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# THE EDDY LINE

Volume 43, No. 8

770.421.9729

www.georgiacanoe.org

August 2008

## August 1-3, Horn's Creek Resort 4th Annual GCA Chick Paddle

by Denise Keller, GCA Recreation Chair (Retired)

The 4th annual GCA "Chick Paddle" will take place the weekend of August 1-3, 2008, at Horn's Creek Resort in Ocoee, Tennessee ([www.hornscreek.com](http://www.hornscreek.com)). This year Karen Saunders is organizing the weekend and has reserved the Big Timber Lodge. This lodge has no kitchen, but we've managed in past years to become very creative and work around this. I encourage you to check out Horn's Creek's website and get an idea of the lodge and the resort.

We usually have a "pot luck" dinner both Friday and Saturday nights with everyone bringing a main or side dish to share. Joy Scott has promised to make her fabulous, super-duper chili and Karen is getting the Dutch ovens ready for some wonderful desserts. There is ALWAYS a fabulous blend of creative foods and drinks during the weekend and it's worth coming to the CP just for that.

The plan is to gather Friday and then paddle the Hiwassee River Saturday and Sunday. The Hiwassee is a scenic Class 1-2 river that is appropriate for ALL paddling levels. For anyone feeling that they are not "whitewater ready," we can arrange for a "duckie" rental. This is a great way to check out the river, especially if it's your first time on the big "H," and there are plenty of paddlers to help with safety and give advice on how to run the river.



On Friday of the Chick Paddle, we can also arrange a raft trip on the famous Ocoee River with NOC. This is a nice way to check out and have the some fun on the Olympic river.

If you are new to the club or to boating, the Chick Paddle is an excellent way to meet fellow GCA "chicks," work on paddling skills and just hang out, have fun, and have a great weekend. (Anything can happen at the Chick Paddle and it usually does!!)

If you plan to attend this fun-filled weekend, please contact Karen Saunders who is organizing the weekend and requests \$50.00 to hold a spot. You'll need to send a payment to her ASAP.

One thing for sure, we ALWAYS have a great time paddling and hanging out together. I'm always amazed at the talents we have in the club: cooking, head-stands, hoola-hoops and glowie things. Of course there is Christine and her famous cha-cha. Which reminds me to remind you all that there are NO CAMERAS allowed: we're in enough trouble from past Chick Paddles as it is.

To join in the fun, the first thing you need to do is email or call Karen Saunders to reserve one of the limited spaces in the lodge. You can reach Karen at [karen5@bellsouth.net](mailto:karen5@bellsouth.net), 770.834.2151 (home) or 678.372.2849 (cell). You also need to send \$50.00 (non-refundable) to Karen at P.O. Box 1449, Temple, GA 30116 to

*Chick Paddle continued on page 4*



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	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

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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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:the_eddyline@yahoo.com).

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

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## UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

### August

2	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Dan MacIntyre	404.252.9513
2	Nantahala	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
3	Nantahala (Note 1)	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
8	Metro 'Hooch	Beginner	Priscilla Dixey	404.377.8836
9	Chattooga - Section 4	Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
10	Broad	Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
16	Tuckasegee	Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
17	Upper Ocoee	Advanced	Hank Klausman	770.587.0499
23	Tuckasegee	Trained Beginner	Gina Johnson	706.579.1048
23	Upper Chattahoochee (Note 2)	Intermediate	Priscilla Dixey	404.377.8836
30	Ocoee	Advanced	Jay Manalo	678.637.8131
30	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Gina Johnson	706.579.1048
31	Nantahala	Intermediate	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384

Note 1: Ferebee to Falls

Note 2: Highway 115 to Duncan Bridge

### 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!

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**Signing Up:** Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

**Training Trips** are a combination of recreation and training designed for those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors practicing what was learned in the clinic and expanding skill levels.

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

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## 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. ✂

**Chick Paddle**, continued from page 1  
hold a spot for the weekend.



Karen is also the person to call if you have any questions. If you're interested in rafting the Ocoee the Friday of the Chick Paddle, please contact Denise Keller at [baloata@bellsouth.net](mailto:baloata@bellsouth.net) or 770.591.0980.

As in the past, if you are of the male persuasion, you are cordially NOT invited for this weekend. ✂

### 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! ✂

### Unofficial Meeting Minutes Board of Directors & General Membership, 06/01

by Bill Fox, GCA Secretary

A total of 21 members of the GCA were present for the combined meeting.

Minutes of the March 6, 2008 Board of Directors meeting were read and approved as submitted.



