



# The **EDDY LINE**

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

Volume 34, No. 3

770.421.9729

March 1999

## March GCA Meeting

The March GCA meeting will be our annual Spring General Membership Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner. The date & time is Thursday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Hills Community Center. We'll provide the utensils and drinks. You provide the food and fun! We'll all cozy up to the fire and share paddling stories and dreams of warmer weather. If you have a favorite video to share, call Marvane Cole (770.475.3022) to arrange the VCR.

To find 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.

See you there!!



## What's Inside...

## Mohawk Demos at Spring Extravaganza

Every year we have tried to make the Spring Extravaganza a memorable event, with plenty of good food to eat and friendly folks to chat and paddle with, bonfires, and bingo. This year should be especially fun — Mohawk Canoes is sending a truck load of boats for club members to try out over the weekend. Craig Barker, the company sales rep, tells us that he will be bringing several models up from Florida, including both flat water cruisers and white water play boats. Those interested in flat water boats can give them a turn on the large pond located on the campground property. White water paddlers can take the play boats on the Cartacay or one of the other nearby creeks. This will be an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in moving up the pucker scale to demo that next hot boat. Craig intends to arrive by early Friday afternoon, so plan on being there before too late so you can get your name on his list firstest.

This year's Spring Extravaganza will take place from Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2. As it has for the past few years, Diamond Lure Campground outside Eliljay will host the event. Regina, the campground manager, has again promised the South's best barbecue smoked overnight in their cabin-sized oven. In addition to the barbecue dinner, Saturday night is also bingo night, with plenty of prizes and fun. To get you started, coffee and home made sausage and biscuits will be cooking in the community house each morning. And making things even more pleasant, another bathhouse has been added to the property, so now no one should have to wait for that shower or whatever.

On a serious note, Regina points out that campground rules require dogs to be leashed at all times while on the property. She loves dogs and has two of her own, but says she has no choice in the matter, and will have to ask campers to leave if they cannot abide by the leashing policy.

Did I mention that we will be running rivers Saturday and Sunday, water and weather permitting? Depending on your anxiety threshold and Mother Nature's cooperation, choices will include the Cartacay, Toccoa, Upper and Lower Amalacola, Ocoee, Hiwassee, Nantahala and perhaps others.

Specific information on prices and directions to the campground is given on the tear-out flyer in this issue of *The Eddy Line*. Or you can also call me at home (Jim Griffin 404.498.3695) between 5:30 and 9:30 PM if you have other questions.

So mail in the application before April 23, do some pushups, patch the tent and spiffy up that boat, and we'll see you at the Spring Extravaganza!

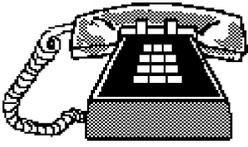


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"Those kayakers didn't really enjoy the river, and are only pretending to have fun for political purposes." - *Unnamed power company official for Tacoma Public Works, speaking about people who paddled the class V Nisqually River Gorge when it was opened up for paddling for the first time in many years, as part of recreation mitigation test releases during the recertification of a dam for power production by DOE.*



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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 Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542.

**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 (February, April, etc.) beginning at 7:30 P.M. All members are encouraged to attend. The location is changing, so contact President David Martin for the latest location information before you come. Also, if you have an item for discussion, please call 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 .....	Debra Berry
River Protection Chair .....	Dan MacIntyre
Training Chair .....	Gina Johnson

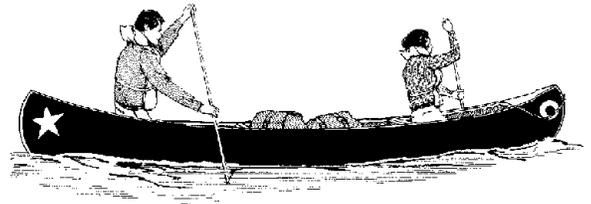
## Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

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. To submit material via EMAIL, send to [gacanoer@mindspring.com](mailto:gacanoer@mindspring.com). The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 5-1/4 or 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text 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 returned only if requested). To submit material via U.S. MAIL, send to: **Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, GA 30066**. All want ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Newsletter Editor **Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318** for questions. Thanks for your cooperation. ✂

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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 by other than the GCA may be copied, reprinted, republished or otherwise disseminated to other paddling organizations having a newsletter exchange agreement with GCA. Proper credit should be given.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



### March

6	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Alan Reaid	770.974.4581
7	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
7	Etowah (Boling Park To Hwy 20)	Class 1+ Easy Beginner	David Asbell	404.705.9501
13	Locust Fork (AL)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dane White	256.820.1127
13	Leaders Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrel	770.720.6269
13	Nacoochee Hooch	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Dave Chaney	770.973.7910
14	Chestatee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Bill Convis	770.751.9258
18	Spring General Membership Meeting & Covered Dish Dinner — Garden Hills Community Center — Food & Fun!!			
20	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
20	Oconaluftee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
20	Etowah	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	John Hudgens	706.675.0749
20	Lower Conasauga	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Dan & Elise MacIntyre	404.252.9513
20	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Oreon Mann	404.522.3469
21	Big Cedar Creek	Class 1+ Easy Beginner	John Hudgens	706.675.0749
21	Raven Fork	Class 2-3(4) Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
27	Alapaha	Class 1+ Easy Beginner	Liz Carter	770.967.0318
	(See article this issue of <i>The Eddy Line</i> )			
27	Chattooga Section 2	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Sheila Small	770.772.7146
27	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Pat Wolfer	770.967.6589
27	Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jimmy Nipper	770.931.1667
27	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Nancy Barker	404.874.8897
28	Grand Bay Canoe Trail	Flat Water	Revel Freeman	404.261.8572
	(See article this issue of <i>The Eddy Line</i> )			
28	Lower Amicalola	Class 3-4 Advanced	Liz Carter	770.967.0318
			Sheila Small	770.772.7146
			Charles Clark	770.998.9544

### April

1	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Location to be announced —	David Martin	404.351.8208	
3	Leaders Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
3	Leaders Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Charles Bruce	770.974.2481
3	Lower Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Mike & Chris Bilello	770.441.2418
4	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Linda Delery	404.688.3047
6	Etowah	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	John Hudgens	706.675.0749
10	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Dan & Elise MacIntyre	404.252.9513
10	Mountaintown Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Tom Martin	770.662.0058
11	Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Sam Blackwell	706.342.0511
11	Lower Amicalola	Class 3-4 Advanced	Charles Clark	770.998.9544
11	Chauga Gorge	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
17-18	Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championship Races — Nantahala —	See volunteer sign-up sheet in <i>The Eddy Line</i>		
24	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Denise & Tony Colquitt	770.854.6636
30	Spring Extravaganza — Diamond Lure Campground — Ellijay		Jim Griffin	770.498.3695

### May

1-2	Spring Extravaganza — Diamond Lure Campground — Ellijay		Jim Griffin	770.498.3695
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**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:** Monday nights 7-9 P.M. January thru March at the Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club pool. Revel Freeman - 404.261.8572.

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## GCA Library Items Available

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Tom Martin at 770.662.0058 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling.

Any / all donations or loans to the library are welcome. (Please, no bootleg video copies.) 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  
Faultline (Will Reeves)  
First Descents (North Fork Payette)  
Heads Up, River Rescue  
Introduction to Canoeing  
Kayak Handling - The Basic Strokes  
Only Nolan (Canoe Technique)  
Path of the Paddle: Quietwater

Path of the Paddle: Whitewater Plunge!  
Prijon Wildplay Wildwasser Sport Retendo  
Solo Playboating!  
Take the Wild Ride  
Tallulah Gorge (Rob Maxwell)  
The C-1 Challenge  
The Kayaker's Edge  
The Open Canoe Roll (Bob Foote)  
Ultimate Canoe (Niagara Gorge & Other Rivers - Whitesell)  
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)  
We Come to Play (Orosi) Whitesell  
Whitewater Groove  
**Books:**  
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I and II  
ACA Canoeing & Kayaking Instructors Guide  
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida  
Alabama Canoe Rides  
AMC White Water Handbook  
American Red DCross Canoeing & Kayaking  
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed/Emory Watershed  
Basic River Canoeing  
Boundary Waters I&II  
California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers

Canoe Racing  
Canoeing Wild Rivers  
Cumberland River Basic Canoe Trail Guide  
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement  
Idaho Whitewater  
Kentucky Wild Rivers  
Missouri Ozark Waterways  
Northern Georgia Canoe Guide  
Ohio County Maps & Recreational Guide  
Paddle America (Guide to trips & outfitters)  
Paddle to the Amazon - The World's Longest Canoe Trip  
Path of the Paddle  
Pole, paddle & Portage  
River Rescue  
River's End (Stories)  
Song of the Paddle  
Southeastern Whitewater  
Tennessee Canoe Guide  
The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North Georgia Mountains  
The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande  
They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?  
White Water Tales of Terror  
White Water Trips (British Columbia & Washington)  
Wildwater West Virginia  
Youghiogheny

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## Announcements

### GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing about 220 subscribers.

Thanks to Mike Kaplan and our friends at Kaplan Communications (an Internet Access Provider) for providing software and server space for the GCA email list.

Here's how the list works:

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

subscribe gacanoes

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

All GCA announcements and forwarded email from other sources concerning new river access issues, late



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

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

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### GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.mindspring.com/~gacanoes>. We are adding information and links of value to paddlers with each update. Send your ideas for updates to Susan Glinert Stevens: [sglinert@aol.com](mailto:sglinert@aol.com). ✕

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### Weekday Paddlers

There has been good response to the request to develop a list of paddlers available to paddle during the week. We now have 70+ entries on the list, including members who are retired persons, those with variable or non-standard work schedules, those available to paddle weekdays when school is out (students and teachers), and even those who have a lot of vacation time to burn and

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Hey, can you guys **design** our website? How about **hooking up** our product catalog to the site? What about **training** our employees? Oh, and can you tell us **how to fix it** when it's broken?

**Yeah, we can do that.**

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want to take vacation days for paddling. The list includes members who paddle smooth water as well as all classes of white water

If you would like to be included in the list, please call Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318 and leave your name, phone number, days of the week you are available to paddle, and class of water (flat, I thru V) that you are interested in paddling. You will then receive an up-to-date copy of the list. The list will be re-published quarterly (January, April, July, October). Updates are available by request through the GCA phone line. If you received your copy of the list more than 3 months ago, you should request an updated copy (the January update is out). There have been considerable changes to the list. To receive an up-to-date copy, call the GCA phone line at 770.421.9729 and leave your name and address with a request for the list. ✂

## Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice is held on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 beginning the first Monday in January, and running through the last Monday in March. Our host is the Warren Memorial Boys' and Girls' Club on Berne Street near Grant Park. Once again,

the ACA carries our insurance for this event, and non-ACA members will be required to sign up for an ACA event membership at an additional cost of \$5.00 for the entire event (January thru March). This is in addition to the \$5.00 per session paid to defray pool rental expense.

Revel Freeman is our Roll Practice Coordinator. If you have questions about roll practice, or would like to volunteer to help, either with instruction or keeping track of money and waivers, call Revel at 404.261.8572. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

**TO GET TO THE WARREN CLUB POOL:** Go east on I-20 from downtown and exit at the Boulevard / Grant Park / Cyclorama exit. Go right about 1/2 mile to Berne Street on the left (at a traffic light). Turn left and go about another 1/2 mile and you'll see a large brick building on the left at the corner of Berne and Marion Streets. Turn left. You are at the Warren Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear. Enter through the gate at the far end of the building to unload boats. Parking is available beside the building and in the lot across Marion Street.

**BE SURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN.** A hose is available at the door to rinse out river mud, old birds' nests or cobwebs. ✂

## Upcoming Events of Interest

March 6-7 — Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Races, Garden City, AL (205.982.4946)

March 20 — Locust Fork Classic Race, Oneonta, AL (205.442.1349)

March 20 — Go With The Flow Spring Paddlefest & Demo Day, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Roswell, Mark Summers (770.992.3200)

March 20 — First Ocoee release of 1999 season

March 25 — LCKC Social Meeting & 5th Anniversary Gala, Gainesville

March 26-28 — La Louisiane Free Style Symposium, Mandeville, LA, John Steib (225.654.5224)

March 27-28 — NOC Spring Splash, NOC, Bryson City, NC (828.488.2176)

April 2-4 — Ocoee Double Header Races, Copper Hill, TN (706.546.1968)

April 10, 11, 17, 18 — Wilderness First Responder Clinic, Cleveland, GA, Sharon Downing (706.865.9099)

April 16-18 — East Coast Canoe & Kayak Symposium, Charleston, SC, Josh Hall (843.795.4FUN, <http://www.ccprc.com>)

April 16-18 — US Wild Water Team Trials, Kernville, CA (805.871.6790)

April 17-18 — Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championships, Nantahala River, NC (404.252.2321)

April 23-24 — Canoe Polo National Championships, Gainesville

April 24 — Canoe Orienteering Race, Lake Marion, SC, Roman Marks (843.766.3274)

April 24-25 — Kayak Polo National Championships, Oak Ridge, TN, Brad Carr (423.220.8753)

April 30 - May 2 — GCA Spring Extravaganza, Diamond Lure Campground, Ellijay

April 30 - May 2 — Cheat River Festival, Albright, WV (304.379.3141)

May 7-9 — U.S. Team Trials, Savage River, MD

May 15 — Chattahoochee River Challenge Canoe & Kayak Race and Demo Day, Helen, GA, Anne Gale (706.865.4451)

May 21-23 — Ocoee Rodeo, Upper Ocoee, Ocoee White Water Center, TN, Jayne Abbot (828.645.5299, email jhabbot@aol.com)

May 22-23 — Marathon National Team Trials, Gainesville  
June 6 — Regional Junior Race - Georgia Games regional event, Gainesville

June 19 - 20 — USCKT Junior Team Trials, Gainesville

June 25 - 27 — Lake Lanier Sprint Challenge and Youth Championship of the Americas! Competitors in this event will receive an "Americas" ranking. This is an International Regatta with opportunities for club and community athletes.

