



Volume 42, No. 4

770.421.9729

www.georgiacanoe.org

April 2007

GCA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA 2007

MAY 4th, 5th, 6th

Smokey Mountain Meadows Campground, Bryson City, NC

www.smmcamp.tripod.com

828-488-3672

E-mail: smmcamp@yahoo.com (Miss Frieda will take reservations)



SMM has rustic cabins, RV hookups and tent camping. The campground is within an easy drive to the Nantahala, Tuckasegee, French Broad, Ocoee and area lakes. Check out their website for more information about the campground and prices. **You are responsible for your own reservation.** Campground opens mid-April.

FRIDAY NIGHT:

Bonfire at 7:00 p.m. (please bring firewood) to welcome GCA club members and chit-chat.

SATURDAY MORNING:

9:00 a.m.— meet at gazebo to organize trips for the day (Trip Coordinators needed!)

SATURDAY NIGHT:

Dinner at 7:00 p.m., catered by Monica.

Menu: choice of Trout or Chicken Entree, cooked on an open fire in foil packets plus salad, bean and rice dish and dessert (chocolate, coconut cookies!!)

\$13.00 per meal.

Mark Singleton, Executive Director of American Whitewater, will join us again for dinner and a talk.

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 a.m. — meet at the gazebo to plan trips for the day. (Trip Coordinators needed!)

For more information or if you have a question, contact:

GCA Social Chair Denise Keller, 770-591-0980/ balaota@bellsouth.net.

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Dinner Order Form and more information on Page 23



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Who Ya Gonna Call?

GCA Contacts

For general GCA information:
Call 770.421.9729 and leave a message; your call will be returned as soon as possible.

To volunteer for club activities:

Contact GCA President Vincent Payne at 770. 834.8263 or the chairperson of the relevant committee.

For membership or dues info:

Call GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

To sign up for a club trip:

Call the trip leader at the number in the trip list.

To sign up to lead a club trip:

Call GCA Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 770.760.7357.

For information on GCA Clinics:

Call the coordinator listed on the clinic schedule or Training

Director Gina Johnson at 404.512.0832.

For information on winter roll practice:

Call Lous Boulanger at 404.373.2907.

For information on the GCA Library:

Call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636

Eddy Line Contacts

To submit or send written materials:

Email to the_ eddyline@yahoo.com or mail to The Eddy Line, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441.

To contact an Editor:

Use the email or address above or contact Editor Rick Bellows at 678.617.2546.

For information on commercial or classified ads:

Contact Advertising Manager Rick Bellows at 678.617.2546 or by email at the_ eddyline@yahoo.com.

For subscription information, to change your address or if you don't get your copy of the newsletter:

Contact GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734. ✂

Board of Directors Meetings

The Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings generally are held quarterly the first Thursday of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December) at 7 PM at the Carl E. Sanders Family YMCA in Buckhead, 1160 Moores Mill Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30327. All GCA members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263 so he can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. ✂

GCA Executive Committee

President	Vincent Payne
Vice President	Tom Bishop
Secretary	Jamie Higgins
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Vacant
Recreation Chair	Denise Keller
Resource Development Chair	William Gatling
River Protection Chair	Don Kinser
Training Chair	Gina Johnson

Submitting Eddy Line Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication is the fifth of the prior month, e.g. December 5 for the January issue. Material received after deadline MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED. GCA members are encouraged to submit articles, trip reports, editorials, photos, cartoon, etc. **Submissions should be typed, single spaced throughout with no indentations or spaces between paragraphs: if possible, please prepare articles in "plain text" rather than in a word processing format.** Material may be submitted to the_ eddyline@yahoo.com or to **The Eddy Line, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441.** The text of an article can be placed in the body of an email or as an attachment: photo images can be attached files. If possible, please submit photos and other graphics in "jpg" or "tiff" format and specify the photographer of each picture. To submit material via disk, please contact us for information. Classified ads will run for one issue, but will be rerun at the advertisers request. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Editor **Rick Bellows, 678.617.2546** or the_ eddyline@yahoo.com if you have questions. Thank you.. ✂

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UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

April

1	Metro Chattahoochee(Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
6-8	Sipsey River (AL) (Note 2)	Flatwater/Camping	Karen Saunders	770.834.2151
7	Lower Amicalola	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
7	Upper Chattahoochee	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
14	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
14	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
15	Upper Amicalola	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
21	Upper Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
22	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
28	Charlotte WW Park (Note 3)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Janet Chisholm	404.291.4476
29	Charlotte WW Park (Note 3)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Janet Chisholm	404.291.4476

May

19	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
20	Fightingtown Creek	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
20	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	678.493.7804
26-28	Big South Fork (Note 4)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Lois Newton	706.398.3069
26	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
27	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350

June

1-3	Flint River (Note 5)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
29-7/3	New River Gorge (Note 6)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Louis Boulanger	404.894.2957

Note 1: April Fool's Day trip - new paddlers especially welcome.

Note 2: **Originally scheduled for March 24-25.** Potential for other Alabama rivers as well: camping two nights.

Note 3: Park fee: \$15 for single session (1.5 hours) or \$25 for a day pass.

Note 4: 2-night camp, Station Camp to Blue Heron.

Note 5: 2-night camp, Paddle With the Prez.

Note 6: Class 4 - Cunard to Fayette Station.

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 404.579.3166!

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 for 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.

Canoe Camping Trips are multi-day trips, generally on flat or mild water, with at least one night of camping. For details on a scheduled trip, call the trip coordinator. To arrange a trip, call President Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263.

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 flatwater to class 5 whitewater. 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). Boating is prohibited above the Highway 28 bridge. Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

GCA Library Items

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

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

Denise Colquitt
3794 Glenloch Road
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell
Cold, Wet & Alive
Expedition Earth
Faultline (Will Reeves)
First Descents (North Fork Payette)
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)
I Said Left, Stupid: A Video Guide to the Chattooga River (Sect. 2 & 3)
In the Surf
Introduction to Canoeing
Mohawk Canoes (promotional w/detailed boat outfitting instructions)
Mohawk Whitewater Canoes (promotional w/ detailed outfitting instructions)
Only Nolan (Promotional, Canoe Technique)
Path of the Paddle: Quiet Water
Path of the Paddle: White Water
Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)
Play Daze
Retendo
Solo Playboating!

The C-1 Challenge
The Middle Fork of the Salmon River (Idaho) — by Photographic Expeditions
Trailside: White Water Canoeing the Chattooga River
Vortex -- low cost storm water sampler
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)
Whitewater Self Defense

Books:

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky
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 & Kayanning 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
Youghiogeny-Appalachian River
Maps:
The Big South Fork

Announcements

GCA Email List

By joining the GCA group email list, you can share information with over 400 members and others. 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.

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 posted on the GCA email list. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe.

The email list is intended to facilitate communication, so don't be shy about using it to invite others on paddling trips, to discuss paddling related issues or to disseminate or obtain



information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

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.

