



GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INC.

The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

Volume 34, No. 6

770.421.9729

June 1999

For Something A Little Different...

Come to the June Board Meeting, 11:00 am, Saturday, June 12, 1999. We will meet at the boathouse of the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA. 770.287.7888.

Come check out the wonderful facility left as a legacy from the 1996 Summer Olympics. The meeting will be at 11:00 AM sharp. After the meeting, we are invited by LCKC to attempt (I think that is a challenge) to paddle/stay upright in a sprint boat. Team members will be on hand to laugh, I mean help and provide pointers. Plan to get wet.

The boathouse is located at Clarks Bridge Park on Lake Lanier. I 85 North to I 985. Turn West at exit 7 (Jesse Jewell Parkway), go 1-1/2 miles to second light. Turn West (right) on the Limestone Pkwy. (129) and go to the second light. Turn right on Clarks Bridge Road (284). The boathouse will be on the left just after the bridge over Lake Lanier, about 2 miles. ✂



What's Inside...

June GCA Meeting / Paddle

Who wants a meeting when you could paddle? Join us on the river Thursday evening, June 17, for a summer solstice (almost) celebration paddle down the Chattahoochee. We'll meet at the Island Ford Park (part of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area) between 6:00 and 6:30 PM to start the shuttle process, and take out down river at the River Park on Azalea Drive for a mini-picnic and river stories as the sun goes down. This is a beautiful stretch of the river with shallow, easy shoals near the put-in, and flat water on down. This was a great hit last year, so don't miss this wonderful stress buster!

To get to Island Ford Park, from GA 400 northbound, take exit 6, Northridge Road westbound, bearing right at the end of the ramp. Take the first right on Dunwoody Place (almost immediately) and follow the signs to the park, turning right on Roberts Drive. We'll meet near the buildings at the end of the road. From Roswell Road (the one that crosses the Chattahoochee running north from Sandy Springs to Roswell), Roberts Road is the last right before crossing the Hooch going north.

If you want to go directly to the take-out, cross the Hooch on Roswell Road and turn left at Azalea Drive. You'll see the park and boat launch about one mile down.

We'll have drinks and snacks — bring goodies if you like. ✂

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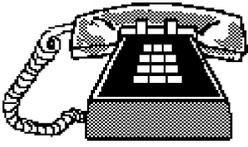
Fire and Wrecking Ball

By now many of you are probably aware that our meeting place, the Garden Hills Community Center, was destroyed in a fire. Many of you may not be aware that the location where we've held our Board of Directors meetings for years, the Atlanta Jewish Community Center at Brookwood, fell victim to the wrecking ball. In addition to changing the GCA logo, we are considering changing our name to the Homeless Canoeing Association.

The City of Atlanta says that Garden Hills will be rebuilt by this fall. Meanwhile we really need a location for our meetings. If you have any ideas or suggestions for a location for either of these functions, please contact David Martin at 404.351.8208 or Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022. The Patagonia Store in Buckhead has graciously allowed us to use their location for the past couple of Board meetings, but we need to find a more permanent home. Any ideas would be appreciated. ✂



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Who Ya Gonna Call?

The following list is provided for your convenience:

For general information about the club - Call the club telephone

number, 770.421.9729, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

To volunteer to help with club activities - Call President David Martin at 404.351.8208 or contact the committee chairperson for your area of interest.

For information on payment of dues or membership status - Call Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

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

To sign up to lead a club trip - Call Cruisemaster Jason Schnurr at 770.422.9962.

For change of address or for *Eddy Line* subscription

information - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

If you didn't receive your *Eddy Line* - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

For information on GCA clinics - Call the clinic coordinator listed on the clinic schedule, or call Training Director 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

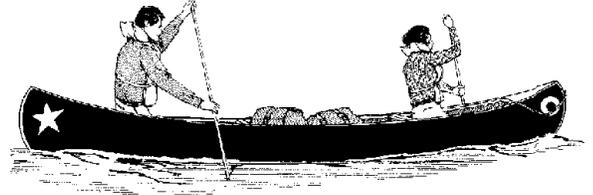
Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

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 gacanoem@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. ✂

The Eddy Line (USPS number pending), published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., publication address: 3060 Pharr Court North, #315, Atlanta, GA 30305. Annual subscription price of \$20.00 is included in the \$25.00 membership dues. Application to mail at periodicals postage rate is pending at Atlanta, GA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Eddy Line*, c/o Georgia Canoeing Association, P.O.Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357. READERS: Send old and new addresses and an *Eddy Line* address label. Telephone 770.421.9729.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



June

3	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Allen Hedden	770.426.4318
5	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Mike Christison	770.973.6482
5	Tesnatee Cleanup	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	770.536.6823
6	Etowah	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Peter Elkon	404.373.7535
8-11	Alapaha (Note 1)	Canoe Camping	Bob Sippey	352.793.5203
12	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club Boathouse — David Martin			404.351.8208
12	Nacoochee Hooch	Class 1 Easy Beginner	Dave Chaney	770.973.7910
13	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Roger Toeppen	770.804.9416
13	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.394.3469
17	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun!! Evening Paddle, Island Ford Park		Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
19	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Bill Gatling	770.516.0852
19	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Patrick Gourley	770.422.1689
26	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Ray Channell	404.636.5944
26	Georgia Intercoastal Waterway	Note 4	David Mason	912.355.1866
27	Georgia Intercoastal Waterway	Note 4	David Mason	912.355.1866
27	Nantahala (Note 2)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
			Louis Boulanger	404.373.4775
27	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roscoe Sharpe	706.276.4691

July

4	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
10	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Sam Blackwell	706.342.0511
10	Metro Hooch — Buford Dam To McGinnis Ferry — Class 1 Easy Beginner		Paul Therrian	770.513.4986
11	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Sam Blackwell	706.342.0511
11	Leaders Choice	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	David Warner	770.426.8348
11	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Chuck & Carole Creekmore	770.995.5788
11	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Mike Huff	706.342.9879
13-15	Suwanee (FL) (Note 3)	Canoe Camping	Bob Sippey	352.793.5203
15	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun!! Location to be announced		Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
17	Metro Hooch — Jones Bridge To Hwy. 400 — Class 1 Easy Beginner		Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
17	Locust Fork (AL)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	C.M. Smoak	770.834.7535
17	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Brannen Procter	770.664.7384
18	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
18	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
24	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Linda Delery	404.688.3047
25	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Linda Delery	404.688.3047

Note 1: 4 Days, 3 Nights. Primitive Camping.

Note 2: Joint GCA & AWC Trip.

Note 3: 4 Days & 3 Nights, Primitive Camping.

Note 4: Day trips suitable for sea kayaks and intermediate open canoists.

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: Wednesday nights 6 P.M. May thru September at the lake at Stone Mountain Park.

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)

Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)

Heads Up, River Rescue

Introduction to Canoeing

Kayak 101 (mastering the basics)

Kayak Handling - The Basic Strokes

Only Nolan (Canoe Technique)

Path of the Paddle: Quietwater

Path of the Paddle: Whitewater
Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)

Plunge!

Prijon Wildplay Wildwasser Sport

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

Brown's Guide to Georgia

California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers

Canoe Racing

Canoeing Wild Rivers
Cruise of the Blue Flujin
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 Safety Anthology

River's End (Stories)

Sea Kayaking Canada's West Coast

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 (Sierra Club Guide)

Wildwater West Virginia

Youghiogheny

Announcements

GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing about 235 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. ✂

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. ✂

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day."

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 — gacanoe@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

Get *The Eddy Line* Via Email

The Eddy Line is now available via email as a .pdf (portable document format) file. This format allows subscribers to view formatted text, graphics, page layout — virtually the entire *Eddy Line* — just as it appears in printed form. Plus you can see it at least a couple of weeks before the printed copy arrives via snail mail. You can also print out a paper copy of the .pdf file and it looks just like the snail mail copy (except most of the photos are in living color).

The .pdf version requires only Adobe Acrobat Reader (or some equivalent) software in order to view it. Acrobat Reader is usually present on most PCs running Windows 95 or Windows 98, or can be downloaded for free from the Adobe web site at <http://www.adobe.com>.

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

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

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

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

Summer Roll Practice

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

LEARN TO KAYAK OR CANOE WITH THE EXPERTS!

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WHITE WATER
LEARNING CENTER
OF GEORGIA, INC.
(404) 231-0042

To get there, enter the park from the Stone Mountain Free-way entrance and take the first left. Continue about a mile until the road crosses the dam and take the first right

into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

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

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

Volunteers are needed to help with kayak, canoe and C-1 rolling. Your help is appreciated! ✂



Upcoming Events of Interest

June 6 — Regional Junior Race - Georgia Games regional event, Gainesville

June 12 — Altamaha & Ocmulgee River Excursions,

Hazlehurst-Jeff Davis Board of Tourism, Hazlehurst, GA (912.375.4543)

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, Bob Stecker (303.444.3979, email bobjillc2@cwix.com)

July 16-18 — Open Canoe Down River Nationals, Salida, CO, Scott Overdorf (303.682.2674, email soverdorf@dawsonschool.org)

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

October 9 — Altamaha & Ocmulgee River Excursions, Hazlehurst-Jeff Davis Board of Tourism, Hazlehurst, GA (912.375.4543) ✂

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American Canoe Association, and American Whitewater.

There is no requirement that the logo either be single color or have multiple colors. However, if a submitted logo has multiple colors, a single-color version must also be provided.

Detailed design features, such as the thin horizontal lines on the current logo, are difficult to reproduce and should be avoided.

All entries must be received no later than August 31, 1999. A selection committee will select the winning entry. The current GCA logo will be entered in the contest. The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate. The winner will be announced at the Fall General Membership meeting held in October, 1999.

The person submitting the winning entry must assign all rights to the logo to the GCA.

When you submit your entry, send a printed copy of the logo. If you have it in digital file format, send the file on diskette with the printed copy. Mail entries to:

Brannen Proctor
180 Andover Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30004.

If you have questions, please contact Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384 or email questions to bproctor@mindspring.com. ✂

Contest for New GCA Logo

The GCA is having a contest to select a new logo for the club. While the tandem canoe on the state background has served the club well, there is general agreement the GCA needs a more modern logo.

