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THE EDDY LINE

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www.georgiacanoe.org

May 2008

June 1 at Azalea Park Notice of General Meeting of Members

by Tom Bishop, GCA President

To all Members of the Georgia Canoeing Association:

Please take Notice that the Board of Directors has called a meeting of the Members to take place June 1, 2008, at Azalea Park in Roswell at 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be for the Members present to vote on a proposal by the Board of Directors to increase annual membership dues from \$25.00 to \$35.00 for annual members and from \$250.00 to \$350.00 for life members.

The meeting will be open to the public, but only current dues paid members may vote. Each individual member and each family membership unit present and voting shall have one vote.

The Eddy Line Needs an Advertising Manager

by Rick Bellows

Though it is difficult to be certain without minutes of the March Board meeting or the April Executive Committee meeting, it appears *The Eddy Line* is in need of a new Advertising Manager. The job consists of contacting potential advertisers, selling advertising and coordinating with the Editor to make sure the advertising that is sold gets into the newsletter.

Though not particularly difficult, the job does require a fair bit of organization and a willingness and ability to contact potential advertisers and "sell" GCA and *The Eddy Line*. Timewise, the job probably requires only a couple of hours most months.

Many newsletters similar to *The Eddy Line* are wholly financed by advertising revenue, so the Advertising Manager could be an important participant in the economic health of GCA. If you're interested, please contact Member Services Chair Kate Wilkerson (contact info on page 2).

A Busy Weekend

The weather is nice, we're getting some rain and there's some water in the streams, so it's no surprise the paddling schedule is getting busier. The Trip List (page 3) has plenty of weekend trips, mostly in the beginner to intermediate range.

The weekend of May 17 and 18 looks to be particularly busy. First and foremost is the GCA Spring Extravaganza at OAR on the Ocoee. (More information on page 4.) Also scheduled that weekend is The Boater Chick Festival at NOC on the Nantahala, organized by Amanda Gettler of AWC and her friends. (More information on page 4.) And the inaugural Paddlin' Alabama, the first event on the new Alabama Scenic River Trail, also begins May 17. (More information on pages 5 and 7.)



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	David Martin (1998/9)	Brannen Proctor (2000/1)	Marvine Cole (2002/3)
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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 call/email 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 Scultz 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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Views and opinions expressed in articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official views and policies of the club. Material not individually designated as copyrighted may be disseminated **only** by paddling organizations having a newsletter exchange agreement with GCA: proper credit should be given. Publication of paid advertisements does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

May			
3	Cartecay	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor 770.664.7384
10	Upper Amicalola	Intermediate	Edward Stockman 770.441.9767
17	Toccoa	Beginner	Steve Reach 404.579.3166
24	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor 770.664.7384
24	Tesnatee Creek	Intermediate	Roger Nott 770.536.6923
25	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Jack Tayler 770.998.0350
31	nantahala	Intermediate	Steve Reach 404.579.3166
June			
8	Cartecay	Trained Beginner	Edward Stockman 770.441.9767
28	Chattooga 3.5 (Note 1)	Advanced	Roger Nott 678.316.4935

Note 1: Cleanup trip, Fall Creek to Woodall. Clean the GCA-adopted stretch from Thrift's Ferry to Bull Sluice.

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 the 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.

Roll Practice: Wednesday evenings beginning at or before 6:00, May through October, at Stone Mountain Park. For more information, including directions, see Page 4.

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. ✂

Summer Roll Practice

GCA Summer Roll Practice is held at Stone Mountain Park at 6:00 p.m. (or earlier) on Wednesday from May through October. Roll Practice is free, but you'll have to pay to enter the park. A season pass is recommended if you plan to attend multiple sessions.

DIRECTIONS: Enter the park from Stone Mountain Freeway (East Entrance); take the first left; continue about a mile until you cross the dam; take the first right into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

The boat ramp has a lot of power boats putting in and taking out, so use the ramp to load and unload only and park away from the ramp. Once in the water, 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. ✂

Boater Chick Festival May 17-18

Amanda Gettler, the President of Atlanta Whitewater Club, and some friends are putting together a paddling event for women only. The Paddle Chick Festival will be May 17-18 at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Wesser, NC. It is not an AWC event and all female paddlers are invited.

