



The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357

Volume 34, No. 11

770.421.9729

November 1999

November GCA Meeting

Our old home at Garden Hills still won't be ready in time for our November meeting, so our Social Chair has had to do a bit of scrambling to arrange a meeting place. The result is that the meeting will be held at the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement in the Sandy Springs area beginning at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, November 17. **NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE DAY — IT IS WEDNESDAY, NOT THURSDAY,** due to availability of the facility. If you show up on Thursday, you will probably attend someone else's meeting.

Our guest speaker for the meeting will be Connie Hagler of the Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club, who will talk to us about sprint racing, the Club today, the \$12 million facility the Olympics left behind, and the future focus of the Club — to attract paddlers of all disciplines to the Club's facilities — including you! Don't miss this opportunity to broaden your paddling horizons.

To get to the Episcopal Church of the Atonement:

From I-285 topside perimeter, take Roswell Road/Sandy Springs exit south (inside perimeter) approximately two miles to Windsor Parkway. Turn east (only direction you can turn), travel approximately 1 mile. Turn north (left) on Highpoint. The church is two blocks on the right in the woods. Look for the parish hall. From Buckhead, go north on Roswell Road, turn east on Windsor Parkway and follow the directions above.

See you there!!



December GCA Meeting

The December GCA meeting will be our annual Holiday Party, and will hopefully take place on the third Thursday in December, but the actual date will depend on the availability of dates at whatever facility we find to host the meeting. At this writing, we are still trying to finalize a location. Watch next month's *Eddy Line* for late breaking details.



Winter Roll Practice

The Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club will again host the joint AWC & GCA winter roll practice. Sessions will begin the first Monday in January and will run through the last Monday in March. Sessions start at 7:00 PM and end at 9:00. Revel Freeman will again be heading up this program, with help from several other GCA members. Additional information will be published in the December *Eddy Line*.



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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 Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384 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 Cruise Master 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

The Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of even months (February, April, etc.) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, located on Piedmont Road at the Prado, next to Piedmont Park. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384 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	Brannen Proctor
Vice President	Marvine Cole
Secretary	Tom Martin
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Rachel Gates
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 gacanoe@mindspring.com. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 5-1/4 or 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, or as a text file on a 3-1/2 inch high density MacIntosh formatted disk, and include a printed copy (Disks returned only if requested). To submit material via U.S. MAIL, send to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, GA 30066. All want ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318 for questions. Thanks for your cooperation.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



November

6	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
6	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Bill Convis	770.751.9258
6	Raven Cliff Falls Hike	Moderate	Steve Bordanaro	770.441.0605
6	Ocoee First Timer	Class 3-4 Advanced	Louis Boulanger	404.373.4775
13	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
13-14	Coastal Kayak Camping (Note 1)	Smooth Water	Steve Cramer	706.208.8382
14	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.394.3469
17	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun —	Episcopal Church of the Atonement —	Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
20	Upper Amicalola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Alan Reaid	770.974.4581
20	Town Creek (AL)	Class 3+ Advanced Intermediate	Dane White	205.820.1127
27	Upper Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Tom Martin	770.662.0058
28	Chattooga Section 3-1/2	Class 3-4 Advanced	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962

December

2	Board of Directors Meeting	Atlanta Botanical Garden	David Martin	404.351.8208
4-5	Withlacoochee (FL)	Smooth Water	Morris Friedman	770.469.8414
11	South Sauty Creek (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	205.820.1127

Note 1: Rental Kayaks Available.

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call the Cruise Master and Sign Up Now!!

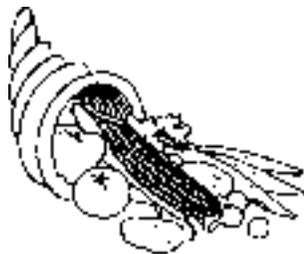
Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

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 Cruise Master, 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: Indoor pool practice begins the first Monday in January and runs through the last Monday in March at the Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club pool. Time is 7-9 PM.



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

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 Florida
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
Arkansas information (assorted)
Basic River Canoeing
Boundary Waters I&II
Brown's Guide to Georgia
Buyer's Guide 1993 (Canoe Magazine)
Buyer's Guide 1994 (Paddler Magazine)
Buyer's Guide 1996 (Paddler Magazine)
California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers
Canoe Racing (Marathon & Down River)
Canoeing Wild Rivers

Carolina Whitewater (Western Carolina)
Cruise of the Blue Flujin
Cumberland River Basic Canoe Trail Guide
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement
Florida information (assorted)
Idaho Whitewater
Indiana Canoeing Guide
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
People Protecting Rivers
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 over 285 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 sub-



scribed 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 Allen Siquefield at asinque@bellsouth.net. ✂

Need an Internet Service Provider?

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

Canoe Outfitting & Repair
Custom outfitting of your open canoe or C-1
Saddles, thigh straps, air bags, knee pads,
skid plates and more
ABS repair for cracked or broken hulls

Canoe Instruction
Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced levels
Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318

Weekday Paddlers

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

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

Upcoming Events of Interest

December 4 — Citizen Slalom & Wild Water Races, Bryson City, NC, 828.488.2176, ext. 108.

January 3 — First day of winter indoor roll practice, Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club, Revel Freeman, 404.261.8572.

February 25-26, 2000 — National Paddling Film Festival, Lexington, KY, NPFF, 120 Victory Ave., Lexington, KY 40502, www.surfbwa.org/npff.

May 19-21, 2000 — Ocoee Rodeo, Upper Ocoee, Ocoee

White Water Center, TN, Jayne Abbott (828.645.5299, email jhabbott@aol.com)
August 8-12, 2000 — USA Canoe & Kayak Sprint National Championships, Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, ConHagler@aol.com. ✂

New GCA Logo Selected

Response to the GCA Logo Contest was less than overwhelming, but several good submissions were received. The Logo Committee met three times in the process of narrowing the field and making the final selection for submission to the Board of Directors. The Board had a lively discussion concerning the desirability of changing the logo, with a strong sentiment expressed by traditionalists toward not making a change. The traditionalists were voted down in the end, and the new logo was selected over the present logo by the Board.

Thanks to all who submitted an entry in the contest. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Those of you who should have submitted an entry and didn't will have another chance in a decade or two, so hang in there.

