

Next GCA Meeting

The next GCA meeting will be the Spring General Membership Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner scheduled to take place the third Friday in March (March 21) at 7:30 PM at the Garden Hills Community Center in Buckhead. Put the date on your calendar and plan to join us for an evening of great food, entertainment and fun. Bring a covered dish and/or a dessert, a good appetite and some good paddling tales to share.

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!!



What's Inside...

GCA Spring Extravaganza

Mark your calendars! The 2003 GCA Spring Extravaganza is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 11-13. The Extravaganza is a weekend of paddling and camping, featuring a catered dinner on Saturday evening, club-sponsored trips on Saturday and Sunday, and the fine company of many, many GCA members. The event will be headquartered at Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway, nestled in the heart of the Nantahala Forest in Topton, NC. Watch for more information and registration forms in upcoming issues of *The Eddy Line*.



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Winter Roll Practice

Indoor pool roll sessions begin the first Monday in January and run through the last Monday in March, with the exception of the MLK holiday. Plan to take advantage of this great service provided by your club. Whether you want to learn to roll, practice your roll to stay sharp, teach a fellow paddler to roll, or work on other techniques such as wet exits, hand rolls, deep water re-entries, etc., the indoor heated pool is THE best place to hone these skills in the middle of the winter. For details, see the announcement inside.



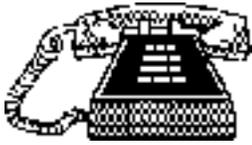
**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
FEBRUARY 14
TAKE YOUR SWEETIE BOATING**

"Swift or smooth, broad as the Hudson or narrow enough to scrape your gunwales, every river is a world of its own, unique in pattern and personality. Each mile on a river will take you further from home than a hundred miles on a road."

- Bob Marshall.



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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	Tom Bishop
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Vacant
Recreation Chair	Gretchen Mallins
Resource Development Chair	Cameron Pach
River Protection Chair	Jim Tibbetts
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 gacanoem@mindspring.com. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, or as a text file on a 3-1/2 inch high density Macintosh formatted disk, and include a printed copy (Disks returned only if requested). To submit material via U.S. MAIL, send to: **Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, GA 30066**. All classified ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Newsletter Editor **Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318** for questions. Thanks for your cooperation. ✂

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

February

1 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
2 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
8 Lower Amicalola	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
15 Leaders Choice (Note 1)	Class 2-3+ Intermediate	Marvine Cole	770.475.3022
17 Town Creek (AL)	Class 3+ Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
22 Nacoochee Chattahoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
22 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
23 Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969

March

6 Board of Directors Meeting — Members invited — Atlanta Botanical Gardens			770.475.3022
8 South Sauty (AL)	Class 4 Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
8 War Woman Creek	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
21 Club Meeting — Spring Covered Dish Dinner — Garden Hills Community Center — Marvine Cole			770.475.3022
22 Cataloochee Creek (NC)	Class 2-3 (4) Intermediate (Advanced)	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
23 Oconaluftee (NC)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
29 Nacoochee Chattahoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038

April

5 Nacoochee Chattahoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
11-14 Spring Extravaganza — Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway		Joan Hutton	770.917.1866
26-27 Southeastern Slalom & Wild Water Championships — Nantahala River, NC — Knox Worde			770.475.3022

Note 1: Sweetheart Paddle w/ the Prez.

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

Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. 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 was learned in the clinic and expanding skill levels.

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 Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club pool. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

GCA Library Items

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling. Any / all donations or loans to the library are welcome. (Please, no bootleg video copies.) Send them to:

Denise Colquitt
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

Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters
Happy Isles of Oceana: Paddling the Pacific
Homelands: Kayaking the Inside Passage
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 South Fork

Announcements

GCA Email List

The GCA email list has at this printing about 300 subscribers. Thanks to Mike Kaplan and our friends at Kaplan Communications for providing software and server space for the GCA email list.



Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gacanoelists.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 "gacanoelists.kapcom.com" and in the BODY of the message type:

subscribe gacanoelists.kapcom.com

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 gacanoelists.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 "subscribe" your new one. ✂

GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.georgiacanoelists.org>. We are continually adding information and links of value to paddlers. Send your ideas for updates to Allen Siquefield 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 you can email your request to Ed Schultz at heloeddy@mindspring.com.

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. ✂

And the Winners Are....

The lucky winners of the new PFDs from MTI Adventurewear in the New Member Drawing for the month of November 2002 are Jennifer E. Smiles & Landon D. Hunsucker. Congratulations, Jennifer & Landon!! Membership Chair Cameron Pach will contact you regarding your choices of PFD type. ✂

Support Our GCA Supporters

A new feature of the GCA web site will be a GCA Supporters page with links to the companies that support GCA financially by advertising with us. Help out those who help us out — patronize our financial supporters!! Thanks! ✂

We cannot see the future. We cannot change the past. We can only live in the now with an eye towards gaining enough power in the future to wreak revenge on everyone who ever screwed us in the past.

Canoe Outfitting & Repair

Featuring Voyageur™ Products
Custom outfitting of your open canoe or C-1
Saddles, thigh straps, air bags, knee pads, skid plates
and more
ABS repair for worn, cracked or broken hulls

Canoe Instruction

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

Upcoming Events of Interest

February 8 — Locust Fork Invitational Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 205.274.0006.

March 1-2 — Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Races — Garden City, AL.

March 22 — Locust Fork Classic Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 205.274.0006.

March 28-30 — NOC Spring Splash — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, 800.232.7238 ext. 600.

April 11-13 — GCA Spring Extravaganza — Topton, NC, Joan Hutton, 770.917.1866.

April 11-13 — East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival — Charleston, SC.

April 26-27 — Southeastern Slalom & Wild Water Championships — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, Knox Worde 770.475.3022.

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

October 31 - November 2 — NOC GAF — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, 800.232.7238 ext. 600. ✂

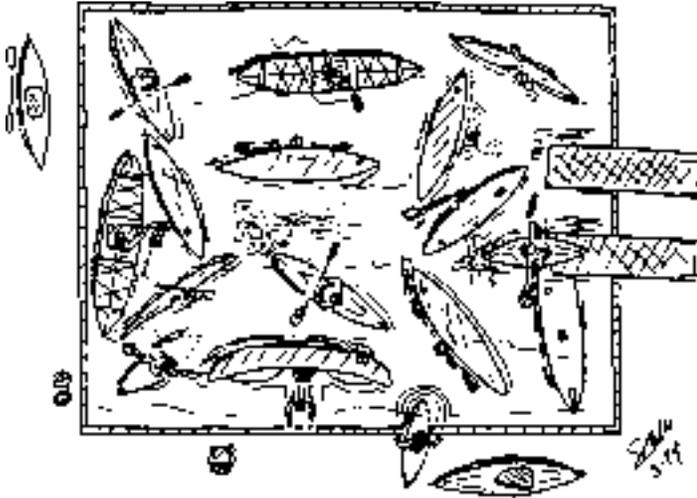
Mail Failure Notices

Each month the *Electronic Eddy Line* receives numerous mail failure notices against members' email IDs. If your email address comes back with a mail failure notice, you will be deleted from the recipient list for the *Electronic Eddy Line* until we get a request to be added back with a current email address.

Also, if we get a number of mail failure notices against an email ID on the GCA Email List, that ID is automatically unsubscribed by the listserve software. It is the subscriber's responsibility to maintain the subscription with the current email ID. Your cooperation is appreciated — it makes less work for our all volunteer staff. ✂

Winter Roll Practice

Joint GCA / AWC winter roll practice is back! Indoor pool roll sessions will be held Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM beginning the first Monday in January and running through the last Monday in March, with the exception of



the MLK holiday. Plan to take advantage of this great service provided by your club. Whether you want to learn to roll, practice your roll to stay sharp, teach a fellow paddler to roll, or work on other techniques such as wet exits, hand rolls, deep water re-entries, etc., the indoor heated pool is THE best place to hone these skills in the middle of the winter.

