



From the President

When I agreed to be program director for the monthly meetings four years ago, I would never have dreamed that I'd later be tapped on the shoulder for bigger responsibilities. I was honored to be asked to be vice-president, and I'm even more honored to be your president.

At first I worried — there's so much responsibility. Then I realized that there are many people already in place working to make this club the premiere paddling club in Georgia. Names and faces occasionally change as they fulfill their personal commitment to the club, but there's always a group of hard workers at the heart of this club. I'd like to say a big "Thank You" to each of you.

I love the saying, "Many hands make light work." It seems to describe to a T what this club is about. And it reminds me that we're a volunteer organization of nearly 1,000 members. We do trips, social meetings, weekend getaways, races, training and river conservation and access. Pretty amazing that it's done all by people dedicated to giving something back to the community that, in many cases, got them started in paddling.

If we want a healthy and vibrant club, we need new members. Fortunately, Cameron Pach has taken the Membership Development position and has lots of exciting plans for us.

In our recent survey, respondents repeatedly cited trips as the main reason for joining and staying with the GCA. It's what we do — trips. If we want a lot of trips, we need lots of trip coordinators — call Mike Winchester to sign up!

Camaraderie is also a key ingredient for members. If we want social meetings and events that are fun and meaningful get-togethers, we need you there — to share the spirit of camaraderie — and we need people to help plan and coordinate the events. Right now, we're looking for that special person who can organize one heck of a get-together — the Spring Extravaganza scheduled for April 12-14, 2002. If you like planning big parties, this is the one for you!!

If you want to get involved, call me. We want to hear your ideas, we need your participation. We'd love to count you as one of those members who keep the club thriving. But if you don't have the time or resources to commit to a regular position, then enjoy what the GCA is about — paddling, fun and community.

I look forward to meeting more and more of you.

Marvine Cole
Marvine Cole



What's Inside...

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**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!!**



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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 Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022 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 Mike Winchester, at 770.319.8969.

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 Jim Albert at 770-414-1521.

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 Geoff Kohl at 404.457.3517 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 Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022 so she 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 | Marvine Cole |
| Vice President | Gina Johnson |
| Secretary | Lindsay Meeks |
| Treasurer | Ed Schultz |
| Member Services Chair | Mary Ann Pruitt |
| Recreation Chair | Vacant |
| Resource Development Chair | Cameron Pach |
| River Protection Chair | Julia Franks |
| Training Chair | Jim Albert |

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. ✂

The Eddy Line (USPS 017773), published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., publication address: 3060 Pharr Court North, #315, Atlanta, GA 30305. Annual subscription price of \$20.00 is included in the \$25.00 membership dues. Periodicals postage paid at Atlanta, GA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Eddy Line*, c/o Georgia Canoeing Association, P.O.Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357. READERS: Send old and new addresses and an *Eddy Line* address label. Telephone 770.421.9729.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



January

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Jump Trip — Mathis Bypass Reach | Class 1-3 Intermediate | John Hudgens | 706.675.0749 |
| 5 Nantahala - Ferrebee down (Note 1) | Class 2-3 Intermediate | Marvine Cole | 770.475.3022 |
| 12 Upper Amicalola | Class 1-2 Trained Beginner | Charles Clark | 770.998.9544 |
| 12 Leader's Choice | Class 2-3 Intermediate | Hank Baudet | 706.492.4318 |
| 13 Cartecay | Class 2-3 Intermediate | Edward Stockman | 770.441.9767 |
| 19 Upper Chattahoochee | Class 2-3 Intermediate | Doug Ackerman | 770.503.0365 |
| 19 Nantahala | Class 2-3 Intermediate | Mike Winchester | 770.319.8969 |
| 22 Rainbow River FL (Note 2) | Flat Water | Susan Oehler | 828.298.0315 |
| 23 Juniper Creek FL (Note 2) | Flat Water | Susan Oehler | 828.298.0315 |
| 24 Alexander Springs FL (Note 2) | Flat Water | Susan Oehler | 828.298.0315 |
| 26 Nantahala | Class 2-3 Intermediate | Mike Winchester | 770.319.8969 |

February

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 7 Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Atlanta Botanical Garden | | Marvine Cole | 770.475.3022 |
| 10 Upper Amicacola | Class 1-2 Trained Beginner | Edward Stockman | 770.441.9767 |
| 23 Upper Chattahoochee | Class 2-3 Intermediate | Becca Brown | 404.634.5612 |

Note 1: Paddle with the Prez.

Note 2: These trips are in the Ocala, Florida, area. Camping is available in the Ocala National Forest.

Note 3: Exploratory jump trip. Be ready to roll after a heavy rain. This is the Mathis Bypass Reach section of the Upper Tallulah which has no releases from the Mathis dam. See the article in this issue of the newsletter.

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

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

Training Trips are a combination of recreation and training designed to attract those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors practicing what you learned in the clinic and expanding your skill level.

To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Call the Cruisemaster, Mike Winchester, at 770.319.8969. 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 7:00-9:00 PM January thru March at the Samuel L. Jones Boys' & Girls' Club pool. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

Attention GCA Members!!!!

Be a hero and sign up your friends as GCA members. Not only will you be helping to grow the club, but starting in February, MTI Adventurewear will be giving away two PFDs to new members every month. That's right, MTI will send out PFDs (white water or touring) for 2 lucky new members each month throughout the 2002 year. Names of winners of this random drawing will be published each month in the newsletter. You can check out MTI's line of products at www.mtiadventurewear.com.



PO Box 890178
Weymouth MA 02189
Email: info@mtiadventurewear.com
Ph: 781-340-5380
Fax: 781-340-5382

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)
Wildwater West Virginia
Youghiogheny-Appalachian River
Maps:
The Big S. Fork

Announcements

GCA Email List

The GCA email list has 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 subscribed and a welcome message with instructions on how



to unsubscribe and various other commands available through the service. Be sure to save this information for future reference.

All GCA announcements and forwarded email from other sources concerning new river access issues, late breaking news items of interest to the paddling community, etc., will be sent out via the GCA email list at gacanoes@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. ✂

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 Sinquefeld 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 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!

Weekday Paddlers

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

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

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and more

ABS repair for worn, cracked or broken hulls

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Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels
Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318
Email canoeist@mindspring.com

Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice will return this January and will run through March. Our host once again is the Samuel L. Jones Boys & Girls Club, 450 East Lake Drive, Decatur, GA, 30030, Telephone: 404.378.8814. Sessions will run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM each Monday, except for the MLK Day holiday

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 ques-
tions 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 is a driveway going in through the fence. Turn left. You are at the Jones Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear, but with boats to carry, it's much easier to go through the front door, through the basketball court, and into the pool room. Ask directions at the front desk.

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, so we must have clean boats when we arrive at the facility. The pool manager appreciates your cooperation in keeping the pool clean and the filter and heater operating. Also, the Club does not allow street shoes in the pool area.

