



Volume 36, No. 10

770.421.9729

www.georgiacanoe.org

October 2001

### October GCA Meeting

The GCA meeting for October will be the Annual Fall General Membership Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner, to be held at the Garden Hills Community Center in Buckhead on Friday, October 19, at 7:30 PM. Election of officers for the 2002 year will be held at the meeting. Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert, your latest river pictures, river stories and a good appetite.

NOTE: This meeting is on the third FRIDAY of the month, October 19.

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

See you there!!



### November GCA Meeting

The November GCA meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15 (the third Thursday of the month), at 7:30 PM at the Garden Hills Community Center in Buckhead. The program will feature a slide show & talk by Niki Collins-Queen. Niki will show slides and talk about her spirit quest while she hitchhiked on sailboats in the Bahamas, backpacked alone in the Cohutta Wilderness, canoed in the Everglades and on the Suwannee River. You can also read about her adventures in her book titled "Earth, the Forgotten Temple: A Spirit Quest in the Wilderness" and on her web site [www.dreamwater.com/biz/earth/](http://www.dreamwater.com/biz/earth/).

Join your paddling buddies and enjoy this most entertaining show!



### December GCA Meeting

The December GCA meeting will once again be the Annual Holiday Party. The party is scheduled for Friday, December 21, at 7:30 PM at the Garden Hills Community Center in Buckhead. Bring a covered dish and/or a desert, a festive holiday mood, some good paddling tales and an appetite, and we'll all get together and celebrate the Holiday Season.

See you there!!



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# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!



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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 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 [gacanoee@mindspring.com](mailto:gacanoee@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



### October

4	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Atlanta Botanical Garden	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
6	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Paul Therrian	770.513.4986
6	Yellow	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner John McCorvey	770.921.5116
6	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
7	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
13	TBA	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Doug Ackerman	770.503.0365
13	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Pat Hagan	770.393.1420
13	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
14	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Pat Hagan	770.393.1420
19	Club Meeting — Fall Covered Dish Dinner & Elections — Garden Hills Community Center	Kay Redmond	404.237.7242
20	Hiwassee (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Alex & Mary Ann Pruitt	770.439.1825
20	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced Revel Freeman	404.261.8572
20	Aucilla (Note 2)	Flat Doug Massey	770.513.6987
21	Hiwassee (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Alex & Mary Ann Pruitt	770.439.1825
21	Wacissa (Note 2)	Flat Doug Massey	770.513.6987
27	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Greg Spencer	404.892.6851
27	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate Dickie Tillman	770.466.1197
27	Chattooga Section IV	Class 4-5 Expert Ed Leahy	706.855.0399
28	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Jim Watson	404.876.3151
28	Tuckaseegee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner David Welden	770.985.8883

### November

3	Upper Amilacola	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Alan Reaid	770.974.4581
3	Leader's Chioce	Class 2-3 Intermediate Clay Noble	770.655.2843
3	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Oreon Mann	404.522.3469
4	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Lois Newton	706.398.3069
4	Cedar Creek	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Mike Smith	706.235.8462
10	Tuckaseegee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner Jim Griffin	770.498.3695
15	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun — Garden Hills Community Center	Kay Redmond	404.237.7242
18	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
22-25	Okefenokee	Flat Brookie Gallagher	404.872.5211

Note 1: Camping weekend.

Note 2: Florida flat water.

**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:** Wednesday evenings from 6:00 until dark May thru October at the lake at Stone Mountain Park. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

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## 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  
3794 Glenloch Road  
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

### Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell  
Cold, Wet & Alive  
Expedition Earth  
Faultline (Will Reeves)  
First Descents (North Fork Payette)  
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)  
In the Surf  
Introduction to Canoeing  
Kayak Handling-The Basic Strokes  
Mohawk Canoes (promotional w/detailed boat outfitting instructions)  
Mohawk Whitewater Canoes (promotional w/ detailed outfitting instructions)  
Only Nolan (Promotional, Canoe Technique)  
Path of the Paddle: Quiet Water  
Path of the Paddle: White Water  
Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)

Play Daze  
Retendo  
Solo Playboating!  
The C-1 Challenge  
Vortex -- low cost storm water sampler  
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)  
Whitewater Self Defense

### Books:

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida  
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky  
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I & II  
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Tennessee-Vol I & II  
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida  
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed Emory Watershed  
ACA Canoeing & Kayaking Instructors Guide  
Alabama Canoe Rides  
AMC White Water Handbook  
American Red Cross Canoeing & Kayaking  
Arkansas information (assorted)  
Basic River Canoeing  
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)  
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement

Florida information (assorted)  
Georgia Mountains  
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  
Paddling SC-Palmetto State River Trails  
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  
Southern Georgia Canoeing  
The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North  
The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande  
The Mighty Mulberry-A Canoeing Guide  
They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?  
White Water Tales of Terror  
WhiteWaterTrips (British Columbia & Washington)  
Wildwater (Sierra Club Guide)  
WildwaterWestVirginia  
Youghiogheny-Appalachian River  
**Maps:**  
The Big S. Fork

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## Announcements

### GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing over 300 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@flipper.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 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@flipper.kapcom.com. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe to the list using the above instructions. Also, don't be shy about using the list to send out or to request information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

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

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Government is imminently qualified to micro-manage nature. After all, look what a smashing job they've done with the IRS, EPA, USDA, FBI, BLM and assorted other alphabet agencies.

### 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 Earthlink as your choice, you can do your paddling club a big favor. When you call to sign up, tell the Earthlink 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 — gacanoe@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

## GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.georgiacanoes.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. ✂

## Get *The Eddy Line* Via Email

*The Eddy Line* is 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 operating systems, 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:

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 YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS so we can send *The Eddy Line* to you electronically. ✂

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view."  
- Edward Abbey.

## Electronic Eddy Line Email Failures

Not getting your electronic version of *The Eddy Line*? The following email IDs had mail failure notices for last month's *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](mailto:heloeddy@mindspring.com).

### Failed email IDs:

huddleston@converge-tech.com	Delivery failed
global@sudanmail.net	Host unknown
suzibeu@hotmail.com	Exceeded storage allocation
southpark123_4@hotmail.com	Exceeded storage allocation
millermindi@hotmail.com	Exceeded storage allocation
karlstone@hotmail.com	Exceeded storage allocation
jcjflowers@hotmail.com	Exceeded storage allocation
jacrooney@hotmail.com	Exceeded storage allocation
rjames5559@mindspring.com	User unknown
ruthe@citrus.infi.net	User unknown

 ✂

## Summer Roll Practice

Joint AWC / GCA Summer Roll Practice will be held at Stone Mountain Lake this year beginning in May and running through the end of daylight savings time in October. Sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays at 6:00 (or earlier). Admission is free once you enter the park (a season pass is highly recommended if you plan to attend multiple sessions).



To get there, enter the park from the Stone Mountain Freeway (East Entrance) and take the first left. Continue about a mile until the road crosses the dam and take the first right into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

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

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

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

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

October 6-7 — Russell Fork Rendezvous — Russell Fork River, Haysi, VA, [www.surfbwa.org/russellfork/](http://www.surfbwa.org/russellfork/).

