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THE EDDY LINE

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April 2008

Safety Boaters Needed Georgia River Explorer Series

by William Gatling, GCA Resource Development Chair

The 2008 Georgia River Explorer Series will consist of paddles March 29 on the Ocmulgee (Wise Creek to Georgia Highway 83) the Broad (U.S. Highway 129 to Broad River Outpost) and April 26 on the Etowah (Georgia Highway 9 to Kelly Bridge Road). This second annual GRES will once again target new boaters who want to paddle only one day at a time rather than for a week in Paddle Georgia.

The April 26 trip on the Dawson Forest section of the Etowah will coincide with the dedication ceremony for Dawson County's new put-in. The start time for the paddle will be coordinated with the start time for the ceremony, and some of the VIP's invited to the ceremony will hopefully paddle along with the GRES group. (See related article on page 7.)

Last year's GRES attracted 50 participants, some of whom became active members of GCA. In fact, one has recently become GCA Secretary (see page 6). And one even sold his bass boat. The 2007 GRES also raised \$1,000 for the GCA River Access Fund.

LOTS of safety boaters will be needed for each GRES trip. The only requirement is to be willing to help inexperienced boaters down the river on one, two or all three trips. For information on volunteering, see the GRES website at www.georgiariverexplorer.org.

Volunteers Still (Hopefully) Needed April 5-6 Tallulah Gorge Releases Still Undecided

by Joan Hutton, Volunteer Coordinator

As of press time, Georgia Power had not yet issued a decision whether the spring Tallulah Gorge releases would happen as planned the first two weekends in April. Until the decision is made, Volunteer Coordinator Joan Hutton is proceeding on the assumption the releases will happen.

GCA is responsible for volunteers the first weekend, April 5-6. Saturday slots are filling fast, but more and better locations are still available for Sunday. If you can't volunteer that weekend, Paddlers 4 Christ is providing volunteers for the weekend of April 12-13: P4C'ers get first shot at the slots that weekend, but they may well need some additional folks. Email Joan at hutton_jg@yahoo.com to volunteer for either weekend.

And don't forget the new attraction this year, the "Kayak Hike." If the releases happen, Rangers will lead groups down Sliding Rock Trail to watch the kayakers brave Bridal Veil. The hike is a strenuous descent and climb of the a 750-foot boulder field. More info at <http://gastateparks.org/info/tallulah/>. Make a weekend of it: volunteer one day, hike the other.



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OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Keeping In Touch

To contact GCA, write Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357, leave a message at 770.421.9729 or contact one of the folks listed above.

Groupmail: GCA maintains a group email list to help members share information of general interest. To sign up, go to gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Website: Information about GCA, forms (including membership application and GCA waiver form), a link to the GCA Store and links to *Eddy Line* advertisers are all at www.georgiacanoe.org.

All About *The Eddy Line*

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in print or pdf format. To subscribe, contact Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734 or heloeddy@mindspring.com, or mail your request to P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357.

Submissions/Advertising: All submissions and advertising should be sent to *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA, 30503-0441 or the_eddyline@yahoo.com.

Deadline: The deadline for all submissions, classified ads and commercial ads is the 5th of the previous month (e.g. May 5 for the June issue).

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UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

April				
4-6	Suwanee River (Note 1)	Beginner	Jamie Higgins	jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com
5	Trip Coordinator Clinic	All Levels (see page 5)	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
5	Ocoee	Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
6	Ocoee	Advanced	Peter Chau	864.885.9477
12	Upper Chattahoochee	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
18-20	Altamaha (Note 2)	Beginner	Lamar Phillips	770.939.5087
19	Toccoa (Note 3)	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
20	Chattahoochee (Note 4)	Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
26	Lower Amicalola	Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
27	Fightingtown Creek	Trained Beginner	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
May				
3	Cartecay	Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
10	Upper Amicalola	Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
June				
8	Cartecay	Trained Beginner	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767

Note 1: Live Oak, Florida overnight camping - details on page 4. (If you don't have email, please call Cruisemaster.)

Note 2: Paddle camping on the sandbars along the river. Latecomers can join Saturday.

Note 3: Toccoa Valley Campground to Take-Out Past Party Rock

Note 4: Centralhatchee to Franklin, all skill levels, all craft.

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS

Flat Water - no current will be encountered; safe for new paddlers.

Beginner - mild current, occasional Class 1 ripples; new paddlers can learn basic river techniques.

Trained Beginner - moving water with Class 1-2 rapids; basic strokes and bracing skills needed.

Intermediate - rapids up to Class 3; eddying and ferrying skills needed; kayakers need solid roll.

Advanced - rapids up to Class 4; excellent boat control and self-rescue skills required.

For more about "class" ratings of rapids, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitewater>.

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 Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263.

To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Call Cruisemaster, 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.

Announcements



Monthly 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 Tom Bishop at 404.542.1118 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. ✂

Another Suwannee Trip

by Jamie Higgins

I loved the Suwannee so much that I've decided to lead another GCA outing on April 4-6. This time I plan to do an overnight camp from your boat trip in the vicinity of Live Oak, Florida. The plan is to travel down on Thursday, April 3 and get an early start on April 4.

