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THE EDDY LINE

Volume 43, No. 6

770.421.9729

www.georgiacanoe.org

June 2008

June 1 at Azalea Park Dues the Subject of General Meeting

by Rick Bellows

A General Meeting of the GCA membership is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 at Azalea Park in Roswell. The purpose of the General Meeting is for the membership to vote on a proposal by the Board of Directors to increase annual dues from \$25 to \$35 per year and to increase the cost of a life membership from \$250 to \$350. The By-Laws require that any increase in dues be approved by the membership.

The meeting will be open to the public, but only current, dues-paid members will be permitted to vote. Only those present at the meeting will be able to vote on the proposed dues increase: there is no provision for absentee voting. Each individual member and each family membership unit gets one vote.

The proposed dues increase follows several months of discussion by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee about the economic condition of GCA. That discussion is reflected in the minutes of the March Board of Directors meeting (see page 5) and the April and May Executive Committee meetings (see page 7).

This issue of *The Eddy Line* also includes a financial summary by Treasurer Ed Schultz through the first quarter of fiscal 2008 (November 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008). While the club made money during that quarter, the summary points out that was due primarily to the large number of membership renewals in that quarter and is not expected to continue for the rest of the fiscal year. A summary of the second quarter of fiscal 2008 (February 1 through April 30) should be in the July issue of *The Eddy Line*.

Decisions are made by those who show up. If you want to participate in the decision whether or not dues should be increased, your opportunity is June 1. ✂

Still in Search of an Advertising Manager

by Rick Bellows

The Eddy Line is still 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 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). ✂



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Resource Development Chair	William Gatling	770.529.7103	wmgat@mindspring.com
Training Chair	Gina Johnson (Pres. 2004/5)	706.579.1048	haynesandgina@alltel.net
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	John Holley	478.960.0405	holleyjohn59@yahoo.com
Paddle Trails Chair	Lamar Phillips	770.939.5087	lamarph@bellsouth.net
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Directory Editor	Allen Hedden (Pres. 1988/9)	770.426.4318	gacanoe@mindspring.com
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Past Presidents:	William Crawford (1966/7)	Payson Kennedy (1968)	Claude Grizzard (1972)
	Margaret Osborne (1973)	Jack Weems (1979)	Mark Levine (1984/5)
	Andy Warshaw (1986/7)	Jim Silavent (1992/3)	Evelyn Hopkins (1994/5)
	David Martin (1998/9)	Brannen Proctor (2000/1)	Marvine Cole (2002/3)
	Vincent Payne (2006/7)		

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Cruisemaster	Steve Reach	404.579.3166	gca_trip@yahoo.com
Librarian	Denise Colquitt	770.854.6636	neiceyc@aol.com
River Cleanup Coordinator	Bonny Putney	404.216.9351	bpputney@bellsouth.net
Roll Practice Coordinator	Louis Boulanger	404.373.2907	boulangerlouis@hotmail.com

THE EDDY LINE

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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 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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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

June

7	Leader's Choice	Trained Beginner	William Gatling	770.529.7103
7	Big Cedar Creek (Note 1)	Beginner	Alan Reeves	706.777.8691
8	Cartecay	Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
14	Etowah (Note 2)	Trained Beginner	Dick Hurd	770.664.4770
14	Broad	Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
15	Nantahala	Intermediate	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
21	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
22	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
28	Chattooga 3.5 (Note 3)	Advanced	Roger Nott	678.316.4935

Note 1: Cave Spring, GA - Friday night campout with Saturday paddling trip.

Note 2: Falls Section.

Note 3: 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 Cruise Master, Steve Reach at 404.579.3166. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flatwater to Class 5 whitewater. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

Chattooga Trips are limited to 12 boats on ANY section on ANY trip, club trip or private (USFS regulation). Boating is prohibited above the Highway 28 bridge. Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

Roll Practice: Wednesday evenings 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. ✂

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. The primary sponsor of the event is Georgia Power. To register or for more information, go to www.garivers.org. ✂

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! ✂

GCA Store is Now Online

by Kate Wilkerson, GCA Storekeeper

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

The GCA Store now has available Men's and Women's Picque Knit Sport Shirts in a variety of colors and sizes. The store also has the new "Whatever Floats Your Boat" River Rats t-shirt designed by Betty Rose. The t-shirt has the "Whatever Floats Your Boat" logo, shown in Betty's ad on this page, 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. ✂

November 8-15

Fall Paddle Florida

The inaugural Paddle Florida event in late March was such a success that the organizers are planning a fall version. The inaugural Fall Paddle Florida will be held November 8 through 15 on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail in northern Florida. The event will be held in cooperation with the Florida Park Service and several private sector partners. More information is available at <http://paddleflorida.org/>.

