

February GCA Meeting

Good news at last!! The Garden Hills Community Center in Buckhead is ready to host our meetings once more. The February meeting will mark our return to the facility. The meeting will be on Thursday, February 15 (the third Thursday of the month), at 7:30 PM.

For the February program, Julie Keller will present a slide show documenting her recent paddling trip to Nepal. In the Fall of 2000 Julie spent more than 2 months in Nepal paddling on the Sun Kosi, Tamur, Marsyangdi, Karnali, and Bhote Kosi Rivers. Come out and learn more about this exciting river adventure. And while you're there, meet more of your fellow club members.

Julie is an Atlanta-based white water photographer and GCA member since 1988. Her photos have appeared in American Whitewater, River, Southeastern Outdoor Recreation, American Rivers Calendar 2000 and The Washington Post. She was the winner of the Best Paddling Image at the 1999 & 2000 National Paddling Film Festivals. In October 1999 she launched www.JulieKeller.com to market her photography.

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

As usual, refreshments will be provided. See you there!!



Porter carrying 3 kayaks to put-in at the Karnali River.

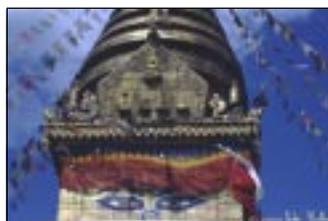


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Kayaker on the Marsyangdi River.



Monkey Temple in Kathmandu.



Kayaker surfs Jungle Corridor on the Sun Kosi River.



Oar-rig raft blasts through Hakapur rapid on the Sun Kosi River.



**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
FEBRUARY 14
TAKE YOUR SWEETIE BOATING**



Printed on recycled paper

Ocoee #2 - FINAL Recreational Release Schedule for 2001

January 2001						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2001						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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29	30					

July 2001						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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October 2001						
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February 2001						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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May 2001						
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27	28	29	30	31		

August 2001						
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November 2001						
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March 2001						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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June 2001						
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September 2001						
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30						

December 2001						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

(six-hour day; 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.)

(seven-hr day; 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.)

(All times local time)

(eight-hour day; 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.)

(ten-hour day; 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.)



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 Cruisemaster Jim Griffin at 770.498.3695.

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 winter 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 Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636. ✂

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	Lindsay Meeks
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Mary Ann Pruitt
Recreation Chair	Jason Schnurr
Resource Development Chair	Debra Berry
River Protection Chair	Julia Franks
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 gacanoec@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 classified 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



February

1	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Atlanta Botanical Garden	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
3	Upper Amicalola (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
3	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate Sam Blackwell	706.342.0511
3	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
4	Upper Chattahochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate Steve Cramer	706.208.8382
10	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate Carol Creekmore	770.995.5788
10	Lower Amicalola	Class 3-4 Advanced Charles Clark	770.998.9544
10	Sweetwater Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced David Holcomb	770.942.0549
11	Upper Chattahochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate Stacey Patterson	770.466.7538
15	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun — Garden Hills Community Center — Kay Redmond		404.237.7242
17	Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate Patrick Gourley	770.422.1689
17	Exploratory	Class 2 to 4 (Note 2) Roger Nott	770.536.6923
17	South Sauty Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced Dane White	256.435.3827
18	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate Tom Ottinger	706.276.2375
24	Fighting Town Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Hank Baudet	706.492.4318
24	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate Charlie McCoy	770.578.0404
24	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced Louis Boulanger	404.373.4775
25	Upper Chattahochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate Mike Huff	706.342.9879

March

3	Leader's Choice	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Charles Bruce	770.974.2481
3	Upper Chattahochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate Jim Griffin	770.498.3695
4	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Lannie Lesser	770.736.3101
4	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate Paul Lund	770.271.7360
10	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
15	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun — Garden Hills Community Center — Kay Redmond		404.237.7242
17	Locust Fork	Class 2-3 Intermediate Dane White	256.435.3827
25	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate Stacey Patterson	770.466.7538
31	Upitoy Creek (Note 3)	Flat Bill Edwards	706.321.9063

Note 1: Paddle with the Prez.

Note 2: This will be a class 2 to 4 trip depending on water conditions and stream selected.

Note 3: This river is located on Ft. Benning reservation below Columbus, GA.

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, Jim Griffin, at 770.498.3695. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flat water to class 5 white water. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

Chattooga Trips are limited to 12 boats on ANY section on ANY trip, club trip or private (USFS regulation). Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

Roll Practice: Monday evenings from 7:00 until 9:00 January thru March at the Samuel L. Jones Boys' & Girls' Club pool. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

GCA Library Items

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 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:

Denise Colquitt
3797 Glenloch Road
Franklin, GA 30217

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 Self Defense
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 320 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 "gacanoeflipper.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@flipper.kapcom.com" and on the first line of the body of the message type:

subscribe gacanoeflipper.kapcom.com

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 gacanoeflipper.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.georgiacanoe.org>. We are continually adding information and links of value to paddlers. Send your ideas for updates to Allen Sinquefield by using the e-mail link for WebGuy at the site. ✂

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 \$20.00 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!

Upcoming Events of Interest

February 3 — Wilderness First Aid & CPR — St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Marietta, GA, Gina Johnson, 404.226.8363 (cell) or 770.971.1542 (home).

February 10 — Locust Fork Invitational Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 205.274.0006.

February 23-24 — National Paddling Film Festival — University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, www.surfbwa.org/npff/.

March 3-4 — Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Races — Garden City, AL, Mary Ellen Zvanut, 205.985.0552, mezvanut@uab.edu.

March 17 — Wilderness First Aid & CPR — St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Marietta, GA, Gina Johnson, 404.226.8363 (cell) or 770.971.1542 (home).