When you change or lose your email ID, please take the time to "unsubscribe" your old ID and 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 also available on the site.



GCA Trip Sign-up Guidelines

Please be considerate of our trip coordinators (TCs). Avoid calling late at night or at the last minute to sign up for a club trip. Many of the more popular trips fill up very quickly. Calling early in the week, or even earlier, helps to ensure you get a spot on the trip and helps the TC to make plans.

Please don't try to sign up for a trip via email. Trip sizes may be limited because of many factors, and there is a de facto screening process that takes place when someone calls to sign up for a club trip. Each boater participates in a club trip solely at the discretion of the trip coordinator. Trip size may be limited due to river conditions, river characteristics, safety considerations, governmental agency regulations, permit systems, parking availability at put-ins & take-outs or trip coordinator preference.

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

The screening process for potential trip participants is a tool to help avoid putting TCs, other trip participants and callers in the awkward and often unsafe position of dealing with trip participants who may unnecessarily get into trouble on a club trip. The TC may decline to have a caller participate in a trip and gently suggest that perhaps she/he should consider not participating, or signing up for a trip of a lower difficulty level, if the TC suspects the caller may not have the necessary skills, experience, proper boat or outfitting, adequate paddling or rescue equipment, proper protective clothing, or any number of other things that may affect the caller's ability to participate in the trip without placing him- or herself in jeopardy. This makes the trip more fun for all participants and avoids compromising the safety of everyone in the group.

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

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

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



individually contact the trip coordinator directly to sign up for the trip. Again, we want to be considerate of the TCs so they will continue being TCs: "surprises" are not a good way to do this.

It's important to BE ON TIME at the designated meeting place. The club has a 15 minute policy regarding waiting for late-comers for any club event: if you show up late and miss the group, it's your fault, not the group's or the TC's.

And last but not least, if you feel like nobody ever coordinates trips on a river you'd like to paddle, call Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 404-579-3166 and volunteer to coordinate a trip yourself

Mail Failure Notices

Each month the electronic version of *The Eddy Line* results in numerous mail failure notices from members with bad or discontinued email addresses. If email can't be delivered to your email address, you will be deleted from the recipient list for the electronic version until we get an updated email address from you.

When GCA receives a mail failure notice in response to an email to you on the GCA Email List, you will be automatically unsubscribed by the listserv software. You are responsible for keeping your email address current. Thank you — it makes less work for our all volunteer staff.

RICHARD C. BELLOWS, P.C.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 441
Gainesville, GA 30503
678-617-2546
rickbellows@bellsouth.net
Representing boaters and normal people since 1992

From the Soggy Clipboard of the Cruisemaster

by Steve Reach, GCA Cruisemaster

I am coming out of hibernation soon. Working on my back deck roll and my doublepump in the Monday night pool sessions, anticipating that maybe this is the year I finally pull off my first cartwheel. It has been 9 years of kayaking now and I feel ashamed to report that I have so far never linked ends, whatever that means — sounds like Dutch to me. Schprechen sie bow schtall?

The Atlanta DOT has been trying to keep me on my toes by laying waste to all the roads leading into the Evander Holifield Boys and Girls Club — last week they had reduced all possible access from the west to a single lane, 2 blocks over, riddled with potholes and scrap metal. I felt like a rat running a maze, where the cheese is a nice couple hours of throwing down in the warm indoor pool water, although lately the quality has been variable.

Two weeks ago it was like a giant bathtub of warm stew, about 90 degrees; at closing time I was as plump and overhydrated as a steamed water chestnut. Last week, on the other hand, it was down to Nantahala temps and they spiked

the chlorine up to a level where the water had a vague, greasy, chartreuse tint and your eyeballs would start to bleed from the fumes even BEFORE your first flip. I staggered out of the building that night whimpering and shivering, fumbling blindly for obstacles with my fingertips.

Anyhow, I have now put my first couple trips for the year on the GCA calendar and I hope you will consider doing the same, if you haven't already. This is OUR club and the intent is for us all to share paddling experiences together.

If you have never coordinated a GCA trip, please don't be afraid to try it. There is no requirement for you to be an expert paddler, only that you be willing to take the phone calls, screen the participants for skill level, get everyone to the put-in at the same time, make everyone sign the waiver form, run the safety meeting, keep track of everyone on the river, buy all the beer afterwards, and other such small details.

I would like to get half a dozen new coordinators trained this spring. If you think you might be qualified for the Soggy Bottom Squad, please shoot me a call or an email. Those of you who have been on a few GCA trips already know the drill.

Actually I lied about the beer.

See You On The River!



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, so call one near you, introduce yourself and maybe arrange to paddle together.

Barefoot, Chip
PO Box 1472
Dahlonega GA 30533
H: 706-864-0457
O: 770-482-1616
O: 678-231-4787
Email: chipbarefoot@alltel.net
Email: cbarefoot@pemcoinc.net

Email: sailwayaussies@
mindspring.com

Chisolm, Bruce & Glenda
1469 Little Texas Valley Road NW
Rome GA 30165
H: 706-802-0894
O: 404-592-9723
Email: chisolm0894@comcast.net

Keys, Penny
2608 Mural Drive
Chamblee GA 30341
H: 770-457-7263
O: 404-862-0417
Email: happynowiam@bellsouth.net

Brock, Steve
3747 Leach Road
Gainesville GA 30506
H: 770-297-7772
O: 770-596-4983
O: 404-310-0038
Email: paddlr@mindspring.com

Goodsell, Louis B.
1319 Kennedy Drive
Griffin GA 30224
H: 770-229-5652
Email: lbgoodsell@bellsouth.net
Email: lbgoodsell@gmail.com

Klein, Hans &
Prosser, Adria





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Upcoming Events of Interest

March 31-April 1 - Webster Wildwater Weekend River Festival - Webster County, WV - info at 304-847-5449 or email wcd@websterwv.com.

April 7-8 - Tallulah release weekend staffed by GCA volunteers - Shari Heinz, 706.867.0116 or shariheinz@yahoo.com.

April 21 - Cartecay River clean-up - contact Bonny Putney at 404.216.9351 or bputney@bellsouth.net or Mark Niesler of AWC at markn@ellijay.com.

April 21-22 (tentative) - U.S. Slalom and Downriver Championship Races (Class 2 Whitewater), Nantahala River - more info at www.georgiacanoe.org.

April 28 - Nantahala Open, Nantahala Falls - Maggie Williams or Juliet Kastorff, 828.488.6199.

April 28 - 12 Mile River Canoe and Kayak Race, Lake Hartwell, Clemson, SC - Jim Normandine, paddler98@bellsouth.net.

May 4-6 - GCA Spring Extravaganza - Paddling & camping weekend - Denise Keller, 770.591.0980.

May 5 - Coosa River Basin Initiative Flatwater Race and Canoe-A-Thon - more info at www.coosa.org.