July 10 — Junior Olympic Southeast Qualifier, NOC Bryson City, NC (828.488.2176)

July 10-12 — Open Canoe Slalom Nationals, Golden, CO, Kirk Havens (804.642.7386)

July 16-18 — Open Canoe Down River Nationals, Salida, CO, Kirk Havens (804.642.7386)

July 25 - 27 — Junior World Championships, Zagreb, Croatia

July 24 - 25 — Georgia Games State Championships, Augusta

August 3 - 7 — USCKT Sprint National Championships, Lake Placid, NY

October 1 - 3 — Lanier Paddlefest '99 and the Great Dock Race



## 3rd Annual Spring Paddling Adventure to West Virginia



It's that time of year again! Deposit money is being taken on a first come first served basis for this 3rd Annual trip. Only 16 eddies are being offered this year at the cost of \$235.00 per person. Please call us for availability or to get on a waiting



Wilderness Instruction  
in Safety and Emergency Response  
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## WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER GET CERTIFIED FOR THE 1999 PADDLING SEASON

DATES: The course takes 2 intense weekends  
April 10-11 AND April 17-18

PLACE: Cleveland, Ga., 75 miles north of Atlanta

COST: \$275/person. This includes books, manuals  
AND lunch

## HANDS ON LEARNING with mock drill scenarios DON'T WAIT TO SIGN UP

Sign up by April 1<sup>st</sup> —space limited to 20 students

Information packets available by calling  
Karon Bradley, R.N., Certified Instructor (706) 878-1475  
Sharon Downing, L.A., Lovely Assistant (706)865-9099

list.

The trip is from March 27th through the April 4th. We plan to use Saturday, March 27th, to drive to "Base Camp" at Blackwater Falls State Park in central West Virginia. March 28th - April 3rd are available for paddling or local sight seeing (even superman can't paddle 7 days straight). There should be several rivers to choose from on any given day. Rivers will be selected based on conditions and consensus of opinion. We'll drive home on April 4th - Easter Sunday. For those who wish to paddle with Tom McCloud's group on Sunday the 4th, that can also be arranged.

Remember this trip is an ADVENTURE and part of the adventure is not knowing what rivers will be running the week we are up there. A list of possible rivers has been compiled for those of class II-III ability and above. Some of the rivers on our list can be run only during this peak spring runoff period. Some excel in their scenic beauty, while others offer more of a technical challenge.

We also will offer a 'Day on the Cheat'. For an additional cost, those paddlers who don't want to paddle the Cheat Canyon in their own boats will have the opportunity to raft down this gorgeous and thrilling canyon. Also, it looks like on one of the weekend days we will have the opportunity to catch the North Branch of the

## LEARN TO KAYAK OR CANOE WITH THE EXPERTS!

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Potomac release with its class I, II and III rapids in close succession. The rapids are comprised of waves and rollers up to six feet high. This trip was one of the highlights of SPA two years ago.

Our accommodations are modern cabins equipped with cooking utensils, dishes and linens. The facilities are thoroughly modern throughout, with native wood paneled walls, open fireplaces, complete kitchens with modern appliances, baths with tile showers, and forced hot air electric heat. We stayed in the same cabins last year and they are GREAT home-away-from-home.

### THE COST

The cost is \$235 per person. The price will include some dinners. Once a list of participants is generated we will have a meeting to set up committees to handle various logistics, such as meal planning and river trips.

Please call to reserve your spot. We will require a deposit of \$85 for a bed in the 4 -person cabin, two bedroom cabin. The payment plan will be \$75 due Jan. 15th and \$75 due Feb. 15th. A sign-up sheet will be mailed to you upon receipt of deposit. Be sure to include your name and phone number so we can call to confirm your reservation. Also, an additional ACA event insurance fee of \$5.00 will be added for all participants who are not members of the ACA, forms will be mailed with sign-up sheets.

Last year this trip was a great success and participants from the 1st & 2nd Annual event have expressed interest in joining us again. Also, friends we made over the past two years from the Coastal Canoeists are planning to get their own cabin at Blackwater Falls State Park during this week to share in the paddling adventure. If this sounds like FUN to you, please give us a call or email.

Cathee Gallant & Bart Keith  
545 E. Cherokee Ct.  
Woodstock, GA 30188  
770.926.2947  
cathgall@mindspring.com



## Volunteers Sought for Boy Scout Kayak Camp

by Steve Cramer

Camp Rainey Mountain, near Clayton, GA, has had a white water kayak program for several years now. Jim Ledvinka founded it, and has trained up a batch of juniors who have gotten ACA certified and do most of the actual instruction. However, due to Boy Scout rules, there has to be an adult (i.e., someone 21 or over) present when the group goes on river trips. So far, the camp hasn't come up with an adult staff person who's available and has the skills to do it. The purpose of this plea is to ask for volunteers who wouldn't mind spending a day or more boating with a group of Scouts this summer.

You don't need to be certified, just Nantahala competent or better. The group runs rivers Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, from June 16 through August 6, so we need to cover 24 river days. You can go just once, or several times. Jim will probably do a couple of weeks worth, and I've committed to a week.

You can call or email Jim (706.353.3027, ledvinka@uga.edu) for more detailed information or to sign up. Thanks. The boys appreciate it.



### Need an Internet Service Provider?

If you plan to sign up with an internet service provider for the first time, or if you plan to change providers, and are considering MindSpring as your choice, you can do your paddling club a big favor. When you call to sign up, tell the MindSpring sales rep you were referred by Georgia Canoeing Association and we will receive a \$10.00 credit toward our monthly ISP subscription cost. You will need to give them the GCA email ID — gacanoec@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

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**Alapaha River / Grand Bay  
Canoe Trail Trip**

**March 27 & 28, 1999**

We had big plans for this trip last year, but the River flooded and we couldn't go. Keep your fingers crossed that the spring rains this year will be more moderate. Despite extensive (and very expensive) efforts to develop the banks of the Alapaha, it continues to be one of Georgia's most remote and pristine rivers. The aforementioned flooding may have a lot to do with keeping it that way.

The river winds for almost 90 miles through a region of heavily wooded banks, snowy white sandbars and occasional small shoals. The section that we will paddle on Saturday is a little over 12 miles. It is not "flat water," having numerous obstacles and several small "rapids." If the water is high, it can be challenging to beginning paddlers.

On Sunday, we will explore the short, but very unique canoe trail at the Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area. Described as a "little Okefenokee," it is smooth water and is easy paddling. It is a loop trail so no shuttle will be required.

Camping is available at the Grand Bay WMA Hunt Camp — 10 to 12 sites with water and electricity. No reservations / no charge. We will make arrangements to have the gate opened.

It may be necessary to limit the size of this trip, depending on water level, so please call early. Liz Carter at 770.967.0318 or Sheila Small at 770.772.7146. ✂

**Spring Paddlefest & Demo Day**

Go With The Flow is having its annual Spring Paddlefest on March 20 at the Chattahoochee Nature Center from 9 AM to 6 PM. Representatives from Wenonah / Current Designs, Mad River, Wilderness Systems, Perception, Dagger and Wave Sport will be on hand to demo

boats and do seminars. The event is free to the public. Come out and see what's new, and get in the water. For additional information, contact Mark Sumners at Go With The Flow — 770.992.3200. ✂

**La Louisiane Free Style Canoe  
Symposium**

**by John Steib, Event Coordinator**

How many of you know that Louisiana hosts the most technically advanced open canoe paddling clinic in the nation (actually, since our instructors are now teaching clinics in Europe, maybe the world)? It is known as La Louisiane Free Style Symposium, and will be held on March 26-27, 1999, in Mandeville, Louisiana.

Advanced paddling is not for everyone, but if your goal is to challenge yourself technically and to be a great paddler, this is for you. Hull dynamics, paddle placement, and body position are universal skills regardless of where you're paddling, and what better place to learn them than a controlled environment with free style national champions as instructors?

We offer a beautiful private venue and lake, with on site housing and meals. Price varies with accommodation and clinic selection. If interested contact:

John Steib  
25125 Bickham Rd.  
Jackson, LA 70748  
Phone: 225.654.5224

e-mail: j-ssteib@worldnet.att.net

- From "Water Line" — newsletter of the Houston (Texas) Canoe Club. ✂

**Ocoee Rodeo**

**by Jayne Abbot, Events Manager, American Whitewater/NOWR**

The Ocoee Rodeo date has moved and has been set for May 21-23. The event will be held 100% on the Upper Ocoee, site of the 1996 Olympics. Free style hole riding will be held at Smiley Ledge and a free riding (AKA Free Style Through a Rapid) event will held on the Upper on Saturday as well as a down river race.

The event will be run as in the past: Friday will be Pro/Elite (AKA Expert/Pro) preliminary classes. Saturday will be intermediate, advanced and junior classes / Free Riding for Pro/elite and head-to-head down river race in the afternoon. Sunday will be finals for all free style classes.

It is undetermined at this point if squirt will be part of the event this year, as an appropriate squirt site on the

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Upper has not yet been determined. Anyone with ideas for a squirt competition site, please contact Jayne Abbot at [jhabbot@aol.com](mailto:jhabbot@aol.com). The Upper will feature booths from all the major manufacturers, food, music and a rockin' good time. Mark your calendars and make your plans now to be at the hottest rodeo in the country!

Volunteers are needed! If you are interested, please contact Jayne Abbot at [jhabbot@aol.com](mailto:jhabbot@aol.com) or 828.645.5299. The event is only as good as the volunteers who help put it on.

Remember, all the money raised from this event goes to American Whitewater to help keep your favorite white water rivers flowing and accessible!! Help us put on another spectacular event and have a great time! ✂

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

...to the many who have contributed to the library in the past few months. Mike Babcock (of sea kayaking-down-the-Nantahala fame) has donated VCR tapes "Grace Under Pressure" and "Kayak 101". Walter Howard (the real librarian for many, many, many years) has donated a very rare copy of "Brown's Guide to Georgia" (book). Dan Pool has donated a couple of new-condition books: "Sea Kayaking Canada's West Coast" and "Cruise of the Blue Flujin". Steve Cramer (of Training Director fame) has donated "Wild Water: the Sierra Club Guide to Kayaking and White Water Boating". Kathy King (It IS true that blondes have more fun!) has donated a copy of the ACA "Canoe and Kayaking Instruction Manual". Denise Colquitt (Tony's much-better-half) has contributed money recently to the "attrition fund". Thank you folks very much. (Pleeeeee let me know if I've neglected to mention anyone).

Members... give these folks a pat on the back, a hug, a handshake, or simply a "thank you" next time you see them. Also... members... USE THE LIBRARY! That's what it's for!

- Tom Martin (temporary librarian) ✂

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## Thank You, GCA!

by Frank Crane, ACE President

The entire Atlanta Center for Excellence (ACE) family joins me in thanking the Georgia Canoeing Association for its wonderful five-year grant of \$5,000 in support of ACE's new athletic development initiative, "Project 2004." The GCA's gesture, together with the generous gifts of many of your individual club members, has taken us to within striking distance of our "Blades"

campaign goal for 1999. More important, your sustained commitment over the next five years is a terrific vote of confidence.

The leadership of the GCA is, indeed, a very meaningful endorsement as ACE begins the task of seeking corporate sponsors for Project 2004 to launch this ambitious program. Fortunately, ACE has attracted a dynamic group of volunteers (including your very own David Martin) to serve as our "2004 Advisory Team."

"Project 2004" Advisory Team:

Bob Campbell

Wayne Dickert

Joellen Dickey

Don Giddens

Horace Holden, Sr.

Terry Kent

David Martin

Larry Mashburn

Scott Strausbaugh

Steve Vitale

Beth Wilson

Marshall Wilson

Please give us your ideas and feedback as this program takes shape and, again, thank you for your generous support. ✂

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## Where Is an "Open Canoe Roll" When You Need It?

Actually, the "Open Canoe Roll" is a VCR tape missing from the GCA library. Someone borrowed it at one of our club meetings, and I failed to record the name. Also, I need to get in touch with Jerry Harris. Jerry, if you read this, please call me.

In the short time I've been managing the library, the attrition rate has been greater than anticipated. I may have to give up the goal(s) of making it self-sustaining in order to ensure the goals (1 & 2) of making it accessible and continuing its growth. Many have made contributions (VCR tapes and books), but these contributions should not be replacements for broken and/or missing units. Contributions should be for growth.

Most of the problems have come from my decision to make the library available at the monthly meetings. I want to continue that practice; it increases the use of the library tremendously. But while the \$3 per unit donation requested on mailed units covers postage, packaging and some attrition, there has not been any way to cover the attrition on units borrowed at the meetings.

That's the problem. Here is my suggestion for a solution: A can (or jar or box) will be placed on the table

at the meetings with the library. The container will be labeled "GCA Library Attrition Fund". If and when you borrow or return a VCR tape or book, you have the opportunity to contribute pocket change... anonymously. No one will know if you do or don't. If you don't feel comfortable contributing, then don't! Many are against this idea with good reason. REGARDLESS, CONTINUE TO USE THE LIBRARY! What you learn from it could benefit us all!

- Tom Martin, Librarian (for now). ✂

## Cherokee National Forest Cracking Down on Parking

by Joddy Collins

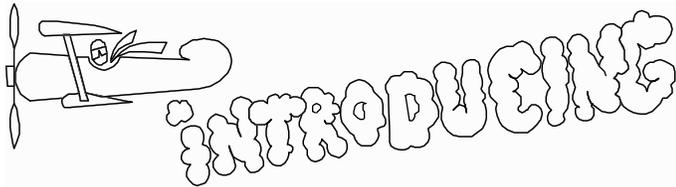
On January 18, I went on the TVCC's Middle Tellico

trip to get warmed up for winter paddling. While shuttling, we stopped to help a kayaker floating down the river with no paddle. That is, we whipped into the edge of the Turkey Creek parking area with the back edge of the truck stuck out in the road while someone ran and threw a paddle to the kayaker.

While he was running a park ranger pulled up and wrote us a \$50 ticket for illegal parking. The ranger said they were cracking down on illegal parking because of complaints about hunters, fishermen, and paddlers. According to the ranger, we should have properly parked after someone jerked a paddle out and started running after the floating kayaker.

If any part of your parked car is on the pavement, you may get a ticket at the Tellico.