NEW LOCATION: Due to scheduling problems at the old location, we will be going back to the Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club. The club is located at the corner of Berne and Marion Streets near Grant Park. To get there, exit I-20 at the Boulevard / Grant Park / Cyclorama exit southbound. Go about 1/2 mile to the traffic light at Berne Street — turn left. Go about another 1/2 mile and you'll see a large brick building on the left at the corner of Berne & Marion Streets. Turn left. You are at the Warren Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear. Enter through the gate on the far end of the building to unload boats.

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

Revel Freeman is our Roll Practice Coordinator. If you have questions about roll practice, or would like to

volunteer to help, either with instruction or with keeping track of money and waivers, call Revel at 404.261.8572.

BE SURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN. A hose is available at the door to rinse out river mud, old bird's nests or cobwebs. ✕

National Paddling Film Festival

by David Margavage, NPFF Director
OverflowXL@aol.com

The Bluegrass Wildwater Association invites you to attend the 2003 NPFF, featuring the joy, challenge, and beauty of paddling in a competition of video, film and computer images, both still and motion. Each year the festival has grown and this year is no different as we continue to look at new ways to have fun, entertain and contribute more to river conservation. Please join with the volunteers of the National Paddling Film Festival and help contribute to water resource conservation efforts across the country. All proceeds from the NPFF go to American Whitewater, American Canoe Association, and other water conservation efforts.

It's the 20th Anniversary of the NPFF and it's building up to be the biggest ever. The big show is coming together and there are some BIG changes that should benefit all. The biggest change is the location.

It has moved from the University to the spectacular 800 seat "Kentucky Theater" on Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky!

The completely restored 1920's theater with its plush seating, marquee and theater concessions, including beer & wine, will provide the perfect atmosphere deserving of the film makers and viewers alike for this special event. The NEW Kentucky Theater location will provide more exposure than ever before for our rivers causes.

We are also excited to announce that Scott Lindgren will be our special guest host. His expedition team was the first to complete the Upper Tsangpo Gorge in Tibet. It is considered to be the "Mt. Everest" of rivers. The deepest gorge on earth, it is 5 times steeper and 5 times more volume than the Grand Canyon. We will be showing Scott's movie as a non-competitive feature at this year's event. It is more than just a paddling movie. It appeals to paddlers, climbers, hikers and travelers. It has plenty of drama and excitement that includes their portage (and you thought Panther Creek was bad), finding the Hidden



Falls and Porter Riot. It is a must see film!

A few of the past features at the NPFF have been filmed in locations like Canada, Africa, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Europe, Asia and throughout the USA, from Florida to Alaska.

In 2003 the NPFF will continue to look for more exciting paddle sport action and awesome scenery combined with genius, satire, silliness, insight, instruction, humor, tragedy, drama and passion. This is a visual paddle sport feast that shouldn't be missed.



Welcome New Members

The GCA would like to welcome the following new (and nearly new) members. New members are the life blood and the future of the club. Thank you for joining us!!

December 2002:

James H. Briscoe III	Lawrenceville GA
J.M.M. Harrison	Atlanta GA
Landon D. Hunsucker	Marietta GA
Loretta Pinkston	Decatur GA
Jennifer E. Smiles	Kennesaw GA



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Mountain Land Sale Promises Protection

by Jack Horan, Special Correspondent

A Duke Energy subsidiary has agreed to a conservation sale of undeveloped mountain land that protects a near-pristine North Carolina river and its endangered species. Duke's Crescent Resources and the nonprofit Nature Conservancy announced Wednesday that the conservancy is to pay \$19 million for the 4,467-acre "Needmore Tract" in Western North Carolina.

The conservancy, as an intermediary, plans to turn the land over to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The commission, in turn, must come up with \$15 million from various environmental funds by this time next year. The federal government already has chipped in \$2 million; the conservancy would put up the remaining \$2 million.