March 24 — Locust Fork Classic Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 205.274.0006.

April 13-15 — World Cup #1 Sprint Canoe / Kayak — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.

April 14-15 — Styrofoam Cup Race — Nantahala, NC, M. Graven, 828.771.3770, www.styrofoamcup.org.

April 20-22 — GCA Spring Extravaganza — Diamond Lure Campground, Ellijay, GA, Denise Colquitt, 770.854.6636.

April 20-22 — East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival — Charleston, SC, Charleston Parks & Recreation, 843.762.2172, prch2o@bellsouth.net.

May 5-6 — Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championships — Nantahala River, NC, David Martin, 404.351.8208.

May 5-28 (?) — The Great Mississippi River Race — The whole thing! Clark Eid, 203.271.2484, www.dreamkeeper.org.

May 18-20 — Ocoee White Water Games — Ocoee White Water Center, TN, Jayne Abbott, 828.645.5299, email jhabbott@aol.com.

June 1-3 — Lanier Paddlefest 2001 — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.

August 7-12 — USCA National Championships — Sprint & Marathon, Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com. ✂

Winter Roll Practice

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: The location has changed for joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice. Our new host is the Samuel L. Jones Boys & Girls Club, 450 East Lake Dr, Decatur GA, 30030, Telephone: 404.378.8814. Apologies to those who did not get the word in January, but we did not find out that the old location would not be available until after press time for the January newsletter.

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

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

TO GET TO THE JONES CLUB POOL: Go south on East Lake Drive from Ponce de Leon past the East Lake Marta Station. Go about another 1/4 to 1/2 mile and you'll see a large brick building on the left set back a ways from the street (number 450). There are two driveways coming in through the fence. Turn left. You are at the Jones Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear. Drive through the gate at the left end of the building to park and unload boats. Carry around to the door in the back.

BE SURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN BEFORE YOU GET THERE. Rinse out sand, river mud, leaves, old birds' nests or cobwebs. No hose is available at the door as we had at the old facility. ✂

"Safety devices only contribute to a false sense of security. They really have very little to do with actual safety."
-Jamie McEwan.



March GCA Meeting

The March GCA meeting will be our spring General Membership Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner. The meeting will be held at the Garden Hills Community Center on March 15 beginning at 7:30. Our Social Chair is working on a possible program for the meeting.

Bring a covered dish and/or desert of your choice, a good appetite, and some tall paddling tales and join us in celebrating the coming spring. More details will follow in the March newsletter. ✂

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 *Electronic 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. ✂

GCA Spring Extravaganza

Plans have been finalized for the 2001 Spring Extravaganza. The annual camping and paddling social event will be Friday - Sunday, April 20 - 22. It will again be hosted by the folks at Diamond Lure Campground in Ellijay, Georgia. They will provide their great barbecue dinner on Saturday night, as well as sausage biscuits on Saturday and Sunday morning. The GCA will provide

coffee and hot water for tea and/or cocoa each morning. Reservation forms and more information will be in the March *Eddy Line*.

For further information, please call Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 or email NEICEYC@aol.com. ✂

Electronic Eddy Line Email Failures

Not getting your electronic version of *The Eddy Line*? The following email IDs had mail failure notices for the December *Electronic Eddy Line* mailing. Send any corrections or changes to Ed Schultz, 3060 Pharr Court North #315, Atlanta, GA 30305, or call Ed at 404.266.3734, or you may email him at heloeddy@mindspring.com.

Failed email IDs:
rewtom@earthlink.net
mbabcock@trailworks.com
reevesgeorge@gateway.net ✂

National Paddling Film Festival

The 18th annual National Paddling Film Festival will be held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, February 23 & 24, 2001. Co-sponsored by



American Whitewater, American Canoe Association and the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, the NPF is pleased to present the best paddle sport image competition in the nation! For more information about the National Paddling Film Festival, check out the Bluegrass Wildwater Association Website <http://www.surfbwa.org/>. ✂

Allons Pagailler! Let's go Paddle!

The art and science of canoeing, includes three universal concepts, bio-mechanics, hull mechanics, and paddle mechanics. Free Style Canoeing analyzes and refines these principles to achieve a high degree of paddling efficiency. If you are interested in evolving your technical skills in open canoeing to its highest level, then join us at La Louisiane Free Style Symposium on March 23, 24, & 25, 2001, in Mandeville, LA.

Nationally ranked instructors will provide the best possible instruction. The first of a series of new regional competitions will exhibit the finest in Free Style Canoe paddling. Other perks are a totally private venue, au-

thentic Cajun cuisine, a music jam, and fais-do-do (social time). Come pass a good time in Louisiana Cher, where the water is soft and the air warm!

For information contact :

John Steib
25125 Bickham Road
Jackson, LA 70748
Phone: 225.654.5224
e-mail: j-ssteib@worldnet.att.net



River Hazards

Ice on Lake Tugaloo

Good Jeff Wood and some others paddled Section 4 of the Chattooga on December 26. Eddies were frozen and so was the lake. They spent five hours trying to go over and through the ice to the take-out.

It's probably still frozen. He said that in some places it was four inches thick. Usually the lake paddle is the safest part of the trip. Paddling across the ice is REALLY demanding and demolishes paddles.



We've Lost Another Paddler

by Kevin Greenwood

When I was researching this sport to decide if I wanted to get involved, the first magazine I purchased had an article titled "The Tragic Summer of '97". [My club's] white water e-mail list has a note about another accident or memorial service every couple of months. The common theme in the sport's press recently seems to be about judgment and risk. In my other life I am a professional pilot. I have found that there are many similarities between kayaking and flying. Both require a mastery of certain skills and knowledge, there are certain elements of risk involved and judgment plays a very important role in each endeavor.