- From the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club newsletter. ✂



## Welcome New Members

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

### December

Dennis & Adrienne Bourland  
Tim & Jennifer Carlfeldt  
R.C. Connell  
Kevin Crowe  
D. Mark Drye  
Wesley & Suzanne Gailey  
Jack Jarrett  
Dave & Marjorie Johnson  
Wayne & Rebecca Johnson  
Dow & Deedie Scoggins  
Tim & Gini Seely  
Connie Tibbitts  
Debbie & Allan Toole  
Allan Wadsworth

Birmingham AL  
Rome GA  
Duluth GA  
Jasper GA  
Marietta GA  
Gainesville GA  
Tallahassee FL  
Rocky Face GA  
Tallahassee FL  
Kennesaw GA  
Marietta GA  
Dallas GA  
Sugar Hill GA  
Marietta GA

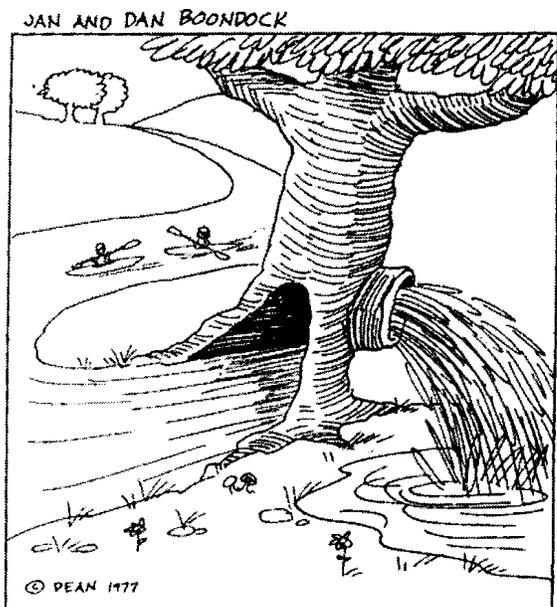
### January

Russell G. Banks & Lynn P. Roach  
Jeff & Carol Bergeron  
Allen Brewer  
Barbara Buchanan  
Peter Copp  
David & Sherrie Crow

Lawrenceville GA  
Senoia GA  
Lilburn GA  
Lawrenceville GA  
Lawrenceville GA  
Stone Mtn. GA

Rosie E. Dockery  
Paul Hall-Smith & Jason Miller  
Stan & Joanne Janas  
Gerald Jones  
Edward K. & Yolanda M. Leahy  
Dick & Ruth Ann Leonard  
Dan & Katie Neyens  
Dick Polmatier  
Michael J. & Diane B. Smith  
George H. Warriner  
David & Julie Woodrum  
Taj Zipperman

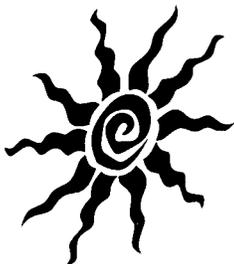
Gainesville GA  
Roswell GA  
Dunwoody GA  
Bahama NC  
Evans GA  
Marietta GA  
Lawrenceville GA  
Fort Valley GA  
Lindale GA  
Duluth GA  
Martinez GA  
Jasper GA ✂



"Listen carefully, Jan, and I'll tell you how we run Old Hollow Tree rapids."

## NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER

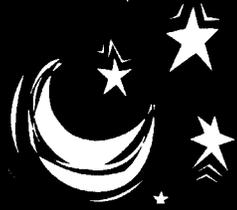
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## Introduction to River Rescue and Safety Clinic Offered Again

by Bo Wise

In 1997, when GCA offered this course for the first time, we hoped to have 8 to 10 people attend. That year, we finally had to cut registration off at 40, and we had another 8 people on a waiting list.

In 1998, we thought, "Okay, if we get a site that holds 50 people, we're covered." Wrong! That class filled up and had a waiting list too. We had beginners, intermediates, Ocoee level paddlers, people who had never had any rescue training, and people who had taken a rescue clinic less than 12 months earlier. But why? What is it about this clinic that makes it so popular?

On March 27, 1999, you can get a one-day, dry land only clinic, taught by experienced, ACA certified SWR instructors, and designed for beginner and intermediate boaters. The classroom and hands-on work is fun. The skills you learn and practice are fundamental and practical. In one day, and without getting wet, you can learn some basic rescue and safety techniques that can make



boating safer and more fun.

Never had a rescue course? This clinic is for you. Had all of this training before? Great. Come back and practice. Think you don't need any rescue training? Look at the boating statistics, read the newspaper, or just talk to some experienced boaters about what they've seen go wrong on the river.

The registration form is in this month's *Eddy Line*. I hope I'll see you at there. ✕

## Why I'm Glad I've Taken an SWR Class, or How Am I Going to Get Off This Rock in the Middle of the River????

by Kathy King

So here I am sitting on a rock in the middle of the river. With a disgruntled shoulder asking me "Hey, did you know that we were just attacked by a rock??? Hello. Do something here." So I'm on the rock in the middle of the river. I do a quick assessment of the situation. Is my body completely out of the water? OK, it is now — my feet were dangling in the water. I don't want to get any colder, so all of me needs to be out of the water.

A preliminary assessment indicates that I don't have a serious injury (I can move everything, I'm not bleeding, I'm conscious). I thought maybe the back of my shoulder had been cut, but no, it had been just whacked really hard. Is my boat and paddle safely corralled down stream? Check. Next item — how to get reattached to aforementioned boat and paddle???

Fellow boaters in the group stop by to check on me. I watch another boater in our group run the little drop below me — it looks to be very rocky. I would really prefer not to swim that. The last two boaters pull over to see if there's anything they can do. One suggests I swim the little drop below — he can't see how rocky it is. The other (who has also had a SWR course) offers to let me hang onto the back of his boat and he'll tow me. I decide that this can be an alternate plan (I made it an alternate plan due to the rocky nature of the river and I did not want to inadvertently flip him).

One of the group downstream indicates that I can climb the rocks on river left and get to the calm pool below. OK. Now I have to decide how to get to river left. The width between the bank and me is not too bad (probably about 10 to 15 ft. wide), looks fairly deep, and does not appear to be very rocky. I could just swim (aggressively) but I'm cold and the current is fairly swift. Or I could be

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towed (alternate plan above). Or (LIGHT BULB) "Hey why don't you throw me a rope and pull me over." This plan seems better than being on the back of a boat and better than aggressive swimming. With a rope to hold onto, I feel that I can get across the river quickly and easily. He graciously agrees. The other boater still stands by. The rope is thrown; I catch it, get into the current — woo hoo, I am on the bank!!

Now just a short climb over the rocks to the calm pool where my boat and paddle are waiting. One of the guys walks over the rocks with me (and helps me down a ledge by holding onto the shoulder straps of my PFD) and waits till I'm in the boat. Then he and the other boater finish the little drop. When I get to the rest of the group we are told we looked like something out of a safety video.

I am really glad I have had SWR (and other safety and river rescue classes). In these clinics you are taught to assess the situation, take time and make a plan (as simple as possible but still effective). In the SWR class we practiced throwing ropes and catching ropes (in the water), and being pulled in to the bank. This was the first time I have had to use any of the skills I've learned to rescue myself.

I'm also glad that others in the group had also taken SWR and/or other safety clinics — that way I didn't have to try to tell them what it was they needed to be doing. It was an innocuous rescue — but it kept me from being beaten up anymore than I already was. There were four people downstream in case the rope idea had not suc-

ceeded. I'm also glad I was well dressed (for the conditions, not as a fashion statement!!). I was very comfortable with my paddling group. We had all paddled together before and we know each other. During the trip we all watched out for each other. We also had a "guide" who knew the river very well and is an excellent boater.

I encourage everyone to take as many safety clinics as they can. I have had all 3 levels of safety clinics offered by GCA and I plan on taking the swift water rescue clinic again this spring. The information that you learn in these courses can help you get yourself out of trouble (self rescue is very important in white water boating). The skills can also be used to assist others in your boating party if they need help. But the concepts need to be practiced, which is why I've taken some clinics more than once and will continue to do so.

I've discussed the incident with my "rescuer" and we both agree that all in all it went very well. It was simple, effective, and was executed quickly. You hope you will never need to use the information from a safety course just as school administrators hope to never have to conduct a real fire evacuation, but they have the drills "just in case."

My shoulder will have a nasty bruise (thank goodness it wasn't pulled or dislocated — and my face wasn't attacked by the rocks) but other than that, I'm A-OK. My three summary thoughts regarding all of this: know your paddling group, dress for conditions (swimming or being in the water), and sign up for safety/rescue classes. Happy paddling. ✕

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## Edge of the World Triple Crown

This year's Triple Crown is a series of paddling competitions that will be held on three consecutive weekends this April in the Southern Appalachians. Here is some basic event information about the competitions. Though the AWA newsletter lists the competitions as the "High Country Triple Crown," the correct name is "Edge of the World." Sorry for any confusion.

For all of the events, 3 entrants are necessary to form each division. Also, cash prizes will be awarded if 10 or more paddlers are participating in a division. For entry forms and more specific information concerning the competitions contact:

Spencer Cooke  
828.297.1257  
sharispencer@boone.net  
Clem Newbold



Race Watch

828-295-4441, 800-789-3343

Watauga River Race & Rodeo

April 10-11

Expert/Pro Divisions only

Nolichucky River Rodeo

April 17-18

Intermediate/Advanced, Expert/Pro Divisions

Male, Female, Junior, C1

New River Rodeo

April 24-25

First NOWR rodeo of the year.

Hope to see you there. ✕

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## Canoe Orienteering Race!!

April 24, 1999, Lake Marion, South Carolina.

Want to try something new? You are invited to participate in the fourth canoe orienteering race sponsored by Bosch Outdoor Club (BOC). If you can handle the canoe, it is the thing to do! The race and the distance is an entertainment for a beginner and a challenge for the

experienced. You will have 2 hours to find as many control points as you can and come back without being lost in the swamp and between the islands. The team that collects the most points wins.

If you need a canoe, you can rent it from BOC for \$20, pay \$20 per person entry fee and \$5 - one time membership fee to American Canoe Association.

For additional information and application, contact Roman Marks 843.760.7465 days or 843.766.3274 evenings. E-mail: canoefan@aol.com. ✂

## ACE's Spring Slalom Workout Schedule Underway

by Doris Babcock, ACE Chair of Programs.

Hey friends! The Southeasterns are just around the corner. ACE may have just the workout to get you "up to speed" for this great event and those that follow. If you are interested in learning more about ACE's training programs for novice juniors or adult recreational boaters, call Doris Babcock, Chair of Programs, at 770.479.4161. See you at the gates! ✂

## The 20th Anniversary Ocoee Double Header April 3 & 4

Mark your calendar for the 20th Annual Ocoee Double Header, on Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4, 1999, at the Ocoee White Water Center in Ducktown, Tennessee. Presented by the Atlanta Whitewater Club (AWC) and the Atlanta Center for Excellence (ACE). The Ocoee Double Header attracts national-level white water athletes who compete in this two-day series of slalom and wild water racing events.

White water racing has been taking place on the Ocoee River since 1977. Coordinated by the AWC, the race will attract over 150 top level racers from across the United States, including 1992 and 1996 Olympians. For many of these athletes, the Double Header serves as an important "warm-up event" for the National US White Water Slalom Team and Wild Water Team Trials held annually in May. Many of your favorite Olympians, national and junior and cadet national team members, as well as a strong generation of development athletes, will be competing. And you're invited to participate, too. (To register for the race, call Registrar Cathy Rowan at 706.546.1968.)

As multi-year volunteer Race Director Beth Wilson explains, the 1999 Ocoee Double Header promises to be "internationally prominent" as well. "This year, in collaboration with the American Canoe Association, the 1999

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Double Header will proudly feature two Pan-American Wild Water Races during the weekend. An international field of competitors will include wild water athletes from South, Central and North America in two days of races sanctioned by the International Canoe Federation. We are proud to host an international field of athletes at the site of the 1996 international Olympic competition." ✂

## **Chattahoochee River Challenge Canoe & Kayak Race**

The Chattahoochee River Challenge Canoe & Kayak Race from Helen to Duncan Bridge Road will be held Saturday, May 15, 1999. Registration fee is \$15, and T-shirts will be awarded. Applications must be received by May 7. For more information and an application, call Anne Gale at 706.865.4451.

Perception & Dagger reps will also be present for a DEMO DAY at Wildewood at 12:00 on race day. ✂

## **Cheat River Massacre-ence**

The fourth annual Cheat River Massacre-ence down river race kicks off on Friday, April 30, 1999. The race features a mass start at 5:00 PM sharp. Expert paddlers will compete head to head through 12 miles of the wildest rapids in the rugged Cheat Canyon. Registration is \$20.00. The race is held in conjunction with the annual Cheat River Festival. For more information and registration, call Friends of the Cheat at 304.379.3141. ✂

## **ACE Update: New By-Laws, New Board**

**by Frank Crane, ACE President**

Following a year of careful planning and tremendous progress, Atlanta Center for Excellence (ACE) has developed new by-laws, which have been formally distributed, approved and are now in effect. It is my great pleasure to announce the following new Board of Directors for ACE:

ACE Executive Committee:  
Frank Crane, President

Larry Montagne, Vice President

Jennifer Wilemon, Secretary

John Dennis, Treasurer

ACE Board of Directors:

Steve Isenberg, Chairman of Fund and Membership Development

Allison Steiner, Chairman of Publicity

Doris Babcock, Chairman of Programs (and "President Emeritus," of course)

Greg Anderson, Chairman of Facilities

(To be elected), Chairman of Special Events

Carl Moore, Chairman of Organizational Development/Risk Management

Rebecca Bennett, Athlete Representative

Beth Wilson, At-Large Director

(To be elected), At-Large Director

Congratulations to all of these new and returning Board members. Among the most important items on the January meeting agenda was a rousing "Thank you" to outgoing President (and acting Executive Director) Doris Babcock for her dedication and perseverance over the last two years. Doris, the Board, athletes, parents thank you for your tremendous work on behalf of ACE! Fortunately, we were lucky enough to convince Doris to remain on the ACE Board and continue leading the Program Committee. In addition, Doris will serve as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee. Our thanks, also, to outgoing Board members Eric Giddens, Matt Taylor and George Waring for their good advice during the last year. Our thanks, also, to volunteer Long Range Planning Committee members David Martin, Marshall Wilson, Don Giddens, Karin Baldzer, and Steve Vitale. The hard work is paying off.