Paddle Georgia alum Bill Richards, who headed it up, credits the success of the spring event in part to "participation of our friends from Paddle Georgia and the Georgia Canoeing Association." Richards is hoping for similar participation in the new fall event. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

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.

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 4 - Berkeley County Blueways Paddlefest, Old Santee Canal Park, Moncks Corner, SC - www.berkeleyblueways.com.

October 13 - Suwannee River Challenge and Marathon,



White Spring, FL - 26 miles/52 miles - Rod Price, 407.227.5606, rodprice@hotmail.com.

November 8-15 - Fall Paddle Florida, Suwannee River Wilderness Trail - <http://paddleflorida.org/>.

First Quarter of Fiscal 2008 Financial Statement by Ed Schultz, GCA Treasurer

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 5,075.00
Interest	\$ 645.08
Sales	\$ 62.00
Race Fees	\$ 295.00
River Access	\$ 925.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 7,002.08

Expenses:

General/Administrative (phone, web, supplies)	\$ 570.22
Eddy Line Printing, Mailing	\$ 3,616.44
Annual Postal Fees	\$ 211.00
Purchase Club Logo Shirts	\$ 531.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ 290.37

Correction

Page 2 of the April and May issues of *The Eddy Line* erroneously misstated the first name of GCA Secretary Bill Fox. *The Eddy Line* regrets the error.

Editor's Note

Per instruction of the Board of Directors, the following Meeting Minutes (and all future Meeting Minutes) will indicate whether the minutes are "Official" or "Unofficial." Unofficial minutes have not been reviewed and approved by a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. The April minutes that follow are "official." The March and May minutes are "unofficial."

Training Expenses	\$ 22.50
Affiliate Dues	\$ 125.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,366.64

Net Increase (Decrease) this quarter: \$ 1,635.44

Funds available 01/31/08:

Operating	\$ 5,579.35
River Access (Restricted)	\$ 38,067.02
Life Member (Restricted)	\$ 23,936.38
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 67,582.75

During the prior fiscal year the operating funds available to the club decreased by \$2,926.11. This quarter they increased by \$1,985.55 based on the level of dues payments. These represent about 40% of the annual dues expected, based on the experience of the past two years. At the current rate of dues and expenses a decrease in the operating fund is anticipated in the second quarter.

Unofficial Meeting Minutes Board of Directors - 03/06

In attendance: Tom Bishop, Kate Wilkerson, Jamie Higgins, Vincent Payne, Allen Hedden, Ed Schultz, Roger Nott, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Gina Johnson, Bill Fox. A quorum sufficient to conduct business was present.

Minutes of the December 2007 Board meeting were read and approved.

Minutes of the February Executive Committee meeting were read and approved with modification.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OPEN ISSUES

continued on following page



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.

Cloud, Bryan A. &
Stone, Barbara
4220 Idle Grass Place
Cumming GA 30041
H: 770-205-7725
O: 770-364-5436
O: 770-856-4446
Email: 6acloud@bellsouth.net
Email: barbstone@bellsouth.net

Couch, Alan & Brenda
6040 Julian Road
Gainesville GA 30506
H: 770-886-1051
O: 770-312-0047
Email: alcouch33@yahoo.com

Cork, Ashley
213 Knob Hill Circle
Decatur GA 30030
H: 315-416-8891
Email: ashleycork@gmail.com

Durand, Patty
1425 Northcliff Trace
Roswell GA 30076
H: 770-640-4020
O: 678-467-0148
Email: pdurand@bellsouth.net

Holcomb, Darcie
9070 Raldon Road
Gainesville GA 30506
H: 770-888-0172
O: 678-523-2567
Email: dholcomb@ucriverkeeper.org

Johnson, Dan & Matthew
3903 Tree Bark Lane
Snellville GA 30039
H: 678-887-8634
O: 404-932-1867
Email: johnson3986@gmail.com
Email: johnson3986@comcast.net

Locke, Susan
724 Grizzle Farm Road
Dawsonville GA 30534
H: 770-844-7770
O: 404-713-0844
Email: blueberryhillhorses@gmail.com

Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)

Chair reviewed fiscal year 2006 finances. 2006 revenues increased \$1,000.00 over fiscal 2005.

