report did seem to have the skills; he was surfing that hole with grace and style. I only wish that I could surf that well. It appeared that he could

have stayed on the wave for a much longer time. But it was unfair for me to refer to him as a "Hot Dog". I do not know his skill level or motives for staying on the wave so long. For using the term, I apologize. I just meant to tie in a humor line that I had been whipped by the tail of the dog. My little subtle humor line apparently only made sense to me.

Some positive comments came in response to my post. Scott Bristow suggested that play boaters often used a roll as a defensive maneuver against injury during an imminent collision. For the play boater, I would not have suggested it in this case, since he was high on the wave and I entered low. However, I, the down river runner, could have rolled and possibly prevented injury to either

of us. My reactions were not quick enough in this case, but it is something I can work on and practice. There are other methods to get down river. Following a raft will usually assure a clear path. The best methods are still to improve skills and maintain better control.

Hopefully, all this helped clear the air on some boaters complaints to other boaters. I did get to read comments on river traffic flow from some differing viewpoints of play boaters, open boaters, and rafters. They all seemed to ask only for consideration and respect of their boating perspective. If we just watch out for each other, we can all get along.

LA survived. I survived. I believe that our sport and the Ocoee will also survive. ✂

The 30th Southeasterns...

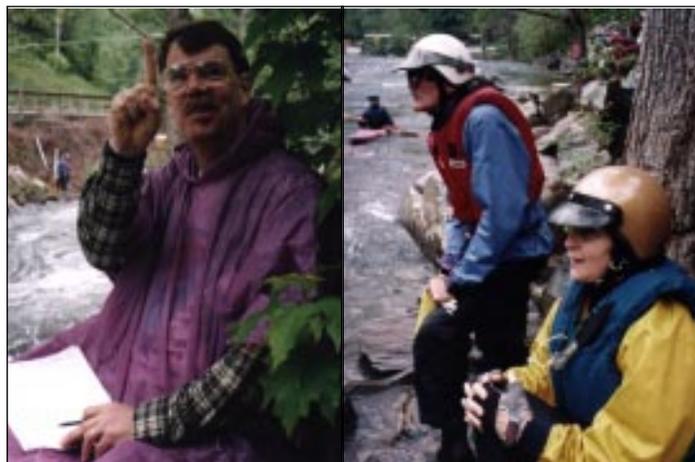
by Wulf Keuhmstedt, Race Master

Another great Southeastern US Slalom and Wild Water Championships organized by the Georgia Canoeing Association has taken place during the weekend of May 2-3. Since 1969, for thirty years in a row volunteers of our club have managed to offer this great event to the paddling community.

My thanks and gratitude go to the many volunteers, most of them members of our club, who committed their time, resources, money, transportation, and hands-on support to turn this into a premium event. I commend your great attitude, rain or shine. With your most outstanding support it has been my pleasure to serve the club another year as Race Master.



Race Watch



Scene at the Races — (L) Tom Ottinger - judging gates; (R) Haynes & Gina Johnson - safety. - Photos by Jim Kautz.

I was most impressed by those volunteers who had arrived already on Thursday and worked tirelessly through Friday to help with construction of the slalom course. Jason Schnurr, together with Michael Abernathy, who designed the course, directed their crew, which consisted of Allen Hedden, Roger Nott, Tom Martin, Chuck Creekmore, Jim Jones, Eddie Payne, Bill Ludwig and Jennifer and Melissa Freeman. I hope I did not miss a name which should be mentioned here among these

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Scene at the Races — (L) Michael Abernathy - course design & construction; (C) The hospitality / food service crew; (L) Tom Martin - course construction. - Photos by Jim Kautz

construction heroes.

Like last year, we had a most dedicated crew of chairpersons who pulled this event off in a very timely and organized manner. I would like to thank all of them very much for their help and leadership.

Registrar	David Martin
Public Relation/Press	Brannen Proctor
Race logo and T-shirt design	Wulf Kuehmstedt
Sponsors	Jim Kautz
Volunteers	David Bowman
NRC Contact	Mike Hipsher
Course Design	Michael Abernathy
Course Construction	Jason Schnurr
Safety	Bo Wise
Starting	John and Tee Brower
Judging	Steve Cramer
Timing	Brannen Proctor
Scoring	Les Davenport
Hospitality	Kathy King
Raffle	Rosemary Bilello

Despite intermittent rain and rather cool temperatures on Saturday morning, we completed all the slalom races for decked boats. The start line was approximately

200 yards above Nantahala Falls, and the finish line was near the take-out for commercial rafts. By 9:30 a.m. the rain had stopped and we had pretty nice weather for the rest of the day. At 3:00 p.m. we started the wild water race, which began at the put-in seven miles upstream of the falls and ended at the slalom finish line.

In the evening we held the awards ceremonies after the buffet dinner (veggie lasagne and oven baked chicken) at the pavilion of the Nantahala Village. On Sunday, which started out rainy and cold again, were the slalom races for open boats, and the down river fun race (for all boat classes) which started at Ferebee Park and ended at the take-out above the falls.

By the time we had finished all the races the rain had stopped. At least for the take-down of the slalom gates and our temporary race headquarters with two big tents and the sensitive electronic communications equipment, the sun showed up again.

I am very pleased to report that we completed the races safe and sound, except for some contact with poison ivy, which will remind us for the next few weeks of the 30th Annual Southeasterns. (Anyone else get some good photos to share in the next newsletter?) ✂



Scene at the Races — (L) Bill "The Hawk" Reeves - safety; (C) Tim Garvey - judging gates; (R) Barry Hahn (all the way from Pennsylvania!) scoring. - Photos by Jim Kautz.

19th Annual Ocoee Double Header

April 4 and 5, 1998, White Water Slalom and Wild Water Races on Olympic Course at the Ocoee White Water Center (Ducktown, Tennessee)

The Ocoee White Water Center in Ducktown, Tennessee was the site of the 19th Annual "Ocoee Double Header" presented April 4 and 5, 1998, by the Atlanta Whitewater Club (AWC) and the Atlanta Center of Excellence (ACE). At least 115 national-level white water athletes assembled to compete in this two-day series of slalom and wild water racing events on the raging Class III and IV rapids of the Upper Ocoee River, site of the 1996 Olympic white water slalom venue.

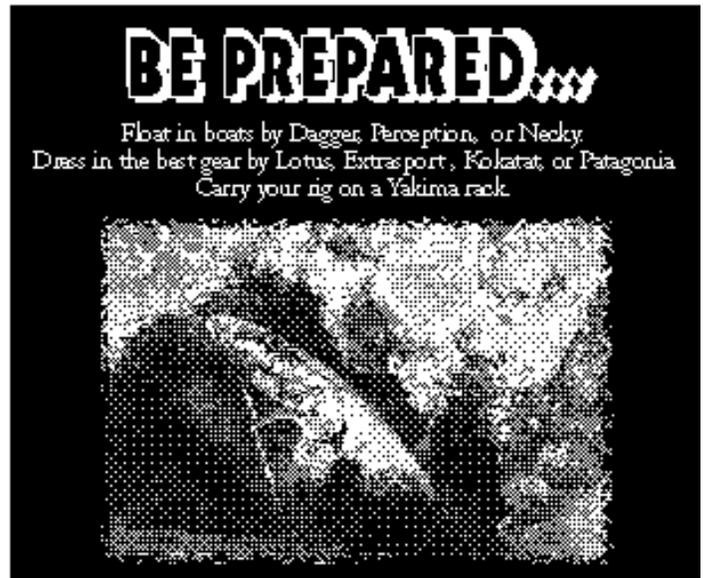
Olympian Scott Shipley of Atlanta was impressed with this year's event. According to Shipley, "Every year, the Ocoee Double Header stands as the one event that sets the pace for all of us that head into US Team Trials with hopes of garnering a spot for this year's World Cup Series. This year's event was especially exciting given the use of the 1996 Olympic Course and the unbelievably stiff competition. It just goes to demonstrate what an attraction and training tool the Olympic Course has become to our ongoing efforts to win Olympic gold in the upcoming Quadrennium."

A number of other Olympians participated in addition to Shipley, including Atlantan Eric Giddens as well as Lecky Haller, Cathy Hearn, David Hearn, and Joe Jacobi. In addition, the race attracted veteran members of the US Slalom and Wild Water Teams, such as Rebecca Bennett, Adam Boyd, David Hepp, Steve Isenberg, Barry Kennon, Matt Taylor, Steve Thomas and Dave Wallace. For many of these athletes, the Double Header has traditionally served as an important "warm-up event" for US National Team Trials. This year's Trials will be held on May 8, 9 and 10 in Wassau, Wisconsin.

