



# THE EDDY LINE

VOLUME 55 NO. 5

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## GCA Fall Membership Paddle

Come join us for our Fall Membership Paddle on the Metro Hooch. We will meet at noon on Sunday October 18, 2020. We will be serving pizza; bring your own drinks. We will meet at Power's Island and have a short meeting to for announcements, and officer elections. We will then paddle the Metro Hooch. Please RSVP on the GCA website so we can order enough pizza.

## GCA Officer Elections

GCA Officer elections are upcoming. The board has proposed the following slate of officers for the upcoming term. Voting will take place at the membership meeting and paddle in October.

### **President:**

Carol Reiser

### **Vice-President:**

Kate Wilkerson

### **Secretary:**

Mary Ann Pruitt

### **Treasurer:**

Vince Payne

Please note that we will be monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Metro Atlanta and will follow guidelines and policies on group size. We will wear masks during the meeting and keep appropriate distance between people. For shuttles we will also wear masks, use trucks when possible for shuttling or leave windows open for ventilation. Dan MacIntyre will coordinate a bike shuttle. Contact Dan (dmacintyre4@gmail.com) for information.

In spite of our efforts to operate safely we cannot guarantee that there is no risk involved. We ask our members to be responsible. If you are running a fever, have other signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or suspect that you have been exposed to COVID-19, please do not attend this event.—EL

## 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Each month numerous "copies" of the pdf version of *The Eddy Line* bounce back due to bad or outdated email addresses.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.



## GCA Florida Paddle Weekend By Lisa Haskell

Once again GCA will be venturing south for the MLK holiday weekend to paddle some of Florida's beautiful springs and rivers. We will be setting up our base camp near the Chassahowitzka River Campground and doing day trips from there. We will be driving down on Thursday, January 14, 2021 and paddling the next four days (Friday, January 15, 2021 – Monday, January 18, 2021). Potential paddling locations include (but are not limited to): Withlacoochee River, Chassahowitzka River, Ichetucknee Springs, Crystal River, Weeki Wachee, Rainbow River, Silver River, Juniper Springs, Braden River, Hillsborough River, etc.

For several years now we have camped at the Chassahowitzka River Campground and met each morning in their main parking lot to get organized for the day's adventure. We will still meet in their parking lot each morning to group up and you are still welcome to camp there. If you choose to camp you are responsible for making your own reservations. Their contact information and campground details can be found at:

<http://www.chassahowitzkaflorida.com/>.

### ADDITIONAL LODGING OPTION:

As you know, it can be quite cold in Florida in January. In the past we have stayed at a campground but, after the weather the last few years, I have decided that I am tired of being cold at night. Therefore, I have reserved the Chassahowitzka Hotel again for this year! The Chassahowitzka Hotel is located about one

mile from the Chassahowitzka River Campground where we have camped in the past. The Chassahowitzka Hotel is different from a lot of hotels because it is really a large house which has been converted to a hotel. They rent out rooms in the house but both levels have a common area where people can gather and visit. They have porches where people can also visit if the weather is nice. There are two bathrooms upstairs – one is designated for men and the other for women. There is also a very large dining room table near the kitchen. We are not allowed to use the kitchen to cook (we can use the microwave to heat things up), but they have someone who comes in each morning to fix a continental breakfast (included in the cost of the room). We usually eat lunch on the river and dinner out at a restaurant so this works well. We will still meet at the campground parking lot in the morning to get organized for the daily trips. The people who stayed in the hotel last year were pleased with the arrangements. Not only were we dry (with heat and indoor plumbing) we had more opportunity to visit with other participants and get to know each other better. This was a very nice benefit on top of being warm and dry. Additionally, the facility was very clean and the staff was extremely helpful.

The hotel can sleep up to 18 people if a few people are willing to share a bed. Last year we did have people share beds to cut down on the cost. This year, with the current COVID-19 situation, I am thinking that we might only have couples share a

*(continued, page 3)*



*(Florida trip, continued from page 2)*

bed. This means that the price for the five nights might be slightly higher but not by much (probably no more than \$30 difference). If we reserve the entire facility for five nights (Thursday night through Monday night) the cost per person should be about \$237 for 18 people and \$267 for 16 people total. As of right now, I have reserved the entire facility. However, if there is not enough interest in staying at the hotel then I will reserve a room for me and tell them that they can make the rest of the facility available to others to rent.

If you are interested in staying in the hotel, please let me know as soon as you can. If there is enough interest I will keep the facility on reserve for our use in January. If we decide to do this, I will need to collect money from you in advance - I expect that I will need the money by the end of November. Last year I was able to accept checks or PayPal and it seemed to work well.

You can use the links below to get more information and to see some pictures of the facility.

