GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION

The Eddy Line

Post Office Box 7023 Atlanta, GA 30357

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Summer Roll Practice

Summer roll practice will be held at the lake at Stone Mountain Park on Wednesday evenings from 6 PM until dark beginning the first Wednesday in May and running through the end of Daylight Savings Time in October. Plan to take advantage of this great service provided by your club. 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. See details inside this issue of the newsletter.

GCA Spring Extravaganza 2005

The GCA Spring Extravaganza 2005 will be held on May 13-15 at Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway near the Nantahala Gorge in North Carolina. The Spring Extravaganza is GCA's annual celebration where members both new and old can get together and share a wonderful weekend of paddling. The Spring Extravaganza is one of GCA's most popular events and is always a lot of fun.

GCA reserves most of the campground and will provide breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday evening. This year Williamson Brothers BBQ in Marietta will be catering BBQ pork and rotisserie chicken. After dinner Saturday evening, we'll build a bonfire and exchange river stories. If you can, bring some logs for the fire. For sleeping arrangements, you have a choice of reserving a tent site, bunk in the bunkhouse or reserve a cabin.

We usually have trips organized to the Nantahala, Tuckaseigee, Chattooga, Hiawassee, Ocoee and other rivers. There are trips each day for all skill levels. So, make sure you mark your calendar and get your registration form and money in soon (form in back of this issue of *The Eddy Line*).

For directions to Nelson's, go to their website at www .nantahalacampground.com. Please give me a call or email if you have questions about the Spring Extravaganza, would like to lead a trip or volunteer to help out. Jamie Higgins, 404.508.0761, jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com.

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Paddlers' Rescue Festival

by Steve Smith

Jacksonville State University (Jacksonville, AL) is sponsoring an "Essentials of River Safety Clinic" June 11, 2005. The clinic is a one-day, on-the-river, basics-of-paddling-safety course, conducted on Terrapin Creek (that's east of Gadsden, AL). The course is also sponsored by the American Canoe Association and GCA, if we can get your help.

GCA is looking for folks to serve as instructors for one or more training stations along the river. We could also use folks for logistics, parking help, registration, and working a GCA tent to sell the club to those who come by. The festival will be held at the Terrapin Outdoor Center located between Piedmont and Centre, Alabama about [Cont'd on page 8]

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 Louis Boulanger at 404.373.2907.

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	Vincent Payne
Secretary	Tom Bishop
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Gabriella Schlidt
Recreation Chair	Jamie Higgins
Resource Development Chair	Knox Worde
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

April				
30	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
30	Flint River Camping (thru May 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
May				
1	Flint River Camping	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
1	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
1	Chattooga Section 4	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
7	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Tom Keller	770.591.0980
7	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
8	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
8	Upper Amicalola (Note 1)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
8	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
13-15	GCA Spring Extravaganza	Canoeing / Camping Weekend	Jamie Higgins	404.508.0761
21	Tesnatee Creek Cleanup	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
22	Chattooga Section 3 Cleanup (Note 5)	Class 2-3(4) Intermediate (Advanced)	Haynes & Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
28	Hiwassee (Note 2)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
28	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
28-30	Big South Fork (TN) Overnighter (Note 4)	Smooth to Class 1-2	Lois Newton	706.398.3069
29	Hiwassee (Note 2)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
29	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
June				
4	Ducky Day — Recreational White Water Kayak (Note 3)		Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
11	Metro Chattahoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	770.760.7357
12	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	John Scott	770.421.2451
13	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Allen Hedden	770.426.4318
18	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Tom Keller	770.591.0980
July				
2	Hiwassee (Note 2)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
3	Hiwassee (Note 2)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
7	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Allen Hedden	770.426.4318

Note 1: Normal difficulty increased due to lingering strainers.
Note 2: Overnight camp Friday and Saturday nights. Call early to reserve campsites.
Note 3: Training Clinic for new recreational boaters. See training calendar and article in this issue of *The Eddy Line* for additional details.
Note 4: Joint trip with Tennessee Valley Canoe Club.
Note 5: Thrifts Ferry to Bull Sluice — trash bags and plastic / rubber gloves recommended. As always, running Bull Sluice will be optional. GCA has committed to a semiannual cleanup of this section. National River Clean Week up is May 14-22.

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: Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM 'til dark, May thru the end of daylight saving time in October, at the lake at Stone Mountain Park. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line.*

GCA Library Items

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

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

Denise Colquitt
3794 Glenloch Road
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell
Cold, Wet & Alive
Expedition Earth
Faultline (Will Reeves)
First Descents (North Fork Payette)
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)
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 & Kayaking Guide to Georgia
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 the GCA web committee at gcaweb@gmail.com. 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!

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.

"Talk doesn't cook rice." *- Chinese proverb.*

Canoe Outfitting & Repair

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Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels

Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318

Email canoeist@mindspring.com

Upcoming Events of Interest

May 7 — Coosa River Basin Initiative Canoe-a-Thon and Canoe Race — 15-mile race, Oostanaula River, Rome, GA, fundraiser for the Coosa River Basin Initiative, www.aca1.com/Challenge.htm.

May 13-15 — GCA Spring Extravaganza — Nantahala area, Topton, NC, Jamie Higgins, 404.508.0761, jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com.

May 14-15 — USACK Collegiate Championships and LCKC Southern Invitational Regatta. Sprint events, Dragon Boat Races and a 5K race. Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club, 770.287.7888, http://www.lckc.org/, email ConHagler @aol.com.

June 4 — Back to the Chattahoochee Canoe Race and Festival — Roswell, GA, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, 404.352.9828, www.chattahoochee .org.

June 10-12 — Senior National Slalom Team Trials — Durango, CO.

June 17-18 — US National Wild Water Championships — Arkansas River, Salida, CO, Ed Loeffe, e_loeffel@hotmail .com or Chad Hixon, chad@musclebus.com, www.fibark .net.

June 19 — Fibark Classic Wild Water / Down River — Arkansas River, Salida, CO (26 miles), Ed Loeffe, e_loeffel@hotmail.com or Chad Hixon, chad@musclebus .com, www.fibark.net.

July 16 — Georgia Games State Championships — Lake Lanier Rowing Club.

July 16 — Community Racing League Summer Paddlefest — Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club, 770.287.7888, http:// www.lckc.org/, email ConHagler @aol.com.

July 16-17 — Age Group Slalom Nationals / US Cup 1 — Carlton, MN.

July 23-24 — US Slalom Cup 2 and 3 — Wausau, WI.

July 30-31 — US Slalom Jr Olympics / US Cup 4 — South Bend, IN.

August 21 — U.S. Slalom National Championships —

Kern River, CA.
September 3-4 Lanier Cup International Regatta. More information coming soon — permit pending. Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club, 770.287.7888, http://www.lckc.org/ email ConHagler@aol.com.
September 10 — Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival — Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club, 770.287.7888, http://www.lckc.org/, email ConHagler @aol.com.
September 10-11 — Tsali Challenge Triathlon — Paddle, Run & Bike — NOC, Wesser, NC, 888.590.9273, www.noc.com.
September 26 — Animal Upper Gauley Race — Gauley River — Summersville, WV, www.gauleyrace.com.
October 28-30 — NOC Guest Appreciation Festival — Nantahala River — Wesser, NC, 888.590.9273, www.noc.com.
November 5 — NOC Tour de Nantahala Bike Races — Wesser, NC, 888.590.9273, www.noc.com.

Summer Roll Practice

Joint AWC / GCA Summer Roll Practice will be held at Stone Mountain Lake this year beginning in May and running through the end of daylight savings time in October. Sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays at 6:00 (or earlier). Admission is free once you enter the park (a season pass is highly recommended if you plan to attend multiple sessions).

To get there, enter the park from the Stone Mountain Freeway (East Entrance) and take the first left. Continue about a mile until the road crosses the dam and take the first right into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

Use the area around the ramp to load and unload boats only. There is a fair amount of power boat traffic putting in and taking out at the ramp. Once in the water, try to stay clear of the ramp for the same reason.

Note: Park regulations do not allow "swimming" at this location, so if you are in the water spotting for someone, an explanation to the park officials may be in order. So far no one has been cited for a violation there.

Volunteers are needed to help with kayak, canoe and C-1 rolling. Your help is appreciated!

"In matters of principle, stand like a rock; in matters of taste, swim with the current." - *Thomas Jefferson.*

Ducky Day

The GCA is holding Ducky Day again in 2005, on June 4. This is an opportunity for those who paddle inflatables or white water sit-on-tops to have a training day focused on their needs. Ducky Day is held on the Tuckaseigee River, about 40 minutes east of the Nantahala Outdoor Center. We spend the day reviewing river safety, river signals, river features, paddling strokes and technique and maneuvers.

This course is specifically for those who have paddled on moving water before. Those of you who are primarily smooth water paddlers are welcome if you have paddled a kayak before. If your recreational boat is not suitable for the Tuckaseigee (class 1&2 rapids), then you can rent an inflatable kayak to practice your white water skills in.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact me at 404.512.0832. Price is $25.00 plus $6.00 for insurance. If you are an ACA member, insurance is waived.

