



Winter Roll Practice

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



A Plea for Help!!

My tenure as Cruise Master ended December 31, 2003. **The Club needs your help.** William Gatling has done a GREAT job of setting up a system that uses Yahoo email to accumulate trip info and email a calendar with trips listed. We use this email to solicit trips. It allows you (the trip coordinator) to see a calendar with the dates and trips scheduled thus far so you can better choose your next trip.

The system is catching on, but we still need people to follow up with phone calls to potential trip coordinators. I would like to form a committee of 3-5 people to make these calls. This is where YOU come in — the GCA needs volunteers. Volunteers are a big part of making things happen in the club.

Monthly trips are a big part of what the GCA provides to its members. I am willing to extend my time as Cruise Master until January or February in order to help out; at that point we need to have a new Cruise Master (or maybe a new system) in place.

I would like to ask each of you to remember those who coordinated the trips you first paddled. Volunteer to coordinate a trip. This makes putting a trip list together so much easier. Coordinating a trip is not difficult, and it's a very rewarding experience. If every experienced GCA member could coordinate at least one trip per year, we would have a VERY robust trip list each month.

I would also like to solicit suggestions from you. How would YOU do the job of Cruise Master? What would YOU do to inspire volunteers to coordinate trips? How would YOU inspire volunteers to work on a trip list committee? We need your input to keep this program going.

We all get a lot from the GCA — please give a little back!!

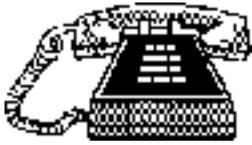
Mike Winchester
 Home: 770.319.8969
 Work: 770.433.3232
 email: mike@artplumbing.com

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Who Ya Gonna Call?

The following list is provided for your convenience:

For general information about the club - Call the club telephone

number, 770.421.9729, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

To volunteer to help with club activities - Call President Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542 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 during the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December). The time, date and location is announced in *The Eddy Line*. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542 so she can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. Your participation would be much appreciated. ✂

GCA Executive Committee

President	Gina Johnson
Vice President	Dick Hurd
Secretary	Tom Bishop
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Gabriella Schlidt
Recreation Chair	Gretchen Mallins
Resource Development Chair	Cameron Pach
River Protection Chair	Vacant
Training Chair	Jim Albert

Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication in the next *Eddy Line* is the fifth of the month, i.e., for the January issue, material should be submitted no later than December fifth. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and want ads by the deadline or they MAY NOT be published in the next issue. To submit material via EMAIL, send to gacanoec@mindspring.com. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, or as a text file on a 3-1/2 inch high density MacIntosh formatted disk, and include a printed copy (Disks returned only if requested). To submit material via U.S. MAIL, send to: **Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, GA 30066**. All classified ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Newsletter Editor **Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318** for questions. Thanks for your cooperation. ✂

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

January

4	Cartecay — Short Run	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Gina Johnson	404.512.0832
10	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Charlie Pirtle	770.939.6803
10	Chattooga Section 3 or 3-1/2 (Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
17	Chattooga Section 3 or 3-1/2 (Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
17-19	MLK Weekend (FL) (Note 1)	Smooth Water	Morris Friedman	770.469.8414
18	Upper Tallulah	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.546.6923
19	Weeki Wachee (FL) (Note 5)	Smooth Water	Susan Oehler	828.298.0315
19	Little River Canyon (AL) (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
20	Rock Springs Run/Wekiva (FL) (Note 5)	Smooth Water	Susan Oehler	828.298.0315
21	Alafia (FL) (Note 5)	Smooth Water	Susan Oehler	828.298.0315
22	Hillsboro (FL) (Note 5)	Smooth Water	Susan Oehler	828.298.0315
25	Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Oreon Mann	404.402.6486
25	Chattooga Section 3-1/2	Class 3-4 Advanced	Jodi Kaufman	706.759.3857
31	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969

February

1	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
7	Exploratory Wild Card	Class 2-3-4?	Roger Nott	770-546-6923
8	Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Tom Bishop	770.977.8971
14-16	Presidents' Weekend (FL) (Note 3)	Smooth Water	Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
22	Chattooga Section 3-1/2	Class 3-4 Advanced	Jodi Kaufman	706.759.3857
23	Etowah Tunnel Section	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
28	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
29	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969

Note 1: Ichetucknee, Crystal, Homassassa & Chassahowizka Rivers. Email-vagabondmo@yahoo.com

Note 2: Upper 2 or Chairlift section.

Note 3: Ocala National Forest "Spring Runs".

Note 4: Section 3 or 3-1/2 depending on water level.

Note 5: Call by January 14 for camping information.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO WILLIAM GATLING FOR HIS ASSISTANCE WITH THE CRUISE MASTER JOB! MANY THANKS ALSO TO THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO COORDINATE TRIPS! A note to all members: My tenure as Cruise Master ended December 31. I would like to give my thanks to everyone who has coordinated a trip in the last 2 years. This said, the club needs volunteers to help with the Cruise Master position in 2004, the more volunteers, the easier it is for everyone. Even if you can only help for a few months you will be appreciated.

- Mike Winchester.

Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

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

To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Call the Cruisemaster, Mike Winchester, at 770.319.8969. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flat water to class 5 white water. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

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

Roll Practice: Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM January thru March at the Warren / Holifield Boys' & Girls' Club pool. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

GCA Library Items

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling.

Any / all donations or loans to the library are welcome. (Please, no bootleg video copies.) Send them to:

Denise Colquitt
3794 Glenloch Road
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell
Cold, Wet & Alive
Expedition Earth
Faultline (Will Reeves)
First Descents (North Fork Payette)
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)
I Said Left, Stupid: A Video Guide to the Chattooga River (Sect. 2 & 3)
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
The Middle Fork of the Salmon River (Idaho) — by Photographic Expeditions
Trailside: White Water Canoeing the Chattooga River
Vortex -- low cost storm water sampler
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)
Whitewater Self Defense

Books:

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I & II
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Tennessee-Vol I & II
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed Emory Watershed
ACA Canoeing & Kayaking Instructors Guide
Alabama Canoe Rides
AMC White Water Handbook
American Red Cross Canoeing & Kayaking
Arkansas information (assorted)
Basic River Canoeing
Brown's Guide to Georgia
Buyer's Guide 1993 (Canoe Magazine)
Buyer's Guide 1994 (Paddler Magazine)
Buyer's Guide 1996 (Paddler Magazine)
California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers
Canoe Racing (Marathon & Down River)
Canoeing Wild Rivers
Carolina Whitewater (Western Carolina)
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement
Florida information (assorted)

Georgia Mountains
Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters
Happy Isles of Oceana: Paddling the Pacific Homelands: Kayaking the Inside Passage
Idaho Whitewater
Indiana Canoeing Guide
Kentucky Wild Rivers
Missouri Ozark Waterways
Northern Georgia Canoe Guide
Ohio County Maps & Recreational Guide
Paddle America (Guide to trips & outfitters)
Paddle to the Amazon - The World's Longest Canoe Trip
Paddling SC-Palmetto State River Trails
Path of the Paddle
People Protecting Rivers
Pole, Paddle & Portage
River Rescue
River Safety Anthology
River's End (Stories)
Sea Kayaking Canada's West Coast
Song of the Paddle
Southeastern Whitewater
Southern Georgia Canoeing
The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North
The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande
The Mighty Mulberry-A Canoeing Guide
They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?
White Water Tales of Terror
WhiteWaterTrips (British Columbia & Washington)
Wildwater (Sierra Club Guide)
WildwaterWestVirginia
Youghiogeny-Appalachian River
Maps:
The Big South Fork

Announcements

GCA Email List

The GCA email list has at this printing over 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 Web Master Allen Sinquefield by using the e-mail link for WebGuy at the site. Membership applications, GCA waivers and other forms for use by members are posted on 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. ✂

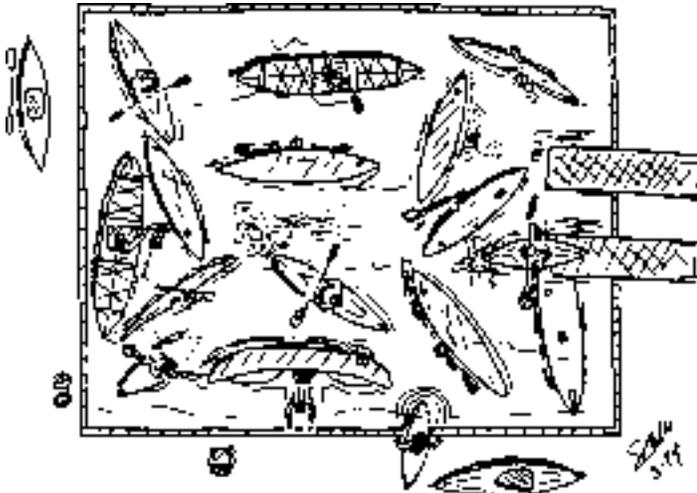
Support Our GCA Supporters

The GCA web site now features a GCA Supporters web 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! ✂

Winter Roll Practice

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



service provided by your club. Whether you want to learn to roll, practice your roll to stay sharp, teach a fellow paddler to roll, or work on other techniques such as wet exits, hand rolls, deep water re-entries, etc., the indoor

Canoe Outfitting & Repair

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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

heated pool is THE best place to hone these skills in the middle of the winter.

