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

# THE EDDY LINE

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## The Eddy Line Needs YOU!!

You may or may not have noticed that there was no December issue of the Eddy Line. This was due to a lack of articles submitted. The Eddy Line depends on GCA members to submit articles for publication in each issue.

You do not have to be a professional writer to submit an article. Nor do you have to be a whitewater paddler. Anything paddling related is fair game for publication. If you bought a new boat and want to rave about it, read a paddling-related book and want to share your thoughts, or found a new river to explore, then please tell us about it.

Send your submissions to EddyLineEditor@gmail.com.—*EL*

## Upcoming Trip: Ichetucknee and Santa Fe Weekend

Who: GCA Members Only
What: Ichetucknee and Santa Fe Weekend
When: February 22-24 weekend
Lodging:
https://www.ichetuckneecanoeandcabins.net/
See details – double mattress; bring your own items. If you wish to split a cabin, email your trip leader Patrick at:
patricksocial@yahoo.com
Paddle plan: Saturday 2/23
**SATURDAY**: Paddle the Santa Fe River. Put-in at Canoe Outpost at HWY 41/441. We'll paddle up river three miles to where the river re-enters the surface at a place called River Rise (yes it goes underground). We'll paddle the same three miles back to the start and begin our way down river. Multiple take-outs exist. Depending on the number of people registering, river, and weather conditions, we'll exit the river at Rum Spring (seven miles from the put-in, plus the three up and back to River Rise is 13 total miles.) or slightly past SR47 bridge (15 miles from the put-in, plus the three up and back to River Rise is 18 total miles). The time assumption is based upon 2-3 miles per hour down river.
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(Ichetucknee and Santa Fe Weekend, continued from page 1)

Information on the Santa Fe river can be found here:

- https://santaferiver.com/
- https://santaferiver.com/maps/
- https://paddleflorida.net/santa-fe-river-paddle.htm

For Saturday, expect a minimum of five hours on the water with a lunch stop and a few breaks if we take out at Rum Island. Add two more hours if we paddle to the SR47 take out. Saturday will be the longer water day of the two days.

**SUNDAY:** Paddle Ichetucknee and Santa Fe Rivers. We'll start at the Ichetucknee Spring SP. The Ichetucknee is six miles of easy paddling. We'll take a pit stop prior to the confluence of the Ichetucknee and Santa Fe. We'll paddle the additional four miles to the HWY129 bridge.

https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/ichetucknee-springs-state-park

Shuttles: Depending on number of paddlers and drivers, we may need to utilize an outfitter or driving service such as Uber or Lyft. This cost will be determined and split amongst participants.

Dinner: We'll visit Fort White and High Springs.

You must contact Patrick Berry to sign up. The RSVP button the GCA website will not sign you up.

For more details, see:

http://www.gapaddle.com/events/2019/02/ichetucknee-and-santa-fe-weekend/ - *EL*

Upcoming Trip:
Tennessee River trip near Chattanooga

**WHEN:** May 3-5, 2019

**WHAT:** Tennessee River Paddle Trail

**FRIDAY:** Drop vehicle and kayak at Tennessee River Park, mile marker 469.0 and we'll paddle down river to an island only accessible by water. We'll camp on Maclellan Island, mile marker 464.8.

**SATURDAY:** We'll depart the island and make our way past the downtown 'Nooga skyline, around Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, Williams Island State Archeological Park and camp at Pot Point Primitive Campsite mile marker 447.7. Saturday mileage will be about 17 miles.

**SUNDAY:** We'll get on the water and head down river to Sullivan's Landing, past Oates Island and to our take-out of Hales Bar Marina mile marker 431.0. Sunday mileage will be about 17 miles.

**OTHER INFO:** You will need a longer kayak of 14' or more. You will need your camping gear and food for the duration of this trip. Marinas and put-ins exists along the way to replenish water. Shuttle information is based upon registrants.

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*(Tennessee River trip, continued from page 2)*

**COST:** We'll split the cost of lodging evenly based upon paddlers.

Find more information at: www.ChattanoogaAudubon.org

To sign up for the trip, contact Patrick Berry via email (patricksocial@yahoo.com) or phone (404.216.2779). An RSVP on the GCA website will not sign you up.—*EL*

## Recent Race Roundup in the Southeast

Story and photos by Roger Nott

In the last five months I enjoyed some wonderful races in the Southeast. The personally most heartening one was the OCOEE CHAMPIONSHIPS on the last weekend of August 2018. This was the first race held at the 1996 Upper Ocoee Olympic venue since the ill-fated 2001 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships. They were scheduled to begin September 20, 2001, but had to be cancelled in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In addition to our shock and the disappointment of this cancellation, canoe racing enthusiasts were devastated when the cancellation killed the Ocoee Region Canoe and Kayak Association (ORCKA). This well-managed organization had sponsored dozens of successful national and International slalom races on the Upper Ocoee Olympic race course before and after the 1996 Olympics, but had to go in debt for tens of thousands of dollars to prepare for the Worlds. After they returned the money they had collected in advanced ticket sales they were forced to declare bankruptcy and go out of business.