The weekend will include trips on rivers from Class 2 to Class 4-5, competitions to watch or participate in, a raffle with lots of swag to be won and a big party Saturday night. More information is available at www.boaterchickfestival.com. ✂

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! ✂

Spring Extravaganza May 17-18

by Joe Webb, GCA Social Chair

The 2008 Spring Extravaganza will be hosted by OAR near the Ocoee River on May 17 and 18. The Spring Extravaganza will include booths for used boats and camping equipment, available 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 will 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.

Sunday morning include the "Board Member Breakfast." 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 maximum" 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. ✂

Meeting Minutes

As of the April 5 deadline, no minutes of the March 6 Board of Directors meeting or the April 3 Executive Committee meeting were provided to *The Eddy Line*. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

May 2-4 - 11th Annual French Broad River Festival - music, art and adventure - www.frenchbroadriverfestival.com or www.myspace.com/frenchbroadriverfestival.com.

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 17-18 - GCA Spring Extravaganza at OAR. More info. on page 4, or from Joe Webb, 678.896.2048 or webb3657@msn.com.

May 17-18 - Boater Chick Festival, NOC, Wesser, NC. More info on page 4 or at www.boaterchickfestival.com.

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

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

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

Kayaks On The Rise

by Rick Bellows

Perhaps the only advantage to state registration of human-powered boats is that it allows easy tracking of how many there are. While I was visiting Minnesota back in August (including the day the freeway bridge collapsed), the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* ran an article tracking the changes between 1991 and 2006 in the numbers of boats in different classes registered in the state.

During that 15 year period, the number of motor-driven boats under 16 feet long dropped by 25% while the number between 16 and 26 feet long rose 58% and the number 26 to

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. Paddlers will need to carry all their own food and gear and will be camping most nights on the riverbank and arranging their own meals. There will also be a quarter-mile portage at the Weiss Diversionary Dam, requiring paddlers to work together. More information on Paddlin' Alabama can be obtained from Richard Grove at Richard@georgiakayaker.com.

This initial Paddlin' Alabama will feature the opening of the Alabama Scenic River Trail, including an opening ceremony in Montgomery on June 6. (Please see related article on page 7.)



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.

40 feet long rose 52%. The number of sailboats dropped 38%, but the number of motorized sailboats dropped only 17%. The number of personal watercraft increased a whopping 512%.

Between '91 and '06, the number of canoes increased 5%, to 146,256. Of those, nearly 12,000 were motorized. By far the largest increase, though, was in kayaks: 891%. But even with that increase, the state had only 25,917 registered kayaks in 2006, compared to some 356,500 motorboats.

Contrary to Georgia, Minnesota, the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," actually has nearly 15,000 lakes but very little whitewater and almost all of that is in the last few miles of streams feeding into Lake Superior northeast of Duluth.

Paddle Georgia June 21-27

Paddle Georgia 2008 will take place June 21-27 on the Flint River. This year's Paddle Georgia will cover 95 miles, beginning at Georgia Highway 18 near Thomaston and ending at Montezuma.

In addition to the paddling, participants can also win prizes including a Wenonah canoe, a kayak from The Outside World and clothing from Patagonia. To register or for more information, go to www.garivers.org.

Correction

The "spectacular carnage" photo on page 11 of the April *Eddy Line*, credited to Kevin Sisson, was actually taken by Renee, last name unknown, and posted on the Birmingham Canoe Club groupmail. *The Eddy Line* regrets the error.

WELCOME

These members have recently joined GCA. New members are the life blood and future of the club — call one near you and arrange to paddle together.

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To Be Open Weekends Stone Mountain Park Lake Access

by Roger Toebben

Stone Mountain Park policy does not allow private boater access to the lake after 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer months. Although this policy has been in place for years, it has been my experience that it's only been rigorously enforced the past few years.

Frustrated with such a valuable Atlanta asset not being utilized, I wrote a letter in 2006 to the Stone Mountain Park Association about getting this policy changed. I received a response from the Association that the lake is closed for "safety reasons" and the Association saw no reason to change the policy.