Current bank balance has increased by \$964.17.

Georgia corporate registration has been submitted to the state. Dan MacIntyre recorded as the corporation's representative.

River Protection (Chair Haynes Johnson)

General discussion of the newly established Etowah River put-in. Grand opening scheduled for April 26 with participation by GCA.

April 19 scheduled for river cleanup.

Motion made by Roger Nott to have Dan MacIntyre and the Executive Committee authorized to respond to the US Forest Service regarding a recommendation to open the upper Chattooga. Resolution: Motioned seconded and approved.

Member Services (Chair Kate Wilkerson)

General discussion regarding the procedures necessary to establish an online member renewal and billing system.

Chair was authorized to move forward with the member renewal forms and to start online billing.

River Explorer Series

Brief discussion of involving Go With the Flow and Broad River Outpost in the GRES.

Roger Nott presented a motion to send a GCA boat sticker to renewing members. Resolution: Motion failed to carry.

OLD BUSINESS

Current progress of conversion to email distribution of *The Eddy Line*: 50 members have agreed to drop the paper edition, 15 members have requested to be added to email distribution, and 15 members want to continue receiving the paper edition

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Dues

Motion made by Dan MacIntyre to increase membership dues by \$10.00. Motion amended to include a \$100 increase in life member dues. Motion seconded. Resolution: Since approval of motion requires a vote by the general membership, a general meeting will be called on June 1, 2008 at Azalea Park at 4:00 p.m.

Motion made by Roger Nott that membership dues remain at the current \$25.00 should the renewing member elect to receive an email distribution of *The Eddy Line* in lieu of a paper edition. Resolution: Motion tabled.

Terms of Office

Roger Nott presented a motion that term of office for Members at Large and for Affiliate Associations expire at the time of a new president's first meeting of the Board of Directors. Resolution: Roger to reduce his motion to a written motion to be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

Election of Officers

Secretary: motion made, seconded, and approved to elect Bill Fox as Secretary.

Members-at-Large: Motion made, seconded, and approved to elect Lamar Phillips and Jay Manalo as Members-

at-Large of the Board.

MEETING ADJOURNED



**Official Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee - 04/03**

In attendance: Tom Bishop, Dan MacIntyre, Vincent Payne, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Jamie Higgins, Ed Schultz, Joe Webb, Allen Hedden, Kate Wilkerson, Bill Fox.

Minutes of the February 7, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were previously read and approved at the March 6, 2008 B.O.D. meeting.

Due to the closeness of timing of committee meetings and the deadline for submission to *The Eddy Line*, by unanimous vote the Committee adopted the proposal that draft minutes of meetings of both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors that have yet to be officially approved by the governing body can be published in the forthcoming edition of *The Eddy Line* under the caveat of "Unofficial Minutes of the XXX Meeting of XXX date."

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OPEN ISSUES

Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)

Net decrease of assets for March 2008 was \$1,625.51.

Tax return for 2006 has been submitted showing net assets of \$65,947.00

GCA's fiscal year is 1 November to 31 October of each calendar year.

River Protection (Chair Haynes Johnson)

Chair not present - no report.

Member Services (Chair Kate Wilkerson)

Kate continues with the project of establishing on-line forms for membership renewal.

Recreation (Chair Joe Webb)

Chair reported that the schedule of activities for the Spring Extravaganza to be held on 17 and 18 May has been developed and firmed up. Joe is still scheduling the choice of rivers to be run during the extravaganza.

Training (Chair Gina Johnson)

Chair not present - no report.

Proposal to obtain a certified kayak instructor trainer with the objective of enabling GCA to certify instructors within GCA remains tabled until the next Board meeting.