May 19 - 17 mile Chattahoochee paddle - Buford Dam to Medlock Bridge - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html.

June 2 - 14 mile Chattahoochee paddle - Medlock Bridge to Azalea Park - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html.

June 2-3 - USACK Marathon Team Trials - Stone Mountain Lake - hosted by Southeast Paddlers - contact Barend Spies, barendspies@msn.com.

June 2-10 - National River Cleanup Week, sponsored by American Rivers - www.americanrivers.org.

June 9 - Back to the Chattahoochee Flatwater Race and Festival - more info at www.chattahoochee.org.

June 16 - 13.5 mile Chattahoochee paddle - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html.

June 23-29 - Paddle Georgia 2007 - Ocmulgee River, Monticello to Hawkinsville - more info at 706.549.4508 or www.garivers.org/paddlegeorgia/pghome.html.

July 7 - 31 mile Chattahoochee paddle - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html.

July 10-15 - ACA Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver and Sprint National Championships - Youghiogheny River, Ohiopyle, PA - e.sharp@att.net or watson@telpage.net.

July 14 - Chattahoochee Evening Paddle - Morgan Falls Dam to Paces Mill - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html.

July 15-21 - Junior Wild Water World Championships - Saluda River, Columbia, SC (Classic Race), Charlotte White
continued on following page

Water Park (Sprint Race), John Pinyerd, 678.357.7843, email jpinyerd@cs.com.

July 21 - 27 mile Chattahoochee paddle - Azalea Park to Paces Mill - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html.

July 28 - Overnight Chattahoochee paddle - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html.

August 11 - Paddle Mania - Chattahoochee River, Medlock Bridge to Franklin, GA - 24 hours continuous paddling - www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html. ✂

Corrections

Due to an editing error, Chattooga "expert boater" Wade Vaigas' name was listed incorrectly in a caption on page 16 of the March issue.

The date of GCA's weekend at the spring Tallulah release was listed incorrectly in the Upcoming Events of Interest in the March issue. The correct dates are April 7-8.

The Eddy Line regrets both errors. ✂

Trash Talk

by **Bonny Putney, GCA "Trash Queen"**

Hey all, hope you are finally enjoying this early spring weather. With the warm weather and rain, all thoughts turn to...trash.

I have been excited about the response I have been getting and we've already had one cleanup, the Palisades area on the Chattahoochee March 3 with the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. Our next cleanups will be the Ellijay County Cartecay Clean up April 21 and the cleanups before the GAC Explorer Series, the first being on the Ohoopsee River.

I am also working on an event for the National River Cleanup, June 2-10, which will consist of cleaning the entire length of the proposed "Blue Way" on the Upper Chattahoochee. For those of you not familiar with this river

Canoe Outfitting
Featuring Voyageur™ Products
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and more

Canoe Instruction
Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels, white water &
flat water, solo & tandem
Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318
Email canoeist@mindspring.com

Dam Release Schedules

With warm weather and memories of last year's dry summer come thoughts of the nearby dam-controlled rivers. Release schedules for the Ocoee, Nantahala and Tuckasegee are now available online.

The release schedule for Ocoee Dam No. 2 is at http://www.tva.gov/river/recreation/pdf/sched_ocoee2.pdf. The release schedule for Ocoee Dam No. 3 is at http://www.tva.gov/river/recreation/pdf/sched_ocoee3.pdf.

Release schedules for the Nanty and the Tuck are at <http://www.nantahalapower.com/lakes/generation/>. Click on the links of the right of the screen for pdf versions of recreational release schedules. ✂

Support Our GCA Supporters

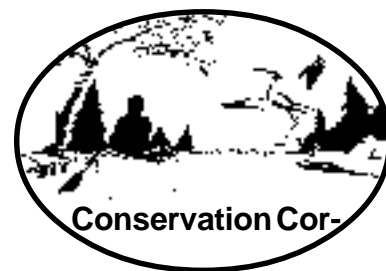
The GCA web site now features a "GCA Supporters" web page with links to the companies that support GCA financially by advertising with us. Help out those who help us out — patronize our advertisers. Thanks! ✂

project it will be a first blue way in the state, with a 40 mile long river canoe trail, including camping, facilities and river access, from below Helen to Lake Lanier.

This project is being spearheaded by the Upper C h a t t a h o o c h e e Riverkeeper and other groups and showing our support for this project by getting involved and doing what we can to help will go a long way in keeping and getting more river access and facilities for paddlers. The cleanup is in the planning stages, but I will need many paddlers to run the whole length, so if you think you might like to join, drop me a line and I will get you on the list.

If you have another favorite river or area that needs help, plan your own event for that week. Just take a look around - there are plenty of rivers in need of a cleanup. If you have any questions or suggestions. (I have a few spots scoped out for clean up in the summer already) please drop me a line. I am eager to hear from you, just keep it clean!

Editor's Note: An article from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution re. the purchase of land for the Blue Way is at <http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/03/11/0312meshblue.html>. ✂



www.Lessons Learned

by Ken Holmes, Jacksonville, FL

(from www.paddling.net)

I have been paddling for just over a year (mostly flatwater and lakes). I have been diligent about trying to learn techniques, but there is just so much you can pick up from the internet, and thank God it is there.

Anyway...my friend Tim invited me to paddle Black Creek near Middleburg, Florida. Tim is a canoeist, while I prefer a recreational kayak. I have a 10 footer which is a charm; plastic with a wide cockpit. I have loads of space to put "stuff" and this day was no exception. I have never had to do a wet exit before, so out of complacency I generally just toss my gear into the boat and go.

My PFD is usually, proudly, tucked onto my bow (this will change). We put in at the headwaters of a usually calm, meandering stream. Recent rains had raised the water level and created a brisk 5-10 mph flow with nice ripples encircling submerged trees. This was the liveliest water I had seen, and I was exhilarated at the chance to try the current.

All my Internet instructions were paying off; I was bracing and banking with each sharp turn, I was floating across eddys that would have had me spinning before. I was back paddling and stopping in the middle of Class 1 to Class 2 water by Internet definition. Tim, my canoe buddy, stayed behind me. I noticed he was having a time of it maneuvering the sharp

bends and the trees. I, as the rookie, would ask frequently, "Are you OK?"

The trees were bent over, the black water creating a carwash effect, so my paddle was busy protecting my face, as well as swatting giant spiders, while trying to steer. I felt so in control and proudly would brag that I had never fallen out of my kayak to which my

buddy would reply, "Ya look like ya know what yer' doing." Awww shucks....I learned a lot of this stuff on the Web...

As fate would have it, I was about to learn something even more important. The current seemed to be easing up a bit as we came around a turn and there was a tree across the entire span of the river. As I was looking for a spot to go around this nice beautiful tree, the current brought me head-on into the side of the tree.