The rules are:

There are no requirements of what must be represented in the logo. Use your creativity. For examples of current logos of other paddling organizations, go to the GCA web site and follow the links to other clubs, the

White Water Open Canoe National Championships

1999 White Water Open Canoe National Championships are:

Slalom:

Dates: July 10, 11, 12
Location: Golden, CO
River: Clear Creek
Contact: Bob Stecker



Race Watch

Email: bobjillc2@cwix.com

Phone: 303.444.3979

Address: 279 Forest Lane, Boulder, CO 80302

Down River:

Date: July 16, 17, 18

Location: Salida, CO

River: Arkansas

Contact: Scott Overdorf

Email: soverdorf@dawsonschool.org

Phone: 303.682.2674

Address: 1026 5th Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501

River Access

Fee Demonstration Project Opposed by AW

by Jason Robertson, Access Director, American Whitewater

As you know, American Whitewater is opposed to the Congressional Fee Demonstration Project based on abuses that we have seen elsewhere in the land management agencies. The fee structure on the Rogue River was the most contentious system that our constituents have identified on BLM property. However, despite the changes on the Rogue, the USFS is significantly less cooperative than the BLM in addressing public concerns, as demonstrated by problems with the application of Fee Demo on the Kern River in California, and the Nantahala River in North Carolina.

In our experience, the implementation of Fee Demo has often been unfair, arbitrary, unpopular, and inconsistently applied across resource areas. On February 26th, 1998, American Whitewater submitted comments to Chairman Hansen and the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. In these comments Rich Bowers, American Whitewater's Executive Director, stated that our organization cannot support making Fee Demonstration a permanent program at this time, and that before it becomes permanent it must:

- * Coordinate with other existing and proposed recreational funding agendas.
- * Coordinate among different managing agencies.

- * Coordinate fees within individual agencies.
- * Solve existing Fee Demonstration problems.
- * Guarantee that this program will not replace needed natural resource appropriations such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

While we continue our strong support for recreation opportunities on Federal Lands, we believe we must find another way to do this. Acceptable Fee Demo programs must address the following caveats and clarifications, all of which are missing from the on-the-ground execution of Fee Demo:

- * That any collection program be affordable, fair, and unbiased.
- * That the fees must be returned directly to the resource from which they were collected, and used for resource protection and maintenance, rather than construction and development of new projects.
- * That the fees will not be a substitute for Federal natural resource appropriations for our National Forests, Parks, and other public lands.
- * That support of fees is not a substitute for Congressional support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
- * That any new fee program is designed as a demonstration project rather than the existing steamroller that Fee Demo has become (as evidenced by its reauthorization with little public comment in August, 1998).
- * That fees are not designed to charge for "access" to our public lands.
- * That any new fee system will oblige federal agencies to contact and communicate with the public, including outdoor users. ✂

Letters

April 20, 1999

And the saga continues....

On February 18, as I reported in April, I was denied access to Cooper's Creek at the Ga. Hwy. 60 bridge. Confident that I was within my rights, I contacted the R.O.W. department at the D.O.T. in Atlanta. The documentation I received clearly showed that there is a 100' R.O.W. along the entire highway in Fannin County. I sent copies of the documentation to the Fannin County Sheriffs Department and the property owner near the bridge.

Last Saturday, April 17, I participated in the TVCC's overnighter on the Toccoa. The put-in was at Deep Hole campground, but I decided to test my new found rights at the Hwy. 60 bridge. I unloaded my camping gear and Carol Zitzow graciously agreed to transport Brenda



Callahan and me to the bridge.

At the bridge, I unloaded the canoe and carried it down to the creek's edge. While I was doing this, a man walked up to Brenda from the Cooper's Creek Store parking lot and told her that the creek was private property and we could not put in there. He went on to say that he owned the land on both sides of the creek. Brenda told him that we would respect his right as property owner, but that he did not own the water. She also pointed that we were using the R.O.W. When he disagreed with that, she informed him of the research that we had done with the Ga. D.O.T. proving a 100' R.O.W. on Hwy. 60. She also told him that the Fannin County Sheriffs Department was aware of this situation and were willing to cooperate with us. At this point she did an about-face and joined me for the launch.

We floated tandem in my 16' Old Town Scout and were able to float the 1/2 mile down Cooper's Creek to the

Toccoa River without having to get out of the boat and drag — which proves the navigability of Cooper's Creek.

Again, I seek the involvement of paddling organizations in matters like this for us to continue to enjoy

paddling a variety of streams.

Sincerely,
Ernest Stewart



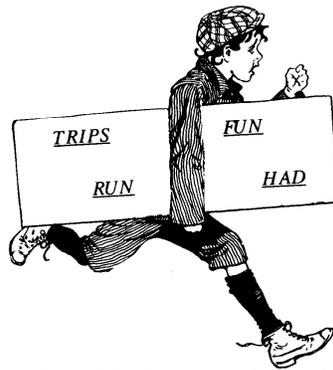
Cartecay River

by Dick Hurd

Sunday, April 25 — cool, overcast, windy, and water level a bit low. This was advertised as a trip for First Timers on the Cartecay, and not too many signed up, plus we had three last minute cancellations. Still, we managed to assemble a modest flotilla of seven boats, were on the river by 10:00, and ran from Holt Bridge to the DNR take-out by 3:00, with plenty of time for lunch and play.

We passed three groups who were putting in behind us, but we never saw them, nor any other paddlers, so we had the river all to ourselves the whole day! There is more and more riverside development, especially above Blackberry, so the river is losing some of its rustic look, but it will always be one of my favorite rivers.

Thanks to Dale Eifler for help with shuttle, and Randy Chappell for being sweep. Participants: Dale Eifler, John Parker, Steve Jamell, Martin Brux, Derek White, Randy Chappell, and myself.



but today the Chattooga was running fine for both III 1/2 and IV.

We put in at Thrift's Ferry and had a relatively uneventful trip down to Bull Sluice. At 1.65' there are sufficient play spots on the Section III part of our run for everyone to warm up and play. We had a few swims both playing and running rapids, but nothing serious.

At the Bull I asked Steve to take the contingent on down to the scouting rock on the Georgia side while I moved on down to catch the big eddy next to the Bull, with the intention of either demonstrating how to run the Bull, or how not to run the Bull, depending on my luck for the day. Fortunately my Karma was good as I made the run through the Sluice upright and in one piece. Actually, Bull Sluice at 1.65' is quite easy IF the move out of the river left eddy is made correctly.

Following my exhibition, some chose to run the Sluice, some chose to run the Slide and some chose to take the dry line on river right. We had some great runs, some lucky runs and some upside down runs, but the only damage done was to egos. Each person's run was unique and it is unfortunate that we did not have video to document.

I thought that Larry Gallagher's run was of particular note. Larry is a retired Georgia Tech faculty member and possibly even older than yours truly. He was paddling an old Sunburst OC-1 rented from Georgia Tech and, if I remember, told me he has not been paddling much recently. However, he did not let this stop him.

Larry ran the Bull straight on, without catching the eddy, and slid over the ledge virtually parallel to the ledge hole. However, thanks to skills honed over many years of paddling and a big stable boat, Larry made the run upright. If someone had told me that Larry would have made it through the Bull upright as I watched his approach, I would have said that they were crazy. Overall, the Bull was the highlight of the day.

After hanging out and eating lunch at the Bull, we headed into Section IV. A couple of our crew had not ventured below the bridge before, and some had been below the bridge only 1 or 2 times, so I began to hear questions such as, "Are we getting close to Screaming Left Turn?" and "What's coming up next?" We all ran Surfing

Chattooga III 1/2

by Charles Clark

Sunday, April 10, 1999. It was to be a trip on the Lower Amicalola, but as it has been for much of the winter, there was little water, so after consultation with the folks who called, I made the decision that Chattooga III 1/2 would be the best fallback. The trip size changed frequently during the weeks and days preceding Sunday; however, at the parking lot on the SC side we ended up with 10 paddlers and 10 boats — 5 OC-1s, one C-1 and 4 K-1s. Participants included yours truly, OC-1, Steve Cramer, K-1, Rosie Eisenberg, C-1, Sudie Lenhart, OC-1, Larry Gallagher, OC-1, Kay Hess, K-1, Linda Delery, OC-1, Gant Adams, K-1, Corbin Adams, OC-1 and Carol Beck, K-1.

The Highway 76 parking lot was full when I pulled up at 9:45 am. With the nice water level (1.65' at the bridge) and the good weather (sun and warmth) lots of people obviously chose the Chattooga's natural beauty and flow over the Ocoee's dam controlled flow and raft traffic. There will be many days this summer for the Ocoee when the Chattooga is down around the 1' mark,

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Rapid with no problem and after some play time moved on down towards Screaming Left Turn.

It was in the Screaming Left Turn area that things got a little out of control. I moved down to the small eddy just above the entrance to SLT with the intention of bringing down one boat at a time. Sudie followed me down in her Prophet (this put two Prophets in the same small eddy) and we were discussing who would go first when I looked up river to see a cast of thousands heading down river. Obviously I had not given very good instructions.

I immediately peeled out, with Sudie right behind, and caught the eddy on river left half way through SLT so I could watch for problems. I do not remember how many swims we had at SLT, but it seemed like for awhile that we had lots of upside down boats and swimmers. I do remember watching Kay Hess flip in the turn and swim through the bottom and Larry Gallagher miss the half way eddy and go over.

Fortunately, we still had a number of upright boaters and they were running down boats, paddles and bodies. After a considerable amount of rescue practice we had everyone back in his or her boat with paddle in hand. The only damage was to Kay, who hit both knees on rocks and needed some river candy to ease the pain. I have to admire Kay's nerve, as she switched from OC-1 to K-1

recently because the OC-1 hurt her knees. She was paddling III 1/2 without a good roll, and here at SLT she paid the price.

After everyone got it back together, we headed on down river with Rock Jumble the next obstacle. Since we had few hands with much experience with this section of the river we all got out to look at Rock Jumble. We discussed various ways to run Rock Jumble — the technical left side (my favorite), the left of center route and even the far right route, which could be run at 1.65'.

