GCA Georgia Canoeing Association

The Eddy Line

Post Office Box 7023 Atlanta, GA 30357

Volume 38, No. 4 | 770.421.9729 | www.georgiacanoe.org | April 2003

2003 Spring Extravaganza

It's time to dust off those canoes and kayaks and make your Spring debut with us at GCA's Spring Extravaganza. It's almost here... April 11-13 in the beautiful Nantahala Gorge. Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway is hosting our event this year... good food (Williamson Brothers Barbeque)... good friends... good paddling!

Want to demo a boat? Try out the new Mad River canoes and Wave Sport kayaks at Surfing Rapid on the Nanty, 12-3 PM on Saturday. Want a South American adventure? Fantasies guaranteed after Ken and Juliet Kastorff's slide show featuring great white water in Costa Rica and Ecuador (Saturday night).

What to do? It's easy. Just fill out the registration form in this month's *Eddy Line* and send it in!

SYOTR, Joan Hutton, Coordinator — 770.917.1866

GCA 2003 Training Schedule

See the flyer in back of this issue of *The Eddy Line* for GCA kayak and canoe training classes scheduled so far for 2003. Classes can help beginners as well as experienced paddlers improve their skills.

Summer Roll Practice

Joint GCA/AWC summer roll practice will resume in May at the lake at Stone Mountain Park. Sessions will run from 6 PM to dark each Wednesday from May thru the end of Daylight Saving Time in October. There is no charge for roll practice, only the admission charge to get into the park. A season pass is recommended if you plan to attend more than 5 sessions. Plan to take advantage of this great club benefit. See the announcement in next month's *Eddy Line* for complete details.

What's Inside...

Activity Schedule 3
Announcements 4
Book Review - 20
Club Information 2
Conservation Corner 10
Exploration 20
First Time Thru the Tunnel 22
Instruction / Training 12
Library Info 4
Race Watch 12
River Access 16
Safety 11
Want Ads 24
Welcome New Members 9

Printed on recycled paper

Meeting Coordinator Needed

The GCA needs you! We're looking for someone willing to organize the three social meetings each year (March, October and December). The job entails picking up the key (down the street from the Community Center), opening the building and getting the coffee and drinks started and laid out, helping whoever's there set up the tables, etc., and then having fun socializing with everyone. It's a pretty easy job, considering that there's always someone there to help set up and take down the tables.

You're responsible for keeping the supplies stocked (you get reimbursed, of course). Also, if you're inclined, it's always great to have a speaker or some form of entertainment, which usually draws a larger crowd. (I can help with ideas.) It's a great way to meet other members and get to know a larger group of paddlers.

Keep in mind that you need a bit of space to store the GCA equipment (2 plastic bins and 3 coffee pots).

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 quarterly on the first Thursday of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December) 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 **gacanoe@mindspring.com**. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 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.

Copyright © 2003 by the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc. Views and opinions expressed in articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official views and policies of the club. Articles and trip reports are edited only for grammar, punctuation, spelling, vulgar or obscene language, and to fit in allocated space. No substantive changes are made in any material published herein. *Eddy Line* material published herein and not individually designated as copyrighted by other than the GCA may be copied, reprinted, republished or otherwise disseminated to other paddling organizations having a newsletter exchange agreement with GCA. Proper credit should be given. Publication of paid advertisements herein does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised, or the advertiser.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

April				
5	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
6	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
11-14	Spring Extravaganza — Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway		Joan Hutton	770.917.1866
19	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
19	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
20	Leaders Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dave Chaney	770.993.7910
26-27	Southeastern Slalom & Wild Water Championships — Nantahala River, NC — Knox Worde			770.475.3022
May				
24	Hiawassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
25	Hiawassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
25	French Broad (Note 1)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Susan Oehler	828.298.0315
26	French Broad (Note 1)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Susan Oehler	828.298.0315
June				
5	Board of Directors Meeting — Members invited — Atlanta Botanical Gardens — Marvine Cole			770.475.3022
14	Tuckaseigee DUCKY DAY (Note 2)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Gina Johnson	770.971.1542

Note 1: Take out @ Stack House.
Note 2: Ducky Day - $15.00 fee for instruction & river running.

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call the Cruise Master and Sign Up Now!! Mike Winchester at 770.319.8969.

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: Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM 'til dark, May thru the end of Daylight Saving Time in October at the lake at Stone Mountain Park. 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
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
Vortox -- low cost storm water sampler
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)
Whitewater Self Defense

Books:

A Canoeing and Kayakng Guide to the Streams of Florida
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky
ACanoeing 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 & Kayannng 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 Proteeting 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. Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gcalist@yahoogroups.com" you automatically reach all subscribers to the list with the message. Only those subscribed to the list can send email to the list.

To subscribe to the list, send an email to "gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.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 gcalist@yahoogroups.com. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe to the list using the above instructions. Also, don't be shy about using the list to send out or to request information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

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

GCA Web Page

Check it out at http://www.georgiacanoe.org. We are continually adding information and links of value to paddlers. Send your ideas for updates to Allen Sinquefield by using the e-mail link for WebGuy at the site.

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.

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.

GCA Trip Sign-up Guidelines

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

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

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

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

For the same reasons, avoid just showing up for a club trip without signing up with the trip coordinator. Calling and leaving a voice mail message or sending an email does not constitute signing up. TCs often do not get last minute messages or emails before leaving for their trips. And if the trip is already maxed out, you may get to the river and not be able to go on the trip.

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

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

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.

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!

Wanted: A Few Good Men And Women

The Tallulah River releases, occurring the first three weekends in April and the first two weekends in November, are a cooperative project of Georgia Power, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the paddling community led by American Whitewater. Volunteers are needed to keep the releases!!!!!

While Georgia Power schedules the water releases, the Tallulah Gorge is part of a state park, and therefore DNR assumes responsibility for access to the Gorge. DNR does not have the resources to pay the overtime required to completely staff each release weekend, particularly in today's climate of state budget cuts.

Therefore, volunteers are critical to continued releases. Volunteers help with parking, shuttle, registration, control of access to the Gorge, and staff the central AW booth/command center. Many volunteers work half a day and hike or boat the other half of the day. Generally, the shifts are 8:00 am to noon and noon to 4:00 pm, although shorter time periods are available.

In addition, a few people are needed after 4:00 pm until the last boaters leave the parking area. All assistance is welcome, regardless of duration. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Kevin Colburn at kevin@amwhitewater.org or Sutton Bacon at sutton@suttonbacon.com.

Upcoming Events of Interest

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.
May 10 — NOC / Subaru Adventure Race — Wesser, NC, 800.232.7238 ext. 600, www.noc.com.
May 17 — Coosa River Basin Canoe-A-Thon — Coosa River, Rome, GA, 706.232.2724.
May 31 — Yellow River Challenge Race — Yellow River, FL, Pensacola Gulf Coastkeepers, 850.429.8422, www.gckeeperrivers.org.
June 7 — Fontana Flat Water Dash — Fontana Lake, NC, 800.232.7238 ext. 600, www.noc.com.
August 6-10 — Lanier Canoe 2003 Sprint World Championships — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.
September 6-7 — Tsali Challenge Triathlon — Tsali Recreation Area, NC, 800.232.7238 ext. 600, www.noc.com.
September 10-14 — ICF Flat Water Racing World Championships — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.
Oct 31 - Nov 2 — NOC GAF — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, 800.232.7238 ext. 600, www.noc.com.

REI Paddling Demo Day

Try it before you buy it! May 10th from 10AM to 2PM at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, GA 30075. Anyone attending the event will receive a coupon for 15% off the purchase of a full priced boat. For more information contact Michelle Fortin, mfortin@rei.com, 404.633.6508 ext. 230.

Minutes of GCA Canoe/Camping Study Group

by Dick Hurd

Date: 2-20-2003. Present: Dick Hurd, Bruce & Myrtle Eure, Jesse Austin, Morris Friedman.

The purpose of the meeting was to survey rivers reasonably close to Atlanta that were suitable to the river-camping experience; to define characteristics to be sought in such rivers; and to establish a process to scout those rivers and report back to the study group.

Characteristics: Given that the Club regularly is willing to travel as far as the Nantahala, it was arbitrarily set as the outer limit of distance. Using a line from the center of Atlanta to the Nanty as a radius, a circle was drawn on the map. Rivers to be studied will fall within that circle.

The planned trip will be from 20-30 river miles, depending on current. Secure put-in and take-out must be available, or a dependable local outfitter or other person to help with parking and shuttle. A legal camping site must be available at about the half-way point on the river. The river should provide a satisfying natural experience, avoiding undue development along the river corridor. Flat water desired; shoals, if any, should be modest. This proximity to Atlanta was chosen so as to allow a Saturday/Sunday overnight trip without spending too much time on the road.

Rivers that were deemed suitable, and persons willing to investigate those rivers are as follows:

Broad River, including North and Middle Forks — open

Etowah River — Jesse Austin — will contact Joe and Monica Cook

Oconee River, including North Oconee R. — Dick Hurd

Chattahoochee River, Campbellton to Franklin — Jesse Austin

Ocmulgee River — Morris Friedman

Flint River — 3 knowledgeable contacts, which I will pursue — Dick Hurd

Process:

a. Obtain maps of target river

b. Scout river and bridges by automobile.

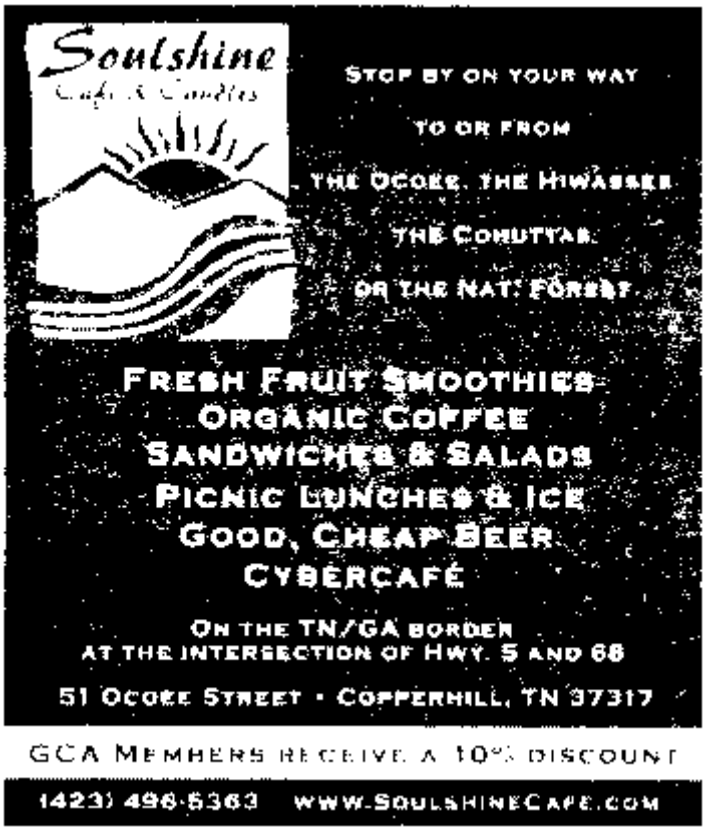
c. Confirm that cell phones have "service" at all bridges

d. Identify helpful landowners and outfitters

e. Contact other sources of information on the river, to include rangers, wardens, chamber of commerce, etc.

f. Obtain local phone numbers for sheriff, EMS for each county contiguous to the river; for 911 to help you have to know your exact position.

g. Do a scout trip down the river; take GPS coordinates of camping sites if possible; take pictures.



h. Send a copy of trip report to Dick Hurd for data base and to Allen Hedden for publication in *The Eddy Line*.

As soon as we have confirmed suitable river segments, we will list trips in *The Eddy Line* for club members. We thought that in general, such trips should be limited to 6 boats maximum, depending on available camping sites. Children may be suitable for such trips, at coordinators discretion, but pets are NOT suitable. All participants should be confident of both their camping and paddling skills. To that end, a Canoe Camping clinic may be useful, which would emphasize camping skills and equipment, and some rudiments of wilderness first aid.