The winning logo, submitted by Banks Lanier, will have been unveiled at the October General Membership Meeting by the time you read this. The new logo will be gradually phased in as existing supplies of newsletter mastheads, club stationery, envelopes, club store merchandise and other such items are depleted. ✂

GCA Store Open Under New Management

Hi folks! Just wanted to let you know that Mary Ann Pruitt and I are managing the GCA store now. We still have some teal and purple T-shirts with the old logo on them. Once they're gone, they're gone. Now is a good time to get a piece of the GCA's history! We also have pins and a few window/boat decals left. Plus, there are some great

deals to be had on the '98 and '99 Race T-shirts.

We are working on updating the ad / order form for The Eddy Line. In the meantime, I wanted to get the word out on how to contact me if you're interested in any of the items we have in stock. Denise Colquitt 770.854.6636.

SYOR!



New Officers Elected for 2000 Year

The following slate of officers, selected by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, was approved by the club at the October General

Membership Meeting:

President	Brannen Proctor
Vice President	Marvine Cole
Secretary	Tom Martin
Treasurer	Ed Schultz

The new officers will assume their duties on November 1. Additionally, Rachel Gates has agreed to chair the Member Services Committee.

A list of new committee chairs should be available for publication soon. Several positions are still available. If you are interested in (or could be coerced into being interested in) volunteering to serve the club in some capacity, please contact President Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384.



Instruction / Training

From the Training Chair

by Gina Johnson

Well, another successful training season has come to an end. I want to thank all the club members who participated as ACA Instructors and those volunteers who participated as "competent aides" to make our training program possible. As ACA instructors, these club members could be earning big bucks for teaching canoeing and kayaking skills; instead they are only compensated for their out-of-pocket expenses. Since the GCA requests that each instructor have only four students, it is easy to see why space in our paddling clinics is so limited.

We're planning some new offerings for Winter and Spring, 2000. The first is a Trip Coordinator Workshop that Brannon Proctor will be offering Saturday January 29. We are planning a First Aid/CPR Course in February. In March or April, we hope to have one or more Drill Sessions for all club members to have a chance to do some flat water stroke work. We intend to set up buoys and slalom courses on a local lake so that we can all practice executing strokes correctly and efficiently. Canoes, kayaks, sit-on-tops and duckies will be welcome. Remember if you can execute it on flat water, you'll have a much better time on white water!!

Special thanks to Steve Cramer, Brannen Proctor, Oreon Mann, Haynes Johnson and Allen Hedden for Canoeing; Doug Pratt, Brent Coleman, Jim Kelly, and Revel Freeman for Kayaking; Steve Cramer for Sea Kayaking and Gina Johnson and Kathy King for Duckie Day!



"If you can read this, please flip me back over."

- *Written upside down on a canoe.*

GCA Trip Coordinator Clinic

by Brannen Proctor

Have you thought about coordinating a GCA trip, but haven't because you weren't sure if you were qualified to be a trip coordinator? If you know at least one river well enough to describe it to someone else, and you have the paddling skills to paddle the river competently and safely yourself, then you have 90 percent of what it takes to be a trip coordinator on that river. The remaining 10 percent, you'll learn at the GCA Trip Coordinator Clinic on Saturday, January 29, 2000.

For those of you who have coordinated trips before, this is an excellent opportunity to brush up on your skills. Come share your experiences while you benefit from hearing the experiences of others.

This will be a one day clinic, held indoors, in the Metro Atlanta area. This course will teach you how to be an effective trip coordinator so planning for the trip, as well as the trip itself, will be an enjoyable experience for you and all trip participants. Safety will be discussed since it is a major part of all river trips. However, this is not a safety training clinic and does not replace any of the GCA Safety and Rescue courses.

The GCA Trip Coordinator Clinic will be taught by GCA members who have extensive experience organizing river trips and are well versed in the roles, responsibilities and issues of being a trip coordinator. The format will be classroom instruction, group discussion, and role playing. You will learn what to do (and what not to do) as a trip coordinator so you can organize a trip with confidence.

The cost of the clinic is \$20, which includes hand-outs, refreshments, and LUNCH! You must be a GCA member to take this clinic.

Look for the registration form in the December, 1999 *Eddy Line*.



USA Sprint Championships

The USA Canoe & Kayak Sprint National Championships will be held August 8 - 12, 2000 at the 1996 Olympic Venue for Sprint Canoe / Kayak on Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Georgia. For further information, please contact the Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club at ConHagler@aol.com.



It's Lanier!

The Olympic Legacy Lives! The 2003 Sprint Canoe / Kayak World Championships were awarded to Lake Lanier, site of the 1996 Olympic Sprint Canoe / Kayak events! The United States has never hosted an event of this magnitude independent of an Olympics or other multisport games. This presents an unprecedented opportunity to develop the sport in the United States!

The 2003 World Championships will be the Olympic National Qualifier for the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

River Access

Private Boater Caps on Chattooga Proposed by Forest Service

If you are a subscriber to the GCA email list, you are very much aware that cyber space was humming during the first week in October with the news that the Forest Service is proposing new caps on private boater use of the Chattooga Wild & Scenic River.

The issue raised comes from Alternative I, the Agency's draft proposal for managing the Sumter National Forest. Issue 11 — Wild and Scenic Rivers.

"The Chattooga Wild, Scenic and Recreation River is managed to protect its outstandingly remarkable values. The Turkey-Stevens Creek rivers are recommended for W&SR. Boating use on the Chattooga W&S River remains at current levels. Commercial use levels remain as in current land management plan. Private use is capped at current use levels."

The method for this implementation is not in place. Leave that to your and their imagination.

The issue was thoroughly discussed at the October GCA Board of Directors meeting, and the following points

were mentioned:

1. Current private usage includes a large portion of users that many believe are not properly classified — the rental craft users. The Forest Service generally defines commercial usage as usage that results in money changing hands. The rental craft users pay money, but are lumped in with the private users (probably because of the difficulty in tracking rental craft usage). Inflatable craft (rafts & duckies) constitute the largest portion of this traffic. The Forest Service's usage figures show very little increase in private boater usage until the mid-nineties — coincidentally the time when the number of raft rental businesses in the Chattooga area increased dramatically. We believe that this unregulated commercial usage should be properly classified and regulated before even considering caps on purely private usage. This sort of unregulated commercial usage also presents many safety concerns.

2. A Forest Service source mentioned that the proposal was originated as a result of private user surveys in which private users said that they "like things the way they are." The Forest Service took that to mean no higher usage numbers. The private boaters (who made the statements) interpret the meaning to be "Leave the system alone; it works fine the way it is." The existing self-registration system has worked very smoothly, and "real" private usage has remained essentially flat over the past 15 years.

