



Volume 42, No. 9

770.421.9729

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September 2007

## The Great *Eddy Line* Masthead Contest

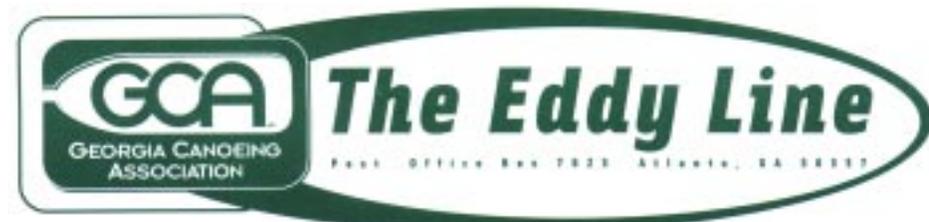
The time has come, the walrus said, To pick the *Eddy Line*'s masthead!

(Apologies to Lewis Carroll.)

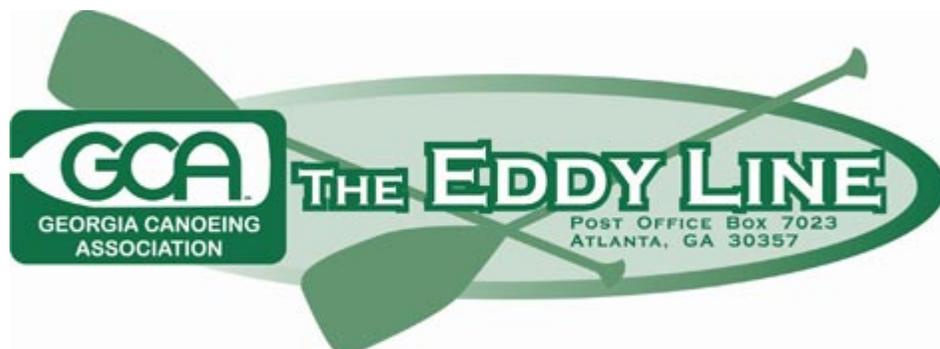
Details on Page 13.



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#### Option C: Background Boats

## GCA Fall Gala - September 21-23

Smokey Mountain Meadows Campground, Bryson City, North Carolina.

Details on Page 7.



Printed on recycled paper



## 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 404.579.3166.

#### 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 or contact an Editor:**

Email the\_eddyline@yahoo.com, mail *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441 or call Rick Bellows, 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. ✂

### GCA Executive Committee

President .....	Vincent Payne
Vice President .....	Tom Bishop
Secretary .....	Jamie Higgins
Treasurer .....	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair .....	Kate Wilkerson
Recreation Chair .....	VACANT
Resource Development Chair .....	William Gatling
River Protection Chair .....	VACANT
Training Chair .....	Gina Johnson

### Directors, Executive Committee Meetings

**GCA Board of Directors meetings** are generally held the first Thursday of March, June, September and December.

**GCA Executive Committee meetings** are generally held the first Thursday of January, February, April, May, July, August, October and November. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at Page Perry LLC, 1040 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 1050, Atlanta, 30338. (I-285 to Ashford Dunwoody NE, left onto Perimeter Center West, right onto Crown Pointe Parkway, park at 1050 and walk to 1040.) All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, call Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263 to be added to the agenda. Attending meetings is a great way to become more involved in the GCA and ensure transparency in decisions and actions. ✂

### 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. Letters to the Editor are also encouraged. **Submissions should be typed, single spaced and not indented: 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 two issues, 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

### September

1	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
1	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
8	Chattooga - Section 2	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
15	Chattahoochee (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	William Gatling	770.529.7103
15	Nantahala (Note 2)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Joe Webb	770.914.2985
16	Ocoee	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Elkon	404.314.3861
16	Chattooga - Section 3/3.5	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
21-23	Fall Gala	All Levels	Denise Keller	770.591.0980
22	Tuckasegee (Note 3)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Todd McGinnis	770.856.4489
29	Upper Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	404.579.3166

### October

12-14	Goose Pastures (Note 4)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Lamar Phillips	770.939.5087
13-14	Upper Russell Fork (Note 5)	Class 3-4 Advanced	David Bernard	540.392.5096
21	Metro Hooch	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Todd McGinnis	770.856.4489

### December

22	Leader's Choice (Note 6)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Todd McGinnis	770.856.4489
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Note 1: Buford Dam to Settles Bridge - new paddlers especially welcome.

Note 2: Parents and Kids Trip - canoes, kayaks or duckies.

Note 3: Guaranteed newbie trip for Fall Gala Saturday.

Note 4: Florida Canoe Camping trip - Aucilla and Wacissa Rivers, Slave Canal

Note 5: Five mile dam release, Kentucky near Virginia border. Class 2-3, one Class 3+ (Twenty Stiches)

Note 6: Winter Solstice trip - location TBD.

**Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space —  
Call Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 404.579.3166!  
(Please Note New Telephone Number)**

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**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 404.579.3166. 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.

**Roll Practice:** Wednesday evenings from 6:00 until dark, May through the end of Daylight Savings Time, at Stone Mountain Park. For more information, look for the announcement in *The Eddy Line*.

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## 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

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## 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. ✂

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### 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](mailto:gcaweb@gmail.com). Membership applications, GCA waivers and other forms for use by members are also available on the site. ✂

## 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 listserve software. You are responsible for keeping your email address current. Thank you — it makes less work for our all volunteer staff. ✂

## Get *The Eddy Line* Via Email

*The Eddy Line* is available via email as a .pdf (portable document format) file. This format allows subscribers to view formatted text, graphics, page layout — virtually the entire *Eddy Line* — just as it appears in printed form. Plus you can see it at least a couple of weeks before the printed copy arrives via snail mail. You can also print out a paper copy of the .pdf file and it looks just like the snail mail copy (except most of the photos are in living color).

The .pdf version requires only Adobe Acrobat Reader (or some equivalent) software in order to view it. Acrobat Reader is sometimes present on PCs running Windows operating systems, or can be downloaded for free from the Adobe web site at <http://www.adobe.com>.

To subscribe to the email version of *The Eddy Line*, send a request to: GCA, c/o Ed Schultz, Treasurer, 3060 Pharr Court North, #315, Atlanta, GA 30305, or email him at [heloeddy@mindspring.com](mailto:heloeddy@mindspring.com).