After demonstrating the river left run I got out on the rocks on river right to observe each boater making his or her decision. Steve followed me by running the left side and the rest ran left center. All had good runs. One of the neatest was Linda Delery, who dropped over just left of center and rode diagonally down the foam — a miniature Raven Chute. I had been looking at this spot thinking that it could be run down the foam, and Linda must have been reading my mind because she ran it exactly the way I thought it could be run.

With everyone now in good spirits after fine runs of Rock Jumble we headed on to the finale — Woodall Shoals. Some of us portaged — just too tired to fight Woodall at 1.65'. Needless to say, those of us who ran Woodall ran the river right sneak. From the eddy below the sneak it became every man, or woman, for himself or herself. I elected to move to the left and run the little slide. The rest of the crew just ran down the right side.

At the bottom of Woodall we all just hung out and rested for a while. Some tried to roll their boats in the big pool (impromptu roll practice) and some test paddled other's boats. Finally we could postpone the really tough part of any III 1/2 trip on longer — the dreaded class IV carry out.

As much as I love running the Lower Amicalola, Chattooga III 1/2 turned out to be a great trip. We had a group that included a number testing their current upper limits and, despite some swims and knocks, I think all learned something this day. Some saw part of IV for the first time, some learned a little more about their paddling skills, and all, from what I could see, had fun. We will catch Lower Amicalola next time it rains hard, which looks like it might be next winter. ✂

Alapaha River, Valdosta, GA

by Sheila Small

March 27th. I got an excellent river report from Dick Sturtevant of Valdosta on Wednesday before the trip; the weather was looking great and there was adequate water in the Alapaha for paddlers. Liz Carter and I arrived at



Tom Martin on the Alapaha River, 3/27/99.

- Photo by Sheila Small.

the Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area campground around 3:00 PM on Friday afternoon only to find the gate locked and no ranger in sight. We began to worry what we were going to do with the GCA folks who were going to show up soon and needed a place to camp, but we decided to give the ranger until 5:00 PM before we panicked.

To keep ourselves distracted Liz and I decided to check out a shortcut to the put-in for the next day's trip by way of the dirt back roads of southeast Georgia. I mean after all, it's just not a canoe trip unless you can get on a dirt road. It turned out to be a good idea.... I won't say we exactly got lost, we knew we were somewhere in Georgia, and we did eventually arrive at the put-in, thereby discovering that a dry run without a trail of vehicles behind you is always wise.

We got back to the campground and the ranger showed up a few minutes before 5:00. Liz was already halfway into Plan "B" if we couldn't get into the campground and when he drove up she was so relieved that she jumped out of the truck and said to him "I don't know you but I could just hug you." We got in.

They have to keep the campground closed during the week because it is next to, and I mean a few feet from, a

bombing range... complete with tanks used as targets. But hey, the camping is free.

When others arrived we all went for a walk and watched the sun set over the turrets of the tanks in the adjacent field, you know.... there's nothing quite as lovely. The tanks were plugged in to electrical outlets.... I don't know.... maybe so they can light them up for target practice at night. Several of us sampled the local cuisine in Lakeland and we had a few more campers arrive throughout the evening.

Saturday morning at the put-in the river looked to have very good current. We did the shuttle and piled into the back of Tom Martin's van for the return trip. We were just a little rowdy and Liz brought out her "trip leader" stick to keep everyone in line. You know, I think she's been spending way too much time with those pre-kindergarten kids at work.

It was cloudy and cool at first, then the sun broke through and made for a beautiful, warm day. Due to the advanced age of our group we no longer refer to those beautiful white stretches of sand that line the river banks as sand bars, they have become "nap" bars. Lying out in the heavenly warm sun on beautiful white sand a feet from the river was absolutely wonderful. We had to try several "nap" bars and evaluate them carefully for the stringent specifications of the GNBA (that's the ever popular Georgia Nap Bar Association).

Eerie, gnarled tupelo trees lined the banks of the tannin-colored black water river and some even perched in the middle of the stream, their branches hanging low over the water as if just waiting to grab unsuspecting canoes. Sometimes they lined up in rows down the middle of the river so you could weave in an out like an obstacle course. What a great place for a full moon paddle!

The major rapid had some nice little drops and was runnable in several places around the islands that split it up. Even though we took on some water, we all made it through without incident. Wild azalea was blooming all along the river and the fragrance just filled the air.

The terrain of the second half of the trip was much rockier than the first half, with small limestone shoals and drops here and there, and good current all the way to the take-out. The river narrowed somewhat and the banks were higher and steeper and had several small feeder streams creating delicate waterfalls into the river. We stopped and hiked up a very pretty little side creek we call Foam Creek because of the large amount of river foam generated at the mouth of it.

We made it back to camp, rested awhile and proceeded to the Old South Barbecue in Valdosta for some excellent south Georgia fixin's. Back at the campground

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Dick Sturtevant negotiating a ledge drop on the Alapaha River, 3/27/99. - Photo by Sheila Small.

we gathered around a roaring campfire and swapped canoe stories and bad jokes (be sure to ask Tom Martin about his cat joke.)

I was in the ladies restroom later that night brushing my teeth when one of the guys came backing in through the door carrying Tom Martin's rocking chair. Now at the time, this made perfect sense to me, but I can see how to some folks who were not there that the logic behind it might not be too obvious.

It seems the light in the men's restroom had gone out and Terry Neely wanted to take a shower. So he figured since there were only three women in the campground and he thought they were all asleep, he could sneak into the ladies room, shower and be out of there before anyone knew. The chair was to put his stuff on to keep it dry as there wasn't a shower curtain.

When I saw him backing in and before he could see me, I swear I was just being friendly and said "Hey, Terry" and probably took five years off his life. As I left and he went in I heard him slide the bolt on the door to prevent any more surprises. Darn!

Folks who were on this trip and are now charter members of the Georgia Nap Bar Association include: Tom Fish from Tallahassee, Al and Kristin Rolle from Lynn Haven, Dick Sturtevant from Valdosta, Tom and Barbara Fitzpatrick from Jacksonville, John Williams from Plains, Terry Neely, Allan Wadsworth, Tom Martin, and Sheila Small from the Atlanta area and Liz Carter from Oakwood. ✂

The Lord's Prayer is 66 words, the Gettysberg Address is 286 words, there are 1,322 words in the Declaration of Independence, but government regulations on the sale of cabbage total 26,911 words.

- From an article on the growth of federal regulations in the October 24 issue of National Review.

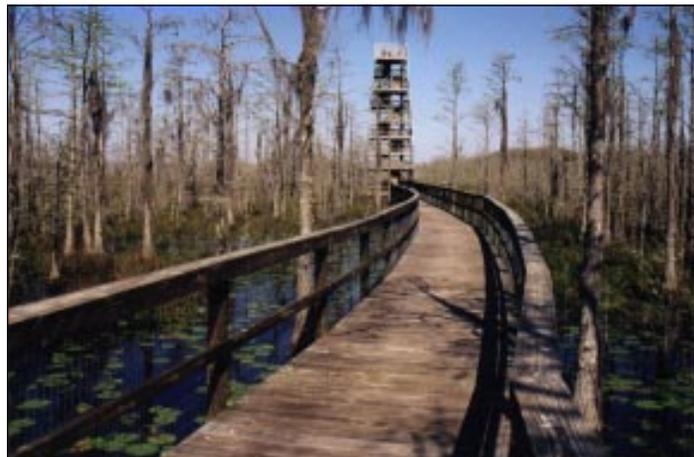
Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area

by Tom Rish

March 28, 1999. After an exciting, but long, day of paddling the Alapaha River on Saturday, everyone looked forward to Sunday and a shorter but different day of Okefenokee-like paddling in the Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area, which is part of and adjacent to Moody AFB near Valdosta, GA. But, due to unforeseen circumstances, our trip coordinator for the day, Sheila Small, had to head back to Atlanta early. Before she did, she escorted us to the put-in, made sure we paddled off in the right direction (swamps are flat water with no downhill clues) and then proceeded to the observation tower a couple of miles away so she could observe how well we followed her instructions.

The canoe trail begins at one end of a sill, or dam, parallels it for a hundred yards or so, and then angles off and winds through a beautiful setting of swamp cypress and other aquatic trees and plants covered in Spanish moss. The larger trees were all rather small (12 inches or so in diameter) and strikingly uniform in size. Lead canoeists were treated to fish jumping all around as they moved out of the way in the smooth, dark, tannin-stained water that reflected images of its surroundings and the sunny skies.

The first part of the canoe trail was well marked with arrows and numbered markers so our guardian leader, Sheila, who was waiting for us in the observation tower, was pleased and relieved when the same number of boats that left the put-in showed up at the tower. When someone commented that the marker numbers couldn't possibly be miles traveled since we hadn't paddled much



The observation tower at Grand Bay, 3/28/99.

- Photo by Sheila Small.

more than a couple of miles, Sheila advised us that they were "Small" miles.

The observation tower is quite nice and high, overlooking the few scattered swamp cypress trees that were nearby. It can be accessed from land by a very long and well-built boardwalk which also serves as a self-guided tour where points of interest are marked and described in a brochure.

From the tower, one can see most of the Grand Bay Wetland area with the more open prairie-like areas to the north and west and the beautiful treed swamp land we had paddled through to the east. We could see lots of water fowl all around and a rookery of what appeared to be ibis in a dense stand of trees in the distance.

After enjoying the high altitude scenery and breezes on the tower, the smartest canoeist, who will remain nameless, turned around and headed back to the put-in, but the rest of us, who will also remain nameless, proceeded to check out the scenery in the prairie. It wasn't long before we started getting hints that we might get to see a lot more prairie that we cared to that day. Paddling became poling, "Small" miles



GCA boaters viewed from the observation tower at Grand Bay, 3/28/99.

- Photo by Sheila Small.

became "long" miles between markers or no markers at all, and the trail just vanished at times.

In one of those stretches of "long" miles between markers, we turned south and headed along an obvious trail that we thought led to the tower. But about halfway there, the trail turned east and headed along rows of duck nesting boxes. Then it dawned on us — we were on a service trail used to maintain the duck boxes. At that point some of the group decided to paddle (pole) cross-country to the tower, which was in sight.

The two of us remaining canoeists continued on down the service trail until we intersected the official trail, which looped back to intersect the trail to the tower. There we rendezvoused with the cross-country paddlers and then headed back to the put-in.