3. No proposals have been mentioned to cap or curtail other types of private usage in the Wild & Scenic Corridor which have a much more severe impact on the resource, such as hiking, fishing, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and SPECTATING AND SWIMMING AT BULL SLUICE. The Forest Service has even spent money creating and improving facilities to help expedite many of these activities, e.g., building the boardwalk access from the Highway 76 parking lot on the South Carolina side to Bull Sluice. Spectating at Bull Sluice has had a tremendous negative effect on the environment between Bull Sluice and the bridge.

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Cumming, GA jmaoc1@netscape.net

4. The private sector presently has only about 38% of total river usage allocation (not necessarily the same as actual usage), even including the commercial numbers (rental craft) mentioned above. Private usage should AT THE VERY LEAST equal commercial usage before considering caps.

No one wants another Nantahala or Ocoee in our Wild & Scenic Corridor. Commercial use caps and unregulated stream flow have combined to ensure that we won't see that sort of usage levels on the Chattooga. We believe private boater usage caps are not necessary at this time.

We also do not want usage allocations on the Chattooga to go the way of allocations in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, where commercial users have been allocated a huge preponderance of the available user days. While a commercial passenger can book a Grand Canyon raft trip in, at most, a few months, there is approximately a twenty to twenty-five year waiting list for a private permit. The Chattooga River belongs to ALL the people and not just the commercial users. The private boaters insist on equity in the allocations. Hopefully, Georgia does not have its own version of Senator Hatch to deal with.

Claude Terry, owner of Southeastern Expeditions,

long time GCA member and past president of the club, appeared at the Board of Directors meeting to express to members that the Chattooga outfitters were not the instigators of the Forest Service proposal to cap private boater usage, and to assure us that he and the other outfitters are against capping private usage at this time.

What can YOU do??? Write letters. Well thought out, to the point, intelligent letters. Abusive, aggressive, irrational letters don't help our cause, and might hurt. For your letter writing, two addresses are listed below:

USDA Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, South Carolina 29212-3530

The Regional Forester (and the responsible official) for the Southern Region is located at:

1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

Email addresses:

twhite/r8_fms@fs.fed.us
jthomas/r8_fms@fs.fed.us

The telephone number to comment on this alternative is 888.324.7383.

Call, write letters, send emails! Let them know that capping private boater use on the Chattooga is unfair and not necessary. ✂

Letters

Oct. 5, 1999

IN RESPONSE to Jason Robertson of American Whitewater regarding Issue 11 in the Sumter National Forest Land Management Plan Revision.



Mr. Robertson's impressions of the situation here on the Chattooga are very different from mine. I have paddled the Chattooga thousands of times during the last twenty five years and I am a US Forest Service Special Use outfitter and as such am privileged to information that the public seldom hears about because they seldom request that information. The Chattooga River is being overused by the commercial rafting industry. In Robertson's letter he states, "At present, commercial caps from the 80s are not expected to increase." This is the big lie the Forest Service and the outfitters continue to perpetrate against the public; commercial use increases every year and there is no cap on commercial use.

Also, (since 1985) "Since then commercial use has remained steady while private use has only increased about 85%." NOTHING could be further from the truth. In 1985 (according to USFS figures) there were 38,902

rafters and in 1997 there were 57,712 rafters which is a large increase. In 1985 there were 14,840 private boaters and in 1997 there were 26,790 private boaters which is a big increase, but still less than half the number of commercial rafters.

It stands to reason that if private boaters use the river less they should pay less for that privilege, but that is not the case. In fact, private boaters pay more to use the river. Example, the private boater parking fee is \$3.00 per car and yet the commercial outfitters only pay the Forest Service \$2.00 per person even though some of their weekend trips cost the customer \$100.00. And to make matters even worse, the other recreation users on this District pay nothing to go hiking, primitive camping, and horseback riding, even though facilities have been constructed specifically for those users.

In Mr. Robertson's letter he states, "The cap on commercial outfitters has been very effective." Nothing could be further from the truth, as the above numbers clearly indicate. The road traffic, parking lot congestion, beach access, scouting access, rope positions, lunch sites, and the general feeling of wilderness have all suffered dramatically because of the high numbers of commercial use. We do not ever want the Chattooga to look like the Nantahala, Ocoee, or Gauley Rivers because those have

been turned into commercial dumps. The Chattooga River is a National Wild and Scenic River and must be managed for a much higher standard of resources and experiences than other rivers that are popular with the public.

Further, Robertson says, "We need to let them know that if they can justify caps we might support them." NO WAY. I do not care what the American Whitewater does, but I will fight this to my last dying breath. The Forest Service has done a sorry job of managing our National Forests. They have clear cut our old growth, endangered our wildlife, built a million miles of roads, sold our best timber to Japan at less than market prices, sold grazing rights in our wilderness areas, and now they want to "improve" our rivers; I do not think so.

Sincerely,
Bruce A. Hare
Long Creek, SC

October 6, 1999

To: All Paddlers of the Chattooga River

Re: Access Issue

Dear Folks,

It has come to my attention that some persons have made inaccurate and slanderous statements regarding my position concerning the Forest Service proposal to limit private boater access on the Chattooga River. I would like to clear up my position. I hold a Special Use Permit to conduct canoe and kayak instructional clinics and a permit to provide shuttle services on the Chattooga River. I have held these permits for twenty years and have never suffered an accident that resulted in any personal injuries or any property damages of any kind. My total commercial use on the Chattooga is one percent of the total use and I do not believe that is enough to damage the river in any way.

Further, I have a letter on file with the Forest Service that states <if> "it can be determined that my commercial activities ever cause harm to the river then I will surrender my permits voluntarily and first." I have always put the river and its protection first on my agenda. I have filed more appeals and law suits against the Forest Service in my efforts to protect this river than anyone else. I will continue to fight for the environmental, ecological and social conditions that will allow this irreplaceable public resource to survive the onslaughts of humanity and the abuses of the Forest Service.

It has been suggested on the web that my efforts are self serving and that is simply not true. Yes, I do paddle and I do benefit from this resource, but I have always put

the resource ahead of personal gain. I make less money than any of my contemporaries and I have the tax returns to prove it. I could have developed a "big" business here on the Chattooga, but I chose not to do that because I wanted a quality of life that included a Wild and Scenic River and access to paddle that river. What I chose was a life style vs. development and profit, which I knew would lead to the degradation of this river over time.

And that is where we are right now. The river is being degraded by too much commercial use so the Forest Service is proposing to limit private paddlers. Anyone in the river conservation movement, the rafting industry, or the Forest Service that tells you I am doing what I do for my business is not telling the truth.