Or on your annual renewal form, just check the block for the *Electronic Eddy Line* and INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS so we can send *The Eddy Line* to you electronically. You can also opt out of the paper version to save the trees, as well as printing and mailing expense. ✂

### Whitewater Kayak Instructor Certification

*Private Classes - 1-2 People*

No prior instruction experience necessary, but you will need river skills (including a roll). Whether you want to teach or just be a better paddler, I can help. Other private instruction available: rolling, river skills, stroke review.

#### Steve Thomas

ACA Instructor Trainer  
87-88 US Canoe/Kayak Team  
770.455.0476 or [wh2osteve@earthlink.net](mailto:wh2osteve@earthlink.net)



## 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! ✂

## Summer Roll Practice

GCA Summer Roll Practice will be held at Stone Mountain Park at 6:00 p.m. (or earlier) on Wednesday from May through the end of Daylight Savings Time. Roll Practice is free, but participants will need to pay for entry to the park. A season pass is recommended for folks who plan to attend multiple sessions.

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

The boat ramp is very busy with power boats putting in and taking out, so use the ramp area to load and unload only and park away from the ramp. Once in the water, try to stay clear of the ramp for the same reason.

Please note that swimming is prohibited at this location. If you're in the water spotting for someone, be prepared to explain to park officials that you are not "swimming."

Roll practice is an informal arrangement that requires volunteers. If you can help with kayak, canoe or C-1 rolling, your assistance would be appreciated. ✂

*Make up your mind to act decidedly and take the consequences. No good is ever done in this world by hesitation.*

*Thomas H. Huxley, English biologist, (1825-1875)*



## 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.

Clement, Robert  
3031 Coach Lane  
Marietta GA 30062  
H: 770-642-7583  
O: 770-331-3170  
Email: chinolatinobob@gmail.com

Fagan, Jane M. &  
Gibbs, Robi  
4264 Whitewater Court  
Norcross GA 30092  
H: 678-421-9444  
O: 678-634-1528  
Email: janemfagan@yahoo.com

Jacobs, Bruce & Suzanne  
87 Charter Oak Drive  
Athens GA 30607  
H: 706-540-6499  
O: 706-559-7351  
Email: scarecrow1@bellsouth.net  
Email: jacobs1366@yahoo.com

Michael, Gina  
3703 Marlborough Drive  
Tucker GA 30084  
H: 770-492-0207  
O: 770-337-4520  
Email: gogina@comcast.net

Montgomery, Susie  
225 Hillwood Drive  
Alabaster AL 35007  
H: 205-585-7225  
Email: susyqhoo@gmail.com

Sellers, John  
192 Reed Street  
Athens GA 30605  
H: 706-224-0030  
O: 706-224-2141  
Email: jsellersIV@yahoo.com

## Executive Committee Meeting, July 12, 2007

by Jamie Higgins, GCA Secretary

In Attendance: Jamie Higgins, Ed Schultz, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Vincent Payne, Kate Wilkerson, Dan McIntyre, Tom Bishop, John Sampson, Allen Hedden

Minutes: GCA board meeting minutes were read and approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report: June was a quiet month. GCA had a positive cash flow of \$169.20.

River Protection Chair: Vacant. GCA is looking for a new chair for River Protection Chair.

Recreation Chair: Denise Keller absent - no new news.

Training Chair: Gina Johnson. Most of the training clinics have been very well attended. Dan recommended having a trip coordinators clinic and a first aid course, and Gina agreed to look into it.

Membership Services Chair: Kate Wilkerson. Kate has made arrangements for members to buy GCA golf shirts. She will put the golf shirt on the website and have people order the shirts via snail mail to Kate.

Kate would like to amend the membership form to encourage folks to be on committees. She will work on developing a "mock" membership form showing types of

paddling members are doing as well as committee chair interest. She will email the new membership form to the executive committee before the next meeting. The updated membership form will be approved at the next meeting.

There was some discussions regarding the Executive Committee conducting a survey of the membership.

Resource Development Chair: William Gatling. Some folks are still calling him about the GRES. William discussed having a trip on the Buford Dam section of the hooch and inviting non-members to participate. He would advertise it in local papers.

Georgia Paddling Trails Chair: Lamar Phillips. Meeting next week with the Columbus folks about establishing a paddling trail. Vincent and Jamie put together a powerpoint presentation for the City of Roswell Mayor in August. Dan has been asked to give a presentation to the Etowah River Canoe Trail task force regarding establishing a canoe trail. Board agreed to send letter to the Stone Mountain Heritage Association regarding expanding access times to Stone Mountain lake.

Miscellaneous Business: Dan offered to host next GCA executive meeting. Vincent discussed establishing a nominating committee for next year's board and executive committee slate.

The meeting was adjourned.

## 2007 GCA Fall Gala

by Denise Keller, GCA Recreation Chair

The annual Fall Gala will be the weekend of Sept. 21-23 at Smokey Mountain Meadows Campground in Bryson City, NC. Their website is at [www.smmcamp.tripod.com](http://www.smmcamp.tripod.com). Their phone number is 828.488.3672, or e-mail Freda at [smmcamp@yahoo.com](mailto:smmcamp@yahoo.com) to make your reservations.

SMMC offers rustic cabins, RV hookups and tent camping. The campground is within an easy drive to the Nantahala, Tuckasegee and French Broad to name a few rivers, and there are numerous lakes in the area. Todd McGinnis has signed up to lead a Tuckasegee trip on Saturday.

For those who don't camp, Smokey Mountain Meadows Retreat big, clean has cabins next door to the campground. Their website is [www.yirtualcities.com/nc/smokymtreat](http://www.yirtualcities.com/nc/smokymtreat), or call Linda Parris at 828.488.6347.

We'll have bonfires in the evening, so bring some campfire food. I'm hoping to persuade the people I know that have Dutch ovens to turn out some great desserts. Anything can happen at the Fall Gala, and it usually does!!

Guests will hopefully include Mark Singleton, Executive Director of American Whitewater, and Doug Woodward, author of the award-winning *Wherever Waters Flow*. I'm also working on a few more ideas.