We'll paddle Fri-Sun and average 12-14 miles per day. My plan is to camp one night at one of the new river camps along the river one night and then sleep on a sand bar another night. The river camps can only be accessed by boat and have a raised, screened platform with a toilet and showers. We'll finish our paddling on Sunday afternoon to return home.

Send me an email (jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com) or call me (404-508-0761) if you are interested in joining us. ✂

East Coast Canoe/Kayak Festival

by Jamie Higgins

This year I'm going to the East Coast Canoe and Kayak Festival in Charleston, SC on April 18-20 and invite other GCA'ers to join me. The Festival is an annual event where they offer all sorts of classes ranging from sea kayak expeditions to surf kayak lessons to canoe stroke clinics.

There are also many inexpensive clinics offered by some of the world's best canoe and kayak instructors (Nigel Foster, Bob Foote, Karen Knight, Ben Lawry, etc.). With the registration fee also comes sunrise and sunset paddling tours of the harbor and marsh.

There will also be over 40 vendors and all sorts of different boats to demo. So if you are in the market to buy a boat (especially a sea kayak), then it's worth the money to

Keep Your Email Address Current

Each month numerous "copies" of the pdf version of *The Eddy Line* bounce back due to bad or outdated email addresses. If email to you bounces back, you will be deleted from the recipient list until we get an updated email address.

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. If your email changes, please "unsubscribe" and resubscribe with your new address.

Thank you. ✂

Support Our Advertisers

The GCA web site now features a "GCA Supporters" web page with links to those who support GCA financially by advertising in *The Eddy Line*. Help those who help us — patronize our advertisers, And when you do, let them know you saw their *Eddy Line* ad and appreciate their support. Thanks! ✂

attend. For a separate fee, campsites (tent and RV) are available, as well as breakfast and dinner.

For more info about the Festival go to their website: <http://www.ccprc.com/index.asp?nid=472>. Let me know if you are going and maybe we can gather up fellow GCA'ers to socialize in the evenings. Email me at jmhiggins_99@yahoo.com or call at 404-508-0761 if you are interested in going. ✂

Spring Extravaganza May 17-18

by Joe Webb, GCA Social Chair

The 2008 Spring Extravaganza will be at OAR near the Ocoee River on May 17 and 18. It will include booths for used boats and camping equipment, for \$10 which will be used by the GCA for training. There will also be three bands on Saturday night, a downriver race at noon Saturday with a \$5 entry fee and a playboat competition, also with a \$5 entry fee.

OAR is near many rivers including the upper and lower Ocoee, the Hiwassee and GCA favorites like the Nantahala and the Tuck. The Cheoah should also be running.

There is lots of camping and barracks-like cabins available. The number for reservations is 800.627.7636 and more information is available on their website, www.raft.com. The manager, Suzanne, will be glad to provide any help you need.

On Sunday morning, Board members will cook breakfast for a \$15 donation to cover the meal and the entertainment, with the remainder to go to the training fund. The GCA meeting will open after breakfast. At the meeting, I will introduce the "Board maximus" that has been in place for a lifetime so you will know who those mysterious people are and the new Board members recently elected.

For more information, contact Joe Webb at 678.986.2048 or webb3657@msn.com. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

April 4-6 - La Lou Canoe Symposium, Mandeville, LA - laloucanoe.com.

April 5 - Canoochee River Race, Claxton - 11 miles - Melanie Hendrix, 912.764.2017, www.ogeecheecanoocheeriverkeeper.org.

April 18-20 - East Coast Canoe and Kayak Festival, Charleston, SC - <http://www.ccprc.com/index.asp?nid=472>.

April 19 - 12 Mile Canoe and Kayak Race, Clemson, SC - 8 miles - Jim Normandin, 864.836.7400, paddler98@bellsouth.net.

April 26 - Oostanaula Race and Canoe-A-Thon, Rome - 13 miles - Joe Cook, 706.232.2724, www.coosa.org.

May 3 - Paddle for the Border (Reversed), South Mills, NC to Chesapeake, VA - 7.5 miles - Registration deadline April 15 - Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, 252.771.8333 or 877.771.8333, dscwelcome@camdencountync.gov.

May 17-24 - Paddlin' Alabama, Alabama Scenic River Trail, Rome, Georgia to Gadsden, Alabama - Richard@georgiakayaker.com.

June 14 - Chattahoochee Race and Festival, Atlanta - 8 miles/10 miles - Tammy Morrissey, 404.352.9828, www.chattahoochee.org.

Saturday, April 5

GCA Trip Coordinator Clinic

by Brannen Proctor

Have you ever thought about coordinating a GCA paddling trip, but didn't know what it involved, or if the GCA would consider you qualified to be a trip coordinator? You don't have to be an advanced level paddler, you don't have to be a swiftwater rescue expert, and you don't need super organization skills.