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

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

Revel Freeman is our Roll Practice Coordinator. If you have questions about roll practice, or would like to volunteer to help, either with instruction or with keeping track of money and waivers, call Revel at 404.261.8572.

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

Weekday Paddlers

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

smooth water as well as all classes of white water.

If you would like to be included in the list, please call Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318 and leave your name, phone number, days of the week you are available to paddle, and class of water (flat, I thru V) that you are interested in paddling. You will then receive an up-to-date copy of the list. The list will be re-published quarterly (January, April, July, October).

Updates are available by request through the GCA phone line. If you received your copy of the list more than 3 months ago, you should request an updated copy. There have been considerable changes to the list. To receive an up-to-date copy, call the GCA phone line at 770.421.9729 and leave your name and address with a request for the updated list. ✂

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 get on the trip.

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

As a potential trip participant, if you find yourself "screened out" of a trip, try to ascertain why, so you can work toward remedying the conditions that cast doubts on your ability to participate safely. Ask for suggestions that may help you prepare for future trips of a particular difficulty level.

As a trip coordinator, try to be honest but tactful when screening potential participants for your trips. Paddlers' egos bruise very easily — we are mostly a proud and independent lot. If it comes down to it, though, a bruised ego is better than a lost or broken boat, a severe injury, or worse. And no one wants their ego to cause problems for an entire group.

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

Upcoming Events of Interest

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

February 21-22 — NRC Glacier Breaker Slalom — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, Howard Chambers,

828.488.2175 Ext. 108, rhino@main.nc.us.

April 3 — NOC Spring Splash — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, 800.232.7238 Ext. 600.

May 1-2 — Southeastern US Championship Slalom & Wild Water Races — Nantahala River, NC.

May 14-16 — GCA Spring Extravaganza — Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway, Topton, NC.

May 15 — Fontana Flatwater Dash — Fontana Lake, NC, 800.232.7238.

October 29-31 — NOC Guest Appreciation Festival — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, 800.232.7238. ✂

From the Board Room

by Tom Bishop, Secretary

Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting, December 7, 2003, Minutes

In Attendance:

Jim Albert

Tom Bishop

Debbie Dargas

Allen Hedden

Dick Hurd

Joan Hutton

Gina Johnson

Oreon Mann

Lindsay Meeks

Roger Nott

Laura Rivers

Gabriella Schlidt

Ed Schultz

Bob St. Pierre

Roger Toebben

Suzanne Welander

Tom Welander

Knox Worde

3:00 PM-Meeting of GCA Board convened

Minutes of 11/5/03 Executive Committee Meeting — Tom Bishop

Treasurers report — Ed Schultz

* Many renewals this month (57), 6 new memberships

* Contribution made to ACE

* Contribution made toward Needmore Tract Purchase

President's Report — Gina Johnson

* Moving meetings to Sundays at 7 pm. Executive Committee meetings second Sunday each month. Board of Directors meetings held quarterly second Sunday third month.

* Cruise Master position still open — need someone to contact by phone old and new members, term of office is



variable.

Recreation — Gretchen Mallins

* Spring Extravaganza tentatively May 14-16 at Nelson's.

Training — Jim Albert

What we would like to offer this next year:

* White Water Kayak — 3 levels beginner, trained beginner and intermediate. Difficult to find instructors.

* Recreational Kayaks — flat, moving water

* Duckie day

* Sea kayak — Steve Cramer

* Canoe — Flatwater/moving water canoe — 1 day instruction day on easy river in summer months

* Safety — Swift Water Rescue, CPR class — need to get more of the membership certified

River Protection — Lindsay Meeks

* Stepping down due to personal reasons

* Toccoa — USFS and US Attorney are taking an interest. We will let them take the lead at this time.

Resource Development — Knox Worde

* Making posters, dropping off flyers at dealers in order to recruit recreational boaters for new members. Need to keep membership count up for political efforts in river access, environmental issues, and general boater safety.

Don Kinser — Board Member of American Whitewater. Don's interest is in Chattooga River. Presently, revision of the current management plan is in progress. In particular, AW is interested in gaining access above Highway 28 Bridge, Section 1 — Burrell's Ford to Highway 28 — 13 miles; Section 0 — 4 miles (class III-IV) would be most popular, Section 00 (class V) — needs lots of water. Don believes local FS will not change policy on upper sections.

Don came to us seeking backing for expected appeal at the administrative level in Washington. He believes that AW will win at administrative level. He feels that AW will need resources for a fight, and wants us to commit resources for hard costs as needed. The board would like to appeal to the membership and other area clubs to support this worthwhile effort.

Motion to support AW in its effort to open waters above Highway 28. Support could include monetary and pro bono legal assistance. Motion passed. ✂

Farewell to Chuck

On November 18 the GCA lost a dear friend and a wonderful asset. Long-time member Chuck Creekmore unexpectedly passed away just a few days after undergoing colon surgery. Chuck was a very positive paddler — smiling, confident, calm, always looking out for the other folks on the river. He coordinated many trips for the club,

and he was always around at roll practice to help out others with their roll. He will be sorely missed by his many paddling friends.

The following are some quotes about Chuck from a few of his many friends. The comments speak for themselves.

"Chuck was one of the first people I met in the Atlanta paddling community. He was always quick to encourage other paddlers and offer some advice. Chuck will be missed." - Rob Murphy

"I paddled with Chuck several times and he was with me on my first trip down the Gauley in 1999. He always had a smile and a positive attitude about everything." - Mark Stenger

"Sure seems like Chuck was a part of a lot of first trips for many of us. That's a pretty awesome statement for a paddler. He was on my first GCA trip and my first Ocoee trip. I remember talking with Chuck in an eddy on the Ocoee — talking about how great it was to have the peace and fun of the river — that was the first paddling trip after September 11th, 2001. I can't picture Chuck without picturing that great smile on his face and hearing his calm, reassuring voice. It's hard to imagine going to winter roll practice and not seeing Chuck there and grabbing a beer with him afterwards. Sure will miss that. Gotta believe he's scouting out the class V in the great beyond about now." - Chad Spangler

"Huge grin. Huge heart. We'll miss him...." - Rich Eustis

"It seems like Chuck was always there — every time I paddled I would see him. He showed me this awesome line through Slice and Dice one time a few years ago. I always run that line now, and always remember how calm and relaxed he was even though I was a little nervous that day. Chuck is one of those guys who really gets to you —

I can't remember how many times I thought how great it is that he is out here every weekend; he really made me have more fun on the river every time I saw him. I miss him already." - Bill Tarleton

"I loved Chuck. He was an inspiration. I was always happy to see him on the river." - Mark Neisler

"When I started paddling again, the first trip I went on was with Chuck. He was a very interesting person. He sure had some stories. He certainly will be missed. He was unique." - George Hedrick

"Chuck was always a pleasure to paddle with; he always had a smile and words of encouragement for those around him. He will be missed." - Brent Coleman

"I and just about every paddler I know paddled with Chuck at some point. He was a river-man institution and will be remembered fondly by all who knew him." - Scott Schwitters