Resource Development (Chair William Gatling)

Chair reported on the current progress the Georgia River Explorer Series. First trip was run on March 29 on the Ocmulgee had 29 boats in the water with 19 paid participants. Second trip scheduled for April 12 on the Etowah River currently has 19 paid participants. The number of participants for the third trip scheduled for the Broad has not yet been firmed up.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Dues

Notification of proposed increase in membership dues will be published in the April *Eddy Line*.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

MEETING ADJOURNED



MEETINGS

**Unofficial Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee - 05/01**

In attendance: Tom Bishop, Dan MacIntyre, Ed Schultz, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Allen Hedden, Roger Nott, John Sampson, Bonny Putney, Bill Fox. Quorum not present.

Guests: Tammy Morrissey and Larry Costillo of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Minutes of the April 3, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were read and approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OPEN ISSUES

Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)

The Association saw a net decrease (again) of assets in April 2008 of \$633.69. Net decrease in assets for the fiscal quarter ending Jan 31, 2008 was \$1,635.44.

As discussed in the editorial of the March 2008 edition of *The Eddy Line*, at the request of the general membership, the Treasurer will submit a quarterly financial statement of the Association to the editor to be published in *The Eddy Line*.

River Protection (Chair Haynes Johnson)

Chair not present - no report submitted.

Member Services (Chair Kate Wilkerson)

Chair not present - no report submitted.

Recreation (Chair Joe Webb)

Chair not present - no report submitted.

Training (Chair Gina Johnson)

Chair not present - no report submitted.

Resource Development (Chair William Gatling)

Chair reported that while the River Explorer Series did not ultimately yield as many participants or new members as was initially hoped, the 2008 GRES was felt to be extremely successful in the eyes of those participating. Moreover, William noted that the response of the general membership in providing safety boats and general assistance was more than satisfying. It was noted that of the new participants, several were members of the same family or are current GCA members resulting in a total of 14 new memberships.

Chair plans to have an information/recruiting booth at the 6th Annual Back To the Chattahoochee Festival on the 14th of June.

A new supply of GCA business cards has been printed.

OLD BUSINESS

continued on following page

Certified Instructor Trainer

The proposal to obtain a certified kayak instructor trainer with the objective of enabling GCA to certify instructors within GCA remains tabled until the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

6th Annual Back To the Chattahoochee River Race & Festival

Guests from Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper briefed the Committee regarding events planned for the upcoming Chattahoochee River Race and Festival scheduled for 14 June at Garrard Landing Park. UCR anticipates approximately 300 paddlers to participate in the race and over 50 exhibitors to be present at the festival. Further information can be obtained by visiting UCR's website at [http://](http://www.chattahoochee.org/community5.htm)

www.chattahoochee.org/community5.htm.

UCR requested the assistance of GCA in providing a team of timekeepers for the race to be stationed at both the race start and finish lines. John Sampson very generously volunteered to chair and put together a team of approximately six GCA members to provide the timekeeping assistance requested. Opportunities to participate in GCA's team can be obtained by visiting John's e-message on the GCA listserve dated 2 April 2008.

River Cleanup

Bonny Putney briefed the Committee on the Chattahoochee river cleanup project planned for 7 June. Members who wish to participate should contact Bonny.

MEETING ADJOURNED

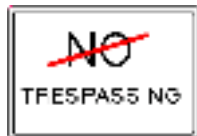


Access Issue on Spring Creek

by Tim Mersmann, Snellville, Georgia

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to let someone in the Georgia canoeing world know about a bad experience my family and I had canoeing on Spring Creek, so that the word might be spread and others might avoid repeating the experience. Spring Creek is in southwest Georgia, where it flows into Lake Seminole. We had planned to canoe 3 consecutive one-day segments in two canoes, starting in Colquitt and ending at Smith Landing on Lake Seminole. We had planned our trip using guidance from Welander, Sehlinger, and Otey: *A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to Georgia*.



ACCESS

Our first day initially went as planned, putting in at a public park in Colquitt, enjoying a comfortable day of paddling through impressive bottomland hardwoods and cypress, and taking out at Whites Bridge Road bridge right-of-way. However, we were met at the take-out by DNR law enforcement and a local landowner. We were initially accused of being artifact hunters, but when it was obvious that was not the case, we were informed that we had been trespassing on private property and the officer took our personal information.

Throughout the day we had stayed on the water with the exception of a few portages around deadfalls and a few brief breaks on the banks. I thought I understood rights related to navigable waters based on federal definitions and my experience in other states, so I was very surprised to learn of Georgia's definition of navigable waters and its implications for canoeing in Georgia.