While just about anyone in the GCA could be a trip coordinator, there are a few rules to follow, and knowing ahead of time what you need to do will make the trip more

Paddle Georgia June 21-27

Georgia River Network has announced that Paddle Georgia 2008 will take place on the Flint River from Woodbury to Montezuma, Georgia. Dates for Paddle Georgia will be June 21-27. More information at www.garivers.org. <

Paddlin' Alabama May 17-24

GCA member Richard Grove will lead the initial Paddlin' Alabama on the Coosa River on May 17-24, 2008. Unlike Paddle Georgia, Paddlin' Alabama will be a semi-wilderness trip. There will also be a quarter-mile portage at a dam.

More information on Paddlin' Alabama can be obtained from Richard Grove at Richard@georgiakayaker.com. <



June 21-27 - Paddle Georgia 2008, Flint River, Woodbury to Montezuma - www.garivers.org.

July 10-13 - 2008 Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver National Championships, French Broad River, Section 9 (between Barnard and Hot Springs - www.fbcanoeracing.org/nationals.html).

August 30 - Savannah Riverfest, Augusta - 8 miles - Frank Carl, 706.364.5253, www.savannahriverkeeper.org.

October 13 - Suwannee River Challenge and Marathon, White Spring, FL - 26 miles/52 miles - Rod Price, 407.227.5606, rodprice@hotmail.com.

enjoyable for everyone, including yourself. If you want to know what you have to do to put together a fun and safe day on the water for yourself, old paddling friends and new paddling friends, then come to the GCA Trip Coordinator Clinic and find out from several longtime trip coordinators.

The clinic will be held Saturday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, at Page Perry LLC, 1040 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 1050, Atlanta GA 30338 (near Perimeter Mall).

There is no fee for the Trip Coordinator Clinic, but you must register ahead of time. To register, or if you have questions, contact Brannen Proctor, 770.664.7384 or bproctor@mindspring.com. <

GCA Store is Now Online

The GCA Store is now online on the GCA website. The store is at www.georgiacanoe.org/id45.html.

The GCA Store has men's and women's Picque Knit Sport Shirts in a variety of colors and sizes. The store also has the new River Rats t-shirt with the "Whatever Floats Your Boat" logo, designed by Betty Rose and shown in her ad on page 11, on the back in full color. The t-shirt is "natural" color.

Also available are the remaining t-shirts from the highly successful 2007 Georgia River Explorer Series in larger sizes. The store also has a white t-shirt embroidered with the GCA logo and a cap, also embroidered with the GCA logo, in a variety of colors. <

Executive Committee - 02/07

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)

1. With regard to the SE Races: USACK dues were refunded to Roger Nott. A \$30.00 contribution was returned to Mr. George Hedrick. GCA's net profit was \$33.08.

2. Trial membership dues are being set at \$5.00 per month.

3. In response to a question by Kate Wilkerson, Treasurer reported that a record of payments from the River Access Fund is being maintained.



MEETING

seem to be a potential article for *The Eddy Line*.

2. General discussion on Blueway and means to regain momentum on the issue. Chair indicated the issue is currently embroiled in public legal discussions. No resolution by the Committee.

3. General discussion was conducted regarding posted signs on the Etowah River. No resolution by the Committee.

Member Services (Chair Kate Wilkerson)

1. General discussion was conducted regarding response rate to e-mail survey. GCA has no firm handle on composition or accuracy of membership e-mail list. Resolution: In April a notice will be sent to all current e-mail addressees and a notice will be included in April's *Eddy Line* requesting each member to respond with his/her desire for e-mail or paper copy delivery of *The Eddy Line*. No later than May all members who have requested paper copy delivery or who have a bounced e-mail address will continue to receive a paper copy delivery. All others will be shifted to an e-mail delivery.

2. Kate requested help on advertising. No resolution by the Committee.

3. Chair reports she has sold approximately \$120.00 of GCA merchandise.

Recreation (Chair Joe Webb)

Chair not present. General comment from the floor that Joe is working on the Spring Extravaganza on the Ocoee at Rock Creek.

Training (Chair Gina Johnson)

1. General discussion of obtaining a certified kayak instructor trainer with the objective of enabling GCA to certify instructors within GCA. Motion made to have Tom Bishop

take the lead in becoming a certified instructor trainer. Resolution: Motion was tabled until next Board meeting.

2. General discussion was held concerning the upcoming schedule of training clinics. Resolution: Schedule will be published in *The Eddy Line*.

Resource Development (Chair William Gatling)

1. General discussion of schedule of events for upcoming Georgia River Explorer Series (GRES). Cost schedule per participant is set at \$50.00 for one river or \$100.00 for all three rivers. Prices will include one child accompanying free for each paying adult. Insurance costs for the River Series have gone down.

2. Chair reported that advertising for this year's GRES seems not to be as effective as desired. Response by interested participants has been slow.

3. Chair requested input/ideas to establish some means of identifying the coordinators of each paddle. Resolution: Suggestion made to use GCA colored racing bibs.

Georgia Paddle Trails (Chair Lamar Phillips)

1. Chair reports there is no movement on the project.

2. Chair indicates he would like to step down from chair position, or perhaps to abolish the entire project.

3. In light of above comments, together with similarity of committee functions, a general discussion was held concerning the possibility of combing the Paddle Trails Committee with the River Protection Committee. No resolution by the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Southeastern Races:

1. Motion made by Dan MacIntyre to task Roger Nott with continuing to provide the leadership for GCAss participation in the Southeasterns. Proposed date is first weekend in October 2008. Motion seconded by Jamie Higgins. Discussion followed. Resolution: Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED



GRES Alumnus

Meet Our New Secretary

by Bill Fox, GCA Secretary

Little Billy Fox. Well let's see..