Judging from the comments I overheard, everyone seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the paddle to the tower and back, but most of the "prairie" paddlers were still suffering from an overdose and said they were glad they had done it, but that they didn't care to do that part again real soon!

Travel

Rivers of Costa Rica

by Ray McLain, owner of Costa Rica Rios Aventuras of Turrialba, Costa Rica

Ray McLain is a Wisconsin paddler who now lives in Costa Rica after retiring from corporate life as an engineer. His "resume" includes: ACA and USCKT slalom competitor (open canoe and decked boats), gate judge at the 96 Olympics, ACA certified instructor (white water level) for canoe and kayak, leader of paddling youth programs — both as Team Manager for the US Jr. Team and for Wisconsin kids, a national officer (Treasurer) for the ACA, and an Honorary Life Member of his local club, the Green Bay Paddlers United. Ray has been answering questions of paddlers from around the world who are interested in a Costa Rica paddling vacation. He has compiled a series of articles, sharing answers to questions commonly asked. For further information, contact Ray at

rmclain@costaricarios.com, or check his web site, www.costaricarios.com.

Guidebooks: The only guidebook currently available for the rivers of Costa Rica is the book, "Rivers of Costa Rica" by Mayfield and Gallo. I have used it a lot and continue to do so.

Many paddlers who have used the guidebook to run the rivers are critical of the guidebook, pointing out that

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is was incomplete initially, and it is now dated. Roads have become improved, and new roads built, making the interesting oxcart references obsolete. There are more options for access points, and what was previously considered one "long" run are now subdivided into different sections of different difficulty. Floods have moved many rocks, eliminating some rapids and forming new ones.

Expert paddlers have more specialized boats and equipment, and runs previously thought extreme are now run commonly. So, consider these points when you read "Rivers of Costa Rica" to plan your rivers to paddle. You can get much of the information that is printed in this book on the Internet in a link available from the URL www.InCostaRica.com. There is a link is to Amazon.com, and it is very easy to make your purchase once you are there...

Steve White, an expert kayaker from England who has spent years in Costa Rica doing first descents and hard runs, is writing a new guidebook, he tells me. He says that there will be lots of "new" rivers in his guidebook. I'm anxiously waiting for him to make it available.

Rivers: Although the Mayfield/Gallo guidebook lists dozens of rivers, most visitors for a week or two paddle the more common runs that are well known and accessible. In the table below I will share my own "short list" of commonly kayaked and canoed rivers. While not all inclusive, my "short list" includes 99% of the kayaking and canoeing trips made in Costa Rica.

Some of what I am sharing is interpolated from other sources, and my information is not precise on length of certain sections and gradient. I will leave it to Steve to include GPS references to his new book!

The hard part of using gradient to describe a river is selecting a start and ending point for reference. It can be misinterpreted if you don't know if the river is pool drop or continuous. River channels change with time, and rapids will change in difficulty with different water levels, flooding changes, downed trees, shifting boulders, different channels, etc.

My assessment of difficulty is for "typical" medium water levels. With higher and lower flows, you will need to reassess the difficulty.

Costa Rica River Table

River	Section	Length of Section	Difficulty Description	Gradient	Cleanliness	Scenery	Access
Pejebaye	Taus to Town of Pejebaye	2.9 miles, takes about 30 minutes to 2 hours	Class IV drops near top, class II and III nearer town. High gradient, fast, holes, strainers, tight moves. Some ender waves	87 ft/mile	Very clean, no towns, little agricultural runoff.	Narrow canyon, Primary rainforest on right, trees overhang river in upper section. River channel widens near town	Should have 4x4 or high wheelbase vehicle to get to Taus put-in
Pejebaye	Town of Pejebaye to Oriente Bridge	4 miles, takes about 30 minutes to 2 hours.	Class II (III in higher water). Some maneuvering, some holes to boof. Some ender waves	50 ft/mile	Clean, but town runoff causes some minor pollution. Modest agriculture runoff	Agriculture along shores, tree lined, wider river, more open. Pretty, open valley	Easy access for any vehicle
Pejebaye	Oriente Bridge to confluence with Reventazon, and on to "Canefield" take-out	4 miles, takes about 1 to 2 hours.	Class II, II+ in high water with some waves and "big river" swift current after joining Reventazon. Gravel bars	30 ft/mile	Clean until joins Reventazon. Reventazon is polluted	Agriculture along shores, tree lined, wider river, open valley	Easy access for any vehicle
Reventazon	Cachi Powerhouse to Tucurrique	3 miles, takes 15 to 45 minutes	Class III and III+. High volume when powerhouse is generating. High gradient straightforward rapids	85 ft/mile	Reventazon is polluted	Forested and rugged shoreline. Some evidence of agriculture	Easy access for Powerhouse; Tucurrique road is okay for high clearance vehicle
Reventazon	Tucurrique to "Canefield" take-out above lake being formed by new dam above Angostura	6 miles, takes 1 to 3 hours	Class II and II+ high volume run when powerhouse is generating. High gradient straightforward rapids. Fast flow	40 ft/mile	Reventazon is polluted	Some forested and rugged shoreline. Evidence of agriculture	Tucurrique road is okay for high clearance vehicle. "Canefield" take-out is okay for any car
Reventazon	Angostura to Peralta. This run will be dried up with new dam above Angostura	9.1 miles, takes 1 to 3 hours.	Class IV and V. Holes. Famous for the big powerful rapids, holes, etc. Lots of play spots	68 ft/mile	Reventazon is polluted. More so after Turrialba sewage is dumped into river	Forested and rugged shoreline. Some evidence of agriculture	Easy access for Angostura. High clearance needed for Peralta take-out.

Reventazon	Peralta take-out to Pasqua put-in	3 miles, takes 30 minutes to 1 hour	Class IV, high volume. Wide open. Little information because rarely run	60 ft/mile	Reventazon is polluted	Forested and rugged shoreline. Some evidence of agriculture	High clearance needed for Peralta take-out and Pasqua put-in. Because shuttle take so long, almost never run.
Reventazon	Pasqua put-in to Florida	8 miles, takes 1 to 3 hours	Class IV, high volume. Dangerous holes	50 ft/mile	Reventazon is polluted.	Forested and rugged shoreline. Some evidence of agriculture	High clearance needed for Pasqua put-in and Florida access
Reventazon	Florida to Sioquirres	5 miles, takes 1 to 2 hours	Class III and III+, high volume	40 ft/mile	Reventazon is polluted.	Forested and rugged shoreline. Some evidence of agriculture	High clearance needed for Florida access. Take-out is main road
Pacuare	Top Pacuare. Ends at Car Bridge Bajo Pacuare	8 miles, takes 1 to 3 hours	Class III with IV drops. Pools and drops typical of Pacuare	60 ft/mile	As clean as they get	Primary rainforest. Agriculture just being initiated. Mostly unspoiled	Two hour horseback to put-in. Good gravel roads which don't require 4x4
Pacuare	Upper half of Upper Pacuare. Car Bridge Bajo Pacuare to footbridge Bajo Pacuare	6 miles, takes 1 to 4 hours	Class III with IV drops. Pools and drops typical of Pacuare	60 ft/mile	As clean as they get	Primary rainforest. Some evidence of agriculture	Good gravel roads which don't require 4x4
Pacuare	Bottom half of Upper Pacuare. Footbridge Bajo Pacuare to San Martin access	10 miles, takes 2 to 5 hours	Class III and IV with a few V drops (or higher with strainers)	90 ft/mile	As clean as they get	Primary rainforest. Some evidence of agriculture. Canyons and open areas	Good gravel road at put-in, high clearance 4x4 gravel road at take-out. Long shuttle
Pacuare	Middle Pacuare, San Martin to Tres Equis	3 miles, takes 30 minutes to 2 hours	Class III and III+. Mostly straight forward drops	45 ft/mile	As clean as they get.	Primary rainforest. Some evidence of agriculture. Canyons	High clearance 4x4 gravel roads at put-in and take-out
Pacuare	Lower Pacuare, Tres Equis to Siquirres	14 miles, takes 2 to 5 hours	Class III with several IV drops. Heavily rafted. Lots of play spots	45 ft/mile	As clean as they get.	Primary rainforest. Some evidence of agriculture. Lots of canyons, some open valley	High clearance 4x4 gravel roads at put-in. Highway access at take-out.
Sarapiqui	San Miguel to La Virgen	6.9 miles, takes 2 to 4 hours	Class III with IV drops. Creeky. Play spots	90 ft/mile	As clean as they get.	Primary rainforest with some evidence of agriculture. Open valley	Good roads at both put-in and take-out
Sarapiqui	La Virgen to El Roble footbridge	4 miles, takes 1 to 3 hours	Class II with III drops. Common is river crashing into rock walls. Play spots	56 ft/mile	Clean. Population along way, some runoff	Some evidence of agriculture. Forested and wild looking. Open valley	Good roads at both put-in and take-out
Sarapiqui	El Roble to Puerto Viejo	9 miles, takes 2 to 4 hours	Class I and II. Good scenery, some rapids initially	10 ft/mile	Clean. Population along way, some runoff	Some evidence of agriculture. Forested and wild looking. Good birding	Good roads at both put-in and take-out
Toro	Upper, dam to Recreo Verde Campground. (River left, upstream of highway).	5 miles (est.), takes 2 to 4 hours	Class IV with V drops. Steep. Starts off with most difficult rapid. Limited access	100+ ft/mile	Clean water, no pollution	Canyons, steep, creek	High clearance needed for put-in. Steep dirt roads. 4x4 recommended

Toro	Lower, Recreo Verde Campground to Pital	8 miles, takes 3 to 5 hours	Class III with IV drops	88 ft/mile	Clean, little or no pollution	Forested, canyon in upper section. Agricultural in lower.	Good roads, put-in and take-out
Penas Blancas	Poco Sol to San Isidro Bridge	4 miles, takes 1 to 3 hours.	Class III with IV drops	115 ft/mile	Clean as they get	Primary rainforest, canyons, very little cultivation	4x4 road to put-in; take-out at auto bridge
Penas Blancas	San Isidro bridge to river left Rafting take-out	7 miles, takes 2 to 4 hours.	Class III with IV drop	60 ft/mile	Clean, some farm runoff	Some evidence of cultivation. Vegetation along river. Wide valley	Auto bridge at put-in, gravel road at take-out
Rio Balsa	Dam to Puente Jamaka	3 miles, takes 1 to 2 hours.	Class IV with IV+ drops	100+ ft/mile	Clean as they get	Canyons, creek	Auto access at put-in and take-out

The Watauga Gorge, Death, and Boogie Water

by Julie Keller

I sat this morning in the hot tub soaking up the sun's rays, watching the golfers, and listening to the birds chirp. I can't get off this high from my last paddling trip—a most amazing day on the Watauga Gorge.