A letter in the September '98 issue of "Paddler" called for the ACA to take the lead in instructional and safety issues. Although I am a newcomer to kayaking, my aviation training has provided me with knowledge and information that applies to kayaking as well as flying. I have some ideas for a program that I believe will reduce kayaking accidents.

In the early 1970's the FAA, USAF, NASA, and several universities undertook a study to determine why perfectly good airplanes crash. Until then, "pilot error" was generally listed as the probable cause. The purpose

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of the study was to determine why the error was made. The study took about ten years and showed a need for reforms in training, crew coordination, leadership and decision making. The result has been safer pilots who take fewer risks. The lessons learned apply to kayaking as well as flying.

Judgment is a decision-making process. People who make good decisions are said to have good judgment. It has been thought of as a trait that you are born with or as an ability acquired through experience. Though it is usually acquired through the "school of hard knocks" by not making any fatal mistakes, it is a skill that can and should be taught.

Knowledge, reasoning ability and skills are thought of as the primary elements of decision making. It was found that attitude played a major role in the process as well. If knowledge and reasoning ability could be employed alone, problems could be solved in the same way as a computer. However it is impossible to separate the headwork aspect from the attitudinal part. The study identified five "Hazardous Attitudes" and provided "antidotes" for each one.

Hazardous Attitudes & Antidotes:

1. Anti-Authority: (-) The rules are for someone else. (+) Follow the rules. They're usually right.
2. Impulsivity: (-) I must act now, there is no time. (+) Not so fast. Think first.
3. Invulnerability: (-) It won't/can't happen to me. (+) It could happen to me.
4. Macho: (-) I'll show you. I can do it. (+) Taking chances is foolish.
5. Resignation: (-) What's the use? (+) I'm not helpless. I can make a difference.

Reading articles on accidents and comments from letters and e-mail, the most prevalent attitudes that I find in the paddling community are Invulnerability and Macho, with elements of Resignation. Judgment training would help people identify the attitudes that are prone to

influence their decisions and make appropriate changes to their decision-making process.

An honest evaluation of one's skill level is necessary for making good decisions. The British Canoe Union has a Star Award program that sets a standard for required skills and proficiency levels to achieve the various awards. (Check out www.TheCreek.com on the Internet.) A training and awards program that specifies the skills and levels of proficiency needed to handle each class of white water should be adopted by the ACA and AWA. This would give kayakers a measurable standard of performance to gauge their progress and encourage paddlers to improve their skills.

It would also help them make better and more informed decisions on where to paddle. While rivers are rated at average flows, a better system would be to rate the difficulty at low, medium and high levels. This would be a better approach than having your friends say, "You can handle it." The ACA and the AWA can sponsor a program like this through local clubs and organizations. The club instructors could do the training and evaluations and issue the awards.

For experienced paddlers, a booklet or series of articles on developing good judgment would be published. The training materials can be modeled on the Aeronautical Decision Making manuals using kayak-specific scenarios. While some of the more adrenaline-charged will scoff at this, it would at least get people thinking and save a few lives.

Advisory Circular 60-22 "Aeronautical Decision Making" is free and is available from: US Dept. of Transportation; Subsequent Distribution Office; Ardmore East Business Center; 3341-Q 75th Avenue; Landover, MD 20785.

The Aeronautical Decision Making manuals that have been developed for judgment training are available from the National Technical Information Center. Ordering information can be found in AC 60-22 and on the Internet at: www.NTIS.gov.

I know this sounds like control from "Big Brother" and some will believe that it is an anathema to everything that paddling stands for. However it is up to us to help ourselves before some well-meaning but misguided public servant tries to do it for us.

We have also learned that improved technology doesn't necessarily mean that you can fly in worse weather. We are actually curtailing severe weather flying. No matter how good your equipment is, no matter how good you are, some things (like thunderstorms) cannot be flown through.

The same applies to kayaks. There comes a point at

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which control becomes an illusion and you are just a passenger. Kayakers need to learn this and stop the "top that" stuff that is going on. A new boat design will not make that rapid any safer to run. It is still just you, a boat, and a paddle against one of the most powerful forces of nature. Just like a pilot who routinely flies through thunderstorms, a kayaker who paddles class V and VI rapids will die in a river. It is just a question of "when".

These are simply my thoughts and ideas. There are more people taking up this sport every day, and they are the future of the sport. Anything that we do to help them have an enjoyable and safe experience will benefit us all.

- From *SEI News*, newsletter of the Safety, Education and Instruction Council of the ACA.



Instruction / Training

From The Training Chair

by Gina Johnson

We are delighted to offer a CPR AND WILDERNESS FIRST AID course to be held Saturday, February 3 and again on Saturday, March 17 at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Marietta. Joe Webb, a GCA member and nurse educator, will teach the Atlanta Heart Association CPR course and follow with a first aid course targeted for boaters. He has invited several doctors to speak to the class. The class will begin at 10 AM and end at 5 PM. Cost is \$15.00. Class size will be limited so PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!! Call Gina Johnson at 404.226.8363 (cell) or 770.971.1542 (home) to register and get directions to the church. ✂

Ask Dr. Paddle

Dear Dr. Paddle:

I've tried and I've tried, but I just can't get up. I can't roll my kayak, that is. I've taken a class and gone to club rolling sessions, and I can almost do it. But when I get just about all the way up, I run out of power and fall back in the water. I know I'm strong enough to roll because I work out with weights every day. Maybe I just can't coordinate that tricky hip snap move. Can it really be this hard? Most of my paddling friends can't roll, but there are some scrawny guys and little women who do it real well. What's the secret?