CAUTION: As with most pools, the deck area around the pool is very slippery when wet, so be extremely careful while carrying boats in and out or walking around the pool area. No diving is allowed, and only roll practice participants, instructors and spotters are allowed in the pool during roll practice. ✂



***Electronic Eddy Line* Email Failures**

Not getting your electronic version of *The Eddy Line*? The following email IDs had mail failure notices for the last *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:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| yckkeroo@aol.com | Mailbox not found |
| scountree@aol.com | Mailbox not found |
| stephen.heilman@ncr.com | User unknown |
| terryneely@mindspring.com | User unknown |
| mrakgr@mindspring.com | User unknown |



Upcoming Events of Interest

January 1 — Cartecay Chili Run — Cartecay River — Ellijay, GA, Jay Srymanske, 706.635.2524.

February 9 — Locust Fork Invitational Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 256.274.0006.

February 22-23, 2002 — National Paddling Film Festival — Lexington, KY, Dave Margavage, 502.867.0468(H), dmargava@jngrey.com.

March 2-3 — Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Races— Garden City, AL.

March 23 — Locust Fork Classic Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 256.274.0006.

April 12-14 — GCA Spring Extravaganza — location and contacts to be announced soon.

April 27-28 — Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championship Races — Nantahala River, NC, Knox Worde, 770.475.3022, playboatn@aol.com.

May 25 — Altamaha Wilderness Adventure Challenge — Hazelhurst, GA, Charlie Ford, 912.379.1371, cjford@altamaha.net.

August 6-10, 2003 — Lanier Canoe 2003 Sprint World Championships — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.



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



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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.



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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 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. ✂

Are you Ready?

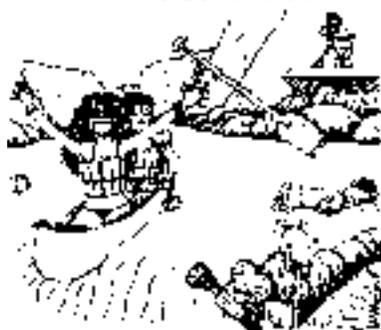
For the
19th
National
Paddling
Film
Festival!

Feb. 22-23 2002



Page 1

The NPPF is where you see the latest and the Best Paddling Videos Amateur or Pro! Still Photos too!



Got some great shots with your new video camera? Get out your computer and edit your footage! A lot of folks would like to see it at the NPPF (especially amateur Videos or Photos!)

Big Auction!



Didn't get that PFD you found out you needed at the Gauley? Lots of PFDs, coats, jackets and other boating gear to bid on at the NPPF - and not as many bidders as the Gauley Fest!

All Monies Raised go to River Israel

Conservation!

Crazy Creek!



Crazy creek runs and boat races you can gasp at with the rest of the audience is just the start. Party and boat with the rest of the "crazies" at the festival the rest of the weekend on local creeks!

Want More Info?

For more information on the Film festival, how to get there, enter videos, etc go to: <http://www.surfbwa.org/nppf> or Contact: Dave Mangava, 120 Solomic Lane, Georgetown, KY 40324 502 867.0468 h dmangava@jngtrby.com

From the Board Room

by **Lindsay Meeks, Secretary**
Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
December 6, 2001,
Minutes

In attendance: Jim Albert, Tom Bishop, Marvine Cole, Julia Franks, Jim Griffin, Allen Hedden, Dick Hurd, Gina Johnson, Kathy King, Oreon Mann, Lindsay Meeks, Roger Nott, Gabriella Schlidt, Ed Schultz.

Minutes of October 11, 2001, meeting approved as read.
River Protection Committee Report — Julia Franks:

+ Tallulah Gorge — Chuck Creekmore will represent the GCA. Discussion on increasing the number of releases.
+ Mathis Bypass Reach — This is a class I-III section of the Tallulah above the gorge. Discussion of the possibilities, desires, and challenges of pursuing getting water releases. Next step will be a scouting trip after a heavy rain.

+ Kelly Bridge Access Closed — This is the take-out for the lower Amicalola / Etowah runs that has been closed by the land owner. Discussion on alternatives and what the GCA can do.

Treasurer's report — Ed Schultz:



+ November Financial Statement reviewed.

+ Discussion on possible locations of board meetings in 2002.

The Southeasterns Race Review — Gina Johnson.

+ Communications, course design, logistics, judging, and hospitality, are all proceeding toward a great race on April 27th and 28th.

Recreation Committee Report — by

Marvine Cole — Open Position:

+ The Spring Extravaganza will be held April 12-14. A volunteer is needed to manage or chair a committee to manage the Extravaganza.

Training Committee Report — Jim Albert:

+ The GCA has been good at running training and instruction. The kayak classes continue to fill though the canoe classes do not.

Membership Development Committee Report — Marvine Cole:

+ Cameron Pach joins as the new chair in January

Member Services Committee Report — by Marvine Cole for Mary Ann Pruitt:

+ Geoff Kohl will be the new Advertising Director.

Other Business:

+ ACA Meeting Report by Oreon Mann.

River Access

Access Issue: The Upper Section of the Tallulah

by **Julia Franks**

On a weekend late in November, six paddlers bushwhacked their way through the woods along the upper sections of the Tallulah River, along a six mile stretch known as the Mathis Bypass Reach, a section that has been dry — thanks to the Mathis Dam — since the early part of the last century. Sometimes they drove through a campground in a national park, sometimes they drove past low-slung homes in the one-time river basin, and sometimes they simply followed the riverbank as closely as they could through the undergrowth.

The paddlers were Sherry Olson and Kevin Colburn of American Whitewater, and John Hudgens, Todd Shollenberger, Julia Franks and Jim Tibbetts of the GCA. Sherry Olson is a member of American Whitewater's Board and class 2-3 paddler who would like to see more intermediate runs available in the Southeast. Sherry has

been researching the river with the possibility of requesting access in mind, and she set up the group and the hike.

The Mathis Bypass Reach is a 5.6 mile stretch below the Mathis Dam (river mile 352). "Water from Lake Rabun is diverted into a power tunnel, which cuts through a mountain to the Terrora powerhouse, thus bypassing 5.6 miles of the Tallulah River," Olson tells us. Her idea is that the Mathis Dam could release water through this section on weekends simultaneous to releases on Tallulah Gorge. Thus, theoretically at least, Georgia Power would lose no money in additional power revenue.

However, Georgia Power maintains that there is currently no mechanism (or "gate") in the Mathis Dam that would make releases possible. Making such changes in the dam's structure, they maintain, would cost in excess of \$200,000. Thus, Olson feels, opening negotiations on the issue would take a committed and perseverant committee.