The land along the Little Tennessee River would become game land and remain open to the public for fishing, hunting and hiking as it has for decades. "We plan to run it exactly the way it is," said the commission's Wib Owen.

Fred Annand of the Durham-based conservancy said the sale involves multiple parcels of mostly forested land that protect the water quality of the north-flowing "Little T." The gentle rapids of the river are home to small mouth bass and endangered species such as the Appalachian elk toe mussel and the spot fin chub, a minnow-like fish.

"This section of the Little Tennessee River is looked at by biologists as an aquatic and biological hot spot," said Annand, associate director of the trust. "(It's desirable) because of the sheer number of organisms found in the river that can't be found anywhere else."

The Needmore Tract lies about 175 miles west of Charlotte between Franklin and Bryson City. A local utility, Nantahala Power & Light Co., bought the parcels



from 1931 through 1958 for a possible hydroelectric dam and lake. Duke acquired the land when it purchased NP&L and, in 1999, transferred the tract to Crescent, Duke's land management and real estate development arm. Crescent asked the conservancy to make an environmental evaluation of the parcels, the largest of which contains 4,000 acres and borders 12 miles of the river. "For nearly three years, Crescent has worked closely with the Nature Conservancy to understand potential land uses from a conservation perspective," said Crescent's Scott Munday in a news release.

Annand said the \$19 million price tag represented a "fair market value" for the land, or \$4,265 an acre. Owens, of the Wildlife Commission, said the state appraised the land for less, \$17.5 million, the limit it can pay.

The sale had broad local support in Macon and Swain counties. Without a conservation sale, advocates feared that much of the land could have been sold to developers for vacation or resort homes.

- From "The Charlotte Observer".



Ocoee River

EPA is performing a human health risk assessment as part of its investigation of the Ocoee River. A human health risk assessment is a routine part of all remedial

investigations. Although available information indicates that human health risks associated with the Copper Basin are minimal, this comprehensive evaluation of the Ocoee River will ensure that no human health concerns are overlooked. In August, EPA collected fish and sediment samples to complete the information needed for the human health risk assessment report. EPA expects to complete the report and make it available to the community early next year. A copy of the human health risk assessment work plan is available for community review at the Copper Basin site information repository, which is located in Ducktown at 134 Main Street.

EPA completed a "low water" investigation in the Ocoee River earlier in 2002 to assess the quality of sediments and water near sediments. This study was completed before TVA raised water levels in the spring. The purpose of this "low water" investigation was to be able to study the sediment, pore water and surface water. (Pore water is water found in sediments that can transport substances between sediments and surface water.) This type of study is not possible when water levels are raised. The data collected in this investigation will be used in both the human health risk assessment and future ecological risk assessment work. A copy of this report is also available at the site information repository in Ducktown.

- From "Basin Briefings".



Grand Canyon Accident

Tom's Fall

This was sent out to a few folks recently by a fellow named Robert Southwick. I thought it would be worthwhile for all to see. He has given his permission for forwarding it. - Dave Huizingh.



There is a purpose for telling this true story. First of all, if you do much traveling in isolated areas you might want to consider getting a satellite phone. They sell for around \$800 to \$1000 and there is a server who will allow you to keep the phone activated for \$10 a month and then charge you \$3 a minute if and when you should use it. Secondly, when traveling with a group you should set up some basic safety rules and stick with them. Third, when traveling in a group, everyone should know the plan for the day and, if changes occur, all parties should know.

This river trip started on a warm October day and was the best weather trip I had been on. There was a group of 16 people, 8 from Minnesota, 1 from Colorado, 1 from Alaska, and 6 from New Mexico. They were a great group

of people. Many of them were meeting for the first time. We had every thing we needed thanks to the organization skills of Bob Coltharp and Tom Seline.

At the put-in we decided on some safety protocols. None of the six rafts were to get out of sight of each other. There would be at least three boats together at all times, including the kayaks. We decided there should be some flexibility within the group to allow individuals to explore different areas.