Sincerely,
Bruce A. Hare
Long Creek, SC

"To do is to be." - Descartes

"To be is to do." - Voltaire

"Do be do be do." - Frank Sinatra

- *Men's restroom, Greasewood Flats, Scottsdale, Arizona*

Bowman's Island 'Hooch

by Tom Martin

The put-in is at the Bowman's Island unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, just below Lake Sidney Lanier, in the shadow of Buford Dam. This has sometimes been described as "flat" or "smooth" water. While it is peaceful, there are many shoals and relatively minor rapids. I call it a class I+. Let me explain.

For paddlers who want an easy run with little risk of swimming, this is a river made-to-order. For beginners who want to hone their skills with some risk of flipping, this stretch will accommodate. For those who want to push their limits playing at the various surfing holes, the water is cold... but some just can't resist. This is an easy beginner run that can be made more difficult with a little creativity.

There are numerous strainers and sweepers that require caution, especially when swimming. The most serious hazard (since none of us would paddle under the influence) is the COLD WATER. Even in summer, appropriate clothing must be worn for dam-released water below 55 degrees Fahrenheit. (A 20 minute swim might require 30 minutes of recovery time in July.) There is greater risk for younger and older swimmers.

The take-out is usually at either Settles Bridge (4-1/2 miles) or McGinnis Ferry Road (8-1/4 miles), though it is possible to paddle all the way to Roswell (over 30 miles) in a day's paddle. The Settles Bridge take-out is not currently a good option due to recent development in the



area. The McGinnis Ferry take-out is very steep but doable. Parking is on a narrow shoulder alongside a busy two-lane highway. The right-of-passage may be claimed by west-coast mirrors (usually attached to LARGE trucks) whizzing past your car at 55 m.p.h. Use SERIOUS CAUTION while loading boats here.

This section of the 'Hooch is not recommended at higher water levels. Besides the obvious risks from more powerful water, the rapids are covered, making the paddle less interesting and less scenic. Weekends usually have reduced water levels (call 770.945.1466 for release schedules at Buford Dam), but cooperative dam releases are never guaranteed. Be on the alert for rising water levels and listen for the warning horns. It may be necessary to get off the river when additional water is initially released.

Scenery on this section is pleasant, though the wide fluctuation in water levels sometimes leaves a coat of mud on everything. Great blue heron, vultures, hawks, kingfishers, Canadian geese, and ducks are all found here as well as beaver, muskrat, deer and goats (at the dam). The presence of fishermen gracefully casting their lines for trout just adds to the mood. Beware of poison ivy and copperheads while enjoying the seasonal flowers adorning the banks.

Soft blankets of early morning fog lend an aura of mystery to the gently flowing stream. Passing through these low clouds and feeling the sudden drop in temperature gets the blood flowing. Hearing approaching rapids that are hidden from view adds excitement. Don't miss the experience of an early morning paddle.

December 12, 1998. We had a perfect number of seven boats. (K-1: Dave Chaney; OC-1: Jeff Wilson; Pablo Murphy, Matt Brannon, Bill Convis, Tom Martin; OC-2: Bob Madden and Don Mullins).

We met at the parking lot on top of the dam with a wind-chill factor of around 20 degrees. Mid-afternoon, Bill's thermometer read 40 degrees. Just above the Georgia 20 bridge the river is forced to the right through a slot about 25 feet wide. Several surfing opportunities are created. Pablo tested these aggressively with his new Blue Hole Sequel. Swims while playing don't count! A group effort first disconnected and then reconnected Pablo and Sequel.

Later, I spotted a less dramatic hydraulic/hole perfectly sized to my boat. Easily getting in for a side-surf, I was amazed at how the boat fit in the hole. Enough. Now to get-out. After several attempts, I resigned to the



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swimming option. Bill and Dave assisted in getting me and my boat to a suitable rock. Only paddlers could be so cold and wet while still having fun. A tired but refreshed group took out at McGinnis Ferry. Thanks, guys.

February 7, 1999. Once again we had a perfect number of seven boats. (K-1: Paul Smith; SK-1: Pat Powers, R.C. Connell; OC-1: Terri Vales, Tom Martin; OC-2: Pete & Julie Hoffman, Marty & Cathy Dyche.) When we met at 1:00 p.m. the weather was rough wind, rain, clouds, and threatening to get worse. Even the veterans were not committed. But if you don't like the weather, just wait — it'll change. By 1:15 p.m. the storm had passed and we had perfect skies the remainder of the day.

Remembering the swims we had in December, playing aggressively in the cold water was discouraged, so the trip was uneventful but pleasant. The put-in below the dam often closes early (5:00 p.m.) in the winter, so park your shuttle vehicle appropriately.

Many thanks to the group for floating with me on this winter afternoon. Happy river trails! ✂

Flint River

by Richard H. Greene

It was a clear, beautiful day on September 12, 1999, next to the last weekend of summer. The meeting place was at Locust Grove Exit on I-75 South in the Tanger outlet center mall parking area. The following participants were there: Tom Martin, Dan & Elise MacIntyre, George Warriner, William & Teresa Gould, Charlie Balch, Walton Smith, Brannen Proctor, Rachel Gates, Pat Powers, Bill Kaylor, Kennedy McLeod, Vaidhy Mayilrangam, Tom Browning and myself. We were later joined by Bill Edwards from Columbus and John & Cindy Williams from Plains, Georgia, at the river outside of Marshallville, at the site of the old Underwood Ferry Crossing, which has been closed since 1986. It was the last public ferry in Georgia.

What a sight, all those vehicles in caravan down I-75 with such a mixture of solo & tandem canoes, kayaks, sea kayaks ducky kayaks all sitting on top of trucks, cars and RVs with all the colors of the rainbow!

We arrived at the river about 10:30 a.m., unloaded and ran the shuttle to the take-out 4 miles north of Montezuma, led by John Williams, who has paddled the Flint many times. The Paddlers Guide to South Georgia measures this section of river to be eleven miles.

We departed the old ferry crossing at about 11:30 a.m. with 13 boats and 19 people on the trip. The river was low but moved along with a good current. After the first

hour on the water we stopped for lunch on a beautiful white sandbar, of which there seemed to be one on every bend in the river. Here we divided into 3 groups. The faster boats arrived at the take-out at four o'clock and the middle and slower groups at five o'clock, all making good times even with the rest stops on the sandbars and collecting driftwood and artifacts to take home as souvenirs of the trip.