Several major initiatives for the 1999 year were announced at the January meeting, including "Project 2004," a new athletic development program being sponsored in large degree by a recently awarded grant from the USOC's "Community Olympic Development Program" as well as the Georgia Canoeing Association. Thanks again.

Stay tuned for more big news on that subject. ACE needs volunteer support for a broader range of activities in 1999 leading into the exciting Olympic year of 2000. If you or someone you know is interested in helping ACE as a volunteer, contact Frank Crane at 770.591.0268. ✂

A kayaker named Anna had a near death experience the other day when she went horseback riding. Everything was going fine until the horse started bouncing out of control. She tried with all her might to hang on, but was thrown off. Just when things could not possibly get worse, her foot got caught in the stirrup. When this happened, she fell head first to the ground. Her head continued to bounce harder as the horse did not stop or even slow down. Just as she was giving up hope and losing consciousness, the Wal-Mart manager (an open boater) happened to walk by and unplug the horse.

- Submitted by Cathee Gallant (also an open boater).

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## River Access

# Selected Readings on the Georgia Law of River Access

Compiled by Dan MacIntyre

*This is the fifth in a series of readings from various legal documents that have impacted Georgia's laws on river access. These readings range from the Magna Charta, which codified English common law, and in turn provided a basis for Georgia law, to the most recent court filings on the recent case relating to passage on the West Fork of the Chattooga. These readings are meant to provide background for educating our membership and the public on how we got to where we are in the area of river access, and where we need to be going.*

**Part V: Atlanta School Of Kayaking, Inc. and Theo Eugene Sparks, Plaintiffs, v. The Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority, Defendant. United States District Court, Northern District Georgia, Atlanta Division. April 25, 1997.**

This case is before the Court on plaintiffs Atlanta School of Kayaking, Inc. ("the School of Kayaking") and Theo Eugene Sparks' motion for preliminary injunction against defendant Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority ("the Authority"). Plaintiffs request the Court to enjoin defendants from forbidding the School of Kayaking, Sparks, and other non-Douglas County resident kayakers and canoers ("Non-resident Paddlers") from paddling into the Dog River Reservoir (the "Reservoir") located in Douglas County from the Dog River, through the Dog River Reservoir, and from exiting the Dog River and the Reservoir with the kayaks or canoes at the Reservoir's boat ramp.

### I. BACKGROUND

The School of Kayaking provides kayaking lessons for profit, using rivers in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Sparks is a private canoe instructor who also uses or "paddles" rivers in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina in his occupation. The Authority manages and operates a boat ramp and parking facility (the "Facility") on the Reservoir, which was constructed by damming the Dog River up river from where it flows into the Chattahoochee River.

The Authority built and now maintains the Facility and the Reservoir pursuant to a permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the "Permit"). The Permit requires the Authority to "provide a public access area, stock the reservoir with fish, and permit and encourage public fishing to the extent practicable considering the

project's primary purpose (water supply)." The Reservoir supplies drinking water for Douglas County. Additionally, the Reservoir serves as an area for recreational boating and fishing. A fee is charged for use of the Facility and Reservoir<sup>1</sup>.

In April, 1994, the Authority enacted Resolution 94-33, which restricts access to the Reservoir and the Facility to residents of and owners of real property in Douglas County and their guests (the "Resolution"). Its pertinent effect which concerns this Court is that it bans outside individuals, including the plaintiffs, from using the Reservoir as a point of egress from the Dog River, when they have paddled from upstream in the Dog River to the Reservoir<sup>2</sup>.

The Dog River is a popular white water river and the closest such river to the Atlanta metropolitan area. Since 1971, the Dog River has attracted paddlers from this area, from throughout the State of Georgia, and from other states. There are varying descriptions of the water levels at the Dog River. Defendants attach an article by David Cox, River Access Chairman, Georgia Canoeing Association, which appeared in the May/June 1995 issue of American Whitewater magazine. Cox stated that the Dog River "is generally considered a high water run that is runnable on an infrequent basis at best." Plaintiffs' counsel also stated to defendant that "paddling the Dog River is particularly enjoyable white water experience only after rainfall, and then only for a brief period of time." Nevertheless, there does not appear to be any direct dispute that canoes, kayaks, rafts, inner tubes, and similarly sized vessels generally can journey down the river at points upstream from the Reservoir throughout the year<sup>3</sup>. At some water levels, larger water craft also might be used on the Dog River. But, the peak time for the white water kayaking or canoeing is following rainstorms.

Prior to the damming of the Dog River and the passing of the Resolution, individuals paddling / entering the Dog River from a "put-in" upstream and paddling down the Dog River could remove their vessels from the river near the Highway 166 bridge, or could continue their passage on down the Dog River to its merger with the Chattahoochee River. The dam on the Dog River now requires that the kayakers or canoers exit the Dog River upstream from its confluence with the Chattahoochee; they can either finish their run above the Chattahoochee or they can rejoin the Dog River below the dam or enter the Chattahoochee.

The boaters cannot exit the Dog River upstream from the Reservoir because the land adjacent to the river is privately owned. The bearers cannot pass through the Reservoir or use the Facility to exit the river and Reser-

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voir<sup>4</sup>. Hence, effectively they are banned from canoeing or kayaking on the Dog River.

The plaintiffs argue that the Authority should be enjoined from enforcing the Resolution as to them the restriction against nonresidents of County violates the federal navigable servitude under the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution and facially discriminates against nonresidents in violation of Articles I and IV of the Constitution. Defendant generally contends that (1) the Dog River is not a navigable waterway and thus the navigable servitude does not exist and (2) increased use of the Reservoir would endanger the quality of the drinking water and thus the restriction is reasonable.

## II. DISCUSSION

"A preliminary injunction is extraordinary relief." To be entitled to the preliminary injunction requested, plaintiffs must show that (1) they have a substantial likelihood of access on the merits of their claims, (2) there is a substantial threat of irreparable injury absent an injunction; (3) that the greater harm would be visited upon them rather than the Authority should the injunction not be granted; and (4) the interests of the public would not be disserved by the issuing of the injunction. The Court discusses these criteria seriatim.

### (1) Substantial Likelihood of Success on the Merits

Plaintiffs bring two substantive counts against the defendant. First, plaintiffs contend that the Authority has violated 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, and second, that the Resolution impedes plaintiffs' common law right of passage under Georgia law. Derived from the two counts contained in the complaint, plaintiffs offer four specific reasons why the Authority, should be enjoined from enforcing the Resolution against them. The Court need not conclude that plaintiffs have carried their burden of proof on any single claim or on all claims, only that the proof supports a substantial likelihood of success on at least one claim or theory, which in turn would support a preliminary injunction<sup>5</sup>.

Plaintiffs' first and seemingly primary contention is that "the Resolution violates the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution by creating a regulatory and practical barrier or obstruction to navigation of a navigable waterway of the United States in violation of the federal navigable servitude<sup>6</sup>."

Section 1983 does not create constitutional or other federal rights; "Instead, it provides plaintiffs with a method for securing relief for violations of already established federal rights." (Skinner v. City of Miami, 1995). Commerce Clause violations are such established rights. (Dennis v. Higgins, 1991). Sparks and the School of Kayaking contend that the federal navigational servitude exists in

favor of all individuals, apparently as members of the public, and creates a constitutional right of public access under the Commerce Clause. (Dardar v. Lafourche Realty Co., 1993) (When a navigational servitude exists, it gives rise to the right of the public to use those waterways as "continuous highways for the purpose of navigation in interstate commerce.") (quoting Kaiser Aetna v. United States, 1979) (United States v. Harrell, 1991) ("The navigable waters of the United States are public property.... If the navigational servitude of the Tombigbee River, as a 'navigable water body' encompasses Lewis Creek. [then] Lewis Creek is public property and appellants may, subject to state law, have a right of public access.")

The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals has set forth the framework which district courts in this circuit must apply when considering whether a body of water "is a navigable waterway to which individuals have a right of public access<sup>7</sup>." The Court must ascertain first whether the body of water in question is "navigable in fact," and then whether the navigational servitude exists creating a public right of access. The answers to these questions are determined by federal law.

A body of water or river is "navigable in fact" or in other words for the purposes of law, if "it is used or susceptible of being used in its ordinary condition to transport commerce," (citing United States v. Appalachian Elec. Power Co., 1940<sup>8</sup>.) under the Corps of Army Engineers' federal regulations, adopted pursuant to the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Navigable waters of the United States are those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. A determination of navigability, once made, applies laterally over the entire surface of the water body, and is not extinguished by later actions or events which impede or destroy navigable capacity.

The Authority challenges plaintiffs' conclusion that the Dog River and the Reservoir are navigable in fact<sup>9</sup>. Defendant argues that the plaintiffs are not entitled to a finding of navigability because they have "presented no evidence that the Dog River is generally and commonly useful for carrying on commerce." However, the test is not whether it is "generally and commonly useful" for commerce, "It [the test] is whether the river was susceptible of being used as a highway for commerce at statehood, not whether it was actually so used." (Alaska v. Ahtna, inc., 1989) It is true that currently there is little use of the Dog River as a major source of interstate commerce. However, "the presence of recreational craft may indicate that a water body is capable of bearing some

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forms of commerce, either presently, in the future, or at a past point in time;" thus, supporting a finding of navigability. In this case, plaintiffs have a substantial likelihood of success on the finding that the Dog River is navigable under federal law because of the ability of kayaks and canoes to travel down the river<sup>10</sup> and for Sparks and the School of Kayaking to travel down the river with students for pay<sup>11</sup>.

The Authority raises only one defense to the existence of a generally unfettered federal navigational servitude: "The granting of the Permit to the Authority... implies that the obstruction of navigation on this section of the Dog River is reasonable." The Authority suggests that because the Permit does not require that the Authority permit "unrestricted public access" but only "public access," the Permit authorizes the restriction contained within the Resolution. This reading of the Permit requirement is meritless.

For the foregoing reasons, the Court is of the opinion that Sparks and the School of Kayaking have shown a substantial likelihood of success on the merits of this claim. Therefore, the court does not address at this time the merits of plaintiffs' contentions that the restriction illegally discriminates against the Non-resident Paddlers, that the restriction violates the Privileges and Immunities clause of the Constitution or violates Georgia's Common law Right of Passage.

#### (2) Irreparable Injury

Because the Court has decided that the plaintiffs have a substantial likelihood of success on the merits on their primary claim, the Court now addresses whether the plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury absent a preliminary injunction. The Court concludes they will. Unlike in cases where monetary damages may suffice to compensate an individual for a right forgone, each run down the Dog River that plaintiffs cannot take not only has a pecuniary impact in loss of revenue but nonpecuniary impact as well — the lack of enjoyment of a peculiar natural resource. Restriction of this natural resource causes unique, nonpecuniary, irreparable harm to the plaintiffs. (See *Rivera v. United States*, 1996).

#### (3) Balance of Harms

As the third consideration prior to granting a preliminary injunction, the Court must assess whether the harm to the defendant is greater than the harm to the plaintiffs. Plaintiffs have not argued that the balance of harms weighs in favor of denying a preliminary injunction except to the extent that any additional use of the Reservoir may impact water quality. Review of the record compels the conclusion that additional kayaking and canoeing from the point where the Dog River enters the

Reservoir to the boat ramp will not significantly impact the water quality of the Reservoir. Hence, the Court cannot conclude that a preliminary injunction should be denied on this basis.

#### (4) Interests of the Public

Lastly, the Court must determine that the issuance of preliminary injunction would not disserve the public interest. The Court finds the public interest of Douglas County residents will not be disserved by additional kayaking and canoeing from the point where the Dog River enters the Reservoir to the boat ramp, and the public interest of others would be served by being allowed access to the Reservoir for egress from the Dog River.

### III. CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the Court concludes that plaintiffs are entitled to a preliminary injunction. However, the injunction does not prevent enforcement of the Resolution in all respects<sup>12</sup>. See 11A Charles Alan Wright, Arthur R. Miller & Mary Kay Kane, *Federal Practice and Procedure* Section 2947 (1973) (noting that the district court "may mold its decree to meet the exigencies of the particular case").

It is ORDERED that the Authority is ENJOINED from enforcing that portion of Resolution 94-33 which precludes Non-resident Paddlers, as defined above, from utilizing the Reservoir or the Facility for the sole reason of egress from the Dog River flow at a point upstream from the Highway 166 bridge. Non-resident Paddlers shall be allowed to paddle from the point where the Dog River joins the Reservoir across the Reservoir to the Facility and to use the Facility, including the parking lot and boat ramp, for egress from the Dog River. All rules which apply to Douglas County residents for the use of the Reservoir and Facility shall apply to the Non-resident Paddlers. However, non-residents of Douglas County, including all Non-resident Paddlers, may not launch boats from the ramp or fish in the Reservoir. Non-resident Paddlers using the Reservoir and the Facility shall pay to the Authority the same fees as charged to Residents for use of the Reservoir and Facility despite the additional restrictions in privileges.

The parties have agreed, for safety reasons, that Non-resident Paddlers are barred from paddling downstream of the Highway 166 bridge (downstream of the boat ramp).

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c), the party being granted an Injunction is required to give security "for the payment of costs and damages as may be incurred or suffered by any party who is found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained." Neither party has addressed the issue of security or what amount, if any,

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would be proper in this case. After review of the record, the Court concludes that no security need be deposited by plaintiffs because they seek only to protect the public interest and because there is no obvious risk of monetary loss to defendants due to the issuance of the injunction, particularly in light of the requirement that all Non-resident Paddlers using the Reservoir and Facility pay user fees to the Authority.

This injunction shall remain in effect until further order of the Court<sup>13</sup>.

#### ORDER AND JUDGMENT

Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunctive relief was granted by this Court by an Order entered April 25, 1997. Subsequent to the entry of that Order, the Court was informed that the parties had consented to consolidation of the trial on the merits with the preliminary injunction motion. The Court hereby orders such consolidation nunc pro tunc. The injunction entered by the Court on April 25, 1997 is hereby made permanent, the preliminary findings of fact and conclusions of law made final, and the April 25, 1997, Order is hereby made the Judgment of the Court, with the modification set forth herein.

In footnote 3 of the April 25, 1997, Order, the Court noted that the location of the furthestmost upstream point regularly used by the persons navigating the Dog River was unclear. The parties have clarified this issue, and the furthest such upstream point is the Post Road Bridge.