A native of Florida, Bill Fox grew up on the Gulf Coast when that area was not much more than sand dunes and sand-spurs - not a high rise in sight. He spent much of his school summers navigating the west Florida shrimper fleets south to the Mexican Campeche Flats (back when there were shrimp in the Gulf).

Like most red-blooded southern young men of his era, shortly after school, Bill joined the Armed Forces. During his military career of 23 years, in addition to much of the U.S., Bill was posted throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, saw most of the Pacific Rim, which included several tours of

Vietnam (where it was hotter than hell) and two duty tours above the Arctic Circle and the Bering Sea (where it was colder than hell). Being a "good" soldier, Bill somehow managed to rise through the ranks until he retired as a senior Chief Warrant Officer (CWO4).

While he was in the military, Uncle Sam was good enough to send Bill to college and on to graduate school. On developing a love for applied research and teaching, in addition to three Masters Degrees, Bill took his PhD from New York University in organizational strategic planning and in social psychology. On finishing his doctorate, Bill spent the next 12 years with graduate faculty appointments at New York University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and finally taking a

Deanship at Cumberland University where he retired again.

Bill and wife Cherie live in Gainesville. However, they spend much of their time traveling the country in a motor-home RV. Their children are firmly ensconced in California.

Although having spent most his life on or near the water, Bill began paddling only a year ago, having been introduced to the kayak through GCA's River Explorer Series. He aspires to become real comfortable in Class 2+ water, and vows to run a Class 3 river once and only once. Bill seems to like those lazy, yet scenic, flat water rivers of the South.

He says, "I looking forward to many more pleasant days paddling, and to serving the organization that introduced me to such a thoroughly enjoyable activity." 

On the Etowah, Amicalola Improvements in Dawson County

by Rick Bellows

Two major projects have made access to the Etowah and Amicalola rivers in Dawson County much easier.

On the Etowah, construction is winding up on the new put-in at Highway 9, the start of the Dawson Forest section of the river. The put-in, which will include ample parking and a short flight of steps to the water, replaces the steep, cramped put-in under the Highway 9 bridge. Other improvements, including a visual gauge and informational billboards, are planned.



ACCESS

An opening ceremony for the new put-in is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, April 26. As it happens, April 26 was also the date chosen for the last of this year's three Georgia River Explorer Series paddles on, coincidentally, the Dawson Forest section of the Etowah.

Rather than interfering with each other, these two events are being coordinated to complement each other. Details are still in the works, but the basic plan is for the GRES paddlers to be there for the ceremony, which will essentially end with the group launching on down the river. The GRES paddlers will hopefully be joined by dignitaries and others paddling after the ceremony.

The new put-in was financed by Dawson County and build by the county with the assistance of Mountain Stewards, including GCA's Haynes Johnson. The original plan was for the put-in to be financed with state money, but the process of obtaining and using those funds became so long and arduous that the county decided to use its own funds for the put-in.

The new put-in will be operated by Dawson County at no charge to users. The take-out at Kelly Bridge Road, however, remains private and still has a parking fee. Without a safe and handy take-out, the usefulness of the new put-in would be severely limited, so it's important that we pay the parking fee

at Kelly Bridge and that we make sure to leave the place at least as clean as we find it.

On the Amicalola, a handicapped-accessible "trail" (actually a boardwalk with a concrete section under the bridge) has been added to the state-operated put-in/take-out at Highway 53. The new trail runs from the paved parking area upstream of the bridge to about 200 yards downstream of the bridge, just upstream of the first significant rapid on the Lower Amicalola.

Along with the foot paths still running upstream from the parking lot and the footpath continuing downstream beyond the end of the boardwalk, the new trail allows an easy walk back upstream from about 300 yards below the bridge to 400-500 yards upstream of the bridge: a half-mile, Class 2 park-n-play.



SAFETY

For those not familiar with the river, Upper Amicalola trips taking out at the Highway 53 takeout usually begin at a state-built put-in in the campground often called "6-Mile" because it is 6 miles upstream of Highway 53. An alternate put-in, Steele Bridge, is 2.3 mile upstream of Highway 53.

The new "trail" and the handicapped parking spaces are intended to allow handicapped access to the bridge and beyond, so we need to be extremely courteous and, or course, give right-of-way, to handicapped persons using the trail. The trail is readily accessible and will often be used by able-bodied non-paddlers as well, so we need to be careful when carrying boats. And we need to remember to park up the hill and save the lower parking area for loading and unloading, especially on weekends.

A risk of the new trail is that allowing easy access back upstream encourages paddlers to go downstream of the bridge and closer to the dangers of the Lower Amicalola. We need to bear those dangers in mind, for ourselves or anyone else we may see headed downstream into danger. 