Joe K., Lakeside

Dear Joe K.:

Well, Joe, maybe it's the weight of your thick-shouldered stereotypes that is holding you down. Scrawny guys and little women? Nothing in kayaking, save perhaps loading your boat on top of your pickup truck, benefits from the brute strength you gain from weight lifting. Form and style can almost always win out over raw jaw-clenching strength. I suspect your Eskimo rolling problem has more to do with control than muscle; if your movements are no more subtle than the sexual innuendo in your letter, than it's no wonder you "can't get up."

Let me clear up a couple of misconceptions borne by even intelligent beginners with standard-gauge skulls. First, you need not be strong to roll a kayak — even a sea kayak. Second, the hip snap is greatly overrated as part of a roll — you don't really need it.

Let's look at strength as it relates to rolling. How

much force does it really take to right yourself from a capsized? Say you're hanging upside down under water. The first step to sunlight and stability is to get your body to the horizontal surface of the water. The second is to get from the surface to upright and vertical.

Most of the first step is done for you by buoyancy. Your body is probably floating close to the surface and horizontal already (though it may not be apparent from your submerged vantage). Even discounting buoyancy, how much power does it take to move your body two or three feet through the water? When you are swimming, a kick of a foot or a flick of a hand will do it. No power needed for this step.

So, how much force will it take to get from the water's surface to an upright position? About as much as it takes to lift yourself from prone on the floor to a sitting position (think of every Friday night at the neighborhood bar, Joe). Don't even attribute the effort of a good old sit-up to this move. Think of just lifting yourself up to sitting with your hands. Not a big sweat, is it? It's especially easy for those "scrawny guys and little women" who don't have to hoist your beefy ballast.

You can see it doesn't take much energy to roll upright. That's why many folks can roll up with only their hands. And if it takes so little energy, a hip snap isn't likely to be very critical. So, why can't you roll? Chances are, it's because you are trying to strong-arm your way up with a high brace. That is, you are extending the paddle out at a right angle to the boat and pulling down on it as hard as you can. Somewhere in the process you also try to snap your pelvis out of joint. This approach rarely works. Try it and you will usually make it to just shy of upright, teeter for a few painful instants with your paddle vertical and useless, then tumble back into the drink.

Now, not even Dr. Paddle can teach you to roll in one paragraph. You need a good instructor. That instructor should teach a technique that does not depend on strength. Your paddle blade should sweep from the front of your boat to the back, parallel to the surface of the water, with the blade slightly angled to generate lift — no pulling down on the shaft. When the blade reaches the back of your boat, you can reverse the angle and sweep it back toward the front. This sculling motion generates gentle, even lift for a long period of time. With practice you can even scull to upright by gently fluttering your blade no more than a few inches side-to-side. Keep your weight as low as possible by laying back on the rear deck of your kayak. Take your time, relax, go slow. Just watch how the scrawny guys and little women do it.

Dr. Paddle

- *From the California Kayak Friends email list.* ✂

Hand of God — Ahhh, Just Yank 'im Outta th' Water!!

The sky is clear, winds low, seas calm, and air and sea temperatures warm. You're leading a group paddle in near perfect conditions and the group is very much at ease enjoying the day when you hear a shout that "L" has capsized. As you turn and race toward the overturned hull, you overhear the collective worry of the group and that no one seemed to see just what happened.

There is no movement from the victim such as arms waving for a rescue and there is no discernible movement of the hull indicating a roll set up or attempt. It has been over half a minute and "L" still has not wet exited or shown any sign of movement as you reach the overturned hull. What to do?

The "Hand of God" rescue (a.k.a. Trapped Paddler Rescue) is meant to bring an unconscious victim back upright still in their kayak. This makes it easier to keep the victim warm in cold water / air and to transport.

What it consists of is quickly racing to and abreast of the overturned kayak, your own paddle dropped in between the boats if untethered, or to the outside of your boat (away from victim) if tethered. With your outside hand (farthest from the victim) reach across the victim's

overturned hull and down as far as you can. The reason to use your outermost hand is one of leverage. If you use your inboard hand to grab them, you will run out of room to pull more quickly, leaving the victim at the waters surface but not out, where the outermost hand gives you room to pull them on across your deck for support if needed.

Try to grab their PFD shoulder strap if you can. This takes your full commitment (thus chuck your paddle as stated). If you don't get their PFD strap, grab whatever you can along their side to front (other than their arm) — even the cockpit coaming can work to a degree, depending on the victim's boat design and the rescuer's comfort with this technique. By the time the victim's head clears the water, though, you'll want a firm grip on their PFD or shoulder area (if not wearing a PFD) for control.

Next step is to right the victim's boat. This will be made much easier by rotating the victim's torso around onto the rear deck into lay back roll recovery position as you rotate their boat upright. This technique is crucial for a smaller rescuer to bring up a larger victim. Place your other hand (inside — closest to the victim's boat) on the victim's gunwale or cockpit coaming and, initially pulling up toward you, convert this to a push down and away on the deck as they come around. Use your weight to leverage the victim's boat around (roll it).

Trying to lift the victim toward you, you will find tremendously difficult, if not impossible. Concentrate on rotating the victim's kayak, however, and the task will become easier. Again, rotate the victim's body around to the rear deck as you do so and the rescue will become fairly easy. Your end position will be more or less laying across the victim's deck or cockpit if facing them — rear deck if the victim and rescuer are facing the same direction. This will give stability to both you and the victim once the victim is up.

I'll let the medical professionals who happen to be paddlers take it from here as to the victim's final position, checks and care — all of which are pretty difficult if no one else is available to give such assistance.