The past 17 years have witnessed a disheartening decline in canoe slalom racing in the Southeast and, indeed, in our entire national program. The US had hosted a World Cup Race for almost every year up to 2001 but has not been awarded one since then.

In the Southeast, the races for the Alabama Cup and on the Nantahala have continued and US National Whitewater Center in Charlotte opened its artificial courses in 2006 and have sponsored major slalom races there every year since then.

However, closer to home the Atlanta Center for Excellence, which had nurtured many national champions and attracted the nation's top racers to the Atlanta area to train, lost its training facility and closed. AWC's annual Ocoee Double Header, long held on the Middle Ocoee and then at the Olympic venue, had attracted many of this continent's top slalom racers but was discontinued in 2002. After 40 years of sponsoring slalom racing the GCA Board also discontinued, in 2009, the slalom portion of its annual Southeastern US Whitewater Championships on the Nantahala, citing lack of racer participation and disproportionate requirements for race volunteers.

But now a new nonprofit organization, the Ocoee River Basin Foundation (ORBF),

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*(Racing Roundup, continued from page 3)*

has taken an important step to try to reverse this alarming trend and aims to hold annual races on the Ocoee. Finally, after 17 discouraging years, racing has returned to one of the most interesting and beloved slalom courses in the world.

On August 24-6, 2018 ORBF held a well-attended, joyous three-day competition, which included competition in Slalom, Freestyle, Downriver, Boater Cross, SUP, Rafting and Ducky Cross.

On Friday, August 24, 2018, I judged at the slalom race on river right just downstream from my judging station at the Olympics. It allowed me a great view of the exciting race and brought back great memories. Though many of our national slalom team were overseas, the over-spirited and skillful entries in 53 hard boats and the at least equal number rafting competitors did not disappoint. They came from as far away as Maine, and sixteen from nearby Cleveland, Tennessee, including 15 year-old kayaker Jacob Mcconnell:.

I was impressed with the strong showing by all the racers, but, as an open boater, I was most awed by those in the OC1 Men's class, in which Jerrod Jones and Shaun Malone put down the strongest runs. Jerrod was awarded the gold under the decked boat scoring rules used, but Shaun would have just nosed him out had ACA Open Canoe slalom scoring rules been applied. Jerrod and his partner also won the OC2M's class. 14 men competed in the K1M racing class, in which the day's fastest time (96.51) was recorded by Michael Montagne. The day's second fastest time, 97.09 seconds, was put down by Evy Leibfarth from Bryson City, who won both the C1W and K1W classes. Evy also won this year's Junior and Senior Team Trials in Oklahoma City, but was not overseas because, at 14 years-old, she is ineligible to compete internationally.

Longtime National Team member an one of Evy's mentors, Zuzana Vanha Montagne,

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*(Racing Roundup, continued from page 4)*
earned second in the Racing K1W class. Nick Lomas bested Scott McClesky in the C1M racing class. 19 entries vied for gold in the recreational kayak class, won by L. Scott with a clean run in 128.78. Congratulations to ORBF and its hard-working crew for a fine event.

Less than three weeks later I attended the most colorful and raucous race of year, as the ICF DRAGON BOAT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS came to the US for the first time since their inception in 1938. Over 1000 paddlers representing 14 nations flocked to the Lake Lanier Olympic Racing Center in Gainesville, Georgia, for four days of competition September 13-16, 2018 in 65 events competed in canoes holding 10 and 20 paddlers. Here the German age 50+ mixed team wins the finals of the very close 500 meter 10- seater championship 9/13/2018.

The event was professionally hosted by the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club (LCKC) of Gainesville, which provided most of the volunteers and 29 members of the US Team of 112. The overall team championship was won by the US Team, which earned 24 medals, besting Germany (23), the Czech Republic (20) and Hungary (18).

A festive atmosphere was created by the over 5000 vociferous, celebratory fans and exotic and colorful dancers and artistic displays, and a very good time seemed to have been had by all. Congratulations to all the 1000+ competitors and hundreds of volunteers, and to LCKC, which since its founding in March 1994 has become a racing powerhouse and has won eleven Sprint Canoeing national championships.

For the weekend of October 6-7, 2018, I travelled to Dickerson, Maryland, to judge at ACA's Canoe Slalom National Championships and at Sunday's Potomac Whitewater Racing Club race. Michal Smolen won the National championship in the K1M class, with Joshua Joseph and Scott Mann earning silver and bronze. In C1M three time US Olympian Casey Eichfeld just edged out Fabien Lefèvre, who has six kayaking golds in the Worlds competing for France. He has competed for the US since 2013 and won gold in C1M for the US in the Worlds at Deep Creek in Maryland in 2014. Sam Davis earned the C1M bronze. Medals in C1W
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were earned by Michaela Corcoran (gold), Evy Leibfarth and Harriet Rollins. Evy won the K1W class, besting Ashley Nee and Madison Corcoran, Michaela's sister. Casey and Ashley teamed to win the C-2 Mixed title, besting Sam and Avery Davis and the team of Nathaniel Francis and Michaela Corcoran. For the complete results see: http://potomacwhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/results/US_Nationals_2018.pdf .