The Court holds that, as the prevailing parties, plaintiffs are entitled to recover their reasonable attorney's fees and expenses from the Authority. The Court has been informed that the parties have reached agreement as to the amount of such fees and expenses.

Therefore, the Clerk of the Court is hereby ORDERED to enter judgment in favor of plaintiffs in accordance with the Order of April 25, 1997, as modified herein, with all court costs to be assessed against Defendant.

#### Footnotes:

1. Apparently, the revenues generated by the fees charged for use of the Facility and Reservoir have been less than anticipated by the Authority, and the Facility has operated at a loss.

2. The Resolution provides that the Dog River Reservoir may be used only by Douglas County residents, property owners and their guests who have paid the appropriate charges and/or secured the proper permits outlined in these rules and regulations. General public access to the reservoir shall be made only at the entrance gates located off State Highway 166 or by water entry at the northerly most point of the reservoir property. Resolution 94-33, pp. 6-7.

3. Although unclear to the Court where the spot is along

the Dog River, there appears to be a "put-in" for the kayakers and canoers where the paddlers can launch their boats. For obvious reasons, paddlers cannot simply paddle back upstream to remove their boats from the water at the "put-in".

4. A large sign greets paddlers as they approach the Reservoir from upstream on the Dog River which reads, "NO KAYAKS NO RAFTS BEYOND THIS POINT."

5. Because the plaintiffs indicate an order of preference in the theories to be considered by the Court, the Court respects that progression and considers each theory in turn as necessary. Generally "Even should the Court somehow hold that the Dog River is not navigable, is not susceptible of commercial use, that the canoe and raft industry is not commerce and that the Privileges and Immunities Clause does not apply, the Resolution, in interfering with the right of passage and destroying without compensation that public easement, is still unlawful and should be enjoined.

6. The federal navigational servitude to which plaintiffs refer generally provides the federal government, particularly Congress, the power to regulate navigational bodies of water by allowing it to obstruct or modify the flow of waterways and by preventing others from illegally obstructing or modifying those same waterways. This power carries neither the obligation to pay compensation under the Takings Clause of the Fifth amendment to the United States Constitution nor the liability which may be associated with such acts. (Murphy v. Department of Natural Resources, 1993.)

7. The private plaintiffs in Harrell apparently did not assert a Section 1983 claim but instead were seeking a declaratory judgment that a public right of access existed.

8. The Supreme Court in *The Daniel Ball*, 77 U.S. at 563, held that navigable waters are those which "form in their ordinary condition by themselves, or by uniting with other waters, a continued highway over which commerce is or may be carried on with other States or foreign countries in the customary modes in which such commerce is conducted by water.

9. The Court finds the Authority's reliance on *United States v. Crow, Pope & Land Enterprises, Inc.*, 1971, unpersuasive for two reasons. First, the district court was not opining about the Dog River, merely a river nearby. Second, the Fifth Circuit found that the district court's conclusion that the stretch of river in question was non-navigable was untenable at that stage of the litigation because no final adjudication of navigability had been made. (*United States v. Crow, Pope & Land Enterprises, Inc.*, 1973) ("Even though the parties had not yet

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had an opportunity to try this issue and despite the fact that the record was completely barren of any evidence on the question, the district court nevertheless entered an order not only determining that the stretch of the Chattahoochee in question was non-navigable, but also rejecting without merit the Government's tributary theory.")

10. The Dog River at some points apparently has rapids, rocks and shifting currents. These attributes do not prevent a finding of navigability. Additionally, the Court believes that the fact that the United States Army Corps of Engineers permitted the construction of the Reservoir pursuant to the Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. Section 403, supports the conclusion that the Dog River is a navigable waterway under federal law. The Court does not now conclude that the Dog River is indeed navigable — only that such a conclusion is probable or likely.

11. The fact that the Dog River is entirely within the State of Georgia does not prevent it from being capable of carrying interstate commerce.

12. In contrast, however, the Court does not conclude that the prohibition on non-county fishing from the lake is illogical or unconstitutional. Therefore, at this time,

this order does not modify any other effects or portions of the Resolution, including the charge for fees.

13. At any point at which it appears, from admissible evidence, that the Non-Resident Paddlers are adversely affecting the water quality of the Reservoir, defendants may move to vacate the injunction. ✂

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## Mulberry Fork Access

by Mike Cowan

In the case of John McCrary v. Birmingham Canoe Club, the BCC won the lawsuit filed by the owner of property adjacent to the club owned take-out at the Mulberry Fork. A defeated McCrary vowed to sell the property, which may end a long-standing dispute between himself and the local paddling community.

BCC president Ted Sparks encouraged users of the Mulberry take-out to continue support of the club and its efforts to provide an access point to the river free from harassment.

The Mulberry Fork is a favorite early season class III run and site of annual slalom and down river races.

- From the Viking Canoe Club newsletter, Louisville, Kentucky. ✂

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## Exploration

### Upper Oconaluftee — Advanced Creek Run

by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

*Upper Oconaluftee, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, NC*

*Section: US 441 above Smokemont Campground near Cherokee*

*Scenery: Beautiful*

*Appropriate for: Solid Intermediate for the Lower Upper-Advanced for the Upper Upper*

*Miles on River: 2 to 8*

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

*Difficulty: III+ Lower Upper; IV Upper Upper (V at high water)*

*AWA Point Scale: 27 to 30 points*

*Gradient: 180 fpm Lower Upper; 200 fpm Upper Upper*

*Gauge: Tennessee River Basin NC Gauges Oconaluftee at Birdtown*

*Runnable Level: Min: 2' (700 cfs)*

*Max: much over 3' (>2,000 cfs)*

*Hazards: Very technical steep creek with few eddies, some boulder sieves, strainers.*

*Scouting: From road.*

*Portages: None necessary unless strainers present, may be difficult because of scarce and tiny eddies.*

*Rescue Index: Immediately contiguous to US 441.*

*Distance from Atlanta: 150 miles, about 3 hours.*

*USGS Map: Smokemont Quadrangle, North Carolina 7.5 Minute Series*

The Upper Oconaluftee "River" is a nice solid-intermediate to advanced skill-level steep creek, which Will suggested we run during the first solid rain in December. It's about the same distance from Atlanta as going to the Nantahala (actually it may be a bit closer). The lower section is described in Carolina White Water but much of that run passes through the Cherokee reservation and is closed most of the year.

The Upper Oconaluftee is small, technical, and almost constant. We ran it at 1.7' (500 cfs), which was too low. At that level, it reminded me of Big Snowbird or the Upper Nantahala. At maximum runnable levels, depending on how high you put on, it would resemble Johnny's or Teddy Bear off of Little River. There are many small 2-4' ledges but no major drops and no major undercuts. I am not certain if any rapids are named (it's essentially one continuous rapid anyway). The river is full of rocks and boulders, which make maneuvering potentially very interesting. Eddies are small and may hold only one boat, so be alert as to other boaters following you who might

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need to use the one you're in and those in front of you who're fixin' to get pinned. There were several bank strainers which were not mandatory portages. For those of us who elected not to portage they were not terribly hard to extricate from after flipping.

To get to the Oconaluftee take I-85 north from Atlanta and continue on I-985 towards Clayton. 985 will become US 441 and you stay on 441 until you decide to get on the river. Some land marks would help. Cherokee is about 145 miles from Atlanta. Another 3.3 miles will get you to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park Boundary and another mile or so you will be at the ranger station. You can use this as take out or continue another

3 miles or so to the Smokemount Campground and take out there.

The section from Smokemount to the ranger station only drops about 50 feet per mile and looked pretty tame, but it might look better to you. There are multiple large turn-outs suitable for parking at the side of the road so it's not necessary to go into the campground. We put in at a major turn-out 2.8 miles above Smokemount and the average gradient was about 180 feet per mile in this section. If you're up for it and the river's honkin' you can drive another 2 miles or more before putting on. Or, if you're really cool, continue on 441 over the pass and take on the West Prong of the Little Pigeon. ✂

## Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers

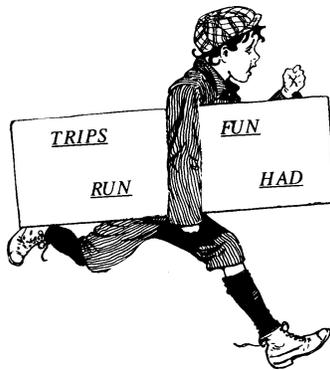
by Sheila Small

January 16-17. My phone rang at work on the Thursday morning before the trip and my worst fears were suddenly realized. Liz Carter and I had signed up to co-lead the annual GCA trek to Florida, but because of the sheer magnitude of the trip it was usually a joint effort of four people. Liz, her husband Butch Horn, Tom Rish from Tallahassee, and myself. Tom and I mainly did background stuff and Liz and Butch ran the trip.

They let me stay in the background because they know I have a terrible fear of getting up and speaking in front of people. Well, this year Tom decided to do a different trip and Liz was calling to tell me because of a death in their family, she and Butch would not be able to go on the trip. She was kind enough to suggest that maybe we should cancel it and I knew she was attempting to give me a way out. But I also knew she wanted the trip to go on because she had put an awful lot of work into it already and didn't want to disappoint the folks who had signed up.

So the words that I heard myself say over the phone were, "It should be no problem Liz, I'm sure I can do it and I know everyone who shows up for the trip will help." Inside I was screaming "I can't do this." I asked her how many folks had signed up and she said only sixty or so.

When I hung up the phone and regained consciousness, the enormity of the task I had undertaken began to sink in. I have never led an organized canoe trip before in my life. There are not many people in the world I could or would do this for, but Liz is one of them. She was my mentor when I was learning to canoe and I have followed her down too many rivers to count. So there was no question that I would somehow manage to run this trip.



The thought that came into my head to describe this situation was a variation of the fast food commercial that's airing on TV right now.... if you're going to lead a trip, then LEAD A TRIP!

I took off work Friday and left Atlanta at 5:30 AM to get to Florida and do some serious scouting. Well, it wasn't like I could sleep or anything. I got there and found the shuttle routes and immediately ran them, checked the rivers and made a copy of a map for each car to help with the massive shuttle

(by the way, for future reference, THE copy machine in High Springs is at the Western Auto store).

Saturday morning I drove to the meeting place and was thinking that I should just keep driving until I hit Uruguay. Yes, I know it's in South America. But I hear you can't be extradited from there. However, just then a car with canoes showed up and the moment was lost.

I will never be able to say enough kind things about the 63 people with 30 or so canoes and cars that showed up for this trip. So many offered to help and so many did. The bravery award goes to William and Debbie Gatling who led the first group of about 20 cars to the put-in, armed only with a map and a vague memory of doing the same route last year.

We all finally made it to the put-in, unloaded the boats on the Santa Fe and I said it was time to go to the take-out. I turned to answer a question someone asked, looked back and all the cars were heading for the take-out. I thought "Gee, you know I really should be leading them". When we got to the take-out I was checking out the cars for potential shuttle vehicles when I realized the drivers had "talked amongst themselves" and not only chosen the shuttle vehicles but were pretty much all loaded and ready to head back to the put-in. I was so impressed and so grateful.

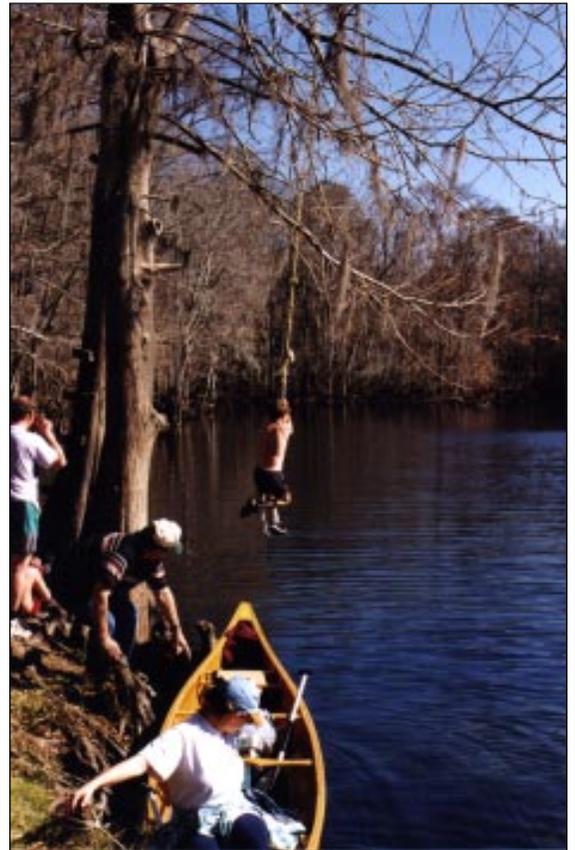
The shuttle was completed in record time, we all put on the river and I designated myself as sweep because I needed a few quiet moments. Thank you, LeRoy Robbins and Stan Landers for waiting to see if I was okay and distracting me on the river so I couldn't dwell on things.

Actually, they probably just wanted to be sure I wasn't going to make a run for it.

You couldn't ask for a more perfect day. The sun was out and warm, the water was low and crystal clear and the springs were highly visible. A rope swing over the river



Photos from the GCA Ichetucknee / Santa Fe trip.  
- Submitted by Sheila Small.



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was put to good use at the lunch stop and there was quite a bit of wildlife. Gini and Tim Seely's daughter, Helen, kept a careful count of turtles and pronounced that from lunch to the take-out she found 34 of them. Some Santa Fe turtles are quite large and it's a little disconcerting when you paddle up to them and they just stare you down.

There was a water fight between two canoes that quickly became one-sided when "someone" loaned one of the canoes a bailer to use to scoop water. Those that paddled up to Lily Springs discovered that famous Santa Fe fixture.... Ed. Ed owns Lily Springs and loves visitors but has an aversion to, well, um.... wearing clothes. He has conceded somewhat and now wears a very small loincloth (sorry, Ed) and always lets folks swim in his springs and explore his palmetto hut. We all made it off the river by 4:30 and I told everyone to please make their own plans for dinner. I had to catch the ranger at Ichetucknee and discuss a few things for the next day's trip.

Sunday was again absolutely beautiful weather-wise. On the trip to the put-in I glanced back one time when I topped one of those rolling hills so common in north Florida. Big mistake. All I could see were cars with canoes on them stretching to the distant horizon. (Hey Liz... remind you of Abbie/Omussee?) I honestly panicked for a moment and could not remember where I was. But we all made it to Ichetucknee Springs.