As we walked along the river bank that November day, the six of us tried to imagine what the riverbed would look like with water in it. Apparently the first couple of miles just below the dam would be a placid class 1 float. About two miles downstream (where there is also put-in

access), the confluence of Tiger Creek would add water and speed, perhaps, but the next two-three miles would probably remain relatively gentle. (Kevin Colburn guessed it would be class 1, although it looks like there might also be some Nantahala-like wave trains.) This section is lined with some rural homes and a large private campground.

The last two miles, the prettiest in my opinion, run through a national park, and would probably be class 2 white water. The last half mile of the run has topography that suggests a long class 3 rapid, and it is followed by a low-head dam — one that could possibly be modified to make a play hole. There is road access along much of the run (including the most difficult sections), so boaters could scout or take out at will.

The next step?

Several years ago, through a series of negotiations, a committee of dedicated folks from AW and from the GCA, AWC and other clubs, won access to Tallulah Gorge. Olson would like to see a similar committee formed to work for the Mathis Bypass Reach. Two GCA members, Todd Shollenberger and John Hudgens, have expressed interest in the project. The question is: are there other GCA members interested in such an undertaking?

Is it worth the effort to try to open this section for five weekends in the fall and spring? Is it worth annoying the local residents and possibly jeopardizing our relationship with Georgia Power to do so? (As Kevin Colburn of AW reminded us, "it's the same project" as the Gorge releases. In other words, negotiations for this section of the river

would become a part of all Tallulah negotiations.)

John Hudgens and Todd Shollenberger want to find out. Both men have volunteered to lead a GCA trip this winter that "explores" that section of the river. Of course, the trip's date will have to be very weather dependent, since the dam only releases 10 cfs. The put-in would probably also have to be below the Tiger Creek confluence.

Also, anyone who signs up will have to be prepared to portage, improvise, and possibly face the irritation of local residents. If you are interested in being part of this river venture, please see the trip listings and call John Hudgens. He would like to form an "on call" committee that can hit the river when and if it rains enough. ✂

Amicalola / Etowah Take-out Closed

by Bruce Williams

According to Candace Stoughton, the head of the Upper Etowah River Alliance, the State of Georgia has lost its lease on the property at Kelly Bridge Road, which is the take-out point for trips putting in at Lower Highway 9 on the Etowah and Highway 53 on the Amicalola. Boaters planning to run these sections should be advised that the property owner has, or soon will, put a locked gate across the road leading to the parking area and boat ramp. The next highway access point is at Old Federal Road, 2.5 miles downstream. I am unfamiliar with this crossing, so I cannot say what the parking situation is there.

Call Candace at the Upper Etowah River Alliance office at 770.704.7280 for more information. ✂

Book Review

A River Out of Eden

Author: John Hockenberry

Publisher: Doubleday

Author John Hockenberry began his career as a journalist in the Pacific Northwest where he was assigned to research a story about the Hanford nuclear site in Washington. In the time he spent alongside the Columbia River, he learned about a river that has been dammed, dredged, channelized and poisoned by pollution and nuclear waste.

John learned of the plight of Columbia River salmon and the species that face extinction, and he explored the issues that the indigenous people of the river, the Chinook Indians, faced when their ethnicity and cultural traditions were rubbed out in the process of taming the Columbia River.



These issues form the backdrop of Hockenberry's novel, *A River Out of Eden*. Called an "altogether provocative thriller" by Booklist, the story introduces a number of characters whose backgrounds each represent the many viewpoints involved in the controversy surrounding the Columbia River.

The protagonist is a fish biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and also happens to be half-Chinook. When fellow government co-workers begin showing up dead with giant harpoons sticking out of their backs, she begins her own investigation of the murders to see how far her tribe would go to protect the river and salmon that once supported their culture. Other characters emerge in the process of investigation — a white supremacist, a recently-fired and disgruntled Hanford employee, a Chinook warrior that was thought to be dead.

A River Out of Eden does justice to informing read-

ers about the on-going dispute in the Pacific Northwest between environmental concerns and the needs of advances in industry and technology. Hockenberry pays ample tribute to the plight of the Indians who lost Celilo Falls, the historically sacred salmon-fishing site used by many tribes along the Columbia when the dams were built. One almost wishes, when reading the book, that it were a strictly factual non-fiction piece on the social

history of the Columbia River.

Buy a book and save a river! Get 'em on-line through American Rivers' link with Powell's Bookstore, the largest new and used bookstore in the world. The best part is, Powell's donates 10% of each purchase to American Rivers conservation programs, so, by buying a book, you help save a river.

- From American Rivers, Spring/Summer 2001. ✂

It's An Ill Drought that Flows No One Any Good

by Gary DeBacher

Oh no, it's another DeBacher family reunion! Several siblings with hordes of nieces and nephews in tow. Some came by plane, some came by train, we drove as usual. This time we weren't in Portland, Oregon, nor Durango, Colorado, but camped at a big lake about an hour and a half west of Denver on I-70.

Dillon Reservoir, at about 9100 feet in altitude, lies between Dillon and Silverthorne on the north and Frisco on the south. The reservoir intercepts headwaters of the Blue River from surrounding peaks to be pumped over the Continental Divide to Denver. The reservoir dates from 1963, and is about four miles long, big and deep enough for large sailboats.

We were camped in groves of lodge pole pine at the USFS Heaton Bay Campground, lying on land fingers which may be old glacial moraines. From the trails, most of the shoreline looked natural and beautiful, though we could hear I-70 climbing up-slope, and at night we could see the lights of Dillon near the dam. Lacking showers or supplies in the campground, we could take a short drive south to Frisco for fancy food, or for showers in the condo where my sisters Ann and Lynn and families were staying. Most of the discomforts of camping near most of the comforts of home.

After a first evening of family togetherness, I spent the second day kid-watching. All my nieces and nephews know me: Uncle Gary. He sits in the shade, doesn't say much, but gives helpful advice, like you kids! *@### better not get blown into the middle of the lake on that *!###* toy raft!

The older kids and most of the adults spent that day driving up to Vail Pass and then bicycling down 20 miles of paved trails to the campground. I'm too big for bikes, but had brought my old kayak, a speculative venture because there had been little snow that winter, and most had already melted off the mountains. I spent that day reading guidebooks to see where I might still find rivers

with water. Later I plowed the old Corsica around the lake to tone up my muscles.

The Blue River runs NNW from Dillon Reservoir along the Gore Range to join the Colorado above Gore Canyon. There is a class 2-3 run starting just north of Dillon and Silverthorne, and ending after a few miles at one "Columbine" take-out. Access points have signs with maps and precautions, and parking. One difference from the guidebooks: don't put in at the Blue River Campground, or stop along the river to use their bathroom facilities. I don't know why, just use a bush. Or a gore, if you prefer.

Below Blue River Campground there is said to be a long class 3, Boulder Creek Rapid, followed by a couple of miles of class 2-3. I could not see any of that rapid from the road, but the first part of the run was mostly gravel bars, marred here and there by habitation. I was surprised to see pretty good water levels, because this run usually doesn't last longer than the snow melt.