If anyone would like to volunteer for the Broad River, let me know.

Georgia River Guide Books Updating

March 12, 2003. Menasha Ridge Press is updating and expanding their paddler's guides to north and south Georgia (the Sehlinger/Otey books) first published in 1980. From now until May 15, 2003, it's open comment period for any and all updates and corrections to the existing content. Have you noted changes or desirable

additions in access points, river descriptions, or paddling instructions while using the current books? Your input is needed to improve the guides for all paddlers, especially those who are new to Georgia or have yet to take up the sport.

Please contact me, Suzanne Welander, at suzannew@surfbest.net with your corrections and suggested updates, or if you are interested in providing assistance with:

- Recent photographs: High quality photos of rivers or specific rapids are needed especially if those rivers or features are not pictured in the existing books.
- Steep creek additions: Paddlers are needed to write or provide new material for a good sampling of steep creeks.
- General: If you would like to be a resource to answer questions that arise during the process, or are interested in scouting new and existing access points, send me an email describing how you'd like to participate.

Deadline for submission of updates/corrections is May 15; the deadline for photos is July 15.

Thanks for your help!!

Coosa River Basin Canoe-A-Thon

by Emily Goodwin, CRBI Program Coordinator

Thank you very much for your interest in the Coosa River Basin Initiative's (CRBI) Annual Canoe-A-Thon! This year we are also hosting a Canoe Race. Please sponsor a canoe, or better yet, join a canoe team to help raise funds for CRBI's efforts to protect the waterways of the Coosa Basin.

If you are looking for a fun and exciting way to learn about and experience our beautiful waterways, now is your chance. All the money raised goes to supporting CRBI's important programs. CRBI works in four project areas: advocacy, education, water monitoring, and restoration. In addition to supporting the environmental and community efforts of CRBI, you will be able to experience the joy of exploring our natural heritage up close and personal.

The CRBI Canoe-A-Thon and Canoe Race will be on May 17. We will provide canoes for those who need them. Kayaks or any other non-motorized vessels are welcome. The race is only for tandem canoes (two people in one canoe). If you are not racing, up to three people in a canoe is fine. For families with small children, two adults and two children in a canoe works, too. We are offering three different courses this year so that everyone will be able to canoe as much of the day as they want.

Short Paddle: A six mile route down the Etowah starting at Grizzard Park (the soccer complex on the East-West Connector) ending at the landing at Heritage Park on the Coosa River. (Approx. 2-3 hrs.) Meet at Heritage Park at 10 AM.

Long Paddle: A 15 mile route down the Oostanaula starting at Highway 140 and ending at the landing at Heritage Park on the Coosa River. (Approx. 4-7 hrs.) Meet at Heritage Park at 9 AM.

Canoe Race: A 20 mile route starting at the Highway 411 bridge on the Etowah and ending at the landing at Heritage Park on the Coosa River. Meet at Heritage Park at 8 AM.

GREAT PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOP MONEY RAISERS AND CANOE RACE WINNER! Participants will also receive a CRBI membership and a unique t-shirt.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: There is a registration fee of $50 per canoe. This money goes directly to CRBI's important programs. Each participant is encouraged to recruit others to contribute to CRBI's cause by making tax-deductible donations on the canoeists' behalf to CRBI. We are hoping each canoe team raises as much money as possible beyond the registration fee. Please contact CRBI by stopping by our office (408 Broad Street next to Schroeder's) or calling (706.232.2724) to register. The final deadline for registration is May 2. We cannot guarantee T-shirts to those who register late.

RAIN DATE: We will reschedule the event if there is steady rain or thunder and lightening on the 17th.

Please feel free to call or meet with me concerning any questions you may have. Your contributions to CRBI and your participation in this event will help protect our valuable ecosystems. I hope to see you on the water!

From the Board Room

by Tom Bishop, Secretary
Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting, March 6, 2003, Minutes

In Attendance:
Tom Bishop
Becca Brown
Marvine Cole
Allen Hedden
Dick Hurd
Joan Hutton
Gina Johnson
Oreon Mann
Lindsay Meeks
Roger Nott
Ed Shultz
Jim Watson
Mike Winchester

October minutes approved

Treasurer's Report — Ed Shultz

* Reviewed February statement
* Directory and March *Eddy Line* mailed
* Review of membership decline ytd (almost 20% drop in revenue)
* Tax return in process
* Discussion on receipt of 5000 Nature Valley Granola bars
* Addition of two tapes to library from ACA

Recreation — Gina, Joan & Mike for Gretchen Mallins

* 120 race bibs ordered
* For the Southeasterns, we will use our own timing system rather than NOC's
* Spring Extravaganza (April 11-13) will be at Nelson's and catered by Williamson Brother's BBQ. Boat demos at Surfing Rapid Saturday 12-3 pm
* Cruise Master (Mike Winchester) says water's up and we need people to coordinate trips in May. Having trouble getting flat water and advanced trips
* March meeting (3/21/03) features Jim Tibbets and Julia Franks recent trip to Chile

Training — Jim Albert

* Training schedule has been listed in *The Eddy Line*. Still need a Ducky Day and Youth Beginning WW

General — brainstorming session on increasing membership/active members.

* Update website so that it become more interactive, interesting; etc.
* Call new members, invite them on trips, other club activities
* Public relations guru
* Make meetings more "party" oriented
* More scheduled training classes
* Subsidize instructor training for members
* GCA "open house" for nonmembers interested in boating, but have no equipment, with light instruction (recreational training)
* More trip reports
* New member trips

River Protection —

* Amendment 14 currently at first level review
* Proposed greenway on Chattahoochee with easements from landowners
* Upper Ocoee will be open 20 days this season
* New management plan for Chattooga — Opening Sections 1 and above for boaters under discussion. First meetings are coming up soon. Will be on AW site
* Clean up trips on Saturdays in June. Will be designated as such in *The Eddy Line*.

Welcome New Members — Directory Additions

The following is a list of all members who have joined the club since the 2002-2003 Directory was printed. We will try to include this informati0n on an on-going basis so you can add new members to your Directory. New members are the life blood and the future of the club. Thank you for joining us!!

Bacon, Sutton
1413 C Druid Valley Drive
Atlanta, GA 30329
H: 404-728-0165
O: 678-984-8388
Email: sutton@suttonbacon.com

Briscoe, James H., III
235 Rockhouse Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
H: 678-985-5696
O: 404-643-6241
Email: hollandbriscoe@hotmail.com

Denicke, Pete
4474 Heathfield Trace
Suwanee, GA 30024
H: 770-614-5736
O: 770-614-5733
Email: denicke@mindspring.com

Doty, Linwood
3009 Brookgreen Trail
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
H: 770-962-6871
O: 678-641-6359
Email: ldoty@sym-corp.com

Eshleman, Elvin R.
55 Banks Street
Shady Dale, GA 31085
H: 706-468-8891
O: 706-476-0679
Email: elvinandcheryl@characterlink.net

Fullerton, Richard
1957 Westminster Way
Atlanta, GA 30307
H: 404-636-7629
O: 404-367-3000
Email: fullertons@mindspring.com

Guyton, James
3207 Northbrook Drive
Atlanta, GA 30341
H: 770-934-8437
O: 770-613-5290
Email: guyton@extremenetworks.com

Harrison, J.M.M.
270-D Lakemoore Drive
Atlanta, GA 30342
H: 404-459-8380
O: 404-362-2751
Email: jmmharrison@earthlink.net

Hegyesi, Andre
1215 Brays Mill Trace
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
H: 770-717-9792
O: 678-362-5706
Email: ahegyesi@jjg.com

Hunsucker, Landon D.
584 Indian Hills Pkwy
Marietta, GA 30068
H: 770-509-0652
O: 770-361-5783
Email: landon60@bellsouth.net

Phillips, Lamar
1499 Sanden Ferry Drive
Decatur, GA 30033

H: 770-939-5087
O: 404-229-2939
Email: lamarp@mindspring.com

Pinkston, Loretta
1127 Druid Lake
Decatur, GA 30033
H: 404-329-1045
O: 404-656-3370

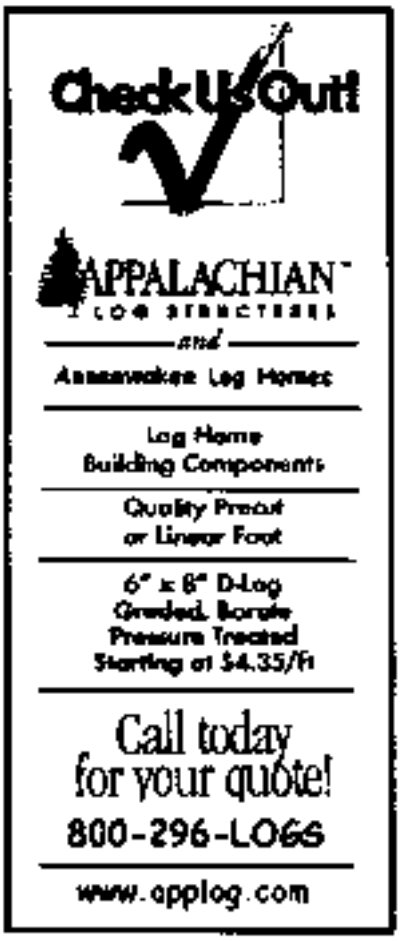
Scheiben, Freddie
2368 Panorama Drive
Sautee, GA 30571
H: 706-219-4750
O: 404-321-7500

Shepherd, Rick
178 Welcome Hill
Rome, GA 30161
H: 706-291-8487
O: 706-802-6466

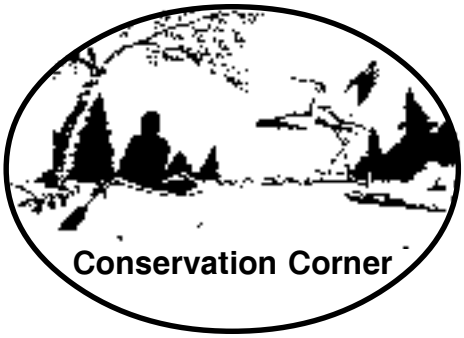
Smiles, Jennifer E.
4021 Dorchester Walk
Kennesaw, GA 30144
H: 678-797-9047
O: 404-259-4947
Email: fairytern2003@yahoo.com

Wells, Matthew
610 Riverbend Pkwy, Apt G-2
Athens, GA 30605
H: 706-425-4077
O: 706-714-2522
Email: mgwells@arches.uga.edu

Young, Malcolm D., Jr.
277 The Prado
Atlanta, GA 30309
H: 404-897-5202
O: 404-815-3734
Email: myoung@sgrlaw.com



Our Water Should Be a Public Resource



by the Georgia Water Coalition

For many years, Georgia has been blessed with an abundant and readily available water supply. But increased consumption and extended drought have made it clear that water is a finite resource. Georgia is now at a crossroads. The question is, will Georgia put the natural resources we commonly share up for sale?

Since Roman times, we have believed some resources are so essential to the common good that they should not be privately owned. They belong to the public, subject to reasonable use by others. Air is like that. So too is flowing water.

This principle only makes sense. The very same water you use to brush your teeth may give life to a trout. The water pumped from the aquifer in South Georgia may serve a community near the fall line or may yet serve one on the coast. Flowing water is needed for too many uses, in too many places, to give irrevocable ownership to private interests.

Yet there are those who would do just that. When water becomes scarce, they say, the only way to allocate it equitably is in the marketplace, like other commodities such as oil or gold.

The Georgia Water Coalition (GWC), an alliance of more than thirty organizations committed to protecting water as a public resource, takes a different view. We believe the marketplace will assign little value to the function of water as habitat, or to the function of aquifers and streams as necessary support for surrounding ecosystems — even economists who support water markets agree.

If markets decide who gets water, it will not flow downhill to serve people and nature. It will move uphill, toward the money. We believe resources that belong to the people should be allocated by the people through democratic institutions.

Since June, the GWC has been working to develop a framework that balances the needs of agriculture, business, human health and the health of natural ecosystems. While the coalition has considered an array of water issues, the group quickly agreed the overarching need is to maintain water as a public resource in Georgia. Without that, recommendations about conservation, biodiversity, groundwater or enforcement become much more difficult to implement.