October 12-14 — Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous — Lake Raven, Huntsville State Park, TX, Jim Null, [medislide@earthlink.net](mailto:medislide@earthlink.net).

October 26-28 — NOC Guest Appreciation Festival — Nantahala River, NC, NOC Programs Office 888.662.1662, [www.noc.com](http://www.noc.com).

December 1 — NRC Jiffy Slalom — Bryson City, NC, Island Park on the Tuckasegee River, part of Bryson City's holiday time festivities, Nantahala Racing Club (NRC) 828.488.2176 ext. 108 or email [rhino@main.nc.us](mailto:rhino@main.nc.us).

December 2 — NRC Wildwater Races — Season Finale on the Tuckasegee Gorge, NC, Nantahala Racing Club (NRC) 828.488.2176 ext. 108 or email [rhino@main.nc.us](mailto:rhino@main.nc.us).

August 6-10 2003 — Lanier Canoe 2003 Sprint World Championships — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, [ConHagler@aol.com](mailto:ConHagler@aol.com). ✂

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## GCA Trip Sign-up Guidelines

Some considerations to be made when signing up for GCA trips and activities:

Be considerate of our trip coordinators (TCs). Avoid calling late at night, or at the last minute, to sign up for a club trip. Many of the more popular trips fill up very quickly. Calling early in the week, or even earlier, helps to ensure you get a spot on the trip and helps the TC to make plans. We do not have an easy time getting people to coordinate trips, and these little annoyances help to discourage the few we get from repeating their favor.

Please do not attempt to sign up for a trip via email. Many potential trip participants may not be aware that participation in club trips is not guaranteed. Two major reasons for this are that trip sizes may be limited because of many factors, and there is a de facto screening process that takes place when someone calls to sign up for a club trip. Boaters are allowed to participate in a club trip solely at the discretion of the trip coordinator.

Trip size limitations may take place due to river conditions, river characteristics, safety considerations, governmental agency regulations, permit systems, parking availability at put-ins & take-outs, or trip coordinator preference (not wanting to deal with the logistics of a 40 person trip). Again, we don't want to do anything to discourage these TCs from repeating their favor, so try to cooperate with these limitations.

For the same reasons, avoid just showing up for a club trip without signing up with the trip coordinator.

Calling and leaving a voice mail message or sending an email does not constitute signing up. TCs often do not get last minute messages or emails before leaving for their trips. And if the trip is already maxed out, you may get to the river and not be able to go on the trip.

The screening process for potential trip participants is a tool to help avoid putting TCs and other trip participants, and indeed the callers themselves, in the awkward and often unsafe position of dealing with trip participants who may unnecessarily get into trouble on a club trip. Other than because of trips being full, TCs may decline to have a caller participate in a trip and gently suggest that perhaps she/he should consider not participating, or signing up for a trip of a lower difficulty level, if they suspect that the caller may not have the necessary skills, experience, proper type of boat or outfitting, adequate paddling or rescue equipment, proper protective clothing, or any number of other things that may affect the caller's ability to participate in the trip without placing him- or herself in an unsafe position. This avoids affecting the quality of the trip experience for the TC and the other participants, as well as not jeopardizing the safety of the screenee.

As a potential trip participant, if you find yourself "screened out" of a trip, try to ascertain why, so you can work toward remedying the conditions that cast doubts on your ability to participate safely. Ask for suggestions that may help you prepare for future trips of a particular difficulty level. As a trip coordinator, try to be honest but tactful when screening potential participants for your trips. Paddlers' egos bruise very easily — we are mostly a proud and independent lot. If it comes down to it, though, a bruised ego is better than a lost or broken boat, a severe injury, or worse. And no one wants their ego to cause problems for an entire group.

One thing that should NEVER be done — Don't sign up for a trip and then invite / allow other people to come with you on the trip. The correct protocol is to have the other people individually contact the trip coordinator

### Canoe Outfitting & Repair

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Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318

Email [canoeist@mindspring.com](mailto:canoeist@mindspring.com)

directly to sign up for the trip. Again, we want to be considerate of the TCs so they will continue to coordinate trips, and "surprises" are not a good way to do this.

Lastly, please try to be on time at the designated meeting place. The club has a 15 minute rule regarding

waiting for late-comers for any club event, so if you show up late and miss the group, PLEASE don't get huffy with the trip coordinator.

Your cooperation and understanding in adhering to these guidelines are very much appreciated. ✂

## National River Cleanup Week Announces Photo Contest Winners

Knoxville, TN — The annual National River Cleanup Week photo contest was won with a group photo of participants from OMI, Inc. and the City of Stuart Florida cleanup. Their cleanup took place along a 2-mile stretch of the St. Lucie River on May 12. The photo submitted by Jason Vogel, cleanup project manager, won the \$100 first prize. Second place was awarded to the field science group from Skyline High School, Idaho Falls, Idaho; the Moxahala Watershed Restoration Commission took third place for their photo of a participant holding up an official National



River Cleanup Week trash bag. Honorable mention was given to the Friends of the Mad River Cleanup, based in Waitsfield, Vermont, for a photo of a canoeist in a trash laden canoe.

The photos exemplify the spirit and cooperation of cleanups held around the country. The 2001 event took place May 12 through 19 and included close to 50,000 estimated volunteers in over 350 cleanups across the country. These vol-

unteers covered over 8000 miles as they cleared shorelines and waterways of accumulated debris and trash. Tires, shopping carts, computers, furniture, auto parts and even election signs were just a sampling of the more unusual items that are found during these cleanups. All of the photos will appear on the National River Cleanup Week web site at <http://www.americaoutdoors.org/nrcw>.

In 2002 National River Cleanup Week will take place May 11-18. Paddle sports enthusiasts, outfitters, businesses, civic and conservation groups come together each year to cleanup and focus attention on their local waterways. Groups that register their cleanups with National River Cleanup Week receive educational and promotional materials on conducting cleanups of waterways. There is no cost to register. Groups may also be eligible to receive free trash bags for their event, subject to availability.

America Outdoors is the national sponsor of National River Cleanup Week. Agency sponsors are the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation. American Rivers and American Whitewater provide additional support. ✂

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## Sea Kayaking

# The Firefighters — In Tribute

by **Ralph Diaz . . . Folding Kayaker**  
newsletter

*I sent this to PaddleWise but I thought I would also share it. It helps put a human face to those lost and is in the tradition of the bittersweet tones of an Irish wake.*

New York, NY. September 12, 2001. As I went to bed last night, I was saddened to hear of the anticipated numbers of casualties among our city's firefighters. When we lose even two among the ranks of what the city knows as New York's Bravest, it is a catastrophe. To lose hundreds is unimaginable and weighs heavily on all our hearts.

As I laid tossing like many millions of us probably did last night, I thought of the several groups of firemen I took out paddling a few years back as an extension of the public kayaking program of the Downtown Boathouse. For New Yorkers, there is something very special about our firemen, especially for us raised in the Catholic school system.



In grammar school classrooms, the nuns would have us cross ourselves and say a prayer every time we heard the siren sound on a passing fire truck. Many of my classmates from my very Irish Catholic high school became firemen and cops.