As I attempted to back paddle a bit, the stream brought my stern around so now I was alongside the tree... my arms instinctively grabbed the trunk and I felt the water push down on my kayak. Before I could react my kayak was sucked under the tree sideways. I took a breath and went under as well...all I could do was hold the tree while my kayak was removed from me. With my head above water I managed to pull up on the

tree and felt my foot still holding the kayak by the cockpit, under water.


Tim was nearby but could not get as close. As I held on, he circled the tree to the other side. By now I had found my footing on the tree and was holding my kayak by my PFD, which was still strapped to the front of the boat. I watched all my untethered gear float or sink away...my paddle lazily floated downstream.

I was able to creep my way onto the bank and haul my bucket....errr....boat, up and pour the water out of my now empty kayak. So, here I am, soaked to the gills...heart pounding...panting and exhausted. I thanked God for sparing me and I thanked GOD for allowing me to experience this near tragedy. I could now see that I had made several errors both with my skill levels and my attitude. What an awesome power water has, I thought.

I managed to get back in my boat. Tim had a spare paddle that I used clumsily to keep up until I found the most valuable possession of the day...my own paddle. I of course, was now wearing my PFD like a bulletproof vest. Everything else was expendable...I couldn't have cared less about my other equipment at this point.

We finished the trip 2 hours later and all in all it was a beautiful trip. My lessons for the day:

- * Prepare
- * Wear that PFD
- * Tether my paddle....and all other valuables
- * Respect the water
- * Thank God before and after each excursion

Now I want to do it again...WHEEEEEEEEE... (but without that whole dunking part). 



Towing a Swamped Boat

by "Graystroke"

(Reprinted from Coastals Forum)

Had a little incident yesterday that all may benefit from.

A group of us ran the upper, river was close to 10' at Westham gauge. In Mitchell's we had a swimmer and I was able to stay in a mini-eddy waiting for boat to get flushed from a small pour-over that created a very retentive hole.

Boat finally came out and I was able to attach tether. I was using the waist band type with small pouch and quick release buckle

I was unable to right and drain swamped boat because

continued on page 13

2007 GCA INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & CLINIC INFORMATION

Schedule on Page 12

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. Events will be coordinated by GCA Members. Space is limited.

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

BASIC WHITEWATER 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.

RECREATIONAL KAYAK:

This class is designed for recreational kayak boaters who want to experience moving water and Class 1 & 2 whitewater. Basic safety will be reviewed and river skills will be practiced.

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS

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. Instruction level 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 WHITEWATER 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 flatwater session emphasizing strokes, safety, self-rescues. Full day Sunday session on whitewater river. You must attend both the dry and flatwater sessions to participate in the whitewater 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 2 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 whitewater 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% flatwater 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 2-3 river working on turns, surfing, eddy hopping, etc. Full day Sunday trip on a Class 2-3 river.

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:

Whitewater 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.

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/membership.htm> or call 404.421.9729. Dues are \$25. Classes are \$65 per person for a two day clinic or \$35 for a one day event, 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** _____

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.

Schedule on Following Page

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION 2007 INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Whitewater Kayak

Beginner (TBA)
June 5 (eve.), 9 & 10
Tom Bishop
Bishop.t@comcast.net

Trained Beginner (TBA)
May 5 & 6
Tom Bishop
Bishop.t@comcast.net

Intermediate (Nantahala)
May 5 & 6
Louis Boulanger
Louis.boulanger@ece.gatech.edu>

Nantahala Falls (Working in the Falls)
September 8 & 9
Louis Boulanger
Louis.boulanger@ece.gatech.edu

Recreational Kayak

Introduction to Moving Water(Chestatee)
May 19, Moving Water-Class 1
Jamie Higgins
Jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com

Introductory White Water (Tuckaseegee)
July 14, Whitewater Class 2
Jamie Higgins
Jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com

Whitewater Canoe (Solo and Tandem)

Beginner (Broad)
May 12 & 13
Steve Cramer
cramersec@charternet

Trained Beginner (TBA)
June 9 & 10, August 18 & 19
Jim Albert
jimalbert@gmail.com

Intermediate (TBA)
May 19 & 20
Marvine Cole
marvinequilts@earthlink.net

Intermediate I (Tuckasegee)
August 25 & 26
Gina and Haynes Johnson
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

Intermediate II (Nantahala)
September 29 & 30
Haynes and Gina Johnson
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

Safety

Flatwater Safety - Kayaks and Canoes (Lake Lanier)
June 9
Gina and Haynes Johnson
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

Basic White Water Safety (Amicalola)
July 14
Gina and Haynes Johnson
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

Sea Kayak (call for class fees)

All taught by Steve Cramer
cramersec@charter.net

Introduction - Charleston, SC
May 26-28 (Memorial Day weekend)

Safety & Rescue Clinic - Athens area
June 9

Sea Kayak Weekend - Charleston
Sept 29 & 30

Sea Kayak Strokes - Athens Area
August 11

FEES:

Two Day classes are \$65.00 for instruction or events
One Day classes are \$35.00
All fees included American Canoe Association Insurance. If you are an ACA member, your fees are reduced by \$10 per class or event.

I was no longer in eddy, current was fast, swamped boat was being uncooperative and there are a lot of things to negotiate in that area. Recipe for trouble? You bet!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Swamped boat went left around a barely submerged rock. I went right. Tether caught on rock, swamped boat continued down stream and pulled me back up against rock. Once tether became tight I was flipped and being pulled upstream as swamped boat went downstream.

Things that were not in my advantage: tether was twisted around me and boat, waist band had shifted so that buckle was not on my belly, I had pogies on, I couldn't set up to roll because tether was attached to downstream swamped boat and pulling me back upstream against current and the rock, I couldn't even do a "bottom brace" because water was too deep, my peeps were trying hard to get back upstream to me, water was cold.....

I did get one hand free from pogie, tried to find quick release buckle but it had shifted and was now covered up somewhere on my waist by drytop and PFD. I was able to reach grab loop on skirt and do the old wet exit trick. Now tether had me but I could follow tightened tether back to belt and from there locate buckle and was able to release it.

By this time rescue had arrived and I was reunited with my boat on a small island very near the take-out. Elapsed time under water, perhaps 30 - 45 seconds. Perceived time under water, 3 days. But all is well, it's now been one day

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since my last swim.

Just a reminder and lesson on how seemingly trivial things can come together and turn into a life threatening event. Paddle on...anyone want to buy a tow-belt? 

Clear Creek

by Allen Pogue

We finally got a good rainfall after several weeks of relative dryness and cold temperatures. With a lot of stuff running and some of it at fairly high levels, Steve Smyth and I decided at the last minute to try for Clear Creek, a small tributary of the Cartecay that flows off Burnt Mountain. Carolyn Rand joined in at the last minute as a volunteer shuttle bunny.



On the way into Ellijay, Carolyn and I passed over Mountaintown Creek and it definitely appeared to be running, which I took as a good indicator Clear Creek would run. We met Steve at the Cartecay launch on river left (which was a mistake, we should've met at the DNR takeout). We dressed there, piled Steve's boat into the back of Carolyn's truck and headed around to the put-in for Clear Creek.