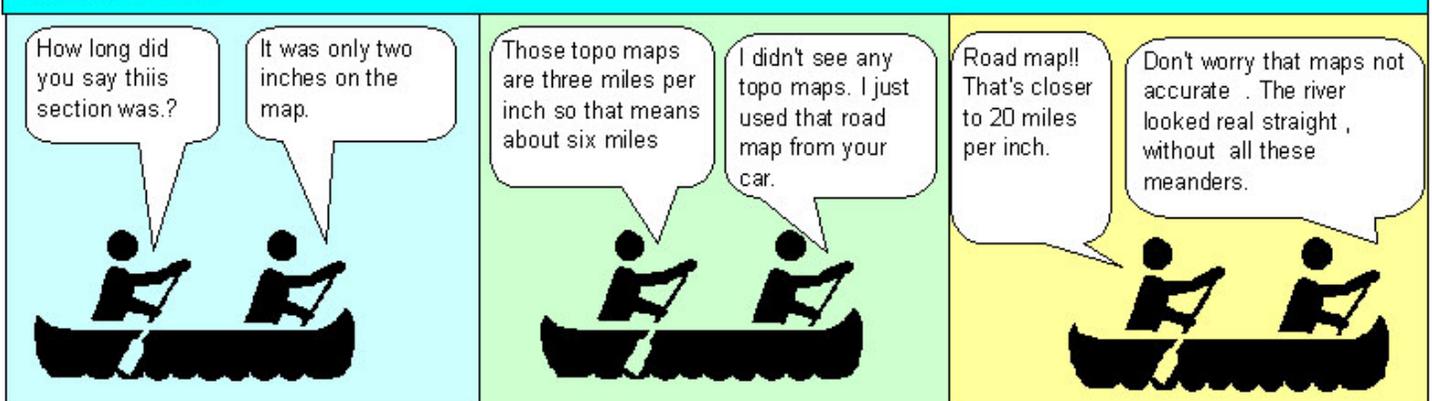
"Chuck's spirit and pure joy of life will be sorely missed." - Dave Hickman

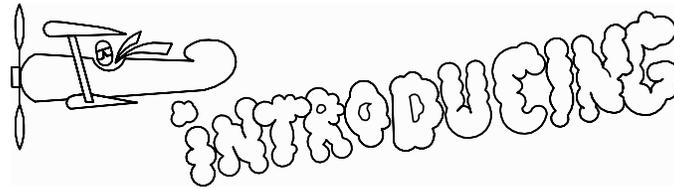
"I was sorry to hear about Chuck. He was a nice guy. I remember his tenacity one day at Seven Foot Falls. He flipped and the current held him against the left hand wall. He kept trying to roll and made it on the seventh attempt." - John Steimke

"We're so saddened to hear about Chuck. Julia and I paddled with Chuck a number of times. He was always so tenacious on the river. He had 'grit'. Julia told me a story about how Chuck's first kayak instructor recommended he play golf instead of kayak 'at his age'. Of course, as history showed, this only made Chuck more determined to paddle. You can't help but admire that." - Jim Tibbetts

"Thank you all for loving boating as Chuck did.... I have lost my best friend." - Chuck's wife, Carole Creekmore
Farewell, Chuck. We'll never forget you. 

THIS SIDE UP





Welcome New Members — Directory Additions

The following is a list of all members who have joined the club since the last update. We will try to include this information 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!!

Armentano, Matthew & Laura
1406 Marshtrail Circle
Atlanta GA 30328
H: 770-604-9108
O: 404-464-0272
O: 404-785-8504
Email: luchar@hotmail.com
Email: iwatsek@hotmail.com

Manalo, Jay
4122 Spalding Forest Court
Atlanta GA 30328
H: 770-512-7457
O: 404-631-3711
O: 678-637-8131
Email: mjmanalo2001@yahoo.com

Saunders, Karen &
Herndon, Patricia
124 Baxter Drive
Carrollton GA 30116
H: 770-834-2151
O: 770-834-2151
Email: karen5@bellsouth.net

Smock, Paul & Kim
106 Sourwood Drive
North Augusta SC 29860
H: 803-279-8241

Van Dyken, Scott
5360 Keithwood Court
Cumming GA 30040

H: 770-886-6582
O: 678-571-1058
O: 770-417-1531
Email: saftydog@bellsouth.net

Wilson, James A. & Jonathon D.
363 Cove Island Way
Marietta GA 30067
H: 770-971-1933
O: 678-697-4453
Email: wils356@yahoo.com

Is It Safe to Swim in Amicalola Creek?

by Duncan Cottrell

Dawson County's beautiful Amicalola Creek is a favorite destination for swimmers, tubers, fishermen and canoeists. Devils Elbow and Edge of the World Rapid are two popular swimming sites along the stream, which eventually discharges into the Etowah River above Kelly Bridge Road. Questions have been raised recently about the health risk of swimming in the creek due to occasional elevated concentrations of bacteria.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division placed Amicalola Creek on its 2002 List of Impaired Rivers & Streams (called the 303d list) because high levels of fecal coliform bacteria were found in the water in 2001. The levels of fecal coliform bacteria exceeded Georgia's water quality standard of 200 colonies per 100 milliliters (3.4 ounces) of water.



There are many kinds of bacteria and most are harmless and even useful. Pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria such as Salmonella, Vibrio (cholera) and Shigella can cause illness if swallowed in water while swimming. Infection can also occur through cuts and scrapes on the skin. Routinely testing for all pathogenic bacteria, viruses and protozoa is cost-prohibitive and technically difficult.

Scientists and public health officials typically monitor nonpathogenic bacteria (called indicator organisms) that are usually associated with pathogens transmitted by fecal contamination but are more easily sampled and measured. Harmless fecal coliforms, which originate from the same sources as the disease-causing bacteria, are the indicator organisms assumed to indicate the presence of human pathogenic organisms. When large fecal coliform populations are present in the water, it is assumed that there is a greater likelihood that pathogens are present.

When Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream learned that

Amicalola Creek had been placed on the Impaired Rivers list, they began a study to determine if that listing was justified and, if so, where the sources of contamination might be. There is no wastewater treatment plant discharging into Amicalola Creek or any of its tributaries. Treatment plants are the typical "point sources" of fecal coliform bacteria (the term "point sources" indicates that the source of the pollution can be tracked back to a single discharger).

Rather, it appeared that pollution to Amicalola Creek originated from non-point sources. Pollutants that enter streams and lakes from scattered, indirect, dispersed places (rather than a single point) are called non-point source pollution. Non-point bacterial pollution in rural areas can come from leaking septic systems, land application of manure and sewage sludge, wildlife, failing sewer lines, and livestock.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, "the primary rural non-point source for pathogens is confined animal operations, in which large quantities of fecal matter are produced. Livestock excrement from barnyards, pastures, rangelands, feedlots, and uncontrolled manure storage areas is a significant non-point source of bacteria, viruses, and protozoan cysts."

From May through October 2002 (when Georgia Environmental Protection Division considers "water contact recreation activities are expected to occur"), Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream took weekly water samples from Amicalola Creek at Highway 53 and from every significant tributary to the creek. The water samples were tested for fecal coliforms by Environmental Management Services Laboratory in Pickens County. The results are listed in Table A below, which shows the percent of the time a stream violated the Georgia water quality standard of 200

colonies per 100 milliliters (3.4 ounces) of water and the average (geometric mean) fecal coliform count.

The fecal coliform count in streams increased following a rain, indicating bacteria were being washed off the land surface into the streams. The data indicates that the water is unsafe for swimming and human consumption after a rainfall and unsafe for human consumption between rainfalls. In dry weather the health risk of swimming in Amicalola Creek is low (unless, perhaps, you are swimming just below the mouth of Cochran's Creek). But even in dry weather, swimming in Cochran's Creek, Holly Creek or Little Amicalola Creek is risky.

The data collected by Adopt-A-Stream volunteers has been forwarded to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Watershed Planning & Monitoring Program with the hope that it may be useful in solving problems and protecting water quality in Dawson County streams. The EPD lists streams as impaired ("not supporting" their intended use) if 26% or more of the samples exceed the water quality standard. Streams are listed as partially impaired ("partially supporting" their intended use) if 11-25% of samples exceed the water quality standard.