MEETING

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OPEN ISSUES Financial Report (Treasurer Ed Shultz)

The association's financial records indicate an end of period balance of \$66,145.47 with an operating fund balance of \$3,122.60.

The Association saw a net decrease (again) of assets in May 2008 of \$142.24.

### River Protection (Chair Haynes Johnson)

Chair reported on an open public discussion held by Georgia State on the state's water plan. The current water plan as presently proposed seems to focus largely on building reservoirs.

### 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 reminded the membership that GCA's current

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

August 1-3, 4th Annual GCA Chick Paddle, Horn's Creek Resort, Ocoee, TN - Karen Saunders, 770.834.2151, 678.372.2849, karen5@bellsouth.net.

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

October 4-5 - 40th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom & Wildwater Championships, Nantahala River, Wesser, NC - Roger Nott, 770.536.6923 or ocapaddler@charter.net.

October 4 - Berkeley County Blueways Paddlefest, Old Santee Canal Park, Moncks Corner, SC - www.berkeleyblueways.com - Archie Thompson, ilike2kayak@juno.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/>.

training schedule is as printed in the April 2008 edition of *The Eddy Line*.

Chair will submit a statement to the editor for enclosure in the forthcoming *Eddy Line* reminding the membership of the policy that all training clinic students must submit a check and a signed waiver release before the student is considered to be registered for the clinic in question.

### Resource Development (Chair William Gatling)

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

### OLD BUSINESS

#### 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.

#### Advertising Manager

Betty Rose and Doug Hoffmann volunteered to fill the vacant position of advertising manager of *The Eddy Line*.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Party Rock Section of Toccoa River

Lamar Phillips presented a proposal for GCA to join with other area paddling clubs to seek some type of action to keep the Party Rock section of the Toccoa River open to the paddling public. This section of the river is currently posted by private land owners.

Lamar volunteered to chair an ad hoc committee to seek input from area clubs and to collaboratively investigate feasible courses of action.

#### Amendment to Association Bylaws

In anticipation of a future formal presentation, William Gatling presented for general consideration a proposal by which the Bylaws of the association would be amended to

allow for a process of absentee voting.

Inasmuch as such an amendment would require action by the Board of Directors, William will present a formal proposal addressing this issue at the next Board meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Increase of Membership Dues

President Tom Bishop formally raised the oft discussed question of increasing the annual dues of the general membership and called for an appropriate motion and discussion.

As originally moved and tabled at the March 6, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors, Dan MacIntyre made a motion before the membership present to increase individual general membership dues by \$10.00 per annum and to increase the dues for future life memberships by \$100.00

Treasurer Ed Shultz presented a brief history on the monetary funds of the association. On average GCA has suffered a decline in assets of approximately \$1,500.00 since October 2007.

As the presiding officer, President Bishop formally called for the will of the assembled membership. By a show of hands, the motion carried by an affirmative vote of 20 aye and one nay to become effective on July 1, 2008.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

### July Meeting Postponed

The July Executive Committee meeting, which would normally have taken place on July 3, was postponed to July 10 due to the Independence Day holiday. The July 10 meeting occurred too late for the minutes to be included in this issue of *The Eddy Line*, so they will be included in the September issue.

## 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.

Donnell, Bill  
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O: 678-641-0022  
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Email: pauline.thynne@accenture.com

## Trash Talk

by **Bonny Putney, GCA “Trash Queen”**

Hey all you Georgia paddlers, hope you had a safe and fun holiday and July. Keep praying for rain.



### CONSERVATION

Just got back from Paddle Georgia on the Flint River. Like all of Georgia's rivers, the Flint is extremely low and suffers from lack of rain. GCA had a large presence with GCA safety boats guarding the 300+ paddlers on the Day 2 journey through Yellow Jacket Shoals and during the week with deadfall and technical places.

Vincent Payne did an awesome job giving the safety talk before the paddle started with the “Paddle Safety Bingo” game. Even those of us who have heard the safety talk too many times to count listened and learned something. If you ever have to do a safety spiel for a large group, this is an effective, fun way to get the job done.

The Flint is extremely clean, but we had decided months before to do a clean up on Monday's paddle. I learned a lesson about assumptions, and did not say what NOT to pick up since I had seen very little trash of any sort the first 2 days.

We had a huge shock when piles of tires and trash were brought in that evening. One canoe with 3 teenagers had 13 tires in it! (Don't ask, you need to see the pictures). We ended up with 35 tires and over 800 pounds of trash. The DNR Ranger told me it was the biggest clean up ever on that section of the Flint!