There is what is known as a contact tow which could be used if it's just you and the victim. The contact tow is a quick clip line (~40") kept on your fore deck meant to go from under your deck line then under their near deck line and clip to the far side deck line (if I remember correctly). This keeps your boat and theirs from flipping to the outside — and can control capsizing to the inside by edging your own boat as needed, thus controlling theirs via the contact tow line. Bring their torso forward and across your fore deck — not sure about their arms if they are really unconscious. Paddling is cumbersome but



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possible over their topside gunwale.

I have heard from a guide who used the Hand of God that it works to perfection. In his case, a fellow guide who had never before had a seizure, did have one on the water. Seeing that he was not even attempting to roll, the guide came alongside and, as well stated before, with one hand on the victim and one hand across his body on the far coaming, he easily righted the kayak. The victim was then pulled on board a power boat, taken to shore and

revived.

This scenario brings up a couple of issues for me. First, how viable is CPR on the water or in a kayak? Second, this is another example of the dangers of paddling alone, for if the victim had been alone, this surely would have had a tragic ending.

Pray you never need this rescue technique, and practice it so that it'll be there if you do.

- *From the Paddlewise email list.*



Y'all Come Race with Us

We want you to join us for the 2001 Mulberry Fork Canoe and Kayak Races! We've seen some of you over the years, but we'd like to offer a personal invitation to everybody in your club to join us on the wonderful Mulberry Fork of the Warrior River in North Central Alabama for the 19th running of our race on March 3 & 4, 2001. Come and race. Come and watch. Come and do both! (Or just come and eat, drink, lounge, paddle, hang out, whatever.)

We offer slalom and down river racing on the Mulberry, class II-III water depending on conditions. Organized by the Birmingham Canoe Club and the Bama Backpaddlers, we are sanctioned by the ACA and home of the Dixie Division Open Boat Championships. We are also the second event in the Alabama Cup series. The Alabama Cup offers a prize for the best overall finish in each class from three races, the Locust Fork Invitational, the Mulberry and the Locust Fork Classic.

We offer championship class racing (Kevlar/fiberglass boats, serious racers) on Saturday, March 3, as well as all the down river classes. Cruising (open to everybody, plastic boats, 'just-for-fun' paddlers) and novice classes (ain't never done this before paddlers) are on Sunday, March 4. We have a slew of classes: kayak, C-boat, open boat, tandem, juniors, male, female, mixed — the whole shebang. For more information contact the race registrar, Mary Ellen Zvanut, at 205.985.0552.

Cost is \$15 for the first class you enter and \$8 for subsequent classes. The fees go up if you register close to



Race Watch

24.



race weekend, so don't delay. Primitive camping is available on site for a nominal fee. We host an awards banquet on Saturday evening on site, again for a small fee. There are hotels and restaurants in the area.

The Mulberry is in Blount County, about 45 miles north of Birmingham, Alabama. The other races in the Alabama Cup are on the nearby Locust Fork River. The Locust Fork Invitational is February 10; the Locust Fork Classic is March

Southeastern Races 2001

The Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championship Races will be held May 5-6, 2001. As in previous years, it will be on the Nantahala River in Wesser, North Carolina.

The Southeastern Championships is a great race, whether you're an aspiring Junior Team member or are in the Masters class. The course through Nantahala Falls is challenging without being intimidating, and can be successfully navigated by the recreational paddler. If slalom's not your thing, there's also the Down River Race and Fun Race.

It's also exciting to be part of the race crew, providing a venue for nationally ranked slalom racers to hone their skills. It's a fun way to spend a

spring weekend, and you can squeeze in a paddling trip on Sunday afternoon after all the races are over.

Look for more information and a volunteer sign up sheet in the March *Eddy Line*.



"I gave my heart to the mountains the minute I stood beside this river with its spray in my face and watched it thunder into foam, smooth to green glass over sunken rocks, shatter to foam again. I was fascinated by how it sped by and yet was always there; its roar shook both the earth and me."
- Wallace Stegner.

Letters

Dear Editor,

I just read Dan Roper's letter, your response, and reread Bill Reeves original article. I, and I suspect the majority of our readership, back your position 100%. My own first thought for Dan was: get a life! However, everyone is entitled to his opinion, and he is apparently sincere in what he says. Unfortunately for him, the world he would like to see is more in keeping with my grandfather's era than today.

If he would read a modern novel, attend a movie, watch TV or listen to radio, he would find his Utopia absent. I don't fault him for wanting to live his life and raise his children as he sees fit, but I do fault him for being intolerant and impractical, and frankly he would do better to expose his children to the realities of life than to shelter them by censorship.

In fact, the audience of *The Eddy Line* is adults, not children, and it is absurd to think we would sanitize the publication down to an infantile level to please one offended reader. In sum, I think your response showed commendable restraint.

As a physician myself, I can attest that most medical



articles are tedious and technical. Bill did a good service to us all by bringing our attention to a realistic and serious situation in a way that the average paddler could identify with, and it is written in a manner so as to sustain the reader's interest. If that involves resorting to paddler's vernacular, so be it.

My wife and I both read the article, and saw nothing that would offend a 'reasonable person', although I did detect somewhat of a commercial for the Emory Clinic!!

I don't know Dan; I certainly don't think he should be held to ridicule for his beliefs, but.... his sensitivity to certain words in the Reeves article is out of synch with mainstream America, and he needs to understand that. Respect for beliefs and customs should be reciprocal for both parties in a relationship, and unfortunately for him, his is a minority position.

I do not in any way want to suggest that I am defending obscenity and vulgarity, but I am strongly against censorship, and in the present instance, Dan can be his own censor using a magic marker when he gets his issue each month. Most adults know instinctively what civil discourse is, and the rule I've always heard is: If you can't say it in front of your mother/sister/wife, don't say it!

Keep up the good work.

Best regards,

Dick Hurd



Nantahala River

by Bill Convis

Saturday, January 6.