John & Cindy Williams of Plains, Georgia, with their hand crafted "stripper" (cedar strip canoe).

- Submitted by Richard Greene.

At the take-out in Macon County, about 200 yards below the landing is a high bluff made up of fossilized prehistoric oyster shells dating back over one million years, indicating when this part of Georgia was covered by the ocean. Several members of the group paddled down and collected some fossils for their memorabilia of the trip.

It was a beautiful day. Even though the water was low, it was crystal clear and moved swiftly. Everyone had a great paddle, based on the ones who have since called me and asked when and where the next trip would be. Some even suggested an overnight camp-out on one of the sandbars! ✂



An Open Boater Talks to God

by Debra Berry

Roll practice is a social occasion if nothing else. It's a motley crew on the best of nights. I, esteemed open boater that I am, show up to add a touch of class to the presidings. It doesn't hurt that some of the crew gather at the bar around the corner from my house after practice either. Now, I'll admit that I have been known to poke a little fun at kayakers, but I have never said bad things. But... on the off chance that I have, maybe, thought a bad thought, I offer this story as atonement.

I was at the lake early. Gaby and Allen, the other open boaters, left to run the gates and that left me to my own devices. I started out working on strokes, ending up in the middle of the lake in a patch of lovely sunlight. It was as if I were the only person in the world. It was such a lovely, serene spot.

I inched myself onto my back airbag and stretched out to contemplate the mysteries of the universe. There I was, in the middle of the lake, feeling perfectly peaceful, when I fell over. That's right, I fell over sitting on a perfectly calm lake. I started swimming for shore; I couldn't see a soul because of the sun and assumed I was alone.

Unknown to me, the snail rescue brigade had arrived, had seen what had happened and was getting ready at a very leisurely pace. "Her head's above water. She'll be to shore by the time we get there."

In the mean time two motorists stopped to ask if I were all right. I was fine, especially since I thought I was alone, meaning that there were no kayakers around to witness my folly. I was close to shore where I emptied my boat and climbed back in and paddled to... no, not to the put-in, that would make sense. No, I paddled back out to the middle of the lake, crawled back onto my boat and resumed my oneness with the cosmos. That's about the time the police showed up at the put-in. A motorist had called them after seeing a boat upside down in the middle

of the lake.

The snail rescue brigade had just had, hmmm, what's the word, an interesting encounter with some other park police in another state. So when the park police showed up, the snail rescue brigade began blathering about bats, and id's. He let them blather then asked,

"Is she OK out there?"

The kayakers nodded their collective heads and tried to look more innocent than they felt. They sent someone after me as soon as they got rid of the police. By that time I was back on my boat and had returned to my talk with God when I heard a faint voice, "May I interrupt?" I looked up to hear what God said.

"HEY!"

Yikes! God was yelling at me. I fell over. Again. Of course.

"Are you all right?"

It was Ray! It wasn't God at all! I'll admit to being a little disappointed. Oh hell, I was very disappointed. I was thought I was hearing God and there he was, it was not the same thing at all.

"I thought you were God."

Ray stopped laughing long enough to pull me and my boat to the bank about the time the rest of the snail brigade showed up. Kathy and Charley stayed with me as I paddled my boat back out into the patch of sunlight and climbed back on to my rear air bag. I wish I could say something cosmic happened, you know, something like being transported into another realm. But it didn't.

I'll tell you what did happen. I fell off. Come to think of it, maybe God did speak to me. "Hey Debra, this is physics!"

I eventually got my boat to shore, emptied it again and this time I paddled back to the parking lot. I have officially made up for the all the times people thought I laughed at kayakers. From now on I'm going to be nice. I promise. Shoot, I might even be sweet.... Nah, some things are just not meant to be. :)

- From the GCA email list.



Airlines and Travel Issues

Paddling in Costa Rica

by Ray McLain

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.

Unless you have a couple of weeks or so to drive, or

unless you are a heck of a sea kayaker, you will want to fly to Costa Rica. There are two international airports that have flights from the US — but 99.99% of the folks come into Juan Santamaria, located just a mile from the city of Alejuela, which itself is a western suburb of San Jose, the capital and largest city. The airport is about 10 miles west of San Jose.

If you are flying from the states, check out the following airlines: American, Delta, Continental, United, LACSA, TACA. In addition to these which have regular service, there are charters which operate seasonally and periodically. US cities which have direct flights to San Jose include Miami, Orlando, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, and LA. I have heard of charters which fly out of Chicago and Canadian cities.

There are lots of excellent travel agents, and now more people are using the Internet to buy their tickets. If you ask me, I refer folks to the woman who sends more paddlers to Costa Rica than anyone else — Cathy King with Adventures Travel, Franklin, NC. Cathy's email address is carolina@primeline.com and her 800 number is 476.8525. Start looking for tickets way in advance to find out the current situation for "deals" — often prices are cheaper if you buy a month in advance, and there are a limited number of "cheap" seats.

You really should get a passport for international travel. Apply at a post office for the forms. You will need to have a birth certificate or similar record, passport photos, and about \$65 to get the passport. You need to allow a few weeks unless you are having expedited service (at extra cost). I know of people who have attempted travel using a non-certified copy of a birth certificate that did not get on the plane...

If you are bringing in a kayak, it is best to put it in a "boat bag" and call it a paddle surfboard. What you pay for excess baggage for your kayak will depend upon the airline and the counter agent. Some are kind, others are heartless. To be sure your boat will get to Costa Rica, you will need to ship it as cargo, for about \$300. You should ship it several days before you leave, and allow for several days to get through customs. You will likely need the services of a private customs agent, and you will likely pay some duty.

As you approach Costa Rica, you will be asked to fill out a customs declaration form. This is not a big deal, as tourists are allowed to bring their personal vacation items with them. Most of the time tourists are not checked by customs. If you are checked it will likely be a spot check. It is rare that anyone has to pay duty on things being brought in as baggage. I did have a friend who had their popcorn confiscated! (A good story).

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The next step is to claim your luggage. And finally, to pass through customs. Once through customs, you are out the door, and you see a sea of faces welcoming you to Costa Rica. Want a taxi? Want a tour? Want a hotel? Want to change your dollars for colones? Ignore them all except for the money changer. Get yourself some cheap

colones!

If you are travel savvy and want to save money, you walk out to the bus stop and pay about 25 cents to ride the bus to San Jose. Busses come by every 5 to 10 minutes. If you like a bit more security, take a taxi — about \$10 to San Jose, or about \$60 to \$100 to Turrialba (set a price before hand — most speak good enough English to do this).