The Joint Comprehensive Water Plan Study Committee, created by the General Assembly to create a framework for a statewide water management plan, has

released its recommendations. This group had the opportunity to declare water a public resource. Unfortunately, it chose not to do so, opening the door to private ownership of water resources.

Those of us who believe that water must continue to be managed for the benefit of all Georgians are forwarding our recommendations to the Governor. We need you to help build support for managing water as a public resource. Here's how you can be a part of our efforts:

a) Become a part of the Georgia Water Coalition's network of supporters. You can register by calling 866.88.WATER or sign up at www.georgiawater.org.

b) Sign a Georgia Water Coalition petition. It's available online and will be presented at scheduled meetings and events.

c) Invite a coalition member to your Rotary or other civic club to explain the issues.

Georgia has managed water for the benefit of all Georgians since the times of Oglethorpe. Moving toward private water markets is not just tinkering around the edges; it's a fundamental step in the wrong direction - *From "Plugging In", newsletter of Georgians for Clean Energy.*

Upper Amicalola Log Jam Removal

by Gina Johnson

Saturday, March 1, a group of us ventured down the Upper Amicalola from the Six-Mile put-in with the intent of removing the pine trees downed during last fall's tornado. Barry Mullis and Chuck and Robyn Hans with DNR brought their chain saws. Dave Richardson brought hand saws and lots of experience. Brannen Proctor, Gretchen Mallins, Haynes Johnson and I brought extra eyes and hands to help where needed.

Dave, Gretchen, Haynes and I had run this section the previous Sunday, but since Gretchen and I portaged the downfalls, I had only seen one of the three obstructions. The first log was about 20" in diameter, which was holding brush and smaller trees. Chuck and Barry cut this into sections which floated down along the right bank. Dave worked in the river pulling branches aside so they could float free as well.

We moved on to the next strainer to find a real mess. There were six trees fully across the river, ranging from 18" to 24"in diameter, over a distance of 150 feet. Complicating the issue were trees already in the river lying along

ROCK/CREEK
Canoes & Kayaks

Secure online shopping at
www.rockcreek.com

Rock/Creek Down Under
191 River St
Chattanooga TN
888-707-6709

Rock/Creek Ocoee
Highway 64 E
Ocoee TN
877-707-6709

Spring Events

April 12 - Dagger "Paddle with the Pro's" - Rock/Creek Ocoee 11:00 am Call 877-707-6709 or go to dagger.com for more info.

April 12 - Touring Trip - Parksville Lake - Meet at Rock/Creek Ocoee at 9:00 am Call Jason at 423-485-8775 for info.

May 10th - On Water Demo Day and Spring Sale! Come try out touring, recreational, and whitewater boats from Dagger, Liquidlogic, Perception, Wave Sport, Wilderness Systems, Pyranha, Impex, Mad River and Old Town. The Demo is from 10 am till 4 pm at Shipp's RV Center & Campground, I-75 N Exit 1A. Call 888-707-6709 for more info.

the current, under the log jam.

Starting at the downstream log, we slowly cut, pulled, pried the logs apart and sent them slowly floating downstream. By the time we began working on the largest log, which was the farthest upstream, it was getting very late. The log was cut about 10 feet from the river left bank. The river is now passable, but still dangerous. If you run the river, you will see the tornado damage on river right first, please be cautious, because there is still a lot of debris in the river.

All of this occurred in the first two miles of the Upper Amicalola, a class II run much used by beginning boaters and boy scout troops. It is also one of the prettiest runs in North Georgia. Many thanks to Bill Fletcher and Georgia DNR for responding so quickly. There are now caution signs at the put-in warning of the danger.

Instruction / Training

Ducky Day Returns!

The GCA will hold Duckie Day on the Tuckaseigee River Saturday, June 14, and possibly on Saturday, July 12, as well. Ducky Day is a combination of instruction and river running for those boaters in sit-on-tops, inflatable kayaks, and recreational kayaks. It is not suitable for traditional 18' sea kayaks, since those boats don't turn very well. If you don't have a boat, you can rent a ducky from Tuckaseigee Outfitters (where we meet!). We will meet at 9:30 and should be off the river by 4:00.

The morning is dedicated to paddling theory, river reading, safety and river skills. In the afternoon we practice what we've learned. This is suitable for young paddlers as well.

The cost is $15 for adult paddlers. Children are free! Contact Gina Johnson for details — 770.971.1542 or e-mail at gwminc@mindspring.com.

35th Annual Southeastern Races

The 35th Annual Southeastern US Slalom and Wild Water Championships will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27, on the Nantahala River near Bryson City, North Carolina. The races also include the American Canoe Association Dixie Division Decked Boat Championships. The event is sponsored by the Georgia Canoeing Association with the assistance of the Nantahala Outdoor Center and the Nantahala Racing Club. Race headquarters will be at the Nantahala Outdoor Center.

The slalom course will take racers through the class III Nantahala Falls. The wild water runs are 8 miles and include class III rapids Patton's Run and Nantahala Falls. There is also a 5-mile Down River Fun Race, from Ferebee Park to above Nantahala Falls, which does not include any rapids above class II.

Skill levels of competitors typically range from persons making their racing debut in the Fun Race to nationally ranked paddlers honing their techniques in the slalom or wild water races. There are separate classes for: men, women and mixed (tandem); adults, juniors and masters; kayaks, decked and open canoes; and championship (racing) and cruising (recreational) designs.

The slalom championship classes for both decked and open boats will be held on Saturday on a challenging course, and the cruising/recreational classes for both decked and open boats will be held on Sunday on a "toned down" course.

Awards will be presented in ceremonies at the end of Saturday's Championship Races for the top three finishers in each class. The Southeastern Cup will be awarded to the paddling club whose members accumulate the most race points. On Sunday we will present awards when the Slalom classes end (hopefully before lunch). The awards for the down river races will be awarded separately. We hope to have more recreational racers if we can help the racers get on the road earlier on Sunday!

In addition, there are three special awards in the wild water race. The Charlie Patton Award is presented to the fastest canoe racer in the wild water race. The Julie Wilson Award is presented to the fastest female competitor in the wild water race. And the Ramone Eaton Award is presented to the tandem team turning in the fastest OC-2 wild water time.

The Southeastern Championships provide a weekend of fun and excitement for competitors, race crew and spectators alike against the backdrop of the Nantahala National Forest. All racers and race crew receive a race T-shirt. In addition, there will be a raffle with lots of paddling prizes. We traditionally have a kayak as a grand prize. This year we will have a canoe as well. There will be a pasta dinner at base camp at NOC on Saturday evening. Dinner reservations and tickets are necessary.

Racers may register by mail or in person on the afternoon before the race. There will be no late registration on the day of the race. If you register by mail, you will receive a race registration package, which contains an entry form, description of fees, waivers and other race

information, To register, send your name and mailing address to Knox Worde, Race Registrar, 625 Glendalough Court, Alpharetta GA 30004, or e-mail your request to playboatn@aol.com.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.

- Gina Johnson, Race Master.

Race Crew Volunteers Needed!!

This year's Southeastern Championship Races are scheduled for April 26 and 27 at the Nantahala River. We need volunteers for the race crew to run this race! As many of you know, last year's race was a terrific success and we're ready to do it again this year, but we need the help of the GCA members.

We need help with the following: Judging, timing, scoring, course construction, hospitality and safety. You do not need any experience. We can provide all the training you will need. There is a particularly urgent need for safety crew members, since the river is running at a generally higher level this year, possibly causing more racers to have "out of boat" experiences.

We can give you information about camp grounds in the area. The club provides breakfast and lunch for the volunteers on race days.

There is also an awards dinner Saturday night — this year it will be a lasagna dinner at 'Relia's Garden ($12.00 per person paid in advance — see the order form in back of the newsletter. Medals will be presented for the Championship classes at the dinner, and the annual Race Raffle will be held. Among the raffle prizes this year are a recreational kayak and a solo canoe. See the order form in back of the newsletter to get your raffle tickets. They will also be available at other GCA events and at the race.

This is an opportunity to be of service and see some terrific paddling in the process. Come cheer for your racing club members! Please call Virginia Balbona at 404.636.5944 to sign up to help, or send in the race crew sign up sheet in back of the newsletter.

If you have questions, you can e-mail me at gwminc@mindspring.com or call me at 404.226.8363. The GCA has sponsored this race for the last 34 years. That is a tremendous accomplishment for a volunteer organization. We ask for your support. Thank you, Gina Johnson, Race Master

Women Canoe Events at LCKC Flat Water Racing World Championships

by Connie Hagler, Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club

The Lanier Canoe 2003 Organizing Committee Welcomes Women Canoe Athletes to exhibition events at the Lanier Canoe 2003 ICF Flat Water Racing World Championships and qualifier for the 2004 Olympic Games, September 10 - 14, 2003.

Introduction

The Lanier Canoe 2003 organizing committee is pleased to host Women's Canoe events as exhibition races at the 33rd ICF Flat Water Racing World Championships in Gainesville, Georgia. This is the first time Women Canoe exhibition events have been offered at a Flat Water Racing World Championships.

The first international event including Women Canoe events was the 1999 Lake Lanier Sprint Challenge, followed by the 2001 Wachovia World Cup, also held at Lanier, and the 2001 and 2002 Pan Am Championships held in Mexico and Brazil.

The Women Canoe discipline is strongest in Canada where it has been included in National Championship competition since 1997. The US followed suit including Women in Canoe at the National Championships for the first time in 2002. Sheila Kuyper started the movement in Canada in 1995. Heather McNie from Canada is chairing this committee for the Lanier Canoe 2003 World Championships.

Exhibition races will be held in the standard distances of C-1 200, 500 and 1000 meters as well as C-2 distances still to be determined. Women's Canoe events have never been included in World Championship or Olympic competition.

These races will showcase the hard work and effort by national federations to include women in all aspects of our sport. We hope that they will also inspire and challenge other national federations to join in this opportunity for tremendous growth in the sport of Canoe.

Event Criteria

Each national federation is limited to one entry per event through the July 27 numeric deadline. After this date, if 18 C-1 and 9 C-2 entries are not filled, countries with additional entries will be accepted based on the best time posted at a national qualifier. Additional entries will be equally divided among the national federations requesting them. All entries will be closed after August 27. The event will be canceled if 16 C-1 and 8 C-2 entries are not reached. August 27 is the Nominal entry deadline and

will be the final deadline to determine if the events will be offered. The events offered will be Open C-1 200 m, Open C-1 500 m, Open C-1 1000 m and Open C-2 200 m.

Selection Criteria

Each national federation is invited to participate by sending one C-1 entry per event and one C-2 crew. After the July 27 numeric deadline, additional entries will be considered based on the criteria above. Athlete selection will be based on national qualifying races as determined by their national federation. A benchmark time of 2:45 for C-1 500 is suggested as a guideline for coaches and athletes.

Any national federation or individual athlete who may find it difficult to finance their participation should contact Heather McNie for WomenCan at fax 770 287-3444 for information on assistance packages. You can also reach Heather McNie, Chair for Lanier Canoe 2003 Women in Canoe at hmcnie@sympatico.ca for more information.

The registration form on www.LanierCanoe2003.org will have athlete registration information soon. Please go there for housing and ticket information!

Locust Fork Invitational Race Results

First three finishers in each class are shown. Complete results are available at www.whitewaterslalom.org. Quite a few GCA and ACE folks included here!