One thing I'd like to do at the Gala is have a raffle. Louis Boulanger had received some items that were donated from Outside World in Dawsonville, one being a 1-hour private kayak class. The money collected will go to the club to be used



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wherever needed.

For more information on the Fall Gala, watch the GCA groupmail. If you have any ideas, questions, or comments, call me at 770.591.0980 or [baloata@bellsouth.net](mailto:baloata@bellsouth.net).

## Upcoming Events of Interest

September 2 - Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour - Endless River Adventures, Nantahala Gorge - Maggy Williams, 828.488.6199, [www.reelpaddlingfilmfestival.com](http://www.reelpaddlingfilmfestival.com) or [www.endlessriveradventures.com](http://www.endlessriveradventures.com). (Proceeds to Nantahala River Conservation Fund.)

September 8-9 - Tsali Challenge Triathlon (3.5 mile lake paddle, 4.5 mile trail run, 12 mile mountain bike ride - Tsali Recreational Area - NOC, Bryson City, NC - 800.232.7238, [www.noc.com](http://www.noc.com).)

September 15 - Lumber River Challenge (10 miles for rec canoe/kayak, 40 miles for USCA C-1, C-2 and kayak) - William McDuffie, 910.948.3238, [wlrnmcduffie@nctconnect.com](mailto:wlrnmcduffie@nctconnect.com).

September 21-23 - GCA Fall Gala - Denise Keller, 770.591.0980, [baloata@bellsouth.net](mailto:baloata@bellsouth.net).

September 21-23 - AW Gauley River Festival - Summersville, WV - [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).

September 28, 9:00 p.m. - American Whitewater's *Cel-*  
*continued on following page*



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## Chattooga

### Whitewater Outfitters

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Long Creek, SC

www.cwo-hp.com

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- Paddling Apparel and Gear
- Free Information

Directions from Clayton, GA: From Hwy 441, turn east on Hwy 76 and travel approximately 12 miles. On the right side of the road.  
Directions from Seneca, SC: Follow Hwy 123 to Hwy 76. Go west for approx. 25 miles. On the left side of the road.



Stop by the shop to see our 2007 spring inventory...  
Werner paddles, Astral lifevests, Shred Ready helmets, Mountain Surf sprayskirts and more!

celebration of Southeastern River Stewardship - Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta - [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).

September 29 - Mountain Island Challenge - racing and rec kayaks only - Mountain Island Lake, Charlotte, NC - Rick Garcia, 704.588.8221, [rigarcia222@aol.com](mailto:rigarcia222@aol.com).

September 29-30 - 32nd Annual Outdoorsman Triathlon (1 mile swim, 4 mile run, 8 mile paddle - Wesser, NC - Kirk Havens, 804.785.2107, [kirk@vims.edu](mailto:kirk@vims.edu) or Ed Sharp, 540.752.5400, [e.sharp@att.net](mailto:e.sharp@att.net), [www.outdoorsmantriathlon.org](http://www.outdoorsmantriathlon.org).

## July 14, Amicalola River Basic River Safety Course

by Gina Johnson, GCA Training Chair

"Who would have thought we would be "chilly" in mid-July?" the 12 of us asked ourselves as we sat next to the take out for the Upper Amicalola. Haynes Johnson, Brannen Proctor and I had gathered to teach Basic River Safety to 9 participants: Lisa Haskell, Scott Walker, Jim Unger, John Samples, Will Gregory, Bernadette Peters, Herb Hammond, Lee Whiteford, and Xan Baker. Paddling skill levels ranged from Moving Water Kayak to Class 4 Open Canoe.

This was a "basic" class, so we spent the morning reviewing safety procedures, river hazards, river signals, trip



752.5400, [e.sharp@att.net](mailto:e.sharp@att.net), [www.outdoorsmantriathlon.org](http://www.outdoorsmantriathlon.org).  
October 6-7 - 39th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom and Wildwater Championships - Nantahala River - Roger Nott, 770.536.6923, [ocapaddler@charter.net](mailto:ocapaddler@charter.net).

October 13 - Race Around Roanoke Island - 26 mile relay race for 2-4 men, women, mixed - Manteo, NC - Kirk Havens, 804.785.2107, [kirk@vims.edu](mailto:kirk@vims.edu) or Ed Sharp, 540.752.5400, [e.sharp@att.net](mailto:e.sharp@att.net).

planning, rescue procedures and rescue organization. The afternoon was spent on actual skills. Brannen focused on throw ropes - how to throw and how to catch and swim. We practiced a rope recoil that would allow us to retrieve two swimmers at a time as well as belaying techniques that would provide a safe rescue of multiple swimmers or swimmers with gear.

Haynes and I demonstrated the Steve Thomas rope trick for unpinning boats and talked about why it works. We also used a z-drag and vector pulls to demonstrate the use of mechanical advantages in dealing with pinned boats.

We found a nice "friendly" chute just below the Highway 53 bridge that allowed us to practice our wading techniques: using a paddle for support and using a 3 or 4 person crab walk to cross current. The rocky river bottom allowed lots of practice in finding safe footing.

A 6 foot plastic pipe strung across the river provided our practice "strainer." The current was strong enough for us to practice swimming and barrel rolling into the eddy. The good news is that everyone had a good time and enjoyed the day!

Those of you who have been with the club for awhile will remember that the GCA taught this course in Bryson City at

Devil's Shoals on the Tuck for several years. Because of the distance, camping was required the night before. We are happy to have found a location nearer to Atlanta that allows this class to be taught as a one day event. We are looking forward to teaching again next year and will try and schedule earlier in the year when there is more water. ✂

## Trash Talk

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

Greeting to all GCA members. Hope you are having a great, paddling summer!

This starts the busy time of the year for clean ups and other fall river projects. We have just closed registration for Rivers Alive T-shirt sponsored events for 2007. We have over 200 clean ups registered and 30,000 participants ready to

balls and fishing lines, the intrepid Joe Leroux and his sons Danny and Richard managed to pull a 100+ HP outboard boat engine out of the river. Everyone had a great time and promised to take the "get the trash out of the river" message back home with them.