I drove north along the Blue on route 9, politely sliding by many bicyclists and support crews in a huge trans-Colorado rally. The second Blue River run begins below Green Mountain Reservoir. While Dillon Reservoir waters Denver, Green Mountain Reservoir waters ranchers and farmers. And while the river runs early season below Dillon, filled with excess snow melt, the Blue below Green Mountain usually has its best flows in July and August, after the lower reservoir has filled and the ranchers are asking for summer water. Even then, flows are said to be quite variable.

So I wasn't optimistic, but I was hopeful, because the run is described as follows by Wheat in Floater's Guide to Colorado. "The most endearing run on the Blue follows one of the few wilderness canyons in the Upper Colorado Basin. The river is full of eddies and play areas ... it is a place for intermediate and advanced paddlers to sharpen their skills while enjoying the solitude of an unspoiled canyon." Another guidebook described the run as "mild, pool-drop IIIs." Just my speed.

Drought or no drought, the Green Mountain Reservoir was already full. When I scouted the take-out on Spring Creek Road, there appeared to be plenty of clear

water flowing past ranches below the canyon. Back at the dam, I saw a kayak instructor and several students just starting down into the canyon. My boat was back in camp. Would the Blue still run a day later?

So my wife and daughter drove me back out on Saturday. I told them that if the Green Mountain run was too low, they could take me back to the Boulder Creek Rapid run. Fortunately the water was still "on" at Green Mountain, but the preferable put-in just below the dam was gated off. With trepidation we drove past maintenance buildings and a sign placed in the middle of the road telling us not to trespass. We found parking for an alternate put-in. A weekend work crew told us we were OK, but to take any shuttle vehicles back outside all gates, which they would lock later when they were through.

This alternate put-in was almost like Chicken Coop Gap, without as many trees or shrubs to hang onto. I should have used a throw rope to let the boat down ahead of me. Instead I got about halfway down, and with little traction, had to release the Corsica to bump and grind down to a boulder field below. More deep gouges in the hull. Oh, well, it's seven years old and needs replacing anyway. Then I noticed I had a wet suit boot on one foot and a river shoe on the other. Sarah saved me a climb back up by retrieving the proper footwear.

I took plenty of time to inventory and organize my gear when I got down to the river. A party of collegiate kayakers offered to have me accompany them, but some were delayed, and a leader said their run would be slow. I eyed the river and the soaring cliffs and considered the situation.

It was a V-shaped canyon, higher on river right where the river was carving around Green Mountain. The canyon walls, tan and rather spiky, were not the sedimentary formations of surrounding mountains, but appeared to be older basement foundations of an igneous or metamorphic nature. The left side of the canyon was lower and more heavily forested. This was by contrast with the open high desert sage around the reservoir and below the canyon.

Wheat says in his guidebook that any flow over 350 cfs is a good level for the Green Mountain run. I was looking at almost double that, twice the Nantahala's summer flow. The clear water was flowing strongly over a class 2 boulder garden. Downstream the river narrowed and turned to the right, showing bigger waves. The gradient of this 3.8 mile run is almost 50 feet a mile, but it's higher until it clears the canyon in the last mile. I had soloed steeper and more technical runs in Colorado, and I felt that this one would be no problem.

Once out on the river, the real problem was to keep

from being flushed through the canyon before I had a chance to appreciate the scenery. At this water level, it was really not a pool-drop run; there were not a lot of places to pause to play. Eddies were small and active below boulders, or well out of the main flow along the banks. The river slowed and spread through boulder gardens, or narrowed to run along walls in big, close-spaced waves.

I tried to stop in eddies in every rapid in order to appreciate the canyon scenery, and I got out of the boat several times during the run to unwind. Scouting wasn't proving necessary. I only needed to stay clear of rocks and walls and watch for holes. In spite of my delaying efforts, the canyon walls soon eased down and the Blue narrowed to pass through a rocky gate. This, I thought, must be the end of the good stuff and the return to the ranches.

But no, the river gathered itself one more time into a very long series of the biggest waves yet along a left side wall. Someone later told me there was one rather bad hole in that rapid, but I must've dodged it.

At the end of this rapid I caught up with a few other kayakers. On the right bank a weir was diverting irrigation water for ranches. The canyon walls had dropped away and we were amongst ranch land or below out-wash benches with second homes on them. We had a mildly technical entry into big waves to avoid a left side irrigation gate. There were more boulder gardens and waves, but no big stuff.

In less than a mile we arrived at the Spring Creek Bridge. I was glad to have the other kayakers to follow, because all corners of the bridge were signed No Trespassing. It turns out that upstream river left is a tolerated exit point; remember to close the gate. About 50 yards west on the road is a designated paddler's parking area.

Ellie arrived to pick me up in about half an hour. She asked did I want to run the Boulder Creek Rapid section the next day. No, this run had been so special that I didn't want to clutter up my brain with another before my memories consolidated.

We were two more nights at Dillon Reservoir, and then drove west to visit Ellie's retired cousins in Montrose. We followed I-70 over Vail Pass and down the Eagle River valley. I could see a few kayakers on the water, but it looked low, and I've never liked all the people clutter along the Eagle, even if they say you can't see it from the river.

The Eagle joined the Colorado at Dotsero. As the Colorado entered Glenwood Canyon, the highway lanes ran over and under to find room in the narrow canyon. There is a popular paved bike/hike trail running along the river through the length of the canyon, accessed from a series of I-70 rest stops. We stopped at the Grizzly Creek

rest stop to picnic, also intending to walk a ways along the riverside trail and watch the rafts and kayaks. Instead we hiked a mile up Grizzly Creek's side canyon in the rain. It always seems to rain when we're in Glenwood Canyon.

I wasn't much interested in paddling Glenwood Canyon, especially in the rain. Most rapids lack technical interest and get increasingly spaced out. So we hit the highway and drove past Grand Mesa and Grand Junction, to take the scenic drive through Colorado National Monument. Though just across from Grand Mesa, which is forested with lakes on top, Colorado National Monument is lower and drier, capped with sagebrush desert and only small dry country trees in the canyons cut into the sedimentary layers. The main attraction is the variety of eroded towers, undercut cliffs, and gulchy canyons seen from overlooks and trails along the road. Highly recommended, but try to see it before you see all the Utah sandstone parks (about which more later), or Colorado National Monument may be slightly anticlimactic.

We stayed two nights in Montrose with Ellie's cousins. If I had been smart, I would have arranged in advance for an outfitter to take me on a run of nearby Gunnison Gorge, which is just below Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument. But I wasn't smart, so we washed our laundry and slept in a real bed for a change.