I noted with a sigh of relief that it definitely had enough

water to paddle. It also didn't appear to be too high, which I always consider to be a good thing when I'm paddling a new run, especially if nobody on the trip knows the run . . . and that was the case for us.

We hurried a little at the put-in because it's a little like launching in the middle of a neighborhood. The bridge is small and an old lady and man looked us over good to see what we were up to as we donned dry tops and spray skirts before launching into the muddy water.

In a few minutes we were downstream and Carolyn, our shuttle bunny, was quickly gone. I don't know where you're supposed to park at the put-in so I was very grateful to Carolyn for shuttling us and we didn't have to deal with the issue.

The creek is small, about 20 feet wide at that point and starts off as a swift Class 1-2 stream. You quickly leave behind the houses and get walled in by rhododendron, hemlock and pine. A few trees must be ducked under. Then you approach a serious horizon line accompanied by a lot of noise. We were approaching the first drop, according to the AW site, Timber Falls.

The creek splits into two channels around a large *continued on following page*

bedrock island. Some water goes over to the left and around a blind turn and another channel with a little more water goes to the right. We were able to paddle up into a small eddy on the right and we could see that the right side was clear of wood although it definitely looked a little sketchy.

It was a long, complicated bedrock slide that partially runs under an overhang for 40 feet or more before dropping over a small ledge into a pool. It looks fairly impressive from the top and the creek probably loses 8 or 10 feet from beginning of the slide to the pool below.

Unfortunately the photos I took from the bottom don't do it justice. For some reason the lighting down in the ravine didn't favor photography and there's little that could be done with my outmoded digital camera.

The left channel eventually comes out in a steep slide that I would estimate drops about 8 feet onto the last ledge. The landing zone looked like it might have shallow rock so I'm glad we went down the right instead, and anyway the right side is great fun.

Steve went first and I pulled into the eddy and got a look. I blanched a little when I first saw the drop but Steve was OK at the bottom so I eased into the line I wanted and then took a couple of good propulsion strokes to get started and I was off.

I intended to stay right to avoid a somewhat scary looking rock overhang that juts out a few feet over the left side of the slide but the acceleration hit quickly and the current immediately began dragging me left towards the overhanging rock. I picked up speed until I was moving very fast indeed and doing shallow rock-scraping draw strokes half the way down to stay as far right as possible. I ducked my head instinctively and positioned my paddle to avoid the overhang as I was

pulled right next to it. I cleared the rock overhang and then I was in the bottom of the slide where I basically got turned right by the water coming in from the left channel and launched into the pool.

The speed with which all this occurred is the main thing I remember. I got an immediate adrenalin kick and grinned. It's definitely one of the most interesting drops I've run. Somehow I followed a lazy S-turn slide to the bottom and it felt

like I was going about 30 miles per hour when I got to the bottom. Yeehaw! I've been thinking about that drop since I ran it and I can't wait to go back for more.

At this point you've basically dropped into an area punctuated by so-called "mini-gorges" where sloping rock walls run up to the forest and giant smooth rock formations abound. It's a neat place to visit.

The next sliding drop is apparently called "Flume," although I would say the flume is the least of your worries. We eddied out above the drop to make sure it was clear of wood and to look for a hole. Steve scrambled up the bank on river left while I fiddled with my spray skirt and almost let my paddle precede me over the drop, which would have been very stupid indeed. Steve began returning and indicated that I should go right down the middle. He said it looked like nothing significant.

The middle actually looked as good as anywhere so I went ahead. It was a short easy slide with no significant hole at the bottom but I noted with horror that there was a very large pinning/piton rock on the right side of the slide. Steve had decided not to tell me about it because the last time he told me where not to go on Section 3 at Dicks Creek Ledge, I had

gone straight into it. I decided to keep my mouth shut because he had a good point but I would've been happier if I'd scouted



Above: Steve Smyth in the approach to the main slide at Headless Horseman. Below: the fun channel down the right side of Clear Creek Falls on the Cartecay; note the moster river-left hole in the background. Photos by Allen Pogue.





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it myself.

After this you ride down the "flume" which reminds me of the runout from Mattress through the mini-gorge on Warwoman Creek. It was easy and fun Class 2. It seems like we paddled around another corner or two and some Canada Geese preceded us down the creek, keeping a careful distance. Then we approached Headless Horseman, which we got out to scout on river right.

This was yet another excellent bedrock type slide rapid and we climbed up on a huge rock formation to get a look. We couldn't agree if it was actually Headless Horseman at the time because we remembered it as having a right turn at the bottom from the photos on AW, but actually I think we had both confused it with Flume now that I've been able to go back and look again.

Headless Horseman was arguably the most difficult rapid we ran all day as there was yet another terrible looking boulder in the drop on the right and to the left of it, right in the line you would presumptively choose to paddle, was a "cauldron" with water circulating into the hole-gnarr behind the boulder. It looked pretty ugly. I hung out with my throw rope and camera on river right while Steve ran the drop. The purpose of the rope was for pulling him out of the hole or helping him escape from a pinned boat.

Part of what makes Headless difficult is that the ap-

proach isn't a gimme. There's some Class 2 wave hole action as you try to line yourself up. I watched Steve's approach carefully to see what happened to him. He turned out to be way too far right and subbed out in the hole and had a very close encounter with the big pinning rock. Yikes!

Having seen what happened to him, I knew I wanted to hit a line through a small downstream V that I could see that was much farther left in the entrance, and then follow a shallow fold into the cauldron in the middle of the drop. This line was definitely better at this level although it did push me dangerously close to the decapitation overhang at the bottom on the left that gives the rapid its name.

At higher water that rapid would be very interesting indeed. Too far right and you're toast on the pinning rock. Too far left and into the undercut you go. All this is not to mention what might become of the cauldron-hole-thing in the middle of the drop with a little more water. It was good stuff but it's not one I'd carry back up to run again. I was glad to be in the pool below.

I might rate it more like 3+ for generally sketchiness and small margin for error. If you get squirreled around in the entrance and miss the line by much then "Bad Things" are likely to occur. If you went over the drop sideways then you might need some prayer.

continued on following page

The last drop is a huge horizon line but turns out to be fairly simple. The geese were still ahead of us and they paddled right up to the lip in the middle and we thought we were going to get to see them swim the rapid. But then they just stood up and started waddling down, which told us that the middle was too shallow to run.

Water was being funneled down both the left and the right of the drop and it all looked bony but eventually we both ran down the left and got a teeth-jarring ride to the bottom. From there we could see that the right line was pretty bony too so I don't think we necessarily chose wrong, the rapid just needed more water.

After this we could see the Cartecay ahead, which was a major disappointment. We hadn't realized the creek was so short. I realize now by looking at the AW page carefully that the creek part of the run is only about a mile long and this agrees with my internal odometer. Still, it was a very high quality mile. I still grin when I think about Timber Falls.