Class	Name(s)	Time 1	Pen	Total 1	Time 2	Pen	Total 2	Score	Place
K-1W	Katy Dennis (Jr)	162.68	2	164.68	159.48	2	161.48	326.16	1
K-1W	Amanda Weizenecker (Jr)	192.11	4	196.11	167.22	2	169.22	365.33	2
K-1W	Paris Robinson (Cd)	157.58	4	161.58	153.15	54	207.15	368.73	3
C-1	Tad Dennis	138.96	0	138.96	138.00	0	138.00	276.96	1
C-1	Neil Quinn	139.71	4	143.71	139.15	6	145.15	288.86	2
C-1	Elmore Holmes	153.59	0	153.59	156.03	2	158.03	311.62	3
K-1	Eric Hurd (Jr)	130.67	0	130.67	131.25	0	131.25	261.92	1
K-1	John Watson (Jr)	142.95	4	146.95	141.61	0	141.61	288.56	2
K-1	Will Sanderson (Ms)	160.65	0	160.65	160.37	0	160.37	321.02	3
K-1W Rec	Heather Reed	208.00	10	218.00	201.31	65	266.31	484.31	1
K-1W Rec	Renee Clark	224.00	60	284.00	216.70	110	326.70	610.70	2
K-1W Rec	Anne Connolly	219.00	65	284.00	217.52	210	427.52	711.52	3
K-1 Rec	Brad Hinds	165.00	0	165.00	157.83	0	157.83	322.83	1
K-1 Rec	Keith Yell	167.00	0	167.00	161.50	0	161.50	328.50	2
K-1 Rec	Gene Smith	172.00	10	182.00	179.27	0	179.27	361.27	3
OC-1	David Simpson	201.20	20	221.20	199.07	0	199.07	199.07	1
OC-1	Eric Baker	209.71	10	219.71	202.25	20	222.25	219.71	2
OC-1	Allen Hedden	225.92	40	265.92	216.25	10	226.25	226.25	3
OC-1W	Mary Jo Kewley	256.05	60	316.05	236.59	40	276.59	276.59	1
OC-1W	Patti Wilson	239.80	150	389.80	303.92	50	353.92	353.92	2
OC-1W	Gabriella Schlidt	284.03	150	434.03	276.54	150	426.54	426.54	3
OC-2 M	David Simpson/Mary Jo Kewley	264.50	10	274.50	234.75	60	294.75	274.50	1
OC-2 M	John Reynolds/Patti Wilson	247.38	230	477.38	267.80	20	287.80	287.80	2
OC-2 M	Gordon Black/Heather Reed	268.55	70	338.55	249.05	40	289.05	289.05	3
OC-1 Rec	John Duncan	223.00	20	243.00	232.21	0	232.21	232.21	1
OC-1 Rec	Allen Hedden	224.00	60	284.00	231.50	10	241.50	241.50	2
OC-1 Rec	Mark Duplisea	306.00	100	406.00	DNS	-	DNS	406.00	3
OC-2 M Rec	Jim Robertson/Heather Reed	252.55	170	422.55	270.92	120	390.92	390.92	1
OC-2 M Rec	Kim Harrold/Kerry Nivens	245.11	230	475.11	250.28	180	430.28	430.28	2
OC-2 M Rec	Dawn (Cd)/John Reynolds	270.00	280	550.00	241.39	200	441.39	441.39	3
OC-2 Rec	Sam (Cd)/Hank Sikes	281.00	280	561.00	302.03	160	462.03	462.03	1
OC-2 Rec	Chris Fisher/Troy Vallotton	348.27	350	698.27	DNS	-	DNS	698.27	2

"Few people blame themselves until they have exhausted all other possibilities." - *Anonymous proverb.*

Mulberry Fork Race Results

First three finishers in each class are shown. Complete results are available at www.whitewaterslalom.org. Some GCA and ACE folks included here!

Day 1 - Race Classes

Class	Place	Name(s)	Time 1	Pen 1	Total 1	Time 2	Pen 2	Total 2	Score
K-1W	1	Hannah Larsen	128.95	0	128.95	132.15	0	132.15	261.10
K-1W	2	Katy Dennis (Jr)	155.22	2	157.22	149.99	0	149.99	307.21
K-1W	3	Paris Robinson (Cd)	161.34	2	163.34	146.09	0	146.09	309.43
C-1	1	Austin Crane	126.31	2	128.31	117.32	0	117.32	245.63
C-1	2	Benn Fraker (Cd)	138.16	6	144.16	135.39	2	137.39	281.55
C-1	3	Elmore Holmes	140.41	2	142.41	142.28	0	142.28	284.69
K-1	1	Eric Hurd (Jr)	116.37	0	116.37	117.83	4	121.83	238.20
K-1	2	Shaun Smith	121.16	0	121.16	122.45	0	122.45	243.61
K-1	3	John Watson (Jr)	132.21	0	132.21	127.36	2	129.36	261.57
C-2	1	Philip/Seth Weizenecker	150.12	2	152.12	147.39	2	149.39	301.51
OC-1W	1	Patti Wilson	190.17	360	550.17	215.51	210	425.51	425.51
OC-1W	2	Lynne Johnson	227.69	460	687.69	197.13	270	467.13	467.13
OC-1W	3	Mary Jo Kewley	218.63	430	648.63	270.73	270	540.73	540.73
OC-1	1	David Simpson (Ms)	180.13	0	180.13	209.43	10	219.43	180.13
OC-1	2	Albert Mitchum	155.95	60	215.95	151.50	30	181.50	181.50
OC-1	3	Phil Foti (Ms)	183.34	20	203.34	200.10	0	200.10	200.10
OC-2W	1	Lynne Johnson/Mary Jo Kewley	281.01	270	551.01	263.15	150	413.15	413.15
OC-2M	1	Mary Jo Kewley/David Simpson	DNS	-	DNS	208.59	50	258.59	258.59
OC-2M	2	Helen Sparks/Ted Sparks	DNS	-	DNS	194.72	300	494.72	494.72

Day 2 - Recreational Classes:

Class	Place	Name(s)	Time 1	Pen 1	Total 1	Time 2	Pen 2	Total 2	Score
K-1W	1	Renee Simmons	196.41	0	196.41	229.74	50	279.74	196.41
K-1W	2	Kerry Appleton	217.49	5	222.49	254.38	160	414.38	222.49
K-1W	3	Renee Clark	210.95	50	260.95	229.19	0	229.19	229.19
K-1	1	Brad Hinds	134.23	0	134.23	140.30	0	140.30	134.23
K-1	2	Keith Yell	143.16	0	143.16	141.61	0	141.61	141.61
K-1	3	Dan Frisch	150.77	0	150.77	148.87	0	148.87	148.87
OC-1W	1	Mary Ryan	236.75	160	396.75	DNS	-	DNS	396.75
OC-1W	2	Kerry Appleton	257.38	430	687.38	231.03	210	441.03	441.03
OC-1W	3	Heather Reed	261.89	370	631.89	DNS	-	DNS	631.89
OC-1	1	John Duncan	213.44	10	223.44	207.16	10	217.16	217.16
OC-1	2	Jeff Barrow	258.58	20	278.58	DNS	-	DNS	278.58
OC-1	3	Michael ?	275.49	10	285.49	230.74	70	300.74	285.49
OC-2	1	Jeff Barrow/Steve Witzig	194.75	370	564.75	249.56	80	329.56	329.56
OC-2	2	Sam Sikes/Hank Sikes	287.22	290	577.22	281.88	120	401.88	401.88
OC-2	3	Chris Fisher/Troy Valloton	160.60	620	780.60	DNS	-	DNS	780.60
OC-2W	1	Jennifer Taylor/Gayle Yester	195.95	620	815.95	DNS	-	DNS	815.95
OC-2M	1	Patti Wilson/John Reynolds	DNS	-	DNS	222.32	110	332.32	332.32
OC-2M	2	Kim Harrold/Kerry Nivens	304.44	180	484.44	260.59	80	340.59	340.59
OC-2M	3	Patti Wilson/Sam Wilson	214.10	240	454.10	280.31	70	350.31	350.31

"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye, looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature. The fluviatile trees next to the shore are the slender eyelashes which fringe it, and the wooded hills and cliffs around, its overhanging brows."

- Henry David Thoreau.

River Access

TVA Offers Upper Ocoee Releases for 2003

Upper Ocoee Likely to Flow Thanks to AW, Outfitters, Congressman Zach Wamp and TVA

DUCKTOWN, TN — The Tennessee Valley Authority has announced their offer to release water on the Upper Ocoee River for 20 days of recreation this year. Likely to be accepted by the Ocoee River Outfitters, it represents a milestone in the history of river recreation and its role as a contributor to regional economic development.

"We applaud TVA's decision to implement a responsible short-term solution," notes Kevin Colburn, AW Conservation and Access Associate, "with a proposal that begins a path to the development of a responsible, long-term solution for Ocoee River stakeholders in the context of economic development."

"The TVA's recommended outfitter fee — $4.00 per customer — represents a significant reduction in fee for trips on the Upper Ocoee," notes Larry Mashburn, owner of the Ocoee Adventure Center and representative for outfitters and local business owners. "It will enable us to look to a bright future for rafting on this section."

American Whitewater's seven-year effort to secure releases on the Upper Ocoee culminated in a large-scale outreach effort at the October 2002 Teva National Free Style Kayaking Championships, held on the last planned releases on the Upper Ocoee River. This effort resulted in concerned citizens signing over a thousand letters that were sent to the TVA requesting releases, as well as comprehensive regional media coverage and a national outcry in the paddle sports and outdoor industry consumer and trade press. Subsequently, the Ocoee Outfitters Association stepped up their lobbying efforts and, as a result, Congressman Zach Wamp has taken a strong leadership role in the effort to support the reinstitution of river releases.

American Whitewater is proud that our vision has now become the vision of the Ocoee Region, and that TVA is now working with us to make that vision a reality. Our goal has not changed: 74 free annual releases on the Upper Ocoee River. We will be working within the 'Kitchen Cabinet (a new collaborative between the TVA, Paddlers, Outfitters, the US-Forest Service, and local and regional governments)' as well as a member of the Public Review Group for TVA's 'Reservoir Operations Study,' to meet that goal in 2004.

For more information, contact Risa Shimoda, 301.589.9453, risa@amwhitewater.org, or Kevin Colburn, 828.252.6482, kevin@amwhitewater.org.

- From the American Whitewater web site.

Why Is Fee DemoWrong?

Let us count the ways

Our public lands are our heritage and our birthright. We own these lands. They are not a recreational commodity.

We already support the public lands agencies and our public lands through our federal taxes. Furthermore, hunters, fishermen and others pay licensing fees on top of access fees and taxes. This new fee amounts to nothing more than double — or even triple — taxation.

Fee Demo sets a precedent of classism where only those who can afford to recreate will be able to do so. Those who can't afford it will be barred from their own public lands.

The act of paying fundamentally alters the way one relates to the outdoors. People won't feel the responsibility of being on their own land. Rather, they will feel like they are visiting Disneyland where someone else is being paid to clean up after them.

Fee Demo has nothing to do with the stewardship of public lands. It is, in fact, the beginning of an attempt by corporate America to privatize and commercialize our public lands.

Businesses that sell passes are selling off our freedoms. These vendors make a profit from the loss of one of our basic rights as American citizens: our right to access our public lands.

The Forest Service is basing the success of its fee projects on compliance. The threatened $100.00 fine is nothing less than extortion!

The Forest Service cannot justify sticking the public with a fee or a fine while it continues to lose millions of dollars a year due to its own mismanagement.

Making the public pay a fee to use its own public lands, while at the same time providing federal subsidies for timber, cattle, and mining interests on public lands, is not only illogical, but immoral.

Due to its cumbersome nature, Fee Demo is not generating anywhere near the needed funds for the Forest Service, nor does it apply much of the funds that are raised to forest maintenance. In fact, many of the fee receipts do little more than pay for fee collection and enforcement.

Our priceless, God-given, wild country is being held hostage. Forest Service officials are threatening to close-off large portions of public lands if the fee program fails.

The American people should not have to pay again for

wilderness areas where there are no man-made improvements, where they don't want any improvements, and where there shouldn't be any improvements.

People need a place to go — relatively free and unfettered from society's pressures. Our public lands are the last of these places, and Fee Demo destroys this ideal.

Requiring a fee to use wilderness while cities are free is the same as saying that we are not a part of the natural world — we don't belong out there.

In 1996, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1996. This bill contained a rider — a non-debated piece of legislation — that created the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (Fee Demo; Public Law 104-134). The Forest Service administers the Adventure Pass and the Northwest Forest Pass as part of Fee Demo. The lands affected by the rest of Fee Demo include all 533 million acres of the Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service and some 90 million acres of the Department of Interior National Park Service.