Atlanta's top athletes gave impressive performances. 1996 Olympic Team members Eric Giddens and Scott Shipley, each won the top honor for Men's Kayak on Saturday and Sunday respectively. Following her third place finish on Saturday, Sarah Leith took first place in the Women's Kayak division on Sunday. Adam Boyd placed second in Men's Canoe on Sunday. Matt Taylor and partner, Lecky Haller of the Nantahala Racing Club, dominated the Men's Tandem Canoe division both days.

Mike Larimer, US Olympic Coach and Head Coach for the Atlanta Center of Excellence, was pleased with the Atlanta "team's" results. "If the Ocoee Double Header is any indication, the Atlanta-based athletes are once again poised to dominate US National Team Trials. I was also

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pleased with the performances of Atlanta's Juniors. Our Junior Program includes several very promising athletes. ACE's athletes have been very well prepared and should produce some impressive results at both the Junior and Senior Team Trials." Junior National Team Trials (for racers up to age eighteen) take place May 2 and 3 in Snyder's Mill, New Hampshire.

A Prestigious Regional Event

White water racing has been taking place on the Ocoee River since 1977. According to Polly Prater, 1998 Race Coordinator and Past President of the AWC, "The 1998 Ocoee Double Header was a great success. The racers loved the course and the challenges Mike Larimer's course design presented. We were really pleased to see a strong turnout of top-flight racers from across the country — yet another banner event for white water racing at the Olympic Course!"

The 1998 Ocoee Double Header was the collaborative efforts of a number of agencies which have offered assistance to the AWC in presenting this event. The event's planning committee gratefully acknowledges the participation and assistance of the USDA Forest Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Park Bureau.

Generous corporate contributors include the Cleve-

land Electric Company, the Johnston Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the Georgia Power Company, Perception, Inc., Patagonia, Go with the Flow, and the Polk County Chamber of Commerce.

The Atlanta Whitewater Club

The Atlanta Whitewater Club was founded by a dedicated group of Atlanta's kayakers and canoers to provide educational services and events that increase the enjoyment, safety and skills of paddlers at every level of the sport.

Proceeds from the Ocoee Double Header enable the club to continue efforts to conserve and protect the region's rivers through education, advocacy and hands-on clean-up projects. For more information on the Atlanta Whitewater Club, call Dawn Findley at 404-296-1820.

The Atlanta Center Of Excellence

Recognized as an official training "center of excellence" by the United States Canoe and Kayak Team, the Atlanta Center of Excellence was established a decade ago through the efforts of the Atlanta Whitewater Club, and the two organizations have worked together to present the Ocoee Double Header ever since. ACE exists to introduce, promote and advance white water slalom racing in the metropolitan Atlanta area for paddlers of all ages; its ultimate objective is to develop local paddlers into national team caliber athletes.

More important, however, is ACE's commitment to the sport of white water racing as an opportunity for individuals to pursue personal excellence in a directed, focused environment. For more information about the Atlanta Center of Excellence, call Doris Babcock at 770-937-5073.



1998 Ocoee Double Header Results

Top 3 finishers in each class:

Saturday, April 4, 1998

Slalom Results

Women's Kayak

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
K1W Cad	12	Gwen Greeley	303.87	208	511.87	256.56	108	364.56	876.43
K1W Cad	3	Becca Red	216.49	264	480.49	212.00	360	572.00	1052.49
K1W Jr	19	Aleta Miller	170.39	6	176.39	164.03	6	170.03	346.42
K1W Jr	21	Hannah Larsen	164.18	54	218.18	174.14	8	182.14	400.32
K1W Jr	16	Emily Beck	177.79	52	229.79	190.13	4	194.13	423.92
K1W Sr	6	Margaret Langford	150.65	2	152.65	152.45	0	152.45	305.10
K1W Sr	22	Megan Stallheim	155.45	6	161.45	157.16	0	157.16	318.61
K1W Sr	15	Sarah Leith	157.16	54	211.16	155.11	4	159.11	370.27

Men's Solo Decked Canoe

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
C1 Jr	34	Josh Denz	239.98	10	249.98	238.21	54	292.21	542.19
C1 Jr	41	John Emerson	183.05	204	387.05	171.88	8	179.88	566.93
C1 Sr	61	David Hearn	145.96	0	145.96	138.34	0	138.34	284.30
C1 Sr	60	Joe Jacobi	144.80	4	148.80	145.79	2	147.79	296.59
C1 Sr	35	Jamie Cartwright	151.26	0	151.26	145.95	0	145.95	297.21
C1 MST	36	Steve Thomas	199.20	60	259.20	181.88	106	287.88	547.08

Men's Tandem Decked Canoe

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
C2 Jr	3	Johnson/Johnson	191.97	58	249.97	190.78	60	250.78	500.75
C2 Sr	60	Taylor/Haller	146.14	4	150.14	142.95	0	142.95	293.09
C2 Sr	43	Hepp/McCleskey	149.15	4	153.15	150.35	6	156.35	309.50
C2 Sr	8	Lawler/Steumpel	171.08	56	227.08	166.85	8	174.85	401.93

Men's Kayak

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
K1 Cad	12	Jordan Kvanli	172.50	6	178.50	180.63	0	180.63	359.13
K1 Cad	15	Tad Dennis	174.66	8	182.66	165.45	56	221.45	404.11
K1 Cad	5	Eric Hurd	233.83	58	291.83	194.68	108	302.68	594.51

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
K1 Jr	50	Brett Heyl	139.17	2	141.17	137.65	0	137.65	278.82
K1 Jr	38	Ethan Winger	144.62	0	144.62	143.72	0	143.72	288.34
K1 Jr	35	Neja Poberaj	146.04	4	150.04	144.69	0	144.69	294.73
K1 Sr	55	Eric Giddens	131.51	0	131.51	127.64	0	127.64	259.15
K1 Sr	56	Scott Shipley	125.43	2	127.43	129.45	4	133.45	260.88
K1 Sr	49	Eric Jackson	130.37	0	130.37	134.60	0	134.60	264.97
K1 MST	22	Kevin Pearce	164.93	56	220.93	164.21	0	164.21	385.14
K1 MST	187	David Ward	218.58	106	324.58	251.40	112	363.40	687.98

Sunday, April 5, 1998

Wild Water Sprint Results

Championship Class

Class	Place	Name	Time 1	Time 2	Total
K1W	1st	Cathy Hearn	1:54:30	1:52:50	3:46

Wavehopper Class

Class	Place	Name	Time 1	Time 2	Total
K1	1st	David Wallace	2:05:09	2:14:81	4:19
K1 Jr	2nd	Sven Hooson	2:14:90	2:26:49	4:40
K1	3rd	David Ward	2:20:79	2:31:17	4:51
K1	4th	Michael Wilson	2:29:61	2:30:56	4:59

Slalom Results

Women's Kayak

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
K1W Cad	2	Becca Red	216.01	356	572.01	190.24	560	750.24	1322.25
K1W Jr	17	Aleta Miller	171.61	2	173.61	173.61	4	177.61	351.22
K1W Jr	14	Hannah Larsen	172.11	2	174.11	180.46	4	184.46	358.57
K1W Jr	13	Emily Beck	196.46	10	206.46	178.80	4	182.80	389.26
K1W Sr	16	Sarah Leith	161.14	2	163.14	157.19	0	157.19	320.33
K1W Sr	18	Megan Stallheim	163.03	0	163.03	163.53	2	165.53	328.56
K1W Sr	15	Mary-Marshall Seaver	166.08	8	174.08	158.77	4	162.77	336.85

Men's Solo Decked Canoe

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
C1 Jr	23	John Emerson	189.05	10	199.05	190.42	8	198.42	397.47
C1 Sr	47	David Hearn	144.22	0	144.22	140.79	0	140.79	285.01
C1 Sr	43	Adam Boyd	147.22	0	147.22	146.61	8	154.61	301.83
C1 Sr	46	Joe Jacobi	154.67	2	156.67	145.53	0	145.53	302.20

Men's Tandem Decked Canoe

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
C2 Jr	2	Johnson/Johnson	213.49	64	277.49	256.10	60	316.10	593.59
C2 Sr	13	Taylor/Haller	149.77	2	151.77	149.73	4	153.73	305.50
C2 Sr	5	Lawler/Steumpel	177.13	60	237.13	170.61	10	180.61	417.74
C2 Sr	1	Soileau/Soileau	196.98	116	312.98	194.50	64	258.50	571.48

Men's Kayak

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
K1 Cad	6	Steve Bohlman	200.92	8	208.92	203.45	0	203.45	412.37
K1 Cad	15	Tad Dennis	208.97	60	268.97	181.01	4	185.01	453.98
K1 Cad	21	Jordan Kvanli	205.10	56	261.10	187.14	10	197.14	458.24
K1 Jr	48	Brett Heyl	144.17	2	146.17	142.60	2	144.60	290.77
K1 Jr	44	Ethan Winger	147.26	4	151.26	145.85	0	145.85	297.11
K1 Jr	40	Sebastian Zimmer	155.12	4	159.12	153.24	0	153.24	312.36