With the Downtown Boathouse free kayaking program, I saw a chance to pay them back for all that they do for us without hesitation at enormous risk to themselves. We were running some special trips anyway and one day a fireman and his wife came in to paddle in the free program within the embayment. They were both wearing FDNY T-shirts. I verified they were the real McCoy and invited them to round up buddies back at the firehouse (one up on the Upper Eastside of Manhattan) for a mid-week paddle to the Statue of Liberty.

A week later I got a call from Patrick and we quickly setup a mid-week date when the currents would be right for an easy trip down with the ebb and back with the flood current. I then made a call for volunteers to help out. Strangely enough, what I got were mostly women paddlers. I suspect this had more to do with the growing percentage of women in paddling and had nothing to do

# You've worked on your paddling skills all summer

*...now take them on the road!*

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with the reputation of firemen being handsome hunks:-)

Only Patrick had done any paddling before, that one time in the embayment, but I had no hesitation to take firemen out on that open water. I felt they had a couple of things going for them, which all proved true in that first trip.

First of all, I could count on them all to be in top physical shape; firemen always are. Next, I knew that nothing would panic them out on the water. If you face fire and smoke everyday, not much is going to scare you. I also knew they would be disciplined and listen to what I had to say and not run amok out there like other groups of ordinary civilians sometimes have. It didn't occur to me that they would also be a team, which they were; you could see that by training and instinct they were constantly watching out for each other, albeit kidding about Jack being slow or Tom being spastic looking in his paddling.

That trip proved quite a challenge, as did the following one. That first trip was one where I had to make a judgment call on weather conditions. There was a range of winds predicted. I took a guess of what it would actually be and lost. They turned out actually stronger than any of the predictions.

So, we got to the Statue all right, but the winds from Brooklyn to the East picked up dramatically as we headed back. They were so strong that we had to hide in the shadow of Liberty Island and the Statue to gather our stamina for the paddle across open water to Ellis Island, much to the consternation of security forces on Liberty. They had their rifles out and were shooting us away.

The firemen started kidding about getting arrested and what they would tell their captain for the night shift, which some of them had to get to. "Captain, this is Tom. I can't make duty tonight. I'm in a lockup at the Statue for kayaking too close!" We didn't get arrested, but the way back was into 20-25 knot winds. Their discipline, teamwork and physical conditioning made it look easy.

They thanked me and a few days later I got another call from Patrick. The guys had told tales about the trip and a bunch more wanted to come. "How many can you take, Ralph?" I set no limit and now we had a larger group yet. Some were bringing wives; I didn't mention this to my women paddler volunteers because I really needed them for the trip :-)

This trip was also, shall I say, eventful. Again, a weather call by me, working out the odds and losing a bit. A storm was scheduled to come in, but it rushed in much earlier than anticipated even by the weathermen. This time we were caught by a brewing severe lightning storm. It didn't catch us out in the open; I had a fallback shelter in case anything were to go wrong.

When the firemen saw my fallback, they could hardly contain their enthusiasm, and I went up several notches as a guy they would follow anywhere. It was a marina with a large outdoor verandah bar! Immediately beer orders peppered the bartender so fast that his head noticeably swiveled. The firemen who were scheduled for duty that night went light on the beer but the others drank a few shall I say. Ordinarily, I do not condone drinking on a paddle break but I wasn't going to face up to these big Irishmen on this one!

It was one of those storms that you could see beautifully played out in front of you. My VHF radio was chattering a play by play account, something quite unusual because it matched exactly the time and local geography it was reporting and anticipating. The major part of the storm was rolling over Staten Island, 6 miles or so to our south, headed straight for Brooklyn. A weaker storm was cutting to our north. We were in a torrential downpour but no immediate lightning.

I didn't want to take a chance that either storm might suddenly turn roguishly to hit us if we dared cross back to Manhattan while they were in the area. The firemen didn't mind waiting. Even as the weather station was saying the storm was on its way out, and I could see clearly its passage, a fireman would jump up and say "Hey, Ralph, I think I see some more lightning right over there!" So we lingered some more.

We finally did get the show back on the road. As we put away the kayaks, some of them asked me, "Ralph, what exciting thing do you have set for us next time?" I said simply "Locusts."

Well there never was a next time. We had trouble figuring out a good next date. Patrick had rounded up more firemen from another firehouse to join guys from his. It was now well into October and the water too cold. So I said let's do it next year. But we lost touch and we never did get out again.

The memory of paddling with these great bunch of guys in view of the twin towers makes the news of the loss of so many firemen in its rubble such a hard thing to take.

- From a submission to the PaddleWise Email List. ✂

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## TRIP COORDINATORS WANTED

From flat water to class V, the GCA is anxious to hear from those willing to coordinate a paddling trip. Contact Cruise Master Jim Griffin at 770.498.3695.



## River Access

### **Tension at the Cartecay Take-out**

#### **From the GCA Email List:**

Diane Smith wrote on August 21: "A meeting at the Ellijay courthouse was held last Thursday regarding the issues at the current Mulkey Road public take-out. Below is a synopsis of that meeting.

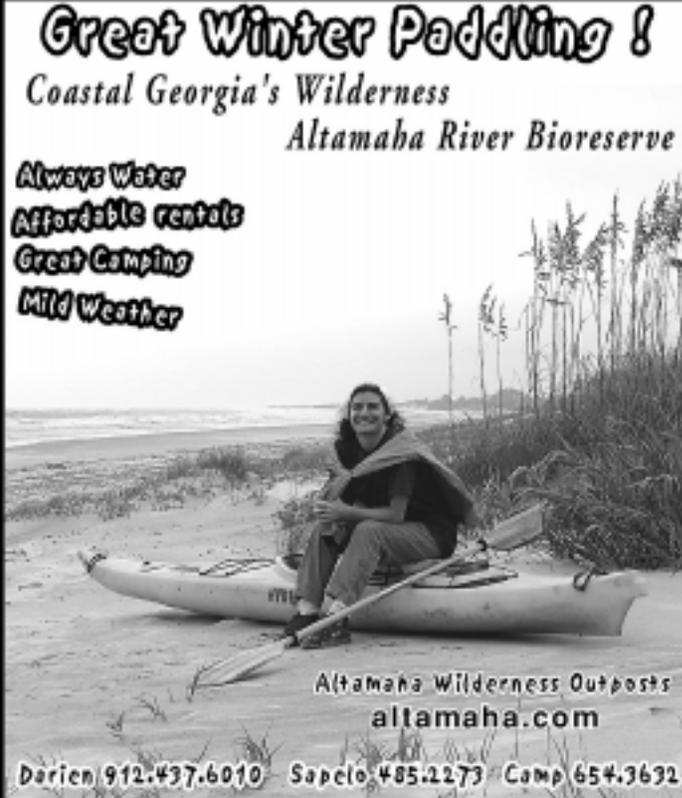
"The residents of Kayak Village (the homes at the Mulkey Road take-out) are experiencing problems with people using the take-out. They have asked for help from the county commissioners. The county commissioners are going to investigate. We know these complaints are legitimate. There is no point in denying it or getting into a big discussion about who is doing it and who is not. That kind of talk is a waste of time. I made a public comment at the meeting. I said that anyone caught breaking the law should be dealt with appropriately. Any vehicle blocking a driveway should be towed. I asked the residents to refrain from blaming "The Kayakers" and suggested they refer to the people causing the problems as "People Using the Take-out". Their complaints included: nudity, trespassing, public urination, traffic, driveways blocked, loitering, littering, and profanity.