Together this makes up nearly one third of the land mass of the United States; land originally designated "in the public trust"... so much for trust.

The Government was not alone in the creation of Fee Demo. Corporate lobbyists of the recreation industry drove the idea through our Congress in the hope to gain managerial control of public lands to cash in on the "commodity" value of walks in the woods, sunsets and scenic vistas. Fee Demo not only allows the charging of fees, but also allows private entities to design and invest in the fee programs.

If you agree that this program is misdirected, get involved in the protest. Keep informed of unfolding events in this fight. And if you're itching to speak your mind on the issue, write Congress.

Two academic recreation journals devoted their Fall 1999 issues to scientific studies of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. These studies had findings different from the Forest Service's claims, including finds of widespread opposition to the program and decreased visitation to forests where fees are in place. Furthermore, to the credit of those protesting the program, in a court hearing a federal magistrate called the Adventure Pass project "discretionary," and told the defendant that he did not need a pass to protest in areas where the fee is required.

- From the Free Our Forests web site.

"The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes." *- Sir Winston Churchill.*

Park Wars

by Nick Garafola, Utne magazine, January/February 2003 Issue

Wilderness enthusiasts wonder where the commercialization of our national parks will end.

Bird-watchers, hikers, and bikers are not your usual criminal element, but a program that allows America's national parks and forests to charge users' fees for boat launches, hiking trails, picnic areas, and campgrounds has seen thousands of outdoors activists hopping fences and evading park rangers in an effort to enjoy nature gratis — which was, of course, the point of the parks in the first place.

When Congress passed the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (otherwise known as "fee demo") in 1996 after years of lobbying by the American Recreation Coalition (ARC), advocates argued that the legislation would help cash-strapped parks and historic sites by allowing them to retain as much as 80 percent of the fees charged. Opponents — then and now — claim that federal park managers, eager to generate more revenue by collecting more fees, would turn into entrepreneurs looking for ways to replace, for example, low-fee canoe tie-ups with elaborate, truck-accessible higher fee marinas. The mechanized outdoor-recreation industry, which promoted fee demo legislation in the first place, will be more than happy to partner with them. Eventually — according to opponents' worst-case scenarios — we could be talking restaurants, high-rise hotels, and condo developments.

"If agencies begin to act like entrepreneurs seeking self-funding through fees, and low-income people are excluded, the public purpose — the very reason for public ownership — is defeated," argues Thomas More of the Northeastern Research Station in Burlington, Vermont, in The American Prospect (Sept. 9, 2002). Charges for enjoying public lands can include $5 to park a vehicle and then $5 per person per day, which can significantly raise the price of an otherwise inexpensive family camping trip.

"It is a slippery slope argument," says Steve Homer of the American Lands Alliance. "But there's a long history. The timber sale policy [in the national forests] over time created the incentive to do logging because that's essentially how they [the forest service] were paying for their salaries and overhead. The same thing could happen with recreation." And proposals for high-profile resorts to be built on public lands outside Grand Canyon and Zion national parks add weight to Homer's argument.

These concerns are shared by a group of environmental studies academics from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, and York University in Toronto who

believe that corporate leisure purveyors are preparing a total shift in our relationship with the wild. Eric Higgs of the University of Victoria has written that Disney is engaged in a campaign "designed to transform nature into a commodity, to sell nature, wilderness, and the experience of the great outdoors." If these dire analyses are to be believed, Disney, the American Recreation Coalition, and its supporters may be hoping that fee demo will be the foot in the door that helps them gain control of Americans' wilderness experience.

Proposal to Alter Tallulah Aesthetic Release Plan

Prepared by Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater

1. Introduction

On November 17, 2002, in a meeting between American Whitewater (AW), Georgia Power Company (GPC), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Atlanta Whitewater Club (AWC), and the Georgia Canoeing Association (GCA), it was decided to further pursue AW's informal proposal to alter the Aesthetic Flow Release Plan on the Tallulah River in order to better meet the interests of the entire group. This proposal represents AW's promise to formalize the group's ideas.

The motivation for this proposal is at least twofold. First, the aesthetic releases are not functioning as intended. DNR does not see increased use of Tallulah Gorge State Park on days with aesthetic releases. In fact, DNR sees less total use because it is not able to allow hikers and climbers to access the Gorge on these days.

This access limitation is due to the dangerous nature of swimming at the 200-cubic feet per second (cfs) flow, and the increased environmental impacts that occur when hikers must travel along the sensitive areas adjacent to the streambed. Given these considerations alone, it may be wise to condense aesthetic releases into fewer days at higher flows.

The second major motivation for this proposal is aesthetic releases in the range of 500 to 700 cfs could significantly enhance the white water paddling opportunities in the Tallulah Gorge. For a more in-depth discussion of the costs and benefits of altering the aesthetic release schedule, see section 3 of this proposal.

2. Proposal

The FERC license constraints on the aesthetic releases are that they cannot exceed 700 cfs or a total annual water use of 5,554 acre feet. Currently, the aesthetic flow release schedule requires that Georgia Power release 200-cfs for 12 hours on 28 days annually. This schedule could be modified to provide 14 8-hour releases at an average of 600 cfs.

In the November meeting it was decided to "start small" with a flow schedule modification that yields four (4) days of aesthetic flows that are feasible to white water recreation. Since the proposed aesthetic releases use twice as much water per release, eight of the current 200-cfs aesthetic releases could be modified into four of the proposed 600-cfs releases. This proposal is considering the 600 cfs figure because it represents the mean of the two current release flows for recreational boating, 500 and 700 cfs.

For the purposes of this proposal we will consider flows of 600 cfs, but in actuality the group may recommend releases of 500 and 700 cfs to better integrate with the current recreational flow schedule. Under this initial conversion, the number of days available to paddle the Tallulah Gorge would be increased from ten to fourteen.

Georgia Power suggested that the preferable timing of the 600-cfs aesthetic releases would occur the third full weekend of April and the fourth full weekend in November. American Whitewater and DNR agreed that this is acceptable, and furthermore, AW suggested that the 200-cfs releases being eliminated should come from times of high recreational potential for hiking and climbing in the Gorge and from times with a high value of power.

Georgia Power should determine which eight current aesthetic releases are the most costly and those releases should be considered by the stakeholder group for conversion to the four 600-cfs releases proposed above. It is likely that the most costly aesthetic releases occur during the months of September and May. For the purposes of this proposal, AW assumes that the last two 200-cfs releases each spring and the first six aesthetic releases each fall will be ended and converted to the four 600-cfs releases recommended above.

As previously noted, American Whitewater considers this the first step in a process that, if deemed appropriate and mutually beneficial to all interested stakeholders, could lead to the conversion of the current 28 200-cfs aesthetic releases to 14 600-cfs aesthetic releases that are available to white water boaters for recreational use and the general public for viewing along the rim. The stakeholder group will continue its annual review meetings in November of each year and will discuss the conversion of the remaining 200-cfs aesthetic releases to 600-cfs releases after one year of operating with the initial conversion.

3. Justification

A significant number of the original FERC settlement signers have come together to recommend this change in the operation of the North Georgia Project

pursuant to the Order Approving Aesthetic Flow Release Plan. The stakeholders feel that there are numerous justifications for this alteration that were not readily apparent at the time of the Order, dated July 27, 1998. The group feels that it benefits everyone and negatively impacts no one. Please consider the following justifications for this change to the Aesthetic Flow Release Plan:

a. Aesthetic flows of 200 cfs have not increased visitation to the Tallulah Gorge State Park or the surrounding area as they were originally intended. According to park staff, few visitors can even tell a difference between the typical base flow of 50-cfs and the 200-cfs aesthetic releases. Of the dozen or so websites that feature information on the Tallulah Gorge area, none publish or promote the current aesthetic releases.

b. The 200-cfs aesthetic flows necessitate DNR severely limiting access to the Gorge itself. Climbers and hikers are not allowed to enter the Gorge on these days due to the dangerous nature of the river at this flow and the associated environmental impacts of hiking through the sensitive riparian area. While 200-cfs is too high of a flow for accessing the Gorge on foot, 200-cfs is too low of a flow for accessing the Gorge by white water boating. Therefore, access to the Gorge on these days is limited to its rim. This limitation places an additional management burden on DNR.

c. Aesthetic flows of 500-700 cfs would provide similar opportunities for Gorge hiking access but would also facilitate white water boating. White water boating releases on the Tallulah have consistently drawn well over 200 boaters each day. By allowing white water boating on these 600-cfs aesthetic release days, DNR could reduce its management burden and increase total visitation. In addition, most visitors can recognize the additional flow as compared to base flow, and are excited to watch the boaters run Oceana Falls.

d. The conversion of 200-cfs aesthetic releases during high power demand periods to 600-cfs releases during periods of low power demand and favorable hydrological conditions would allow Georgia Power to meet its license conditions while lowering the internal economic impact of meeting those conditions.

e. In recent stakeholder meetings, the demand-based trigger mechanism for adding or removing white water boating releases has caused confusion and has become problematic. The conversion of aesthetic flows from 200-cfs to 600-cfs would meet the interests of all the stakeholders at the table and would ease pressure on this debate.

f. The 600-cfs releases proposed occur during periods of high inflow (April) and fall draw-down (November), so any potential impacts to Lake Burton levels will likely be minimal, and may actually represent an improvement from the current release plan.

4. Conclusion

Pursuant to the July 27, 1998 Order Approving Aesthetic Flow Release Plan, the stakeholders of the North Georgia Project propose that the Aesthetic Flow Release Plan be modified to better meet the interests of the stakeholder group. We feel that the modification will offer significant benefits to all those involved and should be accepted by the FERC.

Inflatable Use Policy for Tallulah Gorge

American Whitewater and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources would like to clarify the definition of a "qualified inflatable," as described in the original Tallulah Gorge white water craft policy. According to the Memorandum of Understanding dated August 8, 1996 and made a part of the Tallulah Development FERC Project #2354 license, the current policy regarding white water craft in the Tallulah Gorge states:

WHEREAS, for the purpose of this Agreement, the parties have agreed that the terms "boat", "boaters" and/or "boating", as they are used in this Memorandum of Understanding shall include the following water craft or individuals utilizing the following water craft:

Qualified White Water Craft shall include kayaks (one person and two person), white water canoes or open hard boats (solo and tandem), decked canoes, including C-1s and C-2s and "Qualified Inflatables."

Qualified Inflatables shall include inflatable craft owned by private boaters containing a minimum of three (3) air chambers and which are equipped with appropriate safety equipment and are in good repair and condition.

The definition of "qualified inflatable" was then expanded to mean a craft that has a manufacturer's rated maximum occupancy of 1-2 persons and is owned (not rented or borrowed) by the boater. As with all craft, the determination of eligibility rests with American Whitewater's representatives, according to the established DNR guidelines.

The Fall 2002 season provided evidence that the policy is not clear enough in regards to what constitutes a "qualified inflatable," and that the inflatable policy must be clarified. Through the consensus of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Power, American Whitewater, Georgia Canoeing Association, and the Atlanta Whitewater Club a new policy was created to clear any confusion surrounding the issue.

Expanded Inflatable Policy:

1. All commercial activity on the Tallulah is strictly prohibited. No money may be exchanged for the opportunity to paddle the Tallulah Gorge.
2. All inflatables must be owned, and not rented or borrowed, by one of the passengers of the craft.
3. No inflatables may exceed a maximum length standard of 11'6". For comparison, this is the length of an Aire Puma.
4. There can be a maximum of three (3) passengers onboard the inflatable, including the guide.
5. There can be a maximum of two (2) thwarts per inflatable.
6. All inflatables must be equipped with appropriate safety equipment and must be in good repair and condition.
7. Qualified inflatables include white water specific rafts, catarafts, Shredders, Striders, Thrillseekers, and inflatable kayaks, provided that they meet all other criteria.
8. Hydrobroncs, Creature Crafts, and other unconventional inflatables are not regarded as "qualified." This includes all inflatables not intended for advanced white water use.
9. All paddlers of inflatables must possess the experience necessary to navigate the class IV-V rapids found within the Tallulah Gorge.
10. All inflatables must follow the normal boater traffic pattern to registration. As with any boater, the use of the park service road or crossing Highway 441 may result in disqualification from paddling Tallulah or fines from DNR.
11. If an inflatable is to be inflated at the bottom of the stairs, it must be done on bedrock, with the utmost concern for the protection of the federally-endangered Persistent Trillium, as well as for traffic flow from other white water craft.
12. Any representative of American Whitewater or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has the right to determine the eligibility of an inflatable.

