GCA Georgia Canoeing Association

The Eddy Line

Post Office Box 7023 Atlanta, GA 30357

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Winter Roll Practice

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

Next GCA Meeting

Spring Membership Meeting and March Board of Directors Meeting

The 4th quarter Board meeting and Holiday Party combo was such a huge success that we decided to repeat this for our Spring Membership meeting. The date will be Sunday, March 21. The location will be at the Johnson's home in Marietta again. The Board meeting will begin at 4:00 and membership meeting at 6:00. We'll have ham and turkey and soft drinks. GCA members please bring a covered dish. Guests and prospects for membership are welcome!

Directions: Take I-75 North from I-285. Go to the third exit (South Marietta Parkway), exit to the right (east). Go to the second traffic light and turn right (Lower Roswell Road). Go to the next traffic light and turn left (Old Sewell). Go to the next traffic light and turn left (Holt Road). Take next left into Weatherstone Subdivision (Willow Glenn Drive). Go through two stop signs. After the second stop sign count three streets. Turn left on Clear Spring Court. It's # 340, two-thirds of the way up on the right.

Please RSVP to gwminc@mindspring.com or 770.971.1542 and let Gina know what you're planning on bringing — veggies always needed, desserts always eaten!

Thank you, and see you there!!

GCA Spring Extravaganza

Mark your calendars! The 2004 GCA Spring Extravaganza is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 14-16. The Extravaganza is a weekend of paddling and camping, featuring a catered dinner on Friday evening, club sponsored trips on Saturday & Sunday, and the fine company of many, many GCA members.

The event will be headquartered at Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway, nestled in the heart of the Nantahala Forest in Topton, NC. See the registration form and flyer in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

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"A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water."

- Anonymous.

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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 Cruise Master Steve Reach at 770.760.7357.

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 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 apreciated.

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	Don Kinser
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.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

March				
6	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
6	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
7	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
12-14	Altamaha (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
13	Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Doug Ackerman	770.503.0365
13	Chattooga Section 3 or 3-1/2 (Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	770.594.9078
13	Leader's Choice (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Luke Bradshaw	770.748.9282
20	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
20	Cataloochee (NC)	Class 2-3(4) Intermediate (Advanced)	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
21	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Janet Brabaw	678.547.1519
21	Oconaluftee (NC) (Note 5)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
21	Board of Directors Meeting — Johnson Residence — Marietta, GA		Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
21	Spring Membership Meeting & Dinner — Johnson Residence — Marietta, GA		Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
27	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
27	Town Creek (AL)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
27	Chattooga Section 3 or 3-1/2 (Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	770.594.9078
April				
3	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
4	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Mike Winchester	770.319.8969
10	Metro Chattahoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	770.760.7357
10	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Sam Blackwell	706.342.0511
10	Chattooga Section 3 or 3-1/2 (Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	770.594.9078
17	Etowah (Note 3)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	William Gatling	770.529.7103
17	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
18	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Doug Ackerman	770.503.0365
24	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	770.760.7357
24	Chattooga Section 3 or 3-1/2 (Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	770.594.9078
May				
24	Chattooga Section 3 or 3-1/2 (Note 4)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	770.594.9078
1-2	Southeastern Championship Races — Nantahala River, NC		Bruce Fussell, Race Master	770.621.0551
14-16	GCA Spring Extravaganza — Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway — Topton, NC — Connie Venuso			404.633.8038
22-23	Flint River (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
29	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
30	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350

Note 1: Overnight Camping.
Note 2: Little River Chair Lift Section or equivalent.
Note 3: Tunnel Section.
Note 4: Section 3 or 3-1/2 depending on water level.
Note 5: Back-up river for this trip is the Raven Fork — Class 3-4 Advanced.

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 Cruise Master, Steve Reach at 770.760.7357. 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
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 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.

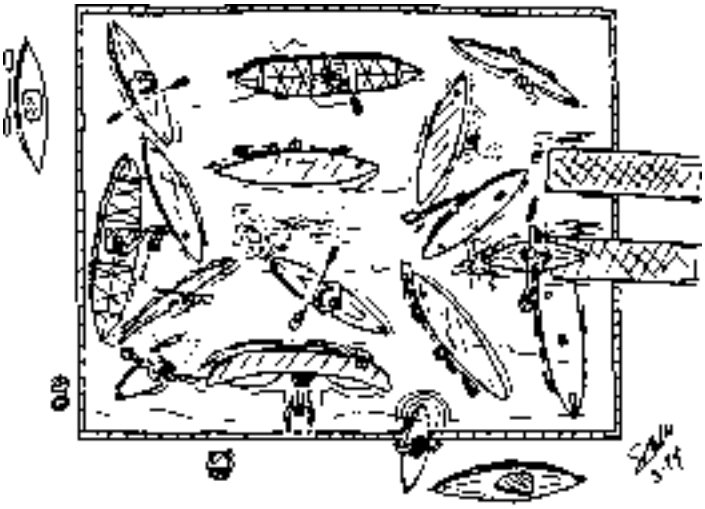
Support Our GCA Supporters

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 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.

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

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 availble 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.

Upcoming Events of Interest

March 6-7 — Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Races — Garden City, AL, Kim Harrold, 205.988.9880.
March 20 — Locust Fork Classic Canoe & Kayak Races — Cleveland, AL, Tim Rogers, 205.274.0006.
March 27 — Canoochee Canoe Race — Canoochee River — Claxton, GA, www.canoocheeriverkeeper.org/race.html.
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 8 — Coosa River Basin Initiative (CRBI) Canoe-A-Thon and Canoe Race — Oostanaula River, Rome, GA, 706.232.2724.
May 14-16 — GCA Spring Extravaganza — Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway, Topton, NC, Connie Venuso, 404.633.8038.
May 15 — Fontana Flat Water Dash — Fontana Lake, NC, 800.232.7238.
June 12 — Back to the Chattahoochee Race and Festival — Chattahoochee River, Roswell, GA, www.chattahoochee.org.
October 29-31 — NOC Guest Appreciation Festival — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, 800.232.7238.

March Board of Directors Meeting

The 1st quarter GCA Board of Directors meeting will be held in conjunction with the March Membership Meeting at the home of Haynes & Gina Johnson on March 21. The Board meeting will begin at 4:00, followed by the Membership Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner at 6:00. If you have items for the agenda, please contact President Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542, email gwminc@mindspring.com, to add your items to the meeting agenda for discussion.

Directions: Take I-75 North from I-285. Go to the third exit (South Marietta Parkway) Exit to the right (east). Go to the second traffic light and turn right (Lower Roswell Road). Go to the next traffic light and turn left (Old Sewell). Go to the next traffic light and turn left (Holt Road). Take next left into Weatherstone Subdivision (Willow Glenn Drive). Go through two stop signs. After the second stop sign count three streets. Turn left on Clear Spring Court. It's # 340, two-thirds of the way up on the right.

Attending Board meetings is a great way to get more involved with the club, and to give back a little of what the GCA has given the paddling community.

See you there!!

From the Cruise Master

by Steve Reach

I'm already having a good time as Cruise Master for GCA. Thanks very much to everyone that responded to my calls and emails this month, and especially to those who volunteered to coordinate trips during this admittedly less-than-optimal paddling weather. It was great speaking to many of you on the phone; I look forward to getting caught up with the rest of the list a bit later on. Special appreciation goes to William Gatling, Mike Winchester and Allen Hedden for assisting me with the learning curve.

Now, a word to those members who are NOT on my coordinators list. Group paddling is one of the main things that really makes this a great club. YOU can be a trip coordinator — it doesn't take expertise so much as enthusiasm for a particular river, creek, lake, ocean, swamp or marsh. If you have a favorite run and you would like to host a group on any day this year, I want to hear from you!!

Give me a call at 770.760.7357 or email sreach@bellsouth.net if you would like additional information and materials to help you get started.

Correction on Ocmulgee Canoe Camping Trip

For anyone interested in the Ocmulgee/Altamaha canoe/camping trip for March 12-14, the correct email is anotherriverrat@bellsouth.net (DSL rules the free universe). The second email address is at work. Being a galley slave, I may not have time to return a thoughtful reply. Both phone numbers are fully functional.

Thanks & SYOTR, Vincent Payne.

Jon Lord Dies on Russell Fork

On Sunday, January 25, a tragic boating accident in the Russell Fork Gorge took the life of Jon Lord, an extraordinary kayaker who knew the run as well as anyone. The following is a posting from Boater Talk by Jay Ditty, who was on the ill-fated trip.

I am very sorry to report the loss of a good friend and top-notch boater, and a brother of the hometown Russell Fork paddling crew today at Towers Rapid. Jon Lord was well-known to the southeast and northeast paddling scenes, with friends from New York all the way down to the Chattanooga area. Many of you knew him and will miss him deeply.

Jon, Matt Walker and myself (Jay Ditty) were paddling the Fork today at a medium flow of about 700 cfs, a little less than the standard October release level, but still enough to run all the main lines. The water was cold, probably not much above 40 degrees if even that, and the air was maybe 35, with a cold wind and sleet. Matt was paddling a Java, myself a Blunt. Jon was in his Big EZ, a small boat, but a boat that he knew well and was very comfortable in. I have seen him hit lines in that boat that some of us would be lucky to do in a creek boat. He knew the river well and has more runs on this river than just about anybody around. I count him as one of the best boaters I have ever had the opportunity to go down the river with.

Matt and I just happened to run into Jon this morning at the take-out and had a good time exchanging stories on the way to the put-in. We hiked in at Camp Branch and had a good paddle down to the first few significant drops. As we approached Towers we laughed as we discussed which line to take. I went to the right around the island, the sneak line, and Matt ran first through the main line boof on the right side of the main current. We both ended up at the bottom of the drop at the same time, Matt upside down and rolling, me scrambling for the middle eddy.

I saw Jon come off the main line boof out of the corner of my eye, then he went out of view. From below the drop it is difficult to see the landing zone off the boof due to the rock in midstream. Jon never came out around the corner.

After a few seconds, Matt and I realized something wasn't right as we couldn't see Jon anywhere. A paddle floated free from the drop. We didn't even go to grab the paddle, because I knew if Jon Lord dropped his paddle, something real bad was happening.

I pulled out on the midstream boulder that blocks the backwash of the hole at the base of the drop. As I stood up, it took me a few seconds of scanning the rapid before I saw Jon's boat, pinned vertically in the submerged rock jumble just in the center of the drop. For a brief second, Jon and I made eye contact as he had an air pocket and was trying to keep his head up, but the force of the water was immense and overwhelming.

By the time I reached into my boat to grab my rope, he had lost the air pocket and was completely submerged. He was now face down in the water about a foot from the surface with the entire force of the 8 foot waterfall pouring onto his kayak. I was about 12-15 feet directly downstream of him, and I tried throwing my rope about 20 times to the place I thought he might find it, but I doubt he could even see it or feel it due to the force of the water. I finally looped it around behind his boat where it stuck for good. Pulling on the rope didn't move anything.

Matt had exited his boat, portaged up the rapid on river right, and ferried out to the island. He made it down to a point about 10 feet from Jon's boat, where the rock wall juts out from the island. I threw the remainder of my rope to him, and he pulled from this angle, still with no luck in moving anything. I think the rope was probably caught on the same rock as Jon's boat, and doubt that we were pulling on anything that would help.

Matt threw his rope and looped it around the boat from upstream, in the same way as mine, and pulled on that for awhile. I ferried back over to the bank and portaged up to join Matt. From the vantage point on the island, we could see Jon's boat pinned vertically, with cockpit downstream, and Jon trapped inside and submerged about a foot down. His lifejacket came loose and floated free after about 20 minutes.