One lady who had not paddled the spring run before made a comment that made all the stress of the trip worthwhile. She unloaded her boat and was walking back to her car rubbing her arms. I asked if she was okay and she said the river was so beautiful that just the sight of it had given her goose bumps.

It was a bit of a zoo at the put-in because only one boat could get in the water at a time. Finally, we were all in and avidly drifting in the current over what seemed to be a four and a half mile long aquarium. The river was exquisite as usual.... crystal clear water with long flowing emerald grass over brilliant white sand in depths from a

few inches to several feet. There were turtles, wood ducks, snowy white egrets, great blue herons, but alas, no manatees this year.

Everyone was off the river by 3:30. Some stayed and snorkeled in the main spring while the rest headed back home. I went back to camp and collapsed and tried to calm down. It was finally over, there was no appreciable loss of life and "a good time was had by all." It was one of the worst and one of the best weekends I've ever had. My heartfelt thanks to everyone on the trip for all their patience, help and "flexible attitude." ✕

## **Carnage at South Sauty**

**by Courtney Nipper**

January 17, 1999. Sunday I went to run South Sauty Creek for the first time. My husband (Jimmy) had run this once before and loved it. The trip was led by Dane White. The paddlers consisted of Dane White, Courtney Nipper, Jimmy Nipper, Chris Alasa, Terry Howell, Richard Elliott, Keith Taylor, Steve Schneider, Andy Shirey and Karen Bucher.

The river started off with a rapid that makes about a 90 degree turn to an 8 foot ledge, which is intimidating to run right off the bat, but was really fun and boosted your confidence right off. The next set of rapids were mostly class 3, but were very tight and technical. In one of these rapids, there is a slot move with a tree in it. Everyone ran it fine, but Karen flipped in the rapid right where the tree entered the water and broke her paddle into several pieces. She hung out for an Eskimo rescue and Jimmy got to her right before what we thought may be an undercut. Thank God! She had just purchased the paddle two days before, and we tried to find some of it to return for warranty but couldn't manage to retrieve any of it.

Next came the first class 4, which we got out to scout. It wasn't too technical, but it was long, and if you didn't know where to go you could get into trouble. All runs went very well. After several more technical and BIG class 3s, we got to the most beautiful rapid. I would call it a high class 3 or low 4. There were large cliff walls with waterfalls coming off of them. Dane made sure to point these out to me. It was the most beautiful sight! Chris swam half way down the rapid due to pinning on a rock. He was O.K. but just a little startled.

Next we started into the hard stuff. I'm to understand that they (the boaters that run this often) call these next rapids the mine fields. This is a very appropriate name for them. These are a series of class 4s that are tight, technical, fairly steep and blind. There are definitely

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eddies you want to catch and in no way run blindly through the drops. Everyone ran these rapids great with the exception of a few mishaps (pins, side surfs, etc.).

There was one rapid which was really scary to look at. This rapid consisted of entering an eddy on river right, then running river left around some rocks to another eddy. Then you had to run from left to right in front of a really big house size undercut with trees under it while dropping off a four foot ledge and punching a large hole. Everyone in Dane's group decided to take the sneak route on river left and miss the undercut entirely. Chuck and another guy in a different group decided to run the main route. Chuck made it fine and caught the eddy at the bottom. The other guy flipped right in front of the undercut and some how managed to bounce off the rock and roll up. For a minute there I thought we might have a serious situation on our hands.

On downstream, we came to a rapid that woke everyone up again. I'm to understand this rapid is called the "Slot" (it's a sluice). This is a house sized boulder with a crack in it not quit as wide as a paddle and about 10 to 15 feet long. You catch an eddy on river right then enter the rapid going river left to take a 90 degree turn downstream into the sluice. The sluice has a hole at the bottom then the rapid continues to make some tight maneuvering for a little ways.

Keith was the first person in our group to run it. He entered running left and caught an eddy right at the 90 degree turn. This was NOT good. In this eddy it is very hard, if not impossible, to turn your boat around to run it forward. Yes, you guessed it, he had to run it backwards, although he did everything in his power to turn himself around first. I couldn't blame him in the least. He ended up running it great and right side up.

I can't say the same about the next guy. I don't know this guy's name because he was running in a different group. He made the turn and flipped to run it upside down. Man, that had to hurt. It turns out he was O.K. His boat took most of the bangs for him. Next Jimmy ran it and had a beautiful run. A few boaters later I ran it. I entered the run going river left. As I started into the 90 degree turn, I braced off the downstream boulder, managed to get my paddle behind me and tore many muscles in my upper right arm. All I heard was POP, POP, POP, POP, etc., etc. DAMN THAT HURT!!! I ran the rest of the rapid fine, knowing that if I didn't, I'd be hurting a lot more. I got into the eddy and Dane White, Chuck Kirk (different group) and Jimmy were getting me out of my boat and feeding me pain medicine.

My next choice was to either walk the next two miles out of the canyon (NOT) or paddle the rest of the creek.

Two years ago I injured the same arm the same way while playing and managed to paddle to the end of the river before going to the hospital. I was glad this had happened now because I knew I was capable of paddling out. I chose to paddle the rest of the way and sneak the remaining hard class 4. Everything went fine with myself and everyone else. Then I flipped. Knowing it was going to hurt pretty badly, I managed to roll.

Finally we reached the end of the river where there were nice hot showers waiting on us. This was the most beautiful river I had ever been on, and to me made the Upper Tellico look like child's play. It was very challenging and a lot of fun. I'm really looking forward to going back. I have a bone to pick with the "Slot". But at present I am stuck at home with my arm in a sling. No paddling for a while I guess, although I know I'll be back out there before I should be, as usual.

Thanks so much, Dane, for leading a wonderful trip. You are a great leader, very informative and stay very calm. Thanks, Chuck, for being there to calm my nerves and for making sure I was OK after I hurt my arm. Last but not least, thanks to my husband (Jimmy) for being there the whole time and helping me make it down the rest of the river in one piece. Even with an injury, this was the best river I had ever been on. ✂

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## Chair Lift Section, Little River Canyon

by Dane White

Our group decided to run the Chair Lift section of Little River Canyon on 18 January 1999. Everyone paddled K-1s. Paddlers were Roscoe Sharpe, Jan Storbeck, Britt Warren, Susan Campbell, Heather Sutton, Kay Hess, Priscilla Dixey, John Steimke, Andrew Kimball, Debbie Fuller, and me. All were experienced paddlers, but only three had run Little River Canyon before.

We loaded 11 yaks, gear and people into a van and a small truck. The put-in is eight miles away. After driving by Johnnies Creek, we started up a hill with a 45+ degree slope. As we got near the top of the hill a yak hit the pavement. Britt stopped even though I screamed DON'T STOP HERE!

So we drag the yak a hundred feet. It wasn't my yak and I didn't think we would make it to the top of the hill. We did make it to the top and to the put-in without further problems. John thanked us for not dragging his yak very far. The walk to the bottom of the canyon is much easier since the Park Service put a gravel road in.

The weather was great. In the 50's and sunny in

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January. The level was 1,000 cfs (3 inches on the bridge). The water was sparkling green and cold. Everyone warmed up on the first several rapids. We all scouted Eddy Hop. You eddy right, left, then right. The problem is an undercut boulder in the center where the water is pushing or the undercut cliff on the left. Everyone had a good run until Susan was pushed left of the boulder to the undercut cliff. She rolled up next to the undercut without her paddle. She turned over again then came out of her yak. It was a close call but Susan held in there.

We continued through Blue Hole Memorial Rapid and the entrance rapids to Bottleneck. Bottleneck needs

to be scouted by anyone their first time. Everyone scouted the rapid. Susan decided not to be intimidated because of her earlier swim. She followed me down with a boof move over the last drop. It was a great run. Everyone made Bottleneck look easy. Nice job group.

The final four miles are nice, but not blood pumping like the first two. Yes John, this was a Canyon trip even though the deepest part of the canyon is up river from the Chair Lift section. I always like to paddle with Roscoe. He always surrounds himself with women paddlers. Thanks to everyone for making another enjoyable trip in the canyon. SYOTR soon. ✂

## Message from Scott Bristow

*I just finished reading "Death on the Potomac" in the February Georgia Canoeing Association Eddy Line. I would like to thank Linda Delery for writing such a fine article. I also watched the video from Scott Bristow's memorial service. I've been thinking a lot about Scott these days and the lessons that he taught me. It has been 10 weeks since he took his last stroke at the Great Falls. I hope that we all learn something from Scott's untimely death. I would like to share a message that Scott wrote on the rec.boats.paddle newsgroup.* - Julie Keller

Subject: Re: Perspective on kayaking deaths

Date: Friday, 19 June 1998

From: Scott Bristow <scott0706@mindspring.com>

A very good post. It seems like you rationalize like I fight doing. Richard posts quite a bit about how class V kayakers can't rate a II or III or sometimes a IV. It is true. I have a lot of trouble distinguishing between them. I say class III then I find out it is a IV. As runs get easier and more familiar it is easy to downgrade in your mind. I

remember when Section 4 of the Chattooga (SC and GA USA) scared me. I was tense through the Five Falls, and as a result, my first many times through I had flawless lines. I was really paying attention and paddling well.

As trip after trip mounted and I became less and less concerned, I started trying harder lines, hand paddling, surfing the wave at the top of Corkscrew and the hole at the bottom. Things like this. I became good at these things. I started not being on edge. I noticed my lines were degrading and I was coming much closer to crashing. I started rolling in the rapids and really had some bad lines. These are all solid 4's and 5's depending on level.

It didn't just happen on Section 4. I started boat scouting unfamiliar IV+. "It's just a IV. What can it do to me...." I mean, who needs to scout Singley's (Overflow GA USA). I can deal with it when I get there; I've run bigger....

This is a good way to die. Luckily I paddle with a group of paddlers that are a little smarter than me, so they have helped hit me over the head and kept me in line.

Boat smart, not with testosterone.

- Scott Bristow ✂

## Ed Green Remembered

by Roger Nott

The accompanying picture was taken atop Abrams Falls during the GCA trip on Upper Abrams Creek on April 12, 1997. Left to right we were Ed Green, Jason Schnurr, Robert Mingus, Jeff Lankford, Brian Cathcart, Sid Cathcart and Roger Nott. As most of you know, Ed died December 27, 1998, as a result of his being pinned underwater in his kayak by a tree wedged at the bottom of Crack in the Rock on Raven Fork in Cherokee, North Carolina, two days before Christmas.

Ed was a strong paddler who had paddled the Green Gorge and many expert runs in the southern Appalachians. However, he always took care for his own and his companions' safety when we paddled together, on Abrams,

Cataloochee Creek, and Chattooga Section Four, where part of his ashes have been scattered. Ed and Jeff were tempted to run Abrams Falls, 24-foot sheer drop into what appears to be, on the left side, a deep pool. They had planned a good line which seemed to offer a 99% certainty of success. However, they wisely portaged after discussing worst case scenarios.

Ed, who lived nearby in Silva, North Carolina, knew the Raven Fork well and was well able to handle its difficulties, which at normal water levels do not exceed class III+. Unfortunately, his knowing the river might have cost him his life. He had run Crack in the Rock many times, knew the line, and did not scout. Scouting this rapid is difficult from upstream, as there is no convenient place to land, even for open boaters who can land and get in and out the their boats much more easily than can



decked paddlers. However, the bottom of this four and a half foot drop cannot be seen, particularly by the low sitting kayaker, till one is already committed to run.

I have led about 15 GCA trips on Raven Fork and have usually stopped to scout Crack in the Rock while running the shuttle. Though not particularly difficult, it is the most memorable rapid on the run, is close to the road, and can be seen well when approached on foot from downstream.

Last March, for the first time that I remember, there

was part of a tree pinned longitudinally on the left side of the Crack. We looked at it for a long time. Most of us decided to run, but one or two of the kayakers opted to run the S-turn on river left and avoid the tree in the Crack, which is in the center of the stream bed.

Ed was a very generous, enthusiastic, positive person. He was often smiling and did not seem to have a pessimistic bone in his body. I wish he had, however, been more pessimistic on December 23rd so as to have been expecting trouble where he had never before found it and had scouted what he could not see.

Ed, who was 45, was a gifted graphic artist and musician. He was a pleasure to know and paddle with. We will miss him greatly, but treasure memories of the good times together. Our hearts and prayers go out to his adult daughter and family and to his beloved companion, Beth Thompson, and her daughter Amy, with whom he lived and who often accompanied him on river trips.

If there is a paddlers' heaven, I hope Ed, James Lucas, Hugh Stubbs, Bob Goeke, Julie Wilson, Gene Wilkes, Lisa Seabacher, Scott Bristow and our many other departed river friends are enjoying its best runs together and will share them with us when our time comes. ✂

## Texas Water Safari — Year 3

by Marvine and Jackie Cole

The Texas Water Safari — the World's Toughest Boat Race. 260 miles of non-stop paddling, or so they say. We stop a lot. We stop to sleep. We stop to eat. We stop to complain about being tired. We stop a lot to portage dams and log jams. We stop to refill water containers. We stop to swim when we're hot. We stop for thunderstorms. No wonder it takes us 95 hours to finish. But hey, we won the women's division!

Insane? Maybe. I first did this race three years ago because my sisters were doing it and I didn't want to be left out. We were stopped at the DuPont plant, mile 227, by an alligator gar that had jumped at the bow lights and instead hit me broadside in the ribs. Broken rib, spontaneous pneumothorax (air outside the lung). All in a Safari day's work. So we went back last year and finished the race. Ninety hours.

Now Jackie and I were three weeks from race day the third year, and we were still undecided about doing the race. Our sister Kaki had bowed out this year, so it was just the two of us. "How would we get the Sundowner from Atlanta to Texas," she asked. "Not to worry," I said, "we'll find a way." What was I saying? I didn't want to do this again. Or did I? I kept trying to convince Jackie to

do the race with me in the Sundowner, even while feeling like it was so much work. I flopped back and forth on whether to go. I think I really wanted to race, but deep down, I knew how hard it would be. And I knew I wasn't ready physically. Nor was the boat ready.