Additionally:

It has been decided that river boards will not be permitted in the Tallulah Gorge at this time.

Questions: Please contact American Whitewater (www.americanwhitewater.org) with any questions or concerns regarding this policy clarification.

Book Review

Hyperthought

by Mary Buckner

Reviewed in "The Watershed", newsletter of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association.

Mary Buckner, a former president of TSRA, has just published her first novel, *Hyperthought*, a work of speculative science fiction about a future Earth irrevocably changed by global warming and pollution. Mary has been an active environmentalist and "river hugger" for years, so the subject is close to her heart. Since arctic sea ice is now 40% thinner than it was 40 years ago, and since scientists predict the global average temperature will increase up to 11 degrees Fahrenheit in this century, Mary's science fiction may one day be fact.

The main character in *Hyperthought* is an outdoor adventure guide in the 22nd century. Jolie Sauvage leads extreme expeditions on Earth's thrilling, storm-blasted, uninhabitable surface. The story opens with a pre-trip meeting where people are checking gear and going through a safety talk. This will seem very familiar to boaters. As the novel unfolds, Jolie tells a number of "scary trip stories" to entertain her clients, reminiscent of tall tales around a campfire.

Mary's book has been well received. Best-selling, award-winning author Allen Steele wrote: "Quick as a cobra and just as wicked, *Hyperthought* is a smart, fast-paced Sci Fi thriller, and one of the best debut novels I've read in a long time. Don't miss it."

The book is published by Penguin Putnam/Ace in New York, and you can ask for it at your local bookstore. You can find out more about *Hyperthought* at Mary's web site:

www.mmbuckner.com.

Exploration

Georgia River Guide Books Updating

Menasha Ridge Press is updating and expanding their paddler's guides to north and south Georgia (the Sehlinger/Otey books) first published in 1980. From now until May 15, 2003, it's open comment period for any and all updates and corrections to the existing content. Have you noted changes or desirable additions in access points, river descriptions, or paddling instructions while using the current books? Your input is needed to improve the guides for all paddlers, especially those who are new to Georgia or have yet to take up the sport.

Please contact me, Suzanne Welander, at suzannew@

surfbest.net with your corrections and suggested updates, or if you are interested in providing assistance with:

Recent photographs: High quality photos of rivers or specific rapids are needed especially if those rivers or features are not pictured in the existing books.

Steep creek additions: Paddlers are needed to write or provide new material for a good sampling of steep creeks.

General: If you would like to be a resource to answer questions that arise during the process, or are interested in scouting new and existing access points, send me an email describing how you'd like to participate.

Deadline for submission of updates/corrections is May 15; the deadline for photos is July 15.

Fires Creek, North Carolina

by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

Fires Creek, North Carolina, Advanced Early Spring Creek Run
Appropriate for: Advanced
Months Runnable: October-June or after rain
Difficulty: Class III+
AWA Numeric Points: 27
Gradient: 100 feet per mile average, ~200 on the upper section, 400 way up near the top
Runnable level: Min: 2' (~400cfs) on Nantahala River gauge near R'bow springs, Max: Think seriously if it's much over 3'
Hazards: Very technical, long class III+ rapids, pinning potential, undercuts, deadfalls, and strainers.
Distance: 3 to 7 miles depending on flow
Distance from Atlanta: about three hours
Scenery: Amazing
Scouting: Possible from bank or eddies
Gauge: Nantahala river gauge near R'bow Springs

Hopefully, this will make the April *Eddy Line* and y'all can think about doing Fires Creek during spring rainy season. Hopefully, there will be a spring rainy season.

We were lucky, because a couple of years ago Will checked-out Leatherwood Falls near Hayesville and saw that it emptied into what appeared to be an interesting steep creek. So, when it rained late this February, he suggested trying it.

It's amazing that even though Fires Creek serves a large watershed, runs alongside a road, and is popular with fishermen, horseback riders, and the locals, no one we knew had even heard of it. If you're the sort of paddler who does Little River in the Smokies, Big Snowbird near Joyce Kilmer, or western creeks like the Logan Fork, you need to give Fires Creek a try. If you're like Clay Noble and the Hawk and have taken-up paddling high performance

Above illustrates one of the smaller, less technical holes on Fires Creek. No not really — it's Sun Shine Rapid at the entrance to Royal Gorge on the Arkansas, but it shows the Stinger in action. Below is Will on the Logan Fork in Utah. This is very much what Fires Creek is like.

- Submitted by Bill Reeves.

catarafts like the Stinger, you'll find it "interesting".

Fires Creek is a narrow, technical, steep creek that parallels a forest service road, which allows easy road-scouting and extraction. There are no individual spectacular drops like Baby Falls, the Snake Trilogy, or the Upper Nanty's Cascades, but this puppy offers between 3 to 7 miles of virtually constant hard class III creekin' with only a few calm spots.

We had to portage 4 deadfall/strainers, including one that had been intentionally cut to block the creek. None of these offered particular problems because we were able to catch eddies and portage, but you need to stay alert. There are also numerous areas with undercut drops. Again, they offered no particular problems.

There are a variety of ways to get to Fires Creek from Atlanta. Basically, y'all need to get to Hayesville, east of Murphy (or west of Franklin) on Hwy 64. Clay went up I-575 through Ellijay, stayed on 76 eastbound through Blue Ridge, Blairsville, and Young Harris, then took Hwy 69 north to Hayesville.

I went north on I-85 and took 985 to 441 to Clayton (i.e., the route to Section IV). In Clayton (at the Dairy Queen) I took 76 west through Hiawassee to Hwy 69, where I turned north to Hayesville.

Anyone who wanted a more scenic trip could take Hwy 400 to Dahlonega and continue on 19 north to Blairsville, where they'd take 76 east through Young Harris to 69 then north to Hayesville.

Once in Hayesville it's easiest to follow Hwy 64 west for 3.5 miles (beginning at the Hayesville Hardees) to Fires Creek Rd. Go right on Fires Creek Rd and follow it a ways until you come to a sign indicating Fires Creek recreation area. This will be a road to the left and if you go too far you'll cross the creek in 25 yards or so.

This is a good place to check levels. There is no gauge on Fires Creek, so when contemplating the trip check the Nantahala River near R'bow Springs gauge. It's on an adjoining watershed, thus is only approximate. If Fires Creek looks high enough at the bridge, it is, and if it looks too high..... In any event, go left on the signed road for about 2 miles to the picnic area. Leatherwood falls will be very obvious. This is the take-out (it also has a one-holer).

It ain't worth it to take out much lower. You have your choice of put-ins and the road closely parallels the creek. The first is about 3 miles upstream. There is an obvious turnout that leads down to the road. It's the second turnout, not the first. If things are honkin', keep on going until the creek looks too small to run. Don't bother going much more than 6 or 7 miles above the falls, because it will keep getting smaller.

First Time Through the Tunnel

by Vincent Payne

In the beginning all was darkness. Then the light split the darkness. It illuminated the entire world... for a time. - *Book of the Ancients; Paragraph Two*

She always sensed that her husband wasn't quite right. There was something about him that didn't seem to fit in this world. Perhaps he was born too soon, or maybe too late. Regardless, he didn't seem to fit. You could dress him up but you couldn't take him anywhere. Come to think of it, you really couldn't even dress him up. In fact, he probably would have been happiest running naked through the jungle somewhere. A cave would likely suit him best. That's really where this story begins, in the darkness of a cave.

He liked canoes. No, he liked boats. He loved canoes. He loved gliding down a river, paddling across a lake, crashing down a rapid or just sitting and drifting. He loved her too. She was as wild and beautiful as any river and frequently as hazardous and unforgiving. He wanted to have them both. It was a tricky game.

He told her about a one of a kind treat that could be had on a river near here, on a river in this very state. Just about an hour or so north of here is a place where the river has been diverted to flow through a tunnel cut through a mountain. A vein of gold was discovered that ran into the river.

To get the gold a tunnel was cut seven foot high by seven foot wide through a quarter mile of mountain. The river was diverted so the gold could be removed. Ironically, the vein did not extend into the river. Fortunately for "River Rats" the tunnel remains today and can be paddled by those who are wise to the entry ritual.

While most paddlers speak of the river gods with tongue in cheek, no one of consequence would dare to tempt them at the tunnel without executing "the ceremony." At a minimum, one believer in each group must perform this ceremony. So at the entrance they stopped.

He was wise and so a believer. He stepped into the river. The water was just above his calves and very swift. The rocks moved beneath his feet as the force of the water swept them forward. Still he plunged to mid stream where he stopped and steeled himself against the tug of the current. Bending low, his chin was mere millimeters from the surface and he peered into the darkness.

Here is the crux of the ceremony. If darkness is all to be seen, the tunnel is obstructed. Entry equals entrapment and likely death. Seeing a spot of light he extends his arm, raises his thumb and sights down the tunnel. The

spot of light is half as large as his thumbnail. It is likely that the tunnel is clear enough. He stands upright and grins. The ceremony is complete. The river gods must surely be smiling today.

She wants to follow the river around the mountain. Now the river gods are laughing. Laughing at him that is. They've come all this way and she doesn't want to go down the tunnel. The gods are mocking him. Surely she can see how foolish it would be to come this far to run the tunnel and not do it.

In the entire world, only in New Zealand is there an opportunity remotely similar to this one. And we are here. We stand at the entrance. She wavers. She wants to go. She needs encouragement. "It is easy," he says, "All you need to do is stay down low, hold your paddle across the canoe and push the boat away from the walls." It means so little to her but she can see that it means so much to him. "Okay, let's do it."

She is in the bow on her knees staring into the darkness. He is in the water at the stern, lining the boat up with the tunnel's entrance. "Are you ready?" he asks, not waiting for an answer. With a push he slips into the boat. Slowly they pass the point of no return. "Stay in the boat no matter what," he coaches, yelling loudly above the roar of the rushing river.

The water thunders in the tunnel now and darkness blots out everything but the tumultuous sound of the contracted river and the lunging sensation of motion. As they shoot through the tunnel the canoe bangs against the side of the cavern and hangs for a time against the wall. Water pours into the canoe, drenching them. She is screaming now, but she remains in the boat. His experienced paddle pushes the boat upstream away from a crevice in the wall. At the end of the stroke the river takes control and they are whisked forcefully towards the other end.

A sudden glow of light signals the center of the tunnel. It's an air shaft in the ceiling. It comes as a small reprieve from the darkness. But it passes so quickly. The roar of water, the swift current and the complete darkness again overwhelms the senses. For now there is no outside world. There are only two souls screaming in the dark, blasting through the earth, heading into oblivion.

Another glow insinuates itself upon the eyes. They flicker. They squint. They see the other end. The opening is a welcome sight. Relief seems at hand. Now above the roar of the water, she too hears the river gods laughing. The tunnel's flow squeezes to the right wall and pours over a boulder then drops into a pool in the river.

"Hang on. This was rough last time," he yells to her but seems to be talking to himself. Somehow it did little to reassure her. The boat slammed hard against the wall, pitched left, tilted crazily, then blasted from the tunnel. It struck hard into the pool, water poured in but the craft bobbed quickly to surface.

It was a beautiful sunny day on the river again. She stopped screaming and started grinning. He grinned back, "That was awesome! Let's do it again!" She said no. That was it. But that was okay. It's never a good idea to tempt the river gods.

They learned a few things on the river that day. The adventure taught them that they could trust each other. He learned that she could overcome her fears and push her limits. She learned that he really wasn't quite right and she would not be so quick to discount her mother's good advice in the future.

River Rhymes

Got no place to fade, got no coat
I'm on the rollin' river in a jerkin' boat
Trying to read a note somebody wrote
About dignity.