By this criteria, Cochran's Creek, Little Amicalola Creek and Holly Creek qualify for listing as "not supporting" bacterial water quality standards. Amicalola Creek and Big Amicalola Creek qualify for "partially supporting" bacterial water quality standards.

Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream has begun regular water testing at Devil's Elbow and at various sites along Cochran's Creek. Citizens who would like to learn how to monitor and protect their stream can do so through Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream by calling Duncan Cottrell at 770.735.2778.

Table A

<u>Stream</u>	<u>% of violations</u>	<u>Average bacteria count</u>	<u>Highest bacteria count (after rain)</u>
Amicalola Creek at Hwy 53	22	115	3375
Little Amicalola Creek at Afton Rd	87	249	3312
Big Amicalola Creek at Amicalola Ridge Rd	17	98	1190
Cochran's Creek at Hwy183	100	648	3500
Upper Cochran's Creek at Dan Fowler Rd	11	67	745
Holly Creek at Holly Creek Rd	74	470	3975

New Threat on the Ocoee

by Michael Halpin

Folks, efforts are currently underway to reopen the old sulfuric acid manufacturing plant on the banks of the Ocoee in Copperhill (UPSTREAM from the gorge). This is

a known toxic waste site, where runoff must be collected and groundwater pumped out to try to control its spread into the river and nearby property. When it closed several years ago, most of us thought that we were headed toward an eventual cleanup at the site. But this may not be the

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case. Its owners have filed for a permit (Title V) from the EPA via TDEC to allow the plant to produce acid and other sulfur products while being allowed to discharge 60-100 tons of chemical by-products per year into the local environment.

There was a hearing Dec. 18 in Ducktown in response to local opposition to this permit. Yes, it is an interesting coincidence that they scheduled this in the middle of winter when most paddlers weren't here.

I live in Copperhill and have been working with a group of area residents to help rouse and organize opposition to the plant reopening. We need any help we can get, including pointers or introductions to anyone in organiza-

tions like AWA or ACA who can help us with strategy, advice, legal aid, etc, for the anticipated battle that will ensue. We need folks to write letters to politicians expressing their concern. We need insight, details or additional facts which may not have come to light so far.

This is serious. There is more to the story than I can tell here, a real epic of ecopolitics and abuse, that spans years. If anyone can help in any way, or would like additional information, please get in touch with me. My name is Michael Halpin, and I can be reached via email at ghalpin@tds.net.

Help protect this river !!!

- From the Boater Talk internet forum. 

River Hazards

On the Chattooga, recent high water removed the log that was on the right side of Woodall Shoals below the first drop, but gave us an added bonus of a HUGE log blocking the entire right side sneak at the top of the first drop. The log is easily visible from the approach, but gives the false impression that it may not be blocking the entire chute when you first see it. Rest assured, the entire chute IS blocked. Be safe!! 



tent. In the outer tent there is also enough room for at least three more people sleeping.)

Is there enough room in the outer tent to store luggage out of the rain?

Is it possible to store your (expensive new) kayak in the outer tent?

Can you enter/exit the tent through two or more openings (really nice when you need to get out without climbing over the other person)? (Mine has an entrance on each side of the inner tent, and three in the outer tent.)

Is it easy and quick to set up, even in the dark? And can you easily set it up alone? (Mine comes with four U-shaped poles that you click (and Velcro) the inner and outer tent to with small plastic hook-shaped clips, so it stands in a few minutes.)

Are there no poles interfering with the inner room, and are no poles sticking through the top of the tent? I prefer the bendable poles over the single straight vertical ones. They maximize inner room and the tent doesn't start leaking around the holes in the roof.

Does the tent ground sheet have enough height (at least 6 inches or so) to keep out the little streams that come rushing downhill in the pouring rain sometimes?

Does the outer tent come down far enough so that the wind won't blow underneath it and lift the entire tent? This is also nice to keep the rain out...

Is there enough ventilation for those hot Mediterranean nights? Can you open the tent on two sides, letting a cooling breeze come through? Are the ventilation openings closable with a rainproof and zippered sheet/door? Do the ventilation openings have small enough mesh to keep all the stinging bugs out?

We camped in Norway and Sweden once and the stinging "knuten" came marching in three rows abreast through our Dutch anti-mosquito mesh!

Is the tent high enough to sit comfortably in when it's

Wilko's Paddling Gear Tips — Part 4

by Wilko van den Bergh

Copyright © 2002 by Wilko van den Bergh

Tent

Maybe it's just me, but when I go paddling for more than a day, I often camp outside. I used to have a very badly designed dome tent which wore out about a year ago. That made me think about what I wanted to have in a tent.

I ended up looking at about twenty web sites to compare what they had available and see what I could get for a certain price. I had intended to spend roughly \$500 at the most, and I finally got a great tent for \$350 (a discontinued model though).

Things I looked for when I wanted to replace my old two person dome hiking tent with a comfortable paddler's (vehicle carried) tent:

Can you put three people in the inner tent, without them touching both ends of the inner tent at the same time? (I have bought a "five" person model, but IMO they use malnourished pigmies to measure the amount of people fitting in a tent. Since I'm quite a bit taller than average, I'm rather fed up with touching both ends of a

not fun to be outside (hard rain / cold weather)?

Is the outer material coated with some kind of UV-protectant?

Are the seams taped? I just retaped the seams with some liquid seam-proofer that seems to have made sure that it is completely rainproof (we got in a thunderstorm in France last week, no issues with leaks).

Are there enough loops for stakes and storm lines to keep it down during hard wind?

Is the packaged tent not too big (are the poles breaking down in short enough parts)? Is there a strong separate bag for the poles and another one for the stakes, so that they don't damage the tent accidentally?

Can the tent still fit in the bag when you don't fold it up very neatly (like when breaking up camp in a storm)?

What colors does the tent come in? My last tent had some dark brown and green parts, which made it nice and inconspicuous but the bright orange tent I had before that

was a nightmare. Besides, dirt can't be seen as well on a green or brown tent! :-)

Spending most of my camping trips in the mountains (paddling trips) I also immediately threw away the aluminum "stakes" and bought two bags of rock-pins. They are essentially stainless steel seven or eight inch nails with a small crossbar welded to them. It is very difficult to bend one, even if you hammer them in hard.

At first I also bought a big rubberized sheet to put in the outer tent, so that people can sleep in there without turning the inside of the entire tent into a muddy swamp. This idea didn't work too well, as the sheet tore in several places very quickly, and was rather heavy. Now I've bought a big agricultural tarpaulin, which is made of woven PE fabric with an added layer of PE on the outside. It is more noisy to walk on, but otherwise it works just fine.

I hope that some of this helped you find the gear you were looking for....

Southeastern Races — Mark Your Calendar

The GCA sponsored 36th annual Southeastern Races are scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, May 1 & 2, 2004, at the Nantahala River in Wesser, North Carolina. Mark your calendar for this important date and join the fun! You can be a part of the Race Crew, you can compete, or you can just come out and spectate. In fact, you can do any or all of the above. The race is the club's biggest annual gathering of GCA people — making it the our biggest social event of the year.

The race typically draws competitors from all over the Southeast, ranging from novices participating in their first race to seasoned racers seeking a place on the US



Race Watch

Slalom or Wild Water Team. Race classes range from Cadet & Junior to Open & Masters. Boat types include kayaks, open canoes and decked canoes, both in the race category and the recreational category, with tandem classes competing in open canoe and decked canoe.

More information on the race will soon be posted on the GCA web site at www.georgiacanoe.org. Entry forms will be available from the Registrar and should be mailed out to all previous competitors soon. More information will follow in later issues of the newsletter.

Meanwhile, if you are available to help out with the races, or if you can perhaps accept one of the major "in-charge" positions, please contact Race Master Bruce Fussell at 770.621.055, email bfussell@mindspring.com. Your assistance will truly be appreciated!!

Letters

I enjoyed the article on which side to paddle. I tend to be a switcher, just by habit, but now at my age and with my shoulders it is a matter of necessity, as I can't tolerate staying on one side all day. I am right hand dominant, and agree that I sense I have better control when paddling on the left with my right hand on the T.