Now, a final word about leaving Costa Rica. You will be charged a \$17 exit tax — demonstrated by a slip of paper with your name, flight, and passport number — and a bunch of pretty stamps. You may buy this from vendors meeting you as you arrive at the airport, or you may buy it inside at booths. Same price. Less hassle to buy from the vendors. ✂

Ask Ms. Bowstern

Ms. Bowstern, who writes on matters of etiquette, romance and delicately embarrassing personal situations for the Bay Area Sea Kayakers of San Francisco, recently answered a query sent her regarding an Apalachee Canoe & Kayak Club sea kayaker.

Dear Ms. Bowstern,

My question stems from an encounter our club president had in his sea kayak while exploring the estuarine reaches of the Fenholloway River in Florida: Who has the right-of-way, a sea kayak or an alligator? Does it depend on the size of the alligator (in this case, approximately the size of the kayak)? What if the kayak is approaching from the alligator's right, or if the alligator is approaching from the kayaker's right?

Newsletter Guy,
Apalachee Canoe & Kayak Club

Dear Newsletter Guy,

The question of right of way has been splashing around in Ms. Bowstern's tub for awhile, and like a rubber ducky, keeps bobbing to the surface. Ms. B., busy with tours, speaking engagements, and Hollywood script deals, handed the question to her research intern/kayak Sherpa, Rex. (You didn't think Ms. B. washes her own gear, did you?) However, Rex was engaged organizing an international conference for sea kayak etiquette columnists, and

gave Ms. B. this telephone number which connects the caller to the US Coast Guard customer information line: 800.368.5647.

The authoritative fellow who answered — after a brief go-round with pound keys and the like — was no doubt a high-ranking officer in full dress uniform. He said calmly, "In California, the more maneuverable vessel gives right of way to the less maneuverable."

After some questioning, Ms. Bowstern learned that the quality of maneuverability shifts from vessel to vessel, depending on the situation. For example, a freighter in a shipping channel is less maneuverable than a Scupper Pro crossing the same channel. A kayak on the open bay is less maneuverable than a sailboat under sail. But if the sailboat is foundering, it has right of way. Ms. B. knows you can think of more examples. This approach to right of way seems appropriately civilized to Ms. B. because in the old days right of way was determined by number of guns, or ransom paid and such.

Back to the alligator. Though highly maneuverable (alligators have a reliable off-side "hand" roll), more so than most kayaks, alligators as living beings fall under the rules of etiquette rather than navigational regulation. Ms. Bowstern says, "Enchante" and "After you, alligator."

Ms. Bowstern

- From the Apalachee Canoe & Kayak Club newsletter. Ms. Bowstern writes for the Bay Area Sea Kayakers newsletter. See the BASK web site at <http://www.bask.org>. ✂

"Men may dam it and say that they have made a lake, but it will still be a river. It will keep its nature and bide its time, like a caged wild animal alert for the slightest opening. In time it WILL have its way; the dam, like the ancient cliffs, will be carried away piecemeal in the currents."

-Wendell Berry.

- Copied from the front page of the summer AMERICAN RIVERS publication concerning the lead story of the 162 year old dam coming down on Maine's Kennebec River. Submitted by Scott Schwitters.

Lake of the Ozarks

by Mark Zen

I had the wonderful opportunity to go exploring earlier this week. (Hoping I don't give away someone's secret!) Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, USA, North America, Earth.

It was a 16 hour/850 mile drive from Denver, with my wife, Mel, and myself being the sole participants. The weather was cold when we got there, even from our perspective, just coming from 3-1/2 to 5 feet of snow the week before we left!! I hadn't been there in 18 years, Mel had never been there.

What we learned while there was, the lake is approximately 130 miles long by 1 mile wide!! Some places it is over a mile wide, but most of the time it is not. There are more than 1300 miles of shoreline (more than the state of Florida). The coves are little, and this time of the year we did not get chased away from any. In many, there were no signs of humans at all.

Odell Buckenflush to the Rescue

Many paddlers have provided assistance to fellow boaters who have become separated from their craft while negotiating the river. The victim survives with minimum loss of pride and usually without losing paddling gear. Rescues may vary from the most simple to complex mechanical devices which would make engineers envious. The rigging of complex river rescue apparatus is designed for trained individuals to rescue people and not equipment. To do otherwise once led to disaster....

In the instance alluded to above, Dr. Odell Buckenflush and his paddling party came upon a stranded boater who was stuck upon an outcropping at the base of a cliff in the middle of a long and dangerous rapid. The stranded paddler was OK but his boat was "long gone" (downstream, paddling itself) and he seemingly had no safe escape route. The current was extremely swift with no reachable eddies near him.

Dr. B quickly took charge and decided that a lowering device should be anchored from a large sycamore tree limb hanging over the stranded paddler (a distance of about 25 feet). The group set to work developing their "rig". A loop of webbing was wrapped around the huge, two foot diameter limb and secured with a locking carabiner. Using their throw rope through the carabiner, the stranded paddler was easily hoisted up to the rim of the cliff where he was pulled to safety.

After the rescue, the group stood around congratulating themselves and discussing the essence of life with

We covered only a very small piece of the lake, given our time constraints, but really enjoyed what we saw. We talked with many of the locals, and they agreed, the summer was no time to be on the lake in a small boat. But the off season was terrific. During our time on the water, we saw only 7 other boats. Four were bass boats, sitting in place while the patient owners waited for that strike. Two were speed boats on the other side of the lake/river!! And one was a HUGE cabin cruiser. No other boats were seen on the water. Talk about having the lake to ourselves!!

No bugs, high winds, cold days, and freezing evenings mark November. I would recommend September or October!! The people were all friendly, though few wanted to believe we drove out there from Colorado just to play in the water!!

We took our own boat, so rental wasn't an issue, although I didn't see any kayak rentals driving around... so I don't know if you could rent one or not!!

- From the GASP email list.



the rescued paddler. When they prepared to disassemble the "rig", Dr. B suggested they all go down river and look for the paddler's lost boat. The paddle party agreed and left Dr. B to collect the gear.

As he began to break down the "rig", Dr. B noticed they had forgotten the rescued boater's paddle where he had been stranded. Because he considered himself quite the "climber", Dr. B decided to lower himself from the tree limb, loop the paddle over his shoulder with a small piece of rope, and ascend back up the cliff using a webbing seat harness and e'triers (a prussic rope ladder).