I decided to get the help of GCA. In 2007, I wrote again to the Association but with GCA as the author. The letter

requested the opportunity for GCA President Vincent Payne and me to meet with the Association Board to discuss the issue.

The second letter did the trick! The Association agreed to open the lake during all summer daylight hours starting this year on an "experimental basis." Continuing with this new policy is the requirement that "safety issues" not develop. Note that the whole lake will not be open, just the southern portion. The sign at the boat ramp is supposed to be modified by May with the exact access limitations.

If you use the lake this summer during weekend afternoon/evening hours, please follow the new park rules. In the past I've seen a kayaker riding the wake of the "riverboat" paddlewheel. This is definitely the kind of action that can cause the new policy to be revoked.

Thanks and happy boating!



ACCESS

Alabama Scenic River Trail

by Beth Wallace

This year is the official launch of the Alabama Scenic River Trail. The big event will be June 6 with a flotilla of boats in Montgomery with press, etc.

The greatest need, beyond joiners on one of the Paddle Alabama trips, is your presence on the Alabama River on Friday, June 6, passing by the Riverwalk facility in downtown Montgomery at 11:00 a.m. This is THE event of Fred Couch's involvement and creation - since July 2006 - of the Alabama Scenic River Trail becoming not only an Official Trail, but also the recognition to the world of the beautiful Alabama outdoors.

The idea is that at least 100 boaters will pass by - it's not something that one should think, "Well, they won't miss me, someone else will go." You will be missed; it is the culmination of all that about 45 people over the entire state have worked on. It's the event for Alabama that no paddler friend should miss.

Picture in your mind - and pass this on - a flotilla of all the paddlers you have met, known and enjoyed these many years together en masse before television cameras and media photographers that day on the river. It's THAT PICTURE that will capture the imagination of young people and families to realize how enjoyable and relaxing our sport truly is.

Fred has been a whitewater canoeist and kayaker for 40 years, safety beginner instructor for 25 years, and sea kayaker for 15 years. We all know it's so pleasant to be in that boat and feel the freedom of floating along in the great outdoors, for a few hours, a day, or even several week trips. If we can impart that pleasure and safety orientation that we have to just a few folks, it's been worthwhile.

For those who want to add to enjoyment, you can prepay online for a bar-b-que meal at Cooter Pond that evening just

downriver of Riverwalk. It's also the take-out at Prattville.

And for a real hoot, go the night of June 5 to Harry's Lounge and Campground in Millbrook, 5 miles upstream of Riverwalk. Stay the night and check this out inside Harry's: the bar is in Elmore County and the bathroom is in Montgomery County!

Fred, understandably, is very nervous about the big flotilla not being big. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested in joining in. Take the day off, call in sick or generally just be on the river!!

For further info on the Alabama Scenic River Trail, go to <http://www.alabamascenicrivertrail.com/> www.AlabamaScenicRiverTrail.com. Fred Couch can be reached at fredcanoes@aol.com if ya'll need anything else.

Holmes Creek/Choctawhatchee River

William C. Reeves (The Hawk)

Double tap! Double tap! No, this essay does not concern the art of social shooting when you encounter an intruder in your house. As the cognoscente know, the ivory billed woodpecker is identified by its typical double knock drilling and the Choctawhatchee River in the Florida panhandle is one of the localities with recent credible reported sightings.

MLK weekend seemed like a good time to see them, so the Chattahoochee Nature Center organized a 3-day trip through the area. Too bad I didn't capture an image to introduce this article. But I do have
continued on following page



TRIP REPORTS

many images (both digital and cerebral) of a fantastic spring-fed, bottomland, flood plain, old-growth, hard-wood swamp.

Holmes Creek is part of the Choctawhatchee watershed. It's a huge area, most of it public, and it remains relatively undiscovered. Seriously consider taking a 3 or 4 day trip to explore it before summer, when the bugs get too bad.

A deluge complicated our planned launch. Wimpishly, we executed Plan B: drank coffee at the hotel, watched the Weather Channel to track the front and launched from Hightower Landing at 15:00. We paddled 3.8 miles to Spurling Landing (just above Sheffield Bend, and were setting-up camp around 17:00.