While a purist might object, I think people tend to do what works, and feels best to them, in many things in life, not just paddling, and in the end, most of us make it to the



take-out — the old "all roads lead to Rome" idea.

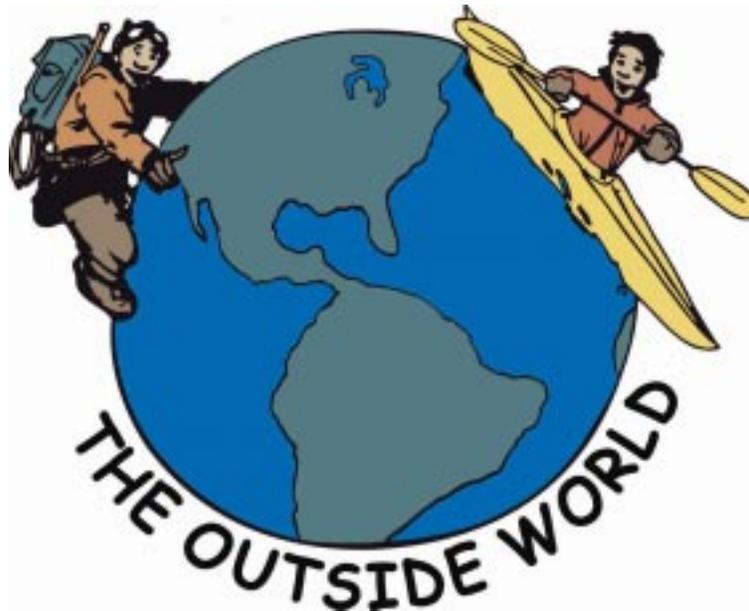
Dick Hurd

Thanks so much for all of the help and support as we told Chuck goodbye. It meant a lot to Mary, Andy, and me.

The spray of white flowers from the Georgia Canoeing Association was a wonderful tribute to my favorite paddler and a reminder that Chuck had a lot of paddling friends and touched a lot of lives. He had a zest for life that he loved to share with these friends. We will miss him dearly, but we do have some wonderful memories.

Thanks again,

Carole Creekmore



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A Rogue River Tale

by Jon Bial

This tale begins in Southern Oregon, where my dad and I planned a 35 mile float down the wild and scenic section of the Rogue River. We packed up our raft, the Maravia Spider with coolers and dry bags, fishing rods and assorted gear.

Two miles into the trip, we pulled over to scout Rainey Falls, a twelve foot drop rated class V because of the boat flipping hole at the bottom. Salmon and steelhead were jumping up the falls, and I got this brilliant idea that the falls could be run. So I left my dad on the beach with the fly rods and my camera and headed back to the boat, firmly convinced I had chosen a good line down the fall. Off I went.

Well, if the falls can be run at 1,500 cfs, it takes a better oarsperson than me. Although normally crashes seem to happen in slow motion, this one did not. The boat flipped so fast I can barely piece together how I flipped. But flip I did and into the water I went. Not to worry, as I plunged into the water, the boat oar broke my fall (thereby resulting in 11 stitches and a large bump above my left eye).

Here is where my tale becomes tragic and not for the faint of heart. The water separated me from my hat. As I turned over and over in the frothy white water, my only thought was "My hat?" Yeah right. My only thought was "Hold your breath, you idiot." After a very long time under water (like 3 seconds), I flushed out and was able to grab the boat, undo the bow line and swim towards shore, where some fishermen helped me drag the boat in and flip it back over.

No other gear was lost, but efforts to locate my trusty hat were in vain. Perhaps I would have found the hat if my left eye were not covered in blood. A quick look into the compass mirror revealed that stitches were necessary. As we still had two days and 33 miles of river to navigate before the nearest take-out, I opted to hike the two miles back to the beginning of our float and hitchhike to the nearest hospital.

My dad stayed behind and pitched camp. My last words to him as I left were, "look for my hat." He said I ought to have my head examined, which at the hospital I did. I grabbed my first aid kit, headlamp and jacket and began my two mile stroll to the trailhead.

I reached the road in 40 minutes. I knew I had to hike back in the dark, so I marked the trail by dripping blood. I figured this was a good plan, because I get lonely hiking alone and the blood was sure to attract company (Here little black bear, here little fellah).

Looking like the monster in a Halloween flick, I attempted to hitch a ride. Amazingly, the first car graciously volunteered to take me to the hospital. They were a retired couple out for a peaceful drive. She had me sit in the front seat to take full advantage of the floor mats and seat covers. At this point, my gauze pads were saturated.

Forty-five minutes later, we pulled up to the ER entrance to the Grant's Pass Hospital. While I was helping the lady back into the front seat, an orderly ran out and asked if I needed a wheel chair. I looked good. Too bad it wasn't prom night.

The hospital admissions nurse reacted with a mixture of awe (Wow, how brave you are) and amazement (Wow, you are really an idiot). Obviously, I prefer the first reaction, although the latter is more accurate. Either way, I was a pathetic figure, and they got me to the registration desk immediately.

I was a little worried at this point, as I only had \$28 in cash, no id, no insurance card and no VISA. Apparently, this was not a problem, as the registration clerk permitted me to call in my insurance info. She rushed me through the process and in no time at all, I was lying in a bed in the ER.

My ER nurse looked a little like Susan Sarandon and she lost little time in chastising me. "You did what? No locals run the falls." I sheepishly agreed that I was mentally ill. After providing me with fresh gauze, she left me to wallow in my cesspool of stupidity. Not more than five seconds past 'til I heard her tell everyone at the nursing station, "You won't believe it, that kid ran Rainey Falls."

I spoke out, "I can hear you!" The nurses and lab techs all laughed. A few came in to see the damage the falls can do. Within a short time, a German doctor came in to stitch me up.

I was a little worried about the stitches and scarring, as I had a job interview the following week. (Apparently, my worries were unfounded as the interview was postponed and my local doctor said the stitches were expertly done. Thanks ER doc!)

Newly stitched back together, I focused on my next problem, getting back to the trailhead. With everyone that came in, I begged a ride back to the trailhead at Graves Creek. Nurse Sarandon even called over to the admin department on my behalf but no one was heading my way. Unfortunately, Graves Creek is in the middle of nowhere and no one lives out there; it was a 1-1/2 hour round trip.

I was resigned to making signs for use in what was sure to be a new chapter in this adventure. I asked my nurse for help designing the signs. She asked if I had heard them talking earlier. Apparently, one nurse as a joke asked if she should get started on the signs.

Nurse Sarandon called her son to see if he was able to take me. But he was still in class. She even volunteered to take me when she got off shift in three hours. Then, she hesitated. She had one more idea. She called her soon to be ex-husband. This had to be a hard call to make. Sometimes asking my wife for a favor is tough enough, but asking a soon to be ex?

But ask she did and Bill graciously agreed to take me to the trailhead. (By the way, they are selling a very nice Four Runner, so if you know anyone in the market, have them call the hospital.) Bill met me at the ER entrance as soon as I was discharged, and off we went.

Bill chatted about cycling, triathlons and inflatable kayaks, but I couldn't have been great company. The road was curvy and I was feeling a little peaked. I concentrated on not throwing up because Bill probably would have taken me back to the hospital with concussion worries (it's just motion sickness).

We made it to the trailhead. The sun had set on the day, but not on my adventure. It was dark and I began my hike back to the tent. Every couple of steps I whistled to let the bears know dinner was coming.

While I was at the hospital, the local fishermen were making my dad feel at home by sharing stories about how friendly the bears are and how this particular spot on the river was a good one for entertaining sir ursine. The idea of camping alone can be intimidating, so my dad welcomed the idea of having wildlife companionship. My dad also had a head full of joyful memories of his son traipsing off in search of stitches. Needless to say, he was pretty excited to see me return.

I was also excited to see him. I had believed once I got to the tent, I could sleep. Unfortunately, when I laid down, I realized that I still had to row the boat through countless class IIIs and three class IVs, including Tyee Rapids, Mule Creek Canyon (with the famous coffee pot) and Blossom Bar. Sleep did not come easy.

By this time, I was a local legend, (not necessarily in a good way). Many people saw either the attempt, the result, or asked if my dad was camping alone still. Some fishing guides openly sneered at me with disdain. The unspoken sentiment seemed to be "How dare I disrespect their river by running the falls."