Back when I agreed to lead a January trip, I had visions of a mild spring-like day following lots of rain and a chance to get on the Upper Chattahoochee. This was a Leader's Choice and my choice seemed to be the Nantahala or another cancellation. I hadn't been in a boat since October and was pretty determined to paddle despite the cold. Because of the weather lately I was a little surprised to hear from several like-minded people equally determined to get on the river.

So there we were, Michael Smith and Beth Fordyce in open boats and Tyler Smith and myself in kayaks. By the time we had the shuttle set and were stretched out and layered up, the parking lot had filled with perhaps two dozen paddlers and the temperature was edging up — thankfully there was no wind.

At this time of the year the sun doesn't really hit the



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river much, even at mid-day, so most of our paddling was done in the shade. The water was predictably cold, but we were dressed for it, so after the initial and inevitable splashing in Patton's Run we got down to the business of enjoying the day. Beth, Mike and Tyler are all very capable paddlers and familiar with the river. We kept a good pace but took time to play; one of the advantages of January on the Nantahala is there are no rafts (and only a couple of fishermen).

After a short break to catch some rays and warm a bit at Ferebee, it was back on the river. Another break at Surfer's rapid where Mike, Beth and I sat in the sun like turtles on a log and watched Tyler and other play boaters work out. I munched on some raisins and was put in mind

of what it must be like to eat BBs — cold BBs. On down the river the pace picked up some as I think we were all feeling the chill. Finally to the Falls, where everyone had successful runs.

I generally avoid getting this cold on purpose, but it was a good day and I'm glad I was there. The cold weather added to making it memorable. I enjoyed the company of fellow GCA paddlers, as I always do, and hope to paddle with Beth, Mike and Tyler again soon. So Jim, sign me up for another trip, maybe a balmy day in March.

One final note — I carry a small metal thermos I picked up at REI. It holds about 2 cups — just enough hot soup to share and keep some back for possible medicinal purposes. I recommend it. ✂

New Year's Day Canoe Trip — A Lost Tradition!

by John Henderson

01/01/01! All the signs were ominous... snow, sleet, knifing wind and bitter cold. Ice crystals covered car windshields obscuring the vision of motorists who left wild and terrorizing skid marks in the glaze as testimony of their efforts to control their personal and errant titanic. Then the biting wind chill brought on bone chattering seizures that would not go away. And all the while the long underwear, ear muffs, wool shirt, neoprenes, chemical hand and foot warmers failed to ward off the over-

whelming numbness. Heavens no, I didn't go. I stayed home. After letting the dog out and retrieving the newspaper from the curb, I put on a huge pot of coffee and stayed put. Until this weather becomes reasonable again, I'm hunkered down and not going anywhere. I'll let you know when I de-hibernate. On second thought, my favorite canoe store is having a sale today.... maybe I'll see you there. ✂

Endless waters to explore
Pumping blood as rapids roar
Fast and furious or a peaceful float
The river god will guide your boat.

- Amen.

Chattahoochee - Apalachicola River

by Bruce Eure

A new world record speed for 250 meters by kayak was accomplished on 4/28/00. I was paddling along a few miles below the Walter F. George dam, enjoying the early morning scenery. I was about 25 feet from the bank when a large log suddenly sprouted feet (and teeth) and quickly went into the water. It was a 'gator — 16 to 18 feet long — first one I had seen on the trip. Big time adrenaline flow! If only the timers had been present.

Thirty + years ago, I boated from Columbus to Apalachicola with three friends in a 16' outboard. Since then I have often wanted to repeat the trip under human power, and this past spring I had the opportunity. I was able to persuade one of the previous boaters to do the trip with me. Charles Richards, an adventurer and accomplished world traveler, agreed to take the trip with me again.

After careful consideration of comfort (and perhaps age and fitness), Charles decided to ride a small power boat, while I would do the paddling in a 17' Perception Eclipse. We agreed on a location to meet at the end of each day. Charles was able to borrow a boat, motor, and trailer for the trip. We met on 4/21 to begin the trip.

Day 1 - Monday 4/24/00

There were several different problems with Charles' boat trailer before we started. After replacing the tires and wheel bearings, and repairing the boat winch, we drove to Columbus.

We started from the boat ramp in Columbus at 5:30 P.M. The maps indicated a marina at Fort Benning, and I had visions of a beautifully landscaped park, perhaps with some officer hosting a party. As it turned out, the maps were old and the marina had been abandoned years ago. At least it was a flat, clear place to pitch a tent.

Day 2 - Tuesday 4/25/00

The current was stronger and we had some rough water in some of the river bends. As the river curved, the wind switched from help to hindrance many times. We stopped and tented at the Hatchechubbe Creek Park & ramp. It was a wet, cold, and windy evening.

Day 3 - Wednesday 4/26/00

Today's ride covered the upper half of Lake Eufaula. There was a strong wind from the west, and the lake was wide enough for the wind to make big waves. The spray skirt turned out to be very useful. We enjoyed the comfort of being indoors for the evening at one of the lakeside motor lodges.

Day 4 - Thursday 4/27/00

We finished most of the lower half of Lake Eufaula today. The wind was there again, from the west as it usually is. Lake Eufaula has many large lakeside homes. It also has a few jerks on jet skis. I was buzzed several times by two of them. We tented at a park near the dam.

Day 5 - Friday 4/28/00

The day started with a very windy crossing of the lake to the lock side of the dam. This was the widest part of the lake, and the water was rough. It was quite an experience going through the lock. With an 82' one stage drop, it was the highest one-stage lock in the world when it was built. The lock probably used the equivalent of a one day water supply for a mid sized town. Below the dam I saw my first 'gator of the trip. Wow!

We ended the day at Omusse Creek Park. As it was a Friday with good weather, there were several local families camping and cooking. We answered their questions about our trip and graciously accepted the food and beverage offers.