We talked about river signals so we all knew how to use them and what they meant. We talked about the 10-day phenomenon, which can occur between day ten and day fourteen. This is when people become stressed because of heat, fatigue, anxiety over rapids, and become grumpy and say things they normally wouldn't, and/or the recipient takes it the wrong way and tempers flare. We set up protocols to help prevent this.

When the rafts hit the beach certain kayakers were assigned to help unload certain rafts. The cooks for the day marched off to find their campsite while everyone else set up the groover and kitchen and then found their campsites. In the mornings everyone loaded their assigned rafts.

As the trip progressed things worked well. Everyone

capitalized on each other's strengths that made for a great trip. Some individuals were rock climbers and helped get us in cool areas safely, others knew the geology very well and explained things as we progressed down the river, some knew flowers, and some knew the special places to see. As my son would say, it was sweeeet.

Having a satellite phone along became convenient when we discovered on about day 5 that we had used almost all our propane for the trip because of a bad O ring. We had a spare part and fixed it thanks to Bob Coltharp and then I called some really dear friends in Flagstaff, Sis and Gary Perry. They hiked propane bottles down to us at Phantom!!!!

According to a wrangler they met on the trail, that was probably a Grand Canyon first and those are hard to get. If we had the mules bring the bottles down it was \$100 per bottle. They did it for the cost of a phone call. Aren't river people great?

We had run all the big rapids with no problem. Only Lava, 205, 209 and 217 were left. None of us expected what was to come. After camping at the Ledges camp we finalized plans that morning for the day. We would spend a short time at Havasu and then go to Tuckup for a short hike. There were a few minor rapids that day so it should be a very easy day.

As we proceeded down the river, I saw a canyon I had always wanted to hike and pulled over explaining to everyone as they passed that I was going to take a 30 minute hike up this canyon and would meet them at Havasu. Mark Fuge passed in his raft and asked me if he could float all the way to Tuckup in his raft and wait for everyone there. I said that was OK as there were no rapids to speak of. The risk seemed justifiable. He wanted a little alone time I thought to myself.

As my wife passed I told her what I was doing and that I would take the satellite phone with me as I would be alone and that would decrease any risks. As I climbed through the first cliff band, I noticed Tom Seline paddling hard back up river to my raft. I thought that he was going to get his camera off my raft to take pictures of Havasu and didn't realize he had decided to explore this canyon with me.

I continued along the bench above the river and entered the canyon to find a beautiful falls. After enjoying the view, I decided to climb above it on the down river side, and as I topped out above it, I looked back to see Tom in the mouth of the canyon taking a picture. My thought was he decided to hike here and would follow me up the canyon.

I continued up the canyon past four falls until I came to one I didn't feel comfortable climbing. I turned around and headed back to my raft, arriving in the half-hour time

frame I had predicted, but Tom wasn't there.

That seemed odd that I hadn't seen him in the canyon if he wasn't here now. I waited, ate a snack and toyed with the idea of going on to Havasu but decided that I really shouldn't leave him here alone. That was the old boater in me saying this.

I decided to walk back into the canyon to look for him and did so, calling his name. I walked all the way to the end again but no Tom. When I got back to the boat the second time and he wasn't there, I wrote in three places in the sand TOM STAY HERE thinking we had missed each other and he had gone looking for me, but now I was worried.

I went back into the canyon with binoculars and searched every inch of it. I also searched down the bench past the canyon, no Tom. I thought that maybe he had missed the trail down to the boats through the cliff band and was walking too far up stream, but with a thorough search of the area with binoculars I didn't locate him. I continued along the trail back to the boats, constantly looking down thinking he might have had a heart attack and fallen down off the trail.

Then I heard a slight moan, looked up on the cliff above me and could see his shoes, legs and shorts. (I had found him after 5 hours of searching!) I hurried up to him and asked, "Are you all right?" Right away I knew he wasn't. He seemed to recognize me but never spoke.