Thank you!
Gina Johnson, GCA President

First Annual HeffFest

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) invite everyone to come out to the banks of the beautiful Nolichucky River on May 21, 2005, to celebrate a festival in memory of good friend and fellow paddler John Heffernan. John, an avid and accomplished kayaker who loved to help others learn about the sport, lost his life on the Russell Fork River this past October.

The festival will be held at Big Rock Campground near Erwin, Tennessee, and will run from noon until 10:30 PM. HeffFest will be devoted to fun -- in, on, and next to the river. Planned events include: an exciting downriver race through the Lower Nolichucky; paddling instruction by certified teachers; kayak, canoe, and rafting opportunities for paddlers of all levels; paddler's flea market; silent auction; vendor booths; boat demos; boat raffle for Wave Sport kayak of choice; fabulous food, T-shirts and souvenirs; bluegrass music; kids activities and games; and an on-site white water rodeo at Big Rock play spot as water levels permit.

Tickets are $10, $5 for kids under 13, and children under 3 are free. Camping is available on-site at Big Rock Campground first come, first serve.

For those interested in paddling the Nolichucky Gorge, shuttles will be available from Chestoa at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30AM and 12:30PM for $5. Additionally, there will be a memorial paddle down the gorge in John's

honor on Sunday that will begin at the Poplar, NC put-in at 11:00AM.

All proceeds from HeffFest will go to benefit American Whitewater. Become a part of this very special event. Mark your calendar, May 21, 2005. BE AT HEFF FEST!

For more information, contact Scott Fisher at tfisher1@ibius.jnj.com. For race information, contact Jason Onks at kayak4thelove@yahoo.com. For Wave Sport kayak raffle sales, contact Daryl Crisp at darylcrisp@hotmail.com.

Directions: Traveling on I-26 towards Erwin, TN: Take Exit 18 off I-26 towards Old Jonesborough. Travel on Hwy 81 North for 5 miles. Big Rock Campground is on the right.

Contact:

Ben Van Camp
Events Coordinator
20 Battery Park Ave, Suite 302
Asheville, NC 28801
E-mail: ben@amwhitewater.org
Phone: 828.252.0728
Fax: 828.252.6482

Big South Fork Overnighter

Saturday-Monday, May 28-30, (Memorial Day Weekend). Contact Lois Newton at 706.398.3069

We will put on at Station Camp on Saturday morning and take off at Blue Heron on Monday. Depending on water level we will either camp at different campsites each night, or stay at one campsite for both nights freeing us to play, swim, explore, hike, or just hang out on Sunday. There are a couple rapids on this stretch, culminating with Devil's Jump just a few hundred yards before the take-out. Devil's Jump can be run or portaged. The scenery on this National River and Recreation Area that runs from Tennessee to Kentucky is spectacular. Learn more about the BSF at http://www.nps.gov/biso/.

Canoes or kayaks are welcome on the trip (we've even had a sea kayak one time, though there are rapids requiring negotiation) but each boat must be able to carry its own gear. We will be running our own shuttle. I'll be heading up to Station Camp, where primitive camping is permitted, that Friday night.

Because I enjoy the Big South Fork area so much, and it offers a variety of recreational options, should the water level be either too high or too low I plan to head up anyway and camp at Bandy Creek Campground and just choose from the array of non-paddling opportunities it offers rather than switch to another river.

Come on along and spend an enjoyable long weekend at one of God's great playgrounds. Contact me with any questions or to register for the trip. This trip is open to both TVCC and GCA members.

An Eclectic Spring Thing

Fun loving canoeists and kayakers — an eclectic spring thing for us — warm days, wetlands and clean water celebration. Event date: Saturday, May 14, 2005. Time: Meet at the Oconee River Recreation Area at 9:00 am. Water Event: Paddle the Oconee River and Lake from the Oconee River Recreation Area.

What we will do: Paddle upstream for a half mile or so to the Scull Shoals Historic Area where representatives of the historic preservation group will show us the remains of this important piece of Georgia history. Then we will paddle downstream for eight miles or so to Dyar Pasture. We hope to have several naturalists join us to explain what we are seeing along the River. We end up at Dyar Pasture and take a short stroll to an impounded wetlands designed to attract waterfowl and other birds. Experienced bird watchers will help us understand the wetlands' importance as habitat and to identify birds.

After the paddle, transportation back to the put-in area will be provided. If paddlers are ready to drive their cars to the end point at 8:45 am, a trip will be made with return to departure area.

Requirements: Bring your own water transportation, safety equipment, food and water, camera, binoculars and $3.00 parking fee.

Directions: We will put in at the Oconee River Recreation Area on State Route 15, twelve miles northwest of the City of Greensboro and south of Athens and take out at the Dyar Pasture Boat Ramp. From Atlanta, take Interstate 20 east to Greensboro Exit 130 and Georgia Highway 15 north for 12 miles and look for the sign to the Oconee River Recreation Area on your right. (About 80 miles or 1.5 hours) From Athens, take US 441 and US 129 to Watkinsville and take Georgia 15 over the Oconee River and look for the sign to the Oconee River Recreation Area on your left. For questions or information, contact Mickey Feltus at 404.562.9421 or cfeltus@msn.com.

This is an informal and unsponsored event. It is simply a gathering of people who want to see this part of the Oconee River and its natural environment. Although there will be members of the Georgia Canoeing Association and employees of the EPA at the gathering, they will be there in their private capacities. Everyone attending must be able to paddle the eight mile route on their own and be sufficiently experienced in a canoe to avoid capsizing.

Altamaha River Rat Run

by Lynn Carter, Baxley-Appling County Board of Tourism

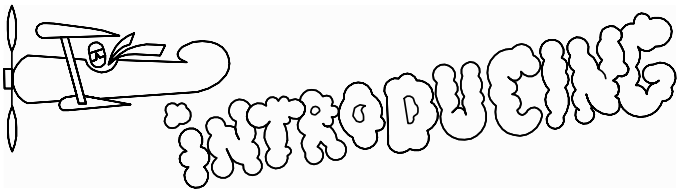
Calling all River Rats! The Altamaha River Rat Run Canoe & Kayak Excursion is scheduled for June 4, 2005. Please visit our web site at www.baxley.org. Click on Tourism and scroll down the page to the three links. You will find our registration form, waiver of liability and permission forms for youth participating. If you need maps or any additional information please contact me at 912.367.7615 or email carterls@bellsouth.net. Our souvenir T-shirts will be $10. Looking forward to a fun day on the Altamaha River!

GCAer Is Named Athlete of the Year

Thanks to nominations by folks like Bill Sapp and Jim Ingram, an Atlanta area paddler has been selected by Atlanta Sports and Fitness Magazine as one of their Athletes of the Year for the second year in a row.

Last year Ty Hagler won honors (as a US National Champion and Olympic hopeful). This year John Pinyerd, GCA life member and US Wild Water Team member, received the honor.

We look forward to another Atlanta/Georgia area paddler keeping the tradition alive next year.



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!!

Brytowski, David
4451 Sims Court
Tucker GA 30084
H: 770-861-6442
Email: dbrytowski@craworld.com

Day, Caroline
6321 Hadley Green Court #104
Charlotte NC 28210
H: 704-556-7101
O: 704-488-1436
Email: cday@acm.org

Dorfzaun, Harrison
3660 Blakeford Way
Marietta GA 30062
H: 770-971-7531
O: 404-422-7531
Email: saxxofrass@hotmail.com

Hall, Howard
1407 Parkside Club Drive
Lawrenceville GA 30044
H: 678-376-7689
O: 404-321-6111
O: 678-778-9727
Email: thehallcompany@mindspring.com

Robey, Mike &
Bundy, Sue
895 Freemanwood Lane
Alpharetta GA 30004
H: 770-410-0682
Email: mrobey@mindspring.com

Yawn, Chris
1110 Maple Drive
Griffin GA 30224
H: 770-228-0029
Email: cyclejcy@aol.com

[Cont'd from page 1]

90 miles from Atlanta. There will be rustic camping available at the festival site, and there are commercial campgrounds in Piedmont. So c'mon out and bring some gear and river tales you may want to swap and give us a hand in making this event a success. It will also be a chance to give a little back to the sport you love.

The JSU website for the event is at http://www.jsu.edu/depart/epic/lrcfs/lrcfs_2005.html#June.

If you have questions, or if you're ready to jump in with both feet, please give me a holler. I'm available at 770.925.3621 (6PM-9PM weekdays, or 9AM-9PM on weekends) or via email at isnuffy@yahoo.com.

"Sometimes you've got to wade through the mud to get to the river." - *Patsy Hedden*.

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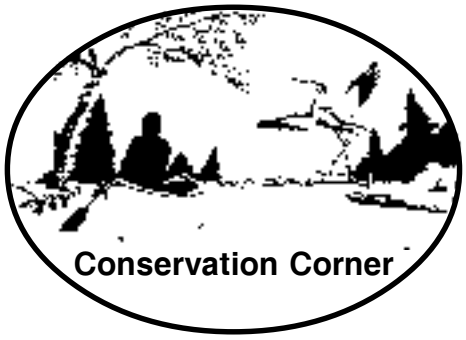
Southern Living on the Broad River

by Michael Moody, Broad River Outpost



As you know, the Broad River is a relatively pristine place with only an occasional 'eye sore' visible along the river. Recently the owners of Southern Living bought a large tract of land on the banks of the Broad River near the Madison / Elbert County line. They are proceeding to clear all vegetation short of a few mature trees creating what looks like a 'campus' for grass. The immediate losers are the native flowering annuals, perennials, shrubs and small trees along with the wildlife that depends on them for food or cover. I can 'see' the tick infested deer cruising the 'park' though. The bobcats and occasional bear, otter, mink, and countless birds will be loosing habitat.