**Mary Durden and her kayak load of plastic bottles taken from the Ocmulgee River during Paddle Georgia. Photo by Bonny Putney.**

National River Clean up week in June saw clean ups all over the state, and I appreciated all of you who helped with those projects. The Upper Chattahoochee River had 4 events, with 100 people helping and close to a ton of trash was removed. Thanks to all that helped especially Carl Kirkpatrick of Wildwood Outfitters who hosted the events, did the shuttle and even disposed of the trash.

We are going to hit the Upper Chattahoochee again, from Duncan Bridge to Belton Bridge, on September 22. We did this run during the June event, but did not get all the trash and it needs a second event. This is a registered Rivers Alive event, and being sponsored by the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and we will have T-shirts and patches.

If you want to help, it will be 5 miles of fun paddling, not much cleaning, and 5 miles of cleaning trashed sandbars. It is listed on the Rivers Alive and UCR websites; you are welcome to email me for more information and shuttle reservations.

start cleaning a lake, river or stream near them.

Join in the fun! We have all the events listed by watershed and area, with contact information. To locate a clean up go to [www.riversalive.org](http://www.riversalive.org) and look under the scheduled events. It is not too late to form your own clean up, we just can't guarantee T-shirts. I can guarantee you will have trash to pick up, and you will be making a huge contribution to your local waterway.

We had a very successful clean up during the Paddle Georgia trip this year. Besides the usual plastic items, coolers,

reservations.

Hope to see you on the river, I will be the one with the trash bag! ✂

**What makes the river so restful to people is that it doesn't have any doubt - it is sure to get where it is going, and it doesn't want to go anywhere else.**

**Hal Boyle**



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### Part 1

## The Fine Art of Exiting a Canoe

by David Vezzetti

Nowadays, when any Tom, Dick or Harry can roll an open boat, it is becoming less and less likely for a canoeist to exit his boat while in the water. (Of course, the necessity to roll is equivalent to an exit in my book). As a result when such a phenomenon is observed the common response is to exclaim, "Oh, look, he's swimming" or "That's a nasty swim," or some such comment.

This lack of imagination in describing all such happenings by the simple word "swim" is, in my opinion, deplorable and results no doubt from a woeful lack of experience. It misses all the nuance and variety of the experience and displays a total lack of understanding of the important differences in the causes which could have precipitated the event. It is as though the Eskimos had only one word for "snow" when, in fact they have different words for wet snow, dry snow, large flake snow, mushy snow, freezing snow, horizontally blown snow, wind whipped snow, etc. - probably 30 or more denotations for that form of frozen water.

The number of descriptors is in proportion to the importance of the phenomenon. This is as it should be. Anything less would downplay the critical nature of snow in the Eskimo

mos' lives. Can one imagine an Eskimo peering from his igloo and calling back to his wife "Oh look, snow!?" This is ludicrous on its face. Such a fellow would rightly be thought to be dim-witted or worse.

The same scorn should also be heaped upon the boater whose only exclamation while observing an out of boat experience is "He's swimming." He is slow witted indeed who, having spent hundreds of days on (or in) the water, can think of nothing better to describe the important event which he is witnessing.

And so, I shall attempt to explain here, for the edification of those who may have the pleasure of boating in my company, some of the huge variety of possible sights which you may see, and which, without having had the benefit of this note, you would have embarrassed yourself by terming it simply "a swim."

Before entering into the full details, it is important first to note that there are three distinct categories of events which the uninformed generally call "swims." Attention to these distinctions will help the reader in retaining some of the details below, and will enable him, perhaps, to conduct further research (on this already thoroughly researched topic) and even contribute a new idea or two.

These categories are: (1) the Moving Exit (2) the In-place Exit and (3) the Abandonment. Though some experts

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use slightly different terms for these, I have found these the most descriptive and useful for analysis and categorization.

### **I. The Moving Exit**

This is by far the largest, and some believe the most important, category. To fall under this heading, several factors must apply. The event must begin with the boater in his boat. The boat and boater must be moving through the water, making headway in some direction. This is crucial for understanding this category and for distinguishing it from the category of in-place exits. Finally, within a very brief period of time, the boater must be in the water. If these three factors apply, then it is correctly classified as a Moving Exit.

#### **A. The Down-Stream Difficult Water Exit (Forward)**

The boater is moving along nicely downstream with bow forward, when suddenly a river feature appears which causes him to leave his boat involuntarily. The feature can be a wave, ledge, hole, rock, seam, boil or any of a variety of others.

To classify as a Difficult Water Exit, the feature must be generally acknowledged to be at least one class of difficult higher than the typical skill level of the boater. Thus, a common variety Class 3 recreational paddler encountering violent Class 4 waves at the bottom of "Table Saw" might have an experience that would fall under this category.

Note that the relative position of the boater and his equipment during the final phase of this event is immaterial to the classification. Whether the canoeist maintains a hold on the boat, and/or the paddle, and indeed, even if a "yard sale" should ensue, makes no difference in the classification. Though onlookers may find these aspects amusing and even worthy of comment, and some may even believe them to be sub-categories within the Difficult Water Exit category, scholars of the subject are in almost universal agreement that these "accompanying, extraneous features," as they are called, should not be allowed to muddle the basic simplicity of the concept set forth here.

Finally, the violence of the ejection, while providing amusement, and while worthy of comment, does not alter the classification. A fine location for observing violent Down-Stream Difficult Water Exits is at "The El" on the Big South Fork.

#### **B. The Down-Stream Difficult Water Exit (Reverse or Lateral)**

These are essentially the same as IA except that while proceeding down-stream either the stern is downstream (reverse exit) or the boat is sideways to the current (lateral exit). All other descriptors and comments are the same as in IA. Frequently occurring in connection with negotiating a ledge, these events are among the most colorful. Particularly good examples can sometimes be seen at the final ledge at "Broken Nose."

#### **C. The Sideways Difficult Water Exit**

Here, the canoeist is engaged in either an upstream (forward) ferry or a downstream (back) ferry with the boat moving laterally when the event occurs. Commonly referred to as a "blown ferry," these exits also provide amusement particularly if executed above fairly large rapids. A slight upstream motion is sometimes involved, particularly while leaving an eddy to begin the ferry. All other criteria are the same as in IA.

