GCA
GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187

THE EDDY LINE

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25th Annual GCA Chattooga River Cleanup By Roger Nott

Mark your calendars and join us on GCA's 25th Annual Chattooga River Clean-Up, Saturday, June 24, 2017. Enjoy good company and Georgia's most beautiful river while doing your part to keep it pristine. We need you!

We will meet at 9:45 a.m. at the US Forest Service Chattooga River parking lot at the northeast corner of the US Hwy. 76 Chattooga River bridge. We will first clean the access area there and at Trift's Ferry Landing on foot. We will then clean by boat the 3 miles of GCA's adopted section of the Chattooga, from Thrift's Ferry down to the Hwy. 76.

If we have enough volunteers we could also clean other sections of this beautiful Wild and Scenic River, made famous by the movie Deliverance, along the Georgia and South Carolina state line between Hwy. 28 and Lake Tugaloo. Volunteers who will not be boating may help by cleaning at the access areas in the morning. The afternoon will be spent on the water, and volunteers must provide their own river craft and equipment, though they may call ahead to reserve possible spaces in rafts or canoes provided by others.

This river section contains class II and easy class III whitewater and one class IV rapid, Bull Sluice, which can easily be portaged. Prior whitewater experience is necessary if you plan to boat the river. There will be an optional additional 2 mile class III recreational paddle from Hwy. 76 to Woodall Shoals following the clean-up and liquid refreshments and dinner together nearby that evening.

Paddlers in kayaks, open and decked Canadian canoes, or rafts are all very welcome. Prior registration is requested, but unexpected arrivals will also be welcome.

Call, text or email trip coordinator Roger Nott, 678-316-935, rogernott@att.net.
—*EL*

My Yellow River PFD Story and Photos by Matt Henry

May 6, 2017 was a beautiful day on the Yellow River from US78 to Hwy 124. It was sunny and about 66 degrees at start. The water was a little cool but not overly cold. In other words a perfect day to paddle!

The water level was at about 200 cfs. There were ten paddlers paddling: nine kayaks and one canoe. This was a PFD for several paddlers including myself, Jason and Karson Jarrett, and Karen Heath. Everyone did a fine job running the river and had a great time playing in the holes. Mark Wilson showed us a fine side surf that had water cascading down his boat, completely covering it.

There were a couple of OBE's (Out of Boat Experiences) on the trip downstream, leading to the boater standing in the middle of the river wishing they had a pole and more time to see what they could catch. Most of the paddlers decided to run the big show of the day, Annistown Falls. The falls claimed a couple swimmers and one roller, although

Chris Callado runs Annistown Falls

the paddlers countered with an excellent save by Jason, who kept dry hair, and an amazingly fast and accurate run by Karson, who cut through the falls in that pre-2015 Zen like a hot knife through butter. Well done, Karson! There was also an outstanding performance by Chris Callado who made an excellent run through the falls, including a great boof at the last ledge. He's going to have to write up a textbook description on how he did it. Advancing the video frame by frame it was an excellent run with very clean paddle strokes.

Finally, all the boaters ran the chute after Annistown Falls, some electing to run the traditional line next to the columns under the bridge and others choosing a new line on the right that came open due to some wood being washed away by recent heavy storms. No swims while running the chute that I could see, although I still don't quite get why I saw a certain boat sitting on top of a rock at the bottom of the rapid. I guess the boater was hot and needed some quality time in the water.

Alas towards the end of the run it was getting quite scrapey, with some boaters scooting along the rocks just to make it to the takeout. A wonderful hike up to the road from the takeout, and then another hike to the cars saw the end of another amazing day on the river enjoying the sport that is the reason you're reading this right now.

This is Matt Henry, and I'll see you on the river! - *EL*

New Yellow River Access Point
Photo and story by Mark Wilson

A new whitewater access site is coming to the Yellow River in Porterdale. With a new granted easement, the Yellow River will be gaining another official access point. This one will be below the Porterdale Dam for Class II-III water. This will make the 6th

New Yellow River access point

Yellow River public access point in Newton County.
The beautiful town of Porterdale is becoming a river recreation nexus; with their outfitter Roth Wild Adventures, ample flatwater trips, and soon access to challenging whitewater.

The 53 miles long Yellow River Water Trail, also has great whitewater in Gwinnett Co, and many miles of scenic flatwater from Gwinnett County to Lake Jackson. See http://www.garivers.org/yellow-river-water-trail.html for more information.—*EL*

Porterdale Dam on the Yellow River

ALL ABOUT THE EDDY LINE

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in print or pdf format. To subscribe, contact Vincent Payne at 404.629.5376 or Vincent.payne9354@gmail.com, or mail your request to P.O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187.