Most of the tires were placed long ago by fishermen to give fish a place to nest. We have seen the same thing in Lake Lanier. Tires were generally considered “non-hazardous” and OK to use for this purpose. The research has proved different

and we have begun removing them.

If you remove tires from a river, please keep the following in mind. If the tire is submerged, will remain so and is adding stability to the riverbank and is not a hazard, I generally suggest leaving it. If it is sticking out and has exposed areas and might be a breeding place for mosquitoes, it is an excellent candidate for removal.

Be extremely careful when handling and removing tires. They harbor critters that can bite, sting and generally cause you to have an unpleasant journey. Ask Jim Albert: I have not seen him since he helped us on an Upper Chattahoochee River event and had multiple critters from a tire gang up and attack him in his canoe. Tires also have mud, sand and rocks and are extremely heavy. Balancing a tire on a kayak is almost impossible: canoes have more success but they still take excellent balance and control. Unless you have a place to off-load your tire quickly you will be traveling down the river with the beast.

The other issue is disposal. Tires can not be put in a regular dumpster, they have to be recycled. If you don't have a trash collection exemption or figure it out ahead of time, they can cost \$3.00+ each and you have to get them to the recycle center. If you are planning a clean up, tires must be addressed and disposal determined before you start the event. If you have some tires that are bugging you, by all means get them, but if you are just generally doing a clean up, I suggest “NO TIRES.”

Rivers Alive's ([www.riversalive.org](http://www.riversalive.org)) 10th year of supporting waterway clean ups is this year. We are producing special T-shirts and will have 2 shirt choices in the offering along with boat stickers. Registration is open so get your river event on the calendar.

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper ([www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org)) is holding the first headwaters “Save the

Hooch" event at Indigo Joe's Restaurant in Cumming on July 26. This is a Sweetwater Beer event, so beer will be featured and on sale along with music and food. Come help us "give our

liver to save the river." Times and other information on the UCR website,  
See you on the river, keep it clean!

## October 4-5, Nantahala River 2008 Southeasterns Scheduled

by Roger Nott, Racemaster

Mark your calendars. The GCA will hold its 40th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom & Wildwater Championships on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5, 2008, on the Nantahala River in Wesser, North Carolina.

The Wildwater Championships will be on Saturday beginning in a mass start at 3:00 p.m. and will run the full 8 miles, from the rafting put-in just below the Duke Power Powerhouse to Finish Rock near the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC). There will be a gala party Saturday evening to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Southeasterns, the oldest slalom and wildwater races in the Southeast and perhaps the oldest slalom races in the country continuously held at one venue. The Slalom Championships are on Sunday beginning at 1:00 p.m. and will be held just downstream of the NOC Store as we did last year.

We need as many club members as possible to participate by volunteering to run the races and to race. There will be

the usual classes in both slalom and wildwater for recreational boats as well as for racing boats.

You can win \$100 if you break the course records in the Wildwater: K-1 - Terry White, 42:04.85, 1981; K-1W - Kathy Bolyn, 45:20, 1989; C-1 - John Pinyerd, 46:43, 1997; OC-2 - Bill Baxter and Les Bechdel, 50:06, 1983; C-2 - David Jones and Mike Hipsher, 45:11, 1989; OC-1 - Angus Morrison, 50:00, 1982. Special awards are also given for these wildwater winners: Charlie Patton Award - C-1 (or OC-1 if faster); Julie Wilson Award - fastest female; Ramone Easton - OC-2. And the name of the fastest overall, usually a K-1, gets engraved on the old Southeastern Trophy.



Come join the fun! To volunteer to help, contact Racemaster Roger Nott at 770.536.6923 or 678.316.4935 or at [ocapaddler@charter.net](mailto:ocapaddler@charter.net). Registration forms can be downloaded at [www.georgiacanoe.org](http://www.georgiacanoe.org) or by contacting Roger Nott (2335 Stephens Circle, Gainesville, GA 30506-1115).

## 2008 Wildwater World Championships Pinyerd World Champion Again

by Rick Bellows

GCA member John Pinyerd successfully defended his world championship at the 2008 Wildwater Championships, held June 1-8 in Ivrea, Italy. Pinyerd, who lives in Marietta, won the C1 men's masters division, successfully defending the world championship he won in 2006 in the Czech Republic.

Pinyerd's winning time was 8:53.10, more than half a minute faster than the runner-up, Dario Grossi of Italy, at 9:25.30. American Michael Harris finished third in the masters division in 9:29.

"It was a lot of fun," Pinyerd said. "I was feeling a little pressure to win the world championship for a second time. The first time, I was just happy to be there, but now I was the favorite and there was more pressure the second time with a world championship to defend. But I knew I had trained hard and I was ready for it and I decided to just have fun with it."