I have a number of rivers that I've wanted to paddle for years (the Chauga Gorge, Goshen Pass on the Maury, Citico Creek) but the Watauga Gorge has never been on the list. It is the hardest run in Monte Smith's "Southeastern Whitewater".

After three great days of paddling on the Tellico River, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland, and Clear Creek on the Cumberland Plateau, I was hoping that the group would decide to go to the Nolichucky on Monday. The talk turned to the Watauga on Monday and the Nolichucky on Tuesday. I discussed the river with three open boaters who had all paddled the Watauga. I was still hoping for a change of plans. Bob O came home with the water level graph, and with a prediction of 200 cfs, the guys were ready to go. I was unsure if I would go.

I thought about it for a long time before I went to sleep and then decided that I would make my decision in the morning. In the morning I decided to go for it and do lots of portaging. Hydro, Heavy Water, and State Line Falls for sure.

On the drive from the Cumberland Plateau to northern North Carolina, I passed Ed Green Road. Whow! I thought, Beth would have said it was a sign not to do the river. I knew that I was getting on a very dangerous, boulder invested, undercut infested river. I thought about the risk assessment I conducted before I made the risk management decision to accept the risks posed by this river.

For me the bottom line seems to be about challenges

and opportunities. I couldn't believe I had the unexpected opportunity to run the Watauga Gorge with two very fine open boaters. They did a wonderful job of helping me with my challenge: showing me the lines; setting safety; and rescuing me. I think that Jack London's view of life and mine are similar.

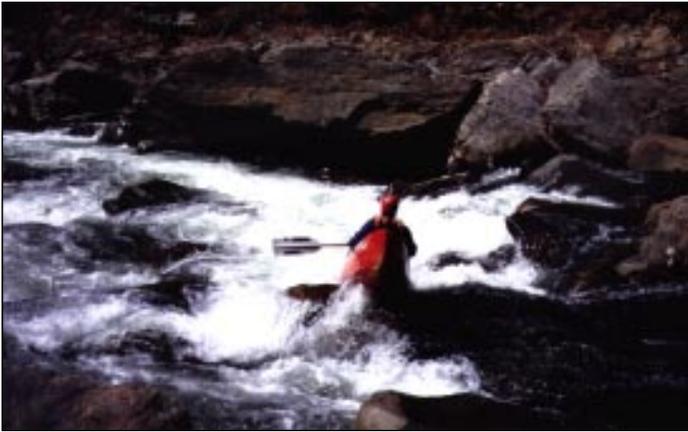
"I would rather be ashes than dust? I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time."

We put on and the river started to drop. Slowly for the first half-mile and then Cabin appeared. Whow! This is wonderful! Steve introduced me to Boogie Water; non-stop class III ledges with lots of eddies.

We stopped to scout Bump & Grind. I didn't like the looks of this large rock with water spraying straight up in



Steve Frazier enters Bumb & Grind, Watauga Gorge, NC.
- Photo by Julie Keller.



Steve Frazier goes off the ledge and heads toward the wall in UAWMF Rapid, Watauga Gorge, NC.

- Photo by Julie Keller.



Dirk Bertrand heading for the hole in Hydro, Watauga Gorge, NC.

- Photo by Julie Keller.

the air. Steve and Dirk went first. The essential right to left move looked a lot easier than I thought it would be.

I started into the rapid and made the move; actually I thought that I was too far left and corrected a little. Oh no! A little too much, I'm heading straight up in the air along with the water on the rock.

I slipped down backward and had a fight with a paddlesnake. The snake won and kept the paddle. My boat (without me) ran the bottom drop just fine. I didn't run the bottom drop and had a great self-rescue. I sat on the rock and took photos of Steve and Dirk's rescue of my boat and the rock up stream that got me.

I got back in my boat for more Boogie Water down to Hydro. I already decided that I was going to portage this class V rapid. The bottom drop reminded me of Charlie's Hole at the Great Falls of the Potomac. I thought about Scott and built a rock cairn near the top of the drop. He would have loved this river.

More Boogie Water down to Heavy Water; I portaged again. Lots more Boogie Water down to UAWMF (Up Against the Wall Mother F___r). I missed my line and fell off a little ledge above the wall sideways. I did a great brace and recovered.

Lots and lots of Boogie Water; I portaged something with no name and a nasty looking rapid called

Knuckles. It was time to Boogie down to State Line Falls, a 16 foot class V rapid. Steve was the only boater to take the leap. I took a great photo!

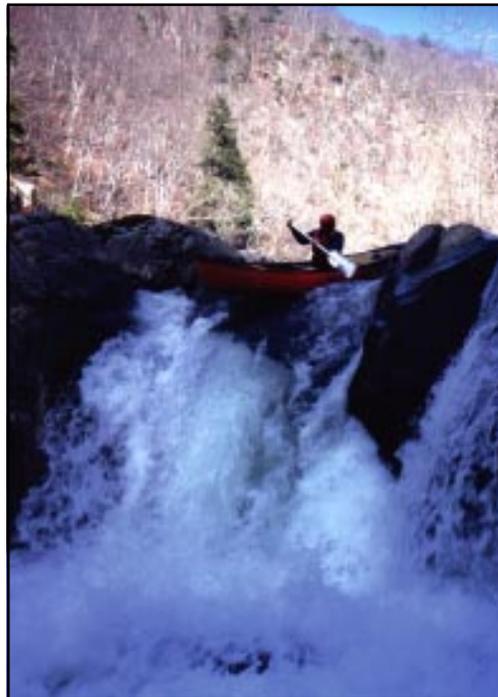
More Boogie Water down to the new American Whitewater (join AW) take-out. Boy do I like Boogie Water!

I was talking with my Mother the day after the trip.

I told her it was the hardest, most dangerous river I had ever been on. She had no sympathy for my lost paddle but was glad that I didn't lose more.

I explained to her how I thought through my decision to paddle and told her that if I had died yesterday, that there would be lots of people who would say that I didn't belong on the Watauga Gorge. I assured her that I knew all the possible consequences and was willing to accept them.

I had the most wonderful day on the Watauga Gorge. This is a trip that I will never forget. ✂



Steve Frazier heads off State Line Falls, Watauga Gorge, NC.

- Photo by Julie Keller.

**If you can, do.
If you can't, don't.
If you're not sure, carefully weigh the probable gains against the possible losses.
Always remember that it is hard to have a good time when you're getting in trouble.**

What's the Point?

by Gary DeBacher

Ninety eight was a dumb summer. Couldn't take a real vacation. Roll shot; happens every time we have El Niño. Missed two Citizen's Races. Needed a change of scene.

Had to drive my son to Chicago. Him and his two turntables and DJ equipment, so he can live with his aunt, work for his uncle, and tolerate his nephew. Take a boat along? What's the point? It's August, and things have been dry, here and near Chicago.

But it's an article of faith, I nearly always take a boat along. You never know. I might have taken my 1973 Mad River, which is dying of hydrolysis, but paddles well on easy rivers. Hm... I could take the Mad River to Chicagoland Canoe Base. Then if they have a free style boat about the same color (white) and length (13-14 ft), I could ditch the old boat and buy the new one. I could muddy it up, distress it some, and take it back to Atlanta. My wife might not realize I had bought a new boat for some time. But that would be wrong.

My racing Zealot is too uncomfortable and fragile, our Mad River Synergy is too big and wind-resistant for convenient travel, and I hadn't been in my kayaks much that season. So by default it was my almost 15 year old Phoenix C-1 which I roped on the roof racks.

On the way north, things looked low and dry in central Tennessee, western Kentucky, and in Indiana. In Chicago, Uncle Bill sez why not paddle on the Chicago River and watch the big air show over Lake Michigan? But a C-1 is not a comfortable spectator seat for long. I had too little time to drive to northern Wisconsin for the Wolf or Peshtigo. My sour grapes thinking was that they were too low anyway.

So I went to the Chicago Canoe Base for advice. Maybe, I said, there is decent water on the spring-fed rivers of the Missouri Ozarks. How about the Current, it's a pretty big river? Vic Hurtowy said skip that, it'll be full of novices. But, he said, if you can drive just a little farther, try the Eleven Point. (You were wondering when we would get to it.)

He said the Eleven Point was a smaller river, one of the original 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers, with clear, moving water, enough easy rapids for interest, and lots of unspoiled scenery. He gave me a flyer for Richard's Canoe Livery, where he said I could arrange to have my car spotted at any take-out.

I had Oz Hawksley's old classic, Missouri Ozark Waterways, which I had bought at Chicagoland Canoe Base back in 1973, and I bought a copy of Ozark Whitewater

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by Tom Kennon, published in 1989 by Menasha Press. Both authors said that Greer Spring, second largest in the state with a 220 million gallon daily output, nearly doubles the size of the Eleven Point, so that good runs below Hwy 19 were possible even in very dry years.

So on Sunday I left my son and sister, and began the long drive through St. Louis, into the Ozarks on Interstate 44. This was my first look at the Missouri Ozarks since 1953 when I was about 11. Then my grandparents drove me to Springfield in their Rambler for a visit to Great Uncle Walt. It was an epic trip, on Route 66 in summer heat with no AC.

This was not my other Uncle Walt, WW II veteran, now retired in Ely Minnesota. Great Uncle Walt fought in WW I, the Great War. He was a people's poet, published often in the Chicago Tribune in their right wing hokey period, when they had a daily political cartoon on the front page. Maybe lucky he was a good poet but no more; the great ones that fought in the Great War died in it.