It was unnecessary; my shame was enough, although it did not prevent me from asking everyone if they saw my hat. My dad thought it amusing that I had one eye swollen shut but was worried about my hat. (He obviously has not had a Tilley.)

The following morning dawned cold but clear and we broke our bearless camp. A couple of miles downriver, we noticed a drift boat pulling flies like plugs. I asked him how

the fishing was and what type of flies they were using. What followed was remarkable, and I'm not even sure it really happened. The oarsman told me what type of fly, AND asked if I wanted a couple. I have been fly fishing for a number of years and never have run across such generosity.

We talked for awhile, and I noticed he had an "ifish.net" sticker on his boat. Ifish.net is a fishing forum focusing on Oregon rivers. I had consulted it for a Rogue report before taking the trip. The report was posted by none other than "Grantspastor" the man in the drift boat floating beside me. Small world.

We floated on. But Grantspastor floated by while we were avoiding disaster by putting a new cotter pin on my oar lock. (Note to self, add oar lock to repair kit.)

Grantspastor was a couple hundred yards in front of us when we went through "Slim Pickins," a class III rapid. This proved fortuitous, as I was able to yell downstream as the boat was flipping for the second time in as many days. The reason for this flip is unknown.

It could be due to the sluggishness of the boat, or my lack of depth perception (no left eye) or because I was a little shaky after Rainy Falls. But we flipped again, this time in slow motion. I had hit the boulder that was guarding the exit and my dad was jarred to the low side of the raft, burying the tube in the current and slowly flipping the boat.

I grabbed my dad and had him hold the boat while I climbed up on the boat bottom, undid the bow line, and swam/pulled the boat (and dad) to shore. Grantspastor ran up the bank and helped us flip the boat back over. The result: a soaked dad; two broken rods; and a thoroughly shaken captain.

Grantspastor could tell that the Rogue was in my head, and tried to calm me down and restore a little of my confidence. He was too good to be real. He invited us to share his camp at Battle Bar, and to help me through the remaining rapids. He had been on the river for over 30 years, and knew every rock, current and fishing spot. He took time to draw the rapids out on the sand and helped me through the tough ones.

I'm not going to say I couldn't have made it without him, but I will say this. Most wilderness tragedies I have read about result from a string of bad decisions and bad luck. My adventure may have avoided tragedy status because I swallowed my teaspoon of pride and accepted the gracious guidance and hospitality of Grantspastor. With his help, we made it to the take-out and home. I will be forever grateful.

What comes around goes around. And when my time comes, I'll do my part. I also want to express my sincere

gratitude to the staff at Grants Pass Hospital, especially Nurse Sarandon and her to-be ex, Bill.

Lastly, if any of you happen to see a well loved Tilley

hat floating down the Rogue, I'd really like it back.

Thanks!

- From JonBial@groups.msn.com.



Beginner Paddler Class at 41 Degrees with Wind

by Fred Couch, Jr.

Age 62, member 'Bama Back Paddlers, GCA, TSRA, Atlanta Sea Kayakers

This is not hot air talking, and it sure wasn't warm anywhere but under my paddling gear and in Mike's canoe shop for lunch. It all began on the bank of Terrapin Creek, Alabama, after one of my paddling trips with my septarian friend, Charlie, on a much warmer day. Mr. Jackie Faulkner, a member of the Fischer Rescue Squad, the hardy crew that rescues cliffs and covers around the Little River Canyon area in Alabama, asked me if I paddled Little River Canyon and gave swift water rescue (SWR) courses.

Well, yes and no, but I do give beginner paddling classes that teach eddy, peel outs, ferry, and connecting all this. And, maybe I could find someone to teach him SWR. Now, he really was asking for his whole squad, an 18 member group of dedicated volunteers who are as adept on a cliff as most of us are at walking.

I got on the phone and web, contacting all the folks I know and finding who best to help them. In the back of my mind was the many year dream of having a 3 day River Rescue Rodeo central to the areas of these Huntsville,



Fred Couch, a canoeing veteran, suits up for training.

- Photo by Kevin Qualls/The Anniston Star

Nashville, Birmingham, and Atlanta clubs.

After many emails, and convincing some to assist, I offered to teach beginner paddler skills and even do a simple boat rescue for his rescue squad for free, on December 6th at the Terrapin Outdoor Center (TOC) on Terrapin Creek, between Centre and Piedmont, Alabama.

I bought an old Dagger Impulse canoe from Outward Bound at NOC's GAF in October to use for rescue recovery, or wrap if the weather cooperated. However, this was the coldest and first weekend of deer rut in Alabama, and many of my friends were hunting. Normally the Terrapin is a class 1-2 creek, but it was a little up that day, and the weather was low of 28 and high of 48, cloudy with 5 to 10 mph winds, thereby increasing the difficulty.

Mike, owner of TOC, offered to loan all his boats and equipment FREE, and asked me to include any other Rescue Squads in the area interested. He went beyond that, buying a new grill to cook the venison I brought, and bringing in Butch, his main worker, and his Dad and Mom, who cooked chili, coffee, had warm cookies, and the most scrumptious, sweet, homemade dessert you could wish for.

We had other interested rescue squad personnel arrive, but they had other training or similar conflicts, so I gave them some bank-side instruction first. Mike and I will offer to help them in the Spring.

My friends came to help — Neal Coates, canoeist, from Carrollton, GA, to cook the venison and prepare lunch; Mike, kayaker, from Birmingham, AL, who brought a large tent; Charlie Doster, canoeist, from Anniston, AL, who witnessed the waivers and kept bank-side activities in his focus; Bryan Matthews, kayaker, from Montgomery, AL, who placed the flags downstream then came back to help instruct; Marcus Reid, canoeist, from Jacksonville, AL, who helped the tandem canoeists and stood ready with rescue rope as we ran rapids; Jerod Griffin, kayaker, from Ohatchee, AL, who was a roundabout, rescue roper, handyman, just one swell fellow willing to do anything — I used his winter paddling pants/top as I had loaned mine to the other paddlers; Don Coley, from Centre, AL, who was there as support, bank-side instructor, friend.

The tiny flags were red for right bank and white for



Fred Couch, right, gives water rescue instructions at Terrapin Creek. - Photo by Kevin Qualls/The Anniston Star.

left bank, so that after I taught technique — going straight, eddy, peel outs, ferry — they could put it all together and pick up the flags going downstream.

Charlie and I left en route at 6:30 am, after he learned (helped) me feed horses early in the morn. I had been told to expect 3 to 4 Rescue Squads with 26 to 30 students. Somehow I kinda believe the weather and opportunity to get wet may have changed some minds.

We intended to start the class at 9 am, but due to my motor mouthing, the time to get some people to hear my no cotton speech and change clothes (I took all my boat and clothing gear accumulated in the last 36 years for the ill prepared or didn't have), and put on dry suits, etc. I brought, we actually got on the water at 10:30 am. Later in the day it wasn't much warmer.

I had planned this for weeks, emailing many, calling many, all the while watching the weather predictions change from 61 to 51 to worse, and thinking of the case of hypothermia. On the other hand, I thought these students would be anything but sedentary (as most of my students are), physically capable of meeting a higher plane of challenge — I may have been more 'drill sergeant' than normal.

I sent an email to all the assistants I was hoping would appear, detailing class structure, responsibilities I needed each to assume, preparations I had on hand for hypothermia, fact that I was bringing enough venison to feed 40 people, and darned concerned for safety, as always. Mike and his TOC family were the best, doing all you could wish for to make this go so smoothly.

One day before the class I received an email from Jimmy Dunn, Chief Ranger, Little River Canyon National Preserve, wanting to take the course. He, like the other 10 squad members, took the techniques as a challenge anew and, with some guidance from me, practiced everything over and over.

At noon we enjoyed the fruits of the cook's labor, eating inside Mike's canoe shop (out of the chilly wind). I figure the average for the day with wind chill was near 30 degrees. Not exactly swimming weather. Neal had a big fur lined coat and hood as he stood in the lee of a building cooking and serving and cooking even more. Mike's Mom and Dad were right alongside, making sure everyone got plenty of carbs, hot dogs, venison burgers, hot chocolate, chili, and that special dessert.