Between his world championships, Pinyerd placed first in the men's masters C2 (doubles) and second in C1 at the 2007 national championships in Massachusetts and won the U.S. team trials in April on the Cheat River in Virginia.

"When I won the team trials, I knew I was ready to get back and try to win another world championship and started to buckle down in my training," Pinyerd said. "The success I had at the team trials on the Cheat River really boosted my

confidence."

Pinyerd plans to compete in both the C1 and C2 classes at the August U.S. Nationals on the Deerfield River in Massachusetts. He also plans to seek a third straight world championship at the Wildwater World Championships in 2010.

In addition to his own success, Pinyerd enjoyed the fine performance of his protege, 18-year-old Tierney O'Sullivan of Roswell, who finished 26th the K1 (kayak) women's division. O'Sullivan, who is coached by Pinyerd, won the U.S. Nationals in her division. She plans to attend UGA this fall.



**World champion John Pinyerd. Photo from the USA Wildwater website.**

Contrary to Georgia, the problem in Italy was too much water. Flooding caused the Masters' division races to be rescheduled and eventually to be run on a flatter alternate course. The Sprint race was run on the flooded course, resulting in a number of eddy outs, flips and swims and in many competitors being unable to finish.

More pictures from the World Championships are at [www.usawildwater.com/Photos/2008\\_Worlds.htm](http://www.usawildwater.com/Photos/2008_Worlds.htm).

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## Boating December 1 — March 1, 450 cfs USFS Chooses “Preferred Alternative”

by Rick Bellows

On July 2, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) released its “pre-decisional Environmental Assessment (EA) of recreation uses on the upper Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.” Sumter National Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas announced that the USFS had selected a “preferred alternative,” Alternative 4 of the alternatives outlined by the USFS in 2007.



**ACCESS**

Alternative 4 would allow boating from County Line Road Trail in North Carolina to Burrell’s Ford Bridge, but only “at a mean daily flow level of 450 cubic feet per second (cfs) and above from December 1 — March 1,” according to a USFS summary of the alternatives. Supervisor Thomas is quoted

in a USFS press release as explaining that boating would be allowed “between December 1 and March 1 when mean daily flow levels average 450 cfs or more, which is above those levels considered optimal for fishing.”

According to Supervisor Thomas, “Our proposal maintains the existing high-quality trout fishing experience on the Chattooga while providing some additional opportunities for challenging whitewater boating in a remote setting.” Alternative 4 includes no flow limitations, seasonal limitations or participant limitations for anglers on the upper Chattooga.

The USFS summary of the alternatives specifies that Alternative 4 “minimizes conflict between boaters and anglers by establishing flow and season restrictions for boating.” The summary says Alternative 4 also “requires boaters to take out at Burrells Ford to minimize conflict between boaters and other users, especially in the popular delayed-harvest areas.”

Other boating-specific provisions of the “preferred” Alternative 4 include a limit of 6 boaters per group and 4 groups per day and a minimum of 2 boats per group. Boating would be limited to “hardboats” and inflatable kayaks, both single-capacity. Boating would be allowed only during certain unspecified hours and commercial boating would remain banned. Removal of large woody debris to accommodate boating would be prohibited.

Alternative 4 would also “designate existing user-created trails” except where damage can’t be mitigated and would preclude new user-created trails or construction of new trails, except to correct problems on designated trails. In the Wilderness and Wild segments, existing user-created campsites would be “designated,” but camping would then be limited to designated campsites: user designated campsites would be prohibited and user-designated fire rings limited. In

Recreation and Scenic segments, user-created campsites would be allowed, but would have to be 50 feet from the river or trails, 100 feet from other campsites and 300 feet from public roads.

The “pre-decisional Environmental Assessment” and the designation of Alternative 4 as the “preferred alternative” by USFS are the latest steps in a process that has taken more than four years. On January 15, 2004, the Sumter National Forest announced its new management plan, which continued the total ban on boating above Highway 28. American Whitewater (AW) filed a Notice of Appeal on April 16, 2004. The deadline for USFS to rule on the appeal was September 23, 2004.

The USFS ruling on April 28, 2005 found that the Sumter National Forest management plan violated both the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The decision required a new plan, based on a user capacity analysis, by April, 2007.

On June 4 of this year, Kevin Colburn, AW National Stewardship Director, wrote USFS Chief Abigail Kimbell to point out the long-overdue decision and the lack of an Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment had been scheduled for release in November, then by year’s end, then on March 7.