We hadn't planned our next moves, but were close to Moab, Utah, and to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. We drove north over Grand Mesa on highway 65, stopping to enjoy the cool altitude, see the wildflowers and sub-alpine lakes, and slap a few mountain mosquitoes. Driving down the north side of the mesa, we road-scouted Plateau Creek, which runs through a sandstone canyon on the way to the Colorado. It is an easy spring run described in Banks and Eckhardt: Colorado Rivers and Creeks. I wasn't surprised to find it too low.

We drove west on I-70 into Utah, and then cut south on highway 128, which soon dropped down to join the Colorado in a redstone canyon. Highway 128 follows the river all the way to Moab, passing a series of BLM river access points. The canyon runs to red sandstones and is very scenic, passing through a narrows for about six miles and then into more open areas with views of Fisher Towers and the La Sal Mountains. The beginning and end of this section of the Colorado are rather flat, but there is a 13 mile section in the middle with some wavy rapids. Hittle Bottom is the put-in, and "Take-Out Beach" is a logical conclusion. I thought the sun was too hot, and I could see river and scenery almost as well from the road.

So we drove on to Moab (pronounced "Mob" on summer weekends) and found a back street room at the Apache Motel, where (it said) John Wayne once stayed. As

soon as we had checked in, we drove north from Moab to Arches National Park. We behaved like tourists and did the trails to North and South Window, Turret Arch, Double Arch, and Delicate Arch. Then we ate pasta in Moab and recovered in the motel.

The next morning we went back to Arches and did the trails to soaring Landscape Arch, Wall Arch, Navajo Arch, little Partition Arch with its double apertures, Tunnel Arch and Pine Tree Arch. Even if the arches weren't there, the sandstone formations would be just as fantastic. Doesn't everybody love slick rock?

Wait, there's more. We left Arches, picked up sandwiches in Moab, and drove the long road into the Island-in-the-Sky portion of Canyonlands National Park, paying another \$10 for a week park pass. We checked out Mesa Arch and then drove and hiked over the rim to Grand View Point, where we could look over the yawning excavation on both sides caused by heat, frost, wind, and the waters of the Colorado and Green Rivers. Photography at Grand View Point is just impossible; you would need the Mother of all fish eye lenses. Then we drove NW in Canyonlands to just catch sunset and the western overlooks at Upheaval Dome, which is sort of a geological zit.

The next morning we left Moab and drove south, turning west back into Canyonlands on highway 211. This followed Indian Creek canyon down to Newspaper Rock, which has a great display of Anasazi and Navajo petroglyphs. The creek appears to be a fairly consistent water source. It runs through cottonwood groves and then into a broad valley supporting irrigated ranches. The road climbs back up a ways onto Squaw Flat (still plenty of politically incorrect names in this area) and into the Needles portion of the Park. From an area full of mushrooming sandstone formations we could see Grand View Point to the north, and Needles Overlook to the



Gary DeBacher kayaking helmetless, Rio Chama, New Mexico.
- Submitted by Gary DeBacher.

northeast. We then drove back to a loop trail where we saw remnants of early rancher-settler habitation in arch caves.

Finally we had to start back toward Atlanta. We drove SE along the San Juan to Four Corners, and then past Ship Rock and Farmington, New Mexico, to overnight in Bloomfield. The next day, hearing that "scenic" 550, the more direct route, was fouled with construction, we followed the much more scenic highways 64 and 84 toward Santa Fe and I-40. Along the way I planned to check out Rio Chama, my last chance for western paddling.

The Chama has three sections of interest, a rocky class 3-4 spring day trip section above El Vado Reservoir; a relatively mild 22 mile wilderness canyon section below the reservoir (permits please), and a more active 9 mile section before the river hits Abiquiu Reservoir. This last section was my target, requiring no permit and accessible from USFS 151.

There was no reason to be optimistic, because Rio Chama has a bipolar season, runnable in the mid-spring but usually not again until by mid July and August when El Vado Reservoir releases to meet water needs. But it wouldn't take much time to check it from USFS 151, which we found just south of Echo Amphitheater.

As we drove over the flats on 151, someone's endless tread gouges testified to a long struggle. We were in our new Accord, not our Outback, and if it rained while I was on the river, the road might become a greasy impossibility. But the sky was clear and the clouds few and far between.

The road dove down into a shallow canyon, where we found the BLM Big Eddy take-out. The artist Georgia O'Keefe once lived nearby at Ghost Ranch, and Big Eddy



Gary DeBacher on the Rio Chama, New Mexico.

- Submitted by Gary DeBacher.

was her top hand.

Amazingly the river was "on," with rocks pretty well cushioned. And the road had changed from graded silt to rock and gravel, so we drove NW without difficulty, scouting where we could see past the cottonwoods and tamarisk.

Rio Chama is a major tributary of the Rio Grande. In Colorado and northern New Mexico, the Rio Grande and its other tributaries cut into igneous rocks, but the Chama Canyon saws through Mesozoic sedimentary formations at the eastern edge of the Colorado Plateau.

Mesas on either side showed tan, orange, and pink layers. In places the river was flanked by substantial flood plain. This section runs a little over 6000 feet in altitude, less than the Mesa Canyon section of the upper San Juan which I ran several years ago, but over 2000 feet higher than the canyons of the lower San Juan which I ran in '99.

We spotted a sign for a put-in just past the USFS Chama Canyon Campground. Just to make sure I had the highest available put-in, I drove on until we came to the entrance for Christ of the Desert Monastery, a Benedictine retreat. A cordial sign invited visitors, but I happened to know that didn't mean paddlers seeking put-ins. Chama Canyon was just opening out here, and stands of ponderosa pines could be seen on the slopes.

We drove back to the official put-in, where outfitters were preparing to guide small parties of rafters down the river. Unpacking, I made a discovery: my helmet was missing. I announced my intention to go kayaking in my Tilley, the hat advertised as having survived three trips through the alimentary canal of an elephant. Ellie, who earlier in the morning was quite insistent that I try to do this run, come hell or low water, was now blanching at the prospect of having a headless husband at the take-out. Worse than a brainless husband. Well, tough. I put on anyway, and I didn't wear that nasty dry top either.

The run opened easy, meandering smoothly between silt banks topped by grasses and wildflowers, or through gravelly riffles. The volume appeared to be roughly 900 cfs. This was Saturday on 4th of July weekend. There were happy campers here and there, tenting in the cottonwood groves, but the road was mostly out of sight. After about a mile and a half, I came to more significant rapids, one running hard against the left bank, sawing away at a shale wall, and another rather long class 2+, full of waves and holes, called Meandering Rapid in the guidebooks. Lacking the helmet, I was running conservatively, taking waves but not risking rocks or pour overs. By concentrating my weight low in my butt, I could induce tremendous stability in the boat, as if it were one of those old inflatable punching clowns.