Certainly a huge loss for the river corridor including the wildlife that need a contiguous habitat. The run-off from the herbicides and fertilizer to maintain the "Southern Living' kind of image will run directly into the river with no buffering. Just imagine the fire ants' new 'opportunity' and the poison run-off applied to move them around (as opposed to killing them), as directed by the Southern Living folks 'imagined perfect world'. Fish, turtles etc really enjoy pesticides/herbicide/ fertilizer soup.

The worst thing is that they might showcase this eyesore / environmental destruction and thereby encourage others to follow their example. People often act like sheep and need to be educated not to follow this example.

If you know any writers, this might make a nice story and it would certainly help the environment to protect these fragile river corridors. The Broad has been 'protected' in a sense because it's not in the mountains and hasn't had the 'pressure' from the Atlanta moneyed people.

Another development of similar scale and thoughtlessness is being 'carved into the natural world' by some of the developers of the Chateau Elan crowd in south Madison County on the Broad River. Oh boy, another golf course in the 'wilderness' for the clients who could care

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less about anything 'native'.

These kinds of developers with their developments need to be directed to played-out farm land and build lakes that act like 'catch basins' to contain the pollutants they create and not in what's left of the natural world. It can 'look' good (to them) and actually be better than what was there before.

I would hope that you might know someone interested in writing a story on this subject. Letters to editors are good too! The Broad has become very important to many people in and around Georgia and they would be interested in this type story.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Draft Plan

by Rhett Smith

In 2001, the refuge staff (Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife) began the process of writing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the future management of the Okefenokee Refuge. This plan will direct staff through the next 15 years. The draft plan is nearing completion and will be released for public comment in the next few months. The draft will be available in one of several formats (Website, CD, or paper). When I receive word that it is available, I'll let you know.

American Rivers 10 Most Endangered Rivers

April 13, 2005. Take action today to save America's Most Endangered Rivers. Today American Rivers announced America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2005. Working closely with our conservation partners, we are highlighting ten rivers across the country that will reach crossroads in the next 12 months and are in danger of taking a turn for the worse. These rivers need your help! Take action today.

America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2005:

1. Susquehanna River (NY, PA, MD)
2. McCrystal Creek (NM)
3. Fraser River (CO)
4. Skykomish River (WA)
5. Roan Creek (TN)
6. Santee River (SC)
7. Little Miami River (OH)
8. Tuolumne River (CA)
9. Price River (UT)
10. Santa Clara River (CA)

Please help us remove these rivers from the Most Endangered Rivers list by taking action today. You can read brief descriptions of threats facing these rivers below, and the full America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2005 report on the American Rivers website.

1. Susquehanna River — New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland

Threat: Inadequate sewer systems and dam construction

Conservation Partners: Chesapeake Bay Foundation, river activist Don Williams

Each year, millions of gallons of raw or poorly treated sewage are discharged into the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay due to aging and inadequate sewer systems. A new inflatable dam proposed to stretch across the Susquehanna would make this situation even worse by creating a stagnant pool of this sewage next to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, further threatening fish, wildlife and human health. If elected officials are not willing to invest the resources necessary to clean up the Susquehanna River and restore the Bay, an irreplaceable piece of America's natural and cultural heritage will be lost. Urge your Congressmen to act in the interest of clean water and public health.

2. McCrystal Creek — New Mexico

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Threat: Impending Coal Bed Methane Drilling
Conservation Partners: Amigos Bravos, Coalition for the Valle Vidal

The Valle Vidal of northern New Mexico, and the health of one of its signature streams, McCrystal Creek, faces the prospect of intense and intrusive coal bed methane drilling. A proposal has been submitted to drill 500 wells on 40,000 acres, accompanied by hundreds of miles of roads, pipelines, and compressors. This development threatens the health of New Mexico's largest elk herd, native Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and the remarkable recreational opportunities of the area.

3. Fraser River — Colorado
Threat: Water Withdrawals and Transbasin Diversion
Conservation Partners: Colorado Trout Unlimited, East Grand Water Quality Board, Town of Fraser Trustee

Currently, 65 percent of the Fraser River's water is siphoned off and piped across the mountains to fuel rapid development along Colorado's Front Range. Now, there are plans to take almost all of the rest, leaving little to no water in the Fraser. Unless the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers refuses to issue a federal permit and puts an immediate stop to the water board's plans, the remaining water will be replaced by discharges from local sewage plants, posing great risks to human health.

4. Skykomish River — Washington
Threat: Rapid Development and Population Demands
Conservation Partners: Pilchuck Audubon Society, Wild Steelhead Coalition

Snohomish County is at a turning point. As population continues to rise, the county can grow in one of two ways -- haphazardly, in a way that leads to polluted water, more flooding, family farms paved over, and increasingly dangerous, congested traffic — or thoughtfully and responsibly, in a way that encourages prosperity, protects clean water, and safeguards the values and lifestyles of residents. The Skykomish and its tributaries will become more polluted without a strong blueprint to manage growth and population demands. You can help by urging the Snohomish County Council to act decisively to safeguard the Skykomish River and protect the river valley residents.

5. Roan Creek — Tennessee
Threat: Aging and Inadequate Sewer Systems
Conservation Partners: Johnson County Citizens' Committee for Clean Air and Water, Tennessee Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

The sewage treatment plant in Mountain City, Tennessee, is so outdated and inadequate that plant operators have been caught spreading sewage sludge on frozen ground within Roan Creek's watershed. The United States is entering the 21st century with a 19th century sewage treatment system.

The effects of outdated infrastructure, growing population, and poorly planned development are coming together to send about 850 billion gallons of raw sewage into rivers, streams, and lakes nationwide each year. Mountain City and other small towns throughout America need federal and state assistance to acquire state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plants that will protect the rivers at the heart of their communities.

6. Santee River — South Carolina
Threat: Harmful Hydropower Project
Conservation Partners: South Carolina Coastal Conservation League

The Santee Cooper hydropower project has choked most of the flow from the once mighty Santee River by diverting 97% of the river's water into other water bodies. This massive diversion threatens the extensive floodplain forests that are dependent on the river's natural flows and eliminates any chance of public recreation. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) can restore and protect the Santee by issuing a certification requiring the hydropower utility, Santee Cooper, to put enough water back into the river for fish, wildlife, and public recreation.

7. Little Miami River — Ohio
Threat: Sewage Dumping
Conservation Partners: Little Miami Incorporated, Rivers Unlimited, Sierra Club

Proposed wastewater plant expansions are poised to pollute Ohio's Little Miami River with more sewage. Unless the state insists on modern sewage treatment, the crown jewel of Cincinnati's and southwestern Ohio's outdoor recreation will be spoiled beyond recovery. Write the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency today and tell them that sewage dumping must not be allowed in the Little Miami.

8. Tuolumne River — California
Threat: Rising Population Demands and River Diversions
Conservation Partners: Clean Water Action, Environmental Defense, Tuolumne River Trust

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission must upgrade the system that currently supplies water to more than 2.4 million customers in order to make it more reliable and safe from the risk of earthquakes. However, the Commission has burdened its critical seismic retrofit program with additional expansion projects including new

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pipelines and reservoirs that could divert 400 million gallons of water a day. Less water in the Tuolumne not only reduces the river's ability to dilute agricultural and urban wastes and runoff, but also depletes salmon populations.

9. Price River — Utah

Threat: Imminent Dam and Reservoir Construction

Conservation Partners: Utah Rivers Council

Near the remote headwaters of the Price River in central Utah, the federal Bureau of Reclamation is under pressure to build a dam and reservoir to take away one community's water and pipe it over the mountains to another. Unless the Bureau abandons this project, the Price River and the communities and wildlife populations it supports will suffer great harm.

10. Santa Clara River — California

Threat: Runaway Development

Conservation Partners: Friends of the Santa Clara River, Santa Clara River Alliance, Heal the Bay, Center for Biological Diversity, Lawyers for Clean Water, and Ventura Coastkeeper

Permits for new housing projects are currently pending throughout the Santa Clara River watershed. The five-village Newhall Ranch will be the straw that breaks the camel's back. It is one of the largest developments ever proposed in Los Angeles County. If the developer secures the required permits for Newhall Ranch, it will unleash its bulldozers on 19 square miles of natural areas straddling the upper Santa Clara River, including 141 acres located in the river's floodplain. 95 percent of habitat in tributaries to the Santa Clara River will be lost if development is permitted.

River Hazards

From the GCA Email List:

Ran the Cartecay Sunday at 2.5 on E. Ellijay gauge. At that level you can barely see the log strainer pointing up stream below the hole at Mr. Twister. Right cheat is doable but carefully. Last week at 2.2 the center was doable.