In response to Colburn’s letter, the USFS announced in late June that the deadline for Sumter National Forest to reach a new decision had been extended to December 31, 2008. No explanation was provided for the delays to date or for the new deadline.

The “pre-decisional Environmental Assessment” was released July 2 and, per the USFS press release, comments “are due to the Forest Service by August 1, 2008.”

The 160-page “pre-decisional Environmental Assessment,” a summary of the alternatives and additional background information are available on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms>. Comments can be emailed to [comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us) or mailed to U.S. Forest Service, Chattooga River Project, 4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212. Additional information is also available on the American Whitewater website: [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).

**Comments on the "pre-decisional Environmental Assessment" and on the USFS determination of Alternative 4 as its "preferred alternative" must be received by the USFS by August 1.**

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### Editorial

## Once Again, the Short End of the USFS Stick

by Rick Bellows

On July 2, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) finally released the draft (they call it "pre-decisional) Environmental Analysis of the upper Chattooga corridor. The USFS also announced that one of the alternatives developed over the summer and fall of 2007, Alternative 4, is the agency's "preferred alternative" for management of the upper Chattooga. Alternative 4 is discussed in some detail in the article on page 8.

As we've come to expect, the decision is not particularly good for boaters. It would allow boating from December 1 to March 1, but would allow a maximum of 4 groups of up to 6 boats per day. And only from below the private property in North Carolina to just above Burrels Ford. And only when the flow is 450 cfs or higher.

The severely limited boater access is hardly surprising since the entire focus of Alternative 4 is to favor fishing over boating as much as possible. In announcing the choice of Alternative 4 as "preferred," Sumter National Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas gushed, "Our proposal maintains the

existing high quality trout fishing experience on the Chattooga while providing some additional opportunities for challenging whitewater boating in a remote setting."

The legal problem with favoring fishing over boating, or any one use over another, is that it is contrary to the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act - and is exactly the problem that got the 2004 management plan dumped on appeal by the USFS itself. Given the attitude of Supervisor Thomas and the folks at the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, it seems virtually certain another appeal will result from this lengthy and clearly biased "process," very possibly followed by a lawsuit.

For now, however, the idiotic, time-wasting, money-wasting, butt-covering USFS "process" is the only process available for boaters to even attempt to influence the USFS decision. At this point in the "process," that means submitting comments about the Environmental Analysis and the choice of Alternative 4 as the "preferred alternative." The email and snail mail addresses to submit comments are in the article on page 8.

Of course, having ignored its own deadlines and prom-

*continued on following page*



**EDITORIAL**

ises and having taken most of a year to produce the “pre-decisional Environmental Analysis” and choose Alternative 4, then making its announcement just before a holiday weekend, the USFS has decided to allow only 30 days for public response. Responses must be **received** by the USFS by August 1.

Though it is abundantly clear by now that comments of boaters will be ignored or minimized, it is still important that we submit comments. The comments are supposed to be part of

## BYOB-3: Stripper

**William C. Reeves (The Hawk)**

Whoa! *The Eddy Line* is for the whole family. Is the Hawk fix'n to write about drinking and stripping at GCA Galas? No way: this BYOB is Build Your Own Boat. This is the Hawk's third *Eddy Line* essay on boat construction; the first 2 involved stitch & glue and skin on frame sea kayaks; this one concerns constructing a stripper canoe.

Why even consider making a canoe? First, it's something the entire family (or club - e.g., Scout Troop) can do. Second, it's less expensive (around a grand) than purchasing an equivalent kevlar or glass boat (aesthetically none are equivalent). Third, it's not all that difficult (The Hawk did it). Last, and most important, it's an opportunity to make a unique and elegant traditional expedition conveyance.

Right now, if you're seriously thinking about it, stop reading this. Go on-line to Amazon.com and order *Canoeecraft: An Illustrated Guide to Fine Woodstrip Construction* by Ted Moores. This book will tell you everything you will need to know. Indeed, a sophisticated craftsman with a complete wood shop and her own timber would need only

the basis for the USFS decision how the upper Chattooga is to be managed, and the more reasonable, coherent comments in the record to show the boating ban is without justification the better when the “process” is reviewed on appeal or in litigation.

The USFS, and especially the administration of the Sumter National Forest, have made it plain they have no problem with ignoring the law and the rules. What we need to do now is, as the lawyers say, perfect the record. 

this book because it has 8 different hull plans with offsets.