Somebody showed me a picture and I just laughed
Dignity never been photographed
I went into the red, went into the black
Into the valley of drybone dreams.

So many roads, so much at stake
Too many dead ends, I'm at the edge of the lake
Sometimes I wonder what it's gonna take
To find dignity.

- Bob Dylan, "Dignity"

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR RENT - Secluded NC mountain home with great views, furnished - 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, swimming (& rolling) pond, mountain trails, waterfalls. Easy drive to Nantahala or Chattooga. Available May thru August. $1000/month plus phone, electricity & mowing, or $1,200/month all included. References required. Call Trish or Doug at 828.369 .6491.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Mohawk Probe 12, light blue. The boat is in good shape and has a saddle and straps, but needs new gunnels. $250 OBO. call Andrew at 770 .956.8868 or email at ach2r@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE - Canoes. 17' Grumman, alumunium, good condition, no dents, $395. 12' Old Town Pack, Royalex, near new condition, $495. 14' Lincoln, Hidden Pond, Kevlar, new condition, $1395. Call: Beecher DuVall 770.963.8626, email: wbdgnld@charter.net, Lawrenceville.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Old Town Guide, tandem. Scrapes and scratches on the bottom but only superficial. Mostly used in class 1-2 with two adults and two kids. A small bench can be attatched and easily removed in the middle of the boat. $350. Robert McGraw 770.310.6248 or tug73us@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Mad River Lamoille. 18 foot expedition or family canoe. In excellent condition. Some gel coat damage repaired. Photos and specs at http://boat.riverzone.net. List $2499. Asking $1850. Lindsay 404.872.5211.

FOR SALE - Canoe. Mohawk Odyssey 14'. Green. 3 yrs old, used about 15 times. Fully rigged for solo WW. Mohawk thigh retainer & pedestal, air bags, Xtra D-rings & tie-downs. Xtra seat to convert to tandem. Asking $850. I'd throw in Mohawk's best paddle & a PFD. Thule canoe rack for Volvo/Saab is negotiable. Robertarnett@hotmail.com or 678.587. 0482.

FOR SALE - Canoe, 17' Alumacraft with paddles, perfect condition, 1984, lake keel. $450, call Jerry or Sil Schell at 706 .636.3830.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport X crosslink, Perception spray jacket (M) and Harmony paddle, Snap Dragon skirt (M), Cascade helmet. Items in very good condition - $650/set or sold separately. Also, Gregory REALITY X back pack, 4200 cu.in. $160/mint. Call Martin 770 .478.6452, kofila@peoplepc.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger RPM, blue, low mileage in very good condition. $475. Contact Don at 864.638.5980, located near the Chattooga River.

FOR SALE - Kayaks and C-1s. We have the following boats for sale... they're oldies but goodies... Prijon T Canyon kayak with spray skirt, air bags and cockpit cover - $250; Dagger AQ II kayak with spray skirt, air bags, and cockpit cover - $250. Perception Gyro Max C-1 with 4 spray skirts, air bags and thigh straps - $150. Dagger Cascade C-1 with 2 air bags, thigh straps - $300. If interested... give Connie a call at 404.255.0368.

FOR SALE - Kayaks and gear, garage stored. Perception Dancer w/ air bags, paddle, spray skirt, helmet and PFD, $200. Perception Corsica S, yellow, with air bags, paddle, spray skirt, helmet and PFD, $275. Perception Corsica S, aqua, with air bags, paddle, spray skirt, helmet and PFD, $300. Roof racks, $100 OBO. Pat 404.639.2796, 770.642.2426, email pdrehobl@cdc.gov.

FOR SALE - Kayak and canoe. Wave Sport Evo in awesome shape for only $425. A 197 cm Harmony Horizon Line paddle never used still in plastic only $140, $550 for both. Dagger Encore with paddle in nice shape for $325. 770.509 .8932.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport Godzilla white water kayak.Used 2 seasons, great shape, stored indoors. Includes mediium spray skirt and helmet. $425. Call PJ at 404.486.8676 lv msg.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Arc. I have a red/multi Perception Arc for Sale. "A well proportioned, forgiving kayak designed for the river. Comfort, maneuverability and stability are key features of this user friendly design that is popular with paddlers starting out on white water and surf through to advanced boaters looking for a kayak to instruct from. With a mid volume bow that boofs sweetly and sits up on waves for a more controllable ride. Lower volume in the stern and soft, yet pronounced rails will carve turns accurately as you relax in the stability of the combined hull." This boat is designed for the med/large paddler. Paddled less than a dozen times and now sits in the garage unused. (I went to the dark side and bought a canoe.) Would like to sell boat, flotation, spray skirt (large) and Perception River Passage paddle for $600 OBO. If interested, call Cathy Smith 404.639.1376 (work) or 770.925 .3621 (home).

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport, brand new -- won in Pepsi Cola contest. Retail value $899, will sell for $650. Please call 770.722.1525 days and leave name and telephone number. Joe Griffin.

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.

FOR SALE - Rack, canoe/kayak/ladder rack. Heavy duty over-the-cab with removable rear bar for a 6 foot truck bed. $100. Call Connie at 404.255.0368.

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

WANTED - Racks. Charlie Pirtle is looking for a set of canoe racks to fit a '99 Durango. Please call 770.939.6803.

WANTED - Canoe, Mad River Outrage, used. Please contact: Michael Houchins, phone 770.328.8618, email houchins .mike@fcboe.org.

WANTED - Canoe, 2 person. 678.574 .6395.

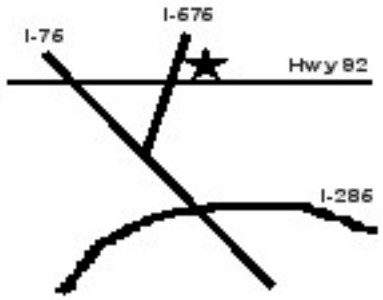
"I know that there are people in this world who do not love their fellow man, and I hate people like that."

- Tom Lehrer.

Atlanta's Only Rack System Store

Rack & Roll

We Make Fit Happen



(770) 924-1028

WWW.RACKTHEWORLD.COM

At the corner of I-575 & Hwy 92 Woodstock, GA

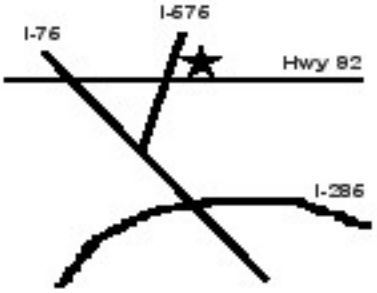
Gear up for Spring

Come by and check out the largest selection of Yakima and Thule boat accessories in the Southeast....we'll even install them for you

- **Car Rack Systems by Yakima and Thule**
- **Rack Accessories for Boat, Bike, Ski, Luggage**
- **Ladder Racks, general purpose or Commercial by TracRac, Rail-N-Rack, SystemOne**
- **Cargo Boxes by Thule and Yakima in stock**
- **Custom Installations (Drill into rooftops/ campershells)**

Introducing Atlanta's Newest Family Canoe and Kayak Store

Dedicated to providing quality products and outstanding service for recreational and expedition paddlers from beginner to expert.



- Sales
- Rentals
- Service
- Repairs
- Demos
- Financing

(770) 517-5947

PADDLER'S PARADISE

FAMILY BOAT SHOPPE

Woodstock, Georgia

Proudly Representing

- Swift Canoe & Kayak
- Liquid Logic
- Bell Canoe Works
- Necky Kayaks
- Dagger Canoe & Kayak
- Harmony Accessories
- Aquabound Paddles

Sound Advice from Experienced Professionals
Special Pricing for Club Members
Beginners Welcome - We all were beginners once

At the Corner of Hwy 92 and I 575

10% Discount!

Shop NOC for the best selection of paddling gear anywhere, with whitewater and flatwater canoes, kayaks, and accessories. As always, club members receive a 10% discount from NOC Mail Order. Give us a call or check out our website for the latest boats and gear, outfitting and repair tips, advice, and special sales. Stock up on the latest paddling gear, available from the paddling experts at NOC.

rapidprogressions™

Learn to paddle, guaranteed.™

The Nantahala Outdoor Center would like to welcome our Rapid Progressions™ participants to the GCA. As a Rapid Progressions™ club partner, the GCA offers you great opportunities for lots of fun and further practice on the river with a wonderful group of experienced paddlers.

Learn to Paddle, Guaranteed™

Join us as we launch the newest offering in our legendary instruction program. Unlike any other whitewater program, Rapid Progressions™ guarantees your success. We provide a comfortable and supportive learning environment, and you'll thrive in 2- to 14-day courses with the industry's top instructors.

The Guarantee

If, by the end of your class, you haven't accomplished each skill on your Rapid Progressions™ course checklist, we'll provide you with further instruction—for FREE—until you do. (Not including meals and lodging.)

1972 2002 Nantahala Outdoor Center

30 Years of Outdoor Adventure

3 Restaurants • Outfitter's Store • Ropes Course
Mountain Bike Rentals • Whitewater Instruction
Whitewater Rafting on 6 Southeastern Rivers

(800)232-7238 • www.noc.com

Need Paddling Gear?

shop with

outdoorplay

and SAVE!

club members receive a

15% Discount

coupon code: CLB-1000

how to shop:

visit us online: at www.outdoorplay.com
once you are done shopping, simply enter your coupon code to receive the 15% off club discount.

give us a call: at 800.994.4327
we'd be happy to help you place an order over the phone.

We ship to anywhere in the US. Coupon does not apply to boats or sale items.

GCA's 35th Annual Southeastern Races

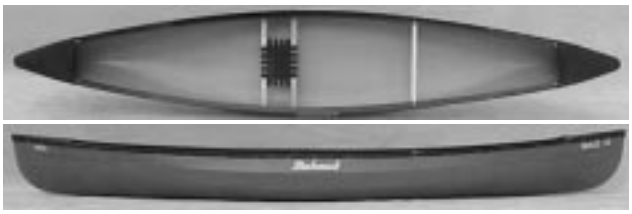
Last year The Southerns attracted over 100 competitors, including a large number of everyday paddlers in their first competition. Without your support this great event would not be possible -– the GCA helps fund this event through the sale of raffle tickets.

This years prizes include:

By Go With The Flow

Necky Gannet recreational kayak

By Mohawk Canoes



Compact, light a joy on small twisty creeks — yet with flared bow and sides, easily handles light white water and choppy lakes.

Raffle Ticket Order Form

Your name: _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Confirm tickets by e-mail only

Number of tickets _____ x $1.00 = $ _____ (send checks only)

Make check payable to GCA & Mail to :

GCA
Attn: Chris Bilello
2209 Ranch Trail
Norcross, Ga. 30071

[For GCA use]

Ticket numbers _____

e-mail response date _____ mailed ticket stubs _____

Atlanta Whitewater Club's 3rd Annual

Spastic • Plastic

FUN RUN ON THE CARTECAY

Saturday, April 19th

Morning
Open Category
"Poker Run"

Afternoon
"Sit On Top"
Racing

Lots of Fun For All Ages & Skill Levels
Beginners Welcome!!!
Lots of Great Prizes!!!!

-- Details on back --

www.atlantawhitewater.com

Race Day Registration Begins @ 9:30AM
Location: River Right Outfitters / Cartecay River – East Ellijay, GA

"Poker Run"

Bring your favorite boat & paddle the river for raffle tickets and chances at awesome prizes.
Poker Run goes from 10:00AM until Noon.

"Sit On Top"

How about a race down the river in a Sit On Top?
Shotgun start heat race, in boats that are unfamiliar to all
Once again more fabulous Prizes to the winners
This race will start ~ 1:30PM

Entry Fees & Rules

$20 for one Race/ $30 if you want to be in both
(The registration cost includes $5 for ACA insurance coverage.)
BBQ chicken, chips, and slaw will be available for purchase.