After lunch I noticed the wind speed had increased, and was in our faces going downstream. I covered rope toss positioning and water position receiving, rock lean (towards), reviewed always leaning downstream, river reading (Downstream Vs, darkest deepest, pillows and shallow paddling harder, and anything I could think of to prepare

them not to swim).

There are basically two rapids with some connecting shoals we run after a class. This was the first time I had ever used flags, or even thought of it — I'll do that again. The first rapid is a long slide with a two foot drop, and prior to, in and around it are several large and tiny eddies, and some good wave troughs to ferry across in. The second rapid is a wave train between a rock bank (with a micro eddy I love), strong current, and an eddy across the current behind a mid-stream tree (not easy to cross in warm weather). Below that the current slams into a small cliff, meaning you should have remembered to train them to side slide/draw right.

Some had trouble seeing the flags (3 inch squares) and missed them, some had the grace to realize it was better to skip that flag and stay upright, one kayaker picked one up from every spot (I was thrilled with his prowess). One lady got stuck heading straight down in mid-stream shallows and I happened to be there to free her.

The only casualty for the day was the instructor trying to retrieve a white flag on his off-side and going over in a foot of water, losing his main paddle, dignity, and showing others I can goof, too. Sure did appreciate Jerod's dry pants and top, and two layers of my capilene I was wearing. Mike and his Dad, and Don Coley were there to pick us up and take back to the top. We were through by 3:30 pm.

At day's end, we had enough venison left over for everyone to take home a 3 lb. bag, water bottles donated by Jacksonville State University Environmental Program / Little River Canyon School for everyone, a two page review and information sheet I prepared with river suggestions they could and could not do in the area, river difficulty chart, lists of paddling clubs, and video's / pamphlets sent by the Instruction Department of Nantahala Outdoor Center.

The Anniston Star newspaper sent a photographer and did an article in their Sunday edition, as well as WJXS Television Station sending a reporter / photographer for a human interest feature on their telecast. Fortunately they left before I goofed. It was a good day to be on the river, or hanging on a tree with a bow.

Beginner Course Participants:

Fischer Rescue Squad — Rebeka Burt, Shane Burt, Quinten Green, Brent Highfidd
National Park Service — Jimmy Dunn, Valerie Saferite
Cherokee County Rescue Squad — Keith Hill, Danen Peek, Tedd Twilley, Tony Wilkie, Mark Thompson

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

Impure Thoughts

by Steve Thomas

There was recently an article in the AWC newsletter about a trip north to paddle, and one of the rivers was the Upper Yough. One of the group had some trouble with one of the rapids, so he portaged back up to give it another try -- a great attitude! After his successful run, his statement, "Take that, Meat Cleaver!" started my thought process about my own superstitions and things that have happened to me and to the people around me to validate my theory. My personal superstition/theory is that the rivers seem to know when we have, let's say, impure thoughts or words, or just need a reminder of who is really the boss.

I was paddling Section IV with some friends and we were approaching Woodall Shoals. I asked Glenn, "You running it?"

"Yeah."

I was serious, he was not. I was in decent shape at the time and was paddling well, but let's say my confidence was in need of a healthy dose of reality. My thoughts were, if I didn't quite make it through the hole, that I would just get myself out with my finely tuned paddling skills. (The older I get, the better I was, right?)

You may be a Female River Runner if....

You practically salivate at the sound of rainfall, snowfall, well it is almost as good as sex.

Men just look better with a paddle / oars in their hands. Those oars and paddles better not be your oars and paddles.

If it is Christmas or your birthday, you are getting boating gear as presents.

You watch mother duck with her ducklings, not because they are cute, but because she is the best damn teacher of ferry lines around. It is really a bonus to watch them run a rapid!

"Waterproof" means "a little damp" or "might-float"

You may call your kids by the wrong name, but you never mix up your boats.

You like men in skirts.

Your e-mail address has something to do with rivers.

You spend every weekend and vacation with a bunch of guys, but you aren't dating any of them.

You own more sarongs than bras.

You can strip down to naked and change your clothes in the open, in front of other people, and not think twice about it.

You can't drive over a bridge without looking for water

Many of us over the years have put ourselves in a spot where we know during that 1-2 seconds before pay-up time comes that we have made a real error in judgment. It often seems much longer than that at the moment. When I got to the brink of the drop above the hole, wrong line too, I looked down and thought, "Oh, s__t! Humble pie, please, and make that super-size!"

The level that day was about 2.6-2.8. Surf, flip, surf, flip, surf — for what seemed forever. Glen said it was sort of cool, watching the paddle go back and forth, then the flipping over and over and over. Thank goodness I had on my "lucky" life jacket, because after the few personal laps needed to rinse out the rest of my ego, it blew me out the bottom of the hole

My paddling mentor, Gerald Marshall, got in Woodall one day and he thought it was really bad — then his shorts got pulled down to his ankles. The thought of his hobbled feet and bare bottom doing laps in the hole.... Well, you get the picture.

Moments like these make great camp fire stories later, but when they are happening, they are about as much fun as a root canal! Or like that blind date gone bad.... "What was I thinking?!?"

Think pure thoughts!



under it.

Your hairstyle is dictated by if it looks okay with a helmet on. Or after the helmet comes off!

Your husband / boyfriend says you love your boat and your boatin' buddies more than him. He is jealous because they are mostly guys; you don't get it — your last boyfriend said the same thing. These guys are your boatin' buddies, nothing more. Why doesn't he understand? You do invite him on most of the trips!

You personally know someone (usually the owner) at every boating supply store in your 6 state region. You have also boated with most of them.

If you have to pee, you can drop drawers, and go... no matter who is around.

You can cheerfully wave at the rafts going by while you are sitting on the groover.

Your idea of a complete first aid kit is a roll of duct tape and superglue and Monistat.

You spend more on sun screen than on hair care and makeup combined.

You choose a new car based on whether or not your rack system will fit it or if it can tow your trailer.

You don't have to think about what to wear in a hot spring. You call your buddies in order of shuttle ability.

You drive a truck that can tow your boat and trailer. Men compliment you on your boyfriend's / husband's truck. It

is your truck.

You go to a formal function in the winter and the only formal you own is off the shoulder, people ask if you have a skin disorder because you still have PFD lines in January.

You take up skiing / snowboarding to have something to do during the off season. Besides snow is frozen water! If your boyfriend buys you a high floatation PFD made for a woman, you know it is love.

You know what a female relief zipper is and you own several articles of clothing equipped with them.

Your idea of complimentary traits in a boyfriend is if one of you kayaks and one of you rows a rig so you can go on longer trips.

You know it is time to trade in the boyfriend if he Bogart's your oars before the best rapids.

You measure major purchases relative to the cost of a new boat... (Hmmm, that new computer will cost me about 1/2 raft unit or 2.5 kayak units)

River lingerie is Coolmax underwear — it dries quickly
You have all the snow pack and stream flow charts for your 6 state region on your favorites list on your computer.

Every once in a while you touch your paddle, just to touch it... every once in a while you let go of your paddle, just to eat something.

You have a kayak or canoe that doubles as a coffee / dining table.

Your boats are worth more than all of your furniture combined!

You know what PVC and Hypalon are, you know the difference between them, the difference in how they are repaired, which glues to use, and you can repair both.

You can repair an oar frame or a kayak on the river but you can't change your own oil in your car.

You have a wet suit that's wet from March to October.

Your Mom has stopped saying, "Be careful this weekend".

Your Mom has also stopped saying, "Go where the men are so you can get married." You are where the men are and

you are no closer to giving her grandchildren! Doesn't labor interfere with boating?

Your Mom stopped trying to get you to pick out china and silver patterns and now buys you Lexan for gifts.

Your river pots and pans are as nice or nicer than what is in your kitchen.

"Wet, sticky hole" and "blowing a ferry" in casual conversation don't give you pause...

When looking at a new house, your first consideration is: Is the garage big enough to hold my boats? The second: Is the lot big enough to build a boat / trailer shed on?

You have changed the date of a child's birthday party because you were going on the Grand Canyon or the Salmon, or the Selway.

You search the country for a place to live for its proximity to year-round white water.