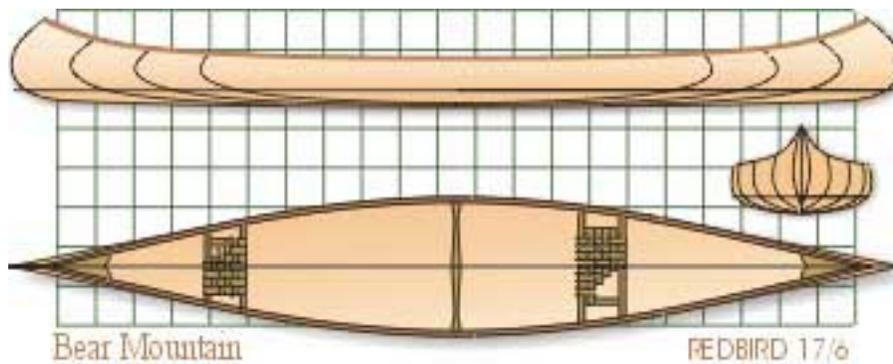
I'm not that sophisticated, so I bought plans, fiberglass cloth and resin from Bear Mountain Boats ([www.bearmountainboats.com](http://www.bearmountainboats.com) — 1-877-392-8880). Call them up and discuss your project: it's a mom and pop shop and they're helpful and interested in your project.

I purchased the wooden components from Ian McGrath at Great Northern Craft in Canada (604-886-8052). Again, I called him, discussed my project, and he helped me determine exactly what I needed. Ian selects western red cedar, Alaskan yellow cedar and various hardwood logs, has them milled into rough planks, then kiln-dries them and machines perfect bead

and cove hull planks. To give you control over what your boat will look like, he packages planks from each board in the order in which they were cut.

The plans include overall perspective line drawings, a traditional table of offsets, and cross-section templates along with an instruction book. Basically, building a stripper canoe consists of making a mold based on the cross-sections, stapling planks to the mold, gluing the planks together, and then covering the hull with fiberglass cloth.

So, I read the book; the plans came; I found some old



Above, the beginning: a line drawing of the Bear Mountain Redbird. Below, station forms cut from old plywood braces, per the plans. Photos by the The Hawk



pieces of plywood and cut out the cross sections. Then I fished some 2x4's out of the basement, stuck plywood on top to make a 17 foot strong back and fixed the cross sections to it. This step is critical because if things aren't perfectly aligned your boat will look funny and will likely paddle crooked.

By the time I had completed the mold UPS had delivered an 18 foot long cardboard tube full of wood. When your tube of wood arrives, pay attention when you're removing the hull strips. Lay them out carefully. Remember, they are packed in the order they were cut and you'll want the color transitions to correspond to what you discussed with Ian.

Then, starting at the gunnels, staple a plank (cove side up) to the mold; squeeze a bead of carpenter's glue along the cove; squish the next plank into it and staple it to the mold. Pay attention to the way you have laid out the strips so that both sides are symmetrical and the color blends as you had planned.

Piece of cake. Well not quite. Things get complicated as you begin to reach the midline so read the book and think about it.

Whoops, sorry, I almost forgot. Before you start stapling

planks you must construct the stems, those thick front and back pieces that give the bow and stern their elegant shape and that you crunch into things when you're paddling. No biggie; make a steam box out of aluminum insulated foam; position it over your camp stove; bring a teapot to boil and steam the ash stem strips that were in your wood shipment (read the book for specifics). Laminate the strips together with epoxy over the stem molds using C-clamps to hold them for a day or so, do a little wood work to bevel them and start stapling your hull pieces. Depending on how rapidly you can staple and glue the hull will be done in a week or so.



Then comes some serious sanding and once the hull's just right you cover it with fiberglass cloth inside and out. Then comes more serious sanding. Do this outside and wear a respirator. Repeat, DO NOT even consider doing this sanding indoors - the fiberglass/resin dust is insidious.

Glassing done, stick on the gunnels (relatively simple to make even with scuppers) and the decks (a bit more complicated) and settle in for six coats of marine varnish and corresponding wet sanding. Then bolt in the seats and a thwart (I bought mine) and you're done.

It took me about 3-months to make a 17 foot Redbird. Once it's done you have two final choices. The most logical is to sell it. The boat is beautiful but you know every little imperfection and how to avoid them next time. The mold is sitting in your shop so all the preparation is done. You should clear \$3,000 or \$4,000, which pays for your expenses, pays for the next set of wood and covers a nice expedition.

Or do what I did. I'd rather paddle than make boats. So load it on your well-padded roof racks and go padding for a week.