Submissions/Advertising: All submissions and advertising should be sent to *The Eddy Line*, at: **EddyLineEditor@gmail.com**.

Deadline: The deadline for all submissions, classified ads and commercial ads is the 20th of the previous month (e.g. August 20 for the September/October issue).

Daniel Brant tries a new line on the Yellow River.
Photo by Matt Henry

Trip Report: Spring Kayaking 2017
Story and photos
By Jay Davis

This trip report is for three events: The GCA Spring Membership Paddle, The Upper Nantahala release weekend, and an a fun paddle on Town Creek in Geraldine, Alabama.

Town Creek, High Falls

Natural Arch, High Falls on Town Creek, near Geraldine, Alabama

Town Creek is awesome. The put-in is at a truly amazing waterfall that would be a prime tourist attraction literally anywhere else in the country. But in Alabama, it's an obscure, hard-to-find gem. The flow that day was around 360 CFS. Town Creek has lots of fairly easy class 3 rapids. A few have some technical moves, but nothing too gnarly. I did it at slightly lower water two years ago, and it felt way easier this time. That's probably just due to my progression as a paddler (more mental than technical, but whatever). The rapids are drop and pool, with just enough pool to recover swimmers, but not enough to slow the pace of the action. It's a beautiful little gorge with bluffs at the top of the ridges and many small tributaries creating waterfalls as they enter the creek.

We got a rare chance to do this paddle on a warm sunny day with lush and verdant surroundings. A big thanks to Dane White and friends for showing us down. I think we had around a dozen folks, a mixed bag, even a guy from Missouri! Dane, an Alabamian, coordinates trips for the club on his home turf every Winter. Thanks, Dane!

We had a few swimmers, nothing too crazy. I got complacent on one easy little rapid and flipped from a broach and did some serious rock dragging. Fortunately, it was just dragging, and not punctuated by the percussive shots I took in a similar situation on the Upper Nanty. My paddle changed to a one-handed grip and traded hands a couple of times as I maneuvered upside down through the shallow mank to get into a rolling position. I came up laughing, the laugh I always give when I did something dumb. I save my high-pitched girl screams for surfing.

Town Creek has a sketchy put-in that usually involves lowering boats on a rope. It's a class V that most portage, and the portage is decently arduous. It's followed by a 45-minute flatwater paddle, and concludes with a 20-30 minute hike out. So that's why

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(Spring paddling, continued from page 4)

it's not even more popular. I'm fat and here to get exercise, so whatever! Though, I have to say, folks, when you see a fat person breathing hard because they are hauling a 60 pound boat up a hill, you don't need to ask if they are okay, or start cpr. Leave the defibrillator in the box! You would be surprised how often people ask me that! (gets off soapbox) Not every fat person exercising is about to go into cardiac arrest! Anyway, it was a good group, a great day, and a fun, easy river.....soul-restoring as usual, as you all well know.

Kerrie's smile is permanently attached.

Upper Nanty

The Upper Nanty weekend was great. It was sunny and unseasonably warm. We had temps I would expect mid-summer. I love the Upper Nanty. It is one of my favorite runs. I hadn't had much chance to paddle it in about a year and a half, so I wasn't letting anything stop me from this weekend (free flow on the Tellico, Chattooga, or anything!).

Many people complain about the cramped craziness of the release weekends. I always find the shuttle to be hectic, but on the river, as long as I give the shuttle groups time to spread out some, I don't find it to be crowded, and that's where it counts on a run like this! Some nice folks had worked hard on Friday to help clear out multiple strainers on the run. THANKS! This run is just a bit harder than many other class III options, but it still has a lot of newer intermediate boaters who give it a go, so having the strainers out of the way was an important safety measure.

The first day, as soon as we caught an eddy, I saw a mink swim by. That was super cool. It's only the second mink that I have seen in the wild. Minks are semi-aquatic and catch fish and aquatic birds (even Canadian Geese!). Cool Animals. So, I peel out and make it 50 more yards before broaching and flipping in some easy mank. Bang, ding, ow! I tried to roll multiple times while getting pretty well beat up. So I swam, and worked off my anger by not letting anybody help me drain the boat. Shallow upside down events have a different percussive beats. Sometimes it's draaaag.....bump.....draaag. Those are the easiest. Then there is bump, bump, BAM!, bump, bump, BAM!. Those aren't fun. But they are better than the woosh of free, fast water followed by the fast CRACK! of a truly hard hit. Well anyway, that was my one swim for the weekend. We did two laps, and both went well for me for

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(Spring paddling, continued from page 5)

the rest of the day. Many people avoid the lower water release day for this reason. It's a bit scrapey and broaches/minor pins are common. It's not the prime level, but it's still a super-fun day to me. We had a couple of other swims in our small group, but these guys are known to swim a time or two.. .just say'n! These experienced boaters swim a little and are pretty unflappable about it, unlike me! We all swim. Sunday was fun day. The high level padded out the run perfectly, and combined with a refreshed memory of the lines, the run was super bouncy and fun. Unfortunately, I only had time for one lap. I saw lots of GCA peeps up there, some on the Upper and many hanging out at the falls for the Nanty Open shenanigans.