<https://www.chazhotel.com/>

<https://lisahaskell.smugmug.com/Chassahowitzka-Hotel/n-NKDLdN>

The first 16 people who say they want to stay at the hotel will get those spaces. If more than 16 people respond affirmatively I will start a waiting list.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** This is an official GCA trip. You will be expected to wear your PFD, not just have it in your boat. Also, this trip is for GCA members – not the general public. Please do not post this trip on other websites.

Please contact me, Lisa Haskell, by email at [lshkayaker@gmail.com](mailto:lshkayaker@gmail.com) or by phone at (678) 858-2012 to register for this trip. Using the RSVP button on the website does not mean that you are signed up for the trip.

I hope to see you in Florida! - EL

Peachtree City Roll Practice  
By Lisa Haskell

Unfortunately, Kedron Aquatic Center has decided to wait until the end of December to put the bubble over their pool so the Peachtree City roll practice sessions will not start until January 2021. The proposed dates are listed below. Please look at them carefully - they are roughly every other week but there are some variations in the schedule.

- 1/10/21
- 1/24/21
- 2/7/21
- 2/21/21
- 3/7/21
- 3/21/21

As of now, I expect the time to remain the same as previous years. We will meet at the Kedron Aquatic Center in Peachtree City from 5 pm to 7pm.– EL



THE EDDY LINE

VOLUME 55, NO. 5

Southeastern Downriver Championships

GCA Fall Gala By Carol Reiser

Photos by Kerrie Barloga, Lisa Haskell, Tony Ely and Mark Wilson

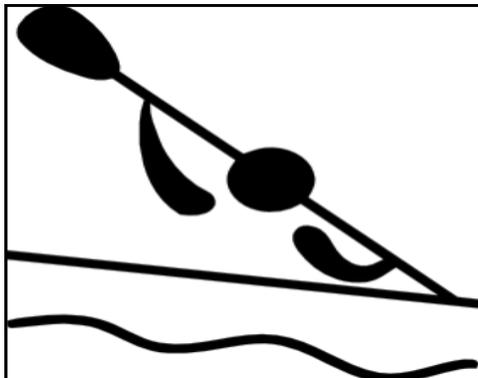
Come join the Georgia Canoeing Association on Saturday, October 17, for the 52nd year of the oldest whitewater race in the Southeast.

When registering please make sure you select your race division. The registration fee is \$10 and that helps the club cover the permit for the race and the remaining funds will go toward the GCA River Access Fund.

Except for Tandem Classes all Classes will be for men & women – please make sure you select your class.

Table with 3 columns: Event Name, Time, Location. Rows include Racer Check-in, Volunteer Meeting, Competitor Meeting, Race Start, and Awards.

Due to Covid this year will be unique: Awards will be held at Endless River adventures and they only ask that when outside you maintain social distancing and if you go into the store that you wear a mask. - EL



Fall Gala 2020 was a Huge Success!

2020 has been an enormously challenging year for everyone and it has certainly affected the paddling community. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to those of you who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and suffered illness due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Let's start with a huge shout out to organizer Terri Abbott who set the bar high with well-planned trips for each day of the event as well as a Work the Falls clinic. Terri's go-getter attitude and winning personality produced a top-notch line up!

There was a tremendous amount of rain leading up to the weekend which undid plans for trips on the French Broad River.

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(Fall Gala, continued from page 4)

Thank you, David Soltis, for posting your FB9 trip that didn't make – hopefully, we'll have the opportunity again in the Spring.



Lisa Haskell had hoped to do FBI I as well.

The abundant water gave us a great line-up, though, and the rain left behind some beautiful, sunny fall weather. Lisa Haskell's two wild card trips were on Friday and Sunday with the chosen rivers being the West Fork of the Chattooga and Lower Green, respectively. These are both Class II runs that aren't done by the club that often. The West Fork is undeveloped and especially beautiful with numerous spots to surf and play. It's a good section for new boaters to work skills. The Lower Green is relaxing and fun, well-suited to do on the way back home.

Saturday's line



-up featured a Middle Ocoee trip with Tony Eyl and Kyle Christensen, Tuck Gorge with Marshall Busko, Chattooga Section 2+ with Keith Raker, and Work the Falls clinic with Kerrie Barloga.



For those of you not familiar with it, Chattooga Section 2+ (Highway 28 to Sandy Ford), a roughly 10 mile run, is one of the prettiest and most fun class II/III trips in the southeast. It was hard to make a choice that day. By all accounts any choice was a good one!

Sunday's offerings included a full run of the Nantahala led by Mark Wilson and Mark Paugh and featured Terri's PFD of the Falls which she accomplished with unique style and dry hair. Congratulations, Terri!