In a later posting, Diane added: "The Gilmer County commissioners met again last night [August 23] and decided that there will only be 3 designated parking spaces made available at the take-out at Mulkey Road and that the dirt turn-around will be closed to vehicles...."

Bruce Williams responded: "It is now obvious that the Kayak Village homeowners' complaints about paddler behavior were fabrications or gross exaggerations designed to justify closing the take-out to increase several homeowners' property values at the expense of the public. It is my understanding that the homeowners wanted the county to privatize all or part of Mulkey Road and that the county probably would have done so were it not for the fact that the road would have reverted to the original owner, who stated at the previous commission meeting that she favored public access to the river.

"Restricting parking to three spaces from the already inadequate dozen would appear to be designed to have essentially the same effect without the legal problems.

"The commission has decided to put the interests of people who bought property and built houses adjacent to a public river access (one of whom is trying to sell at an inflated price) ahead of the public interest.... The closing of the turnaround sounds like a spiteful move to hurt local paddle sports businesses, who are apparently not politi-



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cally well connected and have been a thorn in the commissioners' sides...."

To which Tom Ottinger responded, "...The fact that Gilmer County is small and predominantly rural does not make its government any worse (or better) than governments in larger areas.... Further, the 'us' versus 'them' mentality is an attitude that exists more in the minds of some (not all) paddlers than in the minds of local residents, many of whom were 'outsiders' a few years ago. Is the county government more likely to pay attention to local residents who vote them into or out of office than to visitors who are here for hours or days? Of course they are. Rather than provoking a confrontation, paddlers should consider how to demonstrate to the county commission that maintaining access to the take-out is in the best interests of the people of Gilmer County.

"The county government provides parks and baseball fields for recreation. They are about to build a soccer field for the same purpose. This Cartecay take-out is just as important to provide recreational opportunities for the many local residents, swimmers and tubers as well as paddlers, who use the area. In addition, the Cartecay draws paddlers from all over north Georgia, and these people contribute substantially to the local economy.

"However, the complaints of the Kayak Village resi-

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dents aren't baseless. Driveways have been blocked, some people don't wait to get to the privacy of a bathroom, and some people change clothes in public. We need to make sure we aren't doing those things and should try our best to keep others from doing them. To reduce congestion we should leave most cars at the put-in and use MOE or River Right for shuttling if possible.

"That said, the county government can and should help. Parking spaces (more than three) should be lined off and improperly parked cars should be ticketed. Those blocking driveways should be towed. It wouldn't take many to get the message across. The county can also provide a few portable toilets at the take-out without significantly impacting the county budget. It's a reason-

able investment in the quality of life in Gilmer County."

From Laura Tanner: "...I think we must let the commissioners know that despite three or four homeowners, there are hundreds of other people affected by any change to that take-out — many of whom vote, pay taxes and/or patronize Gilmer County businesses. I sympathize with the homeowners (my cabin is not right on the river). ....My suggestion: Let's not worry about each other's attitudes right now, let's worry about getting meaningful river access (more than 3 spaces, with a turnaround) back at Mulkey Road...."

Bruce Williams provided the following useful addresses and suggestions: "Those concerned about the proposed reduction in parking to three spaces at the Cartecay take-out on Mulkey Road should write or call the Gilmer County Commissioners:

Rayburn Smith  
 Gilmer County Commission Chairman  
 1 Westside Square  
 Ellijay, GA 30540  
 706.635.4361

Other Commissioners are Steve Ralston and Charles Fowler.

County Attorney:

Herman Clark  
 Clark and Clark, Attorneys at Law  
 48 River Street Ellijay, GA 30540  
 706.635.1010

Letters to the Chamber of Commerce would also be helpful.

Brenda Johnson, Director  
 Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce  
 PO Box 505  
 Ellijay, GA 30540  
 email: chamber@ellijay.com

The Times Courier is the local weekly paper. Many battles are fought via letters to the Editor, as this is the only media attention issues get. E-mail to summerstc@ellijay.com. This is the news editor. You will need to include your name and city. ✂

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## From the Editor....

At this writing I am working on *The Eddy Line* and being extremely distracted by the news of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. I just spent the better part of a day watching CNN, CNBC, Fox News, etc. in total disbelief. Then came the news of all the cancellations of events, including the Slalom World Championships at the Ocoee.

I just missed being in the air during this disaster by a few days, and my oldest son missed it by a scant few hours. It's difficult to concentrate on the task at hand. Stunned disbelief is followed by anger and outrage. Please understand what's going on and pardon any dumb errors in the newsletter. I don't think any of us are doing our best work right now, with the possible exception of the rescue workers and the investigative agencies.

The newsletter will most likely be later than usual, as the printer is presently stuck on the West Coast with a return airline ticket of very questionable value, and the editor is totally distracted.

Regarding the tensions at the Cartecay take-out, my own two cents worth is that this campaign by the locals isn't about paddlers' outrageous behavior at the take-out. It appears to be just a thinly veiled attempt to ban or minimize paddler presence at the take-out, and perhaps ultimately on the entire stretch of river, for whatever reasons. Why do I see it this way? The paddlers' activities which are pointed out as justification for the proposed actions to be taken at the take-out are easily remedied without penalizing the entire law-abiding, non-littering, largely polite paddling community.

If changing clothes in public, urinating in public, littering, blocking access to private driveways, etc., is illegal in Gilmer County, and I suspect that it is, then the present laws need to be enforced. It's amazing what a few citations and healthy fines would do to stem these activities (if they in fact are that frequent). Word of law enforcement activity gets around very quickly in the paddling community. We don't combat bank robbery by making it illegal to park in front of a bank and towing the cars of otherwise law-abiding citizens — we combat bank robbery by arresting and prosecuting bank robbers.

What can we do to fight this thinly veiled attempt to keep paddlers away? The suggestion to boycott the Gilmer County area is not without merit, but unfortunately the ones we hurt the most may be our outfitter friends in Gilmer County. We need to make sure that the



County Commissioners realize that we indeed see through the thin veil, and that we will stay right on top of what's going on to make certain that everything that's done is done completely within the framework of the law — no corner cutting, no back room deals, etc. They need to know that the fair and correct thing to do is to enforce existing laws, not try to punish an entire class of people for the sins of a few.

And if they end up stepping on any river access issues that can be addressed through legal action, we should take the issues to Federal Court, just as we did in Douglas County. Our chances of success in Federal Court are multiplied by a huge factor, and the odds of a good ol' boy relationship between the Commissioners and the Court are minimal.

At the same time, we need to cultivate every friendship we can in Gilmer County and use the friendships to bring pressure to bear on the Commissioners. We need to keep our behavior legal and civil, even friendly, while on or around the river. We need to increase our visibility around Gilmer County, especially while spending money (Hey, we really enjoyed eating at your restaurant. We're here from Atlanta/Macon/Rome etc. canoeing and kayaking on the Cartecay). We need to conduct very visible cleanups of the river AND the access areas.

Meanwhile, those of our membership who live or work in Gilmer County need to keep the rest of us apprised of what's going on, and keep up the pressure on the Commissioners locally.