It appeared to us that the boat likely folded somewhere around his legs, possibly explaining why he couldn't get out. This all occurred at about 1:45, and at about 2:15, we decided it was time to paddle out for help. There was no way to walk out to him, even with my rescue harness, and it was a difficult decision to leave. We tied the ropes so they would be visible from upstream, and cautiously paddled out.

The rescue squad from Elkhorn City was notified when we arrived at Ratliff Hole, and a large crew was organized to join in the recovery effort, but daylight was fading and there was little that could be done in the 2 hours that we had left. We rode a CSX train up into the gorge with members of the search and rescue, swift water, and dive rescue teams from the nearby towns. We took them to the site after about a 30 minute hike from the tracks, and arrived at 5:00 pm.

It was impossible to reach his boat or him from the river left side where we stood. After surveying the rapid, we decided to call off the recovery effort for the night and resume it in the morning. The dam was shut off, but there

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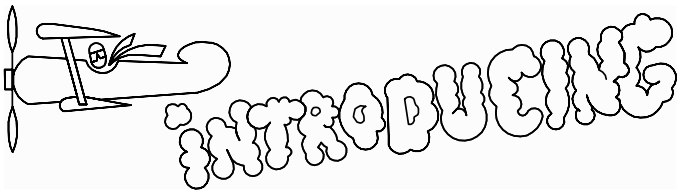
was still about 450 cfs in the river from natural flow.

The local rescue teams have been a big help and did a great job tonight. They are collecting resources to help us in the morning to go back and attempt to get him out of the gorge. They say they will provide a couple rafts, but we will need to paddle them into the gorge along with a couple kayaks to get the gear to Towers. The rescue squad is coming in by train, and we hope to ferry a few experienced members across to the island. If all goes well, we will try to get him out of the gorge by train.

Jon leaves behind a family and friends who love him and miss him dearly. I'm sure some of you do too. We will try to keep you posted about details over the next few days. Please send some good thoughts this way, we need them.

- Jay.

At this writing, Jon's body had still not been recovered. By the time the rescue crew got to Towers the next morning, he and his boat had washed out of the pin. His boat was recovered in a pool downstream. Our hearts go out to Jon's family and friends, and the efforts of the many people who have given days and days of their time on the recovery effort are very much appreciated.



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!!

Benn, Brian
1100 Longwood Trace
Atlanta GA 30324
H: 404-633-4332
Email: bbenn@attbi.com

Parker, Don
1320 Gran Forest Drive
Cumming GA 30041
H: 678-455-9151
O: 770-262-7345
Email: drparker36@aol.com

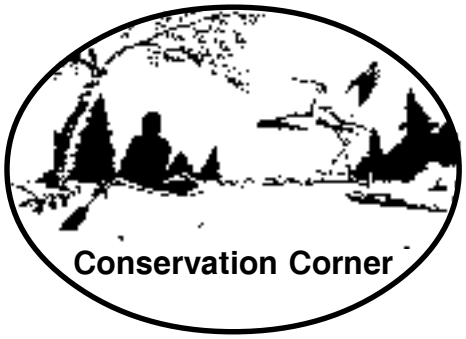
Shattuck, John & Kim
3465 Parson's Greene Trail
Powder Springs GA 30127
H: 770-422-6940
O: 770-980-5101
Email: kdandjr@earthlink.net

Thompson, Stuart
890-A North Belair Road
Evans GA 30809
H: 706-651-0616
O: 706-721-7277
Email: stthomps@mcg.edu

Haskell, Lisa & Keith
127 Chestnut Field
Peachtree City GA 30269
H: 678-364-9001
O: 770-991-8108
O: 678-858-2012
Email: bkhaskell@earthlink.net

Perlis, Ike
6384 Cherry Tree Lane
Atlanta GA 30328
H: 404-255-0084
O: 404-239-9722
O: 404-692-4426
Email: idp635@aol.com

Stekoa Creek Still Stinks!



Rabun County and the City of Dillard, Georgia, have retained an engineering firm to perform a "watershed assessment" of eleven streams in the area. The majority of these streams empty into the Chattooga River, and so far the assessment has captured current data about water pollutants including fecal coliform, sedimentation, and phosphorus. Outstanding are the excessive fecal coliform readings for Stekoa Creek, a major tributary to the Chattooga River's "Section IV." Stekoa continues to be a pox on the Chattooga's water quality, consistently flowing into the Wild & Scenic River with muddy, smelly waters laced with fecal coliform.

Meanwhile, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has required the City of Clayton to conduct a comprehensive sewer system evaluation survey. The

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city would like to expand its current sewage treatment plant from 800,000 gallons to one million gallons per day. This sewage plant releases its effluent into the beleaguered Stekoa Creek. However, the EPD will not approve the expansion until the city patches up its leaking sewer system, which is also contributing to the high fecal coliform count in Stekoa Creek.

- *From the Chattooga Quarterly, Fall 2003.*

River Hazards

From a Boater Talk posting on 2/6/04: Upper Chattahoochee. Made an afternoon run at 8' today and there was a new log blocking the entrance to the left side of Buck Shoals. You could squeeze around it left or right, but right side put you in a pretty sticky hole. It might flush, but keep an eye out.

From Clay Noble on 2/8/04: Mossy Creek Log — The last chute before entering the Chattahoochee has a log pinned across the rocks. The log spans the entire width of the chute. You cannot see the log boat scouting until you are commited to the run. At Saturday's level you could slide over the log on the right, after making a couple of difficult moves. Best to bank scout this last rapid.

From Allen Hedden on 2/10/04: I don't know when or why it happened, but someone deliberately dropped a large dead tree across the river on the Middle Tellico about halfway through the run. It extends from the right bank where the sawn off stump is across to a large boulder on the left. It's possible to get under it on the left, but there are snags sticking down into the water there. It would be tougher in higher water — we had a pretty low flow.

You can see this scenario as you drive up the road. You can also see the stump on the shore pretty easily from the river as you round a bend to the left, but the log isn't that visible until you are closer. There is an easy portage on a rocky beach on river left, about 50-75 feet.

2004 USACK Sprint Nationals at Lanier

by Connie Hagler, Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club

Lake Lanier Olympic Center — January 21, 2004. The 2004 USACK Sprint National Championships and Masters National Championships have been awarded to the Lake Lanier Olympic Center — site of the 1996 Olympic competition and the Lanier Canoe 2003 International Canoe Federation Flat Water Racing World Championships. The event will run from July 28 through August 1.

This event is the premier club event in the United States for the Olympic discipline of flat water racing. Top clubs and athletes throughout the country will compete for medals in one, two and four person canoe and kayak events in 200m, 500m, 1000m and 5000m races. The club national championship title and many other national titles will be on the line!

Defending national champion team, the Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club, will be challenged by teams from throughout the United States. The event will be open to international athletes and will include Dragon Boat exhibition events! Additional information will be coming soon! For details, contact:

Connie Hagler
Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club
ConHagler@aol.com
770.287.7888 221
770.287.3444 fax
www.lckc.org
www.LanierCanoe2003.org

36th Annual Southeastern Races

The 36th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom and Wild Water Championships will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 1st & 2nd, 2004, 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. We hope to have more recreational racers this year, so we're working hard to finish up by early afternoon on Sunday to help the racers and race crew get on the road earlier!

Awards will be presented 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.

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.

This year we are adding a "Ducky Sprint" on Saturday afternoon as new event. Participants can race inflatables and sit-on-tops on a short down river run, racing through the "Bump" and the "Falls". This event will be held after the slalom races.

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 or canoe as a grand prize. There will be a Race Banquet at 'Relia's Garden at NOC on Saturday evening. Dinner reservations and tickets are necessary.

Racers may register by mail by April 23rd for just $15, or in person on the afternoon before the race for $25. There will be no late registration on the day of the race. To request a race registration package, send your name and mailing address to Debbie Dargis, Race Registrar, 5345 Bannergate Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022, or e-mail your request to ddargis@comcast.net. Registration packages are normally mailed out to previous race participants automatically, and they will be posted on the GCA web site (www.georgiacanoe.org). The package contains an entry

form, description of fees, waivers and other race information.

Race volunteers are needed to help with course construction, judging, safety, scoring, timing and hospitality. We start on Thursday morning (April 29) with course construction and race headquarters set up and will end on Sunday afternoon (May 2) with course breakdown. The GCA provides breakfast and lunch for the volunteers on race days. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!! We will have phone numbers for several campgrounds that the volunteers can use. To register as a volunteer, please call Gina Johnson @ 404.226.8363 or e-mail her at gwminc@mindspring.com. You can also reach me at 770.621.0551 or brucefussell@comcast.net.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.

- Bruce Fussell, Race Master.

Race Crew Volunteers Needed!!

This year's Southeastern Championship Races are scheduled for May 1 and 2 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. 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 a Race Dinner Saturday night ($12.00 per person paid in advance — see the order form in back of the newsletter). The annual Race Raffle will be held at the dinner. Watch future issues of *The Eddy Line* for a listing of the great raffle prizes. The Race Crew sign-up sheet in back of the newsletter can be used to order raffle tickets. Tickets 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 Gina Johnson at 404.226.8363 or e-mail her at gwminc@mindspring.com 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 brucefussell@comcast.net or call at 770.621.0551. The GCA has sponsored this race for the last 35 years. That is a tremendous accomplishment for a volunteer organization. We ask for your continuing support. Thank you!

- Bruce Fussell, Race Master.

John Pinyerd Named USACK Wild Water Committee Chair

January 7, 2004 — Atlanta, GA — The results of the election for Wild Water Committee Chair are in! The unanimous vote among valid ballots finds the 2004-2005 term with John Pinyerd at its helm. John is a long time GCA life member and is very proud to have gotten his start in paddling and racing with the club.

"GCA has a rich history of world class canoeists coming up through the club and I have always been proud to be a member," John says. "I am excited about potential joint training opportunities for juniors and other interested parties and look forward to supporting our sport."

John is even considering contributing articles promoting racing to the GCA newsletter. Congratulations, John!!!

Georgia River Race Series!

With the arrival of 2004 comes the first annual Georgia River Race Series — three flat water canoe and kayak races that are dedicated to recreational paddlers and serious competitors alike.

1) Canoochee Canoe Race — Claxton — March 27th — 11 miles down the Canoochee River — You can register for this race online, go to www.canoocheeriverkeeper.org/race.html for more information.

2) Coosa River Basin Initiative (CRBI) Canoe-A-Thon and Canoe Race — Rome — May 8th — 15 miles down the Oostanaula River — call CRBI 706.232.2724) for more info and check website soon for details.

3) Back to the Chattahoochee Race and Festival — Roswell — June 12th — 8 or 11 miles down the Chattahoochee River — go to www.chattahoochee.org for more information

Point Races — The races have all standard open and recreational canoe and kayak classes. Those racing in the open class can compete for series points. The highest point winners overall will be awarded special eco-tourism prizes.

Great Cause — All three of these races are on beautiful stretches of river that offer their own challenges and rewards. And all the races benefit organizations that are dedicated to preserving Georgia's river resources — the Canoochee Riverkeeper, CRBI, and the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

"Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter what fork you use."

- Emily Post.

2004 USACK Marathon National Team Trials

by Shaun Koos, ICF Coordinator, USA Canoe/Kayak

The Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club will host the 2004 USACK Marathon World Championships National Team Trials on May 15th and 16th. The Trials races are used to select the United States Team for the World Marathon Championships that will be contested in Bergen, Norway the last week in July. Information on the 2004 World Championships is currently available on the race organizer's website (www.canoe-bergen2004.com).