Great Uncle Walt was also a fly fisherman. A very good one, so far as I could tell. He tied his own flies, asking Aunt Fern to select the right feathers because he was color blind. He preferred cane fly rods, and let me use one to learn to wet-cast flies. He had found that wet-casting, where the fly is dropped through the surface of the water so it could be moved to attract the fish, was very effective in Missouri conditions.

After I got the fly casting rhythm down, sort of, he took me out to a hatchery where the trout were really young and stupid. We caught a mess of fish, and Aunt Fern breaded and cooked them. She used lard to fry. It sure tasted good, and lard worked great for her pan-fried

chicken too.

Great Uncle Walt had a huge arrowhead collection in a glass case, which all of us great nephews hoped to inherit. He pointed out a small bone in the case and asked if I knew what it was. Well I didn't. He said, speaking low so Aunt Fern wouldn't hear from the kitchen, that it was the penis bone from a raccoon. I was very well-read, and actually knew why raccoons had such bones. Let's just say Viagra hadn't hit the woods yet.

Great Uncle Walt had pointed out the James River as we drove around, saying it was his favorite fishing river. He had sometimes used john boats, of which Oz Hawksley says, "John boats 18-24 feet long and four feet wide were used long before canoes invaded the area and were amazingly maneuverable craft for their size." You can see why fly fishermen would rather cast standing in a john boat.

I-44 led to Cuba at about 3 PM, where I followed Hwy 19 south toward Steelville. I crossed the Meramec along the way, which was flowing NE toward St. Louis. An attractive, clear river near Steelville, but it looked low. I bought gas and Gatorade, and asked the proprietor whether the town wasn't unusually quiet on Sunday, considering that it had so many canoe liveries. She just said it seemed normal to her.

Driving in the Ozarks was a trip. The roads were fairly empty. For a while Hwy 19 swerved around on the plateaus, dipping once to cross the Meramec again, and climbing through oak forests before dropping into the upper Current River valley.

The Current is perhaps the most widely known of the protected Ozark paddling streams, a fairly large river which runs 90 miles from Montauk State Park to Big Spring State Park. Big Spring is described as the largest single outlet spring in the world. Below Big Spring, Hawksley says, you may find too many motorboats on the Current for good canoeing.

I crossed the Current at Round Spring, with Big Spring many miles downstream. The river looked runnable but low; Round Spring emerging from a low cave was sluggish. So it was back in the Outback, over the ridges through Venice, and down to Eminence to cross the Jacks River, a major Current tributary, but not that runnable in August. It sure looked low to me.

The drive took a fun turn next. Instead of mostly curving back and forth, the road took roller coaster swoops, one after another. I could drive 60 with a relatively clear conscience, just easing off before each crest to keep the tires on the ground in case I had to hit the brakes. At the bottom of the swoops it felt like 3G, the car sinking on its struts.

Still, the day was wearing on, and I was relieved to

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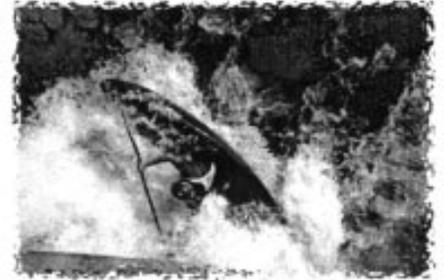
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swoop suddenly down on the bridge over the Eleven Point. A quick scan showed enough water. I drove 3/4 mile south up the hill to park at the Greer Spring lot. Recently the USFS acquired the spring and the surrounding woods from the private owners who had protected it for years. It was hot out of the car, but I had to see the spring. The trail wound down through second growth, sandstone or cherty limestone rocks, and fields of poison ivy.

Soon I heard moving water. There were actually two springs, the upper one running out horizontally from a cave. The lower one, second biggest in the state you remember, welled up from the depths below a rough, dark cliff. The color was a smoky blue, although it cleared and greened as it flowed downhill. The spring was boiling and roiling, pushing up a broad mound of water above the surrounding pool.

Hawksley says that Greer Spring has an average flow of about 300 cfs. Its output runs a mile and a quarter to the river with a gradient of 60 ft. The stream was clearly big enough to run; there was even a good wave-hole just downstream. Hawksley says that many years ago, after

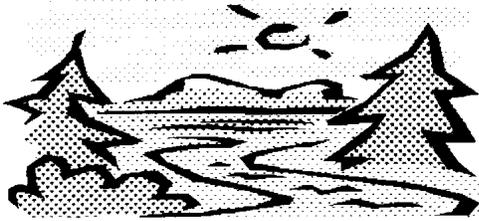
a rafter drowned, the private owners refused to allow any more floaters, and the USFS will not change this policy.

The water was cold, like the Nantahala in June. There was a great variety of ferns, water weeds, etc., growing in or around the spring. Definitely worth the walk down, and at that time on a Sunday afternoon I had it all to myself, which would never occur at Big Spring.

I touched base with the outfitter and drove south to the nearest town, Alton. Not finding the one local motel, nor any open restaurants worth checking, I had to drive another 30+ roller coaster miles west to West Plains, where I ate chicken in my room, watched the X-files, and then got in as many hours of sleep as possible.

I planned to get on the river early, to avoid the heat and any crowds, and to get off and get started back to Hotlanta by mid afternoon. So I met Richard (at least I assume he was Richard, as no one else was acting like the proprietor) by around 9 AM to pay him \$20 to spot my car at the take-out. Then we went straight to the put-in at the Greer Spring campground and access point, river left below the Hwy 19 bridge. I checked through my equip-

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ment items, commenting to Richard that I once was left at Browns Canyon without my paddle. Always pays to be careful.

As soon as Richard drove off with my Outback, I discovered that I had no spray skirt. OH, well, I'd be cooler without it, and because there were no real drops, just gravel bar rapids with wave trains, I thought I could manage not to swamp.

It was a cloudless day, highs predicted again in the 90s. The cold water, most of it from Greer Spring just upriver, was smooth and clear with a blue green tinge. A loose blanket of mist hung low. Dew covered spider webs glistened in the sun. There were clumps and banks of water weeds, the sort you see in spring-fed streams. Rough rocks, pocked and pitted, littered the river bottom.

The river flowed southeast with steady current, through a shallow forested valley. This is now officially the Irish Wilderness Area. Missouri woods are fairly "dry," even close to river level; the rainfall there probably runs about 30 inches a year, with little in summer. Oak predominates, and there's some hickory, sycamore, and various odds and ends like catalpa.

There were some pines on the ridges, but none near the river, and trees needing more moisture like beech and hemlock were absent. Ferns were to be seen only around springs and right next to active streams or seeps. August is a good month for wildflowers. Bright red spires of cardinal flowers were often seen, and goldenrod, the

midwest allergy flower, and various blues and purples not known to me.

But I digress. The Eleven Point kind of loafed for the first half mile or so, until it ran smack into an island much wider than the river. Richard and the guidebooks had said to take the left channel, the right one often being log choked. Across from the left corner of the island was a little bay full of growing stuff, big enough to paddle into, which might have been the outlet for a small spring. The channel past the island offered one of many class 1 gravel bar wave train rapids.

Usually the only problem with any of the rapids was guessing where the water ran deep enough to keep the boat off the gravel, which in limestone country is rough and abrasive. I remember only one rapid so shallow that I scraped unavoidably. Waves did not exceed a foot at the most, and I snuck to the side of these to keep water from splashing through the open cockpit onto the camera bungeed to the pedestal.

Occasionally the water channel ran into the outside of a curving bank where logs and trees threatened. These were avoidable with the usual approach. One bend was hazardous because when I tried to pull the boat away from the limbs and snags along the outer bank with a cross draw, a boiling mound of water prevented the hull from slipping to the right. I spun and paddled head on away from the bank in time, but took some water into the cockpit. Little innocuous rapids like that will spill a lot of Missouri novices.

Most Ozark spring-fed rivers are famous for sand and gravel bars suitable for camping. These aren't so common on the Eleven Point, and most canoe camps, official or not, are located up on the banks. In addition to Greer Campground, the car camping and boat access at the Hwy 19 put-in, the Forest Service has provided a series of improved campsites, accessed from massive stepped canoe landings made out of RR tie like material. So far as I know, there is no reservation system for these. I'll note them by name where they occurred along my route.

The USFS protects a 50 mile stretch of the Eleven Point from Thomasville, Missouri, down to the Arkansas state line, and in spring water some folks make a three day trip of it. Longer maybe, if they have a trout stamp and the talent to use it. The stretch I was on is maintained by Missouri Conservation Commission for rainbow trout.

This was a very healthy stream with many little fish in the water. I often saw larger fish jumping in the riffles, and once saw some 8 inch trout lurking near the bottom. I saw no furry critters, but saw a small snapping turtle clinging to sticks in the water. Birds included Great Blue,

Little Blue, and Green herons, a hummingbird chasing off a Fisher, as well as a few ducks and hawks and the usual gang of buzzards.

Great Uncle Walt once wrote a poem about buzzards "circling higher in the sky." Grandma sent him my only decent high school poetic effort, a blank verse soliloquy by Benedict Arnold rationalizing treason. Uncle Walt's only comment was, "It doesn't rhyme!"

I hear you, get to the point. With a gradient of about 6 feet per mile in this section, the Eleven Point often averages about 4 mph, but in this dry August the long green pools were a little pokey. I had gotten used to my old C-boat; the Phoenix is sure rounder and more tippy than my Zealot or your Atom. And it doesn't accelerate as well, but with its full length, low rocker hull it can hold a good cruising speed. Not that I was in a hurry, but I needed the exercise.

There were occasional pitted limestone shelves along the banks, some higher rock faces with small caves, and here and there a high rock cliff loomed over the water. After about 3 miles I came to the only rapid on this run with enough structure and drop to merit a name, Mary Decker Shoal.

A string of rough dolomite boulders across the river constricted it into several channels requiring a bit of care to enter properly and exit without shooting into rocks. Tom Kennon's guidebook speaks of "many class I-II rapids." I agree with Vic Hurtowy of the Canoe Base that perhaps only Mary Decker rates a class 2. But watch for those snag choked outer banks.

The mists had cleared, and it should have gotten hot, but the breezes blowing over the cold water made it pretty comfortable. At about 4 miles down I came to Turner's Mill, with access on both sides. The right side was more developed and there were some car campers lazing around. Turner's Mill had been on the left long ago, fed by a spring which emerges from a cave. I wanted to hike to the cave, but for some reason I couldn't find the stream outlet. Maybe it wasn't running, or had snuck into the river in a weedy bay.