#### **D. The Exit Due to Indecision**

This is the first of a group of exits whose cause lies not so much in the difficulty of the water but more in a certain lack of mental acuity, alertness, or the like. For an exit to qualify for  
*continued on following page*

## **Picture of the Month**



**Ara Gureghian of Florida is touring the northeast with kayak, dog and mountain bike all on his motorcycle. Photo by Ara Gureghian, from his blog.**

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this category, the boater must be required to make a decision, usually whether to pass left or right of a rock or which of several chutes to negotiate while passing over a fairly simple ledge.

The decision is delayed (sometimes termed “phasing out”) beyond the time when it can be acted upon, and, as the canoeist finally makes a flailing attempt to choose, the boat spins wildly around the rock or tips drastically in one chute or the other and the exit follows. Onlookers are frequently dismayed and comments such as “How did he do that?” can be heard. But the dismay and comments are truly testimony to the woeful ignorance of the spectator who fails to realize that he has just witnessed a classic Exit Due to Indecision.

### E. The Exit Due to Ennui

This is, to the uninitiated, one of the most puzzling of the Moving Exits. Rarely occurring, but fully authenticated by this author, the exit begins with the boater starting a maneuver (approach, ferry, peel out, etc.) and realizing that the position, speed or angle of the boat is inadequate to the task. There is sufficient time to correct and begin again and moreover, the boater is fully capable of this. At this stage, rather than take corrective action, the boater is overcome by a certain lassitude or ennui and decides to “see what happens.”

Onlookers fully appreciate the resulting exit but fail to

appreciate its underlying cause. They sometimes attribute the cause to indecision, which it certainly is not. The entire point of this exit is that it results from a deliberate decision induced by an unexpected attack of lack of interest in the task at hand. Examples of this exit can sometimes be observed at “Power House Ledge,” resulting from an attack of ennui as the boater begins to ferry out of the river left eddy. [See Footnote #1].

### F. The Aftermath Exit

The Aftermath Exit is quite common though sometimes confused with the “Difficult Water Exit” (either down-stream or lateral). The distinction here is that the exit occurs in the aftermath of a rapid and not in difficult water.

To execute this exit, the canoeist, having successfully negotiated the rapid, turns the boat smartly toward shore. The ensuing exit is a surprise to all onlookers but not to the canoeist who, while gargling his fill, analyzes the situation after the fact.

Common causes here are (1) a slight body list while raising the paddle overhead in celebration, accompanied by a high volume of water in the boat; (2) a slight body list while turning toward shore accompanied by a full boat; (3) premature relaxation, typically while crossing an eddy line at river’s edge; (4) rapid and excessive motion while attempting to grab onto riverside branches; (5) failure to recognize the existence

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of one final small hole at the rapid's end; (6) failure to recognize a fully submerged rock in the rapid's run-out, etc. The experienced boater will no doubt be able to add other sub-categories to these causes.

An excellent spot to observe this graceful maneuver is at the bottom of very long wave trains or after very long stretches of "boogie water." Exits occurring while bouncing in holes below vertical drops do not fall in this category since in those cases the boater is not moving through the water making headway in some direction and the exit cannot qualify under the basic criteria for "Moving Exits" (but see "In-Place Exits" in next month's *Eddy Line*).

#### Footnotes

[1] An experienced open boater, on hearing the descrip-

tion of this exit, opined that it was perhaps due to low blood sugar rather than ennui. This would move the underlying cause from the class of psychological into the physical. If the author should have the opportunity to consult his physician regarding this opinion, and should the opinion appear plausible, a correction will be issued in this journal.

Needless to say, it is possible that the entire sub-category may have to be modified or even eliminated. This however would open up several new categories with physical causes including, but not limited to, unexplained twitches, bee attacks, spider bites, etc.

*Editors Note: Part 2, covering Two Craft Moving Exits, the In-Place Exit and Abandonment, will appear in the October issue of The Eddy Line.* ✂

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## Wherever Waters Flow GCA Member's Book Wins Awards

by Rick Bellows

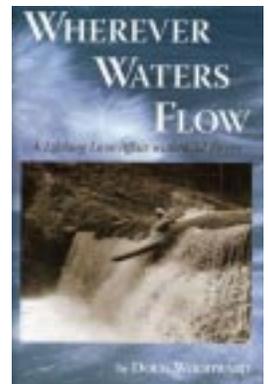
On June 1, *Wherever Waters Flow: A Lifelong Love Affair With Wild Rivers* by longtime GCA member (and probable Fall Gala guest) Doug Woodward was awarded the bronze medal for Best Regional Non-Fiction in the 11th Annual Independent Publisher Book Awards. *Wherever Waters Flow* was one of 688 regional entries and 2,690 national entries in the competition.

Earlier this year, *Wherever Waters Flow* was selected as Whitewater Book of the Year by the National Outdoor Book Awards. According to NOBA coordinator Ron Watters, "There's a relaxing, down home feel to this book - and plenty of warmth. Woodward spent a good portion of his life turning kids onto

kayaking and he has some great stories to tell. Summed up, it's a big-hearted, doggone good book."

Doug Woodward has been a newspaper and magazine writer and photographer for more than 40 years, including stints with *Canoe* and *Paddler*. He has been a GCA member for 38 years and now lives in western North Carolina, where he is still an active paddler.

*Wherever Waters Flow* is available at High Country or at REI in Atlanta, or directly from [headwaterspublishing.com](http://headwaterspublishing.com). Many longtime GCA members are in the book: you can check for your name in the index on the same website. ✂



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## It's Up To You Time To Choose *Eddy Line* Masthead

by Rick Bellows

The entries are in and the time has come to choose a masthead for *The Eddy Line* for the foreseeable future. Besides the "old" and "new" mastheads that have already been used, only one entry was submitted by a GCA member.

Reduced versions of the three choices are shown on Page 1. To help keep them straight, they have been given names: "Traditional," "Crossed Paddles" and "Background Boats." Which of the three would you prefer to see at the top of Page 1 on future editions of *The Eddy Line*?

Voting is easy, and no picture ID is required. All you need to do is communicate your vote to me in writing. Votes can be mailed to ***The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441**, or emailed to **[the\\_eddyline@yahoo.com](mailto:the_eddyline@yahoo.com)**. Please include your name along with your vote as a means of

avoiding election fraud: your vote will be kept confidential. In order to avoid confusion, votes must be mailed or emailed: votes won't be accepted by telephone or in face to face conversation.