Right now we need more friends in Gilmer County, not more enemies, so everyone watch your behavior, don't litter, don't do anything to antagonize the residents, and be as positive and friendly as you know how.

Allen Hedden,  
Editor



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## **Book Review**

### **River Song**

*Author: Craig Lesley*

*Publisher: Picador USA*

Author Craig Lesley first introduced his Nez Perce character, Danny Kachiah, in *Winterkill*, a story about a rodeo bronco rider who is barely making enough to support himself when his wife dies in a car crash and he's suddenly left with his estranged son, Jack. This novel received much praise and a Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award for its portrayal of the cultural traditions and history of the Nez Perce tribe of eastern Oregon, as well as how those traditions clash with contemporary life.

Danny Kachiah and his teen-age son, Jack, are back in Lesley's novel, *River Song*. Danny is still a nearly-broke drifter, but he's given up the rodeo circuit and he and Jack have moved on to migrant work. When this doesn't work out, they pack up and head down to the Columbia River to fish for salmon, where they meet up with a rather cryptic character, Willis Salwish, a Yakima Indian. Danny strikes up a friendship with and develops a deep respect for the man, who clings burr-like to traditional fishing sites despite violent opposition from white



fishermen.

Here's where it gets good. The novel smoothly combines its fictional characters with historic and political reality as these men attempt to maintain their fishing rights in order to preserve the traditions of their past, and to save a shred of their spiritual relationship with the Chinook salmon. As this occurs, a metaphysical subplot evolves as Danny suffers from ghostly hallucinations, symbolic of the separation he feels from his fading heritage.

*River Song* is an accurate and poetic description of the frustrations of Pacific Northwest American Indians and their trials in dealing with the US government and the local authorities, as well as commercial fishing operations and sport fishermen. Although categorized as fiction, the story revolves around historical fact, and is a glimpse into the history of American Indians and how this history still affects their present lives.

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- From "*American Rivers*" — *Winter 2001*. 

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### **Sunday on the Toccoa**

**by Gina Johnson**

Thanks to the river gods, we actually had water to run the river trip on August 19! There were 16 participants: Liz and Greg Mabry; Leah Taylor and Rob King, Mike Bilello and Mary Vachon in OC-2; Paul and Linda Smith, Paul and Tyler Stinson, Lizza Vachon and Xander Redwood in K-1; Gretchen Mallins, Ken and Derry Sweat in sit-on-tops, and me in my OC-1.



We had a lovely, relatively cool day. Many thanks to Mike and Mary for running lead and doing a great job of keeping us out of the shallow spots! Xander participated as a guest — he is considering membership in the GCA. I hope he joins us.

Mike and Mary practiced their reentry skills, and Paul and Ken kindly gave Mike some rope practice at Party Rock! A good time was had by all. Thanks for everyone's participation.

See you on the river! 

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### **San Juan Canyons, Utah**

**by Gary DeBacher**

May, 1999. Our guides were in a rush to get to the river. They wanted us up by six. Rumpled paddlers wandered into the motel lobby. Some renewed old acquaintances, others introduced themselves, or not; we'd have a week to get to know each other. Sunday kitchen staff didn't have the promised hot buffet ready, so our guides said grab some cold breakfast freebies and let's go, we'll have to stop a couple of times anyway, we'll eat more

on the road.

So we drove from the snowy peaks of Flagstaff Arizona, toward the little town of Bluff in the southeast corner of Utah. The van, loaded with paddlers and gear, and pulling the boat trailer, set a gentle pace into a cold desert head wind. Behind were two rental mini-vans, and me in the Outback with my boat on top. This would be my first camping trip on a western river.

I'd signed with Sunrise Expeditions for a trip on the Verde River, a rocky little gem which runs through desert wilderness in central Arizona. Rather than flying into

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Phoenix like most customers, I planned to drive out early to visit my brother and his wife. And I wanted to bring my Mad River Synergy, a more maneuverable boat than those provided by Sunrise.

A record drought in Arizona forced Sunrise to move the trip to the San Juan River in Utah. But I didn't change plans much, driving through Abilene, El Paso, and Tucson to spend two nights at my brother's in Phoenix.

I then drove north to Flagstaff to find Sunrise. Saguaro cacti gave way to high sage desert. Along the way, I-17 crossed the Verde, which was up a bit but not quite runnable. The highway climbed into ponderosa pines, and signs warned not to hit the elk.

I located the appointed motel in Flagstaff, and was welcomed by Mike Patterson and Larry Totten, our genuine Maine Guides. They had also achieved some sort of status as Texas Rangers, after many trips on the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande. These were tough and wiry guys, a bit into middle age, friendly but with a laconic Maine reserve. I'm mainly reserved myself, and not even that friendly.

Our guides would prove to be very solicitous of customer welfare, except perhaps on the drive from Flagstaff to Bluff. They gave us one rest stop, near Tuba City, where we lined up for the johns and bought sports drinks to combat the desert dryness. Later in the drive, I, for one, came to need another rest stop, and took one behind some mesquite bushes, wondering about the customers trapped in the vans.

Finally we reached the river at Sand Island Recreation Area, a kind of Jurassic Park. The surrounding cliffs are called the Navajo Formation, hardened from sand dunes which blew in a Jurassic desert.

After visits to the unisex BLM outhouse, there was much unloading and repacking of gear, and arrival of a bonus: two oared support rafts, manned by Pierce and apprentice Jody from a Moab rafting outfit. Most Sunrise trips are run entirely in open canoes. Having the rafts meant that our canoes would be less loaded, and we would have amenities such as lawn chairs, extra ice, and more capacity for personal beverages. Mike and Larry had previously driven to Moab to meet Pierce and plan the trip. He'd been relieved to find that they knew what they were doing, but were quite willing to hear from him about how things would have to be on his river. So they worked as a team from the word go.

We needed Pierce and his rafts because Pierce had the permit. No permit, no run it. The Feds allow only about 75 per day to start down the San Juan. Some run the first canyon, 27 miles from Sand Island to Mexican Hat. Some run the lower canyon, 57 miles from the Hat

to Clay Hills Crossing. We would run both.

The Verde trip had been limited to twelve, plus two guides. The rafts allowed an increase to four guides and about 17 paying customers, plus Kendra Flint, Dave Watson, and daughter Erin, the only "kid" in the group. Kendra is Sunrise's business manager. Dave is the Sunrise rigger or equipment person. Erin is around ten, has been on a lot of trips, and takes everything in stride.

The customers were mostly from the northeast, plus three from Virginia, and two from Florida, one paddling with his Toronto daughter. Irwin Streiff was from Savannah; anyone know him? The only western customer was Steve Cramer, not ours, another one, from Albany, Oregon. The whole party was spread over five or six solo boats and the rest tandems, plus the rafts.

The Sunrise boats included a Tripper, a Dagger Dimension, an Old Town poly 169, some 15 and 16 foot Dagger Reflections, Mad River Explorers (one a rare 17 footer), etc. Those without their own paddles were given Cannons. Only two of us had white water play boats. Cramer brought a 12' Mohawk Shaman with full vinyl bags. The Shaman was designed to race in a combined slalom and down river class, so it is tolerably fast for its length. I had my 15' Synergy with its triple saddle and 30 inch nylon end bags. The Sunrise boats had no added flotation, which surprised me though I know tending float bags is a nuisance for the leaders of commercial trips.