The rappel down was no problem and the ascending device proved adequate to raise him quite efficiently. He ascended the rope up to the webbing encircling the limb and carabinered his safety prussic into the webbing. It was then that Dr. B. perceived his real problem.... How to negotiate the "huge" slick sycamore limb... alone? He had nobody to pull him over the limb or to pull him to the edge of the cliff. As he sat under the limb in his seat harness puzzling what to do, he became somewhat worried.

His paddling party was out of sight. Should he descend back to the outcropping and be just like the stranded paddler that had just been rescued? Should he attempt to swim the dangerous rapid? Though unappealing, he decided to descend and take his chances with the river.

Unfortunately, as noted previously, he had hooked into the security of the webbing encircling the limb. The webbing now bore all of his weight and he could not transfer it back to his descending system... unless he cut

his safety rope....

Just as he had made up his mind to cut his safety rope, his knife slipped out of his hand and fell into the river. Now his options were reduced to just "hanging out." And to make matters worse, he felt the urge to relieve himself....

At that precise moment, an all-women's paddling group rounded the bend in the river.... What they beheld

was a man.... hanging from the top of the cliff in front of them.... adding to the flow of the river.

Dr. B. was rescued from his predicament, amid considerable derision, by the helpful ladies. He said his humble and embarrassed thanks and quickly left to catch his own paddling party downstream.

- From "The Watershed", newsletter of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. ✂

River Etiquette

by Julie Albright

As the white water boating season draws to an end, there are a couple of precepts of river etiquette that perhaps some boaters are unaware of.

Club Trips

It is not only considered polite to call before Thursday for a weekend club trip, it is imperative. If a trip coordinator does not get enough participants, it is their prerogative to cancel the trip. On the flip side, if you do call, it is not considered courteous to stand up the trip coordinator. Several times this year I have waited patiently for participants who, for whatever reason, failed to show up. Being stood up either as a coordinator or a participant is no fun.

Tips for Trip Coordinators

If you volunteer to coordinate a trip, this constitutes a commitment. Just because you offered to coordinate a class III club trip, and at the last minute your favorite class IV run happens to be surging away, please don't disappoint the people who have been counting on you in order to fulfill your own white water fantasy. This is an all-volunteer organization; it requires everyone's cooperation and civility to make our club trips run smoothly.

Rescues: The Good, the Bad, And the Ugly

It is also considered polite to thank any rescuer profusely, and is not considered unseemly to offer said rescuer a beer at the take-out. The remuneration beverage-wise and gratuitous praise-wise are in direct correlation to the situation you've been rescued from... a class II swim may merit a hearty hand-shake, a vertical pin warrants extreme groveling, tokens of esteem, and perhaps the offer of one's first-born child. Under no circumstances should the rescuee berate the rescuer for not acting sooner, better, or with more vigor.

Surfing, Etc.

One wishes that everyone took this lesson they learned in kindergarten to heart: Take your turn, wait in line, and play nice with the other children. It is not considered polite to bump your fellow surfers out of the eddy just as they approach the wave so that you may

sneak an extra turn, nor is it courteous to park on a wave so long you could read a book. If a wave or hole can be approached by eddies on either side, it is prudent to alternate turns by side, to avoid the inevitable Roller-Derby aspects of boats colliding mid-wave.

Other suggestions to Gain Friends, Influence People, and Get Invited Back

If you carpool, offer to chip in for gas.

Showing up late, and then having to run "a tiny errand first" that makes everyone wait an hour for you, will ensure their everlasting disdain.

If you beg, grovel and plead to be invited along on someone's private adventure, please don't show up with a guest. It is unfair to insert an unknown quantity into a trip. This is not a big deal on most class II-III trips, but it can be problematic on harder rivers. BYOB does not mean Bring Your Own Buddy.

Check your gear before you leave the house. It is amazing how many people show up at put-in sans helmet, life jacket or paddle. This trait is not restricted to the inexperienced....

Racing the Clock: The Hidden Agenda. If you have a deadline to meet and must be off the river at a certain time, discuss this with your paddling compadres first, or make other arrangements. It's unfair to expect a group to race down river at break-neck speed because you have a previously undisclosed subsequent engagement.

I'd like to say that the vast majority of boaters I've paddled with, either in club trips or privately, are wonderful people with manners that would serve the diplomatic corps well, but a few people could use a refresher course in consideration.

Play nice, remember to share, and recall that down river traffic still has the right-of-way.

- From the Washington Kayak Club "Bulletin". ✂



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If your boat fits too loose, you can tighten it.
You can have a beer while riding in your

boat.
You don't have to be jealous of the guy working on your boat.
You don't deal with priests or blood tests when registering your boat.
If you say bad things to your boat, you don't have to apologize before you can ride again.
You can ride in your boat as much as you want and it won't get sore.
Your parents don't keep in touch with your old boats after you dump them.
Boats always feel like going for a ride.
Boats don't insult you if you're a bad driver.
Your boat never wants a night out

alone with other boats.
Boats don't care if you're late.
You don't have to take a shower before driving your boat.
It's always O.K. to use tie-downs on your boat.
If your boat doesn't look good, you can paint it or buy new parts.
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Boats never get pregnant.
You can control the speed and time of arrival.
- From the Funny List email list.

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 typewritten 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.

FOR RENT - Gently Down the Stream has canoe, kayak, rowboat and paddle boat rentals servicing Etowah River and Lake Allatoona. Boats can be picked up for other areas. Please visit our web site @ <http://canoegently.rnrws.com>. Call 770.479.6568.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Whitesell Pyranha 14'. Red. For those of you who don't know Whitesells, they're the best in the business. This is the friendliest, most stable, easiest to roll and sidesurf canoe around. Great condition, fully outfitted. One patch on bottom of boat. \$475. Call Tobias Smith at 404.588.0628 or e-mail at tobysmith@erols.com.

FOR SALE - Canoe, classic Old Town Tripper, 17' Red Royale. Great condition with skid plates, snap-in 3rd seat, and float bags. The perfect boat for lakes and class I & II for families with kids/pets/gear. \$775 OBO. Call Ron @ 404.325.5549.

FOR SALE - Canoe, kayak & equipment. Canoe, Mad River Synergy tandem white water canoe \$950, completely outfitted including two individual pedestal saddles and bow and stern lightweight air bags (which hold air). Kayak, Dagger Vortex \$350, includes two air bags (which hold air). New Kokatat dry suit \$180 (retail \$360), ladies small, includes skirt cover (an incredible deal for the lady this fits, 5'3" approx.) New Moun-

tain Surf spray skirt \$75 (retail \$115), size small, fits large keyhole cockpit (most new boats). Silver Creek Canoe paddle, \$50, 56", 8 years old, all wood, sleeved shaft, no cracks. Perception Gyromax \$100, includes two air bags (which hold air) and an old spray skirt. David S. Martin h)404.351.8208, o)404.252.2321.