Although the Welander et al. guide describes the status of paddler access rules, their full implications did not sink home at my first reading months before planning this trip. It describes the rules as "inconsistent," and "in practical application conflicts are rare... The best policy... is to avoid areas of

known conflict" and to be respectful of private land while accessing and paddling the waterway. We did our best on all those counts and did not avoid trouble.

At a minimum, we hope to notify paddlers that this is an area of "known conflict." The landowner directly downstream of Whites Bridge Road has his land posted, including a sign on a cable that crosses Spring Creek. (He was the one who met us with DNR at the take-out). We had not been on his property, and we obviously cancelled our plans to continue downstream across his property on the following day. Another upstream landowner had apparently called DNR after seeing us pass. However, no land along the stretch we paddled was posted in a way that caused us concern; and even if it had been, I'm not sure what we could have done about it at that point.

I asked the DNR officer about a DNR-constructed public boat ramp further down the creek and how anyone was supposed to use that boat ramp without trespassing on private property. He acknowledged that this was an issue with landowners both up- and down-stream of the ramp, and that technically boats entering there could only use the waters under the adjacent bridge right-of-way — an obviously absurd position. In addition, the DNR officer seemed surprised and suspicious of the canoe guide that would encourage people into such illegal behavior. Fortunately we have since heard from DNR that they do not plan to cite us for trespass; however, they acknowledge that the landowner may still take legal action.

Besides ruining our spring break trip, this experience has soured us on canoeing in Georgia. How many of the routes described in the canoeing guide are wholly encompassed by public land or on waters that would support a loaded barge? Few to none. Obviously, contacting all landowners along a day's stretch of paddling is not a feasible option. The only option it seems is to stay on often-paddled routes; however, even this doesn't remove all legal risk.

Please pass on our experience to others, and let me know if there are others I should contact about this matter. Also, please let me know if I can help in any serious effort to modernize recreational boater rights in Georgia. ✂

How I Nearly Died Today

by Jonathon Watterson
(from the Merrimack Valley Paddlers groupmail)

Today I fell into a textbook whitewater death trap and came back out through sheer luck. This first-person case study is offered to anyone who might find it useful; feel free to pass it on. Forgive the self-indulgence, but for all I know someone might find it interesting.

Background: It's April 12, 2008. I hadn't been in my kayak since practicing my roll last fall, and hadn't paddled seriously since probably last summer. This morning's trip down the North Branch of the Pis cataquog was my first trip of the year, and my first time down the North Branch ever. I'm pretty comfortable with Class 3 whitewater but still sometimes swim.

For various reasons (I had to recover from an earlier swim, and then stopped to re-do a wound dressing [long story]) I was not around when the log across the river was discussed; when I arrived at the spot where people had stopped to scout, most people were finished and were running



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the rapid above the log. Therefore, I did not know there was a tree across the river right below the rapid I was about to run. I stopped to scout ahead, but I didn't scout far enough ahead. I put in and proceeded to paddle down the steep, narrow, fun drop.

After I had successfully navigated the last of the drop, I looked around me and saw paddlers congregated on the shores and in eddies. I looked ahead of me and saw... a log. Completely obstructing the river perpendicularly, shore to shore. But I saw paddlers downstream of it, so I figured it must be possible to get past it. I had no time to look for a good place to try to boof it, so I just paddled into it straight on. There was no water running over the log, so I knew it would be dicey.

I got my bow up onto the log. I tried to boof over. Suddenly (and predictably, had I thought it through), the current caught my stern edge and flipped me over to the right. I knew I was going down and filled my lungs even as I fought the current with vain paddle strokes.

When I went under I realized two things. (1) A roll attempt, right there with the strong current pinning me in my boat against the log, would be a waste of precious time and O2. (2) My boat was a burden to be jettisoned ASAP. I also briefly had the thought that this just might be the time and place for my story to end, but there fortunately wasn't time to dwell on that.

I then did most strenuous sit-up of my life, with the current pressing on my chest, to reach my grab loop. (I totally want one of those spray skirts that have a grab strap across the lap!) After getting the skirt undone there was a span of several seconds while I was still stuck in place and waiting for the boat to free itself. Fortunately, that happened soon, and then I simply got forced under the log and spit out the other side, as though being dispensed from a squeeze bottle.

I had no injuries. The others told me that if I'd flipped on a different spot on the log, there might have been branches that would've stopped me passing under. If this had happened, you might be reading a very different story by a different person.