Pulling the Trigger

by "Jeremy"

from the NOC Paddling School Blog

The other day I was reminded of my first trip to the Nantahala Cascades in 2001. The water was a little high and a large crowd had gathered at the first drop and was watching the boaters go over the waterfall. I watched my friends make two or three runs and then I decided that I wanted to give it a try. I had brought my gear up to the put-in and borrowed a boat (which I'd never paddled), but was unsure if I had the skills to navigate this section of whitewater.



SAFETY

Finally, as it was getting dark, I worked up the nerve to give it a try and yelled to one of my friends to wait for me as he was about to put on for the last run. I'll never forget his response — "No, Jeremy, you will die." And then he got in his boat and paddled off. Very rarely are you confronted with such honesty.

Thankfully, stories like this aren't that common. Very rarely are you told whether or not you're ready to run a rapid. Most of the time you have to make that decision for yourself.

This is one of the great aspects of kayaking, but also the most frustrating. How do you know if you're ready to pull the trigger when you've never run that rapid before? Because no two rapids are identical, it's difficult to even compare one rapid to another. Just because you can navigate one Class 3 rapid successfully, doesn't necessarily mean you could navigate another one of entirely different character. If you find yourself struggling with indecision about running a rapid try thinking of the "who, what, where, when and why."

Who: Who are you paddling with? Are these people you trust, and do they have good safety/decision making abilities? Or are these people you just met at the put-in or are maybe lesser paddlers than yourself? You will certainly be more relaxed if you have confidence in your fellow paddlers to either show you a good line, or help you out if you blow the line.

What: What are the moves required of you in this rapid? Can you execute the moves required to run the rapid successfully? Are those moves in your wheelhouse? I have run very difficult Class 5 rapids because the moves required were strengths of mine. I have also walked Class 4 rapids because the moves required did not play to my strengths.

Where: Where are you? Are you on an unfamiliar river? Are you near civilization? The risks you might take on a rapid on a roadside run may not be the same risks you should take on a rapid in a remote canyon.

This "where" could also apply to where you are on the actual river. For instance, the last rapid of the Middle Cullasaja

is certainly a fun one. It ends in a nice but small pool. Unfortunately there's a two-hundred foot waterfall on the other end of that pool. That adds something to the equation. (A similar example might be Corkscrew into Crack in the Rock on the Chattooga.)

When: When is the right time to run this rapid? Do I feel good? Is my energy level high? Do I have butterflies or am I really nervous? Does today seem like the right time or should I wait for another time? In my example above at the Cascades, I was nervous, I was using a borrowed boat, and it was almost dark. It was not the right time — I would have failed the "when" criteria three times over.

Why: Why do you want to run this rapid? There is only one answer to this question - "It looks fun, I like the challenge, and I feel confident making the moves." My friends and I often talk about a fun-factor to a rapid. If the rapid doesn't look fun, we won't run it, even if we know we can make the moves.

(This is pretty subjective. Sometimes what looks like fun to someone doesn't look like fun to another.) You should never run a rapid because everybody else is doing it and you don't want to lose face. You should never run a rapid to impress a girl (or boy). You should never run a rapid because someone is holding a camera. You should never run a rapid because you don't feel like walking it. (I have proof from the Transylvania Community Hospital that laziness is not a good reason to run a rapid.)

I'm not saying that you have to answer in the positive to all these questions to run a rapid. Some, such as the what, may be more important than others, for example, the where. Making the decision to run a rapid is a lot like making a decision in any other aspect of life — you take a bunch of



Decision time: now is the time to consider the Who, What, Where, When and Why of the rapid and whether you should run it this trip. Photo from the NOC Paddle School Blog - photographer unknown.

imperfect information and try and combine it to make the most well-informed choice.

Lastly, in this day and age of paddling videos, guide-books, and the internet, chances are you know what rapids you're going to encounter on a run. Don't make up your mind about running a rapid beforehand.

For instance, everybody knows that Bull Sluice is at the end of Section 3 of the Chattooga. Don't make up your mind

whether to run it or not in the Food Mart parking lot in Clayton. Don't make up your mind until you get to the rapid. This will allow you to enjoy the rest of the river relatively worry free instead of worrying all day about one rapid at the end of the run.

In closing, if you're looking at a rapid and you can't decide whether to run it or not, don't! Chances are there's a reason you're so indecisive, even if you can't articulate it.

Towaliga River

by Lamar Phillips

Saturday the first day of March was a beautiful day and perfect weather for a leisure paddle. We had 25 folks show up anxious to explore a river that only 3 of us had paddled before. The group consisted of Xueya Hauge, Leif Hauge, Katie O'Neil, Karla, Vinnacombe, Jamie Higgins, John Holley, Ann Hilbard, Xan Gatling, William Gatling, G. Adkins, Pat Malone, Vincent Payne, Betty Rose, Mary Davis, Susan Hardee, Rod Hardee, Mary Kate Wilcox, Dick Polmatier, Lisa Haskell, Keith Haskell, Robert Osborn, Jean Brown, Robert Harris, Buddy Gollsby and Lamar Phillips.