At this point you have to paddle the Cartecay River down to the DNR takeout. The Cartecay was probably at the highest level I've seen it and we ferried across the ridiculously pushy outflow from Clear Creek Falls to river right to climb up the rocks and scout the drop to decide if we wanted to run it.

At that level water was flowing over most of the ledge and the main drop looked horrible, really. There was a fairly steep hole that was a "frowning" v-shape and was about 4 or 5 feet deep. It was difficult to tell if it could be punched or not. In the event that you did get into it retentively, I'm pretty sure there would be no surfing out of it as the shoulders were both pouring water into the recirculation.

Steve thought he saw a line down the far left that would ride over the left shoulder into the outflow but it looked nearly impossible to me. I've tried to eddy out down there at normal levels and it just isn't easy to get either right or left on that drop, and the water was moving much faster than normal.

We scouted the falls a long time but just couldn't see a definite line on the left side other than trying to punch the hole, so instead we ran the ledge down a neat flume that had opened up on the right side. It didn't look like much but it turned out to be faster than expected and we both grinned at the bottom.

After this we basically played our way down the Cartecay, enjoying the unusually high water level. A few play holes appeared at this level that are not usually present. Unfortunately we were in creek boats so play was limited for us. But the high water made the long flat stretches easier, and a swift current pushed us toward the takeout where we arrived early enough to make it home before dinner. The run had taken just 3 hours.

I definitely give a big thumbs up to this run. It's short but sweet. I think if I run it again I will be trying to determine if it's possible to carry back up on a couple of the good drops. Since it's so short, you might as well get as much enjoyment as you can from it. As an added bonus, the large rock formations, mini-gorges and bedrock slides look really cool. I'll be back.

Thanks to Steve Smyth for taking a day away from work to go creeking with me and to Carolyn Rand for serving as shuttle bunny. Thanks also to whoever wrote up the creek on AW or I might never have run it. More photos at <http://www.allenpogue.com/ClearCreekGA.html#>

President's Weekend

by Gina Johnson

We had a lovely, if a bit chilly, time at Juniper Springs Campground in the Ocala National Forest. Unfortunately the campground operators think that heated bathrooms are for sissies! No sissies in this crowd! We had about 28 paddlers joining us this year. My apologies for not listing the names of the participants, but my computer ate the list and the waivers were sent to Steve Reach!

We paddled the Silver River on Friday and were lucky enough to see anhingas (who have no oil in their feathers and pose with wings outstretched to dry themselves in the sun), cormorants, ibis, lots of great blue herons and little blue herons, turtles, alligators and the famous rhesus monkeys! We paddled



A male rhesus monkey watches the paddlers on Florida's Silver River. Photo by Maria Greene.

upstream for 5 miles to Silver Springs. It was apparent that the springs were being impacted from pollution, but it was still very impressive.

On Saturday we ran Alexander Springs, and had great "where's Elmo" wildlife spotting - from alligators to deer. On Sunday we ran Juniper Springs, which was beautiful but had much less wildlife.

Our only dumping occurred with Marcanna, a friend of Bryan Smith's, who was so focused on getting the perfect picture that she totally missed the strainer which grabbed and flipped her boat. Since she was in waist deep water, she and the camera survived!

We have had the President's Weekend Paddle at Juniper Springs for the past 7 years. We are considering taking our show on the road. Would you let me

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know what you would be interested in paddling? We could move to west Florida and see manatees or do day trips in the Okefenokee. Haynes says there are beautiful areas in the Panhandle that would be fun as well. My email is haynesandgina@alltel.net.

Thank you to all of you who participated! ✂

Ocmulgee River

by John Holley

Sunday, February 11th, Will, John, Tom and Dave ran the Upper Ocmulgee at 1300 cfs. The weather was nasty with a high temp. of 60, clear skies and light wind. The three open boaters received the Silver Paddle Award for proper vessel. Dave the kayaker got five demerits for substandard navigational skills.

An uneventful paddle with some good surfing at Seven Islands brought us to the creek run entrance. Tom and John looked at it. We were unsure it was clear of wood.

The significant drop, Smith Shoals, was run on the sneak by Will and Dave. John and Tom opted for the Class 3 center shot. This was to me unexpectedly powerful and turbulent. I had a sloppy run. Tom aced it.

At a moderate water level, Smith Shoals can be an easy Class 2 or a more challenging intermediate run. This run

deserves more attention from GCA and is in dire need of protection from streamside blight.

Big thanks to Tom, a solid boater, Will, Dave and John for making a perfect run. Immense thanks to Suzanne Welander, who wrote the book that told us about it.

The most exciting portion of this trip was the take out shuttle to the top. Four boats and four idiots tied on top of a Yugo made a screaming 5 mph on the twelve mile long forty mile dirt road. ✂

Chattooga - Section 2

by Allen Pogue

A lack of rain sent us (Steve Smyth, Sandra Walker, Jennifer Fortney, Lois Newton, Steve Craig, Artie Green and Allen Pogue) searching far afield for anything running, even if it was far from home. This resulted in a plan to cross another new run off my list: Chattooga Section 2.

The plan was to meet in Blairsville, Georgia as early as reasonably possible and head over to Clayton at best speed. The day wasn't brilliant, with clouds moving in relatively early, but the water at the put-in was crystal clear and we were all hopeful for a wonderful run.

After muddling our way through the unloading process
continued on following page

and setting shuttle, we finally struggled into our boats and launched. We paddled upstream a little just to thumb our noses at the boating ban above the bridge. Section 2 was immediately beautiful and wild.

There was a house on the left just below the put-in, but eventually we left all signs of civilization behind. The first couple of ledges hinted that the level really was too low but the long pools of flatwater were gorgeous and we spotted schools of large trout in the clear water and the forested ridges provided a pleasant backdrop for the “social water.”

After I got the pace set nice and slow like I like it on flatwater, I began to calm down and enjoy the day. The only detracting factors were the low water level and the mostly cloudy sky. Section 2 is slightly narrower than Sections 3 and 4 but this isn't a bad thing and it's narrowness draws you into the forest. Unfortunately, every time we entered a rapid, everyone pretty much got stuck so it wasn't a



Steve Craig braces through the slot on river left at Big Shoals. Photo by Allen Pogue.

good day for whitewater, with only a couple of exceptions. Earlier in the day I had stated that I had read a couple of write-ups on the section and most stated that there was one Class 3 rapid in Section 2. I doubted this, loudly and verbally. It was apparent to me that the type of people who paddle Section 2 most of the time are not the same people who paddle Class 3-4 rivers. I concluded that this probably meant that the rapid had been overrated, especially since we had a low water level. You know what that means. It means I was destined to get beat down by said rapid.