The next morning the night shift from one of the nuclear power plant's contractors was having a cookout, complete with keg and bar at 7:30 A.M. They were having a very good time. This was quite a sight for early in the morning.

Several different problems had developed along the way with Charles's boat. So after five days of problems and repairs, Charles decided that his boat probably would not make it to Apalachicola. We both returned to Atlanta for Charles to find a replacement boat. After twelve days with no luck at finding another boat, Charles gave up on the trip. I returned to the river to complete the trip.

In my twelve days off, GCA's Richard Greene started and finished the Apalachicola River (*The Eddy Line 12/2000*). Richard, I wish we could have been there when you were on the river.

Day 6 - Wednesday 5/10/00

Omusse Park was a quiet place for camping Tuesday night. Quite a contrast from the parties there two week-ends earlier. The resident park manager, Eddie Johnson, was again very friendly and helpful.

I started early and went through the second lock at Columbia dam. It was only a 25' drop. The river went past the industrial section — a paper mill and a nuclear power plant. There were more 'gators in the warm discharge water. The local "experts" were divided: most say that the 'gators will not bother you, except when they are mating or tending to their hatchlings. No one knew when either season was. Other locals offered to pray for me. The consensus was that 'gators were a serious problem for dogs and small children.

The day ended at Neal's Landing — a nice park with

camping and hot showers, but lots of bugs.

Day 7 - Thursday 5/11/00

I saw many more 'gators in the upper end of Lake Seminole. Some of them were on the banks, while others were swimming in the water. The wind was not up much, until the final few miles of the lake. I had my work to do with the loss of current in the lake and a head wind the last few miles.

I stopped for the night at Seminole Lodge Marina, and enjoyed the indoors. It is amazing how good micro-wave cheeseburgers are after a few days of cold camping food.

Day 8 - Friday 5/12/00

After a short trip across the lower end of the lake, I was at Jim Woodruff lock and dam. The lock was closed for repairs. Thus I had the "opportunity" to carry the kayak and gear over the dam, and an additional 3/4 mile or so to reach a good put-in place. With the shortage of rain, the river level was down, and the current was much slower below the dam.

The Apalachicola River has some nice sandbars, starting a few miles below Lake Seminole. They are popular spots with the local folks for sunning and fishing. I must caution any of you who may consider boating on this section of the Apalachicola River. Some of the sandbars seem to be "clothing optional." I guess a kayak moves quietly through the water and is not heard approaching. There are some very attractive ladies in north Florida!

I stopped for the night at the Bristol Landing Park, near Blountstown. The resident manager, Buster Sykes was very hospitable.

While I was at the Bristol boat ramp unloading the kayak, three local "good ol' boys" arrived to launch their boat. They had obviously started on their beer much earlier in the day. One of them looked at my kayak and laughed with considerable disdain. He asked me if I were "... really going out on the river in that there little thang?" Under the circumstances, I just quietly said that I was done for the day. I did not mention my day of 29 miles, or my portage.

One of the would be boaters got in the boat, and pushed off for deeper water. The boat motor would not start! He had to paddle back to the ramp, and one of his friends was so disgusted (embarrassed?) that he threw the remaining beers in the river. They began arguing about the beer and the boat motor. I did not say anything, I just quietly turned around and walked away to a place where I could safely laugh.

Day 9 - Saturday 5/13/00

This was my long day with 39 miles to Wewahitchka

(Gaskins Park), so I started at daybreak. The current was slower in places, so I had more work to do. Thankfully, there were fewer 'gators on this section. There were many boaters and fishermen. I saw a number of houseboats tied up along the banks.

I reached Gaskins Park late in the afternoon. Many fishermen were returning to the boat ramp at that time. I talked "fishing and boating" with them and answered their questions about my trip. The day was hot. Most of them were generous with their cold beer. I tented at the park/ramp for the evening.

Day 10 - Sunday 5/14/00

The river banks were mostly lowlands and swamps. There were very few sandbars, and not many places to camp. Fort Gadsden Historic Site (from the early 1800s) was interesting. The resident manager has a canoe and is very supportive of paddlers.

Day 11 - Monday 5/15/00

The current on the lower end of the river is much slower. I did not want the trip to end, but it was time to get to Apalachicola and meet Myrtle for my shuttle ride back. The last 8 miles on the intracoastal waterway had the usual head wind, and the boat traffic was heavier.

It was most enjoyable to paddle past the Apalachicola dockside seafood restaurants and markets and go under the bridge past mile marker 0.0. Sadly, I then went around to the boat ramp on the western shore. We enjoyed some seafood before we drove home.

The totals for the kayak trip: parts of 11 days, 262.4 miles, 77 3/4 hours in the kayak, and 1 portage. There were lots of good experiences and many nice people along the way.

I generally paddled all day, except for a 20 or 30 minute lunch break in the early afternoon. I was tenting eight nights, and indoors for two. Some of the parks and ramps have free camping, some charge a small fee, and some have NO CAMPING signs. There seems to be some latitude exercised about camping for paddlers at most places. Inquire locally.

Most of the power boaters slowed down and passed at a reasonable distance (except the two jet ski riders in Lake Eufaula). Fortunately the barges and tugboats were not moving, since the Woodruff lock was shut down for repairs.

Bugs were a problem, mostly at dawn and dusk. The riverside scenery was varied and interesting. The upper sections had trees and fields. Further south, there were sandbars, lowlands and a few large dunes. Florida had some bluffs of 150' + over the river. I saw lots of birds, about two dozen deer, and too many 'gators.

I used maps of the two major lakes that gave details

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on marina services, parks, and ramps. The Corps of Engineers sells river navigation maps, but they are expensive and too large to carry. Road maps are useful for finding towns, parks, and where the crossing roads go to.