Thanks again to everyone who came out to make this a successful celebration of rivers and our paddling community! - EL



Share It!  
By Allen Hedden

You may have noticed that our GCA newsletter, The Eddy Line, is becoming smaller and arriving less frequently. Please note that this is not the fault of the Newsletter Editor. Tammy does a great job with what she is given. It's a difficult and often thankless job. You may not realize it, but you have the opportunity to help make her job a lot easier.

Some time ago, the decision was made to use the GCA Email List, the GCA Web Site, and the GCA Facebook Page to notify the membership of things of a time-sensitive nature. That left The Eddy Line to publish a lot of boiler plate stuff and a lot of entertaining and informative articles and other items that are not so time-sensitive. That all rose from the problems we once had getting the paper version of The Eddy Line laid out, printed, sorted and mailed out in a timely fashion. Now that we have moved to a paperless version of The Eddy Line, all the problems we once had with obstacles to timeliness simply vanished, along with much of the expense involved with distributing a paper copy.

For a while, the members were in the habit of sending in articles to the newsletter, so content was not a problem for The Eddy Line. But, gradually people started to just post their stuff directly on one of the digital media the club uses. That has resulted in the club's 50+ year old historical record becoming skimpier and skimpier. We now get less con-

tent and fewer issues than we once did, and also less entertainment. So how can we help return to the days when the arrival of The Eddy Line was anxiously awaited each month?

It all starts with an idea. Share it with your peers! What was unusual or entertaining about the last GCA trip you coordinated? What did you learn doing the last rescue that you were involved in that could help inform / educate others? What beautiful places did you encounter (and hopefully photograph) on a recent paddling trip? What interesting people did you encounter lately while paddling? What unique experience got you started in paddling? Why have you continued to participate in the sport for XX years? Who has been your favorite paddling bud over the years and why? What skills and paddling tips can you think of that you could elaborate on that are perhaps not so well known to a lot of boaters? What's your pet peeve with other boaters? Can you review a new boat or other paddling equipment for the membership? In what innovative ways have you coped with the covid-19 pandemic and social distancing guidelines? Even publishing an ordinary paddling trip helps document that boaters have used a particular waterway over time, in case some legal issue arises with access to that waterway. Who was your paddling mentor and what did you learn from them? Write a letter to the editor commenting on someone else's article. There are more ideas out there than there are people to write them up and submit them.

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(Share It! Continued from page 6)

"But," you say, "I'm no Hemingway. My grammar often sucks. I just don't write well."

You are in luck! We have an excellent Newsletter Editor who can transform your lump of coal into a real jewel with a few strokes of the blue pencil. And your paddling buds may look at something you've submitted and be encouraged to come up with a decent article themselves. If you are really that shy about putting your name to an article, our Editor could probably be talked into publishing the article anonymously. Then if it's greeted by great acclaim, you may wish you actually took credit for it ;-)

The newsletter is only as good as the articles members submit to be published. The only bad idea for an article is probably the one you don't act on, just like the only dumb question is the one you fail to ask. So think hard about it -- at least give it your best shot and see how it works out. Even Hemingway started somewhere. And possibly the best thing about submitting a newsletter article is that, unlike Facebook, you won't have all the trolls in your face.

Hope to see your submission in an upcoming issue of The Eddy Line! - EL



Caption this!

GCA welcomes paddlers from all races, genders, and sexual orientations. We will continue to strive to promote diversity among the paddling community and work to create a safe space for all to enjoy



Kate Wilkerson in her pink canoe

Since the beginning of covid-19 there has been a rise in the number of people getting out to enjoy Nature's wonders and as a result of this there's also been a rise in the amount of trash being left in these places; as a result a lot of these places are closing down.

It's vitally important that we all try to remember to clean up after ourselves. #trashtag, creator Steven Reinhold, is a social media initiative encouraging users to snap photos of themselves picking up trash and post them on social media with the hashtag. According to Reinhold, #trashtag has seen more than 50 million uses across social media platforms.—EL



## Letter to the Editor

I've got to tell you that I really appreciate The Eddy Line, and this last issue was particularly good. I know that it's easy to put something on the website and call it good, but when The Eddy Line is emailed out I take the time to look at it. This recent issue had two articles that really resonated with me. The Club Boater article was great. As a paddler that will run some class V stuff, it's good to be reminded how important the club is in helping boaters progress and the GCA is the best I know for helping boaters get proficient at class 2-3 creeks and rivers.

I feel like I have come full circle. I started out knowing nothing about kayaking and slowly progressed my way up. The club took me in and helped me become a proficient class 2-3 kayaker. As I progressed I seemed to do less with paddling clubs for a while. But now as I have gotten to be a stronger paddler, I have been willing to give back a bit. I have enjoyed helping out with Lisa Haskell's Hand Paddling clinic or posting up the occasional trip. At this point I feel that I am a solid kayaker but now I am trying to progress as a tandem OC2 paddler and feeling my way around Chattooga Section 2 and the easier parts of Section 3. So I kind of feel like I am starting over with my tandem skills set. Club boating is so good for that.