I worked out a little "survey" that would mathematically tell us whether we really wanted to do this or not. We'd tally our scores on various questions. I'll never forget our answers to the most critical question: "All things aside, on a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you really want to do the race?" One being don't want to, and 10 being really want to go. I scored 3, Jackie scored 8. So, being the nut I am, I said, "Let's do it." And in the end, I'm glad we did.

Because I was set on finishing the race in a "respectable" time, I thought we should set some goals. So Daddy pulled out his slide rule (he's actually pretty good at it) and I got out my calculator. We checked each other's answers for the estimated times from one checkpoint to the next. We planned a five-mile-per-hour pace for the first 60 miles, and then three miles per hour for the rest of the race.

Not that all that fussing about estimated times did us any good once we started the race. Our goal was Palmetto by 9 p.m. Sixty miles in 12 hours. I refused to believe we couldn't do it. Jackie refused to believe we could. All those

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dams. All those portages. She said we hadn't allowed any time for the portages. "Yes, we did," I said. "The portage time is built into our 5 mile-per-hour pace." I don't think I convinced her.

She was right. We reached Palmetto at midnight. It was a great day, though. The San Marcos is a beautiful small river, with elephant ears and large cypress trees lining the bank. It's spring-fed, cold, and a beautiful green color. Most of it is in the shade, and for the first day, there are lots of boats around. And lots of dams to portage. Jackie and I hadn't trained together in the Sundowner, and we didn't have a rudder, so we learned as we went how to get around the turns by leaning the boat up on its outside edge. We actually got pretty slick at it. And the portages went very, very smoothly, since the boat was manageably light (35 pounds empty, probably 60 loaded up).

Who could complain? Except for falling farther and farther behind our times, I was pretty satisfied with our performance. But once I got up from sleeping several hours at Palmetto, and started paddling, my body was complaining loudly. Screaming is more like it. Every muscle in my back hurt. All I could think of was that we had 200 more miles to go, mostly on slow-moving wide river with little shade, and it wasn't going to be any fun at all. It was going to be all work and no more fun. Work, heat, work, heat, work, heat. What the hell was I doing here? Had I lost my mind? We couldn't win — Janet Smith and Bunny Johns (GREAT paddlers from NOC) were ahead of us. Why were we doing this?

Jackie and I "discussed" this issue for a long time Sunday morning. We argued. We fussed. I said I wanted to quit. But deep down inside I couldn't figure out how I'd face the world if I quit. Jackie said she was thinking the same thing, but didn't want to quit because of Daddy. Finally, Jackie said, "If we're going to quit, let's do it before we start for Hocheim." Good advice, since the stretch from Gonzales to Hocheim is the longest on the race — 38 miles. Did I listen? No. For some reason still unknown to me, we just kept going. I think I fooled myself into believing we could still finish in a "respectable" time. And, I'm no quitter.

My muscles began to loosen up, but without having trained as hard as we should have, Jackie and I simply didn't have the strength to pour it on for very long at a time. I was in the stern again, and I couldn't control the boat. I got angry. I had Jackie move slightly right, then slightly left. I watched for signs that her stroke was turning the boat. I evaluated my stroke to see if I was the cause of the problem. It was the most frustrating thing I've ever been through. But I wasn't about to admit defeat.

We ended up arguing about it (been there?), discussing it, and finally giving up and changing places. It wasn't until the next day that we realized that the trim had been all wrong with me in the bow.

We paddled on. It was a lot of work. And it was hot. A record temperature of 106° was set in Victoria on Monday, with a heat index of 112-114°. Kaki, who had flown in Saturday morning to take over as team captain, kept us cool with bags of ice to put around our necks, or inside our hats. She was ever positive, keeping an eye out for our condition, both physical and emotional, and giving us moral support and encouragement.

It was nearly high noon when we reached Gonzales, a gravel bar under a bridge at mile 123. I guess I was kind of out of it, because I wanted to sit in the sun (I was slightly chilled in at least 100° weather) so I could fix the adhesive tape on the blisters on my hands. Kaki kept saying, "You need to get in the shade." Even Mama tried to help. But I just sat there in the sun. It felt good. But by the time we were ready to go, I had this woozy feeling. I had to lay down in the shade for a few minutes and rest. Fortunately, it passed as quickly as it came on, and we were off again.

We stopped at choice swimming holes along the way to cool off. For us, it was the only way to keep our core temperature down, even though we were drinking copious amounts of water. But the farther down river we got, the harder it was to find choice spots, and our energy seemed to ooze out of our pores like sweat.

We stopped Monday afternoon and slept in the shade for three hours. Good idea. We learned that evening that Janet and Bunny had dropped out. One of them had gotten heat exhaustion. The news was a mixed blessing. We felt bad for them, but we were elated that we might win the women's division. Then we learned the other women's team had also dropped out. All we had to do was finish. It was in the bag! We knew we could finish. So our energy was renewed with the light (or was it the trophy?) at the end of the tunnel.

Lights are always a lively topic of discussion amongst Safari people. You want the brightest light available, but with the lightest battery power to carry. We had great lights this year. I had rigged up two lights for the bow, with last year's swivel so we could turn them if necessary without changing course. Pretty spiffy, if I do say so myself, although Kaki should get the credit for making the swivel, and it was Jackie that insisted on two lights. (Oh well, I put it together!)

Our lights, in fact, were what brought us Doug and Billy. They were paddling an Alumacraft. We learned they had raised \$27,000 for cancer research, dependent

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upon their finishing the race (first-timers). Jackie yelled out, "You can't quit!" Billy yelled back, "Everyone's saying that to me. Do I look like I have quitter written on my forehead?" No, but they did look like they had "inexperienced" written on their foreheads. (We later learned they had started out with a cooler of steaks to be cooked over a fire along the river, a combination umbrella/stool, a radio/cassette player, Thermarests, and other conveniences too numerous to reveal. They were going in style!)

They picked us up, so to speak, on Sunday night — from Gonzales to Hocheim. We knew our lights were cool, because we had passed several boats during the night that then followed us. When we got to Hocheim at midnight, we decided to go on. The other boats stopped, but Billy and Doug asked if they could keep following us. No threat to the women's trophy; we said sure. (Like at that time we had any chance at the women's trophy!) They followed us down the river, watching our route, following carefully in awe of what seemed to us to be second nature. What they lacked in skills, they made up for in persistence.

They were fun guys. We stayed with them the rest of the race, or they stayed with us — I was never sure which it was. Through the heat of the days, the weary nights, the damn dams, the thunderstorms complete with lightening and hail, and the long, long, seemingly never-ending paddle from DuPont to Tivoli. They said we were angels come to show them the way, and I think they truly believed that. It was a different race having another boat along. Jackie and I are never at a loss for words, we're the best of friends and sisters. But having them to travel with made it more fun.

We made it to the San Antonio bay just at dark on Tuesday night. We figured we could make Sea Drift by midnight. We were told that the bay winds were strong, but that they might die down by the time we got there. Not so. The winds must have been 20-40 knots. Gale force. We started out into the night with a plan to paddle directly into the wind and cut across the bay diagonally, eight miles to Seadrift. That way, we could keep the boat headed directly into the waves.

What a ride! Pitch black, three foot waves. I was afraid to turn on the lights because I didn't really want to see what was going on and I didn't think I could turn loose of the paddle that long. We could occasionally get a glimpse of the waves from Billy's and Doug's lights behind us. That was enough for me. We were really freaked about getting turned sideways to the waves and being flipped.

We took turns getting scared and providing moral support. But once, we both freaked because we were almost sideways to the waves. We were frantically scream-

ing back and forth about what to do. The water was relentlessly crashing into the boat, which was bobbing up and down like a cork. I wish I had it on video.

At first we made some progress down the bay, but then for two hours we paddled and made no headway. Billy and Doug had peeled off and headed for the far shore. We heard faint yells above the wind — something about taking on water.

Jackie kept asking if we were going anywhere, and I'd look at the light on shore across the bay and say, "No." By midnight, we realized that we weren't going to go anywhere, and ferried carefully across the bay to the other shore to join Doug and Billy.

We found them and another team walking down the shoreline. I got out and followed suit, all the while doing the stingray shuffle and sinking up to my calves in mud. Yuck. A five-mile walk at this point was not going to be much fun, but at least we'd be making progress. We came to a jetty at the opening of the barge canal. Where to go? The barge canal would be deep. We weren't sure we could walk along the shore on the other side even if we could ferry across the opening. (If you think reading about this is confusing, try paddling it in the dark!) We all decided to hole up on the jetty until either the wind died, morning came and we could see, or they sent a rescue team. But we figured they wouldn't send anyone for us unless we put up a flare. We also knew our land crew would be frantic with worry.

By morning, there were six boats on the jetty. Doug called to us that the winds had shifted and calmed ever so slightly. Three boats started out before dawn, and the rest of us followed just at dawn. The wind was still fierce, but we were able to pass two men's teams. We finally reached the flagpole at Sea Drift at 7:50 a.m., just five hours shy of the 100-hour deadline. We were finished. In lots of ways.

I have to admit that starting Sunday, I repeatedly said I would never do the race again, ever, all the way down the river. Of course, Billy and Doug said if they never picked up another paddle, if they never saw another canoe, it would be all right with them. They had many creative, unrepeatable names for their Safari experience.

Even before we crossed the finish line, however, I was analyzing how to go faster next year. What needed to be changed. In my mind, training was the key. Lots and lots more of it.

And a few other miscellaneous items: like teaching Jackie to drink out of the water tube, so she didn't have to stop paddling to drink water. (So annoying! The nerve of her to get a drink!) And getting rid of our little mesh bags and using foam to secure our odds and ends like chap

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stick, a knife and sun screen (like it takes sooo long to get that zipper undone and rummage around for that chap stick!). And we didn't need so much food! We always take too much food!

With these minor changes, surely we could finish in a respectable time!

It took Billy and Doug a little longer than me. But by the Safari party in July, they had next year's race planned. Doug's going with another friend who wants to do the race, and Billy has bought a We-no-nah J200 (a racing cruiser) to do it solo. He's so brave! (Or is he just crazy?)

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## Don't Paddle With Andy!

by Dane White

This was a non-GCA trip on 16 January 1999 on Town Creek (Alabama). Andy and Julie Dings were coming to Alabama to visit relatives. They wanted to paddle something on Saturday before GCA sponsored trips on South Sauty and Little River Canyon the next two days. Durell Hood, Joel Hunt and Neil Hunt joined us.

We drove to South Sauty to see what level it was running. It looked a little high for our group so we drove to the put-in on Town Creek to check out the water level. It looked high, but runnable. The TVA gauge was not working, but we guessed it was running about 2,000 CFS.

We put in below High Falls. The water was running completely over the falls. The water was dark and murky because of the recent rains. Both of these hints let us know Town Creek was high.

The first rapid had a casualty. Julie washed onto a rock and flipped. She decided to walk out and meet us at the take-out. The walk out was about two blocks plus 100 feet straight up.

The next several class III rapids looked fierce. Several of us ran through the huge holes. Andy worked left and hit a rock. As he flipped, his paddle hit a rock. His high brace resulted in a dislocated shoulder. We worked to bring Andy and his boat to the side. I didn't get to see it, but was told it looked ugly. Luckily, Durell knew what to do. He popped the shoulder in without a problem. We were about a mile into the run. Andy was OK, but could not finish the 11-mile run. We knew there were pastures above the 100-foot cliffs and were a short distance to the cars because the river bends.

Accidents happen, right? So why "Don't Paddle With Andy"? Andy left his canoe next to the river because he didn't know how long the walk out was. To shorten our walk, we talked with a farmer about driving into his pasture to retrieve the canoe. No problem, close the gate

I guess I'll be back, too. Don't know who with, or what boat, but I'll be back. It gets in your blood. A little faster. A little more efficiently. A little more, more, more. As if 260 miles isn't enough.

*Epilogue:*

*I wrote this story right after the race, when I was still high from finishing — and winning. It's winter now, and I haven't paddled in a few weeks. Sitting in front of the fire, it's hard to imagine that I could ever have been, or be again, enthusiastic about this race. Maybe 260 miles is enough after all. Or maybe that race boat in Texas we've had our eye on is looking better and better.* ✂

and don't step in the paddies.

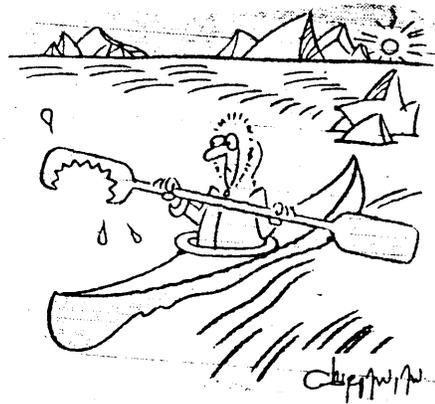
We walked the short distance to his canoe following a small stream. It was steep and rocky, but not bad. It took all three of us to push and pull the heavy canoe up the cliff. Andy had an idea to cut straight up the mountain rather than follow the stream. OK, it looked like the pasture was close. It was close, but there was an obstacle between us and the short walk to the truck. BRIERS. It took us about 30 minutes to get through the BRIERS. Briers don't discriminate. They attacked us all with a vengeance.

Andy is OK and the three of us are not permanently scarred. To keep any of this happening to you, DON'T PADDLE WITH ANDY.

(Note: We noted No Trespassing signs at the take-out on Hwy. 227. We have contacted AWA to look into the problem. Until the problem is resolved, there is no close take-out for Town Creek.) ✂

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To estimate the flow of the Tellico River at Tellico Plains, you can get the reading of Little River at Maryville from the TVA Lake Information Line (phone 800.238.2264) and multiply by 0.4. This formula has been verified to be a reasonable approximation on several occasions.



# 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 gacanoes@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 Scout 18 ft. Comes with two paddles. Purchased March 1998 and only used 3 times. Asking \$575. Eric or Jen 770.614.4382.

**FOR RENT** - Vacation cabins on the Chattahoochee River at Duncan Bridge Road next to Wildewood Outfitters. Includes TV/VCR and Primestar. Central heat & air. Gas log fireplaces. Rustic lodge which sleeps 10 on 6 acres next to rapids, also private gate. 1 BR - \$95, 2 BR - \$105. 10% discount to GCA members. Gary Gaines 770.503.8537.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Mohawk XL-13 - Many miles left in this sturdy canoe - 4 yrs. old. Red with brand new yellow air bags. \$450. Chris 404.288.1375.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Perception Pirouette S, Proline, Purple. Excellent Condition, \$350. Contact Adrian Freeman, 678.268.2123.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Piranha Acrobat 270 - \$354.27. Excellent all around boat. Purple. 2-1/2 years old. Call Jim @ 770.587.1172 (home).