Spring Membership Paddle

I was planning on getting wet anyway

I was SO excited to see lots of new members who were excited about paddling! The pizza was tasty and we didn't get any rain until the river, and it only lasted a bit, despite the photo! I did some roll practice with folks at the island. But before that, Devil's Shoals sent out its paddle snakes to grab onto a few newer people as they learned how to edge and ferry. Well, you also have to learn how to swim your boat to the rock and dump it! It's just as important a skill. I was expecting unending severe weather and instead we got one short rain shower and a really good time with about 50 of my new best friends! It doesn't matter how hard or easy the river, getting out and messing around is small boats is just fun. I hope I see these folks again at the Spring Extravaganza! - *EL*

Keeping In Touch

To contact the GCA, write Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187.

Groupmail: GCA maintains a group email list to help members share information of general interest. To sign up, send an e-mail 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 http://www.gapaddle.com.

Facebook: Visit the GCA Facebook page for photos, video, trip reports, or to join an upcoming impromptu trip.

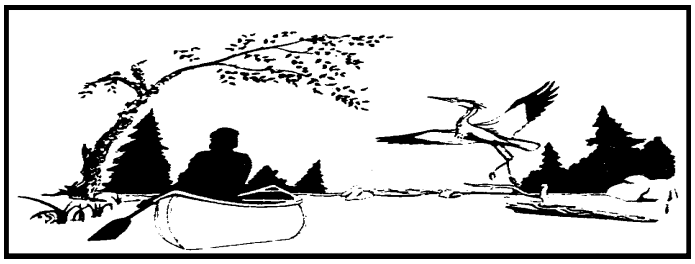
Winner of the 2017 River Celebration Award- Volunteer of the Year

- Vincent Payne, Winston, GA

Vincent Payne is a board member of Georgia River Network and has tirelessly organized the safety teams for Paddle Georgia for many years. Paddle Georgia is a 7 day journey down a different river each year for 400 people of all skill levels, ages 4-84. Vincent recruits safety boaters, scouts routes in advance, stations experienced boaters in places on the river where boaters may have difficulty and locates any dangerous strainers on the river before paddlers come through. These safety measures are critical to a successful event.

Vincent Payne was born in England but raised in Georgia. He lives in Douglas County on the Dog River. Vincent is a graduate of the University of West Georgia. He works for PepsiCo as a Regional TPM Manager coaching the use of continuous improvement. Vincent has paddled Georgia Rivers and lakes since the seventies and is past president of the Georgia Canoeing Association. He also coaches dragon boat teams for PepsiCo at Lake Lanier.

For his dedication to Georgia Rivers, Georgia River Network recognized him with the Georgia River Network Volunteer of the Year award.



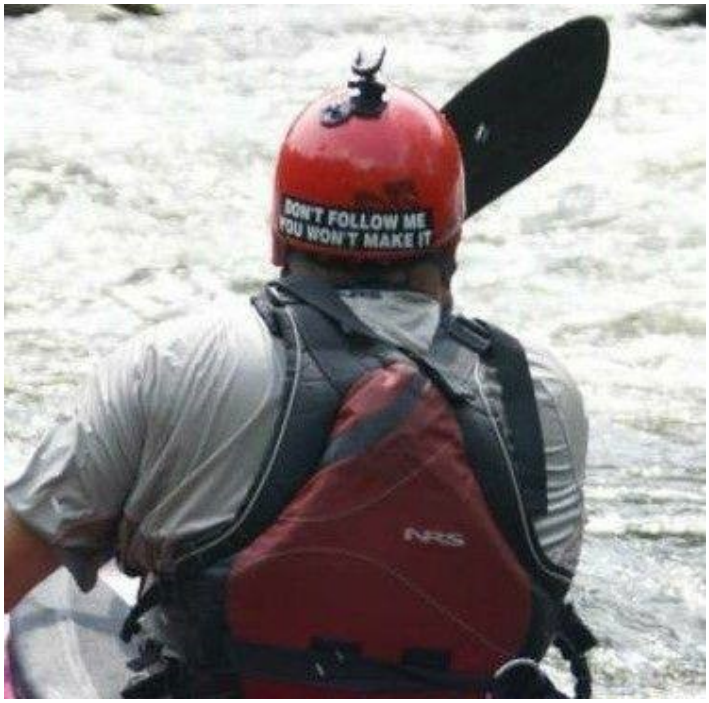
Thinking of joining a paddling trip?