FOR SALE - Canoes. Wenonah Advantage solo tripping canoe - 16' 6" - kevlar - 30 pounds - very fast and stable. Volume for 200 pound paddler + gear for a week. Perfect canoe for Okefenokee, Everglades, BWCA. Excellent condition - \$1150. Wenonah 18' Sundowner tripping canoe - kevlar - 42 pounds - very fast and seaworthy for two. Perfect canoe for Okefenokee, Everglades, BWCA. Excellent condition - \$1400. Contact Russ Koester, 404.233.4093 or E-mail koester@buckhead.net.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Mad River Explorer. Two cane seats and 4 oars included. Immaculate condition. \$900. To inquire call 770.279.1597.

FOR SALE - Equipment. Perception kayak paddle, black/white, fiberglass, great condition, good for woman or youth. \$60. Perception spray skirt, used once, blue, fits pirouette sized cockpits. \$50. Perception DayTwo reversible spray skirt, one side black/green, other side pink/purple, fits pirouette sized cockpits. \$30. Perception spray skirts, one medium and one small, blue, just like new, with drawstring bungee for rim. \$30 each, or both for \$50. Canoe Paddle, aluminum, black/silver, detachable handle which allows length adjustment, great condition. \$30. Protec Helmet, blue, good condition, all pads are there. \$10. 2 old spray skirts, one's in good condition (no holes or duct tape), \$10 for both. Call Nick or Don at 404.329.1698. E-mail at wiglts@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE - Equipment, cold water gear. Farmer John wet suits, L, XL, L shorty. Dry tops (need gaskets). Neoprene booties, M, XL. New neoprene gloves, XL. Prices negotiable. Steve Cramer, 706.208.8382.

FOR SALE - Kayak, squirt boat: Bigfoot, Shredcut - \$600. For 120# person. 828.837.3511.

FOR SALE - Kayak. TOO MUCH BOAT FOR ME! Wave Sport X — paddled twice. Thought I was ready but I wasn't. Predominantly yellow with red/orange burst on bow. \$800. Call Susan at 770.716.1283.

FOR SALE - Kayak. Hardly been used '97 Dagger Blast, skirt, and never been used paddle. Cost \$970. Will sell for \$750. Call @ 770.623.9411 or e-mail at justinfutterman@netscape.net.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Pyranha Acrobat, purple, very good condition, \$385 or best offer. Call Turk at 770.436.8523.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Pirouette S with spray skirt, paddle, helmet and throw rope. \$350. Call Nick or Don at 404.329.1698. E-mail at wiglts@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Corsica (extra strength durable plastic), custom outfitting. \$300. Call Nick or Don at 404.329.1698. E-mail at wiglts@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, Dagger Outburst, blue & white. Excellent condition. \$400 OBO. Dagger Freefall, red & black, well used but still river worthy. \$150. Truck bed cap for Dodge Dakota, red Leer fiberglass and lockable. \$300 OBO. Contact Ray at 770.607.0974 or email r.caraway@worldnet.att.net.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Transition. Red, near-new condition. Intended as an all-out 'play boat', the Transition was designed for rodeo but turned out to be an excellent all-

around kayak as well. At 10'1" it tracks fine; with low volume ends it plays easily; with plenty of volume in the middle it's comfortable for most paddlers. \$400. Call Bill @ 770.751.9258. Email bconvis@email.msn.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Dancer, blue. Very good condition. \$250. Call Susan at 770.716.1283 or e-mail bagellady1@aol.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Pirouette, spray skirt and PFD (adult med.), helmet, paddle, back band and air bags. All for \$450. Call Jack Shoaff, 770.396.6483.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Fury, with skirt. \$350 OBO. Sleep on the water too! King size waterbed mattress with heater and liner, no frame. \$75 OBO. 770.938.5892 leave message if no answer. Or contact me at mapirtle@juno.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Whiplash, yellow, in good condition. \$400. Also have other gear (flotation, skirt, helmet, etc) if needed. Steve Cramer, 706.208.8382.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Vertigo, blue, very good condition, \$490 obo. Call 404.657.3185 (day).

FOR SALE - Land. Secluded mountain lots - great views, streams,

heavily wooded, extreme privacy w/ restrictive covenants. Between Cleveland and Dahlonega on Piney Mountain (easy access to Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Overflow, Chauga, Nantahala, etc.) - Only six lots left - 3 to 5+ acres starting at \$6,500 per acre. Call Martha Herndon at 404.231.5367.

FOR SALE - Inflatable sit-on-top kayak. Vista Renegade III. \$500. Charles 770.974.2481, or email chrbru@aol.com.

HELP WANTED - TrailWorks.com is looking for a boater that would help us gather data on rivers and enter it into our database. This is a good opportunity for someone to learn new computer skills and work on an interesting topic. Pay is approximately \$10/hour; part or full time. Contact Corky Collier at 404.872.3412, email ccollier@trailworks.com.

HELP WANTED - TrailWorks.com is looking for a boater interested in editing, working with various paddling groups and businesses, writing, gathering stories and pictures, etc. This is an excellent opportunity to work with the paddling community and learn marketable internet skills. Pay is in the \$20k to \$30k range. Contact Corky Collier at 404

.872.3412, email ccollier@trailworks.com.

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 - Woodpecker hunter! Canoeing partner wanted to search South Georgia rivers for supposedly extinct ivory-billed woodpeckers believed to still be in river swamps where sighted years ago. Call Jack Thomas, 770.464.2824, or email: crowfrenz@aol.com.

WANTED - Canoe. Used. Abused. Neglected really. You know, that boat in your back yard that has been rotting out. The hull is OK but the gunwales are shot and need replacing. Ideally a kevlar, touring boat (solo or tandem), but let me know what you have. Call Brookie at 404.872.5211.

WANTED - Recreational tandem kayak: Perception Keowee 2, Dagger Bayou 2, Old Town Loon 138T, or similar. Call Ron @ 404.325.5549 evenings.

WANTED TO BUY - Two sit-on-top kayaks. Call Michel at 770.290.3640 or email mlaxson@pcnaids.com. <

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Call 404-876-3602 and ask for Class #0097. Price is \$40

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