Stinking Pond Camp was between a stagnant stream and a rock outcrop on the left bank, almost a mile down from Turner's Mill. That name really makes you want to stop, doesn't it? Up to this time the river had run SE with just small direction changes. Here the Eleven Point cut hard right, curved back left almost 180 degrees, ran NE for almost a mile, and then turned back 180 degrees in what is known as Horseshoe Bend. Finally it cut 90 degrees hard left to resume its steady southeastward run.

Horseshoe Bend Camp was on the left in a shallow bay. The rapids in this area provided some sharp eddy

lines next to fast run-out. Bluffs were looming higher over the river and exposed cliffs were more frequent. I saw Barn Hollow Camp peeking out from a little cut in the left bank.

About 11 miles down on the left, upstream of a high bluff, was the summer trickle from Bliss Spring. I saw the trail to the spring but skipped the hike, thinking the spring would look a little sprung. I could see to what extent Greer Spring was responsible for keeping this river runnable in the summer; the other springs and side streams didn't amount to much.

The guidebooks both cite a non-Forest Service access point opposite Bliss Spring. I found a dirty campsite and a trail, but no road. Well, I didn't look very hard, because Richard had left my Outback at the new USFS Whitten access farther down at about the 12 mile mark.

On the way I encountered a fisherman in a metal john boat forcing his way up through the shoals. His outboard motor appeared to have a shrouded prop, providing a sort of jet drive effect. I was parked on a gravel bar, and when he saw me, he slowed to a crawl and waved. I was impressed by his determination and by how shallow a shoal he could ascend, but I wished he couldn't do it. Or wouldn't.

The gradient was easing below Bliss Spring. On a long pool I passed two guys fishing from an aluminum canoe. They must have wondered about me, decked out in white water gear in a strange, black-hulled sortofa kayak thing. I passed by quietly, cross-stroking and silent-feathering to show off. These were the only boats I saw, but then it was a Monday in late August.

I had an irrational concern about missing the Whitten take-out. That would have been hard because it had a substantial concrete boat ramp like the one where I had put in at Greer. The end of a very good day of canoeing, but miles to go before I would sleep. I drove east on 60 and 62 to I-24 in Paducah, and Nashville, Chattanooga, and Atlanta by 2 AM.

So what's the point? Well, now you know of one

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unspoiled classical Ozark spring fed river which has decent water and few people in August. Eleven Point? Nobody knows. Maybe an eleven point buck killed by some pioneer. Here's a diversion to take your anguished

mind off the mystery. How many rivers can you think of with names including a number? Besides the Eleven Point, I can recall the Two Hearted River in northern Michigan, but I'm stuck with just two. ✂

Without a Paddle

Four Hole Swamp

by Gary DeBacher

It didn't take me long to find another river with a number in the name, the first two being the Eleven Point in Missouri and the Two Hearted River in Northern Michigan. Four Hole Swamp is really a river flowing through a swamp, and then running into the Edisto in South Carolina. The lower portions of Four Hole can be run much of the year. Upstream is a remarkable reserve, managed by the Audubon Society, the Beidler Forest.

Joseph Beidler's business was cutting timber, but he must have had a conservationist streak. He bought this tract around 1890, and then held onto it, leaving much of the core in virgin condition. His family kept it intact after he died in 1924, until the 1960s when the Nature Conservancy and the Audubon Society bought it. The Audubon Society manages it as part of their national system of wildlife sanctuaries.

The Audubon Society describes the Francis Beidler Forest as "the world's largest virgin cypress-tupelo swamp forest." A swamp, they tell you, is a forest which is regularly filled with water for all or a good part of the year, while a marsh is a grassland with similar watery periods. The Beidler Forest is covered with a moving blanket of water through the winter and spring, while by summer most of the forest floor is fairly dry, but relatively well-defined streams connect a series of open ponds.

Generals Nathaniel Green and Francis Marion the "Swamp Fox," used to camp here while raiding the British in the Revolutionary War. Some say that "Four Holes" refers to the occasional open ponds, but maybe it refers to a revolutionary guerrilla latrine.

We drove to the Beidler Forest Visitors' Center on the Sunday before Labor Day. We watched the optional slide show, used the clean rest rooms, paid \$5 a head, borrowed a self-guiding pamphlet, and walked through the back door onto an elevated boardwalk.

The tour covers about 1.5 miles, entirely on the boardwalk, which ranged from three to eight feet over the forest floor. The boardwalk first descended over a higher, dryer area where oak trees predominated. Soon it reached a lower area where cypress and tupelo took over. Both tree species have greatly enlarged bases, and in the lower,

wetter areas there were many cypress "knees" pointing up into the air.

The Audubon signs cited three theories for cypress knees, that they are part of a structural support system, that they store starches for later consumption, or that they are some sort of breathing or gas exchange system for the submerged roots. Only the last theory makes sense to me, because I noticed that the cypress knees were very frequent in the lowest, wettest areas, and scarce or absent where the cypress grew on higher ground.

Anyway, the cypress knees, often contorted and moss-covered, looked like tribes of gnomes hunkered down under pointed hats. Some of the cypress were huge, their straight trunks, sheathed in silvery, stringy bark, rising toward distant deciduous needle canopies. Tupelo, hardwoods related to sweet gum and black gum trees, were less imposing. They tend to get roty and knotty, providing nest holes for pileated woodpeckers, racoons, possums, etc.

Cypress is among the most rot-resistant of any wood. It is logged for shingles, fencing, posts and deck wood, but the Italians used cypress to make harpsichords, even for the soundboards. We saw that the cypress often stood tall until eventually their core rotted out. Then they fell to earth. Some were felled by Hurricane Hugo, and are just beginning to serve as nurse logs for seedlings.

Another hurricane, Earl, had recently pumped in some extra water, so when we came to the lowest areas, there was a moving carpet of clear, tea-tinged water flowing through the cypress knees. Some fish were still risking these pools. A big water snake as thick as my wrist swam slowly away.

We were on the loop portion of the tour, and came to a spur leading to one of the ponds or lakes. Across the way a line of over a dozen turtles sunned themselves on a log. Several large turtles swam below the platform, waiting for a handout in defiance of Audubon management intentions. Some fish waited also. A jar on a chain was there for visitors to sample the swamp water and see how clear it was. Just look, don't taste.

We continued on the loop through some more of the wettest areas. We came to one of the biggest cypress, which a sign proclaimed was 1,000 years old. The Audubon staff had provided some whimsical events in human history, overlaid on a representation of the 1,000 tree rings. The boardwalk gradually climbed to higher ground.

Unusual trees were labeled: swamp dogwood, water ash, etc. A big, chunky barred owl exploded into flight, sailing through the tree trunks.

The boardwalk had traveled constantly under a canopy of trees, some low, some cypress over 150 feet. The swamp floor was kept fairly clear by the shade, so a breeze could flow through and provide a little relief from the heat. We had walked slowly and were not too hot, but when we finally stepped back through the door into the air conditioned Visitors' Center, it felt pretty good.

If you like big trees and virgin forest, this is a must-see comparable to the Joyce Kilmer forest in North Carolina. And if you visit the Beidler Forest in the "wet" season, you can paddle through it as well as take the boardwalk. Not in your own boat, but by calling 803.462.2150 and making reservations to go using Audubon's canoes and equipment, led by one of their naturalists. There is a maximum of 12 people, and they say you'll need a sack lunch because the trip lasts about four hours.

The Beidler Forest is closed only on Mondays, Thanksgiving, and on the usual days of Christmas and New Years, but the canoe trips are available only on certain days in each week during the wet seasons, water level permitting.

If you prefer to paddle on your own, you'll have to do it downstream, from the U.S. 78 bridge down to Givhans Ferry State Park on the Edisto. In Paddling South Carolina by Able and Horan, they warn that you may need a saw for places where the Four Hole turns back from river into swamp. And they note that medium water levels are best. Low water means multiple pull-overs, while high water obscures the route and may ram you into debris blocking smaller channels.

To get to the Beidler Forest, take I-26 to Exit 187 between I-95 and Charleston. Drive south on SC 27 and turn west on US 78, and follow the Beidler Forest signs to the sanctuary. Along the way you'll cross the Four Holes bridge on US 78, the put-in for the optional run down to the Edisto. ✂



"The river gurgled and hissed, growling noises came from the whirlpools among the rocks and there was a hooting sound as the current struggled in submerged caverns. Nowhere else have I seen a river so marvelous, so alive and so personal. It was truly a living being with a will and a mode of existence all its own... I had a mystic impulse to contemplate this river forever, to sit by it and even talk to it. My spirit longed to befriend this terrible beauty, to commune with her spirit and to seek her protection and benevolence in the mortal dangers I might meet whilst travelling along her precipitous banks. I even dropped flowers sometimes in homage to her."

- From the book *Land of the Lamas*, by Peter Goullart, published in 1959. (submitted by Dan Pool) ✂

A Soliloquy (With Apologies to William)

To boat, or not to boat? That is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind, to suffer
The bumps and bruises of outrageous rapids;
Or to take strokes against a river of troubles,
And by opposing end them? To boat, to paddle —
No more; and by not paddling, to end
The body-aches, and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to; 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To boat — to paddle —
To paddle? Perchance, to smile. Aye, there's the rub;
For in the death of boating what joy may come,
When we shuffle landed in this mortal coil,
Must give us pause. There's the respect,
That makes Boating desirable for life.
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
To groan and sweat under a weary life,
But that the promise of something on the river,
That undiscover'd country, from whose bourne
No sadness returns, entices the will;
And makes us bear those ills we have,
To release them with others we know not of.
Thus boating doth make believers of us all,
And thus the native hue of our emotion
Is blended with the pale cast of thought;
And enterprises of great weight and moment,
In this regard the currents turn awry,
And lose their name in action — Paddle you, now!

- Chris B. Storbeck

CLASSIFIED ADS

TO PLACE AN AD - Want ads of a non-business nature are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business-related ads are \$5.00 for up to 50 words, \$10.00 for larger. Send your type-written ad to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Dr., Marietta, Ga. 30066, or email to gacanoes@mindspring.com. PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

CAMPGROUND - Nantahala Wesser Campground — New campground one mile east of NOC on Wesser Road, nice bath house with hot & cold showers, quiet & spacious. 704.488.8708.