Class	Bib	Name	Time 1	Pen	Run 1	Time 2	Pen	Run 2	Total
K1 Sr	55	Scott Shipley	129.89	0	129.89	133.33	0	133.33	263.22
K1 Sr	56	Eric Giddens	134.81	2	136.81	133.81	0	133.87	270.68
K1 Sr	54	Eric Jackson	137.35	0	137.35	134.51	0	134.51	271.86
K1 MST	3	Kevin Sessler	176.06	6	182.06	169.35	0	169.35	351.41
K1 MST	18	Kevin Pearce	189.85	58	247.85	165.09	156	321.09	568.94
K1 MST	5	David Ward	221.56	212	433.56	258.29	212	470.29	903.85

15 Atlanta Area Athletes Qualify For US Team Trials

The Atlanta Center of Excellence (ACE) proudly announces the following Atlanta-based athletes participating in the 1998 US Junior National Team Trials (May 2-3) and Senior National Team Trials (May 8-10):

Defending members, 1997 US Canoe and Kayak White Water Slalom Team:

Rebecca Bennett (Women's K-1) - Atlanta

Adam Boyd (Men's C-1) - Atlanta

Eric Giddens (Men's K-1) - Atlanta

Scott Shipley (Men's K-1) - Atlanta

Additional Senior Team Trials participants:

Austin Crane (Men's C-1) - Kennesaw

Chris Ennis (Men's C-1 and C-2) - Atlanta

Steve Isenberg (Men's C-1 and C-2) - Atlanta

Sarah Leith (Women's K-1) - Atlanta

Scott McClesky (Men's C-1 and C-2) - Decatur

Ben Quinn (Men's K-1) - Peachtree City

Allison Steiner (Women's K-1) - Atlanta

Matt Taylor (Men's C-2) - Atlanta

Junior Team Trials participants:

Frank Babcock (K-1) - Canton

Tad Dennis (K-1) - Peachtree City

Jeff Larimer (K-1) - Kennesaw

Atlanta can boast of being home for two members of the 1996 US Olympic White Water Slalom Team. Native Atlantan Eric Giddens and Scott Shipley of Poulsbo, Washington, will be vying for one of three positions in Men's Kayak (K-1) on the US National Team.

Coach Larimer expresses great confidence in this year's ACE contingent. "I believe that Atlanta is currently the strongest white water slalom training center in the country. Despite a year of high water poorly suited for training, in which we had to replace training facilities three times, the Atlanta-based athletes are once again poised to dominate US National Team Trials. The ACE athletes are very well-prepared and should produce some impressive results. Scott Shipley and Eric Giddens will be the favorites in Men's Kayak (K-1). Rebecca Bennett and Sarah Leith will be favored to qualify for team positions in

the K-1 Women's division and Adam Boyd should qualify again in Men's Canoe (C-1)." This year's Trials will be held on May 8, 9 and 10 on the Wisconsin River in Wassau, Wisconsin.

Mike Larimer expresses similar pride in his Junior-level (up to age eighteen) athletes. "ACE's Junior Program includes several very promising athletes who, although perhaps a year away from earning Junior National Team positions, will be competitive participants at this year's trials." Junior National Team Trials take place May 2 and 3 on the Blackwater River in Snyder's Mill, New Hampshire.

Doris Babcock, Executive Director and Board Chair of ACE, whose son, Frank, is training for the Junior Team Trials, is proud of the direction ACE is taking with its development program. As Mrs. Babcock describes it, "Under Coach Larimer's direction, ACE's training programs are building important momentum for the development of the slalom athletes of today and tomorrow. We are proud of this year's group and confident they will make Atlanta proud at the Trials!"

The Georgia Games

by Connie Hagler

The second annual Georgia Games State Championships for Canoe / Kayak will be held in Gainesville, Georgia, at the 1996 Olympic Venue for Rowing and Sprint Canoe / Kayak. The event will be held Saturday, July 18, with finals possibly on July 19 depending on the draw. The deadline for entries is July 13. The entry fee is \$16. We will have T shirts for all participants and medals for the first 3 places in each event.

The Games feature a variety of serious and not so serious events, including:

Mini kayaks and mini canoes — We have a bunch of these for paddlers under 100 pounds.

C-2 - in Recreational canoes — We have these on site. This event has been VERY competitive.

C-5 - in Recreational canoe. Imagine five adults tearing down the course... or sinking in a 15' 8" Old Town Discovery Canoe. The kids do this also. What a hoot!

Last year there was a BIG race with some old fogies beating a boat full of hot shot traveling sprint team kids. I don't know if the 'old fogies' will get in the canoe again to defend their title, but what about a rematch and new competition for this year?

We also offer events in Olympic Sprint boats. (you know, the serious -- really really fast stuff.) C-1, K-1, K-2, K-4.

Novice classes in Olympic Sprint boats will be offered, so here's your chance to give those tippy boats a try.

On sprint boat paddling for the uninitiated: As a recreational white water paddler who thought I had pretty good balance in a boat, I was quickly humbled by these craft! Most people have a guaranteed swim the first time they sit in a sprint boat.... However, it's like riding a bike.... once you get your balance you can't remember not knowing how to do it.... And, once you get your balance, the workout is much better than running, riding a bike OR paddling any other boat on flat water.... Anyone who enjoys aerobic exercise and the water will love this sport! Come join us any Sunday afternoon at 2:30.... pick a sunny, warm day with little wind.... and give this wonderful sport a try! We also have a couple of outrigger canoes, some sea kayaks, some surf skis and a lot of people who enjoy paddling!

Events and Age Divisions:

Atoms - Born in 1989-88

250 M M, W K-1 Mini-Kayak <110 lb.; Mixed C-2; Mixed C-5

Pewees - Born in 1987-86

250 M M, W K-1 Mini-Kayak <110 lb.; M, W K-1; M, W K-2; Mixed K-4; Mixed C-2; Mixed C-5

Bantam - Born in 1985-84

500 M M, W K-1 Mini-Kayak <110 lb.; M, W K-1; M C-1; M, W K-2; Mixed K-4; Mixed C-2; Mixed C-5

Novice - Any age - New or inexperienced paddlers - Ask Tony to see if you qualify!

500 M M, W K-1 Olympic boat; M, W K-1 Recreational boat; M, W K-2; Mixed K-4

Open Olympic Division

200 M M, W K-1, C-1, K-2

500 M M, W K-1, C-1, K-2, K-4

1000 MM, W K-1, C-1, K-2

Open Canoe - Fun Class - 250M

Must use Old Town Discovery 158 ABS Canoe or equivalent....

C-2 Open, C-2 Women, C-2 Father / Son, C-2 Mother / Daughter

We have boats you can use!

6K - Laps in front of the Olympic Tower!

M, W K-1 Racing Boat - Sprint boats, Marathon, surf ski

M, W K-1 Recreational boat - Sea Kayaks, Sit on top kayaks - We have boats you can use - NO EXCUSES!

If we get enough entries we can add events. We would sure like to see outriggers racing or any other craft that might be around. We just don't have any yet!! We will make extra classes if you come up with at least three entries and a format. So bring on the outriggers, the dragon boats, swan boats.

Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club

Site of the 1996 Olympic Canoe / Kayak Sprint events

3105 Clarks Bridge Road

Gainesville, GA 30506

770-287-7888 Boathouse

770-718-9383 Fax

ConHagler@aol.com, 770-536-8937 LCKC President,

Connie Hagler

770-534-7823 Head Coach, Tony Hall

<http://web.applied.net/LCKC>

The race course is located at the Clarks Bridge Park on Lake Lanier about 45 minutes north of Atlanta. From Atlanta go north on I-85 to I-985. Turn West at exit 7 (Jesse Jewell Parkway) go 1 + miles (to the second light). Turn west (right) on the Limestone Parkway (129) go to the second light. Turn right on to Clarks Bridge Road (284). The Boathouse will be on the left just after the bridge over Lake Lanier - about 2 miles. Just seeing the Olympic venue is worth the trip.

ACOG left us a \$12 million facility. We have a 4 story finish tower, (The races will finish on the line that decided all the events in the 1996 Olympics.) a great boathouse with two 9,000 square ft. boathouses — one for rowing and one for canoe / kayak, two 4,000 sq. ft. meeting rooms, locker rooms and weight area — all on Lake Lanier, which boasts 500 miles of shoreline.

Come paddle with us....



River Access

West Fork Chattooga — Again!

by Frank Crane

The new landowners that posted the West Fork Chattooga last fall are back at it.