I immediately called the emergency dispatch for the Grand Canyon on the satellite phone and said I had a fall victim with severe trauma. I gave the location and GPS coordinates. I told them I was going for the first aid kit and they asked me to call back in 10 minutes.

Tom was blue. Breathing was shallow and rapid. I was able to elevate his feet and legs without moving his spine. I told him I wasn't leaving him but that I needed to get the emergency kit. I ran for the emergency kit. When I returned, Tom seemed to know I was there and even gave me a tiny smile.

I placed an IV catheter and started Lactated Ringer solution to help correct the shock. I called the emergency dispatch again and repeated my location. I told them that I had a victim who must weigh about 220 to 240, that I was the only one here and that the victim was located on a ledge in the cliff. They added another person to the team to help with the carry and dispatched the helicopter.

As I waited for the helicopter I placed a plastic bag filled with gauze under his head as he rolled it to the side to stabilize his head and keep it from hitting against the sharp rock. There were two large wounds on the top of his head 6 inches long, 1/2 inch wide and 1/4 inch deep. Light palpation revealed crepitation. His color was much better

ACA Kayak Instructor Certification Workshop

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Level: White water
Location: Bryson City, NC (Nantahala River)
Instructor Trainer: Bruce Williams
Phone: 404.231.0042
Details: www.whitewatergeorgia.com

after about 700 cc of IV fluids and his breathing had slowed down and was more regular.

The helicopter took 30 minutes to get there after it was dispatched. That was a long wait! The helicopter pilot, Eddie Thoroughgood, landed in an unbelievable spot. Phil Mennenoh, a Park Service paramedic, took charge of Tom at this point and orchestrated placing Tom on the backboard and carrying him to the helicopter with the help of Brenton White, Kent Mecham, John and myself.

Brenton White stayed with me as the helicopter took off. There wasn't room now with Tom on board. I later took him on the raft to Havasu where a second helicopter picked him up.

Tom had 18 fractures of the skull and spine fractures of C1, C2, and C3. He is recovering now in the hospital after having multiple plates and 21 screws placed in his skull. He had not had a heart attack or a stroke to cause the fall. The helicopter had to crash land after dropping Tom off at the hospital because of a fire. No one on board was injured.

A satellite phone saved Tom's life. I had set the phone to dial the Grand Canyon Emergency Dispatch number (928.638.7911) as the first choice and had checked it at home to make sure it worked and was the right number. That saved a great deal of time. I had a GPS to give the

exact location. Those are things I did right.

If I hadn't had this phone with me I would have had to leave Tom and hike up Havasu to get help. Tom wouldn't have made it. My other choice would have been to stay with him and watch him die. No one ever passed us on the river from the time I started searching.

The thing I did wrong on the trip was not making sure that the satellite phone was always on the boat furthest up stream when we split up. (It just happened to be at this time.) The rescue kit needed to be on the last boat as well. Taking a satellite phone with you is no guarantee that you can use it. Tom couldn't have dialed for help.

I did not discuss hiking safety with the group. Such things as never leaving someone alone on the hike and that there should be a minimum of three on a hike for maximum safety weren't discussed.

I still think splitting up allows for greater flexibility and enjoyment. Concerns for safety and what-ifs should be addressed before the group splits up. No major rapids should be run unless the whole group is present. We did pretty well in these areas.

The satellite phone saved Tom's life. It also saved the group a great deal of grief. It was very nice to get progress reports on Tom as we went down the river to help with the pain.

The group became closer. We had prayers said for Tom. We had quiet times for Tom and we did what we knew Tom would want us to do. We continued to enjoy the canyon. We kept very busy with hikes and the river.

Tom, you put together a wonderful group of people and we all wish you a speedy and complete recovery. Tom had a huge friend base and they continue along with his family to orchestrate his return home and his care. Aren't true friends and family great? Tom you did well when you made your friends and chose your family.

Tom is continuing to improve in the hospital in Flagstaff.

- From the web site of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association .

Help Needed!