The river eased some for a few miles, meandering quietly in places so I could enjoy the mesa scenery. At about 5 miles through the 9 mile run, I came to Skull Bridge Rapid, named for a low structure which would take your skull off at high water. The USFS raised it in 1990. The rapid began well above the bridge, and continued for a ways below, a long series of big waves in a boulder field. There were easier class 2s for the next couple of miles, and then the Chama started to cut a canyon within a canyon, slicing and cutting against a high left side wall at Gauging Station, rated class 2+. This rapid offered extra trouble for the adventurous, though, like the others, it would not be called technical.

I still had a couple of miles to the take-out, and there were enough rapids to keep it interesting. Although the gradient through the entire canyon run is quoted as 15 feet per mile, the gradient from Skull Bridge Rapid on down may be twice as great. Near the end of the run is Bank Shot, rated at 2+ to low 3, where the river turns sharply left against an undercut wall. This could be a problem for rafters, but I was nailing eddies along the wall most of the way down.

A similar but easier rapid brought me to the Big Eddy take-out. By this time I had passed all the rafting parties, and found only dozing shuttle drivers in the parking lot. I found some shade where the air felt dry and cool.

Satilla River Canoe Trip

by John Henderson

November 15-19, 2001. Indescribably beautiful! Now I know that some of you think I sometimes exaggerate when describing nature trips. *Ido*. And I believe that a few accuse me of confusing fiction with fact while reporting adventure outings. *GUILTY!* But on this trip none of those story telling measures were necessary. It was an unbelievably beautiful trip — canoeing and camping along the Satilla.

Jacques Artley, Lou Rizk and I launched our canoes below the Highway 121 bridge near Hoboken, Georgia, at 3 o'clock on a beautiful Thursday afternoon. Seven hours earlier we left Atlanta with two canoes atop a mini-van stuffed with camping and river gear. It was loaded. We were ready for anything.

The river was tea stained (from the oak tree's tannic acid) and was low but flowing well. We paddled for somewhat over one mile and stopped at an expansive white sand bar that would be our camp site. Tents were pitched, fire wood gathered, gear was reorganized and the ol' Dutch oven was heated with coals and prepared for

I could see more rapids around the bend. To get at those, one has to paddle mucho flat water on Abiquiu Reservoir to another take-out. Albuquerque and the Corps of Engineers have been wanting to raise the level of Abiquiu Reservoir, which would flood the last, best four miles of the run I had just finished. Dry years like this one tend to resurrect such ideas in the minds of dam builders.

I asked a driver why there was so much water at this time. He said it was because the nearby Rio Grande was so unusually low. Santa Fe and Albuquerque needed water in the Rio Grande, so the reservoirs on Rio Chama had to start summer weekend releases several weeks before their usual schedule. As on the Green Mountain run on the Blue River, I was benefiting from a drought by getting good water in unexpected places. It's an ill drought that flows no one any good.

I had guessed where Ellie had been by the time she drove up. She had gone back to Christ in the Desert Monastery to pray for my safe passage. She had an excellent visit there, which included the sort of singing and chanting which makes drinking Benedictine a complete experience. Only kidding, those monks are serious, and rafting parties passing the monastery from upcanyon are asked to refrain from unholy noise and actions.

We spent a tourist evening at Santa Fe, then made the hard two day drive to Atlanta. And if there was any white water running along the way, I didn't see it. 

cooking. That DO delivered a cheeseburger pie and peach cobbler. We ate well, enjoyed the campfire and retired early to the sounds of owls and unexplained splashes in the river.

Jacques was up early serving oatmeal with peaches, raisins and hot black tea to start the day. After paddling for one hour we encountered four large trees across the river, blocking our passage. We unloaded the canoes and carried all gear and boats 80 yards to a point beyond the blockage. That was the first of about eight portages. The other seven were not as bad and did not include a complete unloading of the canoes. But cutting tree trunks and limbs with hand ax and bow saw and dragging canoes were occasional activities in the following four days.

The river is lined with white sand bars, tupelo gum trees, old twisted oaks and cypress trees. The forest beyond looked what I imagined how an enchanted or forbidden forest would be depicted in a movie. Deer, raccoon and turkey tracks covered the sand bars. The scenery was truly invigorating.

Lunches by Lou were a favorite noon time routine with PB&J sandwiches, bananas, apples, prunes and plenty of water. After about seven miles on the second

day, we settled on a eastern facing sand bar and watched the river while the Dutch oven baked chicken with onions and vegetables — followed by chocolate cake with glazing.

My routine at night is to place my flashlight, shoes, jacket and hunting knife within easy reach. I do not want to search for them in a moment of panic. In the event an unwelcome intruder demanding money and valuables comes upon us, I would give him what little money I had and the hunting knife. It's a fine knife and belonged to my father-in-law. Besides his daughter, it's my most valuable possession. That night however, only the rather loud cry of a nearby coyote and the chirping sound of a raccoon disturbed a peaceful night on the saucy Satilla.

Hunting dogs were in full cry as we made breakfast and prepared for our third day afloat. One dog with a radio collar followed us along the river for a short distance. He wanted to get in the canoe. Perhaps his hunting days were past him as he sensed it was with us. We were simply paddlers, enjoying all of nature and its inhabitants and leaving no trace or tragedy in our wake.

Roswell Courson is a really fine gentleman in an extremely inviting cabin overlooking a wide expanse of the river. He welcomed us, gave us soft drinks with ice, a detailed chart of the river and took us on a tour of his digs. We talked for over an hour, promised to visit him again then headed on downstream. The wizened top sergeant described a bend in the river ahead that had harbored a 14 foot alligator for the past 8-9 years. We gave it wide berth and passed at flank speed.

Another beautiful sand bar hosted us overnight. Mr. Dutch presented without problem a bulky beef stew with biscuits and a fluffy yellow cake. After a long campfire discussion of nothing in particular, we set the alarm for 3 am to watch the Leonid meteor shower (forecast for 3-5

AM) that was predicted to be the "most spectacular in 35 years." As the earth moves through the trail of the comet, Tempel-Tuttle, the trailing debris burns up in our atmosphere.

We got up. It was semi-spectacular — and we were cold! We held on for one hour. There are no competing lights in the wilderness, the sky was very clear and the viewing was exceptional. But the cold soon drove us back into our respective tents and to the comfort of a zipped-to-the-top sleeping bag.

All day Sunday was bright, warm and clear but that evening the temp headed down. We stopped a little earlier that day to get river baths and needed shampoos. A large campfire helped heat what had cooled considerably in the river while the ol' DO offered hot chili with cornbread and chewy chocolate brownies — with an emphasis on chewy. With my aluminum canoe inverted and used as a table, we had a splendid meal with wine and many toasts to such great camping and river canoeing. In the distance we could hear a freight train as it passed over the river near our destination and take-out point. We were close and this was the final supper.