I had originally hoped to have the votes counted and the decision made in time for the October edition of the newsletter, but I have been hearing that mail service is slow and that some members aren't getting the newsletter before the start of the month as intended. With that in mind, the deadline for votes to be received is September 20. Since that is after the deadline for the October issue, the winning masthead will be in place beginning with the November *Eddy Line*.

Your input into how *The Eddy Line* looks and what's in it is not limited to the masthead contest. If you don't like something how the newsletter looks or what's in, or if you especially do like something about it, please don't hesitate to make your opinion known. Better yet, contribute an article, a letter to the editor, a trip report, a picture or a cartoon. It is, after all, your newsletter. ✂

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## Chattooga Update USFS “Scoping Package” Released

by Rick Bellows

On August 14, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) released its “scoping package,” a set of six “preliminary alternatives for future management of recreational uses on the upper section of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.” The USFS is now taking public comments on the alternatives in the “scoping package,” in preparation for an “alternatives workshop” on Saturday, September 29. The time and location of the “alternatives workshop” have not yet been announced.

The information release by USFS consisted of a three page press release and the eleven page “scoping package” of alternatives and supporting documents. The “scoping package” and press release are available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms>. Comments can be emailed to [comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us) or mailed to John Cleaves, U.S. forest Service, 4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212. The deadline for comments is 4:00 p.m. on September 13, 2007.

Three of the six alternatives proposed by USFS (numbers 1, 2 and 3) maintain the boating ban: the remaining three (4, 5 and 6) permit boating in different places under different circumstances. The three alternatives that continue the boat-

ing ban also provide for enhanced “woody debris recruitment,” while the three that permit boating provide for “limited woody debris removal.”

Alternative #1 is to maintain the status quo. The boating ban would remain in place, the size of groups using the river or corridor for other purposes such as angling, camping or hiking would remain unregulated and no permits or self-reservation would be required. Nothing would be done to preclude further user-created trails or to control the number or location of user-created campsites and the number of parking spaces could be increased. According to USFS, the status quo includes recruiting woody debris in general while removing large items woody debris on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative #1 is the alternative that differs most strikingly from the remaining five. Except for #1, all the alternatives would limit group size to 12 people, make most of the existing user-created trails official while prohibiting the creation of new ones, make most of the existing user-created campsites official, limit camping to the designated campsites and prohibit new user-created campsites and fire rings. Alternatives 2-6 would all provide for no net increase in parking, and all of them except Alternative 3 would impose a no-fee self-registration requirement (similar to the boating permits on the lower Chattooga).

The stated purpose of Alternative #2 is to “manage

encounters,” and the stated goal is to allow no more than three encounters per day except within 300 feet of Burrell’s Ford Bridge. If users experience more than three encounters per day, an unspecified “permitting system” would be implemented for all users. In addition to the boating ban and other



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changes common to all the alternatives except #1, Alternative #2 would require 200 feet between occupied campsites rather than the 100 feet specified in alternatives 3-6. Alternative #2 would also allow one campsite per quarter mile of river.

USFS says Alternative #3 is intended to minimize biophysical

impacts. In addition to maintaining the boating ban, Alternative #3 is largely the same as Alternative #2: the primary difference is that Alternative #3 does not require self-registration for all users.

Except for allowing boating upstream of Highway 28 and providing for “limited woody debris removal,” Alternatives 4, 5 and 6 largely track the provisions of Alternatives 2 and 3. All three would impose the limits on user-created trails and campsites, would limit the number of campsites and would require self registration for all users, including boaters. The primary differences between alternative 4, 5 and 6 is in how they address the matter of boating.

Alternatives 4, 5 and 6 all limit boating to “single-capacity hard boats and single-capacity inflatable kayaks.” All three also impose a limit of six people per boating group.

Alternative #4 is complicated. It would prohibit boating adjacent to private property and would allow a maximum of 4 boating groups (maximum six boaters per group) per day. Those boaters would be permitted to paddle from below the private property (specifically “from the existing user-created trail stemming from the Chattooga River Trail, approximately 4/10 mile below private land on the west side of the river”) to Bull Pen Road Bridge, without seasonal or flow limitations. From Bull Pen Bridge to a quarter mile above Burrell’s Ford, boating would be allowed only from December 1 through March 31, and then only at flows of 400 cfs (at Burrells Ford) or 2.4 feet (at Highway 76).

Alternative #5, which is also complicated, would allow boating between Grimshawes Bridge and Lick Log Creek. It has the same group restrictions (maximum of 4 groups with a maximum of 6 boaters each), with one additional twist: if self-registration “permits” indicated more than the allowed number of boaters, “permits in advance” would be required to paddle between Grimshawes Bridge and Burrell’s Ford. The same provision would apply (but is listed separately, with no explanation) for the section between Burrell’s Ford and Lick

Log Creek. Paddling on both parts of the section would be allowed only at or above flows of 350 cfs (at Burrell’s Ford) or 2.3 feet (at Highway 76). As I read Alternative 5, boating would still be banned between Lick Log Creek and Highway 28.

Alternative #6 is the most pro-boater of the three boating alternatives (and is certainly the simplest). Boating would be allowed between Grimshawes Bridge and Highway 28 with no seasonal or flow restrictions. The only restrictions would be a maximum of six people per group and the limitation to single-capacity hard boats or inflatable kayaks.

## Editorial

### Support Alternative 6, But ...

by Rick Bellows

None of the six alternatives set out by USFS in its “scoping package” is perfect, but the least bad of the six is Alternative 6. The boating community should support Alternative 6, but should also urge the Forest Service (USFS) to modify it to better protect the river and river corridor from damage by boats and boaters.

Alternative #1, which maintains the status quo, is clearly unacceptable. Alternatives #2 through #6 are very similar in their treatment of user-created trails and campsites and the number and location of campsites. All five include important and necessary steps to limit damage to the resource from all users, including boaters.

Prohibiting user-created trails is a good idea, but a problem for paddlers. The study commissioned by USFS found that allowing boating would require a few short user-created portage trails, which would not noticeably impact the resource. The alternatives should be clarified or amended to permit, but limit, such trails.