We are in need of willing helpers to fill several positions for next year's race. As many of you know, the race has been run by a few hardy souls over the last five to ten years. These people need a break! It is time for newer club members to step forward and agree to help. None of these positions are difficult and those of us who have helped in the past will be here to help



Race Watch

train and assist. If we are going to continue to put on this race, we need your support. We need coordinators or co-coordinators for the following positions: Registrar, Timing, Starting, Hospitality, Safety. Train with the aid of the masters this year to take on the position next year.

Please contact Gina Johnson, 770.971.1542, email gwminc@mindspring.com, if you can help out.

Thanks!!

"Always be sincere, even if you don't mean it."

- Harry Truman.

Editorial

"No Parking" Sign at 76 Bridge

I was asked by a USFS Law Enforcement person to pass the word to paddlers about this, so here goes:

Before a Chattooga Section 3-1/2 run in early January, I stopped at the 76 Bridge South Carolina side to do my usual last minute check of the gauge before the trip. As many of you may have seen, some government agency has recently seen fit to extend the guard rails on either end of the bridge, thereby effectively blocking off a good deal of the space where one could safely pull off the right of way to park and check the gauge. There is still a couple of car-lengths of space at the end of the guard rail where one can pull onto the shoulder, so I took advantage of it to quickly run down to the gauge.

As I arrived back at my van, a USFS Law Enforcement vehicle pulled up and stopped in the roadway to point out to me that there was a "No Parking" sign where I was pulled over. I looked over in the shadows in the nearby woods and, sure enough, there was a sign there.

The Law Enforcement person went on to tell me at great length that it wasn't safe to pull off the road there because there wasn't enough room, and that I should refrain from parking there in the future or I would be issued a ticket. The officer was really on a roll! I inquired politely how long the sign had been there and got the very non-specific answer "A long time."

The officer reiterated that parking there in the future would result in receiving a ticket, that it wasn't safe because there wasn't enough room, etc., and that they were soon going to start ticketing anyone who stopped there, and that I should spread the word among boaters. The officer used a lot more words than that, but you get the idea....

Now I learned way back in high school that one doesn't say anything that sounds remotely argumentative to a law enforcement officer who has citation book, gun and handcuffs handy, and is more than willing to use them. It took a great deal of self control, but I bit my tongue and only said very humble and apologetic things. I ignored the urge to point out that most of the safer parking area was now occupied by an unneeded guard rail, that my vehicle was a full sized van and that after pulling it off the road I still had plenty of room to stand beside it and not be on or near the pavement while carrying on this conversa-



tion, that the "No Parking" sign was not exactly prominently displayed, and that if safety were such a great concern, the law enforcement vehicle shouldn't be sitting square in the middle of the eastbound lane of US 76 without flashing blue lights or any other safety / visibility markers. Such remarks would not have won me great favor with the officer. Neither would questioning why a federal law enforcement officer was spending time and effort in highway traffic enforcement have endeared me to the heart of this officer. Obviously, this must be the first step in providing federal aid to the financially strapped states, which no longer have adequate funds to provide such enforcement ;-)

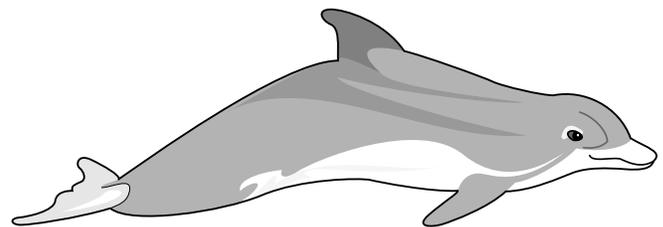
The officer outlined the proper protocol for checking the gauge. It's a little more trouble, but it will cost you less than a parking citation in federal court. You should park in the big parking lot provided on road left and walk the trail down to the gauges. This is four or five times longer but is much safer. A week earlier, a 16 year-old boater was treated by paramedics and taken to the hospital when he was walking this trail and slipped and fell, spearing his leg on a steel stake that was retaining part of the downhill side of the trail. He and his buddies didn't get to paddle that day. So far, I haven't heard of any boaters being hurt by walking down to the gauge from the highway, but I'm sure there must have been some or they wouldn't be making such a fuss, would they?