This is why we paddle in groups, and this is why I only ever paddle in this area with people who know the rivers better than I do. I will never again try to boof over an undercut log in a play boat. The group mobilized immediately to rescue me and recover my equipment, and to them all I am unendingly grateful.

Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln had a fine time at the theatre. After the log incident I walked around all the rapids that looked challenging, but I'd love to take another chance to

continued on following page



try them out, because they looked wicked fun.

Thanks again to everyone I paddled with today for a great day on the river and for having my back.

SYOTR



Hudson/Broad and Etowah Georgia River Explorer Series

by William Gatling, Resource Development Chair
Hudson/Broad River - April 16

With the Ocmulgee thunderstorm still fresh in everyone's mind and rain in the forecast, it was reassuring to see that there was a large crowd waiting for the Broad River Outpost to open. As we were loading boats onto the trailers the rains came.

Appropriately, we all loaded onto the short buses hoping for a change in the weather. The rain stopped during the shuttle, but we were still very unsure if it would return.

We had a large group of 29 paddlers, so we split into two groups. This was the first trip for some of the GRES paddlers. The water level was up and the Hudson had a brisk current that move us effortlessly downstream.

The variety of boats started to become apparent as the longer sea & touring kayaks pulled to the front of the pack, leaving the canoes and shorter kayaks behind. Both groups reunited for lunch at a large gravel and sand beach. So far the rain gear remained unused.

The water level almost washed out the last rapid, but the speed and noise of the water seemed to get everyone's attention.

Etowah (Highway 9 to Kelly Bridge) - April 26



Gettin' Ready: unloading "the variety of boats" in preparation for the Hudson River/Broad River GRES trip. Photo by William Gatling.

Rain in the forecast AGAIN??? Give me a break!!!

Skies were clear and the weather was perfect. Just in case, we decided to give out the T-shirts in case our luck didn't hold at the takeout. Haynes Johnson and friends did an outstanding job building the put-at Highway 9 a few weeks earlier.

We split the shuttle into two waves to get things off to a faster start. The first group held their safety meeting and headed off down the river.

The second group took awhile to get everybody pointing in the same direction at the same time, but we finally got underway. The river was running at 160 CFS (4.35') which was a little low, but everything was easily passable. Spring was kicking into full gear and the forest was full of flowers & blooms.

There were a few brief out of boat experiences, but paddlers and boats were quickly reunited without much difficulty.

Of the three GRES trips, this was the best river section we paddled. It had great scenery, nice current and great weather all day.

GRES Results

A total of 36 people participated on some or all of the GRES trips. This number does not include all the volunteers that made this possible.

Of those 36, 16 are current GCA members. We added 14 new GCA memberships and 20 paddlers. Final income and expenses are still being sorted out, but we should be donating appropriately \$500 to the GCA River Access Fund.

Movies & pictures are online at www.georgiariverexplorer.org.



Gettin' Started: one of the two paddler groups sets out on the Hudson. just below the Highway 29 bridge. Photo by William Gatling.

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From the Trash Queen Trash Talk

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

Happy Spring to all you GCA members. It has been a while since I made an appearance in the newsletter. Have not been sitting around, I have been cleaning up the years of trash off the exposed shoreline of Lake Lanier but it is time to get in my kayak and enjoy the miles of beautiful river we are blessed with. Hopefully you have been out paddling your own piece of river heaven, thankfully a lot of the levels have come up this year so you can actually paddle.

With no rain, the trash tends to accumulate on the shoreline and with a decent amount of rain, it all gets washed into the water. Please adopt a piece of river, does not have to be long, or a whole run, maybe just from "this bridge to that bridge" and vow to keep it clean. If all of us just picked a piece, we would not need to schedule many big clean up events, it would be handled.

Speaking of handling trash, up on the Chattahoochee River below Helen the first Bandlong Litter Trap in North America has been installed. This is a passive system that collect trash as it flows down the river. They have a group of school kids monitoring the trash and White County is using local Community Service to clean it. Wonder if they will catch

any tubers (just kidding), but it is pretty neat, if you go up to Helen check it out. Hopefully this is only the first; I would love to see one under 285.