Alternative #2 seeks to prevent “encounters” (a euphemism for “we don’t want to look at boaters”) primarily by continuing the boating ban. Alternative #3 should be rejected both because it maintains the boating ban and because it does not require the self registration of all users that is essential to gain reliable information.

Alternatives #4 and #5 impose season and/or flow restrictions on boating, and allow boating only on certain portions of the river, but provide no rational basis for the distinction. While seasonal and/or flow restrictions may prove necessary, there is no basis for saying they are necessary now. The USFS should allow boating and, after a reasonable period, analyze reliable, real-life data to determine what, if any, seasonal and flow restrictions are necessary.

The boating community should support Alternative #6, with amendments or clarifications to allow and limit creation of portage trails and allow for the possibility of future seasonal, flow or location limitations if, and only if, need for them is demonstrated.



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## Tellico Trip Report

by Denise Keller

**GCA Color Coordinator and Paddler Extraordinaire**

I saw an article in the recent Eddyline saying that there were no trip reports. Well, I've got one about my first time on the Tellico. Enjoy!!

June 31st and Tom and I are heading to the Tellico River for my first run. Allen Hedden had promised to take me tandem canoeing and called the night before to see if I wanted to do Tellico. "Sure I will." After about a half hour, I called Allen back to tell him that "I am a big girl now and I will run Tellico in my beautiful, color coordinated purple RPM kayak." I think he was relieved. I know he was!!

We meet up with Christine Blumberg, Edward Stockman, Doug Ackerman and John Hudgens at the put-in above Top Ledge. We get in our boats and headed for the Top Ledge. I aced it, but Christine didn't: she flipped, and so did Edward.

Next is Middle Ledge, an 8 foot drop. Allen said "Follow me." "No," I said, "I'm a big girl now and can read the river just fine, thank you!" I aced it!! But not Tom: he flipped at the top and had to ride the rapid out until he could roll up, just barely.

Here comes Baby Falls, a 15 foot drop, followed by Diaper Wiper. John asked me if I was going to run it. "Yeah,

I'm going to run it. I'm a big girl now." I asked John if he was going to run it. "No way!" he said, and portaged: what a wimp!!

Everyone that ran this rapid all took a swim, except me: I aced it!! I had an awesome boof on Jared's Knee, but got flipped at the end. I had such an awesome roll up that all the open boaters stood up in their boats to applaud me. That's when Doug flipped.

We're heading into Hell Hole. Wait a minute - that's on the Ocoee. Ah, who cares, it's all in Tennessee. Anyway, I aced it and was play boating in the bottom hole. I was fabulous! I put Eric Jackson to shame. No kidding!

The final rapid was Bounce Off Boulder. I was amazing!! I decided to run this rapid backwards and with no paddle. I aced it! No doubt. Edward nearly passed out from fright.

Oh, no!! I just got busted by Tom. He said that I needed to stop telling lies to the club. "Everyone knows that there's been no water in Tellico for months." "Hell Hole? On Tellico?" he pointed out. He also pointed out that "Remember, you are the self-proclaimed paddler who said she didn't care about paddling, only how color coordinated she was."

Then he told me that "if you don't stop telling fibs, its going to be a sin and you'll have to spend next Saturday in church and confession." I hadn't stopped to think about that. Geez!!

OK, I'm sorry!! (But I had fun telling lies!!)



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## Etowah River

by Lamar Phillips

We met at the boat ramp below Altoona Dam for a paddle down the beautiful Etowah on July 21. Buddy Goolsby and I had planned this trip hoping to get some of our new members on the river participating in a club paddle. We were pleased when we had 27 sign up, including 9 new members from the Explorer Series and 5 other new members.

We had 14 vehicles to shuttle and only the shuttle leader knew the way to the take out. We made a wrong turn into a manufacturing plant and had to make a "U" turn. The leader stopped once to make sure we were all still with him and we blocked an intersection, but finally completed a "successful" shuttle and got on the river.

The water was very clear with a slight current and some of us saw several fish. We reached the low head dam and assisted each other with the portage. Other than heavy grass and kudzu, it was not a bad portage.

Unfortunately, they have added several feet of rock and rip rap since our last paddle on this section of the Etowah and

we had to lug our boats over the rock to get them launched. After a short rest, we paddled on down to the Indian Mounds and had lunch and a couple of folks took a short swim.

Pumpkin Vine Creek comes into the Etowah at this point and brings a lot of silt with it. Fortunately, most of the silt flows down the left side of the river so the right side is still relatively clear.

This section of the river contain some old Indian fish weirs that were built in the river a couple of centuries back and have survived. There were a few minor rapids that all enjoyed.

We arrived at the take out after about 5 hours on the river. Everyone seemed to have a great time and the weather was terrific.

Our take out is on private property and the owner, John Ladd (Ladd Farm Supply on Hwy 113 & Euharlee Rd), has a very nice ramp and parking area that he allows folks to use at no charge. Not many folks like him now days!



TRIP REPORTS

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## Woody Debris and Low Water

by Rick Bellows

Two recent incidents on the Cheoah serve as a reminder of the risks presented by woody debris, especially in fast-flowing, dam-fed streams. In April, a paddler drowned on the Cheoah when her shorts snagged on an underwater branch. (Eddy Line, June, 2007.)

More recently, a student paddler at NOC had to be rescued when his kayak overturned onto the stump of a felled tree, pinning his skirt and his leg. (A detailed report of the incident, and of a re-enactment of it with the dam not running, is at <http://nocpaddlingschool.blogspot.com> - scroll to Tuesday, August 14.)

One issue brought to light by these incidents is largely limited to the Cheoah. The organized, large-scale removal of woody debris from the long-dry riverbed before the flow was resumed may have resulted in some of that debris being more dangerous rather than less so.

Before you cut back woody debris, think about not only the danger it presents now, but also the danger it will present afterwards. A standing tree is a serious but obvious danger: the stump of a felled tree may well

be a deadly and hidden danger, especially if the cutting leaves it sharp and it is just below a rapid or pourover.

The other issue brought to light by the Cheoah incidents is more general: when it comes to woody debris, lower water can mean higher danger.

A river is not the same place at very low levels as it is at normal flow. Stumps, rocks and other objects that are in deep water at normal flow can become hazards at lower levels. And shallow areas at normal flow may become places to get stuck at lower level- not a good thing if you're the first of several boats in line.