We would carry personal gear in our own boats, plus a gallon or two of water. I had bought some "waterproof" bags cheap from Sierra Outlet, and was able to get tent, sleeping bag, clothes, etc., fairly evenly distributed in the boat. Cramer crammed his gear under his Mohawk's bow float bag, and ended up only a bit low at the stern. Trim would later be a problem for others, because of head winds.

What sort of river were we facing? The third largest branch of the Colorado River system, providing about 10% of the water going through the Grand Canyon. It arises in the San Juan mountains of southern Colorado, and quickly descends into desert. A few years ago I ran the Mesa Canyon section of the San Juan in Colorado, class 1-2+ through high desert canyons.

The San Juan and the nearby Piedra are caught by Navajo Reservoir at the Colorado / New Mexico border, losing water to towns and irrigation. The San Juan emerges from the reservoir and gathers volume from the Animas, La Plata, etc. The river runs west through open desert, passing by Ship Rock and close to Four Corners, the four state intersection, turning NW toward Bluff.

In the far distant past, the San Juan meandered on a flat plain. The region was subjected to general uplift,

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and the meandering stream began cutting a canyon. Wind and water reduced much of the landscape by thousands of feet, leaving isolated towers and volcanic plugs in the Monument Valley region. The Monument Uplift, with tighter folds around Comb Ridge, and a smoother swelling west of the Mexican Hat depression, holds the entrenched meanders of the San Juan canyons. Our 84 mile run would take us from Sand Island at 4270' elevation down to Clay Hills Crossing at 3680'.

At the put-in, afternoon conditions were perfect. It had been cool and wet in recent days, but we hoped we were seeing desert spring. The river ran swift and silty tan. Pierce the raft guide said the gradient was generally higher than in the Grand Canyon, and that the San Juan is perhaps the fastest flowing major river in the southwest. Winds can blow hard upstream, but Pierce was not concerned because the current would drag the loaded rafts along. He wasn't so sure about canoes.

May is a big rafting month on the San Juan, with flow often reaching several thousand cfs. But snow pack had been late in building this winter. Our level appeared to be somewhere around 1500 cfs, probably good for canoeists, because it would mean fewer rapids washed out, and less swamping from big waves. The San Juan is famous for sand waves, which form when the current sets up temporary waves in the sandy bottom. They can form without warning, raising water waves up to ten feet high. After some seconds or minutes the river bottom smooths again and the waves disappear. At our relatively low water level, the sand waves we saw were puny.

The group was restive, anxious to get on the water. Larry and Mike told us how to tie gear in the boats. We got safety tips, but only a hint of paddling instruction, probably because many of the customers had been on other Sunrise trips. And we would have smooth water for the first two days, so the guides could assess training needs along the way. We were told that in the canyons, rapids would not exceed class 2+ in difficulty, but I had no idea how many rapids to expect. The Sunrise brochure had promised numerous class 2-3 rapids. Regional guide-books, written more for rafters or kayakers, gave the impression that there were only half a dozen real rapids, the rest just "riffles."

We were on the water by 3 PM, the rafts in the lead, and the canoes strung out between Mike and Larry. The strong current helped us through head winds. Cumulus clouds patched sun with shade. Big sandstone bluffs were seen on both sides, some dotted with swallow nests. The swallows swooped over the river as it meandered through islands and bars.

Soon we landed on the right below some bluffs. I

hoped Pierce wasn't planning to camp there. The landing was difficult, no eddy and straight up a steep bank. We wandered through a thicket of tamarisk and thorny Russian olive, over goats-something which pierced wet suit boots painfully. It turned out that Pierce wanted us to see stone steps cut into the cliffs by the ancient Anasazi. There were numerous fragments of their pottery and stone tools, and a few petroglyphs. Most people have learned not to take the artifacts, and have left them in loose collections for others to see.

We were not back in the boats long before Pierce landed us again, at Butler Wash, where a side stream emerging from a gulch ran past a good campsite under cliffs. We were told to help unload the rafts. Instead most scrambled to get a good tent site. One fellow with a rare Stephenson 3R tent nabbed the best spot under the drooping branches of a huge cottonwood. I set up my ancient Gerry tent in an open area, only to have the wind pull the stakes right out of the sandy ground. I moved down to a more sheltered spot near the stream, and weighted the stakes with big rocks. The tent flapped hard, but held.

Those who had solved their tent problems climbed the bluffs or hiked up the wash, where they found Anasazi structures. The Bluff SW Utah topo shows at least seven Anasazi cliff dwellings spaced at intervals north along Butler Wash and the "teeth" of Comb Ridge.

The guides were cooking salmon over charcoal, and vegetables over propane. (No wood fires are permitted.) I was not feeling well, and viewed the food uneasily. I had been ill and out of shape much of the spring, and until recently had been in doubt about whether I could do the trip. And as usual on trips like this, my digestive system was playing double or nothing.

Before dinner, Pierce explained the Groover, basically a double-bagged toilet box. Pee in the river, the rest goes in the Groover. In the river? Yeah, the government says it all flows to California, and leaves the campsites cleaner. The Groover is typically situated between bushes with a beautiful view of the river, and if another raft party goes by, just wave, they've been there. It seemed odd to be packing out human waste when the campsite was littered with cow flop, but I guess cow waste is cleaner, or at least less likely to infect humans. It may come down to which you'd rather scrape off your shoes.

Dinner was done after dark. I ate sparingly. The salmon was excellent, though it could have used lemon. Comic relief was provided by several cows who wanted to go through our camp, but were afraid to do so. Our group encouraged them by making cow noises and flashing cameras in their faces. A few cows broke through to

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freedom; the rest covered nearby all night.

It was a living desert, marked not just by cow flop, but by droppings of all shapes and sizes. I saw a vole run through my flashlight beam, and recalled that the dreaded Hanta virus had struck downstream in Grand Canyon. There a mouse peed on a dozing raft guide, who soon got very ill, but was one of the lucky minority who survived. Don't mess in mousy places.

Most paddlers turned in early. My kidneys stayed up all night, which gave me several opportunities to see the stars. Later the moon lit the whole area brightly. Steve Cramer was laid out on top of his Shaman float bags right by the bank, and if he didn't sleep soundly, he must have heard everyone else stumbling down to pee in the sighing San Juan.

The next morning some cows were still waiting to pass. Our breakfast was simple so we could get quickly underway. The milk for cereal looked tan like the river. Might be like brown eggs in Boston, a local preference. I warned the guides that I was feeling puny and might skip some of the planned hikes. We knew that if worse came to worse, I could leave the trip at Mexican Hat, but I hoped it wouldn't come to that.

On the river, the canyon was still shallow and open with most bluffs back from the banks. We stopped soon below cliffs where long panels of petroglyphs decorated the black-stained sandstone walls. The Anasazi used stones to hammer out the patterns. The Navajo left some later designs, and unfortunately there has been some modern vandalism.

Soon we landed again and hiked through the scrub to find "River House," substantial Anasazi ruins beneath overhanging bluffs. These residences were sited to catch winter sun, but to be shaded in summer. The Anasazi left this area about a thousand years ago. Why? Maybe drought. Maybe invaders. The latest digs suggest cannibalism at many cliff dwellings somewhat before the time of marked decline. Just got tired of corn and beans, I guess.