- Edward Stockman

There is a riverwide strainer not too far below the Devil's Elbow steel bridge. At 1.7ft we could barely squeeze through on the river right side. Looks like someone had cut away a few branches there. Probably not too much of a hazard at low water... but at 2-3 ft it might be a problem.

BTW, the play spot above GA 53 is really great at 1.7 ft. Nice wave/hole followed by a couple great standing waves.

- Chad

Credit [for cutting the branches] goes to a kayaker who works at Outside World. He was out there last Wednesday paddling an Esquif tandem play boat canoe: solo, backwards. He claimed it was "the only demo available at the shop." I pondered that boat for a while, with its double pedestal, decrepid axe stuffed above the bow bag, and tree saw wedged along the stern bag. He must have been an acrobat with grit and sore knees. Last saw him pedaling back up to the Six Mile put-in.

The blockages on the Lower section that Knox reported a while back are still there, on the flat portion of the Amicalola past the rapids. They're a nuisance, but it appears that people have been clobbering their way through. Suzanne astutely noted that, what with the epidemic of dead trees in the corridor, deadfalls are bound to get worse in the future.

The level was 1.27 at 2pm that day (3/23) for anyone interested, as I always am.

-Tom Welander

Exploration

Oconee River Exploration Report

by Dick Hurd

On March 19, 2005, I conducted an exploratory trip on the Oconee River, near Watkinsville, for the purpose of determining possibilities for canoe camping as well as flat-water day trips. Joining me in this endeavor were David Brytowski and Lee Hurd. The section is described in the 1980 edition of Sehlinger & Otey's 'Northern Georgia Canoeing' pp. 144-145, from point A to point B. Previously, I had scouted the land on both sides of the river, with only limited success due to poor or no roads. S&O lists the river mileage as 12.2 miles. The put-in is on Barnett Shoals Rd., east of Watkinsville and the take-out just before the Hwy 15 bridge, southeast of Watkinsville, in Greene County, on river left at a decent parking area, complete with boat ramp, camping options, and a $3/car parking fee, part of the Oconee National Forest facilities.

After the put-in, the slow moving water passes some residential areas, and in about 20 minutes brings you to a

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spectacular hazard: Wallace Dam at Barnett Shoals. This is a working "free crest spillway" dam, maybe 75 yards wide, and about 50' tall. Approaching it sounds like Niagara, and there is a river-wide series of warning buoys, so you can't mistake what you are approaching. A portage around this requires an exit on river left at or just beyond the buoys!

There is a modest climb up some rip-rap to a road, which bypasses the powerhouse, and then proceeds back to riverside and, eventually, to a small passage back to the river for an easy put-in. The presence of a big mud hole in the road alerts you to the location. The road is mostly dirt, so we dragged our boats, but with a heavy load of camping gear, two trips might be needed. The total distance is about 300 yards.

Wallace Dam with Barnett Shoals below

The view of what is left of Barnett Shoals, below the dam, is pretty spectacular, and I would love to have seen them before the dam was built. From the just mentioned put-in, it is possible to paddle back up towards the shoals, and I would guess some pretty serious play opportunities exist, though we did not explore that as our focus was looking for camping sites.

This road originates at Barnett Shoals Rd, and so it would allow coming to a put-in below the dam, except that it is gated and sometimes locked. More information about access may be had from the dam: 706.316.1459. If I were doing this trip again, that would be my preference.

Below the dam, the river becomes more secluded, though frequent pastures and occasional dwellings are seen. At 1.5 hrs into the trip, a hairpin turn in the river gives you a landmark: there is a dwelling, and a sign stating 'Marable Bend'. Just beyond the bend, river left, is a long sandbar beach where we had lunch.

After lunch, our search for camping options began in

The put-in at Barnett Shoals Road.

The ruins at Skull Shoals Historical Site

earnest. The options will all be on river left, once the WMA/Oconee National Forest areas are reached. Of course, there are no signs posted at river's edge to tell you where you are, but there are some distinct landmarks. On river left, there is a tree house built on metal posts — probably a deer stand, but it is unique, and just beyond this, perhaps 20 minutes of paddling, the WMA begins.

The current was quite brisk, and when we paddled on top of that, we estimate we could do 4-5 mph. The next recognizable landmark is a rock bridge pier on river left, which you will almost pass before you see it, and it might be covered with vegetation in summer.

The camping problem is that with high banks, the only practical exit from the river is at sand beaches, of which there were few. Entering creeks did not look useful. Further, above the bank, the flood plain extends several hundred feet and is densely covered with privet and other growth; we found no typical cleared camping sites at all, however, one could be created if a small lopper were included in the equipment.

There was only one sand beach that would be campable, for a few tents, but it was spectacular because a few hundred feet inland we actually found an Indian mound, one of the goals of the trip. This was a discovery of serendipity, because there is no path or sign, but the map describes 'Indian mounds archeological site', and a careful reading of the map shows the river makes a serpentine turn at that point, and as it resumes heading south this wonderful sandbar is river left.

Finding the mound was quite exciting — about 40' tall, all overgrown with trees, but clearly out of place on a flood plain. There are warning signs posted on the perimeter to discourage disturbing the site. After returning home, I was able to investigate the area on Terraserver.com, and found the URL that shows this area: http://www.terraserver.com/imagery/image_gx.asp?cpx=-83.27902742&cpy=33.75306257&res=8&provider_id=305&t=pan

The next area of interest, also river left, is the Scull Shoals Historic Site. This is the only cleared area on river left, with obvious ruins visible from the river. Scull Shoals was settled before 1800, and was at one time a prosperous town, with barge traffic coming up the Oconee River all the way to Barnett Shoals. Georgia's first paper mill, cotton gin, and textile factory were located at Scull Shoals. This area is reachable by road or by a 1 mile hiking trail that follows the river back to what was our take-out.

After spending some time at the historic site, we headed on to the take-out. The whole trip, with all our side trips, was about 5 hours. One negative is the presence of fishing boats, plus one very annoying airboat, but other than the noise, they all slowed down to reduce wake, so it is no worse than parts of the metro Chattahoochee.

Other than the Indian mound sand bar, the one solid camping option is at the take-out, with a put-in the next day to continue down to the next take-out at Dyar Pasture, which is about 6 more miles. This begins to get into the headwaters of Lake Oconee. But that is another trip.

I will be doing this trip again, so stay tuned.

The Long and Short of It

Sea/Touring Kayak Paddle Length

by Tom Watson

I've had some pretty toasty discussions regarding the proper paddle length for sea kayaks. Some suggest there is no reason to reach out beyond 220 cm, while others prefer the laid-back long stroke of a paddle at least 240 cm.

For a while the trend was to go with a very short (215 cm and less) paddle, using a vertical stroke similar to canoeing. Some still prefer to paddle this way, as it

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provides speed and power in each purchase of the blade with water. To me, the obvious question becomes, "For how long do you need to maintain quick speed and power in your stroke?"

A well-designed and well-trimmed sea kayak will usually maintain a straight course on the glide between proper paddling strokes. Once the boat is up to a modest touring speed, the inertia of the boat can be maintained with casual forward strokes. An occasional power stroke might be called up for a quick maneuver, but for distance paddling in calm weather, what's called the "touring" stroke is quite adequate.

Speaking of calm weather, length can play a role in how easy it is to paddle in higher winds or contrary seas. A longer paddle is going to be affected by the wind more than a short paddle. Rough seas can sometimes make a longer paddle cumbersome as well.

A longer paddle (220 cm +) that enables the blade to enter the water at a rather acute angle (as opposed to nearly vertical) when accompanied by a casual pulling stroke is oftentimes all that is necessary to maintain an acceptable, pace-keeping forward motion. A short paddle usually won't reach out far enough to paddle in this relaxed, "touring" style. A long paddle planted nearly horizontally in the water becomes cumbersome if too long.

Naturally the size of the paddler affects the proper paddle length. At 6' 7", I can make a 240 cm paddle look pretty short. Those who are concerned with their paddle's weight will want to consider a shorter paddle for the weight alone. Conversely, if weight is a factor but you prefer the length, go for the lightweight composite shafts and blades available in the marketplace.

Like other applications in kayaking, trial and error are your best bet to ascertain what paddle length is best for you. Besides your size, the size of the boat matters — or more precisely, the beam or width of the boat. Wider boats such as tandems often require a slightly longer paddle shaft than you'd use to paddle solo.

A well-designed and well-trimmed sea kayak will usually maintain a straight course on the glide between proper paddling strokes.

A trend in paddling that is becoming popular again is the use of a double-bladed "kayak" paddle when solo canoeing. A longer, two-bladed paddle tends to offer the needed length to both reach out and down to the water from the higher center seat. Those who tend to kneel while paddling will tend to use a slightly shorter kayak paddle.

Basically it comes down to personal preference with emphasis on a casual, broader cruising stroke or a more upright, right-angled power stroke as a key factor in selecting your preferred paddle length. I've noticed, too, that those who use a longer paddle tend to have their hands a bit far apart on the shaft, some to the point that it becomes extremely inefficient to paddle that way.

I also have a theory that if a beginner starts out with too long a paddle, he or she often fails to develop a good rotating torso technique. The shorter paddle tends to encourage the paddler to rotate. The longer shafts, however, make it easier to simply reach out and pull the paddle back using only the arms, with no rotation at all.