A word about camping: the Choctawhatchee and its



Paddling Holmes Creek, the group approaches the confluence with the Choctawhatchee River. Photo by The Hawk.

tributaries are typical floodplain habitat. The banks are high, the dikes are narrow, low areas are wet and camping can be sketchy. However, because Holmes Creek is a designated Florida canoe trail, there are multiple access points with tables, grills, crappers and dry cleared land. Spurling Landing afforded a great, completely deserted, campsite.

Day 2, we put-on at a leisurely 10:30 and paddled 11.6 miles to Shell Ferry Landing, on river left just below the 284 bridge. This was a particularly good day. The weather was perfect and we were on high alert for ivory bills. To increase the odds, we took all the "short-cuts" through ox-bows and checked-out various swamp areas.

You can spend a lot of time doing this and it brings up an important consideration - navigation. You should not do this sort of trip without detailed topographic maps. If you're good at navigation that's all you need. If you're not experienced navigating swamps, the Hawk strongly recommends bringing a GPS (with extra batteries) and downloading topos to the hand-unit. Indeed, go crazy and store routes and waypoints and you'll always know exactly where you are, how far it is to camp, when to stop exploring that interesting bayou and how to get to the nearest road in an emergency.

We arrived at Shell Landing around 15:30 and again found an excellent state-maintained launch site at which to camp. We were on the river by 09:30 the next morning for the 10 mile paddle to the take-out.

This is the part of the trip where you should have a map. Not far below Shell Landing, Holmes Creek joins the Choctawhatchee at Boynton Cutoff. On the maps, the main river goes west, but it is in the process of rechanneling and most of the flow goes down the old north channel of Holmes Creek.

The confluence will be obvious and this is the only potentially tricky part of the paddle because the Choctawhatchee is honkin' as you must merge with it. No one flipped. But, always remember; there are 2 categories of canoers - them what's swimmin' and them what's fixin' to swim.

We were now on the main river and could have just followed it to the take-out. However, we were still looking for ivory bills and opted for a more "interesting" route. We took what used to be the middle finger of Holmes Creek flowing to the main river, hung a right and started paddling upstream. Yes, the Choctawhatchee is completely rerouting itself down what used to be Holmes Creek. We made a good decision, the current is not all that swift and this portion of the swamp was more than worth it. After about a mile we were at the main river and made the take out at 12:45.

What about getting there and running shuttle? To get there, drive about 6 hours south down I-75 and west on I-10 to Chipley, Florida. There aren't a lot of hotels in the area; I recommend the Executive Inn just off the interstate a block or two up Route 77.

There are multiple put-ins on Holmes Creek because it's a Florida canoe trail. We put in at Hightower Springs, just below Vernon. To get there from the hotel go west on I-10 to the Route 79 exit and follow the road south through Vernon towards Mt Hope. A bit past Vernon turn right onto the well-



A day of paddling can be strenuous: Jena at rest in her boat. Photo by The Hawk.

marked Hightower Springs launching area.

There are also multiple take-outs; we used Cedar Tree Landing a mile or two above the Highway 20 bridge over the Choctawhatchee River. For shuttle, leave Hightower Springs

and turn right on Route 79 towards New Hope. Drive 12.1 miles (through New Hope and Red Head and turn right onto James Potter Road. Follow it for 1.7 miles and turn right onto Cedar Tree, which ends at the take-out. 

GRES - Ocmulgee

by William Gatling, GCA Resource Development Chair

The first of the three 2008 Georgia River Explorer Series trips was March 29 on the Ocmulgee. The section we ran was from Wise Creek in the Oconee National Forest to Highway 83 near Forsyth. It is a very lazy, slow moving flat water section that starts just after the last whitewater on the river.

We had 29 boats, including an abundance of safety boats. Participants were:

Christine Avers, Derrick Campbell, Milton Cronheim, Ronda Crow, Tracey Cruce, Jim Curran, Charlene Hamilton, Jim Hatter, Mark Holmberg, Cindy Holmberg, Jeff Kee, Larry Maulin, Peggy Roberts, Rissa Shapiro, & Nancy Sullivan. Erin Rossiter and Trevor Frey also joined us to cover the GRES for *The Athens Banner Herald*.