The Trials races will start and finish on the Lake Lanier venue utilized for the 1996 Olympics and the 2003 World Sprint Kayak Championships. The trials distances will be 30K for Seniors and 22K for Juniors; with K-1 and C-1 races conducted on Saturday, May 15th; and K-2 races on the 16th.

The Trials also serve as selection races for the US Marathon Team, with the first 12 finishers in each K-1 (C-1) race qualifying. A full slate of Masters and USCA class canoe/kayak races are also planned over the 22 K distance; as is a short course race of 7K for younger juniors and beginning marathoners.

Additional information is available on the Lanier website (www.lckc.org). The contact person with the Lanier Club is:

Connie Hagler
Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club
ConHagler@aol.com
770.287.7888 ext. 221
770.287.3444 fax

Letters

Dear Editor:

Enjoyed the article about cold water and the human response. For many years, my family and friends have done saunas the Scandinavian way. First get totally hot and then dive into ice cold water (or a snow bank if all the available water is solid). Not sure how this fits into the big picture but it sure is fun and it feels reeeeeaaallly good.

- Michael Moody

P.S. Of course we don't stay in the water approx 60 or so seconds.... but we do it multiple times in an hour's time.

Editorial

Jet Skis (a.k.a. PWCs) vs. River Access

Nothing seems to raise the ire of paddlers as quickly and easily as the Jet Ski issue. It would seem that these evil machines have sneaked onto the river in the dead of night just to ruin a paddler's good time. These machines have actually been around quite a while. My brother looked at one with an eye to buying it back in the mid-to-early seventies when he was really into Kawasaki motorcycles.

Since the name "Jet Ski" is a trade name owned by a single manufacturer, the industry has given them the generic name "personal water craft" or PWCs. I personally take exception to use of this term, because it doesn't definitively describe exactly what you're talking about. Heck, my solo canoe is a "personal water craft," as is your kayak or sit-on-top, or solo inflatable kayak, or your solo sailboat or catamaran or skiff. I could go along with the term "motorized personal water craft" (MPWC), but the PWC name is way to all-inclusive.

Before human powered boaters get their buns in an uproar about MPWCs on the river, we might want to think out the ramifications of getting into the "you can't use my water that way" frame of mind regarding MPWCs, or any other river users. The real issue that is in danger here is, what is a navigable river? If one takes the position that MPWCs should be restricted, then how far behind are the landowners from stating that trolling motors of fishermen should be restricted, then paddlers, then waders, then swimmers. We may not like the end result.

MPWCs are noisy, they do throw a big wake — hey, they are a lot of fun on a lake — when operated safely. They are not the devil all by themselves. The real issue is not the watercraft, but the manner in which it is operated. And some types of water craft definitely do not mix well with other types. There are issues with safety, noise and pollution that need to be addressed with MPWCs.

What sections of what rivers are you willing to give up to the MPWCs? As far as the safety issues are concerned, yes, they do constitute a hazard to non-motor-

ized forms of navigation. But the MPWC community might also want to make an issue of the fact that canoes and kayaks are slow and present a danger to MPWCs moving up and down the river — an MPWC needs speed for steerage — human powered craft could make this dangerous.

MPWCs made their debut on white water rivers a few years back. Thank goodness they haven't made serious inroads so far, but mark my words, with today's daredevil mentality being so prevalent, you'll be seeing them more and more in the future. With that in mind, we must ask ourselves, is it better to put up with a few MPWCs than to lose ground on the access issue? If we take to banning certain groups from using our waterways, we leave ourselves more vulnerable to being the group to be banned in the future. It might be a very "slippery slope," as they say in political terms.

Just a thought for those involved in river access to keep in mind....

- Editor

Book Review

The River Chasers

From theriverchaser.com web site: "The River Chasers is a recently published history of American white water canoeing and kayaking. Written by Susan Taft, The River Chasers traces the evolution of paddling through the people, rivers, and events over the last sixty years. The culmination of five years of research and 130 interviews, this book covers white water paddling from wood/canvas canoes and folding kayaks to modern day composite and plastic canoes and kayaks; from recreational white water and slalom to squirt and free style rodeo."

There are over 75 pages available as PDF files without buying the book. Go to: http://www.theriverchasers.com. Click on: "Excerpts"

- From a posting to the Carolina Canoe Club email list by Paul Ferguson.

Upper Tallulah River

by Jay Manalo

I can probably count on two hands the number of times I've been down river, and I can probably count on two fingers the number of times it's been blue skies, sunny, and warm when I paddled. Being relatively new to paddling, I've come to accept (whether by fact or by luck) that it isn't always a fair-weather sport. January 18, 2004, was no exception, with overcast skies, a light drizzle, and air temperatures in the 40s or low 50s. I remember watching the rain bead up on my dry top as I was getting ready to put in. Trying to think optimistically, I said to myself, "At least it looks like the waterproofing is working."

I put the rest of my gear on and headed down a slope to the put-in we had chosen for a GCA-sponsored trip down the Upper Tallulah River outside of Clayton, GA. Yes, that's the same Tallulah River as in Tallulah Falls, Oceana, Bridal Veil, etc. However, this particular portion of the river has a much calmer temperament, or at least a mostly class II temperament. But for a relative newbie, I knew this quieter portion of the river would still prove to be enough action for me. Fortunately, I had good company, including open-boater Roger Nott and the father-son team of Chuck and Sam (paddling a canoe and kayak respectively).

Soon after putting in, we floated down a ways to a flat, deep section of the river. Having recently gone to several roll practices in the pool (but not having actually been down river in a month and a half), I decided I should probably practice my roll before we started to see any major rapids. I asked Sam to spot me, took a big breath, and flipped myself over.

"Whoa! That's some cold water!" I thought. And unfortunately, unlike the pool, I realized that when I got in my setup position and looked up towards my paddle, I couldn't see anything except areas of shadow and light through the brown water. No problem, though; I swept out to T-position and rolled back up. So far, so good.

Good until the first major rapid arrived, that is. Roger told me this rapid is called "Coal Buns" (or is it "Cold Buns?") by the shape of some of the rocks around the rapid. I watched Sam's line as he went ahead of me, and after swallowing my courage, I headed in after him. I came through the chute, splashed through some waves, and spied Sam sitting in an eddy on river right. I figured I'd made it, and so relieved I paddled towards him in the eddy.

However, something went wrong (as I've discovered they usually do for me at the bottom of a rapid if I'm not paddling hard enough) and I suddenly found myself underwater, surrounded by the rush of air bubbles and water around me.

I thought to myself to get set up for an onside roll, but realized I was not even completely flipped over but was being held at what felt like a 45 degree angle under the surface (I later learned from Sam that I had very nicely landed on a flat rock that was holding me in this position — just my luck). I decided this is too much for me, so I pulled the grab loop and punched out of my boat.

I took a nice, cold swim over into an eddy on river right while someone went to rescue my boat. I was a little dazed and disappointed at having swam, but being a newbie, it wasn't exactly the first time I had ever swam at the bottom of a rapid, either. As I was emptying the water out of my boat, I realized my paddle was nowhere to be found.

Chuck apologized and said that although they had looked for it all over the place, my paddle was gone. "Gone?" I thought. A sinking feeling came over me. "So this is when all those other boaters talk about losing gear," I said to myself. "And I've only been paddling for 4 months! Well, that's why I don't buy expensive paddles..."

While Sam and Roger made a last attempt to search for my paddle, Chuck offered to lend me Sam's paddle while Sam would use one of the extra canoe paddles. I picked up Sam's paddle, and although thankful for the loan, I realized it just wouldn't be the same as my lost paddle.

However, I decided I shouldn't give up so easily. Since all the other guys in my group had been chasing my gear, I figured I ought to at least give it one more try as well. I hiked back upstream in the direction of the rapid, dodging rhododendron, thorns and slippery rocks.

Needless to say, I wasn't expecting much out of this last search attempt, but I wanted to give it one more shot. As I came around a large rock on river right, I could make out the outline of a black shaft and two white blades against the dark water. "I see it!" I shouted to the others, who had also nearly given up their search. Roger, who had just about turned downstream, also saw it and told me that it was recirculating in the current, but he would be able to get it. He sent me back down to my boat to get dry while he rescued the paddle. I happily scampered back to my boat, knowing that I with some luck and perseverance by all, my paddle had been found.

Soon I was back in my boat continuing down river, with my own paddle in my hands. It's a cheap, heavy paddle that I had bought used, but I never thought I would be so glad to see that paddle again. And as I was soon to find out, I was going to need it. Another rapid presented itself, and as I came over a wave, I got that all too familiar feeling of getting window-shaded and thrown into the cold water upside-down. Here we go again.

I had never successfully combat rolled before, and more often than not I had never even managed to keep my head on straight enough to get set up properly, let alone roll. To make matters worse, I had just swam a few minutes before, so the odds for a repeat event seemed to be stacking up against me.

I got my paddle into set up position, and as I made my first attempt, something went wrong (a nice helmet kiss from a submerged rock, I think). I was still underwater. However, I kept my composure, got set-up, swept out to T-position, and next thing I knew, I was seeing trees, the sky, and most importantly, myself above the surface of the water. "WHOO HOO!!!" I could hardly contain myself as I let out a loud rebel yell, realizing I had made my first combat roll ever.

The rest of the trip was a relative breeze, with only one other major rapid (Halitosis) on the Upper Tallulah and the rest being a mostly relaxing flat water float. The rain still continued to drizzle down on us, but from time to time, the sun flirted with us and illuminated the raindrops.

I thought about how beautiful the backlit rain looked falling from the sky, and I reached for my waterproof camera to record the moment. However, I realized that somewhere between swimming, losing my paddle, and sticking my first combat roll, the shutter had broken off.

I contented myself by keeping the image in my mind of another cloudy day on the river, knowing that next time I counted on my fingers the number of rivers I had run, I would have one more finger to count.

Sea Kayak Safety Thoughts

Tales from da Trips

by Chuck Sutherland

I think it might be interesting to relate a vision of how things happen on trips that result in trip leading decisions. I am writing this because I think both trip leaders and trip participants can benefit from having a better idea of what contributes to trip safety, success, failure, decision making and the like. There has at various points been talk

about participant requirements that are too loose, too burdensome, off-putting and etc. Here are a few real life stories that influence how I think about skills, equipment, and trip leading.

1. We set off to paddle to a lighthouse off Newport, RI. Sunny, moderate breeze, 1-foot waves, distance about a mile to the light. I was asked to allow a resident, whose yard we were launching from, to paddle out with us. O.K., fine; here's a PFD. "I don't need it!" He shoves it up in the bow of the boat — my most stable kayak — a real barge!

Off we go. Half way across a sailboat racecourse, I looked over and noticed my boat was upright with no one aboard. I ordered all paddlers into a tight knot around the victim and his boat. This was so the sailboats, spinnakers flying, could easily and confidently sail by on their down wind leg. Any idea about how visible someone with black hair is in 1-foot waves with no PFD? A trip leader must take unequivocal command of a situation. Our guest yachtsman had no idea about rescues; his PFD was stuffed up under the front deck inside the boat.

I instructed him in a commanding manner to come between the boats, one arm over each boat, kick one leg up on the bow, lift his butt into his boat. Rescue took about a minute or so. Shortly after arriving at the island, our guest decided he had an important meeting back in Newport yachtland — trip over for the day!

Why do we insist on wearing PFDs?