When deciding to join a GCA trip, whether an "official" trip posted on the website, or a pop-up trip posted on the Facebook page, please keep the following bit of river etiquette in mind:

Always check with the trip coordinator/leader before inviting a guest to come along on the trip with you, especially if your guest is an inexperienced paddler. This is to insure the skill level of your guest matches the targeted skill level of the group. Many pop-up trips will not have safety boaters., and it's considered rude to expect the other paddlers in the group to be responsible for an unexpected paddler. Please don't put the trip leader in the uncomfortable position of having to turn someone away because their experience level doesn't match that of the group.

Be careful out there, folks!
Photo courtesy of Ted Whisenhunt

Matt Henry styling Nantahala Falls on a turtle float. Photo courtesy of Matt Henry.



Jimmy Jones' helmet sticker says it all.

Pillow Rock on the Upper Gauley. . . On a Bellyak. Photo courtesy of Adam Masters

KEEP YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS CURRENT

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

When the 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 re-subscribe with your new address.

GCA Awards Recognition
By Vincent Payne

The GCA Award and Recognition Program will be continued this year, culminating with a presentation of awards at the annual Holiday Party. During the year, each of you should keep your eyes open for potential nominees. While we cannot recognize everyone that works hard to make this such a great group we surely must call out some of them.

We have provided a structure for the awards in tiers, which we hope will somewhat equalize the awards. The top tier is our Lifetime Service Award aimed at those who have worked in club roles for many years. There will be no more than one of these awards given per year, and it is not required to have even one. This award should be a big deal.

Next, we want to recognize people who have been continuous supporters of GCA activities and values. These people have helped out for several years, probably in several roles, helping the club to achieve its mission. This award recognizes an individual for breadth of work.

We also have a category for single events and the person that drives an event. The nominee may do fifty things with excellence or just one thing. This award will just focus on a single contribution. It is a good way to bring attention to some of the best activities and the people that make them happen.

Finally, we have the fun awards. These encourage participation and you get to make up the category. For example, we can give an award for "Longest Swim", "Best Shuttle Bunny", "Best Minor Achievement" (Limited to people that cannot yet sign their own waiver), "Stinkiest Shuttle vehicle", or "Best Example of Why to Wear a Helmet".

Now is the time to be watching for those who excel (at either end of the spectrum) and capture those thoughts so we can recognize and honor them at this year's event.

Send your nominees to me at: Vincent.payne9354@gmail.com or message me on Facebook. I will compile the list of nominees to present to the Board around November. Be sure to tell us the reason for the nomination, even though it may be obvious. The board will approve them and then we will get The Legal Committee to take a look. *EL*

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has paddle trips and paddle cleanups through the year. If anyone is interested in safety boating for some of these trips - message Tammy Bates at tbates@chattahoochee.org.

TRIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

May 27	Hiwassee trip	Contact Brannen Proctor: 770-664-7384; bproctor@mindspring.com
May 28	Hiwassee trip	contact Jack Taylor: 770-998-0350 or xl13jdt2@bellsouth.net
June 24	Chattooga River Cleanup	Roger Nott: 678-316-935, rogernott@att.net
July 1	Hiwassee trip	contact Brannen Proctor: 770-664-7384; bproctor@mindspring.com
July 2	Hiwassee trip	Contact Jack Taylor: 770-998-0350 or xl13jdt2@bellsouth.net

Stone Mountain Roll Practice: Wade Walker YMCA, second Wednesday of each month

Whitewater Kayak and Canoe Training Weekends (beginner thru intermediate, check GCA calendar for location and details) June 10 and 11 and July 15 and 16

Please see the GCA Calendar for details, updates, and to sign up at http://www.gapaddle.com. For any questions or class suggestions, e-mail gapaddletraining@gmail.com.

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — email Cruisemaster James Wright at jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com

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.

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: Email Cruisemaster Lesley Symington at lslysym@mindspring.com. 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: see gapaddle.com for information.

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!

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THE EDDY LINE

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 611
Winston, Georgia 30187

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
www.gapaddle.com

The purpose of the GCA is to have fun and promote safety while paddling.

GCA is a member-operated paddling club with over 500 family and corporate memberships comprising more than 1500 Individuals. Canoeists and Kayakers of all ages and paddling abilities are equally welcome. Some of our mutual interests include whitewater river running, creeking and playboating, river and lake touring, sea kayaking, paddle camp outs and competition and racing activities. We espouse conservation, environmental and river access issues as well as boating safety and skills development. Group paddling, training and social activities of all kinds are conducted throughout the year thanks to the volunteer efforts of our many members and friends. Membership is NOT limited to Georgia residents.