You'll recall there was much media hoopla, (though other markets gave it much more exposure than Atlanta did), last fall when the purchasers of 300 acres of Rabun Co., Georgia property which contains over a mile of West Fork frontage, decided to "prosecute any survivors" who trespassed. After several weeks of negotiations, during which time the USFS posted signs advising the public against floating a stretch of Wild and Scenic river they'd recommended to floaters and issued outfitter permits on for over 25 years, a verbal agreement was reached allowing free passage for floaters.

Citing "abuses" during the intervening months, the landowners have reneged on their agreement, reposted signage and instructed law enforcement officials to remove all "trespassers". They've refused to sign the FS agreement and announced that all bets are off. Ironically, the "for sale" signs went up about the same time, lending credence to the suspicion that the owners are simply trying to draw attention from the public in order to force the issue with the FS in an attempt at a land swap. Perhaps so, but if that's the case, the publicity stunt isn't having near the impact it had last year.

Unfortunately, their attempts at drawing publicity are many more than has been observed by the media thus far. During the intervening months the landowners have gone in with mowers and earth moving equipment to "improve" the river frontage. All underbrush has been removed from stream-side, much timber has been cut, roads have been cleared, debris and rip rap have been deposited on the river banks in what looks like a feeble attempt to control erosion, and cables have been stretched across the river in several locations.

The West Fork never has been a wilderness experience, what with Highway 28 running closely beside it for much of its length. But with its high banks and dense vegetation it has offered a sense of wildness, as scenic a float as any section of the Chattooga, a beginner level of white water, and easy access, (i.e., "no boat carries"); making it a great introduction, (for kids, scout groups, physically challenged adults, etc.) to the wonderful resource the entire Chattooga represents. For now it's lost to us due to no access. If something isn't done, it could be lost to us due to development.

I hate to say it, but it appears that in the intervening

months since last fall's agreement, once public pressure backed off, the FS lost its enthusiasm for finding a long term solution to the problem, (i.e., acquiring the property). The FS alleges it can't pay more than market value for property. Not sure what that is, but surely this tract's strategic location affords it a higher market value than run of the mill mountain property.

And even so, the owners have indicated a willingness to swap for federal property elsewhere. As a taxpayer I wouldn't support a wholesale giveaway, but again, the strategic nature of this acquisition would appear to warrant a greater than 1:1 ratio of acreage swap. Bottom line, I believe the FS thinks it can get a permanent injunction allowing public passage without the aggravation of having to come up with the funding to acquire the property. But if they are successful in that regard there is nothing to stop development of the balance of the 300 acres, which would lend to the Chattooga the same atmosphere you get when floating the Cartecay or Upper Hooch.

Please contact anyone you have influence with in government, media, etc., to rejuvenate the public outcry that occurred last fall when this issue was in a few large market newspapers, USA Today, local TV and CNN and every Georgia Congressional Office in Washington was aware of the issue. Any ideas are welcomed as to how pressure/resources can be offered the US Forest Service toward acquiring the property. ✂

Tallulah Thank You Notes

by Mike Smith

Paddlers as a group usually amass letter writing campaigns when we want something done or changed to protect/get access/etc. to a river. The process is usually akin to herding a bunch of cats!

I just got back from a wonderful weekend at the Tallulah Gorge and would propose that if you've experienced the Gorge to date, hope to in the future, or if you wish to see this sort of thing perpetuated for another river down the line, it would be a very good thing to write the folks listed below and simply THANK THEM. While no one, and especially paddlers, like any type of regulation, and the system they've come up with is not perfect, these guys are working hard and doing a great job, all things considered.

This info is also available on rec.boats.paddle courtesy of Sherry Olson:
Bill Tanner, Park Manager, Tallulah Falls State Park,
PO Box 248, Tallulah Falls, GA 30573
His Boss: Lonice C. Barrett, Director, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 205 Butler Street, SE, Suite

1352, Atlanta, GA 30334
Glenn Ivey, Land Manager (He was your shuttle van driver!), Georgia Power Company, 333 Piedmont Avenue, PO Box 4545 Atlanta, Georgia 30302

His Boss: Jimmy Wilson, Georgia Power Company, 333 Piedmont Avenue, PO Box 4545, Atlanta, Georgia 30302
For AWA volunteers: Rich Bowers, Executive Director of AWA, Email to: 72732.401 @compuserve.com. ✂

Exploration

Intermediate Creek Run — Whites Creek

**Rhea County, Tennessee (SR 68 - Highway 27)
by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)**

White's Creek, Rhea County, TN

Section: State Route 68 Bridge to Highway 27 near Spring City

Scenery: Beautiful & isolated

Appropriate for: Solid intermediate - advanced

Miles on River: ~ 10 miles

Months Runnable: Winter, spring or after rains.

Difficulty: III+ (IV at high water)

AWA Point Scale: 24 points

Gradient: I estimate 60+ feet per mile

Gauge: TVA 1-800-238-2263 (3) (Emory @ Oakdale)

Gauge painted on bridge piling at Baker Bridge

Runnable Level:

Minimum: Emory ~ 3,000 cfs - Baker Bridge gauge ~1'

Optimal: Emory 7,500 cfs - Baker Bridge gauge 1.5 - 2'

Maximum: Emory > 10,000 - Baker Bridge gauge >3'

Hazards: Difficult rapids, boulder sieves, holes, undercut rocks, strainers.

Scouting: Boat scouting possible at all major rapids as are bank scouts.

Portages: Possible at most rapids but may be long.

Rescue Index: Relatively isolated and rough terrain.

Distance from Atlanta: About 5-6 hours

First run with CGRR 4/4/98

White's Creek is a nice solid intermediate to advanced skill level steep creek, which I discovered during the Central Georgia River Runners Spring White Water Camp. It is well known to those who paddle the Emory/Obed system, but I have been unable to find it in a guidebook. If you're in the area when things are honkin' and you liked Daddy's Creek, you must try White's. White's Creek is not part of the Emory system and should not be confused with White Creek (a lazy class II float).

White's Creek comes off Walden's Ridge and is joined by the Piney (a class IV/V run) near Spring City, TN. It starts fast and very small and stays fast but gets a lot bigger. It has several nice but not terribly extreme drops and several long technical class III+ rapids. White's is a notch more difficult than the upper Nantahala, a notch

less difficult than Little River in the Smokies, and the bottom half has more volume than either of them.

White's Creek runs through an incredibly beautiful and isolated canyon. I did not ascertain the names of the rapids, but they are virtually continuous starting right at the put-in. At the beginning White's Creek is small, technical, and almost constant. There were several strainers which had to be portaged. Eddies are small and may hold only one boat, so be alert for what's coming. The creek gets bigger and bigger as feeders add volume. About half way through is Baker Bridge, the alternate put in.

By this time White's Creek will have considerable volume and be rather pushy. The major rapid of consequence occurs 3 or 4 miles after Baker Bridge. It will be obvious by a long technical approach which caroms off a massive overhanging cliff on river right. The cliff is severely undercut! A sneak route on river left winds through a long relatively technical boulder garden.

It is easy to capsiz if you elect the sneak and, if you unass your boat, it is not impossible to find yourself being sucked through the chute on river right and into the undercut. Alternatively, other than pucker factor, it is relatively straightforward to enter from the right, angling river left at the top of the chute, and eddying out in a large pool just below the undercut. There are several places to set safety along the middle and bottom of this rapid.

To get to White's Creek, take I-75 north from Atlanta for about four hours to I-40, just west of Knoxville, Tennessee. Take I-40 west through Harriman (the home of Dagger Canoes) and exit onto highway 27 south, towards Rockwood and Spring City. Just past Rockwood, highway 70 will intersect from the right. Continue on 27, White's Creek passes under the highway (before Roddy) at a rather major divided bridge at the confluence with Watts Bar Lake. This is the take-out. Exit right, before crossing the bridge, onto an obvious frontage road that leads to a large parking area (field) under the bridge.

To get to the put-in, continue on Highway 27 to Spring City. In Spring City turn right onto State Route 68. Continue through Grandview. 68 crosses White's before Alloway. Put-in is at the bridge.

There is an alternate put-in which will cut the run in half and allow you to just run the larger portion. Take 68 to Grandview. In Grandview look for Opossum Trot Road. Take Opossum Trot to the right and follow it for several miles until Baker Bridge. The bridge has a gauge. ✂

Advanced Metropolitan Creek Run — Sope Creek

by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

Sope Creek

Section: Lower Roswell Road to Columns Drive on Metro Hooch

Scenery: Pretty

Appropriate for: Advanced

Miles on River: 2-3 miles

Month Runnable: Only after major rain.