You feel all mushy inside when your boyfriend gives you a dry top for Christmas. A full dry suit with a female relief zipper is better than a diamond.

You know that if a river man fixes or adds something on your rig, you are engaged — at least until the take-out, or the season is over.

You can't look at water in a gutter without imagining tiny runs and miniature waves and holes.

You reinforce the boat shed better than the house, because in case of an earth quake, you and your boyfriend can get out on your own power. Your boats need to be protected.

You started with a little fishing boat, but now you have the 18' gear hauler for big water, the 16' raft for family trips, the 14' oar rig for when you and the boyfriend want to get away by yourselves, the two duckies for the kids, the 12' play cat for day trips, your flat water canoe, your white water canoe, your squirt boat, and your older kayak, then there's the boats you store at your divorced buddy's house so your boyfriend won't know you bought them.

If you are on the river with the right person, you know that white water is an important form of foreplay.

- From a posting by Lori to the GCPBA email list. 

After the Fall

by Ted Gearing

Two redneck youths and an older, more mature (and no doubt wiser) redneck leaned against the pickup truck as we unloaded the boats. Winter float.

Redneck youth #1 — following a Beech Nut spit and customary wipe on the sleeve — "Hey, don't chew know thet water's co-o-ld!" As visions of Deliverance danced in our heads, we tried to explain to the native inhabitants of this area that yes, we did know that it was cold, but that

we were well prepared for the dangers that lay ahead. It was with some reluctance, however, that we proceeded to climb into our (as redneck youth #2 put it) "funny little rubber suits."

A silence fell among us as we finished packing thermoses, dry clothes and lunch. I looked to the knife hanging on my PFD — then to the shotgun in the back window of the redneck truck.

"We need a gun," I whispered to my companions.

"Let's just get on the river," one replied.

"Maybe that's just their way of being friendly," an-

other said. Yeah. Right!

As we paddled out of range, the so far silent older, more mature (and no doubt, wiser) redneck bellowed "Well, you'll learn, you'll learn — Yankee!"

We kept low that day, watching the bluffs for the glint of gun barrels, puffs of smoke. We tried not to think of our cars sitting unprotected at the access. Yet we still had a good time. We threw snowballs, watched them run the rapids. We played the river, catching eddies, surfing ledges. We enjoyed the glow of sunshine radiating from the yellow bluffs. We drank coffee and soup and stood around a fire on the gravel bar. We saw ducks and dogwood berries — deer tracks at the water's edge. We laughed — told stories — talked of dreams of the future. We scorned those who had chosen to spend the day staring at 21 inch versions of "life."

Late Breaking News

GCA Board of Directors Pledges Support of AW's Efforts on the Chattooga River

On Sunday, December 7, 2003, the Georgia Canoeing Association (GCA) Board of Directors voted unanimously and pledged their support, including financial support, should American Whitewater (AW) be forced to appeal a USFS decision that maintains the closure of the Chattooga Headwaters in the new Sumter Forest Management Plan. The final decision on the new Forest Plan is expected sometime in January 2004. The release of the new Forest Plan and the final environmental impact statement culminates a nearly 8 year revision process.

AW expects the USFS to maintain the boating ban in the new Forest Plan. AW and GCA are committed to restoring legal boating access above the Highway 28 Bridge and will bring every resource available to bear in an effort to restore this access. GCA has established a river access fund that is designated for just such causes as the Chattooga Headwaters access issue. AW and GCA are already planning an appeal of the Agency's decision should it be necessary.

GCA's membership represents over 2000 paddle sports enthusiasts around the Southeastern United States and other parts of the country. GCA's Board also asked AW to challenge other clubs in the region to match their commitment and pledge their support.

- To be posted on the Americal Whitewater web site. ✂

Nothing is foolproof to a talented fool.

Tension mounted as we reached the take-out. But there were no rednecks. No demolished cars. Just some friendly folks out for a walk with their 3 year old daughter. We talked of the river and the beauty of the hills it runs through — of the beauty seen only in winter when the leaves have fallen and snow blankets the ground.

The redneck was right. We did learn. Not to stay away from the river in the winter, but to come again and again. To experience the river in one of its most precious states — the quiet, uncluttered — unseen by the crowds of summer. So, get out. Turn off that television. Dress warm. Be careful. Get on the river. Watch the snow fall. See icicles hanging twenty feet long. Drift beneath mistletoe. Enjoy winter, and at the end of the day — sleep well. - From "Ozark Paddler" — newsletter of the Ozark Mountain Paddlers. ✂

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken." - James Dent.

MURPHY'S LAW AND ADHESIVES

- A dropped item will always land glue side down.
- Duct tape never tears where it is intended to tear and then the sticky sides will always somehow become attached to each other.
- Excess Aquaseal will end up on your good clothes.
- After using Aquaseal for a small repair, 95% of the remaining glue will harden in the tube overnight.
- I like the basic principle of the Rim Rubber product but have never had it stay on any of my paddles long enough to justify the time, effort or expense of ever using it again.
- For gasket repair, the amount of preparation is proportional to the degree of misalignment the next morning.
- While using contact cement, at least one unintended item (such as your own thumb or hair) will also be unexpectedly bonded to your work.
- From "The Spray" — newsletter of the Colorado White Water Association.

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 type-written ad to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Dr., Marietta, Ga. 30066, or email to gacanoemindspring.com. PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Wenonah Odyssey, 18'6". Sliding bow and stern seats. Fiberglass with tuff-weave

lay-up. Good shape. \$400. Call Larry Castillo, cell 404.406.7367 or home at 770.590.0699.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Dagger Encore, red, no painters, very few scratches, ash gunwales, brand new Mohawk solo saddle system installed, new Mohawk teal bags. \$500 OBO. Doug Massey 770.513.6987.

FOR SALE - Canoe trailer, carries 6, no gear box but could be added easily on frame. Oldie but goodie, completely sanded, rust-proofed, and painted two years ago, wheel bearings good, tires OK. \$600 OBO. Doug Massey 770.513.6987.

FOR SALE - Kayak, 3 year old Dagger Dynamo, a great first boat that will hold a child up to 135 lbs. In very good shape (has normal wear and tear on bottom). Comes with skirt (maybe 2 skirts) for \$325. Located in Decatur. Make some small paddler happy for the holidays! Bill Eley 404.687.9732 or e-mail jeley@emory.edu.

FOR SALE - Kayaks. Complete family kayak/gear: 1.) Perception Dancer-red, child's beginner kayak, outfitted, flotation, adjustable spray skirt, paddle, youth PFD and helmet-red, girl's never used Bare wet suit, top of line medium Chota neoprene booties and throw rope, \$425. 2.) Dagger Crossfire kayak, good begin-

ner m/f boat, outfitted, Perception EZ spray skirt, flotation, light wt. quality Weimer paddle, new Kokotak PFD (ex-L) and throw rope. \$525. 3.) Pirouette S kayak, easy to roll boat for ladies, outfitted, flotation, new Snapdragon spray skirt, paddle, small PFD-red, \$350. 4.) Pirouette kayak, good beginner for m/f, well outfitted, flotation, paddle, spray skirt, \$300. Call 770.645.7775.

FOR SALE - Touring Kayaks. Garage clean out sale. Current Designs Gulfstream, Slipstream, Soltice GTSH and Perception Eclipse. All are fiberglass, in excellent condition and stored indoors. Give me a call and make me an offer. Gary at 423.344.5772 or email to di8tician@aol.com.

FOR SALE - Raft. 6 person (4 adult); good condition; originally purchased from NOC sale; used on Nantahala; gray; \$150 firm; Rhett Smith 404.371.7008.

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 - Canoe, Blue Hole OCA (15' 9") or Mad River Explorer (16') Royalex, in good to great condition. Please call Alan Mallory at 770.534.5857. ✈

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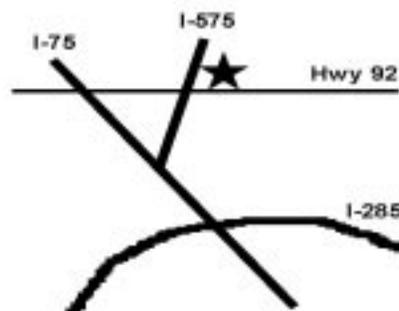
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