The last legitimate eddy of the river was our starting point. We began moving to river right to let everyone get in their boats. We had plenty of safety boats and a long safety meeting, so we were ready.

Despite all this planning and preparation, we forgot to mention the effects of paddling straight across an eddy line! Two of our new members hit the eddy line and immediately became more experienced paddlers. The eddy line did what eddy lines do: it snatched the front of their boats downstream and left them wet and humbled at the put-in.

The trip was relatively uneventful after that...for a while. We found a large sandy beach for lunch. With threatened rain, we were fortunate that the temperature was in the 70s with lots of sun. Wildlife was surprisingly scare considering the spring weather we were having.

Then there was the distant rumble of thunder. The thunder started to get louder, and before long we were getting pounded in a blinding rainstorm. Safety boaters were all well prepared and offered the new paddlers extra clothes. Lightning was hitting both sides of the river and was all around us.

The storm lasted forever, or about twenty minutes. Everybody was in high gear to try to make it to the take-out as fast as possible.

The rain faded into a slow gentle shower, but the lightning was still nearby. Within a few minutes the take-out bridge came into sight. It was a very beautiful bridge.

Nobody was happy about the weather, but everyone seemed to take it well. The GRES participants were all extremely well prepared, and nobody seemed to be cold from the exposure. After we loaded our boats the group scattered to Buckner's, Mexican, and The Whistle Stop Café (from the



Seal-launching a rec kayak? Into two feet of water? Tracey Cruce, Derrick Campbell and Ronda Crowe at Wise Creek. Photo by William Gatling.

movie "Fried Green Tomatoes").

The trip resulted in a nice long article and pictures in *The Athens Banner Herald*. The article and pictures can be seen at www.onlineathens.com/extras/: type in the date, 04/06/08, and scroll down to the "Living" section. 

Copper Mine Section of the Chestatee

by Lamar Phillips

Rod Hardee, a flat water canoe/camper for a number of years, recently purchased rec kayaks that his wife Susan and he paddled for the first time with us over the rocks on the Towaliga recently He wondered what it would be like to paddle his kayak on a river with a few shoals AND water.

After a good March rain, I suggested the Copper Mine section of the Chestatee. We listed the trip on the GCA list and Jack Taylor, Karen Saunders, Kelly Harbac, Xueya Hauge, Leif Hauge, Mark Holmberg, and Dave Leigh met Rod, his son Spencer, Jim Simpson (Rod's Pastor for about 10 years who and this turned out to be pretty near perfect for our paddle. Rod and his folks did not know that they needed helmets for this section, but since there was only one Class 2 rapid listed below Copper Mine, we decided that we could share helmets

continued on following page

on the rapid.

We got to the bridge where we unloaded and portaged our boats to the put-in below Copper Mine rapid. This was a long, hard portage, made even more difficult because they had a couple of crews working on the bridge, so we had further to carry our boats. In addition, the recent rain made the very steep bank even more difficult.

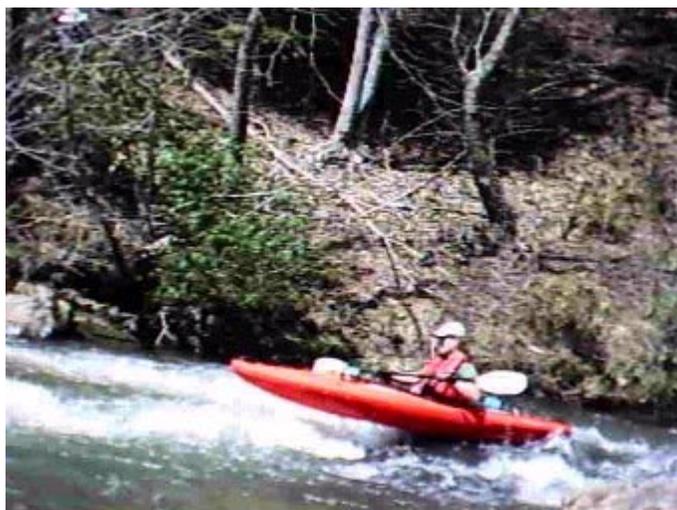
It probably took us close to an hour to unload and carry our boats to the put in. By this time, I think some of the group were wondering why in the heck I chose this section to paddle. However, after viewing Copper Mine from the bottom and paddling about 100 yards through a canopy of rhododendrons, we all agreed that it was a good choice and will really be a beautiful paddle when they are blooming in a couple of months.