Difficulty: III (IV at high water)

AWA Point Scale: 18 points

Gradient: I estimate 30-40 feet per mile

Gauge: USGS data from Internet; Three I-beams under bridge at put in

Runnable Level:

Minimum: 5' or 300 cfs; I-beams under put-in bridge (river right) just under water

Maximum: 8' or 900 cfs;

Hazards: Difficult rapids, strainers, holes

Scouting: Boat scouting possible at all major rapids, bank scouts at some.

Portages: If you have to portage you shouldn't be doing this one.

Rescue Index: Metro Atlanta right in people's back yards.

First run with Snuffy 5/1/98

If it is raining like stink mid-week, and you can take off from work at a realistic time, consider looking at Sope Creek. It takes a lot of rain to get Sope up, and too much can create too much fun. So, call up the gauges, drive out to Paper Mill to check it out in person, and consider just how good you really are before opting for it. This creek can vary considerably according to the volume.

Sope starts out as a fast flowing but flat creek. The first rapid is just around the corner about a quarter mile from the put-in. Too bad it's unrunnable due to strainers, and if you go left you will probably die. I mean it! This bad boy personifies a strainer. Once you see it you'll understand where the term originated. Portage on the right. Directly below is a set of surfing waves. Enjoy these because it's a half mile at least before you hit Sope Creek Gorge.

You'll know the gorge is coming due to the sound. The first class III rapid is called Gateway to Hell; it ends in a big tongue with a nice surfing hole. Immediately following Gateway are the Narrows, an easy III with a big eddy below and lots of surfing waves. About 5 yards below the Narrows you will see a horizon line created by Hammer, a 15+ foot sliding vertical drop into a potentially very sticky hole.

At high levels, the run could become lethal on the left, so run it on the right. However, be aware that the right hand drop wants to slam your boat into the bank, so angle left when running the drop. Immediately below the recovery pool of Hammer comes the Anvil, which was clogged with trees in the middle but could be run right or left. From here you can plainly see Paper Mill Rd bridge.

The drop through the bridge is known as Compound Fracture. It is solid class III at low levels, definitely a IV at high levels, and V at the upper limits of runnability. Compound Fracture has three slots; the middle and right are the best. One must be careful since the cross currents try to slam you into the bridge pylon. The far left has a really nasty hole and the far right has a dangerous undercut about 5 yards down stream.

The complicating factor of this rapid, besides the bridge pylon, is the massive nearly symmetric hole directly below the bridge. This hole is big and it is dangerous. It's the reason I recommend scouting from Paper Mill Road before you put on. There is a good eddy on the right below the bridge. Following the big hole is a smaller drop which has its own hole at high water but is followed by a good recovery pool.

Sope continues with a number of class III shoals and drops including one called Paper Mill Shoals. Then almost as suddenly as it begins you see a white sewer line and the river flattens out. The fun's not over, because you get to paddle your first golf course water-hazard (keep your helmet on and your head down). The take-out is imminent just past the bridge, or you can continue on to the Metro and Cochran Shoals Park. A small low head dam is right past the take-out before Sope meets the metro hooch.

To get to Sope Creek take Highway 400 north to Exit 5A, Abernathy Road. Take Abernathy west past Roswell Road and a shopping center, up a hill, to Johnson's Ferry Road. Turn right onto Johnson's Ferry and cross the Hooch. Just past the bridge turn left onto Columns Drive. Follow Columns to the parking lot at the very end (you will cross Sope Creek). This is the take-out (Cochran Shoals Park).

I recommend walking to the river to be certain you will recognize the take-out while paddling. Alternatively, you can take out at the bridge and walk to the parking lot. No matter, once you've figured this out, go back to Johnson's Ferry and continue to the left. At the top of the hill is Paper Mill Road, consider turning left onto it to scout the river.

If you do this, follow Paper Mill Road until you cross Sope Creek and look for parking. Scout from the bridge. If it looks too low it is and if it looks too high then go home.

Go back to Johnson's Ferry and continue to Lower Roswell Road (it's a couple lights). Turn left onto Lower Roswell Road and continue to the bridge that crosses Sope Creek.

There is parking at some transformers to the left just before the bridge. The 3-I beam gauge is located just

upstream of the bridge river right. The take-out is via Lower Roswell to Johnson Ferry and going right. The next turn is on Columns Drive on the right. The take out is on the bridge, which crosses Sope Creek. Park for the take-out at the end of Columns Drive. ✕

Weekday Trip

Upper Hooch: GA 115 to Duncan Bridge

by Don Klein

Thursday, April 22, 1998. Level: 27".

After the usual group of weekday paddlers had to play "working stiff" all week, I finally got to put my Weekday Paddlers List to good use. After several left messages I had only one confirmed participant, me. After some last hour arm twisting, I finally was able to recruit Allen Hedden in OC-1 and "Mr." Neil Chadwick, OC-1, as a late addition for our 3rd. As expected, since I was the only one in a real boat, I mean a kayak, I caught the usual array of comments typically slung at a solo and exposed kayaker amongst the almighty open boaters.

The river level was great, but 3' is better. The weather was hit and miss at best. Before we even got started we ended up under the 115 bridge hiding from the lightning. Considering the clouds all around us, I guess we got lucky because all the dark stuff was going to either side of us most of the way down except for one more pull-over due to more lightning. The weather gods were definitely smiling on us most of the day.

Everybody had good runs and surfed it up. The waves at the lunch beach below Canoe Eater were ripe as always when the water is up. Allen made casual mention to me of a sticky hole on mid-river left. Paying absolutely no attention to his warning, I proceeded to side-surf the ledge, not knowing this was the hole he was talking about. The first minute was fun, but then I wanted to leave. "Not today you don't," the hole said to me. So as Neil and Allen were in the eddy laughing at me, I was trying every stroke in the book to get out of this thing. After hours of work it finally let me go. What a friend.

After a nice lunch break in the rain, Allen did something I've never seen. He broke his paddle just stroking the water (i.e. no rocks). He must be really strong! But of course, as Boy Scout open boater luck would have it, his spare was in the water in no time. He also made an awesome move when he got broached mid-boat on a rock at Horseshoe. He noticed the broached rail



starting to buckle so he unstrapped and slid forward in his boat, not only getting him out of immediate danger of entrapment but also dislodging his boat (and he stayed upright). Pretty smooth stuff.

While we were playing around in Horseshoe, the dark clouds started to close in, so we motored down to Wildewood. That lady is so nice. Remember your frequent shuttle card! Good paddlin', good friends, good water, good-bye.

PS -- Everybody be sure to tell Mr. Neil and his wife Heather congrats on their new baby girl, Janie! ✕

Amazon Trip Report

by Debra Berry

We often paddle with daring young men,
Who are too young for me and too old for Jen.
Now, men have their good points,
At least one or two.
They'll carry your boats and spring for the brew.
They look good in Polartec and neoprene too.
But, we were getting tired of testosterone flu.

"River Mother," Jen cried, "I've had enough!"
"You've got to do something, work some magic or such."
"All right, River Daughter, I'll do what I can."
So, I went to Jason with an interesting plan.
"An all women's trip! Have you lost your mind?!"
"What will I put in *The Eddy Line*?"
Since he was outnumbered by two to one,
He thought, what the heck, this might just be fun.

It was time for our river trip,
Strapped the boats to car,
Told the guys not to worry,
The Upper Hooch was not far.

The Amazons gathered at the put in at ten,
To paddle a river without any men.
There was Jennifer in her kayak and Marla too,
I paddled a classic, a red Probe II.

Beth and Julie were a purple pair,
Paddling canoes with superior flair.
Laura and Sharon, in a kayak each,
Surfed with the others when we got to the beach.

Marla hit combat roll number one,
And discovered that side surfing was lots of fun.
Beth was a constant surfing queen,
Avoiding a hole that looked kinda mean.

Julie ran sweep, keeping track of the tribe,
A special thank you to her for being so kind.
Jennifer was the leader, she ran perfect lines,

The Littlest Amazon will run lead next time.

Paddling with men, the secret is out,
Is one of life's pleasures, without a doubt.
But, paddling with women who are strong and true,
Will always bring out the best in you.
So, Amazons, Goddesses, Water Nymphs too,
Look in *The Eddy Line* for trip number two.

Thanks to everyone for a great trip. Kayaks: Jennifer Freeman, Marla Terwillinger, Sharon Haire, and Laura Tanner. Real Boats: Beth Fordyce, Julie Dingus, and me, Debra Berry

Says General Accounting Office

U. S. Forest Service: Wasteful and Unaccountable

by Jim Kautz

May 6, 1998. Paddlers and other outdoors enthusiasts look to the US Forest Service to preserve many of the resources that they enjoy. However, Congress's chief accountants say that the agency is not earning our trust.