Survivors moved south to pueblo developments. Later the Navajo moved into the vacated areas.

I felt uneasy climbing into the ruins with the other tourists. Nobody was deliberately harming anything, but there was unavoidable wear and tear. There are so many cliff dwelling ruins in the Southwest that only a few get active protection.

The weather was turning cooler with light showers. Occasionally we passed others on the river, usually oared rafts in ones or twos. A couple of tourist rafts had small outboards, but motors are seldom heard on this river. There was a large group from a nearby university, pad-

dling tandem rubber duckies, with a support raft. Nearly all were underdressed, and I wondered if some would get hypothermia; yet we saw them from time to time throughout the trip, and as they say of Calvinists, many were cold, but few were frozen.

The river was fairly shallow, so guides Mike and Larry often stood in their canoes and used setting poles. They had spares for customers to try. I told Larry I had some poling experience, but wasn't going to try it in my Synergy, which is only 28 inches wide, no boat for standing.

We stopped for lunch, with cold cuts, etc. for sandwiches. Then Pierce led a group off toward a draw. Where you goin', Pierce, I said. Just a short hike, said he. Turned out he took folks to see some more ruins. Well, I still felt a bit ruined myself, and took a rest instead.

Other ruins in a wash nearby were the stage for the climactic scene in Tony Hillerman's mystery novel, *Thief of Time*, in which Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn paddles an inflatable kayak down from Sand Island to seek a missing anthropologist in the ruins. Hillerman describes how he chose the scenes, the characters, and the story details in "A Canyon, an Egret, and a Book," one of a collection of his essays published in 1993. In both his essays and his novels, Hillerman conveys wonderful detail about this region and its people, ancient and modern.

This area has seen real shooters as well as imaginary. In the summer of 1998, two survivalists took cover along the San Juan after ambushing police, and rafters were told to get off and stay off the river for their own safety. Some rafters landing at Mexican Hat were told by authorities to take their hands off their oars and put them on their heads. There were SWAT teams and helicopters. But that was then. In '99 we saw nobody but guides and tourists. And low-flying bombers, about which more later.

Raindrops interrupted my dozing, so I walked around and surveyed the vegetation. A cottonwood grove sat with legs spread on the water table. Also there was the box elder, that bargain basement cousin of maples which turns up unbidden in Atlanta yards. In the open areas, sage was plentiful, cactus rather scarce. Tamarisk, a large bush or small tree originally imported to stabilize banks and reduce erosion, dominated many areas. Sometimes they get so thick as to impede scouting or fill potential campsites, so they are regarded as a nuisance, but I found their foliage and lacy purple flowers attractive. Across the river cows grazed on young willow. Along our bank, beaver had trimmed young tamarisk shoots.

Back on the river, we had head wind problems, especially the solo boats. Cramer's little Shaman rode deep enough that it didn't blow around easily. My boat

was well trimmed, but could be blown sideways. Then the wind would push it so hard upstream that the current tried to roll the hull under. With plenty of rocker, I could wrench the boat back in line, and reaching way forward for each stroke, pull the boat downstream by the nose. One fellow in a Dagger Reflection 15 was too light in the bow, in spite of borrowing gear to improve trim. And his Cannon paddle was short. I offered him one of my slalom paddles, but at 61" they were too long. His solution was to let the wind turn him backwards, so his light bow would weathervane him in line with the current. He backpaddled and made decent progress.

Pierce managed to find a campsite in a sheltering tamarisk grove where some of us could stake our tents out of the worst of the wind. He took us on a hike to some heights where we could see the lay of the land. I think we were opposite the Mule Ear Diatreme, an ancient volcanic pipe. Downstream, the river had cut through uplifted horizontal strata to form the first real canyon. Near the campsite, rock layers were tilted sharply, into formations rather like the famous Sydney Opera House.

Hunt, in Natural Regions of the United States and Canada, states, "The Colorado Plateau illustrates that aridity can be an asset, for given a humid climate the plateau would have lost most or all of its spectacular features." The lack of vegetation in the West leaves the rocks more open to sculpturing effects of heating and freezing, wind and water. There is much less rainfall, but unimpeded by vegetation, storms can cause flash floods of astounding power, throwing boulders down the washes and into the river to form new rapids. Looking down from the heights, I hoped no one had set their tent in the wash. It looked like it could rain again.

Evening sun and clouds competed. The guides set to thawing beef and making stroganoff, while the customers broke into the beverages. All eventually finished dinner before a thundershower rolled in and sent most to their tents. Me, too; I just lay in there gratefully and rested. But the storm blew over, the guides dried out, washed the dishes, and made coffee. The night was less windy and the moon came out again.

The morning of the third day, having the biggest bailer, I emptied rainwater out of most of the canoes. It looked like we had gotten almost half an inch of rain the night before. There was frost on some tents, and the wind remained brisk, though the weather was clearing. Cramer had refused a tent, using his new Goretex bivy, which he pronounced dry and warm but confining. This he might have expected, him being as tall as me. That morning he was marching around in shorts, while I had on polypro long johns and paddle pants, with a breathable rain jacket

on top. Suzy from Toronto said she had been cold all night; her father coughed a lot but did not complain. Marsha from Richmond appeared to be cold, and to have one too. Pierce said this was not at all the warm spring desert trip he would have expected.

That third day, as we plunged into the first canyon, I learned that the guidebooks were a little off. From the point of view of the open boater, some "riffles" were rapids, with waves which could swamp the careless. I am not an open boater by habit, and I took water until I learned to let the boat shoulder the waves at its own pace. The Synergy seemed to know when to bear off the wave trains to stay dry. I had maybe 100 pounds of gear, not enough to equal a tandem load, and the boat rode fairly light on the water. There were enough midstream rocks to let me practice S-turns. The San Juan's fast current made it hard to get on surfing waves.

The gradient in this first canyon approaches 10 feet per mile, about as high as we would see during the whole trip. We came to Four Foot Rapid after mile 11. The guides held throw ropes and watched us to see who knew what they were doing. Four Foot apparently refers to the approximate total drop. The waves were fairly big, but the rapid didn't have much structure. A few in the group got their pants wet from outside, nothing worse.

We meandered through spectacular scenery, the canyon walls soaring, with multicolored rock layers often showing considerable tilting and distortion.

At mile 17 we came to Eight Foot Rapid, where everyone pulled over to scout. It was a fairly long and turbulent class 2+, with a potential raft-eating rock at the top. This the rafts had to skirt on the right, passing close to a high rock wall, because for them, the passages



On the San Juan River approaching Mexican Hat.

- Photo by Gary DeBacher.

to the left were too shallow and rocky. Mike and Larry showed the canoes how to cheat the run down the left side, so that they could stay dry. I ran close to the top rock and down the center through the bigger waves, and didn't take much water.

I realized that Mike and Larry had to take a different approach to rapids when they were guiding customers away from civilization. Have fun but don't screw up. Don't go charging down the middle of heavy water in loaded canoes. Find a safer route and stay dry when you can. That may be one reason they don't rely on float bags which, let's admit it, are for when we're taking chances and screwing up. And the more gear you have to carry, the less room for float bags. In Canada, full fabric decks often play a more important role than float bags in getting loaded boats through wavy rapids.