Again, the prudent option, for anyone not sure of which length is best, is to experiment with several paddle lengths until you find one that is comfortable yet promotes proper paddling technique.

From an historic perspective, paddle length seems arbitrary. For many coastal cultures, materials were limited, sometimes making it virtually impossible to find a single piece of wood long enough to serve as a double paddle. In many regions, it was far more typical to see kayakers paddling with a single bladed paddle, not two.

Paddle length, therefore, is a judgment call based partially on style of paddling, type of boat and skill level. Longer paddles work well for a relaxed, cruising strokes. Shorter paddles may offer more control and be more effective in delivering a power stroke.

Paddles come in even increments of 10 cm. which means a 220 cm paddle is about 4" shorter than a 230 cm. paddle. That's only 2" in length on each side. It doesn't seem like much but there can be a noticeable difference in the stroke.

Learn proper paddling skills first before experimenting with different lengths. Personally I have a couple of lengths I use regularly. Naturally I choose the longer shafts for doubles and canoes as mentioned, but also for lazy, relaxed paddling or fishing. I carry a shorter paddle on my deck for a spare and for occasions where I really need or want to make steady vertical power strokes.

- From www.paddling.net via "Eddy Out" — newsletter of the Chota Canoe Club.

Additional Gear Selection: The "Big Five"

by Steve Reach, GCA Cruise Master

Last month we talked about the most crucial decision when getting started with white water paddling, whether to become a canoeist or a kayaker. Wiser souls have since pointed out that the most crucial first decision is rather something more along the lines of "Choosing a pastime that involves bumping into rocks and risk of death by drowning, or not." I would have to reluctantly concur, although my own perception and practice of the sport is rather more low-key than some folks might assume after watching Deliverance, the PBS special about Niagara Falls, or some of those bloodcurdling hair boat flicks they are always showing on TV at the outfitter stores.

Anyways once you have chosen your basic boating style, the challenge now is to find the exact items you will select to pursue this affliction. These are the "Big Five", or the "Big Four" for canoeists, who are eternally trying to one-up kayakers in any way they can, in this case by requiring 1 less piece of gear:

1> Boat
2> Paddle (Stick)
3> PFD (Jacket)
4> Helmet (Brain Bucket)
5> Skirt (culottes or a shift acceptable in some cases)

Now before I go any farther I have to point out this interesting fundamental principle; namely that everything about white water paddling is basically the opposite of what logic, reason and common sense would indicate. (See paragraph one, above.) Allow me to illustrate.

First, when you have flipped over in the river and you are attempting to roll back up, your mind dictates that the intelligent thing to do is at the first opportunity yank your head into the air so you can breathe. Following this counsel will result in immediate and decisive re-inversion. Second, when approaching a rock in midstream current, your mind tells you to lean away to avoid injury; actually the proper move is to friendly up to the rock like a happy cat against a human leg. If you listen to your brain on this one, a trashing is almost sure to follow as the current grabs the upstream edge of your off-balance boat.

The same principle applies relative to gear selection. Most new paddlers focus on the brand new shiny boat, the most expensive single piece of gear. Knowing the full retail cost of their chosen boat to the dollar, they reason "I already have a good bicycle helmet, so I don't have to spend money on that, and this ancient water skiing jacket still has some life left in it, and this old wooden paddle that Uncle Hank left up in the garage rafters back in 1968 will be perfectly fine after I clean off the cobwebs and get some Elmer's glue into that crack."

Nothing about this logic could be further from reality. Actually your most critical pieces of gear are also the 2 cheapest; your helmet and your PFD. You should spend enough dough to get good name brand quality. Buy a new helmet specifically designed for white water boating, one

that comfortably sucker-fits your head with minimal slop. You don't want it sliding off the back of your skull while you are underwater in moving current with rocks lurking.

The PFD should be large and snug enough to float you comfortably without riding up over your face, but small enough to allow freedom of movement in the arms and upper body. Ski jackets and fishing floats will not do. Old PFDs can lose their buoyancy; always buy new. Don't pinch the pennies on either of these items.

For you kayakers, the skirt you choose will be determined by the cockpit size of your boat and the cheeseburger size of your midriff. A new skirt hardly ever leaks, 'nuff said.

Slightly less critical is your choice of paddle, but be sure to buy one designed for white water. You HAVE to have a good paddle for white water or you are likely to snap it in only your first couple of outings. Really cheap paddles won't cut it.

This is your midpoint for both price and criticality... spend a couple hundred bucks if you want one that will last a lifetime, or at least until you begin creek boating. Sometimes a good paddle is available second-hand, but be very careful to get one with no visible cracks, minimal blade tip damage and no sloshing or rattling sounds when you shake it.

The boat itself? Well, it is important to buy the type of hull that will give you the performance you desire for the style you have chosen, but this is the one piece of gear out of the five that you can do just about as well buying second-hand. For your savings in cash you will receive an uglier, older boat covered with scratches and a cockpit full of hideous glue-splattered mini-cell foam chunks that you will want to claw out all over your garage with your bare fingernails.

Just bear in mind that the shiny, perfect new hull you buy at the outfitter store will only remain that pretty for the first few trips, and whether old or new, you are going to have to adjust your outfitting. Strangely enough, and completely contrary to common sense, after a while you will notice a welling sense of pride in that familiar old battered hull up on your crumbling roof racks; the badge of the true White Water Warrior.

Suwannee River Kayak Trip 2005

by Ardie and Sherry Olson, Cumming, Georgia
Part 1 of 2

300 mile +/- of paddling starting just outside the Okefenokee Swamp on the Suwannee River, then down the entire length of the River to the Gulf of Mexico. Then down the Gulf to Bayport, FL, a coastal town in the county where we grew up.

Gear/provisions: 10 days of food (1 cooked meal per day); alcohol stove, 1 pot, 2 spoons; tent, 2 sleeping pads and a piece of plastic; 1 extra pants, shirt and socks each; camp suds, cell phone, pocket mail, GPS, maps, and med kit. We only had access to a pay phone every 3-5 days to send this journal out.

March 9th. Our trip started at the Visitor Center/ Canoe Put-In in Fargo, Georgia. Our friends, Bill and Betty Holburn and Tim Gregg paddled the first day with us to start our voyage off. Ardie's mom, David, and 4 month old nephew Wyatt met us at the river to see us off and drive our van to their home.

We put on the River at 3:05 PM. It was cloudy and cold, but not raining so we were happy. Ardie and I were paddling a 22 foot sea kayak. (We purchased the sea kayak 5 years ago when planning this trip, but year after year something came up that prevented us from going.) Our first night we camped on the only dry land we could find next to a swampy area.

The water level was high and most sandy beach campsites were underwater. We made a huge campfire, kicking it off with some pine lighter wood that Bill brought. I made a Jello instant cheesecake to celebrate the start of our trip. You just mix the instant milk, cheesecake mix and water in a plastic baggie, top with cherries. It was great. (6 miles)

March 10th. After watching our friends cook a big breakfast and hogging a little of it, we were on the river paddling by 9 AM. Bill, Betty and Tim paddled to Highway 6 with us. We saw 7 alligators today. 2 were swimming and 4 were sunning along the bank. Ardie rescued a highway orange traffic barrel that had washed into a group of trees and Bill paddled it out. It was a sight on the back of his canoe. Tim found the perfect piece of driftwood for his wife's goldfish pond and paddled it out.

We have done 4 expedition paddling trips with Bill and Tim in Canada and turn into "juveniles" according to Betty when the four of us get together (if she only knew how much worse we are when she's not around). After waving goodbye to our good friends, Ardie paddled about 5 more miles. I'm not paddling this section of the river to try to give my hand some rest so Ardie is captain and crew of the kayak and I'm along for the wild ride. Along the way to our campsite, we saw a hawk (on foot) chasing a snake down the river bank. The snake slipped into the water at the last moment of escape. We found a pleasant camp. (21 miles, 16 to Hwy 6, then 5 more)

March 11th. We were up with daybreak and ate a breakfast of bagels and dried fruit as we floated down the

river. It's a beautiful, sunny day but we had a head wind most of the morning. Just before we left our van on Wednesday I grabbed a fleece jacket that I had not planned on taking. Good thing, I haven't taken it off yet. We made good time and were at Big Shoals about 10:30 AM.

After scouting down the bank, we decided to portage these class III rapids. We were worried that the rocks might catch the boat and poke a hole. Maybe later in the trip, but now we couldn't risk the boat. There was a 4 foot wave all the way across the river. It took us 30 minutes and 3 trips to tote our gear and kayak around the rapids. This is one of the prettiest places in FL. There is park land on both sides of the river.

A quick paddle for 6 miles to the town of White Springs, and we were eating at the Suwannee River Cafe by 12:30. Yummmmm. $5.99 buffet and that includes drink and dessert. The sun heated us up this afternoon and I finally took off my fleece — Ardie was down to shorts — no shirt.

We saw 6 alligators, 2 ospreys, 8 turtles and one really nice guy at the Visitor's Center today. The excellent river level let us drift down this afternoon with very little effort. Our camp that night was under 3 big live oak trees, 4 feet from and 15 feet above the water. A breeze kept the bugs away. We had to dry out our tent and bags which we packed up wet that morning from the dew before setting up camp, so we stopped early at 5 PM. This gave us time to take a while on the Florida Trail.