We immediately reached some small rapids that are always fun for new paddlers and some of us old folks who paddle Class 1 and 2. There were several nice little rapids to negotiate and folks that had not paddled this section were commenting on the beauty and why it isn't paddled more. To me, it is the most beautiful river in North Georgia that I paddle.

A little over half way down we reached a rather challenging rapid that we all pulled over to the bank to scout. At first we thought that we had reached Blasted Rock Rapid, but after closely checking it out, Jack said that this was not the Blasted Rock that he swam several years back. We all enjoyed this exciting rapid with no swims.

After our lunch break we soon reached Blasted Rock. Again we scouted the rapid and I got out on a rock at the rapid to point out the line. Kelly & Karen paddled through and set safety at the bottom. All went through safely except Jim who had never paddled whitewater before.

Since I had loaned my helmet to one of the paddles to



Rod Hardee on the Chestatee. Photo by Jack Taylor.

make the run, I used the excuse that it was too much trouble to get my helmet so Jim and I sent our boats down and we walked the shallows. It was a very good run and we only had one boat that had a little problem half way through the rapid with a rock. The paddlers won this one. We had no swims here, but did have a couple of swims at another rapid.

I was really happy that our Preacher friend Jim made the complete trip without swimming, no thanks to his ex-parishioner and old friend, Rod Hardee, who had borrowed a 12 foot Old Town Dirigo for Jim to use. It was almost impossible to turn the boat in swift water, much less a rapid, but somehow Jim made it. (Perhaps divine intervention?) At any rate Rod thinks Jim has forgiven him and is still his friend.

It was a great day on the river with a fun group. <

Instruction

To Tandem or Not to Tandem, That is the Question

by Gina & Haynes Johnson

Why would you want to paddle tandem in an open canoe? Tandem whitewater canoes are generally big and clunky when compared to solo boats, or sleek, light weight Kevlar touring tandems. When they fill up with water they are very heavy and hard to maneuver. They have the nickname Divorce Boats.

One of our friends entered the down river race from Helen to Atlanta with a friend of twenty years who was in great shape but did not know how to paddle. After crossing the finish line, they never spoke again. Does that sound like fun? Well, it can be if you have the right mind set and training.

The main pre-requisite for tandem paddling is the ability to communicate with your partner in times of stress. Generally if you can hang wall paper with your prospective tandem partner without coming to blows, you can paddle tandem. A good sense of humor helps too.

The two dominant theories of successful tandem paddling are mutually exclusive. The first, to which we ascribe, is to make sure your partner has a great time on the trip.

The second theory is to affix the blame early. You may hear paddlers of this school of paddling before you see them. From around a sharp bend in the river comes the sound of shouting, ?#@&* It, I SAID DRAW!? This statement is usually followed closely by the sound of a paddle connecting sharply with a helmet.

Back to the question of why you might want to paddle tandem. Two paddlers in one boat have more power for acceleration or just getting from point A to point B. Attainment is much easier in a well functioning tandem boat. Tandem boats are more maneuverable because you have one paddle in the bow and one in the stern that can work in concert to



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make the boat turn more sharply, and precisely.

Having a paddle on both sides of a boat is the equivalent of having training wheels on a bicycle. Tandem paddlers can throw out high and low braces simultaneously with great resulting stability. With two sets of eyes in one boat, you may see safer routes, and friendlier eddies more easily.

Then there is also the element of companionship. Some



Gina and Haynes paddling tandem on the Locust Fork.

people just like to have somebody in the boat to talk things over with.

If you are considering trying tandem paddling, you may wonder what kind of canoe would work for you. Twenty years ago this month, we started paddling tandem on the Nantahala in a 17 foot Mohawk Intrepid which is a heavy, high-sided, wilderness tripping boat not known for its nimble moves. We had no tandem training and it was a little scary starting out. Since we are writing this article, you may surmise that we both survived the experience.