There was a good mixture of paddlers with experience from flat water to white water. We had sea, touring, rec and a couple of whitewater kayaks. There were also solo and tandem flat water canoes as well as solo and tandem whitewater canoes. We were pleased to have several paddlers who had only paddled flat water in the past including a couple who had new rec kayaks and had only paddled flat water canoes.

There was also a paddler with a new tandem flat water

canoe she had never paddled. (We were fortunate to have this paddler and boat along as we will explain later.)

Most of us put in below the first Class 3(?) rapid, but John H. and Vincent P. could not resist playing for several minutes. We got on the water about 10:30 for what we thought would be a leisurely 5 hour paddle. Unfortunately, we soon learned that since Buddy and I paddled this section with our friends in the Georgia Wilderness Society a couple of years back, someone had evidently placed many rock ledges in the river, making for a very challenging paddle.

It seemed that they did an excellent job of building these rapids so that all required turns and drops have rocks just under the surface so that even if you were a good experienced paddler, it was virtually impossible not to get stuck on the rocks. Keep in mind that about half of us were in sea kayaks, rec kayaks or flat water canoes and many had not been in

continued on following page



TRIP REPORTS



Scenes from the Towaliga. Left, John Holley near a substantial hole. Such features are a rarity on the Towaliga, which is generally placid river. Photo by Jamie Higgins who, along with Vincent Payne, helped the less experienced paddlers through some of the rapids. Right, the group, paddling a wide variety of boats, makes its way down some riffles on the Towaliga. Photo by William Gatling.

rapids before. However with Jamie H., Vincent P. and myself climbing over rocks and pushing, pulling, and helping the paddlers, we were able to get down the river.

(I am sure these rapids were not in this river two years ago.....or could it be my memory. Perhaps Mad Cow disease.)

We had one paddler challenge a bad strainer but Robert O. and Jamie were able to make a successful rescue. We also had a paddler become ill but we were able to transfer the

paddler to the tandem canoe that I mentioned earlier.

We had managed to stretch a planned 5 hour trip into about 7 hours but surprisingly, everyone was in a good mood and said they enjoyed the paddle. (I was relieved because it would not have surprised me if they tied me to a tree and given me a few lashes). About half of us retired to Buckners Restaurant and had a fabulous meal.

Life is good!



Leap Day Paddle Mulberry Fork Canoe/Kayak Race

by Chuck Spornick

Kevin Sisson, from North Carolina, and I had signed up for the Mulberry Fork downriver race on Saturday, March 1st. We arrived a day early, like many other racers, for a practice run on the Mulberry. I had a chance to show Kevin the lines, at least where I could remember them.

The rain had stopped, the river had peaked at just 4.2 on the USGS gauge and the weather was improving. As we paddled down from the US 231 Bridge we warmed up and threw in a sprint or two. Our focus was on getting lines down on the rapids.

For the most part we had clean runs, with a couple of notable exceptions. At Eddy Hop I made the rapid more difficult than I needed to be by cutting hard to the left after the mid-rock eddy; we both made it, but we had to zig-zag much more than we wanted. At 5-0 I compensated for my creaking line the previous Sunday by going far left. Instead of banging down ledges, I was dodging rocks at high speed! Afterwards we loaded up and headed over to the race camp for registration.

Race Day - Downriver

There were three events for the day: downriver, slalom (two runs) and then the chaotic boatercross. Kevin and I arrived early for the racers meeting at 7:00 a.m.; the race would start at 8:00 a.m at the bridge. After getting our bibs, the race director went over the rules (from the ICF): if we swim and self rescue, we can continue; if we are assisted by a safety boater we are disqualified.

The nineteen of us were divided into five classes and he



The Boatercross - more like a rugby scrum than a race. Photo by Kevin Sisson.

was over our start order. I was in the Masters class (paddlers over 40); Kevin was in the Cruising Class, given his "youth" and that he was a novice. You remain a novice until you place in a race; Kevin's novice status would be short lived.

We drove to the put-in, unloaded our boats,

and headed down to the river. After a brief warmup we congregated by the old bridge where the director went over our start order again; we would start at one minute intervals. Check out Kevin's photo's of us (sorry, none of Kevin): http://www.chucks.smugmug.com/gallery/4445095_QAsXW.



Kevin and Chuck.

Soon it was time for me to be on deck. With the departure of the racer before I lined up at the start and waited for the ten second countdown. Three, two, one, Go! I was off. I paddled hard down through the shoals beneath the bridge, and then in the flat water to the next set of shoals, where the current bends left to right. There I eased off, realizing that the race would last at least 30 minutes or more for me.

For the next long section of flat water I resorted to "one-on" "one-off" drills to pace myself and hold some energy in reserve. I approached the sharp bend in the river to the left, with the first Class 2 drop. Arpad, the winner of my class, passed me as we approached the rapid. I kept pace for a short distance, but by the time we reached the next rapid he was gone!

The line was on the left through the big waves. My line was clean and then in the still water I focused on a steady, if not fast, pace. Soon I was at Eddy Hop, where I had a great line, using the eddy lines for speed and threading the Speeder through a series of rocks.