"Forgone revenue, inefficiency, and waste throughout the Forest Service's operations and organization have cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars," said Barry T. Hill, Associate Director of a division of the GAO. Testifying before committees of the House of Representatives, Hill listed numerous examples of ineffectiveness and lack of accountability.

According to a major audit, the Forest Service:

- Has failed to obtain fair market fees for commercial activities, including resort lodges and marinas, and for non-commercial uses, such as private recreational cabins. It has not charged fair market value for rights-of-way for oil and gas pipelines and has not used sealed bids for some timber sales. Foregone revenue: at least \$50 million annually.
- Is not "accountable for developing forest plans in a timely, orderly, and cost-effective manner."
- Uses weak contracting practices that, in 1996 "made \$443 million in appropriated funds vulnerable to fraud, waste, and abuse."

The agency's accounting and financial data systems "preclude the Forest Service from presenting accurate and complete financial information." In 1995 it could not identify how it spent \$215 million of its \$3.4 billion in operating and program funds. "The Forest Service is unable to provide data showing the costs and revenue of management activities being carried out on each of the

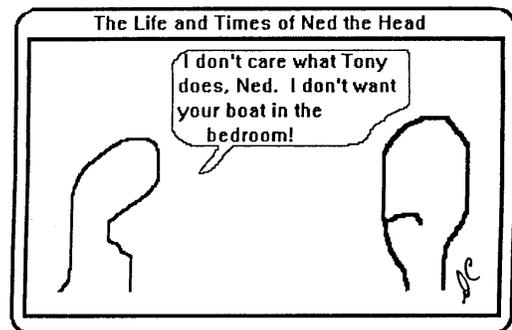
national forests," said Hill.

Hill noted that the agency has made some progress in its management and accountability practices; however "it is still years away from achieving financial accountability and possibly a decade or more away from being accountable for its performance."

His statement comes at a time when the Service has drawn the scrutiny of the public by its increasing imposition of user fees in forest areas. Most outdoors persons recognize a partnership with the Forest Service in protecting natural resources. They do not hesitate to pay reasonable fees to park, camp or use toilets in the forest. Forest Service fee payers chafe, however, at plans of the agency to assess fees on paddlers for the use of rivers.

A case in point is the agency's announcement of plans to collect a fee for paddling the Nantahala River in western North Carolina. Some paddlers doubt that the service will plow back into improvements and services all of the fees collected from them in the areas that they use.

The GAO report strengthens the doubts of members of the outdoors community that they are getting their money's worth. Hill testified on March 26, 1998, before the Committee on Resources, Committee on the Budget, and Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, and the Committee on Appropriations of the US House of Representatives.



Canoe & Kayak Orienteering Race Report

by Jesse M. Carleton

April 25, 1998, Lake Marion, South Carolina. Those who are familiar with Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie (known world-wide as Santee-Cooper Reservoir) are aware of the number of people who have died on these waters due to sudden weather changes. These lakes are located on the coastal plain of South Carolina. The surrounding terrain is very flat and the lakes are comparatively shallow. When the wind kicks up, the wave action can easily overcome an eighteen-foot bass boat, not to mention a sixteen-foot canoe. It was with some hesitation, therefore, that I registered to participate in the orienteering race organized by Bosch Outdoor Club of Charleston, South Carolina.

It turned out to be a gorgeous day with no wind at all. The area chosen for the event had numerous islands, sloughs and hidden channels. Roman Marks, the organizer of the event, had laid out 20 contact points over about a square mile area. At the start of the race everyone was given a topo-type map of the area with the 20 locations marked. Five minutes were allowed to study the map and decide on a route before the time clock started. Each contact point had a score value assigned to it based on how far away it was and how difficult it was to find.

Adventure on Section III

by Carol Meyhoefer

Last Saturday at my hubby's urging, I went to Chattooga Section III. I had offers for other rivers but my heart was on Chattooga that day. I prayed all week about hooking up with a trip and after several delays that morning found my way to the put-in above the Narrows. It was 2'5" and sunny and breezy. Within 5 minutes, two open boats floated down and graciously accepted my company with a ride to the car at the end.

Drew and Ryan were in the Old Town canoe. Drew sported a ski jacket, cotton T-shirt and flannel shirt, cotton shorts, and a sufficient helmet. Ryan sported a cheap orange horse collar life jacket, a child's bicycle helmet, a cotton T, cotton shorts. Ryan said he had been down once before at lower levels, "But I have a map!" David was properly outfitted in a Dagger boat, and so was his dog Fritz — complete with a doggy life jacket. He was self taught and knew nothing about reading the river — like eddies, peel outs, etc.

I set up ropes and told them the lines. Drew and Ryan pitoned at the top, side surfed, front surfed and

All of the participants were tandem teams in OC-2's. Each team was given a list with the numbers 1 through 20 on them and a blank beside each number. Each station or contact point had a numbered paper sign on it with a list of numbered code words. A code number was assigned to each team before the start. To get credit for locating a given station, they had to write down the code word that was identified with their code number in the blank beside the appropriate station number.

It wasn't as easy as it might sound. Even a good topo map is difficult to follow when you're sitting in the middle of a huge reservoir surrounded by islands, bays, and channels which all look very much alike. Add to that the mental pressure of a two-hour time limit and you suddenly realize the consequences of making a wrong turn. My son and I made two wrong turns. This was enough to take us out of contention. Out of a possible score of 500 points, the winning team scored 260 points.

Those members who are not interested in paddling in water that has less than a class III rating will be thinking this sounds like a good event for children. Orienteering is an important skill to enjoy practicing for any age individual who enjoys exploring the outdoors. This is also a good activity for working on one's endurance conditioning. There was even a little portaging required (at a dead run if you could manage it). I wish I could find more events of this type in which to participate. ✂

made it down upright. Ryan said it was the most fun he had ever had in a canoe — that surfing stuff! But Ryan was injured. He said his belly was bruised and he was in pain. He boasted that Drew was a surgeon and I asked Drew to check him out. Drew said he may have a pelvic fracture but they really didn't treat those.

Their Old Town canoe was cracked on the inside also. I advised them to take out at that point. Drew agreed, but Ryan and David wanted to go on down. So I set up ropes three times through the Narrows and they all made it upright. At the bottom of the Narrows some local kayakers I knew breezed through and invited me to paddle with them. I declined, feeling nervous about leaving these brave guys at the mercy of the river with no experience whatsoever.

Ryan said they would portage Second Ledge. I cleaned the ledge and then helped David and Fritz when they capsized at the bottom. It was then I asked the locals if they wouldn't mind sticking around to help these guys down. They laughed — all but Figgy. He waited a little further downstream.

I could read my way down, but these guys had terrible boat control and needed to be hand fed straight

down. After David and Fritz were safe — thanks to some rafters — I looked back to see Ryan jump out of the canoe about 20 feet above the ledge in the middle of the river in what appeared to be chest deep moving water! He couldn't hear me yelling. I started back upstream. By the time I got there, he had walked the canoe to river left and returned to get Drew who was standing in moving water also!

Ryan had tied a 6 ft. piece of rope onto each of their life jackets to hook them together and was walking Drew across the top of the ledge!! I instructed him to untie the rope and stuff it in his trousers. Then I yelled at them to get each other's life jackets like they showed us in river rescue classes and they made it to river left — cold, wet, bruised and bleeding.

Drew took off his T-shirt and flannel shirt and I gave him a heavy poly pro shirt. Then he pulled a HUGE full washer load sized plastic bag stuffed with cotton clothes — extra blue jeans and T-shirts and flannels — out of the Old Town canoe and pulled out a rain coat. I made him roll up the hood and stuff it in the back. It kept him warm. Ryan said all the rest of the way Drew kept commenting on that great shirt and how warm it was! I asked Ryan what in the world were they carrying. He said he thought it would serve as a second air bag! (They did have one token air bag.) They also had a HUGE dry bag full of food and other supplies!

I was worried that Drew had a tibial plateau fracture — a break on the front of his shin. He was in pain and walked slowly. The bruises were AWFUL, and there were pieces of flesh missing on his legs, although not much bleeding.

Figgy helped watch out for them and we made them a canoe sandwich. Drew suggested that I could make money making a map of the river showing where all the

rocks were and how to get down. Just above Fall Creek, Drew and Ryan spilled again above a BIG undercut rock. I yelled for them to abandon the boat and SWIM to the other side.

I righted the canoe and looked for the bailer. NO BAILER! Having prayed for them all the way down the river, I prayed again and the angels must have helped push that totally heavy boat to the shore. As they hiked to the boat (limped I should say), Steve -- one of the kayakers — commented, "Why, that other guy isn't even helping!"

I told him I thought he may have a broken bone in his leg. It was then he realized how badly injured these guys were. The kayakers all pitched in and we put them out at Fall Creek.