2. Drove 500 miles to paddle on the coast of Maine in August. Launched from Bar Harbor town dock to paddle along the Porcupines and then over to Ironbound Island. Cold, overcast day. We all wore wet suits, except one paddler who had a coated rain suit instead.

Out between two islands, riding big waves rising between the islands. Wheeee! On the outside, the paddler, broadside to the much smaller waves, paddling with a "proper" vertical stroke, caught and pushed violently sideways at mid-stroke on off side. Instant capsize over his trapped paddle!

Watched while he thrashed about trying to do a roll; boat swishing about, partly up, face plant; swimming; panic; cold; rain suits aren't the answer! Jumped on him immediately upon exit. Two rescue boats on one, helped him scramble back aboard without dumping the boat; then pumped out his boat. Important to get him out of the water immediately!

Then we took him over to Ironbound, dumped the boat, put him in our dry clothes and sat around for a while until he calmed down and warmed up! Trip over; back on the water, we very carefully slipped back behind the islands and headed straight back to the town dock — done for the day.

Why do we insist on wet suits or dry suits for cold water?

3. A bunch of paddlers going around Beavertail Point off Newport, RI. Surfing the waves crossing the ledges off the point. Sunny day, nice waves. One paddler not doing anything, just sitting, not moving; strange. Check it out. Paddler having asthma attack, can't do anything, hardly able to breathe.

One of us on the tow, one steadying her boat. Head for nearest beach, landed, sat very still in sun for a long time; I think she pulled out an inhaler. Forgot to take her allergy medicine before launching. When she seemed under control, her boyfriend walked out to fetch their car. They went out by land.

Can you recognize trouble when you are looking at it?

4. A group of us set off for a cruise around the islands off Norwalk, CT. Breezy day; wind somewhat strong. We all headed upwind. I looked back to see a lagging paddler veer away downwind and keep going with no signals to us to indicate intentions or trouble. Would have been a great loss of progress upwind for all of us to chase him. I saw another strong paddler go off after him. That told me to hold our course, round the islands, and look for both of them on the downwind leg. We found them later sitting on an island waiting for us.

The guy in the back recognizes trouble and acts. The guy in the front understands what is going on and acts accordingly. I knew the guy in the back would take care of the fellow being blown away.

5. Don Jones, my wife Marilyn and myself join up with a bunch of paddlers doing a day trip on Buzzards Bay, MA. Wind cranking up! Plan, 10 miles downwind; about a dozen paddlers. Launch under the lee of a long point sticking out into the bay. Protection of land soon gone; away we go! It's a sleigh ride.

Look back; way back there, one yellow Chinook is headed out across Buzzards Bay instead of down the coast with us. One or two of our guys are going after the Chinook. My job is to stop all the paddlers from any more running down wind. We must wait for the recovery of the Chinook.

The paddlers must sit in the waves and wait. One puts out his hand to catch himself; I was watching when he did it. Didn't work — now he's swimming. Then another, and another! Lots of swimmers; lots of rescues. About the time we got them all ashore, they towed in the Chinook — didn't know how to paddle downwind.

Trip over; several paddlers struggled back upwind to the launch site, got the cars and drove around to our beach party. We could have had a great day at the launch site paddling out into the wind and then back under the lee of

the Point. Could have surfed nicely off the Point. Nope, had to try the downwind thing with some inexperienced paddlers. Purely stupid of us!

When you see trouble, can you recognize it and act — to go fetch — to stop and wait? Can you do it without having to talk about it? Do the trip leaders understand one another just by looking at the situation?

6. Paddling out along side the channel from Norwalk Harbor, Norwalk, CT, with a father and his young son. Wind is blowing a bit. Father says, "Look, Jimmy is paddling over to that island." The island is on the other side of the boating channel.

Father does not recognize that the wind has Jimmy in its grip. Jimmy can paddle as hard as he is able on the off side; his boat isn't going to turn upwind — not a chance in hell. Sprint over to him; tow line hooked, recover Jimmy to our side of the channel. No one gets run over today.

Can you recognize trouble when you are looking at it? Are you prepared to deal with it?

7. We paddled around half of Fire Island. Carried the boats across the middle of the island. Last leg was west along the channel behind the island; tide coming in (flowing east). One paddler was paddling, but weakly. She was barely holding position, the water streaming by her boat. She was convinced she was O.K. We took her in tow. She was not happy with us.

8. We had a large group camping on Dutch Island, and more paddlers joined us for the cruise around Beavertail Point. Rounded the point and got back to Mackerel Cove on the east side. Some paddlers were tired. We sent them up the cove with a shepherd paddler to where they could walk to the cars.

On to Fort Wetheril; more tired paddlers, dropped them off where they could get to a shuttle car we had parked at the Fort. Remaining paddlers went around to the Dumplings and back to the Fort. Strongest paddlers crossed over to Newport Harbor and then came back to the Fort.

We had enough strong paddlers to accompany any weak paddlers that tired out at various points along the route. It was a great day, managed by a generous bunch of shepherds.

9. Seventeen boats crossing from Smith Island to Chrisfield, MD, seven-mile crossing (three-day camping trip in April). We all got widely strung out, some quite slow paddlers. Shepherds in the rear know that leaders in front will stop and wait. We stopped and sat in the waves, holding position against the tidal stream and breeze. The rear caught up; we sat a while longer to give them a break.

The lagging paddlers don't see the humor in the leaders starting off again as soon as they catch up to the pack.

10. Large group paddling around the outside shore south of Newport, RI. On the return leg, all but two paddlers had rounded Brenton Point and turned up wind toward Fort Wetheril (take-out). Those two were paddling slowly and talking. They were a good ways back. I thought, "Let me sit and make sure they get around the point."

There were a few deep ledges along that ocean-facing shore. From time to time, a larger wave would cross a ledge, breaking as it crossed. Talking, talking, over ledge, big wave contesting the ledge, big break, roller rolled her, wet exit, rescue, pumped boat, wallowed in to shore, dumped boat, launched, rounded the Point for Fort Wetheril.

As a trip leader, can you anticipate trouble?

11. Anita took a bunch of paddlers out on the Hudson River. One paddler had a Chinook, no air bags or bulkheads. He capsized; they nearly lost the boat, but had just enough air in it to somehow get it to shore. Pumping or boat-over-boat not possible. The Hudson is up to two miles wide. An error can ruin the day!

Why do we insist on equipment standards?

12. Another trip from Fox Hill State Park in Rhode Island, paddled down West Channel of Narragansett Bay toward Beaver Tail Point. Dead calm water. We planned to cross over to the western shore of the bay and do some surfing at the Narrows River.

As soon as we cleared the point, we encountered substantial waves rolling in from the southeast (open ocean exposure there). Waves to about 3 feet as we passed Whale Rock at mid-channel.

A guy passing us in a powerboat asked if we were insane. It was soon clear that if these waves came rolling in to the beach at the Narrows, we would have big trouble on our hands because some of those with us were not experienced at surfing. We turned back and just went around Beaver Tail Point and back to Mackerel Cove — a nice day trip in itself.

I was at the rear and closer to shore than the others. I looked up to see one of those big rollers rising up as it felt the bottom. I believe it was more than twice my height and quite steep. I sprinted for the top edge; it didn't break, but kept on racing for the shore. It was the highest, longest wall of green I have ever encountered in a sea kayak. We were all still well off shore at that point.

Knowing when to quit, turn around, alter plans, bag the ego, counts in trip leading. We knew what the beach was like at the Narrows; we didn't need to paddle up and look at it. That would have been too late, by far!

13. While hiking on Isle a Haute, ME, one of our

paddlers got stung by a bee. She reacted badly to it (allergic reaction). She took a cortisone pill, and we put her in a double for the return to our camp on Harbor Island. She was fairly sick for some hours. Another person in our group paddled the victim's boat back to the island.

14. Other trip leaders I know have had kids capsize in boats using spray skirts so tight the kids could not get them off. Quick thinking paddlers nearby raced up, reached down and hauled the kids to the surface.

Can you recognize trouble and act, without sitting and wondering if this is an action situation?

Summary: What do trip leaders need to know? (in no special order)

1. The lay of the land where they are paddling. Where to get in, get out, and hazards en-route.
2. They need to be experienced enough as paddlers and trip leaders to recognize trouble when they are looking at it.
3. They need to be confident enough in their skills that when an incident occurs, they can jump on it instantly. If they find themselves thinking about whether or not it is safe for them to respond, they have already failed the test.
4. They must be able to do a number of different rescues so that they can pull out the one they need for the situation encountered. Do you have a sling that you can use to get a "too heavy" or "weak upper arms" paddler back into a boat after a capsize?
5. Have the trip leaders worked together long enough that they understand what their respective jobs are when a problem arises? This doesn't come from taking endless expensive courses; it comes from leading trips with other people in a wide variety of conditions.
6. Are the trip leaders equipped (with gear) to handle the incidents that are encountered? That includes first aid stuff, spare paddles, dry clothes, tow lines, etc.
7. Are the paddlers skilled enough to keep themselves out of trouble in pushy conditions when the people they are leading are reaching their limits? I think trip leaders should be able to roll their boats. Trip leaders should not be a burden on the folks they lead. Some inexperienced paddlers won't come near a capsized paddler because they are too afraid of going over themselves.
8. Trip leaders in a club should be aware of the types of problems that have been encountered and how they were handled on past club trips.

Conclusion: There is nothing here that requires vast financial investments in endless courses from organizations that design their courses to be endless and expensive. You still end up with folks that would like to lead trips who lack experience in working with people who are leading trips.

The solution to this is to get as many people as possible out as assistantant trip leaders, talk about what went right and wrong, get the rescue and towing skills up to speed, and get the physical stamina of these potential trip leaders up to where they can easily out last the folks they are leading. You have to be able to go get people, even if just to tell them to get back with the group.

- From the CPAKayaker email list of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association.

Volunteers and the GCA

by Dick Hurd

The front page headline on the January 2004 *The Eddy Line* was a plea for help in recruiting a new Cruise Master. Fortunately for us all, someone stepped up to the plate and volunteered for the position. Just as an army is said to travel on its stomach, so the GCA moves on the shoulders of many volunteers. I'm sure all of you realize that, but because the monthly issue of *The Eddy Line* is for many the most visible presence of the club, much of what we do resides out of sight and below the radar.

I never realized just how much work is involved in keeping the club's momentum going forward until I became a member of the Board several years ago, and started attending Board meetings. Look at your copy of *The Eddy Line* closely: the members of the Executive Committee and Board, the Editor of *The Eddy Line*, and the trip coordinators are ALL volunteers. All of the member services and recurring club activities are brought to us courtesy of.... volunteer members of the GCA!

So, in line with my philosophy that the rewards of an activity are in proportion to the effort you expend, I challenge all members, new and old, to consider whether you have an interest, a talent, or a skill that might be of benefit to the club. Politics, river law, computer skills, marketing, publishing, T-shirts and posters, party favors, telemarketing, web design, activities director, as well as the many things that pertain directly to paddling and paddling equipment — whatever it is that you do for a living or a hobby, we probably can use you in some capacity.

If you have a burning desire to be more involved with the GCA, or even if you are just curious, give a call to a member of the Executive Committee, and you will have a receptive audience. In the meanwhile, we owe a debt of gratitude to all the volunteers, past and present, who have helped make the GCA what is it today.

I chose the path less traveled, but only because I was lost.

Amicalola After Opel

by Dan Roper

The "Cabin Fever" email list post about Amicalola Creek's Edge-of-the-World rapids reminded me of a memorable trip on that pretty mountain creek in the mid-1990s. Hurricane Opal blew through north Georgia on a Wednesday evening in October, 1995, and heavy rains (8 inches) guaranteed that the Amicalola would have water during the season in which it is usually bone dry. So, I decided to take Friday off and go paddling.