Below Eight Foot Rapid, the river had cut down through layers of sandstone and into limestone, which resulted in a mile of "Narrows." It wasn't all that narrow,

but the canyon walls were more vertical near water level. Then the rock layers began bending back underground, and the canyon gradually opened. Ledge Rapid at mile 19 was kind of a ledge, and had to be run close to a right side wall. People were managing to keep their boats fairly dry.

We stopped for lunch, and then Pierce led us up to a high overlook from which we could see Monument Valley and Mexican Hat Rock to the west. Back on the water, we fought head winds and occasional shallows, passing Mexican Hat the Rock on the way to Mexican Hat the town. We landed at the river access at mile 26.5.

Some of us may have thought we would trot into town for ice cream, cold drinks, and long distance phone calls, but no. Wait here, the guides said; they would van up for water and ice. We also said good-bye to Jody who was replaced by another raft guide, Chris. Then most of us customers dozed in the afternoon sun, our heads shaded by riverside shrubs.

*To be continued in the November issue.*



## Sin of the Single Blade

A clean catch with water to wade.  
Few bubbles its path made.  
The calling, the lure of the single blade.

Smiles abound from a distant glade,  
As light plays the dance's shade.  
Movement is beauty with the single blade.

Another stroke delicately laid,  
As the next prepares its dive to raid.  
Transporting the single blade.

Moving up to a higher grade.  
Lessons to respect, often paid.  
Reaching for harmony with the single blade.

Now with water unafraid  
Drops on the shaft to cascade.  
Union made with the single blade.

At rest, this spade.  
The warm rays beginning to fade.  
My joy, my guilt: sin of the single blade.

OC Boatman

*- From the CCC email list, submitted by Pamela Becker.*

## Spin from a Paddler Depraved

A dirty batch of water unwadeable,  
Many troubles forbadeable,  
The mauling, the sinecure of the single blade.

Guiles abound from distant glade,  
As blight plays dance's shade,  
Movement is booty with that single blade.

A seizure, a stroke, is smellicately bade,  
As the hex prepares to abrade,  
Transporting one parsimonious charade!

Proving nothing but false serenade,  
Lessons to learn from kayak unafraid,  
Leeching with dissonance — that single blade.

Now with water skewed and slayed,  
Driblets of lethargy spewed and sprayed,  
No comprendo — this single blade.

A pest, this insolent spade,  
The sun can stand no more (begins to fade),  
Yes, the final guilt trip: sin of the single blade...

K-1 Gloatman

*- From the CCC email list, submitted by LeCoon from the LeGoon.*

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**FOR RENT** - Cottage on secluded mountain lake (Appalachia Lake). Surrounded by National Forest. Two bedrooms/two bath, with sun room/den could be third bedroom. Completely furnished/all amenities (gas grill, washer/dryer, dishwasher, phone, satellite TV/VCR, microwave, phone, etc.). Lots of decks, gentle slope to Lake with swimming/boating area. Close to waterfalls, miles of hiking trails, white water boating/rafting on the Ocoee, Hiwassee, & Tellico Rivers, quite water boating on the lake. Located northwest of Murphy, NC. Call Liz Carter & Butch Horn, 770.967.0318 or e-mail, mohorn@mindspring.com for brochure & maps.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Mohawk 14 ft. Center saddle for comfort and ease in paddling. Great beginner canoe..... very stable! Knee pads and air bags included. Good condition \$475. Call: 770.565.8004 or email: Clari770@aol.com.

**FOR SALE** - Canoe, Dagger Legend 16. Great all around canoe. Red royalex with black vinyl trim. Rarely paddled and in excellent condition. \$750. Ed Leahy 706.855.0399 or email ymleahy@aol.com.

**FOR SALE** - C-1, Hydra Centaur with spray skirt. Great beginner boat, barely used and almost new. \$100. Savage Skeeter - hot, open canoe. Like new! \$600. Contact JD

Forrester at 770.806.6587 or clanforrester@yahoo.com.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak & gear. Perception Pirouette, black, \$300. Two front and two rear float bags also available, \$20 per set. Carlisle Ausable two piece kayak paddle, 110cm. Ideal for sea kayak or inflatable kayak. \$20. Ladies size medium Stohlquist two piece dry suit. Needs waist and feet gaskets. Neck and wrist gaskets good. Red. \$40. Men's Dry Fashion size medium. One piece. All gaskets good. \$40. Men's booties with side zippers. Size 10, good condition. \$5. Dry bag, yellow, size 15" X 24". \$5. Call Hank Klausman 770.587.0499.

**FOR SALE** - Helmet. Pro-Tec full cut helmet with Salamander visor. Dark blue. Medium size. Worn less than 10 times. \$25. Contact Britt Smith at 770.888.1982 or bsmith02@adelphia.net.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Dagger Crossfire. In very good condition with float bags and back strap. Excellent beginner/intermediate kayak. Forgiving and easy to roll. Stored indoors. \$260 obo. Call Kirk at 770.973.9475.

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Perception Shock in good condition. \$525 OBO. Call Chuck and Carole at 770.995.5788.

**FOR SALE** - Kayaks, canoe, gear. Dagger Crossfire, \$300. Pryahna Creek 280, \$375. OC-1 - Dagger Encore, Perception saddle, wood gunnels, \$400. Drysuits - Stolquist, ladies lg., brand new gaskets, exc. cond. \$150, men's XL, needs new gaskets \$85. Fishing boat - 14 ft. aluminium with trailer and 20 hp motor, \$850. Call Barney or Sherry Spurr at 770.486.9685

**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Wavesport Frankenstein. Good beginner white water kayak. Great condition, paddled 2 summers, stored indoors.

Superb outfitting. ONLY \$275! Includes back band. Deep green/white swirl. Demo can be arranged. 770.801.8060 or paddler@netdoor.com.

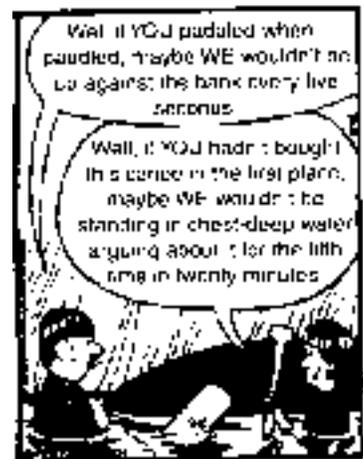
**FOR SALE** - Kayak, Pyranha Prozone 225. The boat is orange and black and has been used 10 times. Great boat for any play boater or a teenager that's looking to get into play boating. Agressive boats yield quicker returns in skill. \$550 skirt included. John McCorvey, 770.921.5116 or Scott McCorvey, 912.481.0368. Fahimaz7@hotmail.com.

**FOR SALE** - SUV. Must Sell: Very well maintained 92 GMC Jimmy, 4D, 4WD. SLE Group includes PS, ABS PB, PDL, PW, Tilt Wheel, Cruise, Auto, Air, Roof Rack, Hitch, etc. Kelly BB is \$7075, asking \$6,400. John Pinyerd 770.977.7603 jpinyerd@cs.com.

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