The fifth day was exciting with the sighting of five black bears and an alligator. It was the worst in the way of downed trees which required sawing and chopping to allow passage. As a result, we finally reached our goal at 3 PM, much later than we had planned and which indicated we would arrive in Atlanta about 10 PM. But we had seen kingfishers, ducks, owls, great blue herons and thousands of deer, turkey and raccoon tracks — and had spent five days and 26 miles canoeing and enjoying what the SE GA RDC declares in their canoe guide, "Georgia's Most Beautiful River, the Big Satilla." And believe me, it's a true statement. 

North Georgia Car Wrecks: Tallulah in November

by Geoff Kohl

The bottom drops out at soon as you hit the first stair on Tallulah Gorge, after signing your life away with American Whitewater and the local rangers. It's approximately 600 stairs down to the river and when it's November and 72 degrees outside, you'll be wishing you hadn't put on that paddling jacket or layer of fleece. But whether you've got on your birthday suit and its 56 degrees or you're wearing a jacket, you'll be covered in sweat by the time you get to the bottom — to the platform where, with a dozen other people, you'll watch the paddlers before you go immediately from the two available eddies straight down into a mauling class IV drop without any warm up.

Some of them break their paddles. Others flip and flush into the jagged right-hand wall. Without any question, the only good line is through a turbulent, rock-guarded entrance and through a twisting, hole-baited route that makes Corkscrew look like a straightforward wave train, it was that and other rapids that had drawn us into this brutal canyon in northeastern Georgia.

Standing on the banks of Oceana, the third drop on the river, a 60-foot-tall cataract just a football's punt from the put-in, there were a few members of the GCA. Their eyes were as big as oil-canned hulls and they were looking straight down into the Thing, a rock that blasted water straight up into the air some 20-plus feet. A marginal line down the left-hand side took the hairy a few feet from the Thing and a wild middle line meant executing a 40-foot slide into a dynamic hole that covers paddler and boat and

pushes their course 90 degrees to the left down a sluice that leads up, in and over the Thing. And then down into a big hole.

Of course, there was also a far right line — it meant putting your paddle in your hand and your boat on your shoulder as you walked a class V trail down a mud-covered, slippery slope. "I haven't signed up for life insurance;" "I promised the wife I wouldn't run this one;" "I'm not feeling up to it today;" "They're crazy." The words were not excuses but rather reasons to escape unharmed.

As one boater in our group said after running the big one for his first time, "It's like a car wreck." And having generated the bravado to try it myself on the last weekend of releases, I couldn't have agreed more.

Below Oceana, the intrepid crew played the local play spot (called "Lettuce," since it's always being shredded) and jumped into the mauling, 200-yard-long Gauntlet, a class IV, trashy, rock-infested rapid that finds blowing first-timers off course an amusing way to spend its life. From an upside-down-pinned-in-the-trees run to some hip-bruising action at a pin rock cloaked by a diagonal hole, the Gauntlet beat egos down and left a few saying they thought it was the toughest on the river. Not only is it all that, but the rapid ends 20 short feet above Bridal Veil, a 25-foot slide into a hole that the Mafia could hide bodies in.

The interconnectedness of the two rapids was never shown better than when an Atlanta paddler, who has since vowed never to return to the Tallulah, swam both the bottom of Gauntlet and ended up holding a rope, having slid halfway down Bridal Veil. At long last, he let go, sliding on his rear down this bumpy rock face into the hole and then working his way out of the hole only to be followed by his boat, previously surfing an upriver hole,



Geoff Kohl on Tallulah's Bridal Veil.

- Submitted by Geoff Kohl.

now imbedded deeply in the recirculation below the slide. It took three paddlers on the bank holding a rope and one brave volunteer clipped into the rope and swimming in the hole to pull the boat out.

Below Bridal Veil there was a brief respite with a rapid like a kiddy water slide, then Ticket Puncher, a boof over a grabby hole into strong cross currents that "punches your ticket" when asking for entrance to the Amphitheater, a wave-riding, rodeo-friendly wave hole combination bracketed by a sheer rock wall and a rubble-covered sandy bank. It was a great place to eat lunch, to realize that we'd only made it a quarter of a mile and to prepare for the rapids ahead. It was during this moment of solace, that those who found the hip-basher in the Gauntlet popped back scores of Ibuprofen and rubbed their hips.

Around the corner, Tit, Tat and Left Death followed. They were all fairly straightforward except for the latter. At Left Death, the left line, otherwise a sloping drop funneled into an undercut wall, which left far right if you felt like sneaking a big hole and fighting the trees, or a middle line and a middle-right line. Both of the last two options jumped into big holes, and at one point an Atlanta doctor and an Atlanta computer scientist decided to undergo simultaneous thrashings in an attempt to find out which hole was worse. The winner went to both holes, as each was able to separate boat from paddler, leaving one to walk without a boat for a distance of three long rapids and one to shoulder his boat around the next rapid, Tom's Brain Buster.

At Brain Buster, we elected to get out and take a breather. It's a good place to do so: the rapid is like Gauntlet but compressed into 100 feet and with added face-abrading rocks. A walk here is often a walk of saved skin, and on the three weekends of November that we saw



Jeff Lankford at Autobooof (rapid #2).

- Submitted by Geoff Kohl.



Louis Boulanger runs Tom's Brainbuster.

- Submitted by Geoff Kohl.

this drop, it managed to brain bash at least one paddler per trip. If you run it correctly it's an all-out flush, but if you run it poorly, Brain Buster becomes a tuck-and-pray flush.

Below this one, we caught up with the doc's boat — it was clipped merrily to one paddler's throw rope behind a makeshift eddy. But with uncommon bad luck, the gate of the non-locking carabiner opened and the boat ran Road to Ainty, named, I believe, after the take-out town in Deliverance. The Road to Ainty is but a long shallow slide littered with diagonal holes and a river-wide, sticky hole. On one occasion, after a half dozen GCA boaters made it through this rapid, it caught up with another group, recirculating a man helplessly in the middle of the river for at least two minutes. When he finally flushed free on his fourth or fifth roundabout, he sat upon the banks and admitted that he thought drowning had been a real possibility. [Though this article is not meant to be a guidebook, let me warn you to not venture down middle-right. Surf the backwash of a couple holes to the safety of a pushy left-side line and you'll thank yourself in the bottom eddy.]

Immediately came a pushy III+ with some juicy holes. When Big Water himself came down this rapid, he found those holes and after surfing two of them and being relentlessly window-shaded, it was clear he needed some help rolling. I paddled up to him, trying to give him the Eskimo rescue, but we flushed through another rapid holding on to each other's boat, before he rolled himself off my boat. Somewhere in the process, my paddle had become dislodged. Big Water rolled up in just enough time to spin around and go for a last-chance boof, but I was left sitting above a sizable ledge drop with nothing but my hands to maneuver with. Discouraged of running the

drop, I waited on my paddle.