At the Bull, I was to hunt down their ride, a younger brother and his girlfriend. I found them and we headed for Fall Creek. When we arrived, Drew had on blue jeans and looked exhausted. He jumped in the van and elevated his legs. The younger brother and David finished carrying up the gear.

In the back of the van, Drew had a lap top computer out with some satellite locating device. Fancy thing. He boasted that he never left home without it. I suggested to Ryan that maybe they could take it on the river their next trip and it could tell them the loss in elevation. Drew said they actually did make a water proof one! Inside I just chuckled. God had his hand on this crew!

It doesn't end here, though. The younger brother and his girlfriend were star-struck after watching boats at Bull Sluice. They had the fever and asked all kinds of questions about getting started. I left them with oodles of club information and private instruction information. And somehow, I'm quite sure they won't be following the others' examples. ✂

Fear!

by Jim Gilliam

In no other sport that I have been associated with is fear such a constant companion as it is in the sport of white water paddling. I find myself constantly dealing with my own fear, even as I observe other club members dealing with their fear. Fear is handled in many different ways within our club; quite honestly, some members handle their fear much better than others.

On the one extreme, we have members who simply appear to have no fear; if they do, it is well concealed. This trait is most notable in (but not restricted to) young paddlers. We've all heard or made the comment, "They don't have enough sense to be afraid." Some refer to it as

the "mortality factor." To be frank, most of us are probably jealous, to some degree, of these paddlers' ability to suppress their fear. There is no question that their control of fear accounts more than anything else for their rapid progression in this sport.

At the other extreme are paddlers whose fear prevents them from paddling some waters that are really within their capability. They literally psych themselves out at put-ins or while scouting rapids. They minimize their paddling skills or talk themselves into believing they can't do it, and subsequently don't. They predetermine that they are going to do badly and the actual running of the rapid or river is then nothing more than a self-fulfilled prophesy. All of us have experienced this syndrome to some degree.

Most of us, however, handle our fear in a way that falls somewhere between these two extremes. We may proudly point to the fact that we have the intelligence to be afraid, or that we have nothing to prove to anyone. Yet let's face it. We have all let fear consume us at some point in our paddling, and it will probably happen again in the future. The bottom line is that if we are going to truly enjoy the sport of white water paddling we must learn to deal with and control our fear.

Our first encounter with fear is usually when we flip over. Almost all beginners panic and usually eject before their boats even stabilize. Over time, however, we learn to deal with this panic and we channel that adrenaline, calm down, and roll. The same adrenaline that can cause panic has also resulted in many spectacular rolls for many paddlers when confronted with very tough situations.

And I guess that's the point. Fear does not have to be a bad thing; it does not have to be the enemy. I can remember being tense for entire floats down the Hiwassee. Or being intimidated on the peel-outs at the put-in on the Nantahala. And yes, all those butterflies in my stomach while standing below the dam on the Ocoee. Even after 20+ runs on the Ocoee, those butterflies were still there. And of course before every major rapid on any river, that feeling forms in the bottom of your stomach.

In the early days of my paddling career this fear really irritated me. I would lecture myself. Why am I this tense? Calm down. If I'm not enjoying it, then why am I paddling? But I was enjoying it. So why was I so afraid in those situations? For the longest time I could not answer those questions. I believe I can now.

If not controlled, fear can be detrimental. I think this is what most of us associate with fear. It can consume us. When this occurs we become lethargic or confused. In its worst form, we panic. At that point, all rational thinking stops and a state of paralysis can occur. All that adrenaline wasting away.

This, of course, spells disaster on the river. Rivers from the Ocoee up require aggressive paddling to do well. When fear rears its ugly head, however, you are not only not aggressive, but are putty in the river's hands. A tough day usually follows.

It is important to realize what your body is doing when you are scared. You may be getting a message that you are in over your head. But quite the opposite, it is also your body's independent response for gearing up for action. Simply put, fear has kicked the adrenal glands into mass producing adrenaline.

I have never seen a sport where the adrenal glands are activated so readily and so often. Some of my best paddling has occurred because of the adrenaline in my

body. In other words, when I was scared to death. I now know that in many cases I need that adrenaline to paddle well. I need to be afraid.

Nobody has a complete grasp on handling this situation, least of all me. We may understand it, but we will never completely conquer it. It is and will be a constant fight. I have flipped in bad situations and remained completely calm and rolled easily; yet 10 minutes later I'll flip in much easier water and be completely consumed by panic. Go explain it.

A good personal example would be the way I handled two different class V rapids I ran on the Grand Canyon. On both of these runs fear was definitely there. At Crystal Rapid I allowed fear to consume me, I did not paddle aggressively, and I got trashed.

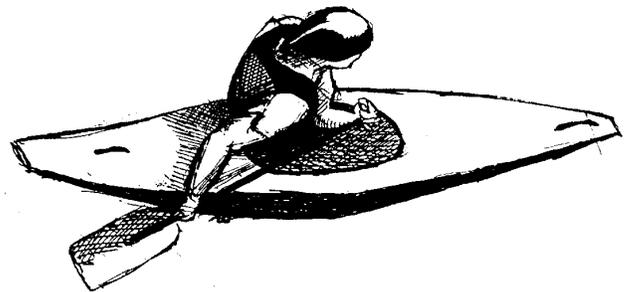
At Lava Falls Rapid I concentrated on my fear, trying to eliminate any negative thoughts, and I kept telling myself to be aggressive. It is a very fine line. When I launched from shore there was so much adrenaline in me (or I was so afraid, depending on how you want to say it) that things appeared to be going in slow motion. I had a good run at Lava Falls.

There is not a magical answer here for how to deal with fear. What works for some people will not work for others. However, for me, learning not to be afraid of fear has elevated my paddling, hence increasing my enjoyment of the sport.

When fear is present, try to embrace it and use its strengths to your advantage. As it is a constant companion, it is better to have it as a friend than an enemy. If you tell yourself that your fear is a good thing, it is going to make you a stronger, more alert paddler when you need it. But only if you concentrate and properly channel your thoughts.

I still have butterflies when I put on the Ocoee. The difference now is that it doesn't bother me. I know that my brain is independently gearing up for action. As a result, I'll be a stronger, faster and better paddler. It can and will be a constant process to harness the power that fear can yield. Give it a try.

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



Bandannas

by Carol Zitzow

Bandannas are colorful things with numerous applications for river use. Select a favorite color in the largest size available; choose a soft, absorbent 100% cotton vs. the poly/cotton blends, and take it on your river trips. You can use it as:

A sun hat, worn "Aunt Jemima" Style

A washcloth for the evening bath

Emergency first aid devices such as

- A compression bandage for bleeding: fold one bandanna into a 4" square to simulate layers of 4x4 gauze and place over the wound; position a second bandanna on top and firmly tie around to hold the 4" square in place
- A sling for an incapacitated arm (may need to tie 2 or

- 3 together)
 - Tie-arounds to immobilize a limb splinted with a stick or paddle
 - A cool compress to decrease swelling of an injured limb; keep moistened with cool river water
- A marker tied onto a stick or tree limb to mark an obscure river campsite or take-out
- A pre-filter to strain mud, debris, or silt before using a water filter
- An additional sunscreen around the vulnerable neck or throat
- A cooling device on hot trips by frequently dipping into river water and placing around the neck and throat
- A binder around the mouth of super-talkative paddling companion
- Just plain looking good!
- *From the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club newsletter.* ✂
-

You Might Be Obsessed About Paddling If....

1. You can't cross a bridge without slowing down or stopping.
2. You take a trip to Niagara Falls and find yourself picking out lines.
3. You've lost count of the number of boats you have in your garage and backyard.
4. You sign up for a TV cable company only after checking out the quality of their weather channel.
5. You get excited instead of worried when you hear about tornado warnings and flash floods.
6. You've gone boating in conditions where you normally wouldn't go outside.
7. You find yourself seeking out dams and any other places with moving water.
8. You've been known to "dry scout" creeks, picking out lines and eddies (the neighbors think you're nuts).
9. All career, personal, and financial decisions are judged by the criteria "How will this increase my paddling time?"
10. Your friends call you a "gear head" and you don't

understand what they mean.

11. You've toyed with the idea of just leaving your boat and gear loaded on your vehicle.
12. You see locals like the guys in "Deliverance", and they seem normal to you.
13. You do a rain dance without the cumbersome hindrance of clothing in the moonlight to Credence Clearwater Revival for mood music.
14. When the weather radio goes off at work, you start thinking of reasons you "don't feel so well."
15. Your boat and gear costs more than your car.
16. When you hear about a guy in a skirt you think nothing of it.
17. The waterproof packaging your food comes in is more important than the food itself.
18. When you go shopping, Gortex stock goes up.
19. You can buy that new boat with your REI rebate check.
20. When the TV cameraman films the "crazies" kayaking the flooded creeks and you know all their names (and you wish you were out there with them.)