Left, the almost-completed stripper coming together along the keel. Above, building a stripper takes "some serious sanding." Below, the end: the finished and loaded stripper at a lunch stop on Holmes Creek. Photo above by Barb Reeves; photos left and below by The Hawk.



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## Cave Spring, GA Big Cedar Creek Trip

by Alan Reeves, Trip Coordinator

Leisurely; that's the single word description for our float down this pastoral stream. I have lived on this creek for twenty years. This was my first time as a trip coordinator and the small group was great.

The premise for the trip was that participants could camp the night before at my house and we would then take a family-friendly canoe trip the next day. One person did camp Friday, but with running water and a flush toilet available it isn't really roughing it.



### TRIP REPORTS

Big Cedar has a mild current with occasional rocky shoals and a Native American fish weir every now and then to keep things interesting. Water level was adequate, but two or three inches more would have been nice.

Hoped for thunderstorms did not materialize and early summer heat gave an excuse to hop in the water even if you

didn't quite get stuck on the shoals. Schools of shad, large carp, bass, bream, and drum were seen in the clear water. Great blue herons were seen frequently. At one point several small springs flow into the creek nearly at the water line. Their flow was refreshingly cold.

The morning shuttle was easy in that all the boats could be put on one pick-up and carried to the put in. The problem was that the coordinator's dogs wanted to come along, too. As one was pulled out the driver's door another would enter the passenger side. Folks in the back seat were no help; their laughter seemed to encourage the misbehavior.

We were on the water by 10:00 a.m. at the Lyons Bridge Road access. Everyone paddled error-free and the three craft, two OC-1s and a sit-on-top kayak, arrived at the take-out before 1:00 p.m. One paddler wanted time to grab some fresh spring water from the cave where the town gets its name.

Thanks to Herb Hammond for being the first to sign up and to Diane Smith for making the trip an official GCA event with the required third boat. It was a fantastic day with a very compatible small group.

It was so easy to coordinate this trip that I look forward to doing it again. I encourage you to take the clinic and lead/coordinate a trip yourself. See you on the river. 

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## Low Water on the Etowah

by Dick Hurd, Trip Coordinator

Eight adventurous paddlers joined me on Saturday, June 14, for a trip down the falls section of the Etowah. For several it was their first trip on the Etowah, and for others their first with the GCA.

I knew the water was low: the outfitter advises a minimum level of 4.8 on the Highway 9 gauge and it was 3.8 and

easily monitored at the web site. Still, I thought we could get by and we did, with a lot of upper body effort, and frequent hangups. With two canoes and the rest various style kayaks, everyone was challenged.

Still, it is a lovely and scenic river, very quiet, relatively little development, even today, and the falls are always interesting. There are also several shoals offering challenges to the beginner. I probably would not run it again at this level,



Left, Trip Coordinator Dick Hurd paddles past a wading participant on the Etowah trip. Right, pulling the boats over the rocks. Photos by Patty Durrand, trip participant and State Director, Georgia Chapter of Sierra Club.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**Wanted:** Racks to carry 1-2 kayaks on a 2008 Toyota Matrix (sub-combat). Call Laura @404.297.6419.

**For Sale:** Custom-made neoprene skirt, small, \$80. Susan, 404.713.0844 or [blueberryhillshorses@gmail.com](mailto:blueberryhillshorses@gmail.com).

**For Sale:** Dagger Approach, 9 foot hybrid whitewater/rec kayak with retractable skegg and watertight hatch, paddled only a few times, suitable for up to 200 lbs. - \$600 (\$700 new). Susan, 404.713.0844 or [blueberryhillshorses@gmail.com](mailto:blueberryhillshorses@gmail.com).

**For Sale:** Perception 16 foot sea kayak in good condition, only paddled a few times. Call Lamar at 404.229.2939.

**For Sale:** Mad River Freedom Solo/ Guide; green royalex. David Robinson, 550.547.2082, [robintwo@bellsouth.net](mailto:robintwo@bellsouth.net).

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but 6 more inches of water, getting it to 4.3, may be adequate.

Joining me were Patty Durand, Brian Hughes, Lydia Hughes, Leif Hauge, Keith Haskell, Lisa Haskell, Amanda Haskell and Caleb Castleberry. The url for the gauge is: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv?02389150>.



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**Saturday, June 25**

### Chattooga River Clean-Up Trip

by Roger Nott, rip Coordinator

The GCA celebrated National River Clean-Up Month by holding a clean-up trip on the section of the Chattooga the club has adopted since 1990, from Thrifts Ferry Landing to Bull Sluice. We had a congenial, hard-working group of volunteers: Marie Dunkle in a kayak and OC-1 paddlers David Bernard, Marty Dyche, John Holley, Dave Leigh and Roger Nott.