I didn't realize it but Kevin was in my sixes. He then passed me and I paddled behind him to Lunchstop, where he went sailing over the ledge on the left. I don't know why, but I followed him too! Soon he was well in front of me, but I did gain something of a second wind.

Before we reached Mary's Hole, I started to pick up my pace and actually closed some distance with Kevin. I did slow down before Mary's Hole and took my time through the rapid; I sailed over the ledge and hole far river left and then threaded a sweet line through the rocks and squirrely currents. I was getting tired and I slowed my pace. I didn't see Kevin again until the finish line.

5-0 Finish

I entered the rapid on the left and then started to work to the right. Again I didn't paddle far enough to the right and was

in a position where I had to thread a line through a series of rocks (at least I ran this crazy line on Friday). I cleared the rocks and then paddled hard to the left to ride the tongue down to the left of the wave.

Now it was a straight shot to the finish line; I could hear Kevin yelling, "Go Chuck!!!" I did make it. I finished fourth out of a field of four; as my daughter says I finished last. My time was 35:40; Arpad, who finished first, had a time of 29:22 (his time was only 8 second off of the field champion). Kevin did great; he tied for first in the Cruising Class with a time of 30:22.

Slalom Racing

At the end of the downriver race, we hauled our boats up the steep trail to camp, drank a Red Bull or two, and gathered around the Registration booth to await the official results. Afterward, we hike back down to the course to watch the end of the first round of slalom racing.

After the break we walked up to the slalom put in and talked to Wendy Arthur and Gabriella Schlidt, who were getting ready for their second round. We walked downstream to find a good spot to cheer them on. I was in the middle of the course, near the judge for that section, where I was joined by Debbie Dargis and her daughter Brittney. She was there to cheer on Arlene, who I met that day. She was there to cheer me on too; thanks Debbie!

The slalom course was difficult, and it produced its fair

share of carnage. It was especially difficult for open boats, especially gates 2, 3, 4, which involved both tight turns and a ferry move over the large hole on river right. That flipped a number of open boats.

The most spectacular carnage was with a tandem crew, where the paddlers stayed upright after a side surf in the hole, only to drift downstream into a broach on a rock below. The boat snapped into two pieces! Everyone was okay.

Boatercross

The last event of the day was a chaotic slalom race. With a mass start, a mob of 20 boats or more had to catch two gates on the 5-0 course. In the race "anything goes" - it is legal to grab boats, pop skirts, block, etc. At the two gates the race was something more like a rugby scrum!

In my photos I noticed that Kevin laid back, what is up with that? After the race, Kevin and others headed to the 5-0 wave for some surfing fun; I headed up to the rocks for a nap!

Class 5 Awards Ceremony

With Kevin's first place finish we had committed ourselves to stay for the BBQ Dinner and the Awards Ceremony. We sat with Wendy and Gabriella, who also placed in slalom. Gabriella was part of the championship team for OC-2 as well. Way to go!

After the all the awards were distributed; Tony Diliberto started to hand out prizes. Tony was a great MC, with a quick wit and a good sense of humor. With the distribution of the prizes, he had Mark Cumnock helping him out.

It started out innocently: for prizes if the ticket holder wasn't present, Mark would throw the prize (usually a T-shirt) in the air for anyone who could grab it. The free for all continued with clothing prizes and then expanded to prizes in general, including shin guards. The prize was meant to be elbow guards, but what arrived where shin guards. You had to stay alert and be ready to duck as sets of shin guards were flying through the big tent. It was all good fun.

Then Woody Callaway awarded as a prize a new LiquidLogic Remix. No, it was not tossed out into the crowd. The winner had to play and beat Woody at "paper, rock, and scissors." After about five rounds it was down to two contenders with Woody. With the last round, only one of the contenders remained—the happy owner of a new kayak!

I should also mention that Woody was also a race participant; it was his first slalom race! He placed second.

It was good times, and good fun!



"Spectacular carnage" from the slalom race. Photo by Kevin Sisson.

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**When you drink the water, remember the spring.
Chinese Proverb**

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: Necky sit-on-top w. seat, rudder - \$950; Necky Looksah Sport w.rudder - \$950; Necky Zoar Sport w.rudder - \$750; Gortex drysuit, small - reduced to \$475; Stolquist drysuit, needs gaskets - reduced to \$100; Kotata drytop - reduced to \$100; 2 bunny suits - \$20 each; 3pr. Warner paddles - \$110 each; paddle carrying bag - \$30; 2 splashskirts - \$40 each; safety gear - \$30; 2 pr. Kayak dollies - \$70 each; Therma-rest - \$50; Eureka tent w. fly, ground cloth - reduced to \$100. \$2800 for all and will include all extra camping tubs of stuff; chairs, tarp w. adj.poles, ridge pole, free surf board. Email murphey.j@cox.net and be sure to specify item(s) of interest in subject line.

Wanted: Used Perception Torrent sit-on-top in decent condition; prefer with seat and thigh straps, but can add those if necessary. bkaskell@earthlink.net, or 678.858.2012

For Sale: Perception Pirouette S whitewater kayak with skirt and PFD; older style boat with a displacement hull, designed for river running, sized to fit the small to medium paddler, in good shape with usual river scrapes on bottom but no gouges or oil-canning; good beginner boat, easy to roll; includes new back band I added - asking \$300 for all 3, will consider splitting items. bkaskell@earthlink.net or 678.858.2012.