Ardie noticed some strange tracks in the sand — they were too large for deer. As we hiked around a bend we scared up 4 wild hogs, 2 were just babies but the other 2 were huge. They ran off. As we continued hiking, we ran across them again. This time one of the boars let out a loud snort.

The Florida Trail looks well maintained and follows the Suwannee for a long way. But it will have to wait for another trip. (32 miles)

March 12th. Even though we were in the middle of the wilderness, the constant buzz of I-75 traffic kept us from sound sleep last night. There were also several loud splashes that made me jump up during the night. We were on the river by 7:30 AM.

The maple trees were in bloom and the moss looked like Christmas tinsel on these bright red trees. Another head wind this morning, but not a cloud in the sky so we weren't complaining. We stopped at Suwannee Spring House, a rock wall protruded into the river surrounding the springs, which was built in the 1920s when the springs were thought to cure illness. There is a park now where once stood 4 grand hotels.

There were a lot of fishermen on the river today so we got in some practice with waves. We stopped at Suwannee River State Park and showered in the campground then hit the river again for another mile before camping. We were planning on camping at the park but our tent didn't fit in with the RVs.

The wind was steady today and Ardie got a good workout. We parked our kayak in a little cove then hiked our gear up to camp on a ridge in some trees. Just before we went to bed there were several deer about 25 feet from our tent. They couldn't see us so they were stomping and snorting at our tent. (30 miles)

March 13th. An owl hooted us to sleep. Until our deer friends returned twice last night, around 10 PM and 12 AM, stomping and snorting for a long time. Around 2 AM, a raccoon decided to check out our camp and Ardie shook the tent making a loud noise to scare it away. It could probably smell our food in the dry bags.

At 6 AM we started packing up our camp to get an early start before the wind started. There was a cold, eerie fog on the water this morning before the sun came up. We decided to eat snacks for breakfast and have our cereal at lunch. I love the food on these trips.

Following our GPS, we paddled up a side stream to two rock quarry lakes and did a little exploring. We stopped at Charles Spring for lunch. This usually clear spring was flooded by the river. At one time a ferry boat ran here to provide the only river passage from Tallahassee to St. Augustine. We watched some local boys' race dirt bikes while eating our instant mashed potatoes.

Even with the wind against us, Ardie paddled 20 miles by lunch. Next we stopped at stopped at Blue Springs County Park. I had hoped to get water here and use a payphone to send my journal by e-mail. Unfortunately, the park was closed for repairs from the recent floods. These 3 clear springs were beautiful but endangered as a muskrat is chewing down all the beautiful cypress trees surrounding the springs. Since the park is closed, the county may not know of this destruction.

There were several more springs that we stopped at along the way. If they were beside the river, they were flooded out. If they were more than 15 feet from the river, they ran crystal clear. A lot of divers come to this part of the river as there are underground caves that go for miles.

It was sunny all afternoon and we had a tail wind for a couple of hours. We camped on a ledge between the river and a cypress swamp. Beautiful, but noisy with frogs and bugs all night long. We parked our kayak in the swamp safe from river traffic. We stopped before 5 PM so we had time to go for a long hike through a forest which we thought was remote until we came across signs "To Homestead" and "To River". The only thing we could deduce is that we

were on a large hunting tract. There were wild boar tracks all along the paths.

March 14th. Rain woke us up around 5 AM. I looked at the stopwatch timer instead of the time on my watch, which read 7:11, and made Ardie get up. It wasn't until we had the boat loaded that we realized it was only 6:15 AM. Oh well, an early start never hurts.

It was overcast and drizzling off and on. We still stopped to check out Running Springs and Little River Springs. There are really nice new parks built around them.

11 Turkeys flew across the river and landed in some bushes just in front of us. They stood cautiously still as we paddled 2 feet away from them on the river. Only 1 gobbler and 11 hens. I guess turkeys are Mormon.

We paddled past an old revolving bridge in the middle of the river. They cranked it to go across the river when needed, they cranked it back so ferry boats could pass.

We made it to the town of Branford just before noon. 20 miles goes by quickly when the captain is missing a real meal. Branford had everything we needed, Nell's Buffet serving hot food since 1970 (Ardie swears they have best fried chicken ever), a payphone to send e-mails, and an inspection station that let us get water.

It rained during the 2 hours (almost) we were in the restaurant but quit as soon as we were done (convenient). Still overcast and 10 more miles to the confluence of the Santa Fe River, where we hoped to camp. We set out at 2 PM.

The river is more populated in this section and the campsites are fewer. We looked for vacant for-sale property or farm land. That night we camped on the backside of a hay field about a mile past where the Santa Fe River flows in. The wind was much better this afternoon and we were able to drift some and still set up camp before 5 PM. Got to love these long days. We went for a hike along a recently cleared power line.

We passed two Outward Bound groups in the past 4 days. They put 4 people and a ton of gear in each canoe. They are definitely not going light!!

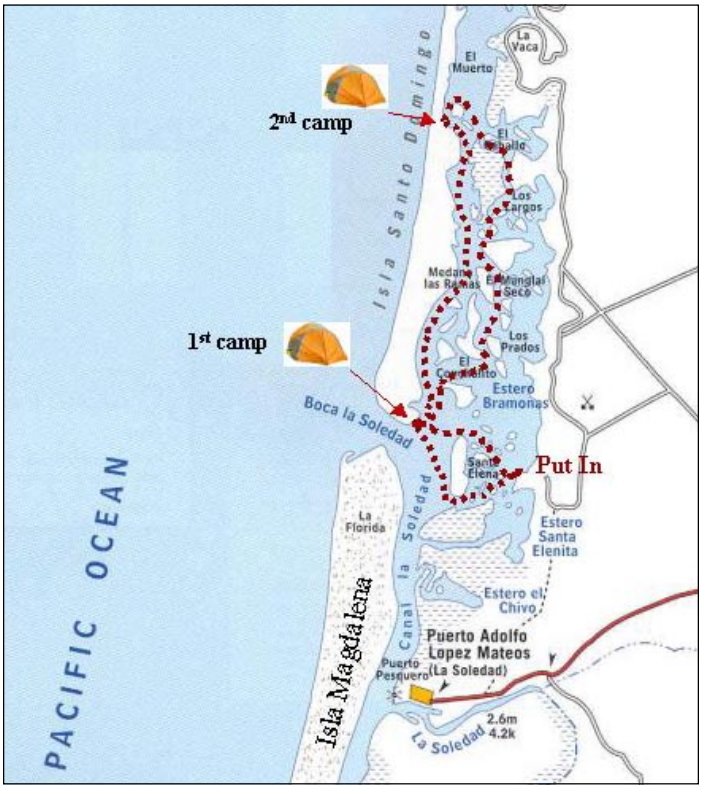
- *To be continued in the June issue of* The Eddy Line.

Expedition Isla Santo Domingo, BCS

by William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

The fully loaded 15-passenger van climbed almost 600 meters virtually vertically over 5 miles of Mex Hwy 1 from the Sea of Cortez to Mesa San Mateo in the middle of southern Baja California's Sonoran Desert, one of the most isolated, rugged environments in North America. It's always been rugged, having been spawned volcanically from pyroclastic debris. Baja (i.e., Lower) California is (obviously) an extension of California and used to be the Pacific coast of mainland Mexico until the San Andreas Fault opened up like a zipper to form the Sea of Cortez. The fault remains active and the Sea of Cortez continues to unzip northward towards Portland.

Air routes to Loreto in relation to the US.



Map of Magdalena Bay showing our campsites and the paddling routes.

Enough of the Michener, we were on a routine 60 mile shuttle from Loreto to Puerto Adolfo Lopez Mateos and our chauffer had the pedal to the metal, Mexican style. WHAM! Pleasant chit-chat ceased as we fishtailed through the desert with pieces of tire, rim, and all sorts of other things flying around like steel belted radial shrapnel out of a Claymore. Seems that we had a flat. No biggie; we were out of the mountains and on the plateau so we didn't crash over a cliff and die; it was also getting to be time for a pee break. We had an hour or so to set up an AO and patrol in the desert while the driver went to Ciudad Insurgentes (Insurgents Ville) to fill the half empty spare with air.

What is the Hawk babbling about? Where is Isla Santo Domingo? What does BCS stand for? How does Loreto International Airport fit into the big picture? Here's a hint; this trip featured Eschirchtius robustus. Good: the astute now know that this tome concerns sea kayaking on Magdalena Bay, in Baja California Sur (BCS), where California gray whales migrate to calf; and the trip involved an expedition to Santo Domingo Island (the bay's northern most barrier island). Unfortunately optimal sea kayaking season is January through April and will be over by the time anyone reads this. As with many of my articles, if this trip interests you, consider doing it next year. I'll recount the boating part first and provide organization details at the end.

Magdalena Bay is at the end of a butt-crunching 3 hour shuttle from Loreto. We staged and launched from an abandoned phosphate processing plant on the Pacific Ocean. Not the most picturesque beginning, but it was soon behind us. Magdalena Bay contains a maze of mangrove islands that teem with birds. We meandered through this labyrinth for about an hour then spent another hour or so crossing Boca la Soledad (Lonely Mouth), where water races between Magdalena and Santo

The group receiving the launch briefing.