When we finally came up on the single Class 3, it was obvious enough. There was a fairly good horizon line over a large jumbled rock ledge. We could see that a slot on the left was clear but a slot on river right looked very creekly and promising so Steve Craig got out to scout on the rocks in the middle of the river. He climbed up and said basically that he thought the more advanced boaters could take the right line



Artie Green in the “easy” slot on river left at Big Shoals. Photo by Allen Pogue.

but the less experienced boaters should take the left slot.

Steve Smyth and I went first into the right slot. Steve eddied out behind the large boulder that was obstructing the view of the bottom of the rapid and I moved over to river right to where I could see some of the drop that followed. He advised me to catch the eddy he was in after he peeled out and then he ran the bottom drop. I could see that his ride wasn't entirely smooth but it didn't look too bad so I dropped around behind the giant boulder and caught the eddy.

When I looked downstream, I couldn't see anything that looked

runnable to me. There was a possible line on the left but it looked like it would probably result in a pin. There was another possible line on the right, but Steve said there was wood in it. That left only a very ugly looking curler over the ledge that poured into a slot. The best line would be to hit the top of the curler with a lot of speed to avoid the slot and drop over into

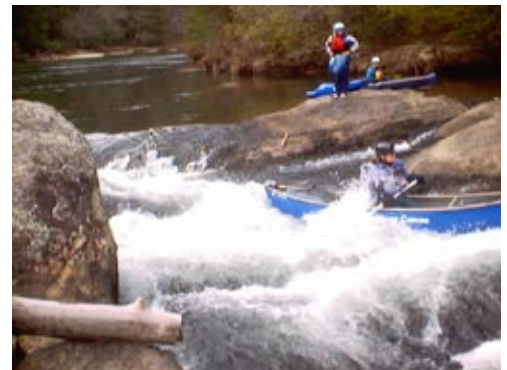
squirrely water below. It looked to me that if you hit the curler too low then you could quite easily get into a potentially life-threatening pin.

“That's the last time I let someone else scout a blind drop for me,” I thought. About this time I started

thinking about what I'd said about how there probably wouldn't really be a Class 3 on Section 2. By now the drop was looking very much like a low-volume Class 3 creek drop. River karma can be a pain in the (back) sometimes.

After floundering and receiving various advice and trying to figure out if it would be reasonable to climb out of the eddy behind the boulder, I decided the best thing to do was to just go ahead and run the drop even though it looked like rocky garbage. I headed for the lip and put on a burst of paddling to ride over the top of the curler, barely staying off the rocks on the left.

I dropped avoided the pinning slot and dropped into the whitewater below, which was swirling like a toilet bowl and



Lois Newton running Big Shoals. Photo by Allen Pogue.



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thought I had made it when it jammed my playboat up against a rock and I flipped. Actually I didn't flip very quickly. Since I've gotten too heavy over the winter for my ZG 48, I have been paddling my old Perception Blaze 7.1, which has a strange habit of settling on it's side whenever you start to flip. Think of it as secondary stability taken to the point of ridiculousness.

After a couple of seconds of hanging there with my head submerged and bashing rocks (along with my shoulder), the boat finally flipped all the way over and I tucked hard to avoid further injury and rolled. At least I didn't swim. After that, everybody else ran the slot on the right side and I got some great pics.

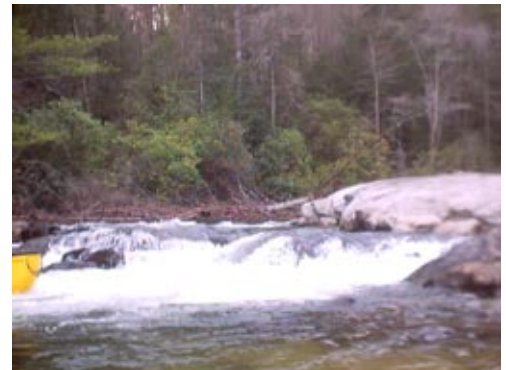
We paddled through a long series of flat pools broken up by ledges and shoals that were entirely too shallow to float through. I personally never got out of my boat but pushing and prying myself off of rocks wore me out. Still not having seen any signs of civilization, we finally arrived at the takeout at Earl's Ford. Then our little adventure became a misadventure.

The group divided in two on the way back to the car. Most of us followed somebody up the wrong trail, not knowing the way back to the car. This resulted in a long and difficult boat carry up the horse trail a ways before said person realized we weren't on the right trail. Lois headed up the right trail and we all wished we'd followed her instead.

I have to say, I've had a few bad boat carrying experi-

ences in my day but that one really took the cake. I would say we ended up hiking a few hundred yards extra and probably an extra 40 or 50 vertical feet. We'll make sure not to let the person who lead us astray live this one down.

Section 2 is a beautiful river and there are several rapids that have a lot of potential. Unfortunately there just wasn't enough water. If you go at 1.4 on the Internet gauge, then you'd better not mind getting stuck. The trip was still fun, and since not much else was running anyway I would probably still say it was worth going.



The more challenging river right line at Big Shoals, scene of the beatdown. Photo by Allen Pogue.

More pictures from the Chattooga Section 2 trip are at <http://www.allenpogue.com/ChattoogaSection2.html> or at http://www.allenpogue.com/Chattooga02_24_2007.html.

South Chickamauga Creek

by Allen Pogue

Cold weather and work had me locked in the house for two weekends in a row and I just couldn't stand it anymore. I wanted to paddle whitewater but there wasn't anything running within 2 hours of Chattanooga and I finally decided to check out South Chickamauga Creek, which flows less than a mile from my house. Lois Newton and I had been planning to paddle all week and we had our eyes on the Mulberry Fork of the Warrior but it would be close to a 3 hour drive and the level was right at the minimum. I opted for the closer option: South Chickamauga Creek.

I originally wanted to float from Ringgold, Georgia to Graysville but a second look at my guide book indicated that the distance was over 11 miles. That would have required an early start. Considering that the air temperature was about 20 degrees F early in the morning, I scrambled to find another segment. Finally I decided that we would put on at Graysville and float down to Camp Jordan in East Ridge, Tennessee, which is basically a city park.

The put-in was pretty good and the location is actually very scenic. The launch is just upstream of an old mill with a lowhead dam and the waterfowl love it. The old mill structure has been renovated and is obviously being used as a resi-

dence.

Unfortunately you have to do a mandatory portage to avoid the lowhead dam within about 60 yards of launching. The reason you can't just launch below the dam to start with is because the property is very fenced off and well marked with "Keep Out" signs. I find this somewhat understandable due to the presence of graffiti and obvious signs of fishermen all around the area, but it does make for a laborious start. The portage is over a small rocky island on river right, that is flanked by a pile of construction debris with water running through it.

After managing the portage we headed downstream and were able to make good time for a while. This section of the creek is definitely entirely Class I although there are a few small rapids and riffles occasionally to wake you up. Unfortunately there is quite a bit of wood in the stream bed. When we came up on a nice little Class I boulder garden, I managed to avoid portaging a second time but only by paddling through a dicey little slot (dicey because of branches in the channel). After watching me go through it, Lois decided to just get out and portage and it was probably just as well.