Atlanta Whitewater Club would like to thank our Sponsors for their generous donations of prizes and equipment. Without them this event wouldn't be possible:

River Right Outfitters
NOC
Orosi
Whitewater Learning Center
Dagger
Lanier Sailing Academy
American Canoe Association
Perception
Ray's New York Pizza
GoKayak.com
The Outside World
Go With the Flow

Questions????? Contact Mike Farrell @ 770-522-8592 or spasticplastic@bellsouth.net

GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA 2003
APRIL 11th, 12th, 13th

Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway, Topton, NC
www.nantahalacampground.com
Reserved for GCA Members
Hot Showers, Meeting Room, Fishing, Biking Trails,
Hiking Trails, Horseback Riding Nearby

Use Reverse Side to Make Your Reservations
Register Early – Late Fee Applies After April 4th

CAMPSITES: $12.00/site/night for first 2 people; $2.00/night for each additional person

CABINS: $45.00/night (sleeps 4, bathroom, cable TV)

BUNKHOUSES: $5.00/bed/night (sleeps 12 people with easy access to large bathrooms)

No pets allowed in cabins or bunkhouses – Must be on leash in camping areas

FRIDAY NIGHT:
Trip Coordinator Mini-Clinic 7:00 PM at Main House – All Invited!
River videos afterwards: Bring your favorite river videos to share!

SATURDAY NIGHT:
6:30 PM
Barbeque Dinner catered by Williamson Brothers
Chicken and Pork
And all the accompaniments!
Almost All-U-Can-Eat
Price: $10.00 (Children 12 & Under $6.00)

7:30 PM
Slide Show – Endless River's Adventures in Costa Rica
With Ken and Juliet Kastorff
Bonfire – Please Bring Logs!
Pinata for the Kids

BREAKFAST & BOATING SATURDAY & SUNDAY:
7:30 - 9:00 AM – Breakfast
8:30 AM – Meet at Main House to Organize Trips
Rivers: Cartecay, Nantahala, Tuckeseigee, Pigeon, Ocoee, Upper Chattahoochee, Chattooga, and more
Lakes: Nantahala, Fontana

Canoe & Kayak Demo – Saturday, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Surfing Rapid on the Nantahala

For further information, contact:
Joan Hutton, 770.917.1866 / hutton_joan@yahoo.com

GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA

Registration Form

To Register – Fill out registration form below and mail QUICKLY (first come, first serve) with your check made out to "GCA" to:

Joan Hutton
3898 Mountain View Road
Kennesaw, GA 30152
770.917.1866

Name:_____ Phone:_____

No. in Party: _____ Email: _____

Address_____

Camping:

Number of tents @ $12.00/night (includes 2 people) Fri. _____ Sat. _____ $_____

Extra people @ $2.00 each/night Fri. _____ Sat. _____ $_____

Cabins:

(Kitchen, bathroom, cable TV) $45.00/cabin/night Fri. _____ Sat. _____ $_____

Bunkhouse:

(Each sleeps 12) $5.00/person/night Fri. _____ Sat. _____ $_____

R/V Hookups: (contact Joan Hutton for information)

Saturday Dinner:

# of Meals (Adult) @ $10.00

Barbeque meals _____ Meatless meals _____ = _____ X $10.00 $_____

# of Meals (12 & Under)

Barbeque meals _____ Meatless meals _____ = _____ X $6.00 $_____

Saturday and Sunday Breakfasts:

Assorted bagels, pastries, muffins, coffee, tea, juice: Sat. _____ Sun. _____ X $2.50/meal $_____

$5.00 LATE FEE if post-marked after April 4: $_____

Make check payable to GCA **Grand Total** $_____

Trip Coordinators Needed! Willing to lead a trip Saturday or Sunday on:

Cartecay:_____ Nantahala:_____ Tuckaseigee:_____ Pigeon:_____ Ocoee:_____ Upper Chattahoochee:_____ Chattooga:_____ Other:_____ Lake(s):_____

NELSON'S NANTAHALA HIDEAWAY — TOPTON, NC
www.nantahalacampground.com
See website for a map/directions/cabin pictures/hiking trails/area information and more.

CANOEING & KAYAKING INSTRUCTION

PADDLING CLINIC INFORMATION

Clinics will be taught by ACA-certified instructors and qualified assistants. In order to provide individual attention, the maximum student-to-instructor ratio is 4:1. Space is limited.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BEGINNING FLAT/MOVING WATER:

For people who have never had a boat on moving water or want to improve their skills in a basic course. Full day Saturday flat water session emphasizing strokes, safety, self-rescues. Full day Sunday session on moving water river.

BEGINNING YOUTH WHITE WATER:

For younger paddlers 8 to 14 years old who are either just starting out in white water or have paddled before but are still at the novice level. This is a one-day class with a morning lake session followed by an afternoon river session at a difficulty level well within the experience and capabilities of the participants.

BEGINNING WHITE WATER:

For people who have never had a boat on moving water. Three-hour evening classroom session with videos and lectures covering equipment, safety, river features and paddling techniques for tandem and solo boaters. You must attend both the dry and flat water sessions to participate in the white water river portions of the course.

TRAINED BEGINNER WHITE WATER:

Participants should have had recent beginner level instruction or 5 days of white water experience. Polish-up beginner skills, plus bracing and rolling (kayaks).

INTERMEDIATE WHITE WATER:

Intermediate clinic participants should be comfortable paddling class II-III white water such as the Nantahala, wish to master the roll in rapids (kayaks), and learn how to play confidently in Nantahala-type waves and holes. Intermediate kayakers should have a 100% flat water roll and a 50% reliable combat roll in class II rapids. Saturday morning lake session working on strokes and rolls (kayaks) and an afternoon session on a class II-III river working on turns, surfing, eddy hopping, etc. Full day Sunday trip on a class II-III river.

ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

GCA MEMBERSHIP:

All participants must be current GCA members. To join the GCA, call the GCA at 770.421.9729 or go to the GCA web page www.georgiacanoe.org for a membership application. Dues are $25 per year.

REGISTRATION:

Call the coordinator of the clinic you want to take for more information. You will NOT be registered, however, until the coordinator receives a check for $50.00 per person payable to GCA. Please don't wait to register. All classes are subject to being closed due to student limits or being rescheduled or canceled if there are insufficient students registered. Registration closes ten days before each class due to insurance and planning considerations.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:

If you wish to cancel or switch to another date, please notify the Clinic Coordinator as soon as possible. If you cancel at least 10 days before the first class session your fees will be refunded. After that, refunds will be made only if a replacement is found. Clinics will be conducted rain or shine. No-shows and those not completing the full course are ineligible for refunds.

AGE:

If you are under 18, all liability releases must be signed by a parent or guardian, who must also provide suitable power-of-attorney for medical care. Except for youth clinics, pre-teens will not be enrolled unless they have had suitable paddling experience in the Training Director's judgment.

SWIMMING ABILITY:

You must be able to swim and should not panic with your head under water. Beginning kayak clinic participants will spend a lot of time upside down inside their kayaks on the lake. All students will practice swimming & self-rescue skills in rapids.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

White water paddling is a physically and mentally challenging activity that requires fitness, flexibility, and a positive attitude in stressful situations. Kayaking is a high-risk activity for individuals with a history of shoulder dislocations. Applicants should discuss potential physical limitations with the Coordinator before signing up.

EQUIPMENT:

You must furnish all of your own equipment. You will receive a detailed list of required and recommended equipment well in advance of the clinic.

INSTRUCTIONS & REGISTRATION FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

GCA INSTRUCTION 2003

Canoe

White Water Canoe

+ Beginner
  Coordinator: Steve Cramer (706.208.8382)
  June 17 (evening), June 21,22
  August 19 (evening), August 23,24
+ Trained Beginner
  May 17, 18
  Coordinator: Pat Hagan (770.393.1420)
  August 9, 10
  Coordinator: Jim Albert (770.414.1521)
+ Intermediate
  May 3, 4
  Coordinator: Marvine Cole (770.475.3022)
  September 13, 14
  Coordinators: Gina & Haynes Johnson (770.971.1542)

Flat/Moving Water Canoe

Coordinator: Jim Albert (770.414.1521)

+ Beginner
  July 12, 13

Safety

Coordinator: Brannen Proctor (770.664.7384)

+ Basic White Water Safety
  July 26 (1 day - $25)

Sea Kayak

Coordinator: Steve Cramer (706.208.8382)

+ Introduction - Charleston, SC
  May 24, 25 (call for class fees)
+ Safety & Rescue Clinic - local
  June 28 (Conservation organization fundraiser)

White Water Kayak

+ Beginner
  June 17 (evening), 21,22
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Trained Beginner
  June 14, 15
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Intermediate
  May 17, 18
  Coordinator: David Stubblefield (706.864.0901)
+ Beginning Youth White Water
  May/June TBD (class fee $25)
  Facilitator: Allen Sinquefield (770.642.1898)

Registration: To register for one of these clinics you must be a member of the Georgia Canoeing Association. To join the GCA or for an application call 404.421.9729. Dues are $25. To register for a clinic, call the coordinator of the clinic for more information. You will NOT be registered until the coordinator receives this completed form and a check for $50.00 per person. Please don't wait to register. All classes are subject to being closed due to student limits or being rescheduled or canceled if there are insufficient students registered. Registration closes ten days before each class due to insurance and planning considerations.

CLINIC _____

NAME _____ AGE _____ SEX _____

STREET_____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ALLERGIES OR PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES _____

_____

DISABILITIES OR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS _____

_____

GCA Southeastern Championships, April 26-27
Sign up for the Race Crew,Order Awards Banquet Dinner Tickets and Raffle Tickets

See the race article elsewhere in *The Eddy Line* for additional information.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

I volunteer to be part of the RACE CREW in one or more of the following areas:
(Check ALL areas that you would be willing to work in):

_____ Race Headquarters set up (Thursday and Friday). Pitch the tents, hang the banners.

_____ Race Course set up (Thursday and Friday). Get the slalom gates set just right.

_____ Slalom Race Gate Judging (Saturday and/or Sunday). Did the racer make a gate? Touch a pole?

_____ Slalom Race Timing (Saturday and/or Sunday). Can you keep four stop watches running at once?

_____ Wild Water Race Timing (Saturday). You only have to operate one stop watch.

_____ Down River Fun Run Timing (Sunday). You only have to operate one stop watch.

_____ Slalom Race Scoring (Saturday and/or Sunday). Can you talk and write at the same time?

_____ Slalom Race Safety (Saturday and/or Sunday). Good aim with a throw rope is a plus.

_____ Wild Water Race Safety (Saturday). Paddle with the Wild Water crowd.

_____ Down River Fun Run Safety (Sunday). Paddle with the Down River crowd.

_____ Hospitality (Saturday). Serving breakfast, lunch and the Awards Banquet Dinner.

_____ Hospitality (Sunday morning). Serving just breakfast and lunch.

_____ Race Course and Race Headquarters take down (Sunday). Take it all down.

All Race Crew members are encouraged to attend the AWARDS BANQUET DINNER, Saturday, April 26, 6:30 PM, Nantahala Outdoor Center, 'Relia's Garden, Lasagna Dinner (Regular and Veggie) Tea or Coffee. Cheer as the Race Winners receive their medals. Listen for your name in the Raffle Drawing.

Number of Adult Dinners: _____ @ $12.00 = $ _____
Number of Children 12 and under: _____ @ $6.00 = $ _____
Total Amount Enclosed for Awards Banquet Dinner = $ _____
RAFFLE TICKETS AT $1.00 PER TICKET**:** **$** _____

Dinner & raffle tickets ordered here can be picked up at the Hospitality Tent on April 26. Seating capacity at the Awards Banquet Dinner is limited. Dinner Tickets may be purchased at the door on an as-available basis, depending on seating and food availability.

Mail this form and your check (payable to GCA) for the Awards Banquet and Raffle Tickets to:

GCA
Attn: Gina Johnson
340 Clear Springs Ct
Marietta, Ga. 30068

SINCE 1983

GO WITH THE FLOW

PADDLESPORTS

THE SOUTHEAST'S LARGEST AND WIDEST SELECTION

CANOES KAYAKS & SEA KAYAKS

Please ask about our

Member Discounts
Low Price Guarantee

(770) 992-3200
gowiththeflow.com
M-F 10-7 Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5