Paddle Snake Ledge was the rapid immediately below, and it held a new line picked by L.B. Hole Bait himself. After a couple more runs of this line, it became increasingly clear why everyone runs the boof on the left. The right side pumped joyously through not one, but three big holes if you blew the second move. This was ascertained after a lone paddler followed this author on a right-side try — the lone paddler found himself bludgeoned in all three holes: squirted in the first, flipped in the second and making a feverish exit out of number three. It was an iffy line at 500 cfs, but when Sunday came and an extra 200 cfs poured down the river, it was like trying to sneak cheese out of a mousetrap.

Below Paddle Snake Ledge, named after Milt Aitken's white water videos of the same name, the run was almost over. Everyone gathered up for squirting, surfing and spinning (and the occasional eddy-out underneath a cave-like boiling eddy), and then some whirly-bird, paddle-trading side surfing at Powerhouse Ledge. Below that was the anticlimax — a boof, a run-out and then a 1.5 mile paddle across Lake Tugaloo to the take-out. We all managed down it without the loss of much skin, and the smiles that came afterwards were quite close to permanent. Which means, of course, that the April releases can't come soon enough.

In a final note, after having spoken with representatives from American Whitewater, the popularity of Tallulah Gorge (nearly 400 paddlers on one particularly nice day) may lead to more releases after negotiations with the proper authorities. This is undoubtedly a gem to have so close to Atlanta, but it's also one that has beaten up unlucky paddlers. In three weekends, I saw numerous things break: paddles, skin, scalps, knuckles and even a boat. More serious injuries have occurred and can occur, but for those who are prepared, Tallulah has become an exciting paddling destination that few can forget. 

Mission — Possible. Party Planners Needed!

The GCA Spring Extravaganza is scheduled for April 12-14, 2002. This weekend getaway for the club is one of the main social events of the year. It has traditionally been held at Diamond Lure Campground in Ellijay.

Your mission — should you choose to accept — is to plan the campsite, Saturday breakfast (if you're so inclined), Saturday group dinner (this is a must!), activities and trips for approximately 100 people. You are authorized to recruit as many helpers as you wish.

If you succeed, you will have fame and happiness. If you fail, you will have lots of food left over!! Call Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022 to accept this mission.

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 SALE - Canoe, Whitesell Piranha, red. Set up as a solo ww boat but makes a super tandem ww boat also. Great condition. Very stable. No holes or thru hull patches, just normal scratches and dings. Perception saddle with storage. (2) 60" float bags. Always stored inside. Length: 14' 3". Rocker: 4" standard measure, 18" on pivot position. Sells new for \$1500+, first \$900 takes it, or \$800 without saddle. Will consider delivery in Southeast. Located in NW FL. Call Elliott at 850.729.1992.

FOR SALE - Canoes & equipment. Blue Hole Sunburst, ABS, excellent condition, fully outfitted with saddle, air bags, knee pads, etc., \$550. Blue Hole Sunburst, Kevlar, near new condition, set up solo, but with eqpt. to set up tandem, small nylon end bags, \$850. Canoe paddles: 1 Sea-1 wood paddle, 1 Davey Hearn spoon blade composite paddle, 2 Carlisle aluminum/plastic paddles, 2 child's wood paddles. Other gear: 1 throw rope w/ bag, 2 mesh gear bags, 3 helmets, Teva booties, rescue vest with throw rope, tow line, river knife & scabbard. Call for prices or to make offers. Ron - 770.435.0903.

FOR SALE - Canoe, 2001 Mad River Synergy, great tandem white water boat, only paddled four times, fully outfitted with harmony products, UFO saddles, foot braces, thigh straps, and air bags. Excellent condi-

tion and stored indoors. Outfitted value is \$2,000, only asking \$900. Call Rob @ 770.924.1752 or roborau@cs.com.

FOR SALE - Kayaks and accessories. Perception Ultra Clean, red/yellow, used four times, \$550. Perception Stikine, red/yellow, used eight times, \$475. Also available two Palm dry tops, large and xlarge; two helmets xlarge; Werner sidekick paddle; Perception paddle, two sets booties size twelve and fourteen; one Bomber pant large; two Lotus PFDs large and xlarge. All equipment is near new. Call Tod at 770.674.1801 or email tpowers2001@mediaone.net.

FOR SALE - Kayak and gear. Perception Pirouette Kayak, black, \$300. Two front and two rear float bags, \$20 per set. Carlisle Au Sable two piece kayak paddle, 110cm - ideal for inflatable or sea kayak, \$15. Lady's size medium Stohlquist two piece red dry suit. Needs waist and feet gaskets. Neck and wrist gaskets good. \$35. Dry bag, yellow, size 15" X 24" - \$5. Call Hank Klausman 770.587.0499.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Freefall LT. Sub-10' creek boat, fits a wide variety of paddlers and styles, from beginner to big drops. Stored out of sun, good condition -- 5 years old, only 3 seasons of use. Includes back band and flotation. \$275 OBO. Also for sale: Silver Creek ww paddle, ProTec helmet, LC-1 kayak skirt, Lotus Rio life jacket, neoprene booties, dry top (needs new neck gasket) and more. Geoff, 404.457.3517, or gskohl@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wilderness System's "Pungo" fully equipped for the angler. Almost new, purchased in July 2001 for approx. \$700. Great shape, used about six times, stored indoors, asking \$550 or will trade for equal value smaller kayak such as

Old Town Loon, Perception recreational or touring. Call or write Marsha at 404.294.8402 or e-mail: marshmbond@aol.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Reflex. Slalom style boat with gear. Make an offer. I'm moving to Mexico in January and must sell. Call Tim 770.441.3608 (home), 678.287.2425 (work) or tjmetzger@yahoo.com.

HELP WANTED - Premier southeastern paddling club looking for fun-loving, creative individual to chair the club's Recreation Committee. Filling this position is critical to the success of the club's social events calendar for this year. If you are able to help out, please contact Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022, email mcsputnik@aol.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE - Start immediately - set your own hours - create an event to be remembered THIS SPRING! If you can help out with GCA's Spring Extravaganza as event coordinator or in any other capacity, please contact Marvine Cole at 770.475.3022, email mcsputnik@aol.com.

HELP WANTED - Yes, the GCA needs your help. We need volunteers to serve on committees, label and mail newsletters, etc. Call 770.421.9729 and leave a message.

WANTED - Coordinators for GCA club trips. Do you plan to go paddling this year? Can you take a few GCA members with you? We need coordinators for all levels of trips from flat water to advanced white water. Please call Cruise Master Mike Winchester at 770.319.8969 if you can help out. Also, if you can help Mike out with calling potential trip coordinators, let him know.

WANTED - Canoe, Mohawk XL-13 in above average to good condition. Call Lois Hogan 770.592.6421 or email loish@peoplepc.com.



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