Considering that the entire run is entirely within the greater Chattanooga metropolitan area, it is surprisingly rural in character. We certainly did see plenty of houses, but the creek is mostly lined with woods and a few fields and obviously serves as a haven for suburban wildlife. We saw various types of ducks, Canada geese, cardinals, hawks, a pileated woodpecker, a great blue heron, what we think was a mink, and a large hawk of some type. We also spotted a beautiful eastern bluebird when we were setting shuttle at the takeout. It was a pretty good variety and abundance of wildlife for a suburban float trip.

Even though the creek is nicely lined with trees, you never can completely forget you are in the midst of civilization. You are never far from a train track and you float under it at least twice. Vehicles and the sounds of people working are easily heard. Portions of the creek are obviously located beneath the approach for one of the runways at the Chattanooga airport because occasionally you would hear the whine of jet engines and see a passenger plane fly over with flaps extended.

Initially the run just flows between dirt banks and you pass a few houses and a golf course. Eventually the run does pass next to some ridges (crested with houses for the most part) so the scenery does have a little variety. When the land drops back down again, you pass at least one additional golf course and some apartments before floating along Interstate 75. There are some really flat stretches as you approach the takeout at Camp Jordan, then you suddenly get the best rapid (by which I mean a large riffle). It is a small ledge with a narrow tongue and small wave train on the right. Then we were at the



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confluence with another creek (perhaps one of the forks of the South Chick) and we paddled upstream on that side stream less than a hundred yards to the point we had identified as a takeout.

All in all, I would say it wasn't a bad run. Most of the homes along the run are set back some distance from the creek and most of the stretch is completely wooded. I wouldn't go out of my way to paddle it, but considering that it is less than 10 minutes from my house to the launch in Graysville, I would



Mill and low head dam on South Chickamauga Creek. Photo by Allen Pogue.

definitely say it is better than not paddling at all. Having looked at the creek many times over the last year, I definitely consider this to be a winter float, as the flow is reduced to a scummy trickle during the warm months.

Hopefully I will be able to float

the section from Ringgold, Georgia to Graysville at some point for comparison.

Pros:

- Mostly wooded (if suburban).
- Surprisingly good wildlife viewing.
- Proximity to my house.

Cons:

- Obvious smell of chemical fertilizers from the golf courses
- Somebody is raising fighting cocks right next to the creek on the edge of Graysville
- Minor visual intrusions of urban life, tires in creek, houses on ridge, airliners flying over, etc.
- I got a flat tire somehow and had to inflate before going home. That probably has nothing to do with the trip but it definitely detracted from the day.

You May Be Out of Your League If ...

- ... before each trip, you co-workers make you give them your password.
- ... when they see you, the crowd on the rocks nudges each other and starts humming the theme from Deliverance.
- ... as your bow passes over the horizon line you can't see the landing zone.

From the Conewago (PA) Canoe Club page.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Eddy Line Editor,

Regarding the "How Old Is The Grand Canyon" editorial, I say Congratulations to Mary Bomar and the Grand Canyon officials for approving the sale of *Grand Canyon: A Different View*. It sounds to me like they believe in free speech and PEER is bent on censorship.

I strongly disagree that "Our Park Service is under orders to suspend its belief in geology." Why not present theory as theory and let people draw their own conclusions from the evidence? PEER can admire "the emperor's new clothes" if they wish, but why should the evolutionary theory have the exclusive right to be heard?

Elvin Eshleman, Monticello, GA



Editorial

Picture Imperfect

by Rick Bellows

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but the results of the Best Paddling Image competition at the National Paddling Film Festival suggest that what the voters be holdin' was a beer - and not their first. Or perhaps they had trouble seeing the pictures because of where they had their heads.

The picture below won the award for Best Paddling Image. It's certainly a pretty picture, but no more so than many on the American Whitewater website. In fact, thanks to the GCA members who carry cameras when they paddle, pictures as good sometimes appear in *The Eddy Line*.

The picture to the right was taken by Brian Jacobson of Trout Lips Video, LLC during the expert boater panel trip on the Chattooga headwaters. The picture is of Milt Aiken running the rapid Brian named "No Kayaks," and it was also a



finalist in the Best Paddling Image competition.

The "best" image is taken from too far away to see much of the kayaker or, for that matter, of the kayakers watching him or her from below the falls. For all you can tell from the picture, the kayakers could all be Floaties.

Brian's picture of Milt, on the other hand, truly captures the experience of running a narrow slot on a challenging rapid. The combination of effort and enjoyment are plain on Milt's face, and a wonderful contrast to the apparent "smile" on the bow of his canoe.

Yes, it's cool to see an image of someone running a falls that many of us wouldn't/couldn't run - that's why extreme paddling videos keep getting made and sold. But the winning picture is nowhere near the quality image that Brian's picture of Milt is.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Non-business ads are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business and non-member ads are \$5 for up to 50 words, \$10 for larger. **Ads must be received by the fifth of the month to be published in the following month's issue.** Mail ads to *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441 or email to the_eddyline@yahoo.com. Please, no phone-in or hand-written ads. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

For Sale: Liquid Logic SKIP; yellow, good condition; \$350. Contact Donna at 423-894-7624 (Chattanooga) or bestdoden@comcast.net.

For Sale: Mohawk Viper 11, very good condition, air bags included. \$475. houchins.mike@bellsouth.net.

Kayaks For Sale:

- Perception SPARC (Small Person's All River Craft), \$300; outfitted, good condition; good river running boat with classic playing capacity.

- Dagger Crossfire, \$200; outfitted, good condition; excellent beginner to inter-

mediate boat.


- Stohlquist River Machine, \$100; Kevlar/fiberglass, 3-meter design; very lightweight and fast.

- WaveSport EZ, \$425; blue & black; outfitted, good condition.

Contact Duncan at 678-493-7804 or duncancotrell@yahoo.com.

Seeking Paddlers to Join Us: 85 mile wilderness lake trip in Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario with approximately 25 portages. Leave June 2, paddle June 5-14, return June 17. Seeking 2-3 paddlers to join my son and me. Outfitter available if needed. Contact Bill Markert at wmarkert@comcast.net.

For Sale: Perception Torrent sit-on-top, very good condition. Red, includes Harmony integrated seat with hi-back band and the oem knee straps. \$350. Call Mo at 678.485.2216 or email vagabondmo@gmail.com.

For Sale: Kayak playboat - WaveSport Ace 4.7. Red, excellent condition, with just normal scratches and wear. No oil canning. Outfitting in excellent shape. Foot cups adjustable from cockpit while in boat. A great river runner/playboat; very stable, predictable and forgiving. \$325 OBO. John @ 770.974.8532 or jrobertsmx5@bellsouth.net 

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