The river has mile markers along much of the navigable sections which are helpful. There are buoys in some areas, but in many cases, either the river or the buoys have moved. Perhaps there is insufficient budget for channel maintenance.

Our "public servants" have spent many millions of

tax dollars on building and maintaining the navigation facilities, but there are probably only two dozen or fewer barge trips a year on the river. Of course, there is a kayak or canoe trip now and then.

My camping gear, spare clothes and equipment totaled a little over 24 pounds. I took a 10 day supply of cold food and 4 days of water. No stove, cooler, or ice. I did not take any electronic gear except a flashlight and a boating strobe light. I wish I had taken a camera.

Anyone interested in the Mississippi? 

The Arkansas River, Colorado

Part 2 of a 2 part article

by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

Continued from the January Eddy Line.

Well, you now have two choices, The Numbers (the Arkansas' equivalent of Chattooga's Section 4, the standard for Colorado class IV) and Royal Gorge (a class III [two solid IVs] "forbidding, dark, narrow, awesome chasm unlike any other run."). We did the numbers next and saved the Gorge to climax our trip.

The Numbers is short, about 5 miles, and has an 84 ft/mile gradient. If you aren't relatively happy after the preceding three days don't do the Numbers. It can be quite

intense; the rapids are relatively long and tend to run together. Swims can take on epic proportions. There have been some problems with local landowners concerning access. The classic put-in is at Scott's Bridge, near highway milepost 200. The take-out is either at Railroad Bridge, or where the river rejoins the highway another mile downstream. If Scott's Bridge is closed there is an unofficial access about a mile up stream (you have to cross the railroad).

Rapid Number One (class III) is just above Scott's Bridge. Number One is the most technical of the seven Numbers and consists of a 100-meter or so slalom course through boulders and around holes. It continues right into "Number One and a Half," a class III wave train.



Hawk & Brad going into sunshine. - Submitted by Bill Reeves.

Numbers Two and Three (both solid class III) follow close to each other and have fast water in between.

Number Four is a long bugger, the most difficult (class IV) of the Numbers, and accounts for most Numbers' accidents. Swims through Number Four tend to be epic and on the low end of the fun scale. It is especially pushy and has several large holes at its top. In general take it down the middle, watch for what's coming, and skirt the holes.

Although the river continues at a brisk non-stop pace, there's almost a mile between Number Four and Number Five. Number Five (class IV) comes immediately after a bridge. It is a small four foot or so fall with a gnarly approach and small eddy at the top on river right. Catch the eddy, peel out and you should be able to run the tongue right to left.



When you don't punch the hole. - Submitted by Bill Reeves.

After Number Five, you'll have a mile or so of essentially continuous easy class III until you hit Number Six (easy class IV) where the river jogs hard to the left. It's followed by another mile of continuous straightforward class III.

Just past the Mt. Harvard Bridge you will encounter Number Seven (another easy class IV). It's possible to miss this one because it sort of blends into the continuous white water. This is a private bridge, so take-out about a mile further downstream at Railroad Bridge, or if you can't find it go one more mile to where the river rejoins the road.

Well, the trip is almost over and it is most fitting to end it with the nine mile section through Royal Gorge, between Parkdale and Cañon City. The Gorge is dark, deep, narrow, and spooky. A thousand-foot high suspension bridge (higher than the New River Bridge) crosses it and an inclined railroad runs down to the midpoint.



Going after the raft. - Submitted by Bill Reeves.

You are relatively isolated in the Gorge except that it's one of the most popular runs and will be packed with other boaters. However, even at it's worst it is less crowded than the Ocoee or Nantahala. A railroad parallels the river on the left all the way through the Gorge and a decaying aqueduct (Cañon City Water Works pipe, circa 1910) clings to the right wall.

There's about three miles of easy warm up before you enter the Gorge at Pump House Rapid (the concrete structure on river right marks where water was diverted into the aqueduct). If you're alert you may also see the remains of the rock forts and breastworks used by the Rio Grande Railroad troops during the Royal Gorge War, on

river left. Don't spend too much time looking at them because you're fixin' to run Sunshine Rapid (class IV).

Commercial photographers stake out Sunshine and will usually get multiple motor drive shots of really good carnage. It's a really good idea to join the moderate sized crowd and scout Sunshine from river right at the eddy and small beach just past the end of a concrete wall that used to be part of the water works.

Unfortunately, we elected not to scout it, but rather tried to follow a commercial raft's line, a left-right-left S-turn.. We missed the line and ran the meat of the upper hole. It back-ended the Stinger and forcibly ejected Brad and me. I made the river left eddy, Brad made the river right eddy and Tommy went for the Stinger. Mistake!

Yes, he caught it somewhere in Grateful Dead Rapid (class III) and promptly flipped. Grateful Dead feeds directly into Sledgehammer, a class IV 10 foot or so double drop, which ends in Clark's Hole (a place normal people don't want to be). Tommy bailed and swam, making shore in the river right scouting eddy just above Sledgehammer.

The rest of the Gorge is straightforward class III. Unfortunately, I can't give a complete blow-by-blow. Tommy and Brad caught a ride with a commercial raft and found the Stinger in an eddy about a mile further down. Tommy's C-1 was nowhere to be seen.

I humped it on foot down the train tracks for a mile or so until they became very narrow with no egress in the event of a train. Few options remained, so I dived off the wall into the Stinger as it floated by. The three of us paddled the Stinger for a mile or so past the Tramway and Royal Gorge Bridge, then came upon Tommy's Cascade sitting happily in an eddy. The only remaining tricky thing is a low head dam at the outskirts of Cañon City; it has a boat chute on river left. ✂



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