- 21. You refuse the local paddle club officer nomination because it would cut into your paddle time too much.
- 22. You stop to rubberneck at highway river crossings.
- 23. You buy new clothes, not by how good they look, but by how fast they'll dry.
- 24. You have to take out a second mortgage to build a new boat shed.
- 25. You have an old Grumman canoe on blocks in the front yard.
- 26. You haven't missed roll practice at the local Boys' & Girls' Club pool in 3 years.
- 27. You divide your life into work days and river days.
- 28. The bars on your rooftop rack are wider than 8 feet.
- 29. You have the NRS and the NOC catalogs memorized.
- 30. You've ever wondered how many milk cartons you'd have to save to make your own kayak.

- From several postings on the Canoe Texas Email List, with credit to: Glenn Hart, Bill Herring, Bill Brooks & Neil Harrison. ✂

Hypothermia Claims Another Victim

Tuesday, May 5, 1998. FRANCE (AP) — Jacques LeFevrier left nothing to chance when he decided to commit suicide. He stood at the top of a tall cliff and tied a noose around his neck. He tied the other end of the rope to a large rock. He drank some poison and set fire to his clothes. He even tried to shoot himself at the last moment. He jumped and fired the pistol. The bullet missed him completely and cut through the rope above him. Free of the threat of hanging, he plunged into the sea. The sudden dunking extinguished the flames and made him vomit the poison. He was dragged out of the water by a kind fisherman and was taken to a local hospital, where he died — of hypothermia. ✂

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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, or email to gacano@mindspring.com. NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Old Town Discovery tandem canoe, 16' Olympic blue. Equipped with optional seat backs, center air bag. In very good condition, paddles included, \$625. We are also interested in purchasing used, in good condition, solo white water canoe. Please call 770-801-1161.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Perception HD-1 with air bags, saddle. A classic in great shape! \$375.00. 1-800-433-7564.

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).

FOR SALE - Car, 1988 Honda Accord LXi. White. 5 speed. Must sell. \$1800. 404-252-3524.

FOR SALE - Kayak, championship quatro racing kayak. Yellow Kevlar "glass". Light weight. Great shape!! 1/2 cut for smaller boaters. \$400. Call Pam Sullivan @ 912-953-9935 or email pamsullivan@juno.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Sit on top, aqua colored Torrent Andes by Perception, with knee straps. Bought new in 8/96 and used only a few times since: \$425 obo. Werner fiberglass 82" paddle: \$50 obo. Call Larry - day 770-590-8092, eve. 770-591-4215.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, Corsica S and SuperSport. Some gear may also be sold with boat if sizes fit buyer. Price depends on whether gear goes with boat. Call Courtney at 770-931-1667.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, Dagger Blast. Paddled one season and part of this season. \$400. Good for smaller or female boaters. Very good condition. New Wave Cruise Control. Paddled three seasons. Good condition. Includes with it an adult size XL MTI "slalom-type" life jacket, a Pro-tec helmet with visor, Ainsworth K-100 paddle (80 degree feather, 202 cm). \$475. Boat without gear: \$365. If you're interested, call Joel or Marla at 770-578-9738 (H) or 770-563-1242 (W).

FOR SALE OR TRADE - Kayak, Dagger Crossfire, black with dark blue swirls, has lower back brace. Used 1 season, in great shape. Spectrum Sea-1 wooden paddle, skirt and air bags. \$500.00 or will consider trade for a small canoe. Call Gregg Smith at 770-971-9884.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Corsica Overflow. Proline, granite color, back band, bulk-

head foot braces, drain plug. Super creek and play boat, almost rolls itself. Very good condition. Also paddle (202 cm). Both for \$400. Call Tim at 770-216-8555 (W) or 770-297-1280 (H).

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Pirouette. In good shape, lots of scratches, backband. The basic "I'm too old for that cartwheel nonsense" boat. \$250. Steve Cramer 706-208-8382.

FOR SALE - Kayak & gear. Complete set of paddling gear - Dagger Freefall LT, Werner Wenatchee paddle, Mountain Surf Kevlar skirt, Extrasport Squirt PFD, Seda helmet, Kokatat dry suit, booties, pogies, throw rope, air bags, Quick & Easy car racks, all in excellent condition. \$1000 obo. Call Neal 770-214-2870.

FOR SALE - Kayak Dagger Blast, '96, red. Excellent condition. \$500 obo. Call Greg at 770-640-0301.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Outburst, blue/teal, 16 mos. old. Excellent condition. Superb playboat; does all the moves if you know how. Bare bones, no air bags or equipment. Will also trade for Dagger RPM. \$500. Call John at 770-974-8532 before 9 p.m. or E-mail to Jkayak@aol.com.

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.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Crossfire, yellow, good condition. \$300. Call Charles, 770-974-2481.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger AQII in excellent condition, used only 2x, a must see. This is a great boat for beginners. Will sell for \$580; this includes air bags and spray skirt. Call Joe at 770-522-9232.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Seda, Kevlar. Perfect condition, no repairs, with skirt and life jacket, \$250. Call Tore Knos (Marietta) 770-952-1141.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Dancer, light blue, good condition, with skirt and life jacket, \$250. Call Tore Knos (Marietta) 770-952-1141.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Scorpion, new. Has never been in the water; will trade for a used ocean kayak or sell for \$425. Call Tore Knos (Marietta) 770-952-1141.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Prijon Rokit. 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.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Aquaterra, yellow, circa 1990. Well loved, and not abused. Asking \$250, OBO. Ask about accessories: PFD, paddle, spray skirt, dry top, etc. for medium size female, or adolescent. Call Cathy at 770-455-8591, or email: catwelsh@mindspring.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport Extreme. Purple / white / granite design. Used for 2 seasons, still in great condition. Will sell kayak, skirt, paddle & PFD for \$500. Got helmet? Then travel! Call Neil at 770-410-7786

FOR SALE - Kayak, Acrobat 370, in great

shape, (only on white water about 10 times), fully outfitted with air bags, back brace, hip and thigh pads, blue. \$500 obo. 404-687-9234 (eve).

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Vortex. Paddled two seasons. Very good condition. Stored inside. Blue and black. Stable boat. Good learner's boat. \$450. 404-252-3524.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Dancer, yellow, very good condition. Comes with Werner paddle (like new), lower back brace, helmet (lg), two spray skirts (sm & lg), and air bags. \$425. 404-373-8590.

FOR SALE - Sea Kayak, Perception Sea Lion in excellent condition. 17' x 22". This is a good starter boat that you won't outgrow. Its good glide makes it very easy to paddle all day. It's also highly maneuverable for such a long boat. Made of durable rotomolded high density polyethylene. Includes 2 watertight hatches, rudder, seatpad/paddle float, paddle, spray skirt AND one on the water lesson. \$975; new cost \$1350. Located in Athens. We're selling it because Meg bought herself a new boat. Go to http://www.kayaker.com/products/tour_1.html#anchorsealion to see a picture and read the specs. Steve Cramer 706-208-8382.

FOR SALE - Land, 10(+) mountaintop acres in Pickens County. Close to Atlanta AND several great river runs! Overlooks Bent Tree's golf course and lakes. Elevation 3,100 ft., beautiful heavily wooded site with driveway and gate. Underground power and phone at site. Restrictive covenants in place. Awesome view!!! Just off Hwy 515 and a bit above Jasper, Georgia, on Monument Road. (Only 1 hr. from I-75 & I-285 interchange in Atlanta.) \$4,950/acre. Transouth Realty (Martha Herndon) Owner-Agent 404-231-5367.

FOR SALE - Rafting Company on the Ocoee River. For details, call Roger Scott at 423-478-1857.

HELP WANTED - Full and part time, floor manager and shuttle driver. Call Nick Moore at Beacon Sports, Ellijay, Ga., 706-276-3600.

HELP WANTED - Yes, the GCA needs your help. We need volunteers to serve on committees, label and mail newsletters, etc. Call 770-421-9729 and leave a message.

WANTED - A copy of Jim Snyder's "The Squirt Book". Any condition is acceptable as long as I can read it. Chuck Creekmore, 770-995-5788.

WANTED TO BUY - Kayak. I am returning to paddling after many years and I am looking to buy a used kayak. I need an Overflow X, Corsica, Tornado, or something equivalent. Please call Mark at 770-650-1614 after 7 p.m. or email at mclarendon@mindspring.com.

WANTED TO BUY - Yakima "pole stackers" for kayaks. If you have the older single pole stackers made for Yakima racks (as opposed to the newer inverted "U" design), I am interested in purchasing them from you. Call Joel at 770-563-1242 (W) or 770-578-9738 (H). Or e-mail me at jterwilliger@meagpower.org.



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