I set up my shuttle by leaving my mountain bike chained to a tree at Devil's Elbow. Then I drove up to Six Mile (the traditional put in on the Georgia Department of Natural Resources site). I unloaded my non-white water Mohawk and noticed that the water was high, but within its banks, and moving along at a rapid clip. In fact, it was a bit unnerving.

Thanks to that water level, I was able to make good time the first couple of miles on the stretch that is ordinarily very scrapey with a lot of rock gardens. Amicalola is a beautiful, wild creek, the scenery was spectacular, and I was enjoying myself immensely as I approached Cochran Creek and the stretch with three nice class II/II+ rapids.

Just above Cochran Creek, I rounded a curve and encountered two rafts full of laughing paddlers. They were river guides for one of the mountain outfitters and had paddled kayaks on the Amicalola the previous day, just 12 hours after Opal came through. When they had reached the ledge just below Cochran Creek, the conditions were so atrocious that they had pulled out, left their kayaks in the woods, hiked up a mountain to a road and hitchhiked home. Now they had returned to retrieve their kayaks and reported that the water level had already fallen three feet overnight!

Shortly thereafter I approached the ledge, ordinarily a class II or II+ with a river-wide, four foot drop. The volume of water going over that ledge, and the immense wall of water just below, left me stunned and unable to imagine what it must have looked like the previous day when the creek was three feet higher.

For reasons I no longer recall, I decided to proceed. I don't know if there weren't any sneak routes or if I decided I was up to the challenge. I ran the usual route near the center, sped over the ledge, and hit the wall of water below straight on. The result was a turbulent, jolting, out of control ride. Somehow, I managed to remain upright, although my Mohawk filled with water and I lost my grip on my paddle.

It was all over in a second or two, and momentarily I sat there gathering my wits, both addled and energized by adrenalin. Then I noticed my paddle proceeding toward the next rapid, which lies just a couple of hundred yards downstream.

This next rapid is probably the toughest on the Upper Amicalola, a class II+ ride that begins on river right, falls to the left, and then back to the right, ending in the center of the creek. It looked like my paddle was going to beat me to the rapid.

I did not want to try navigating the turns without my paddle, so I paddled with my hands as fast as I could. I caught up to my paddle at the entrance to the rapid. I had no time to "admire" how the tremendous volume of water had elevated this fall to another class altogether. I had no time to plan my attack. I just picked up my paddle and tried to control the descent of my water-filled canoe as it entered the maelstrom of water.

Again, I somehow managed to remain upright, although my canoe was completely filled with water by the time I exited the rapid. I stopped somewhere below to empty it out and gather my wits and composure.

I felt a strong sense of relief at having made it through the two rapids uninjured. One more rapid remained, and at that point all I wanted to do was get through safely, survive the experience, complete the trip, and go home to take up some sort of safe hobby.

I don't think I had any trouble with the third rapid, although it, too, was a different animal than I had seen on prior trips. Whatever transpired there, however, has faded out of my memory, overshadowed by the events upstream.

At normal water levels, the Upper Amicalola is a class II trip perfect for beginners. There are easy shoals and rock gardens near the put-in, gradually increasing in difficulty to the three class II/II+ ledges and rapids below Cochran Creek. I have never been a class IV paddler, so I don't rightly know how to rate the rapids I encountered that day, although I think they equaled the Nantahala's Lesser Wesser (III+), which I have paddled many times. I can't imagine what it would have been like the day before when those kayakers had abandoned their boats and the water had been three feet higher.

There are a couple of class II rapids on the stretch below Devil's Elbow (just above Highway 53) that are also entertaining. From Highway 53, I have paddled and hiked down to Edge-of-the-World Falls, but have never tried that series of rocky ledges.

For some reason, Edge-of-the-World is the most intimidating series of rapids I have seen (or at least equaling Bull Sluice on the occasions that I have viewed the Edge from downstream). Most paddling guides I have seen don't seem nearly as impressed with Edge as I am

(rated class III or IV), and it is rated lower than Bull Sluice (V), but I have no desire to paddle either, especially when the water levels are high. Give me the Cartecay's good ol' S-Turn any day.

Devaux Island, South Carolina

Soft Ticks, Bedbugs, and Sea Kayaking

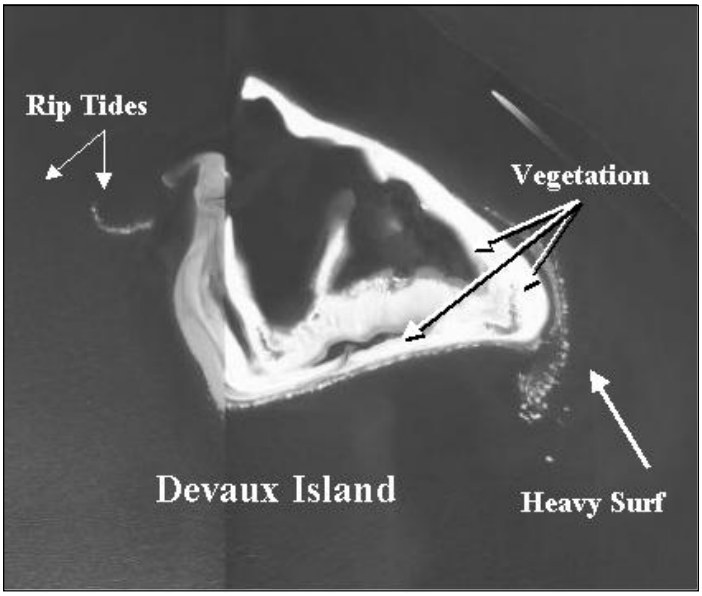
by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

Eight hundred and fifty miles by truck, an offshore island, and a cave in 24 hours. Back in my medical school/ Haight Asbury days this would have been a Hunter S. Thompson saga of blotter acid, methamphetamines, THC, and high-speed travel. But, I'm more mature now and as I have discovered, *The Eddy Line* is a family publication, so I am writing to chronicle a serious endeavor.

A bunch of the boys and I was talkin' about bats, ticks, rabies, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and other fun things the other day. Then, I remembered an article Will published last year on new ticks he had discovered in South Carolina (Reeves W, Durden L, Wills W. **New records of ticks (Acari: Argasidae, Ixodidae) from South Carolina**. *J Agric Urban Entomol* 2002;19:197-204). Then it all sort of fell into place and a visit to Devaux Island at the mouth of the North Edisto River near Charleston became imperative.

First some background for your general edification and to maintain *Eddy Line* continuing outdoor education requirements. Ticks transmit more varieties of pathogens than any other group of blood-feeding arthropods and are second only to mosquitoes in their importance as disease vectors. Pathogens (germs that make you sick) spread by

Aerial / satellite photo of Devaux Island area



Aerial / satellite photo of Devaux Island.

ticks include viruses, rickettsia, protozoa, spirochetes, and bacteria. Arthropods include mosquitoes, biting flies, ticks, mites, fleas, and bedbugs. A vector is an arthropod (or any living carrier) that transports a pathogen from the sick to the well.

In South Carolina, ticks are important vectors of many diseases including Lyme disease, cat-scratch fever, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Soft ticks are especially bad. These aren't the ones you find latched onto your dog and from which the expression "tighter 'n a tick" was

The dune seperating the eastern river from the lagoon looking south towards the sea.

One of many dead horseshoe crabs we found on the beach. It's one of those artsey pictures I like to take.

coined. No. Soft ticks find a victim (woops we epidemiologists call them hosts), feed for 20 minutes or so, and then drop off to molt, have sex, lay eggs, or just hang-out. Then when they are good and ready they prowl around (sometimes tens of thousands of them simultaneously) looking for the next meal. Unlike the usual tick you are used to, soft ticks live forever. One, at least, survived 25 years without feeding in a vial on Harry Hoagstral's desk.

Soft ticks are usually host-specific, that is they prefer to feed on one species. But they're like creekers, so if the usual host is not available anything will do. Also, unlike most vectors, virtually any virus, rickettsia, or bacteria will grow in ticks. In the old days, before overnight shipping and insulated containers, scientists used to ship infectious agents by injecting them into soft ticks, putting the ticks into a vial, and mailing them. When they arrived at their destination the recipient would grind-up the ticks and recover the virus or whatever.

Above: A brown pelican, source of the soft ticks we were seeking.

Below: Terns. There were tons of them. They also host soft ticks.

So what does this all have to do with sea kayaking? Well, one of the reasons people sea kayak is to observe wildlife and sea birds generally get photographed a lot. Both brown pelicans and laughing gulls are quite common in the summer and many of them winter on the islands as well. More important, they migrate up and down the coast

Will Reeves (better known to *Eddy Line* readers as a hair boater) engaged in his occupation as an entomologist browsing through a pelican nest for ticks.

(pelicans from North Carolina to Venezuela and gulls throughout the Caribbean). They're both pretty good sized, so lots of soft bird ticks can feed on them. Finally, both pelicans and gulls nest on the ground, so soft ticks can drop off and climb back on again cafeteria style when they get hungry. When Will surveyed Devaux Island last May, pelican and gull nests were literally crawling with soft ticks and he collected a new species previously not known to live in South Carolina. Good news, they could not isolate viruses from them, and even better, we found only one stinking tick during our visit to the Island in January.

You may still be asking what this all has to do with sea kayaking. Well, in addition to being aware of ticks when you're camping, you need to know about Devaux Island because it's a destination in its own right, if you just happen to be in the Charleston area. Devaux is about four miles down the North Edisto River from the boat ramp in Rockville, and is about midway between Hilton Head Island and Charleston.

The trip out is scenic but (as always) you should check

tide tables. It's a young and dynamic island that I would classify between a typical barrier island and a large semi-permanent sandbar, which extends above high tide.

Devaux is formed where the discharge of the Edisto River meets the sea. It has been there long enough to support some small trees on the tops of dunes. Fascinatingly, it's a bit like an atoll, in that there is a rather large lagoon that you can paddle into.

Overall the island is a couple of miles in diameter so it provides a lot to explore. We had no problem landing from the north, but there was considerable violent chop (similar to that around Tybee's triangle) to the west. The south (sea) exposure would have provided an "interesting, entertaining, carnage filled" landing.

In addition to pelicans and gulls, Devaux serves as a feeding and nesting area for dunlins, terns and skimmers. We also saw quite active osprey, anhinga and kestrel.

The island is particularly vulnerable to intrusion during nesting season (March to July) so don't plan to visit then.

The area around Devaux is infested with dolphin. I have never seen so many, and 10 or so of them were feeding within 5' of the shore the entire time we were on the island. Overall, Devaux offers variety from the usual barrier islands and marshes that we all have visited, so it's well worth checking out.

Hmm. Where do the cave and bedbugs come in? Well no boating trip is complete unless you also get in some caving. So, on the way back to Clemson we stopped to collect bedbugs from bat guano in one the numerous inland reef caves in the area. That is of course a completely different story that I'll have to tell another time.

Paddling the Mississippi from the Headwaters to the Gulf

Part 2 — Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Minneapolis, Minnesota

By Carly Reiter

This is the second installment of a 6 part series about a solo canoe trip down the entire Mississippi River (Carly adopted a cat along the way, but the cat didn't paddle, so I guess it was still a solo trip). The article consists of email messages Carly sent from various libraries, lap tops and internet cafes along the way on her "way kewl" adventure. WARNING: May contain subjuct matter and language that some may find offensive. Enjoy....