FOR SALE - Canoe, sprint. Delta C1 sprint canoe - Very, very fast high kneel flat water canoe, with floorboard and carbon paddle. Good condition, great boat - need \$ for new wildwater C2. \$600 - will include half-day lesson. Russell Bailey - 770.518.6120, email rbailey@trinityconsultants.com.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Mohawk Viper, 12' 6", dark green. Solo play boat, great for white water fun! Fully outfitted with front and rear air bags, foam saddle with adjustable thigh straps and foot pegs. Excellent condition, only \$800. 770.599.8210.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Dagger Encore, 13', fuschia. Solo play boat, very dry and a lot of fun! Fully outfitted with front and rear air bags, foam saddle with adjustable thigh straps. Also comes with matching paddling vest and helmet. Good condition, \$500. 770.599.8210.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Old Town Appalachian w/ air bags & thigh straps. \$650. 770.432.6314.

FOR SALE - Canoe, 1998 Mohawk Shaman 12, red Royalex, yellow 60" Voyager air bags, Perception saddle with adjustable foot pegs. Asymmetrical hull with 4-1/2' bow to 5-1/2" stern rocker - looks like a scaled down Caption. Quick and responsive, an eddy grabber. Surfs like a champ and rolls with practice. Purchased September 1998. \$700. Also ask about miscellaneous gear. Chris: 404.288.1375.

FOR SALE - Kayak. Almost new!!!!

Aqua blue Corsica S, used twice. Stored inside. Includes backband, spray skirt, float bags and throw rope. Great beginner's boat. \$400. Call Jody @ 770.270.8150.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Response (red) great condition. \$500. Perception spray skirt (S) \$50, Perception paddle (blk&Red) \$70. Or good deal for all \$575. Call Brenda (H) 770.622.5179, (W) 678.969.2802.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport Frankenstein. Red & Black with back band, fully outfitted. Great for beginners or someone wanting a smaller boat (8'-11" long). Trade for sit on top or inflatable. \$370 OBO. Mark 770.591.2425.

FOR SALE - Kayak and equipment. Everything is in very good to excellent shape. Perception Supersport: \$300. Mitchell wood paddle: \$150. Orosi Helmet: \$55. Perception sprayskirt: \$40. Farmer John wetsuit: \$40. Kokatat drytop: \$30. Lotus Designs PFD: \$25. 50-foot throwbag: \$15. Call 770.578.9738 for more details.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Aquaterra Keowee - Red. A recreation kayak including spray skirt, flotation bag, and 230cm Perception Aquaterra kayak paddle, \$300. Morris at 770.469.8414 or thevagabond-mo@geocities.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Pyranha Acrobat 270 (black) with air bags and paddle. \$450. Call Knox at 770.475.3022.

FOR SALE - Kayaks & C-1. Kayak, Pyranha Acrobat 270, black, in good condition: \$400. Kayak, New Wave Sleek, red/black, in excellent condition: \$450. C-1, New Wave Cruise Control, with new Mountain Surf skirt: \$400 obo. call: 404.377.8836.

FOR SALE - Kayaks. Dagger touring kayaks, Magellan w/rudder \$850, Edisto (2) w/rudder, \$650, w/o rudder \$600. All less than 1 yr.old. Also have touring paddles and PFDs. Greg Anderson 770.640.0301.

FOR SALE - Kayak. Touring sea kayak, Hydra Sea Runner, 17' 6" plastic boat with metal rudder, two storage compartments, red, in very good condition. \$499. Call Debbie @ 770.614.1784.

FOR SALE - Kayaks (K-2), Two Prijon Topo-Duos, purple, excellent condition, stored indoors year round, great play boats and parent/child white water craft. Very stable. Will deliver. \$900 each. (\$1350 new) Call Don Holden at H: 770.339.8527, W:770.513.4442, email dholden@flash.net.

FOR SALE - Log cabin & land. 2 bedroom, 2 bath Log cabin, rec room and garage in basement, 5 acres, 2 streams, 12 x 25 ft. storage quonset hut, private but not remote, paved road, Murphy, N. C. Also: 13+ acres, 360 degree view, several possible building sites, 5 miles from Murphy, N. C. 706.865.6061.

FOR SALE - Land. Secluded mountain lots - great views, streams, heavily wooded, extreme privacy w/ restrictive covenants. Between Cleveland and Dählonega 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 - Vehicle, Poor man's SUV - 1990 Toyota Corolla 4wd wagon, 5sp, ac, am/fm/cassette, Yakima racks, 138k miles, garaged, excellent condition. Book value \$4600, will sell for \$4000 obo. Robert 770.460.5176.

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, 12 or 11ft. white water canoe; Dagger Ocoee or Ovation, or Mad River Outrage in good condition. Call Belle 404.257.3236 (day) or 770.381.3602 (evenings).

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

WANTED - Kayak, Perception Overflow X. Call Pete @ 404.296.3707.

WANTED - Pamlico - Pamlico Excel, Pungo, Breeze, Loon 160T, Bayou, Bayou 2, Delta, Manteo. Call Paul 770.641.7504 or email britman45@mindspring.com.

1999

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

C A N O E I N G

INSTRUCTION

K A Y A K I N G

PADDLING 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/~gacanoer> 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

PADDLING 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 12
Gina Johnson/Kathy King 404-257-3160

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) _____

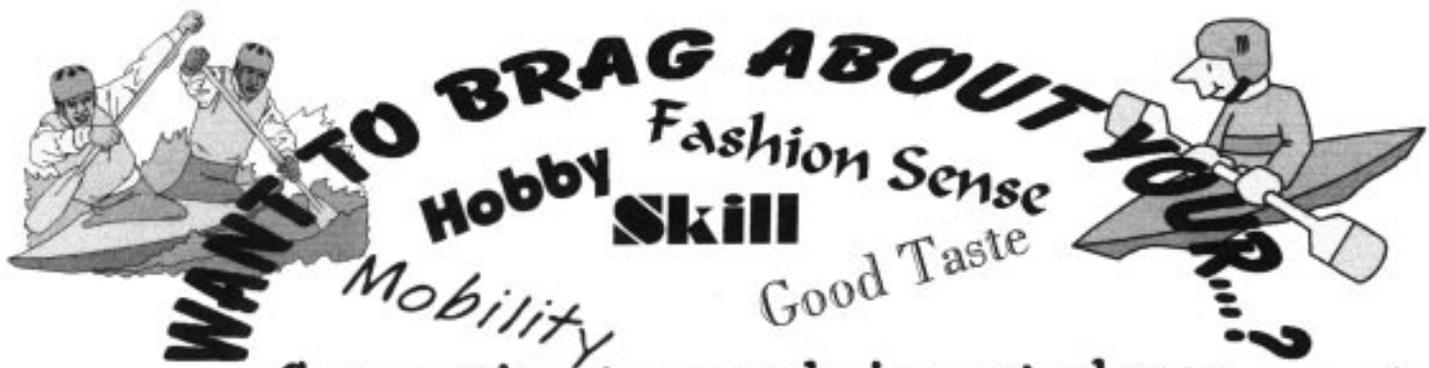
Age _____ Sex _____

Allergies or Prescription Medications: _____

Disabilities, Medical Conditions, Shoulder Problems: _____

TANDEM OR SOLO CANOE

MAIL THIS FORM TO THE CLINIC COORDINATOR



Mobility
 Connection to people in wet places
 NOBILITY Culture
 Intelligence
 Lack of Fear
 Reputation

GET A GCA T-SHIRT!



T-shirts - GCA official logo (a canoe across the state of Georgia) on the front of the shirt while the back has the GCA official motto (River Running is a wet, thankless job but someone has to do it!). Sizes: L, XL, 2X Colors: Teal or Purple Price: \$12.00



Polo Shirts - GCA official logo on the front left breast pocket. Sizes: S, M, L, XL Color: Forest Green Price: \$22.00



Henley Shirts (no collar, button placket) - GCA official logo on left breast area. Sizes: M, L. Color: Forest Green Short sleeve: \$15.00 Long sleeve: \$18.00 - Picture not shown

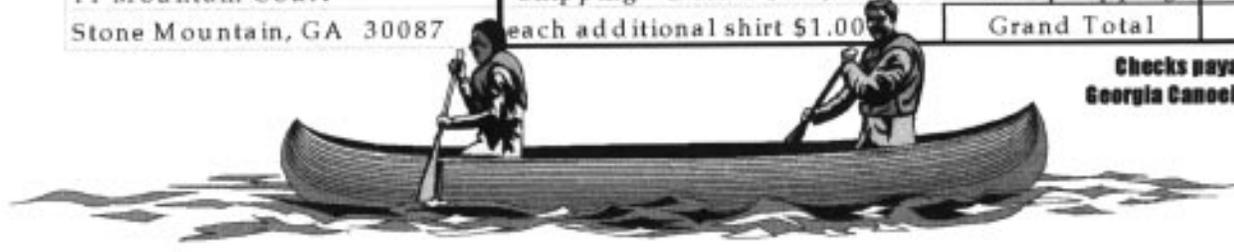
Sweatshirts - GCA official logo on left breast area. Size and color available by special order. Price: \$15.00

Decals - GCA official logo on a clear decal suitable for attaching to boats, cars, and pretty much anything else. Colors: Green and White Price: \$1.50

Pins - GCA official logo on a 1" round, military clasp pin. (Use for hat pins, tie tacs, earrings, etc., etc. etc.) Price: \$2.00

Name:	Item	Color	Size	Qty	Price	Total
Address:						
Phone: ()						
For info. call:(770) 498-3390						
Send check and order form to:	Name on Shirt				\$3.00 each	
Tanda Druding	(Please print names on lines above)				Subtotal	
11 Mountain Court	*Shipping - Decals \$5.50, Shirts 1-3 \$3.00				Shipping*	
Stone Mountain, GA 30087	each additional shirt \$1.00				Grand Total	

Checks payable to:
 Georgia Canoeing Assoc.





Get into the flow.

Go with the flow team member Dale Korfacostas

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