A new canoe trail was established on the Etowah below Dawsonville by Dawson County. GCA members helped with the establishment and dedication of the trail and the Georgia River Explorer Series did the first run this year down the trail. And what a beautiful trail it is, if you want a really nice paddle and are looking for great place to take new paddlers and get them hooked, this is your spot.

GCA also did a clean up and I thank all who helped especially Haynes and Gina Johnson and Lamar Phillips who brought help in the form of Buddy Goolsby and Donald Robinson and graciously provided shuttle to us all. I had Amber Jensen, Tyler Veney and Lauren Morton come with me.

We were all lucky as David Bolton came with his canoe and eagerness to use a chainsaw in the river. The chainsaw broke before we could get the big strainer out, but it gives us a mission for another day and even with the river being cleaned recently, got a load of trash. The take out is private property, help us keep nice trails like this open for all by respecting the property and keeping trash cleaned up, even if it is not yours.

continued on following page

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: 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; 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. (05)

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 details at www.esquif.com. Paddled twice: 6'4" seller prefers a bigger boat.

\$1,800 investment, will sell for \$1475. Call Alan: home 770.534.5857, cell 770.634.6993. (05)

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)

I have a couple events scheduled for the coming months, with many more to follow:

June 7, come run the Back to the Chattahoochee River Race course with us a week early for the 1st Annual Sweep the Course. Win fun prizes for the most/unusual trash. For a lot of people who participate in the UCR race, this is the only



David Bolton works on cutting a limb while other members of the Etowah River tree-trimming group look on. Photo by Bonny Putney.

time they step foot in the Chattahoochee River. As GCA members let's make sure they don't see any trash around and help make this huge event a success. Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m. at Garrard's Landing, Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell.

July 19 & 20 and September 19 & 20: Upper

Chattahoochee River & Soque River. In an effort to save gas and make a real event out of it, I am working on a "Camp In-Trash Out" for these clean ups. They will be posted on the email list and calendar as soon as I work out the details. Wildwood Outfitters will provide shuttle. Wildwood is at the Duncan Bridge Road (Georgia Highway 384) bridge over the Chattahoochee on the White County/Habersham County line.

GCA has adopted a section of the Chattooga River from Thrift's Ferry to Bull Sluice. Roger Nott will be leading a clean up trip on this section on June 28. For more information, contact Roger at 770.536.6923.

I want to say a big THANK YOU to Ben LaChance at Appalachian Outfitters for getting me a huge supply of those mesh trash bags that don't hold water. I also have access to trash pickers that have been loaned by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. I want to share my good clean up karma fortune with GCA members, so if you want to get down and dirty let me know! Drop me a line and let's talk! Have fun out there, just keep it clean! ✂

There is comfort in knowing that no matter what aspect my life takes on, the river will flow freely here, and that I might come to this place any time, in sadness or joy, alone or with someone I love. The water will run smooth and fast, and though it will be a different river coming down out of the mountains it will also retain its constancy.
Jeff Wallach

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTION 2008

Whitewater Kayak

Beginner

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

Nantahala Falls Weekend

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

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

Safety & Rescue Clinic - Athens area

June 21 (tentative)


Sea Kayak Basics - Charleston

Sept 20 — 21

Sea Kayak Strokes Athens area

August 9 (tentative)

FEES

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

Heard Along the River

Have you ever considered how the things we say along the river sound to non-paddlers? Think for a moment about how these sound to people not involved in our sport:

Nice rack!

When I say "hut-ho," we'll switch.

Mine's longer by 8 cm.

I need to buy more tie-downs.

You need to lengthen your stroke.

She's one of the fastest women I know.

I find neoprene too constricting.

Whitewater Canoe (Solo and Tandem)

Beginner

Steve Cramer
cramersec@charternet
June 7 & 8

Trained Beginner

Jim Albert
jimalbert@gmail.com
August 16 & 17

Intermediate

Haynes Johnson
haynesandgina@alltel.net
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

It's a tight fit, but if I wiggle I can get in.

Let's roll a few times and call it a night.

He was riding my ass for hours.

I'm switching partners next time.

I need a larger shaft.

I had a partner last year, but this year I'm doing it solo.


She's always willing to go out with a group of guys.

He has a much faster stroke than me.

She's got some cosmetic blemishes, but she rides real nice.

He asked me to pick him up a new skirt.

You left your sponge in there.

I never go anywhere without my pump. 

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 Intermediate 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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