River gossip paints that middle-aged Slovenian marathon swimmer as quite the psycho European pothead, but I guess you kind of have to be to swim the entire Mississippi in 68 days. I figure it'll take me twice that to paddle it. I've already lost out on the world record of 23 days, 11 hours, so maybe I'll try for the longest time taken to get to New Orleans. At the rate I'm going — about 500 miles in just under 4 weeks — I may make it to Bourbon Street by Christmas.

Speaking of crazies, I just finished reading this guy's account of his (miserable) trip down the river. By the time he finished he was so fed up that he threw all his gear into a dumpster and hitchhiked right out of town with only a canoe on his shoulder. Of course, his horrendous state of mind probably had a lot to do with the fact that he did not once, in 79 days, do laundry.

Unlike that dude, I'm feeling like my sanity is still pretty securely intact. The simplicity and constant movement of life on the river seem to really suite me. I love the mesmerizing sound of water dripping off my paddle, the sight of otters sunning themselves on sandbars and playing like little kids out in the middle of the river, the serenity of dragonflies sitting on the rim of my hat, or the unique sound of wind whistling through a bald eagle's wings.

I like knowing that all I have to do all day is paddle, eat, sleep, and stay alive. Meeting a cool person, having something decent to eat, finding a flat place to sleep, or actually showering are all exciting extras in my new low maintenance lifestyle. I especially like knowing that my future rests solely on my own shoulders — literally.

Many of you have asked what it's like to live out of a canoe, so I'll do my best to describe a typical day on river. My days normally start off with an annoying bang — me running around like a mad woman, throwing my gear into the boat and hurriedly shoving off into the mosquito-free current (one local estimated that the mosquito population on his land is 3 times the norm, due to an unusually wet summer).

Once I'm in my boat and finished cursing, though, my days become very comfortable. I'll brush my teeth and hair in the boat, wash the mosquito carcasses off my body, eat a leisurely breakfast with my legs hanging over the sides, maybe look at a map, read, or write a little. I've even learned how to pack all of my gear into the proper places while balancing as the unpredictable currents swirl my canoe around like a toy. The 9 to 5 world might even be bearable if I could start each day by floating down a river.

My best paddling is normally done right after my morning float. If the wind and current are on my side, I can make 40 miles in a day and reach the blazing speed of 5 mph. But sometimes 20 miles is a draining, 12 hour struggle. Occasionally I can even float down the river

faster than I could paddle it on previous days. And once in a while my strength, stronger than it's ever been, cannot overpower a headwind and I'll end up moving backwards with each stroke.

In such situations I'm forced off the water and into the mosquitoey muck of some lonely riverbank to wonder why in the hell I'm doing this. But if luck is with me on that day like it has been throughout much of this trip, there'll be a nice stranger's lawn or a nearby town to hang out in until the weather calms down and my spirits brighten.

One of the biggest struggles so far has not been physical, but mental. I am determined not to get burnt out by becoming mileage obsessed like so many before me and am constantly reminding myself that the river people, river towns, and river history are a big reason why I'm here.

It's really hard, though, not to think about the encroaching winter and the need to get south when there are Canadian geese constantly flying overhead, teasing me with their noisy squawks as they fly south ahead of me. I keep having this reoccurring vision of my boat, frozen mid-river with my stranded self inside. But at least there wouldn't be any mosquitoes out there on the ice.

There are days on river when I don't see a single person. It's not that such days make me lonely in the sad way, but they do make me pretty desperate to talk to anyone and everyone I come across, even if it's the same question and answer routine every time.

I haven't yet started talking to the frogs, but I am finding that I'm acting a bit like a hermit so I have this rule. Even if it is only for a cup of coffee and a walk down main street, I try to stop in on every town I pass. All I do is hide my boat in the weeds below some unsuspecting person's house and climb through their yard into town.

I started off carrying my paddles with me whenever I left my boat, both as a theft deterrent and a weapon against semi-wild hunting dogs and the occasional deranged lunatic, but I soon realized that those paddles are a sure-fire conversation starter more than anything else.

When people find out that I'm paddling down the river, they almost always offer to help. They've taken me into their houses for dinner, bought me cold sodas and warm cups of coffee, let me camp at their campgrounds for free, and have repeatedly invited me to come sit at their table or tie up to their dock so they can quiz me about the trip.

It's the sort of friendliness that I'm used to experiencing while traveling abroad but rarely in the US. It's not so much that we (Americans) are unfriendly. I think the reason why I have not, up until now, experienced the same sort of kindness as I have abroad is because I normally spend my time in the very insulated and secure world of my house, truck, job, and daily routine. Without those, I'm very vulnerable to both the good and the bad of our society. It's been really surprising to find out just how nice we really are. I just hope the rest of the country is as nice as Minnesotans.

One thing I'm always asked is do I get scared. Of course I do. But there have been lots of safe campgrounds along the way and when there aren't any near, I can usually find a farmer's field or a tiny patch of sand (or mud) on an island to set my tent up on. Even though finding safe camping spots hasn't really been an issue so far on the trip, I still hear the boogie man outside my tent nearly every night. It's just one of those things that I'm going to have to get used to, I guess.

Being scared is not nearly as much of a problem as lack of showers is. If I am revolted by my smell, I can't imagine what other people must think. There are some days when I'm so covered in sweat, mud, sunscreen, bug dope, and who knows what else that all I can think of is taking a shower. It's so pathetic.

There was this one particular stretch right after Grand Rapids where the mud was so deep that I couldn't get out of the boat without sinking up to mid-thigh. I imagine that you can picture the layers of mud on everything I own. Then near Aitkin the mud turned into high clay banks that I'd have to scale by digging my fingers and toes in and hoping my makeshift stairs held. I even learned to pee while balancing on logs during that stretch — a very useful skill if you ask me.

After Brainerd and Little Falls the river changed quite a bit, getting a whole lot wider and, thankfully, the banks changing from clay and mud to mostly rock and sand. And just a few days ago, as I got closer to the Twin Cities and the locks and dams, the river suddenly became huge. Swirling currents, giant boils (upwellings of water that look a bit like "outy" belly buttons), and eddies (recirculating water on the edge of the main current) the size of houses where added into the mix of dangers. I'm just hopeful that my hygiene and shower obsession will get better now that I've put all that mud and clay behind me.

So I've survived the first test by making it to Minneapolis and have rewarded myself by staying at my friend Natalie's house for a few days while I repair gear, sleep in a bed, shower daily, and read the paper with a real cup of coffee each morning. I know it's odd, but I can't wait to get back on the river again after just 2 days away from it. I even found myself stopping on a bridge for over an hour this morning to watch the river traffic and marvel at the currents beneath the dam. I think I'm hooked.

I guess I'll save the stories of adventure and unique

people I've met for later since this email is already book length. I hope that my descriptions have given ya'll the chance to understand what it's like to live on the river.

If anyone would like to join me on a particular stretch, feel free. We'll find each other. For those of you who don't want to paddle, I would love to explore St. Louis, Memphis, and New Orleans with someone — anyone. If you know someone who lives in one of those cities and wouldn't mind taking in a dirty canoeist, please let me know. How about those of you who have always wanted to see Grace Land or Bourbon Street? Now's your chance.

Until next time, from I have no idea where, Carly.

- From "The Cruiser" — newsletter of the Canoe Cruisers Association of Washington, DC.

A Stranger Stopped By

by Christine Colbert

Part one of two

The kayaker appeared seemingly out of nowhere, coming around a point of land just to the north, paddle blades flashing in the fading light of the just setting sun shining through a break in the clouds. He was heading outbound on Dismal Key Pass, toward the breaking surf and the open sea beyond. As he came abreast of the point on White Horse Key, he glanced toward the beach, seemed to notice Amy's campsite, and turned his boat in her direction.

Amy had been lost in reverie, alternating between staring into the newly built campfire and checking her stove to see how dinner was coming along. She had not seen the approaching figure until he was barely a couple hundred yards away. His bow slid up on the white sand of the beach and he quickly popped his skirt and slipped out of the boat.

"So much for solitude," Amy thought to herself. She'd been thinking back on the day — the day-trip paddle from her camp on White Horse Key around Hog Key and through a small pass, then around some smaller mangrove islands, finally arriving at the landing at Dismal Key just as the storm had hit. The wind had been strong enough on the short open water crossing that the waves catching her starboard stern quarter had tried to surf her little Mohawk Solo 14 canoe hard to the right down the troughs, almost turning her sideways to the waves. Her deft stern pry rudder on the left would hold her angle on the down slopes as the following waves slipped under her stern, sending her bow pointing skyward as the whitecaps skittered by. It had been just enough to still be fun without being scary. Being out there alone, if the waves had been any bigger she would have felt really nervous. But she had enough white water experience to handle that level of chop and still be comfortable.

At first Amy had thought the storm would barely miss her and just blow on by. She had dug out her rain gear and put it on just as the rain had started — just a sprinkle at first, but driven hard by a strong wind out of the southwest. She had pulled her boat up at the landing and explored a little of the island, noticing a tumbled-down shed right by the landing with the roof still partially intact, but with one wall totally collapsed. "Possible shelter if this get any worse," she'd thought. "Possible snakes and other critters, too." She'd wandered on down a path that led inland toward another structure in the distance, a small concrete-walled enclosure with a pretty solid looking tin roof and a window.

As the rain had gotten worse, the thunder she'd been hearing in the distance for hours had suddenly gotten much louder and closer, and the lightening flashes had become very visible. She'd heard that there was a big shell mound somewhere on Dismal Key and she really wanted to find it, but the weather was making the quest untenable. As the rain had gotten harder, the temperature had started to drop and the wind had picked up, started to gust a lot and to change directions seemingly at random. The trees waved in the wind like blades of grass.

She'd walked to the concrete structure to get a better look, hoping there was maybe a doorway into a dry interior. No such luck — just another window on the other end. Looking inside, the dirt floor was about five to seven feet below ground level, with the walls extending all the way down, and no easy way to get back out even if she'd managed to get inside.

She had decided to crawl into the other shed back at the landing (snakes or no snakes), have some lunch and wait for the storm to blow over. Two hours later, she'd still been waiting, wondering if the storm would let up enough by dark for her to paddle back to her camp on White Horse Key. It was about a mile and a half down Dismal Key Pass and across some open water to camp, and it would be into a head wind. The rain would make it very unpleasant.

Finally the rain had seemed to let up a bit. She'd thought, "This might be the only break — better try a run for it now rather than take a chance on getting caught in the dark." When she'd crawled out of the tumbled down shed, she'd found that her boat had about six inches of water standing in it. "Wow! What a rain!" She'd barely been able to lift one side of the boat up to dump the water. "Should have turned it bottom up when I got out," she'd thought.

As she slid the canoe into the water and got in, she'd

started wondering about her tent back at the camp. It was anchored at six points with tent stakes, but it was in beach sand. The stakes could have pulled out in the big blow and the tent could have blown into the bay. Hopefully her gear inside would have provided enough extra anchoring to keep that from happening. The saving grace was that the wind was mostly from the southwest and would blow it across a short expanse of water and into a tangle of mangrove roots where it could be possibly retrieved.

Amy had pushed off and started her sprint paddle into the wind and waves and back to camp. As she rounded the end of a small mangrove island, she'd given a huge sigh of relief upon seeing her camp in the distance on the northernmost tip of White Horse Key, with the tent still standing.

The paddle back hadn't been as tough as she'd expected, but when she'd gotten back, she'd discovered that the storm had deposited about an inch of water inside her tent and completely soaked her gear. Everything was now laid out over the boat or hung on the line she'd strung up to dry in the wind, which was still blowing strongly out of the southwest.