Our AO right after the rain stopped.

Domingo Islands to or from the sea. The channel affords spectacular surfing, but we opted not to.

This part of Magdalena Bay is where the California gray whales (Eschirchtius robustus) hang-out. Whale watching from sea kayaks is suboptimal because they tend to avoid kayaks, possibly because kayaks resemble Orcas (the whale's only natural predator). It's also illegal for other than specifically licensed boats to engage in whale watching. However, we had to transit through en route to our first camp on Santo Domingo Island and it proved impossible not to watch the 20 or so behemoths that were swimming around us.

Each winter California gray whales migrate about 5,000 miles from their arctic feeding grounds in the Sea of Okhotsk, the Bering and Chukchi Seas to the protected lagoons of Baja California. Magdalena Bay is the southernmost stop on the migration and hosts the most dense whale concentrations.

Pregnant females (from the previous year's debauchery) lead off; they're on the clock and need to use the lagoons as delivery rooms and nurseries. Sexual hormones flowing, nubile young female and testosterone-pumped buck whales set off next on a voyage of non-stop carnal congress down the coast; females bearing the fruits of their partying will lead the way next year.

The moms are roughly the size of a school bus (45 feet — 30 tons). Their babies pop out as cute little scudders (15 feet — 1,500 lbs) who grow rapidly on mother's milk, which in the case of whales is 53% fat. Magdalena Bay was one of the most active Pacific whaling locales and California gray whales had essentially been hunted into extinction when taking them was banned in 1946. The population subsequently rebounded to around 30,000 and the Mexican government has declared Magdalena Bay a reserve.

To prevent chasing after and harassing the animals, only "trained" and "licensed" guides can operate whale

watching skiffs (pangas). The first afternoon, we spent a little over 2 hours chasing after (some might interpret it as harassment) whales. They are not intimidated by the pangas and may approach to within feet. They seem to enjoy "spy hopping", or standing on their flukes with their snouts 10 to 15 feet in the air and slowly rotating around like a Boomer at periscope depth.

After the pangas left, we had Santo Domingo Island to ourselves and set up camp amongst the dunes. Santo Domingo is a typical desert barrier island. Deserts of course are dry, and the Baja California Sonoran Desert receives no more than 10 to 12 inches of rain annually. That having been said, it rained like stink the first night and kept on raining all morning as we paddled 5 miles north to the island's narrowest point. Rain notwithstanding, the voyage was fascinating.

Most of the eastern shore of the island is protected by 100 to 200 meters of mangrove. Red mangrove have large prop roots, extend deepest into the water, trap silt and shelter fish; black mangrove (with large tree-like trunks and limbs), white mangrove, and sweet mangrove fill in towards land. These mangrove forests are impenetrable, shelter billions of types of marine life, song birds, other birds, and land mammals. They also support huge rookeries of frigate birds, gulls, osprey, cormorants, pelicans, you name it.

Magdalena Bay is a broad, shallow estuary system formed by the mangrove-rooted barrier beach. It is quite different from what we are used to in the US. This bay receives virtually all of its water from the sea, because (duh...) Baja is a desert so there are virtually no sources of fresh water flowing into the bay. With only tidal currents moving back, sedimentation is minimal and what there is recycles through the system rather than being carried out to the ocean. This may be part of the reason for the extremely fine sand.

A bit of the dunes and the tents the outfitter provided.

Some of the litter on the beach — a turtle skeleton. There were whale skeletons, dolphin skeletons, and even part of a ship wreck to be checked out.

A word to the wise, Baja sand makes the fine sand we're used to in Georgia look like gravel: keep your camera equipment in zip-loc bags when not actually taking photos!

We spent 2 nights at this camp where phalanxes of Barchan dunes (some 40' high) march along the 200 meter wide corridor separating the Pacific from the lagoon. Apparently our fun paddling in the rain appeased the adventure gods because it stopped about the time we were setting up camp and the rest of the trip was true desert. While in this camp, we reconned the dunes, digitally chronicled the patrols, and took R&R along 20 miles of pristine Pacific beach.

Well, there are no people but the beach is not completely pristine: it's littered with shells, driftwood, turtle skeletons, whale bones and even ship wrecks. We also sent out daily estuarial patrols that meandered through the maze of mangrove islands in the upper bay. On our last full day, we took a different route back to Boca la Soledad and pitched camp. We had arranged for another 2 hour whale watching session from the pangas. However, since we were set up by noon, we were able to spend a couple of hours walking on the beach watching whales as they breached and spy hopped 5 to 10 meters off shore.

Whale watching and exploring the dunes and mangrove islands of Magdalena Bay is not a trivial undertaking. You don't just go to Magdalena Bay, because it's at the end of a dirt road in the middle of nowhere. The closest city with an "international" airport is Loreto, on the eastern side of the isthmus. The easiest thing to do is fly to Loreto either via Mexico City or Los Angeles/San Diego, from whence you connect with 1 of the 2 airlines that fly there (AeroMexico and AeroCalifornia): you can get there for

Mom and newly born baby coming up for a breath.

free if you have sufficient Delta frequent flyer miles.

It's become difficult post-9/11 to carry a sea kayak, gear, and supplies on commercial airlines; so, continuing with the easy way, pony up $1,000 and hire an outfitter. We used Sea Kayak Adventures (SKA), which is based out of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and has operations in Vancouver and Loreto. SKA is really good!! SKA provides everything (I repeat -- EVERYTHING): everything begins with a complete (again, I repeat -- COMPLETE) packet of pre-trip briefing materials and EVERYTHING includes transportation and lodging in Baja. Clients need bring only clothing and camera equipment.

Trip participants are issued 3 (relatively new) dry bags, a (state of the art) MRS dome tent, a (nice) sleeping bag, a camp chair, and paddle 21' (well maintained) Seward tandem sea kayaks: to top it off, SKA provides liquor at night and gourmet meals (with Dutch oven deserts); coffee is perking by 06:00.

In general, 3 guides accompany each trip (Terry Prichard, SKA's co-owner, led our trip). "All the guides are trained to ACA standards." Interesting statement directly from SKA's risk management plan. All the guides have taken the ACA sea kayaking course, but don't plan on receiving serious paddling instruction because I don't believe any are ACA certified instructors or Level-3 BCU coaches. So what? Who does an expedition to receive formal instruction?

The guides on our trip, and the others we met in Loreto, fulfill the Hawk's criteria for outstanding. They all have several years experience, know and understand the flora, fauna, and natural history of the area, are consummate professionals, are great cooks, and run a camp as well as Barb does.

SKA trips are limited to between 14 and 16 people and one can either just book onto an open trip or put together a group. Barb and I went with a bunch of friends from St Joseph's Hospital and the Chattahoochee Nature Center. I strongly recommend getting together a known group like ours. SKA offers a variety of trips on Magdalena Bay and the Sea of Cortez.

My regular readers (and those who know me well) more than likely shook their heads in disbelief when they read, "You don't just go to Magdalena Bay because it's at the end of a dirt road in the middle of nowhere;" and, then gasped when the Hawk admitted to doing a commercial trip. Relax, it's also possible to drive there from Atlanta.

Mex Hwy 1 represents the Mexican extension of US Hwy 1 that follows the Pacific coast from Seattle to San Diego. Barb and I explored the back roads of Baja in a VW bug (as far as Mulege) several times when I was in medical school. Driving to Magdalena Bay from Atlanta will take around a week and is an adventure in its own right. The average GCAer (or any normal person for that matter) isn't going to just do it. However, if anyone reading this is considering such a trip, let me know, I might join you.

I wouldn't recommend traveling to Loreto specifically to revel in its charms. However, for history buffs, Loreto was the first Spanish capital of California and the first Jesuit mission (Nuestra Senora de Loreto) in the Californias was constructed there in 1697. Unfortunately, the town's regularly destroyed by hurricanes and, other than the mission, there's little of historical interest.

Indeed, the town's not that big of a deal. However, its setting on the shore of the Sea of Cortez is spectacular and the desert mountains to the west are awesome. If you happen to find yourself there with some extra time, I recommend either renting a boat to do the islands or a car (from the local Hertz office) to drive into the mountains, do some hiking and explore Mission San Javier.

Mom & calf spy hopping. Notice how close they come to the beach.

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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 - Canoe, Wenonah Edge. A fiberglass recreational version of the Frankie Hubbard designed slalom boat. Turns on a dime, surfs very well. Excellent condition. Fully outfitted - full length foam saddle with foot pegs, knee pads, thigh straps, air bags. $500. Allen 770.426.4318.