Please refrain from parking beside the road near the 76 bridge. It may be hazardous to others, to you, and it surely will be hazardous to your pocketbook. And be particularly careful when walking the trails around the parking lot at the 76 Bridge.

- Editor ✂

"On the planet Earth, man had always assumed that he was more intelligent than dolphins because he had achieved so much — the wheel, New York, wars and so on — whilst all the dolphins had ever done was muck about in the water having a good time. But, conversely, the dolphins had always believed that they were far more intelligent than man — for precisely the same reasons."

- Douglas Adams, *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*
(Submitted by Vincent Payne).

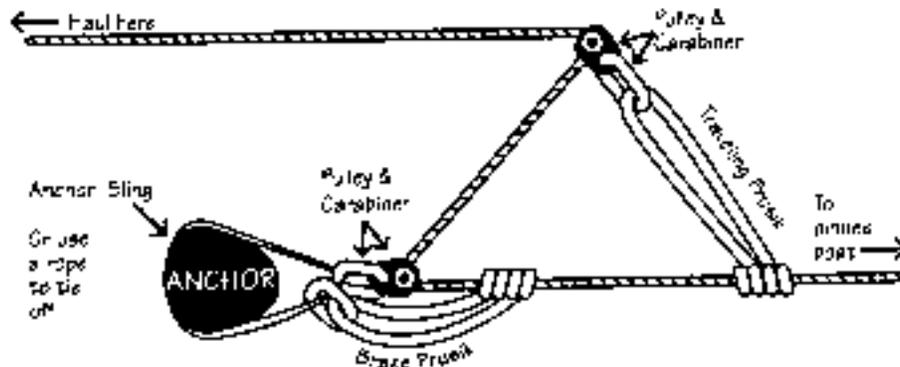


• Used to create additional mechanical advantage for pulling. Can be used to pull a pinned boat or paddler off an obstruction. The easiest way to get a boat unpinned is to reverse the direction of travel that resulted in the pin.



• Can be used to create a line under tension across a river for vertical rescues and lowering.

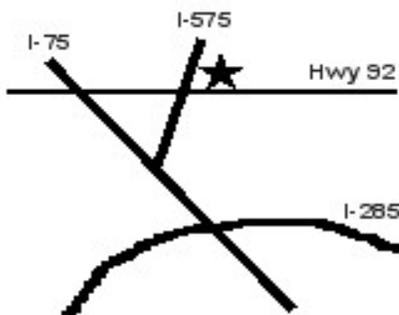
• Be extremely careful. Ropes under load may break. Keep helmets and lifejackets on to protect you. Use proper rope. Whenever you are using rope systems, have a knife handy in case someone gets caught in the rope.



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FOR SALE - Canoes. Dagger Encore - good shape \$150. Mad River ME - oldie but goodie! \$50. Call Mary Vachon 404.352.4718 or email: mvdesign@mindspring.com.

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FOR SALE - Kayak. 1980s fiberglass Lettmann Mark IV white water kayak in good condition. Has foot pegs and ethafoam walls and two rear air bags. I am 5' 8" 140 lbs. and it fits me perfectly. \$50. 229.686.2138.

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FOR SALE - Paddling pants. Mountain Surf Monsoon pants, size XL. Brand new with store tags. Retail

price at NOC store was \$94.95. Will sell for \$55. 404.636.9339.

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WANTED - Canoe, flat water. Tired of imposing on friends. Mohawk Solo 14 preferred. I would settle for a Bell or Mad River solo canoe since I know how Mohawk owners love their boats and would rather sell one of their kids. Call Wade (one of your Florida flatlander members) at 850.433.1889 (home), 850.572.3662 (cell) or 850.983.1955 (work) or email at w.burroughs@worldnet.att.net. ✈

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