The stranger strode briskly and purposefully right up to her fire site. He was a burley guy, about six feet, just a little paunchy, with a rugged looking face, graying hair, and really intense looking brown eyes set deep under a craggy brow. Late forties to early fifties, she judged, and kind of handsome in a rough sort of way. He was wearing a pair of hiking shorts and a button-up shirt with the nylon sea kayak spray skirt hanging by the shoulder straps at his waist. No PFD. She figured it was probably inside the boat.

"How did you fare in the storm?" he asked.

"Everything got soaked! But it could have been worse," she said, not mentioning that she hadn't been in camp to batten down the hatches when the storm came up.

"Same here," he said. "It blew one of our tents down and soaked everything in the other two. Quite a storm for January."

"Yeah, I had about six inches of water in my boat when it finally quit. And about an inch in the tent."

"My name's Frankie," he said. "Frankie Giles."

"Amy Copeland," she said. "Where is your camp?"

"Other side of Gullivan Key."

"How long have you been there?"

"Too long. My buddies like to just hang out, but I get restless. They can just fish all day and be perfectly happy, but I need to keep moving. We've been there three days, two more to go. How long are you here for?"

"I'm heading out tomorrow. I was just here for the long weekend. Where do you live, Frankie?"

"New Jersey. Soon to be FROM New Jersey. I'm leaving Jersey this summer. Going to the Keys."

"Are you changing jobs or retiring or being transferred or what?"

"Oh, I work for myself. I'm a carpenter. I can pretty much work anywhere I want."

"So why the Keys?" Amy asked. "Tired of the cold winters, snow, ice?"

Frankie grinned widely. "Well, not necessarily. I've been there all my life, so I'm really used to the winters. I really enjoy SCUBA diving, and there's a lot more opportunity for it in the Keys. I go down there several times a year already — take a class and do some diving."

"No family to miss, or take along?"

"Nope! I'm an orphan, and I've never been married. My closest relationship is actually a lady friend in the Keys who teaches diving. Met her down there a few years ago, been a regular student of diving school ever since."

"Wow, you're lucky to be able to just pick up and go like that," Amy said, eyeing her cook pot on the stove out of the corner of her eye. It wasn't boiling yet. "It'd be a real problem for me. I work for myself, too; I'm a lawyer in private practice. If I moved to another state, I'd have to do the State Bar Exam thing again, and build up a whole new practice. I'd have to have enough money in the bank to live a couple of years with little or no income."

"Lawyer! Well, I won't tell any lawyer jokes."

"Heard 'em all anyway," Amy answered. "Heard plenty of blonde jokes, too."

"Well, maybe I can come up with a good blonde lawyer joke," Frankie quipped with a smile.

Amy chuckled softly. "Now THAT might be an original!"

Frankie, noticing her side glances to the stove, asked, "What's cooking?"

"Nothing fancy, just one of those Lipton Original Oriental noodle dishes with some added spices." Amy considered for a moment and said, "Says on the package it serves two — you're welcome to join me if you're hungry."

Frankie looked a little embarrassed. "Hey, I wasn't trying to wangle an invitation," he said sheepishly. "My buddies are already cooking back at camp. Nothing fancy there, either." He checked his watch and glanced at the waning light of the sunset in the west through the clearing storm clouds. "I appreciate it, but I need to get back before they start worrying. I told them I'd be back by dark. I saw your camp and just wanted to stop by and make sure everything was alright after the storm."

"Well thanks, Frankie, that was very thoughtful of you."

"Besides," he said, "You're here by yourself for a

reason, so I'll leave you to your solitude."

Amy thought, "Gee, this guy's a mind reader!" Aloud she said, "Well, you don't have to rush off, but it will be getting dark soon. Maybe I'll stop by and say hello on the way out in the morning." Actually, after two full days of solitude, she had enjoyed the brief encounter with human company. And Frankie was a pleasant enough fellow.

"Sounds good. See you then. Enjoy your dinner, and your solitude."

Frankie turned and quickly covered the ground back to his blue Sea Lion, slipped into the cockpit, secured his skirt and pushed off without so much as a glance over his shoulder. As he rounded the point on the seaward side of Gullivan Key, he briefly stopped paddling, looked back and waved. Then he disappeared, slipping easily and skillfully through the frothy break of the surf, and out of sight.

Amy's attention returned to the now-boiling pot on the stove.

After dinner Amy let the fire burn down to coals and sat lazily in her folding beach chair enjoying the evening. The storm clouds had pretty much blown away, the wind was dying down, and the pounding surf was starting to subside a bit. Venus was spectacular as it went from its bright almost-white color to an orange hue as it neared the horizon. Tonight was supposed to be the dark of the moon — last night it had risen at about 5 a.m. — a gorgeous, thin sliver of reddish orange, going to yellow as it climbed higher in the eastern sky. She had been awakened by the distant boom of what sounded like thunder far out on the open Gulf and watched the moon rise through the screen in her tent. It had almost sounded like the sound of distant blasting — just a "Boom" without the echoing rumble you get with thunder over land. It was far enough away that she'd never even seen any flashing of lightening. Strange that sound could travel so far so clearly over water that way.

Tonight looked like another great night for sky watching. The sunlight had completely gone. Off to the northwest there was a slight glow on the horizon from Marco Island. Everywhere else the sky was black as ink and the stars were brilliant and too numerous to count. The lights of occasional airplanes passing, followed by their distant sound, interrupted the illusion of wilderness from time to time.

Several times Amy was sure she heard the distant sound of some sort of music coming through the night air, partially blocked by the sound of the breaking swells on the beach. It was so faint she could not identify anything about it except that it sounded like very peaceful music from a great distance. Somehow it seemed to add to the mood of the almost perfect evening.

In the bay, the silence was occasionally broken by the soft "whoosh" sound of dolphins blowing, and if she stared long and hard enough, Amy could convince herself that she could see their dark back and dorsal fin breaking the surface. The tide had just crested and was beginning to ebb, headed for one of the lowest tides of the year by morning. She would break camp early in the morning and head back to Goodland with the incoming tide.

Sleep came slowly. Amy lay in her tent looking at the night sky through the screen, wanting to savor and enjoy every last minute of her solo adventure. When sleep finally came, it was light and fitful, troubled by strange dreams, dark figures in kayaks appearing from nowhere, and vanishing just as quickly, sounds of waves crashing, feelings of being trapped underwater, straining for air, lungs bursting, and not being able to reach the surface, so tantalizingly close, yet so far away.

At some point in the dark hours of the very early morning, Amy suddenly snapped wide awake. She lay quietly listening, trying to figure out what had awakened her from the troubled sleep. She thought she could hear the faint sound of voices in the distance, but the harder she listened, the less sure she was that she heard anything.

Not able to fall back to sleep quickly, she slipped out of her sleeping bag, donned her sandals, unzipped the tent fly and stuck her head out. It was uncannily quiet. The surf had completely subsided on the seaward side of the key, and the gulf looked smooth as a lake in the dim starlight. Looking eastward, she couldn't see any sign of the coming sunrise.

"Time for a starlight stroll on the beach," she thought. She groped for her flashlight, pocketed it and crawled out of the tent. As she got to her feet, something caught her attention far to the north across the bay. Was it a light? Yes, there it was again — a distant beam of light playing about on the water. It was quickly joined by another. They were too weak to be searchlights; they appeared to be hand-held flashlight beams from some sort of small craft — kayaks perhaps. Someone out fishing? And again she thought she heard the faint sound of voices wafting across the water. Just the faint garbled sound, nothing intelligible.

"Whoosh" — splash — a dolphin broke the surface. It sounded like it was just a few feet off the beach. A slight phosphorescence lit the water where the splash had happened — or was it just starlight reflecting off the ripples?

As she strolled along the beach wrapped in the darkness of the moonless night, Amy could have sworn she heard someone call out "Frankie!" in the distance. She stopped, stood quietly, and strained to hear. Nothing. She could still see the lights, but they seemed to be moving away, northward up the bay. Again, was that a call for Frankie? She hoped nothing was amiss in the neighboring camp on Gullivan Key. Had Frankie gone missing? Were his buddies out looking for him?

Soon the lights disappeared around a distant point of land, and the faint sound of voices she'd been hearing stopped. Everything was quiet and serene.

Amy walked as far around the beach to the right of the campsite as she could, strolling slowly, listening to the night sounds. The low tide allowed her to get a lot farther toward the other end of the island than on her previous exploration the morning before. She couldn't see a lot in the dim starlight, just the ghostly whiteness of the beach bordered by the blackness of the sea oats, cactus, mangroves and other vegetation on her right and the starlight reflecting on the water of the bay on her left. She didn't want to use her flashlight for fear of ruining her night vision, which she was enjoying using at the moment.

Arriving finally at a point where the vegetation and the water came together and the sand of the beach disappeared, she turned around and made her way along the beach back toward the camp, then on around the point to the cove wrapping around the seaward side of the key. She'd seen raccoon footprints along the beach here the morning before. She walked as quietly as possible and strained her eyes through the darkness, hoping to spot one of the raccoons. "Not that they would run away," she thought to herself. "The ones I've seen in the Okefenokee would just stare you down — why would these be any different?"

Reaching the end of the beach on the seaward side, Amy turned around again and walked slowly back to camp. Once she thought she heard a rustling sound in the vegetation just inland of the beach. A foraging raccoon?

Once back at camp, Amy still felt very much awake. She checked her watch — 3:15. She unfolded the camp chair and sat by the fire pit, facing out to the sea, leaning back and enjoying the night sky. She thought about the fitful sleep, the disturbing dreams, and the lights and voices out on the bay. This night was very different from the night before — she couldn't seem to shake the troubled feelings.

Drowsiness soon returned, or at least fatigue, so Amy put away her chair and returned to the tent. Soon she returned to her uneasy sleep, and more strange dreams....

- *Read the conclusion to Amy's adventure in next month's Eddy Line.*

Choosing the Right Canoe

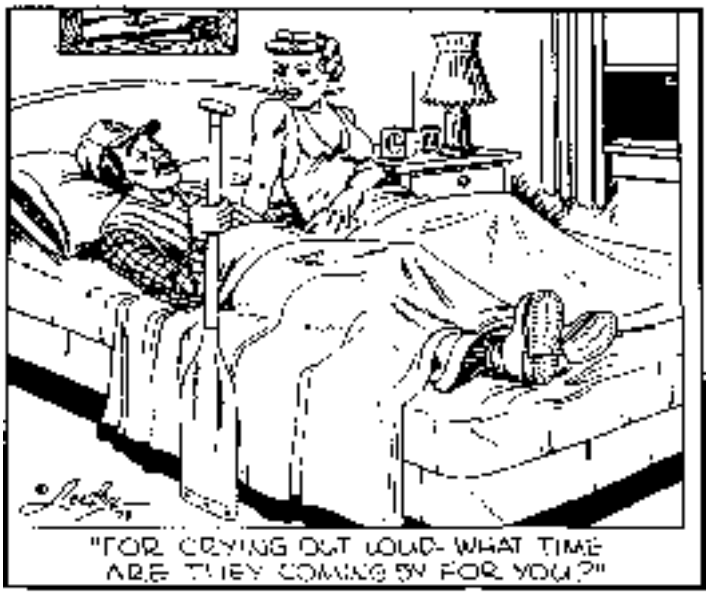
Getting Started Sorting Through the Details
by Doug Wipper

With only 900 or more canoe models to choose from — and with each manufacturer having its own classification system — what could be easier than picking out a canoe? And don't forget that canoes can be made from cedar strips, wood and canvas, aluminum, fiberglass, Kevlar, carbon fiber, polyethylene and Royalex. It's no wonder so many people end up buying the wrong canoe — which means enjoyment and safety are compromised.