Boats For Sale: 2007 Liquid Logic Crossriver CR-250, playboat and river runner, good condition, stored inside - \$525 - GCA member price \$495. Liquid Logic Big Wheel, pure playboating fun - \$350. Perception Whip It, great beginner boat for small to medium paddler, includes paddle and skirt - \$225. Pictures available via email. Contact Greg, bigeddys@bellsouth.net, 770.328.9524.

House For Rent: Santa Fe River House (Florida). A charming, rustic two bedrooms, two baths, fully furnished and equipped house on the Santa Fe River located five houses downriver from the Hwy 47 Bridge south of Fort White, Florida. Excellent location for boating the Santa Fe, Suwannee, and Ichetucknee and for swimming and scuba diving in many nearby springs. One bedroom sleeps two people, another bedroom sleeps three, and there are two double futons in the living area. A/C and heating. \$150/night for 8 people. Minimum stay is two nights. Weekly and monthly rates are available. Myrtie, 770-953-1325.

For Sale: Wavesport ACE 4.7, citrus color with original Wavesport sliding cone bulkhead; usual scrapes and scratches, nothing major; great downriver/playboat for smaller paddler or masochistic larger paddler to squeeze into - \$300 OBO. Knox Worde, 828.488.4969 or playboatr@earthlink.net.

Letter to the Editor

by Dan MacIntyre

Dear Editor:

Thanks for your continuing good work.

Please make it as obvious as possible to those of us who want to continue to receive our printed *Eddy Line* that we must affirmatively opt into that, or we will lose it. I think that message rates a banner headline.

I am concerned that we have a lot of members who do not have email, do not monitor their email on a consistent basis, have their email at work where they will not be allowed to receive the *Eddy Line* or have filters that will block the electronic *Eddy Line*.

The Board and Executive Committee are trying to do right by the club. They think we would rather give up our paper *Eddy Line* than have a \$10.00 dues increase. I would be interested in knowing how other members feel about this but, unfortunately, we probably won't hear from the members that

I am most concerned about. If these folks cease getting their printed *Eddy Line*, many of them will likely forget about GCA and let their participation and their memberships lapse. ✂

Eddy Line Preference Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

_____ I prefer to keep receiving the paper *Eddy Line*.

_____ I wish to get the email version of *The Eddy Line*.

My email address is _____

Mail to Ed Schultz, 3060 Pharr Court North, Atlanta, GA 30305 or email to heloeddy@mindspring.com. ✂

Georgia Canoeing Association

INSTRUCTION 2008

Whitewater Kayak

Beginner

Jay Manalo
mjmanalo2001@yahoo.com
June 7 & 8 (plus Friday night)

Trained Beginner

Tom Bishop
bishop.t@comcast.net
May 3 & 4

Intermediate

Tom Bishop
bishop.t@comcast.net
May 17 & 18

Advanced Kayak

Knox Worde
playboatr@earthlink.net
April 12 & 13

Recreational Kayak and Canoe

Duckie Day- rented inflatable kayaks

Introduction to Whitewater
Gina Johnson
haynesandgina@alltel.net
July 19

Sea Kayak (call for class fees)

Steve Cramer
cramersec@charter.net

Sea Kayak Basics - Charleston, SC

May 24-26

Safety & Rescue Clinic - Athens area

June 21 (tentative)

Sea Kayak Basics - Charleston

Sept 20-21

Sea Kayak Strokes Athens area

August 9 (tentative)

Whitewater Canoe (Solo and Tandem)

Beginner

Steve Cramer
cramersec@charternet
June 7 & 8

Trained Beginner

Jim Albert
jimalbert@gmail.com
May 3 & 4
August 16 & 17

Intermediate

Haynes Johnson
haynesandgina@alltel.net
May 10 & 11
August 16 & 17

Advanced

Marvine Cole
marvinequilts@earthlink.net
To Be Rescheduled

Safety

Flat Water Safety - Kayaks and Canoes (Lake Lanier)

Gina and Haynes Johnson
haynesandgina@alltel.net
June 14

Basic White Water Safety

Gina and Haynes Johnson
haynesandgina@alltel.net
July 26

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.

2008 GCA INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & CLINIC INFORMATION

Clinics will be taught by ACA-certified instructors and qualified assistants. In order to provide individual attention, the maximum student-to-instructor ratio is 4:1. 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 WHITEWATER 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 WHITEWATER 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.

ADVANCED KAYAK AND CANOE:

Advanced clinic participants will practice the maneuvers taught the the Intermediated Whitewater Kayak and Canoe class, but on Class 3 water

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 Page 13



GCA DEALS FOR APRIL

Liquid Logic Remix 59, 69, 79—\$899*

Perception Torrent 10.1 — \$520*

Pyranha Ammo —\$899*

As always GCA members get 10% off all paddling accessories.

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on all in-stock kayaks!!!

*all prices are on in-stock boats



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