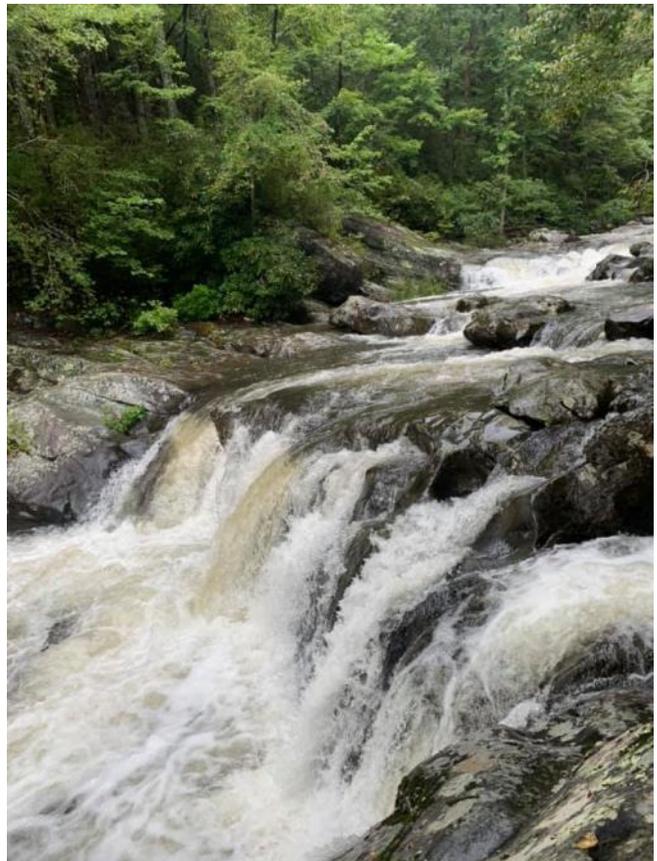
The second article was a great reinforcing article about tandem paddling which very few people seem to do these days but is something that I enjoy doing with my wife so she can enjoy the life enrich-

ing experience of getting to the amazing places that paddling down rivers and creeks take you. This article was great in reinforcing some of the fundamental aspects of tandem paddling and will be a good read for my wife also.

Kudos to Kerrie Barloga for being a GCA instructor. I recently saw her on the Watauga Gorge and she was paddling strong. She will be a great asset to the club in helping other kayakers progress.

I starting out paddling when I lived in Georgia but have moved to NC, but still really enjoy the GCA. Thanks so much and keep up the good work.

Keith Raker





## TRIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

October 17	Southeasterns downriver race	
October 17	Fall Hiwassee Trip	
October 18	Fall Membership Paddle	<a href="http://www.gapaddle.com">www.gapaddle.com</a> for details

Please see the GCA Calendar for details, updates, and to sign up at [www.gapaddle.com](http://www.gapaddle.com). For any questions or class suggestions, e-mail [eddylineeditor@gmail.com](mailto:eddylineeditor@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 Cruisemasters James Wright at [jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com](mailto:jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com) or Berry Walker at [bcwalker55@gmail.com](mailto:bcwalker55@gmail.com)

### KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS

**Flat Water** - no current will be encountered; safe for new paddlers.

**Beginner** - mild current, occasional Class 1 riffles; 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 Coordinate Trips:** Email Cruisemaster James Wright at [jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com](mailto:jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com) or Berry Walker at [bcwalker55@gmail.com](mailto:bcwalker55@gmail.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). Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.



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 Thursday: 11am-7pm  
 Friday: 11am-7pm  
 Saturday: 10am-7pm  
 Sunday: 12pm-7pm



Nomadic Flow Outfitters is Atlanta's premier paddlesports retailer conveniently located just north of Atlanta in Canton, Ga along the beautiful river banks of the Etowah River. We offer a full service retail shop carrying all the best brands in the industry, rental/demo programs, paddling schools and guided trips. Our friendly and knowledgeable team is dedicated to serving our amazing paddling community and making paddling adventures more easily accessible for all. So whether you're looking for those relaxing float trips, fishing your local spot or chasing after the rush of whitewater our team at NFO is here to help you!

### 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@groups.io](mailto:gcalist-subscribe@groups.io).

**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 pdf format. To subscribe, contact Vincent Payne at 678-343-5292 or [vincent.payne9354@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:EddyLineEditor@gmail.com).



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Post Office Box 611  
Winston, Georgia 30187

**[ WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[www.gapaddle.com](http://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.*