Following is a way to choose the appropriate craft for your intended use. Ask yourself how you will use your canoe. This will make your final decision easy because shape, size and construction all suit different performance requirements.

Answer the following: Do I want to lake paddle, river paddle, or both? Will I paddle solo, tandem or triple? Do I want to do extended journeys? Will I be portaging, and how heavy a boat can I carry? How much maintenance am I willing to perform? Is my primary interest white water play boating and rodeo paddling? Will I use my canoe mainly for fishing or hunting? Do I want a canoe for casual use around the cottage?

You should now be able to place yourself in one of the following categories: Lake touring; flat water port-wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting; expedition paddling; white water touring; white water play boating and rodeo. Once



you know the category of the canoe you want, it is simply a matter of knowing how to recognize what length, width, shape, and construction your hull should be.

The Right Stuff

Expedition and white water canoes must be strong to withstand the rigors of river environments, whereas lake touring and sport canoes must be strong enough to carry the desired load but light enough to be portaged. A nice combination of materials for touring and sport canoes is a hull made from Kevlar with wood gunwales, thwarts, and seats to keep it light. Expedition and white water canoes are best made from Royalex, polyethylene, or Kevlar — with vinyl-clad aluminum gunwales to ensure they can take abuse.

The Final Tactic

Paddle as many canoes as possible before you purchase. Demo the boats in the same kind of water you intend to use them in. Try performing the same maneuvers in each hull to ascertain the responsiveness of each boat. Load the craft and see how it changes performance. Choose a dealer who is experienced in canoeing so that you get professional input and not guesswork.

If you choose the right canoe, it will spend more time on the water and less time under the front porch.

- From "Current News" — newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club.

Shark Bait

- From the Merrimack Valley Paddlers email list. Submitted by Martin Milbury.

River Quotes You Really Didn't Want to Hear

"Everyone goes over there, but we're taking a different line. It's really important that you don't miss this eddy." It was a blind drop. *- Steve Thomas.*

"This is no place for grazing." *- Hoppy Eager — Upper Yough.*

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 gacanoe@mindspring.com. PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

FOR SALE - C-1, Ultramax. Light, strong Kevlar racing boat. Very good condition. $200. Call Mark at 706 .864.5928.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Method Air - nearly new condition - $450 - Can e-mail photos on request. Call Mike at 770.483.2052.

FOR SALE - Kayaks & gear. Beginner family kayak outfitting: 1. Dagger Crossfire kayak, spray skirt, outfitting, great Weimer paddle. 2. Two Pirouette-S kayaks with skirts, outfitting, youth PFDs/helmets, paddles. 3. Youth Corsica XS kayak with spray skirt, outfitting, paddle. 4. Girls, Bare wet suit with neoprene booties, med/small. 5. New Kokotak Men's PFD - XL. Call 770.645.7775 to make an offer or e-mail at LeBaronT@aol .com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Current Designs Breeze, turquoise. Won at charity event. Paddled only the day of the win. Retail is $795, asking only $595. Will deliver within 200 miles. Please email Jean at nursejean2@yahoo.com or call 706.227.6174 and ask for Jean or Terri.

FOR SALE - Kayak, 1-1/2 year old Liquid Logic Gus. Best white water kayak for larger paddlers. Only been down two class II rivers. Mountain Surf Kevlar spray skirt included. $700 OBO. Call Steve 478.953.9192.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Dancer. Very good condition. $200. Includes spray skirt, PFD, and helmet. Call Trey at 770.993.6406.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Stikine. Used twice. Minor scratches on bottom, otherwise perfect. $500 OBO. Paddle and spray skirt also for sale. Call Mike or Reggie 706.683 .0555.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport Score. Good boat for 170 lb. + boater. Call Revel @ 404.761.8572.

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. Looking for good used 15' or 16' touring or recreational canoe. Preferably Old Town, Wenonah or Bell. Please contact Don at 678.455.9151.

GCA WANT ADS SELL!!!

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- Manufacturers Reps On-hand
- For more information call

(770) 517-5947

Both stores at the corner of I-575 & Hwy 92

GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA 2004
May 14th, 15th, 16th

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 May 6th

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
Burgers, Chicken and Hotdogs
Almost All-U-Can-Eat
Price: $10.00 (Children 12 & Under $6.00)

7:30 PM
River Trivia Contest with Debra Berry
Teams Welcome!
Bonfire – Please Bring Logs!

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

For further information, contact:
Connie Venuso, 404.633.8038 / conniev@bellsouth.net
Grechen Mallins, 770.529.1763 / gretchenlm@webtv.net

GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA 2004

Registration Form

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

Connie Venuso
527 Scott Circle
Decatur, GA 30033
404.633.8038

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 Connie Venuso for information)

Saturday Dinner:

Number of meals _____ @ $10.00 $_____

Number of meals (12 years & under) _____ @ $6.00 $_____

Number of meatless meals _____ @ $10.00 $_____

Number of meatless meals (12 years & under) _____ @ $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 May 6: $_____

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.

2004 GCA INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & 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

BASIC WHITE WATER SAFETY
This is not a Swift Water Rescue course, but rather a one-day safety course focusing on the skills needed to immediately effect a rescue after an incident has occurred. It follows the American Canoe Association's Basic White Water Safety curriculum and is a full day of learning and practicing simple safety concepts and rescue techniques. The morning is demonstration and land-based exercises including throw ropes. The afternoon is water-based exercises including self-rescue, rescue of others, and retrieval of boats and gear. If you've never taken a river safety course, or haven't taken one recently, this is an excellent first course or refresher course. The only prerequisite skills are basic paddling techniques such as those learned in a beginning paddling course.

ADVANCED SWIFT WATER RESCUE
OBJECTIVES: To teach effective skills for white water rescue, including self rescue techniques, rope handling skills, and approaches for dealing with boat pinning and entrapment. Special attention is given to teaching simple, effective skills that make good use of the limited gear that white water paddlers can carry.
PREREQUISITES: All paddle craft are welcome. Students should be intermediate white water paddlers, capable of ferrying and catching eddies in class II white water. They should be in good physical condition, with strong swimming skills and no fear of going underwater. Students should dress for swimming and prolonged immersion. All appropriate personal river gear, plus a throw rope, two carabiners, and 15 feet of 1 inch tubular webbing, should be brought to class. The above are excerpts from the ACA outline http://www.acanet.org/pdf/adv-rescue-6-18.pdf

BEGINNING RECREATIONAL KAYAK:
This is primarily for the 'other' kayak category; ones that are neither shorter white water kayaks with skirts nor longer sea kayaks with rudders or skegs. This includes flat water touring kayaks (wider kayaks with skirts such as Keowee, Swifty and Acadia models) and white water sit on tops (such as Torrents) & inflatable rubber kayaks. Some don't know they have boats in this category until they call for white water or sea kayak classes. The course will follow the format of the American Canoe Association 'basic river kayak' course. See http://www.acanet.org/sei-river-kayak.htm

SEA KAYAK
These courses are for longer narrow kayaks with rudders or skegs. The beginner class is two days of basic strokes, maneuvers, and rescue skills. One day is on quiet water, the second is in mild surf. The level of instruction will be geared to the skill level of the participants. For more information see http://webpages.charter.net/cramersec/skflyer.html and http://www.acanet.org/sei-coastal-kayak.htm

BEGINNING FLAT/MOVING WATER CANOE:
For people who have never had a boat on moving water or want to improve their skills in a basic course. This is also for canoes that are not suitable for white water or those who want an easier class. Saturday flat water session emphasizing strokes, safety, self-rescues. Sunday session on moving water river. For more information see the ACA 'basic river canoe' outline at http://www.acanet.org/sei-river-canoe.htm

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 KAYAK & CANOE:
For people who have minimal experience on moving water and/or have not had recent instruction. Three-hour evening classroom session with videos and lectures covering equipment, safety, river features and paddling techniques for tandem and solo boaters. Full day Saturday flat water session emphasizing strokes, safety, self-rescues. Full day Sunday session on moving water river. You must attend both the dry and flat water sessions to participate in the white water river portion of the course.

TRAINED BEGINNER WHITE WATER KAYAK & CANOE:
Participants should have had fairly recent beginner level instruction and at least 5 days of white water experience after the instruction. Participants should be able to do basic maneuvers on class II rivers (eddy turns, peel outs & ferries). Polish-up beginner skills, plus bracing and rolling (kayaks).

INTERMEDIATE WHITE WATER KAYAK & CANOE:
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

See the registration form (reverse side) for information on GCA membership, registration, cancellations, refunds and age.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE, INSTRUCTIONS & REGISTRATION FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

GCA INSTRUCTION 2004

White Water Canoe

+ Beginner
  June 1 (evening), June 5, 6
  other tbd
  Coordinator: Steve Cramer (706.208.8382)
+ Trained Beginner
  May 15, 16
  August 28, 29
  Coordinator: Pat Hagan (770.393.1420)
+ Intermediate
  May 15, 16
  Coordinator: Marvine Cole (770.475.3022)
  September 18, 19
  Coordinators: Gina & Haynes Johnson (770.971.1542)

Flat/Moving Water Canoe

+ Beginner
  June 5, 6
  Coordinator: Jim Albert (770.414.1521)

Sea Kayak

Coordinator: Steve Cramer (706.208.8382)

+ Introduction - Charleston, SC
  May 29, 30 & optional trip 31
  September 25, 26
+ Advanced Skills and Maneuvers Clinic
  July 10 (local location tbd)
+ Safety & Rescue Clinic - (local location tbd)
  June 20 (Conservation organization fundraiser)

White Water Kayak

+ Beginner
  June 15 (evening), 19.20
  August 3 (evening), 7,8
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Trained Beginner
  June 5, 6
  July 31 - August 1
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Intermediate
  May 15, 16
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Beginning Youth White Water
  May/June TBD (class fee $25)
  Facilitator: Allen Sinquefield (770.642.1898)

Recreational Kayak

+ Beginner Recreational Kayak (class fee $25)
  June 19
  July 10
  August 14
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)

Safety

+ Basic White Water Safety
  Coordinator: Brannen Proctor (770.664.7384)
  July 17 (1 day - $25)
+ Advanced Swift Water Rescue
  Coordinator: Pat Hagan (770.393.1420)
  June 12-13 (Call for fees)

Registration: To register for one of these clinics you must be a member of the Georgia Canoeing Association. For an application to join the GCA go to the GCA Web Site at http://www.georgiacanoe.org/membship.htm or call 404.421.9729. Dues are $25. Classes are $50 per person unless otherwise stated. To register for a clinic, call the coordinator of the clinic for more information, including questions on your skill level and/or course objectives. You will NOT be registered until the coordinator receives this completed form and a check for appropriate fees. 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 _____

_____

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.

GCA Southeastern Championships, May 1-2
Sign up for the Race Crew, Order Race 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 Race Celebration Dinner, Saturday, May 1st, 6:30 PM, Nantahala Outdoor Center, 'Relia's Garden, Dinner (menu to be determined) coffee or tea. 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 Dinner = $ _____
RAFFLE TICKETS AT $1.00 PER TICKET**:** **$** _____

Dinner & raffle tickets ordered here can be picked up at the Hospitality Tent on May 1st. Seating capacity at the Race Celebration 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 Race Celebration Dinner and Raffle Tickets to:

GCA
Attn: Bruce Fussell
2763 Cravey Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30345

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