We have tried several other whitewater tandem boats including Dagger Dimension, Whitesell Pirahna, Mohawk XL 14, Mohawk Probe 14, SOAR 14 foot inflatable, and Dagger Caption. There are many other models available that will work. If you have questions about the ability of the boat you own to run whitewater, just give us a call we would be happy to discuss it (or paddle it, whichever is more appropriate.)

Tandem paddling really can be lots of fun with the right partner and the right boat. Training makes it all the more fun. Any of the GCA open canoe clinics can accommodate tandem boats as long as the coordinator is given adequate notice to line up ACA certified tandem instructors. Several instructors in the club will also do private instruction as will commercial operations like The Atlanta Whitewater Center or the Nantahala Outdoor Center.

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.

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. Greg, 770.328.9524, bigeddys@bellsouth.net.

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. 6 7 8 . 8 5 8 . 2 0 1 2 , bkhaskell@earthlink.net.

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

For Sale: Wavesport ACE 4.7, citrus color w. 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, playboatr@earthlink.net.

For Sale: All boats are like new: Necky sit-on-top w. seat, rudder - \$950; Necky Looksah Sport w. rudder - \$950; Necky Zoar Sport w. rudder - \$750; Gortex drysuit, men's small - reduced to \$475; 3 pr. Warner paddles - \$110 each; paddle carrying bag - \$30; 2 splashskirts - \$40 each; safety gear - \$30; 2 pr. kayak dollies - \$70 each; Thermo-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) in subject line.

Canoe For Sale: Esquif Zephyr, 11'3" - fast, responsive and very light (only 37 lbs.) - outfitted with minicell bulkhead saddle and ultralight nylon bags. More at www.esquif.com. Paddled twice: 6'4" seller needs a bigger boat. \$1,800 investment, will sell for \$1475. Alan: 770.534.5857 or 770.634.6993 (cell).

Whitewater Canoes For Sale: Whitesell 14' canoe, Perception saddle with dry storage, Dagger wooden paddle, new airbags - \$300; Old Town H2Pro canoe, foam saddle. aluminum paddle - \$200. Located in Peachtree City. Phone 770.486.4972 or email Baryliska@comcast.net. (05)

The Top 18 Reasons Why Paddling Is Better Than Sex

18. You don't have to sneak your paddling magazines into the house.
17. If you are having trouble with paddling, it's perfectly acceptable to pay a professional to show you how to improve your technique.
16. The 10 commandments don't say anything about paddling.
15. If your partner takes pictures or videotapes of you paddling you don't have to worry about them showing up on the internet when you become famous.
14. Your paddling partner won't keep asking questions about other partners you've paddled with.
13. It's perfectly respectable to paddling with a total stranger.
12. When you see a really good paddler, you don't have to feel guilty about imagining the two of you paddling together
11. If your regular paddling partner isn't available, he/she won't object if you paddle with someone else.

10. Nobody will ever tell you that you will go blind if you paddle by yourself.
9. When dealing with a paddling pro, you never have to wonder if they are really an undercover cop.
8. You don't have to go to a sleazy shop in a seedy neighborhood to buy paddling stuff.
7. You can have a paddling calendar on your wall at the office, tell paddling jokes and invite coworkers to paddle with you without getting sued for harassment.
6. There is no such thing as a paddling transmitted disease.
5. If you want to watch paddling on television, you don't have to subscribe to a premium channel.
4. Nobody expects you to promise to paddle with just one partner for the rest of your life.
3. Nobody expects you to give up paddling if your partner loses interest in the sport.
2. You don't have to be a newlywed to plan a vacation for the enjoyment of paddling.
1. Your paddling partner will never say, "What? We just paddled last week! Is that all you ever think about?" 

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 10 & 11

Nantahala Falls Weekend

Tom Bishop
bishop.t@comcast.net
September 6 & 7

Recreational Kayak and Canoe

Moving Water Strokes and Safety

Jamie Higgins
jmhiggins99@yahoo.com
May 31

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 Whitewater 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



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