The Potomac Whitewater Racing Club did a great job, and I had a lot of fun at the race and on the four great new rivers in Maryland and western Virginia I got to paddle near the course and on my way home.

GCA's 50th ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN US DOWNRIVER CHAMPIONSHIPS were held on the Nantahala on Saturday, October 20, 2018. And for the thirty-ninth year I raced in a OC1 men's class. I was chugging along pretty well on my eight-plus mile journey comfortably behind Chris Osment and David Dehart when thing got memorable. An errant raft pulled out of a river-right eddy just above the Falls thirty feet ahead of me! I gasped but for a few seconds I entertained some hope, as they seemed headed to bump down the extreme right. However, the novice crew produced a Herculean effort and managed to move left far enough to pin on the truck-sized boulder to the right of the top hole, entirely blocking my "wildwater line" now 10 feet ahead of me. In a flash I was pinned sideways against the raft in top hole. My boat and I soon were swept downstream safe under the raft, which was still pinned as I swam to the shore and dumped my borrowed, now somewhat battered canoe. Nantahala Falls sometimes needs a traffic cop:

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Thanks to Bryant Smith for his sympathy and tandem trip with me that afternoon on the Nantahala below Wesser Falls and on Lake Fontana in search of my spare paddle (a black Braca-Sport bent-shaft marathon model with black Gorilla tape on its wooden pear grip). We did not find it but did recover three lost paddles, restore to their owners two of them and have a great time on this mild, cloudless day.

Congratulations to all the competitors. John Pinyerd for the 22nd time won the Charlie Patton Award for the fastest (decked or open) Canadian canoe solo run. Paul Cox and Allen McAdams also were repeat winners of the Ramone Eaton Award for OC2 racers. Wildwater Men's Class kayaker Cameron Thacker earned the Fastest Kayak Award for flying down the 8.2 mile course in

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*(Racing Roundup, continued from page 6)*

47 minutes, 13 seconds. And 2017 & 2018 US Jr. Women's Freestyle Kayak National Champion Olivia McGinnis earned the Julie Wilson Award for the fastest female, making dad Todd proud. As Racemaster Todd organized and started the race. His own K-1M wildwater run's time, perhaps happily was not recorded, as he was the last to start and was considerably extended when he stopped to rescue a non-racing boater in distress. Here are the full results:
50th Annual Southeastern U. S. Wildwater Championships, Nantahala River, Saturday, October 20, 2018

Addendum: 1. The last category is OC-2 Long; 2. Second place in the OC-1 Long category was David Dehart; 3. The K-1M Wildwater winner was Cameron Thacker; 4. Wildwater K1M entrant Todd McGinnis was untimed.

We had a great day with many old friends racing and eating together by the river at the Awards Ceremony at Big Wesser Restaurant. I was delighted to eat with 1973 GCA President Maggie Collins and her husband Bern and with Payson Kennedy, a GCA founding member and 1968 President, one of the organizers of the first Southeasterns in 1969, and NOC co-founder in 1972. Bern and Payson have raced in the many Southeasterns and pledged to try to do so again in 2019 for the 50th anniversary edition. Thanks to Racemaster Todd McGinnis, and his many hardworking GCA volunteers who made the race a success. These included Debbie Reed, Jenny Taylor, Jim Nash and Margaret Mabry.

Four weeks later on November 17-18, 2018 I got to see many of the same friends while helping out at the US WILDWATER EASTERN TRIALS, which had been scheduled for Section IX of the French Broad but were moved to the Nantahala due to high water. This was another fun, well-run race. Congratulations to all the competitors. - *EL*

Peachtree City Roll Practice has three demo days lined up:

- 2/10/19 - Nomadic Flow Outfitters
- 2/24/19 - Endless River Adventures
- 3/10/19 - Pyranha Boats

Come on down and check out some new boats! - *EL*

**GCA Winter Social**

Come join us on Saturday Feb 23, 2019 at 7pm. We will be meeting at From the Earth Brewing Company to eat, drink and be merry! Be advised that the restaurant and bar close at 10:00 pm. From the Earth Brewing Company is located at 1570 Holcomb Bridge Rd, Roswell, GA 30076

## TRIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| February 10 | Peachtree City Roll Practice | see the GCA website for details |
| February 24 | Peachtree City roll practice | |
| February 22-24 | Ichtucknee and Santa Fe weekend | contact Patrick Berry (Patricksocial@yahoo.com) |
| February 23 | GCA Social | See information on page 7 of this issue |

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

**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 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 coordinator in the uncomfortable position of having to turn someone away because their experience level doesn't match that of the group.

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 I 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!

## 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.

## 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**.

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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.*