### Eddy Line Survey

by Rick Bellows

*Editor's Note: This response to comments about The Eddy Line in the GCA member survey taken last fall has been lingering since then, awaiting this available newsletter "hole."*

In the member survey several months ago, 8 members (out of 77 responding) identified themselves as "somewhat dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" with *The Eddy Line*. Fortunately, they specified why they were less than satisfied.

I can only respond to 6 of those 8 members. One "just looks at the trip schedule" and didn't say what about it is unsatisfactory. And one was me, whose job it is not to be satisfied unless the newsletter is perfect.

The issues I can respond to are:

**Repeats information from the listserve.** Yes, it does.

That has been because I have assumed there were a fair number of *Eddy Line* readers who don't participate in the listserve (what I usually call "groupmail"), but I really don't know if that is the case. I did ask if there was a way to

The water was low, 1.04 on the USGS Highway 76 gauge, but everything was still runnable without much scraping and the low level and clean water allowed us to scour the riverbed, often diving for sunken cans and other treasures. The day was mostly sunny, though there were two brief showers, and we took a leisurely pace and swam in the river frequently.

We encountered about a dozen dead fish along the river and some foam and algae suggesting that the nutrient levels in the water were unusually high. Treated sewage we understand is discharged into a tributary of the Chattooga in North Carolina may be the culprit.

After depositing our booty at Highway 76, we continued our trip to Woodall Shoals, playing frequently along the way. After enjoying post-trip refreshments at Woodall, five of us aptly completed a great day by enjoying a well-earned feast together at the new Thai/Chinese restaurant in Tiger.

determine how much overlap there is between the newsletter and the listserve and found out there is not. My inclination under the circumstances is to err on the side of having some members get the information twice rather than having some not get it at all.

**Should have more about Georgia/GCA and less about other places/groups.** Another fair point, though it deserves an explanation.

Articles about Georgia rivers and rivers in nearby states are obviously appropriate in *The Eddy Line* since that's where we generally paddle. Wonderful as it may be to paddle, a river like the Colorado is probably of less interest to GCA members. But if a GCA member paddles the Colorado and submits a trip report, the fact that a member was there and the possibility that the trip report might prompt others to paddle the Colorado some day seems to me to make it appropriate for the newsletter (especially in the months when the volume of material submitted is low).

*continued on following page*

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Information from and about other clubs is kind of a balancing act. I try to include things that might benefit GCA members (like notices of the AWC winter roll practice). And I think some things, like an occasional report from a non-member about paddling in China, are interesting enough to be included even if no GCA member is directly involved or likely to move to China.

One member suggested making the newsletter "more club oriented" would lower costs. I don't understand how that would be, and I hope the member will email me and explain.

**Too many ads, too few articles.** Ads in *The Eddy Line* tend to be seasonal: more in the warm months, less in the winter. The number of ads really can't be limited because we need the revenue the ads produce. In fact, we need more of it. Our new Advertising Managers will help with that.

The "too few articles" complaint is a valid one of late because the newsletter has been reduced to 16 pages to save money. Unless and until the financial situation improves or we

sell a lot of ads, the newsletter probably won't be getting longer. But..

**Move the "boilerplate" to the website.** A good idea that has been at least partially put into effect by the redesign of pages 2 and 4 a few months ago. As for putting information on the website, that has to some extent been put off awaiting the new website, which I understand is in production. Though the newsletter and the website are both vehicles for getting information to GCA members and others, they are separate and I have nothing to do with operation of the website (which, given my techno-illiteracy, is a good thing).

Though not included in the survey responses, another complaint on occasion is late delivery of *The Eddy Line*, which I consider to be anytime after the first of the month. This occasional problem was hopefully corrected by the change a few months ago to a different mailing class. Based on the comments I've gotten since the change, it seems to be getting the newsletter to members earlier than before. 

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## GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTION 2008

### Whitewater Kayak

#### Nantahala Falls Weekend

Tom Bishop, bishop.t@comcast.net

September 6 & 7

### Sea Kayak (call for class fees)

Steve Cramer, cramersec@charter.net

#### Sea Kayak Basics - Charleston

Sept 20 — 21

#### Sea Kayak Strokes Athens area

August 9 (tentative)

### Whitewater Canoe (Solo and Tandem)

#### 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

## 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.

### 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>

#### 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

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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 AND FEES:**

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.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GINA JOHNSON AT [haynesandgina@alltel.net](mailto:haynesandgina@alltel.net).**



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