FOR SALE - Canoe. Gorgeous Mad River Lamoille with wood trim. This is a big (18'4") boat for families on a lake or expeditions. It is beautiful with wood trim and cane seats. Overall, the canoe is in excellent condition. Minor gel coat stern repair. Stored indoors. Mad River says: "The canoe for big loads in varied conditions at top speed. Outstanding seaworthiness, loaded or unloaded, and renowned for its ability to keep going in the worst conditions quickly and comfortably, thanks to its modest shallow-V hull. Superb for camping and ambitious expeditions. A great boat for larger families." Retails new for $2499. Asking $1600. Lindsay at 404.218.3224.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, fiberglass touring kayaks. Current Designs Gulfstream and Perception Eclipse. 16' 10" and 17', both have hatches and either skeg or rudder. Excellent condition and stored indoors. Great paddling boats. Prices negotiable. Call 423.344.5772 or email gwhflyer@aol.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Amp play boat, blue, excellent condition $350. jalanhayes@yahoo.com or 770.815.3100.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport Kinetic river runner or great beginners boat, blue/black, very good condition $300. jalanhayes@yahoo.com or 770.815.3100.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wave Sport XXX, red, white and blue. Great condition. $270 OBO. This boat was made with the stronger, cross link plastic. Email me at: timbranscomb@hotmail.com or you can call me on my cell at 770.329.4791.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Blaze 7.3, Blue with yellow accents, weight range 205-270 lbs, a premier play boat / river runner that truly offers extra-large paddlers exceptional comfort and performance. Has Comfort Fit outfitting, with adjustable seat, foot braces, and air hip pads. Paddled one summer; in excellent condition, $550. Dennis 770.975.3112.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Showdown 7.1, burgundy/blue, weight range 90 to 150 lbs, great beginner ladies or children's boat. Paddled twice, had slight damage to upper hull in transport, but has been repaired like new. $250. Kim 770.975.3112.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Riot Air 45 with air bags and carbon AMT paddle. This white Riot Air 45 has been paddled for one season. I bought it in April last year for $850 + paddle $50 + airbags $30 = $1030, selling for $500. All scratches are surface only and are from normal wear. I had a lot of fun paddling this boat and really hate getting rid of it, but I am moving to Europe and shipping costs are more than kayak itself. E-mail: mrudzo@azet.sk, cell: 678.978.7264.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, 2001 Perception Method. Blue, yellow and green swirl. Excellent condition. $450. 2001 Perception Method Air. Purple and White Swirl. Perfect Condition. $450. Contact David or Denise Huntley at 770.329.7113, 678.777.9047 or dhuntley@pictureperfectphotography.org.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Dynamo. Purchased and used only 4 times by my son who has outgrown it. It's the perfect training boat for younger paddlers. Comes complete with: Mountain Surf splash jacket, Extra sport youth size PFD, Harmony helmet, Werner paddle, Snapdragon skirt. 404.285.6170, brucefussell@comcast.net.

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.

GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA 2005

May 13th, 14th, 15th

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 7th

CAMPSITES: $15.00/site/night
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:
7:00 PM
BBQ Pork and Chicken and Fixings catered by Williamson Brothers BBQ

8:30 PM
Bonfire – Please Bring Logs!

BREAKFAST & BOATING SATURDAY & SUNDAY:
7:30 - 9:00 AM – Breakfast (bagels, pastries, muffins, coffee, tea, juice)

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:
Jamie Higgins, 404.508.0761 / jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com

GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA 2005

Registration Form

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

Jamie Higgins
1217 Sherrington Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
404-508-0761
Jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com

Name:_____ **Phone:** _____

No. in Party: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

_____

Camping:
Number of tents @ $15.00/night: Fri. _____ Sat. _____ $_____

Cabins:
(Kitchen, bathroom, cable TV)
(MUST RESERVE FOR BOTH FRI AND SAT — call Jamie Higgins first for availability) @ $90.00 $_____

Bunkhouse (Separate Male and Female Bunkhouse):
(Each sleeps 12) $5.00/person/night Fri. _____ Sat. _____ $_____
R/V Hookups: (contact Jamie Higgins for information)

Saturday Dinner: BBQ Dinner $12.00 per person $_____

Breakfast Sat and Sunday: (bagels, pastries, coffee, etc) $5.00 per person $_____

$5.00 LATE FEE if post-marked after May 7: $_____

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.

2005 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

DUCKY DAY / BEGINNING WHITE WATER RECREATIONAL KAYAK:
This is primarily for 'other' kayaks that are suitable for class II white water (not based on an uninformed sales person). These are ones that are neither shorter white water kayaks with skirts nor longer sea kayaks with rudders or skegs. This class is intended for sturdier inflatable rubber kayaks and white water sit on tops (such as Torrents). Some don't know they have boats in this category until they call for white water or sea kayak classes. Ducky day is not appropriate for flat water touring kayaks (wider kayaks with skirts such as Swifty and Acadia models). 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 2005

White Water Canoe

+ Beginner
  (evening) TBD, June 4, 5
  Other TBD
  Coordinator: Steve Cramer (706.208.8382)
+ Trained Beginner
  July 23, 24
  Coordinator: Jim Albert (770.414.1521)
+ Intermediate
  TBD (April 30, May 1?)
  Coordinator: Marvine Cole (770.475.3022)
  October 1, 2
  Coordinators: Haynes & Gina Johnson (770.971.1542)

Flat/Moving Water Canoe

+ Beginner
  July 16, 17
  Coordinator: Jim Albert (770.414.1521)

Sea Kayak (Call for class fees)

Coordinator: Steve Cramer (706.208.8382)

+ Introduction - Charleston, SC
  May 28, 29 & optional trip May 30
  September 24, 25
+ Advanced Skills and Maneuvers Clinic
  July (Date & local location TBD)
+ Safety & Rescue Clinic
  June (Date & local location TBD)(Conservation organization fundraiser)

White Water Kayak

+ Beginner
  June 7 (evening), 11, 12
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Trained Beginner
  June 4, 5
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Intermediate
  April 30, May 1
  Coordinator: Knox Worde (770.475.3022)
+ Beginning Youth White Water
  TBD
  Facilitator: Allen Sinquefield (770.642.1898)

Ducky Day

+ Recreational White Water Kayak (class fee $25)
  June 4
  Coordinator: Gina Johnson (770.971.1542)

Safety

+ Basic White Water Safety
  Coordinator: Brannen Proctor (770.664.7384)
  June 18 (1 day - $25)

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.

Registration Form

Paddle Georgia is limited to the first 200 Paddlers

Name #1_____

Name #2_____

Name #3_____

Name #4_____

Street Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ Work Phone_____

E-mail_____

I have Medical Training: MD RN EMT PA First Aid Certified

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency: Name_____ Phone_____

☛ Registration Fees will be refunded to all paddlers who generate more than $350 in Canoe-a-thon pledges to support Georgia River Network and Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. Prizes will be awarded to participants generating the most Canoe-a-thon pledges. Canoe-a-thon pledge packets will be sent to you with your registration confirmation packet.

Registration for Thru-Paddlers:

	# of Paddlers	Total
$165 Adult	x_____	_____
$125 Children (8-17)	x_____	_____
Children (7 and under) Free	x_____	_____
$145 Senior (65 and older)	x_____	_____
$145 College Student	x_____	_____
Total Thru-Paddlers:		_____

Registration for Daily Paddlers:

$30 per day Adults/$25 per day Seniors, College Students, Children

Date	# Adults	# Seniors/Children/Students	Total
June 25: Tailwaters Tango	x_____	x_____	_____
June 26: Backyard Boogie	x_____	x_____	_____
June 27: Palisades Promenade	x_____	x_____	_____
June 28: Oh Atlanta!	x_____	x_____	_____
June 29: Dog River Trot	x_____	x_____	_____
June 30: It's Brevard's Fault	x_____	x_____	_____
July 1: McIntosh Marathon	x_____	x_____	_____
Total Daily Fees:			_____

Make checks payable to: **Georgia River Network/Paddle Georgia 2005**
and mail to: **Georgia River Network • 126 S Milledge Avenue, Suite E3 • Athens, GA 30605**

T-shirts (to receive a free T-shirt you must register for at least two days or as a thru-paddler)
Child Medium (10-12)____ Child Large (14-16)____
Adult: Small____ Medium____ Large____ X-Large____ XX-Large____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS **POSTMARK MAY 21.** A $25 late fee applies to all Thru-paddle Registrations postmarked after May 21. A $5 late fee (per day) applies to Daily Registrations postmarked after May 21.

Refund Policy

No refunds after May 31, 2005. Full or partial refunds may be made if Paddle Georgia must be curtailed due to extreme environmental conditions.

Once you've registered, you will receive in the mail a Canoe-a-thon pledge sheet and instructions, a liability waiver form, a meal registration form, information about shuttle services, etc.)

Paddle Georgia Policies...
For your safety and the safety of others.
1. No alcoholic beverages allowed.
2. All participants **must** attend the pre-launch safety briefing. Participants must adhere to the safety guidelines presented.
3. Participants must wear a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device at all times on the river.
4. Participants under age 18 are the responsibility of, and must be accompanied by, a parent or guardian.
5. Sorry, no pets allowed.
6. All participants must sign a Medical and Emergency Contact Information sheet and a Waiver of Claims and Release of Liability form. Parents must sign for children under the age of 18. (These forms will be sent in the confirmation packet.)
7. Person-powered watercraft only.
8. All participants must respect private property along the river. Violations of these policies can result in the participant being removed from the event without refund.

Questions?

Call Joe Cook, PG2005 Coordinator, at **706-235-1170** or via e-mail at **joe@joecook.net**

Mail Registration Form and Check to:
Georgia River Network
126 S Milledge Ave. Suite E3
Athens, GA 30605

To download this registration form online, go to
www.garivers.org

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