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Dagger Crossfire, black and white — very cool. Very good condition. Includes a Schlegel paddle (old, but serviceable) \$350. Call Jack, H: 770.938.5263, O: 404.321.7544.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak & C-1. Pyranha 280 Creek Boat, \$335 including new Perception spray shirt (m); Werner kayak paddle (\$50). Perception Gyramax C-1 with spray skirt \$300. Gina Johnson 404.308.2002.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Perception Dancer XS, 1997 model, great for kids 50-90 lbs. \$400. Prijon Bambino paddles, 180 & 190 cm \$100. Prijon Surf helmet — adjustable \$30. Extrasport Rogue PFD — XS \$30. Everything in excellent condition. Bruce Williams, 404.231.5624.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Perception 3-D. Good shape. Red & Purple. \$500 firm. Call Roman at 678.377.9253.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Perception Corsica S. Radical raspberry, with paddle. Good beginner boat. \$400. Carl 770.532.8698.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, canoe & trailer. Red Dagger Response kayak, with air bags, Perception spray skirt (S) and Perception paddle, sold together \$575 or individually. Tandem Blue Hole canoe, pedestal saddles \$450. Canoe trailer, shop built w/heavy duty racks, hold 5 canoes easily. \$600. Call Brenda 770.622.5179 after 6 PM or e-mail [brenda\\_randell@hillrom.com](mailto:brenda_randell@hillrom.com).



**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Perception Mirage - Classic white water boat, extremely stable, 13', tracks well. Excellent boat to learn kayaking basics for many \$ less! Includes spray skirt & paddle for only \$150. Chris 404.288.1375.

**FOR SALE** - Land. Secluded mountain lots - great views, streams, heavily wooded, extreme privacy w/ restrictive covenants. Between Cleveland and Dahlonega on Piney Mountain (easy access to Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Overflow, Chauga, Nantahala, etc.) - Only six lots left - 3 to 5+ acres starting at \$5,500 per acre. Call Martha Herndon at 404.231.5367.

**FOR SALE** - Rafting company on the Ocoee River. For details, call Roger Scott at 423.478.1857.

**HELP WANTED** - Starting new construction business in the Dahlonega area, building log cabins. If interested call for more details. Jim Cole 770.489.7721.

**HELP WANTED** - Summer Employment: Eagle Ranch is looking for raft guides for the Ocoee River, rock climbing, rappelling and other outdoor adventure helpers. No experience necessary. Will train. Call Hank Baudet or David Scott @ 800.288.3245.

**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** - Canoe, used slalom racing open canoe, short or medium class, in good condition. Gabriella 404.636.9339 evenings.

**WANTED** - Kayak, Dagger Blast; call Doug @ 770.723.9105.

**WANTED** - Paddle & helmet. Looking for used kayak paddle & helmet for 12 year old female, 5 feet, 85 lbs. Lee 404.373.4797.

## INTRODUCTION TO RIVER RESCUE AND SAFETY

Sat. March 27, 1999

The spring paddling season will be here soon. Are your throw rope skills sharp? Can you set up a Z drag without looking at a book? What is the best kind of rescue and how do you execute it? Introduction to River Rescue and Safety is for those who have never had a river rescue class, and for those who have, and want to brush up on their rescue skills and refresh their knowledge.

This one day, dry land only, clinic covers the fundamentals of river safety and rescue in a fun, low intensity, environment. Topics such as Equipment, Basic Rescue Philosophy, and Safe Trip Organization, and basic skills such as Throw Rope Use, Single and Multiple Person Wading, and Snag/Tag Line set up, will be covered. The clinic fee covers all handouts, and all equipment is provided.

The course is taught by ACA Certified Swift Water Rescue instructors. GCA membership is required.

The cost is \$25.00. Please make your check payable to Georgia Canoeing Association and send it, along with this registration form, to:

Kathy King/SWR Registration  
Apt. R  
6532 Hillandale Drive  
Norcross, Ga. 30092

For more information, contact Bo Wise at 770.806.6001 (email address: [jwwise@mindspring.com](mailto:jwwise@mindspring.com))

NOTE: Space is limited and this clinic does fill up. REGISTER EARLY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Paddling Level \_\_\_\_\_ (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced)

GCA Member ?: Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_

# 1999

## GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

C A N O E I N G

# INSTRUCTION

K A Y A K I N G

## WHITE WATER CLINIC INFORMATION

Clinics will be taught by ACA-certified instructors and qualified assistants. In order to provide individual attention, the maximum student-to-instructor ratio is 4:1. Space is limited.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **BEGINNING WHITE WATER:**

For people who have never had a boat on moving water. Three-hour evening classroom session with videos and lectures covering equipment, safety, river features, and paddling techniques for tandem and solo boaters. Full day Saturday flat water session emphasizing strokes, wet exits. Full day Sunday session on a class II river, practicing ferries, eddy turns, peel-outs, running rapids, self rescue, and assisted rescue. You must attend both the dry and flat water sessions to participate in the white water river portions of the course.

#### **BEGINNING YOUTH WHITE WATER**

Same course as above, but designed for youths aged 16 and under.

#### **INTERMEDIATE 1 WHITE WATER:**

Participants should have had recent Beginner level instruction or 5 days of white water experience. Polish-up beginner skills, plus bracing and rolling (kayaks).

#### **INTERMEDIATE 2 WHITE WATER:**

Intermediate clinic participants should be comfortable paddling class II-III white water such as the Nantahala, and wish to master the roll in rapids, and learn how to play confidently in Nantahala-type waves and holes. Intermediate kayakers should have a 100% flat water roll and a 50% reliable combat roll in class II rapids. Saturday morning lake session working on strokes and rolls (kayaks) and an afternoon session on the Nantahala working on turns, surfing, eddy hopping, etc. Full day Sunday trip on a class II-III river.

### ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

#### **GCA MEMBERSHIP:**

All participants must be current GCA members. To join the GCA, call the GCA at 770-421-9729 or go to the GCA web page <http://www.mindspring.com/~gacanoe> for a membership application. Dues are \$25 per year.

#### **REGISTRATION:**

Call the coordinator of the clinic you want to take for more information. You will NOT be registered, however, until the coordinator receives a check for \$50.00 per person, payable to GCA. Call early, clinics fill quickly.

#### **CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:**

If you wish to cancel or switch to another date, please notify the Clinic Coordinator as soon as possible. If you cancel at least 10 days before the first class session your fees will be refunded. After that, refunds will be made only if a replacement is found. Clinics will be conducted rain or shine. No-shows and those not completing the full course are ineligible for refunds.

#### **AGE:**

If you are under 18, all liability releases must be signed by a parent or guardian, who must also provide suitable power-of-attorney for medical care. Except for youth clinics, pre-teens will not be enrolled unless they have had suitable paddling experience in the Training Director's judgment.

#### **SWIMMING ABILITY:**

You must be able to swim and should not panic with your head under water. Beginning kayak clinic participants will spend a lot of time upside down inside their kayaks on the lake. All students will practice swimming self-rescue skills in rapids.

#### **PHYSICAL CONDITION:**

White water paddling is a physically and mentally challenging activity that requires fitness, flexibility, and a positive attitude in stressful situations. Kayaking is a high-risk activity for individuals with a history of shoulder dislocations. Applicants should discuss potential physical limitations with the Coordinator before signing up.

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

You must furnish all of your own equipment. You will receive a detailed list of required and recommended equipment well in advance of the clinic.

INSTRUCTIONS & REGISTRATION FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

# WHITE WATER CLINICS



## CANOEING

### BEGINNER WHITE WATER CANOE

June 22, 26 & 27  
Steve Cramer 706-208-8382

### INTERMEDIATE 1 WHITE WATER CANOE

June 5 & 6  
Brannon Proctor 770-664-7384  
August TBA  
TBA

### INTERMEDIATE 2 WHITE WATER CANOE

May 8 & 9  
Oreon Mann 404-522-3469  
September 11 & 12  
Haynes Johnson 770-971-1542

### OCOE PRIMER WHITE WATER CANOE

October TBA  
Allen Hedden 770-426-4318

## SEA KAYAKING

### BEGINNER -CHARLESTON, SC

May 8 & 9  
Steve Cramer 706-208-8382

### INTERMEDIATE TBA

Steve Cramer 706-208-8382

## DUCKIE DAY

FOR SIT-ON-TOPS & INFLATABLE KAYAKS

June TBA  
Gina Johnson/Kathy King 770-257-3160

## KAYAKING

### BEGINNER WHITE WATER KAYAK

June 3, 5 & 6  
Doug Pratt (call Gina Johnson 404-257-3160)

### INTERMEDIATE 1 WHITE WATER KAYAK (follow-up to beginner ww kayak)

July 8, 9 & 10  
Brent Coleman 770-867-4061

### INTERMEDIATE 2 WHITE WATER KAYAK

May 8 & 9  
Jane Rooney/Jim Kelly 404-299-0443  
September TBA  
Revel Freeman 404-261-8572/Jim Kelly 770-801-8059

### REGISTRATION:

To register for one of these clinics, you must be a member of the Georgia Canoe Association. To join the GCA or for an application call 404-421-9729. Dues are \$25.

To register for a clinic, call the coordinator of the clinic for more information. You will NOT be registered, however, until the coordinator receives this completed form and a check for \$50.00 per person, payable to GCA. Call early because clinics fill quickly.

Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home & Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Prescription Medications:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Disabilities, Medical Conditions, Shoulder Problems:  
\_\_\_\_\_

TANDEM OR SOLO CANOE

MAIL THIS FORM TO THE CLINIC COORDINATOR

# **GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA**

**April 30, May 1 & 2**

**Diamond Lure Campground  
Ellijay, Georgia  
(9 miles from Ellijay)**

**EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED FOR GCA MEMBERS**

**HOT SHOWERS, CLUB HOUSE  
FISHING AND BOATING LAKE  
MOUNTAIN BIKING AT M.O.E.**

## **CAMPING**

**\$6.00/site (2 persons)/night  
\$2.00/night for each additional person**

**PLEASE, ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH!!**

**SATURDAY NIGHT CATERED DINNER, BINGO AND BONFIRE  
PRIZES FOR BINGO!!**

**Best Bar-B-Que in North Georgia  
Pork, ribs and all the fixings  
Price \$10.00 (Children 12 & under \$6.00)**

**Homemade sausage & biscuits available Sat. & Sun. morning - \$1.00 each**

**Register early -- late fee applies after April 23**

## **BOATING SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

**Rivers (water level permitting):  
Ocoee, Nantahala, Cartecec, Toccoa, Amicalola,  
Chestatee, Etowah and Upper Hooch**

**Mohawk Factory Rep is bringing boats for a Demo Weekend -- flat water &  
white water**

**For further information, contact:**

**Jim or Maggie Griffin 770.498.3695**

## GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA Registration Form

**TO REGISTER** — Fill out registration form below and mail QUICKLY (notice late fee below) with your check made out to "GCA" to:

Jim Griffin  
5017 Tanaga Court  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
For questions, call 770.498.3695

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Camping:**

Number of tents @ \$6.00 (Incl. 2 people)      Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Sat \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra people @ \$2.00 ea. (Over 2 people)      Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday dinner:** Number of meals @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sausage & Biscuits @ \$1.00 ea.**      Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$5.00 LATE FEE IF POST MARKED AFTER APRIL 23** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Per registration form)

**Make check payable to GCA for total of:**      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Willing to lead a trip Saturday or Sunday on:**

Cartecay \_\_\_\_\_ Etowah \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Amicalola \_\_\_\_\_ Chestatee \_\_\_\_\_

Lower Amicalola \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Hooch \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

[Detach & save map]

Reservations – Information  
J.H. Hefner, Mgr.  
706-273-3075

Harold Hefner, Owner  
706-276-3841

Route 2  
Ellijay, Georgia 30540



**GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION'S 31st. S.E. US  
SLALOM & WILDWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS  
NANTAHALA RIVER, WESSER, NC-APRIL 17-18, 1999**

**We need your help for this premier event.** This is your opportunity to be part of the Georgia Canoeing Association's largest event of the year. Indicate your preference (s) and mail to Virginia Balbona today. **Every serious volunteer will be awarded a free race T-shirt.**

**Gate Judging\_\_\_\_\_**

If you like power then this position is for you!  
(Training will be available before the race).

**Timing\_\_\_\_\_**

Can you operate a stop watch? Check here if you do.

**Course Setup\_\_\_\_\_**

Ever been close to a construction site?  
Just follow Jason Schnurr's orders on Thursday  
afternoon of April 15, and Friday April 16.

**Safety\_\_\_\_\_**

You can do this if you know how to throw a rope.

**Fund Raising\_\_\_\_\_**

Only if you expect lots of raffle prizes.

**First Aid\_\_\_\_\_**

Doctors, nurses, EMTs check here.

**P.A. + Communications\_\_\_\_\_**

Can you talk? Check this one.

**Site Construction\_\_\_\_\_**

If you have ever moved or pitched a tent,  
this one is for you.

**Course Takedown\_\_\_\_\_**

This is an important job. If you want to be  
important check here.

**Scoring\_\_\_\_\_**

4+4=? If you guessed 8 then you qualify for  
this important job.

**Hospitality\_\_\_\_\_**

If you like munchies and buffets check here.

**Booth Management & Sales\_\_\_\_\_**

If you dream of big bucks and free T-shirts  
check here.

**River Traffic\_\_\_\_\_**

Here is your chance to make them rafters  
do what you want.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone am: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone pm: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form to:

Virginia M. Balbona, 2268 Ashleywood Drive, Tucker, GA 30084



Get into the flow.

Go with the flow team member Dale Koracostas

October 1, 1996

Linville Gorge, NC

10:30 am

63° F

Class 5 rapid

15 foot fall

*P u r e*

*a d r e n a l i n e .*



4 Elizabeth Way, Roswell, GA 30075  
770-992-3200  
[www.gowiththeflow.net](http://www.gowiththeflow.net)