And this particular danger isn't limited to rivers. The drought has resulted in incidents of boats hitting trees or other underwater features on Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona, and I can see newly exposed when I cross the bridge over Lake Lanier. Paddlers on West Point Lake always need to be alert for tree tops.

Be careful out there. Take your time and scout the places where you can't see in advance the stumps and rocks you usually just glide over.



Re-enactment, with the water off, of the near fatal pin on the Cheoah. Photo of Sean Corbett by Jon Clark of NOC.

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## 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](mailto:the_eddyline@yahoo.com). Please, no phone-in or hand-written ads. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

**For Sale:** 2003 Liquid Logic Skip, \$275 OBO. Yellow, hardly used. Call Don or Donna at 423.894.7624 or 423.987.1232 (Chattanooga).

**For Sale:** Wave Sport Forplay, \$350. Great playboat in very good condition. Can be seen at Wildwood Outfitters. Gary Gaines, 770.654.5501.

**For Sale:** Wilderness System Pamlico 120, \$250. Orange, 6 months old, great condition. Bruce, 678.389.4862 or 706.346.0404 (cell), [chisholm0894@comcast.net](mailto:chisholm0894@comcast.net).

### Thoughts on a Fallen Bridge

by Rick Bellows

I've considered Georgia my home for quite a few years, but I was born and raised in Minnesota and was there when the I-35W bridge collapsed. I've probably crossed over it a thousand times or more, and under it a hundred times or more. Since the collapse is river-related and very much on my mind, I thought I'd seize the opportunity to impose my scattered thoughts on anyone who cares to read on.

First and foremost, I was reminded that many average, everyday people are caring and heroic. Before authorities arrived, dozens of drivers, bystanders and passers-by helped get people out of cars, off the rubble and out of the water, often at substantial risk to themselves. When the authorities arrived, most quietly disappeared. Nobody knows their names, but the folks they helped will never forget their actions.

As more and more information came to light, I was amazed at the ability of human beings to survive. More than 80 vehicles were on the bridge when it collapsed and many fell 65-70 feet to the river, but it appears only a dozen or so people will turn out to have been killed.

I was also reminded of the war-like fog that accompanies any sudden disaster. Within a couple of hours after the

collapse, the media were reporting seven confirmed dead. The middle of the following morning, the number suddenly dropped to four. I couldn't help wondering who was "confirming" the death toll for the media.

When the current from the small hydro-electric dam just upstream of the bridge severely hindered recovery efforts in the two days after the collapse, it seemed to me the boats some of us paddle might have been useful. I can't think of anything that would have been better for getting around and through the wreckage than flat-bottomed canoes and displacement-hulled kayaks.

In the days after the collapse, Minnesota newspapers were full of stories about previous inspections of the bridge and its score of 50 (of a possible 100) on an evaluation for structural integrity. Minnesota has 37 other bridges with the same rating or a lower one: some carry more than 100,000 vehicles per day. But Minnesota is in a category of states with relatively few "problem" bridges: Georgia is one of the states with a relatively high number.

In the week after the collapse, attention began to focus on a possible design defect in the bridge and on other bridges of the same design. Minnesota has five bridges of the same design. Georgia has some as well, including the Highway 53 bridge over Lake Lanier in Gainesville. ✂

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Georgia Canoe Association Member:

I am writing in regards to taking the membership of the Georgia Canoe Association back to its members. We, as members, need to participate in decision making of our club.

First and foremost, members should participate in all issues of importance. Where does the money go and who makes the decisions? Why do the officers make the decisions for the club we are in? Why are the financial statements not published in our newsletter?

I need your vote and support for the upcoming election for the post of GCA president. I will personally call each of you when the time nears to inform you of the meeting place where elections are held.

Some of the issues I would like to see are complete financial statements posted in the newsletter yearly, minutes

printed monthly, and general membership (by majority) vote on all issues of importance. There will be a survey of members for needs for races and competitions.

I would like for GCA to be involved with American Whitewater to help sponsor a Southeastern river festival to illustrate how great our rivers and supporters are in this area. I would also like to initiate more instruction in all river programs including children's and women's programs.

In summary, I would like to be elected to the post of president in order to protect majority vote of membership and to uphold the purpose of the post. If you have any ideas concerning our club, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Joe Webb, RN CCRN CEN  
770-914-2985, 678-986-2048 (cell)  
[webb3657@msn.com](mailto:webb3657@msn.com) ✂

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## REMAINING 2007 GCA INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & CLINIC INFORMATION

### EQUIPMENT:

You must furnish all of your own equipment. You will receive a detailed list of required and recommended equipment.

### FEES:

Two Day classes are \$65.00 for instruction or events. One Day classes are \$35.00

Fees included American Canoe Association Insurance: ACA members' fees are reduced by \$10 per class or event.

### 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.**

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

See previous editions of *The Eddy Line* or contact Gina and Haynes Johnson, Haynesandgina@alltel.net.

### INTERMEDIATE WHITE WATER KAYAK & CANOE:

Participants should be comfortable paddling class II-III whitewater such as the Nantahala, wish to master the kayakroll in rapids 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) an

### 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>

## REMAINING 2007 INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

### Whitewater Kayak

Nantahala Falls (Working in the Falls)

September 8 & 9

Louis Boulanger

Louis.boulanger@ece.gatech.edu

### Whitewater Canoe(Solo & Tandem)

Intermediate

September 8 & 9 (Tuckasegee) and

September 29 & 30 (Nantahala)

Haynes and Gina Johnson

Haynesandgina@alltel.net

### Sea Kayak (call for class fees)

Sea Kayak Weekend - Charleston

Sept 29 & 30

Steve Cramer, cramersec@charter.net

CLINIC \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

SEX \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIES OR PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES: \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITIES OR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS: \_\_\_\_\_



Starting September 1 we will start  
selling our DEMO gear including  
boats, pfd's, paddles and helmets

As always GCA members get 10% off all paddling accessories.  
The Outside World will beat any local advertised sale  
on all in-stock kayaks!!!  
\*all prices are on in-stock boats



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706-265-4500 or 1-866-375-BOAT  
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