



THE EDDY LINE

Inside this Issue:

- *Upper Amicalola Trip Report* —page 2
- *Southeastern Championship* —page 4
- *Chattooga Clean-up* —page 5
- *Florida Paddle*—Page 6
- *Alzar School Gap Program*—Page 7

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lines for gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic will be followed at the meeting.—EL

Tallulah Volunteers Needed!

2020-2021

GCA Officer Nominations and Elections

The GCA Nominating Committee has nominated and the Board of Directors has approved the following for officer positions for the 2022 year, which begins November 1, 2021:

President: Carol Reiser
 Vice President: Allyson Davis
 Treasurer: Vincent Payne
 Secretary: Karen Heath

The election will be held at the Fall General Membership Meeting at 12:00 on October 10, 2021, at the NOC Outpost at Powers Island on the Metro Chattahoochee. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. Anyone nominated must have agreed to accept the nomination and to serve the term if elected. Please note that all local guide-

After multiple cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tallulah releases are finally happening, and we need your assistance!

GCA is sponsoring the second weekend of November releases. We need volunteers to work the volunteer stations on November 13 and 14. These stations include the put-in (experienced boaters only), the bridge, the registration table and the take out. Shifts run 8am-noon, or 11am-3:30pm. We encourage boaters who are planning to paddle the Tallulah to volunteer for the 8am shift. You can hike your gear to your station, then paddle out from there.

Volunteers get the unique opportunity to hike down to the gorge floor during the release to see the water “up close and personal”.

Contact Tammy Lea at EddyLineEditor@gmail.com to sign up.—EL

Trip Report: Upper Amicalola By Terri Abbott

On Saturday, September 4th, 2021, five paddlers had the good fortune to paddle the Upper Amicalola on a sunny and warm day. (80 degrees) Our crew, Kelly Harbac, Carol Reiser, Kate Wilkerson, Tom Ottinger and myself committed to the run at 8:00 pm the night before, despite the knowledge we may have unknown portages due to wood and no idea when we might finish. A sense of adventure was essential.

Hurricane Ida had barreled through the area Tuesday, August 31st, bringing many rivers to a seasonal high. Only two weeks before a tropical storm dumped massive amounts of water on the Southeast, spiking the Amicalola to 1.82 feet. With the ground previously saturated, the Amicalola was still runnable four days after its peak of 2.48 feet with Ida's rainfall!

We met at the public parking area off Highway 53 next to the bridge, which is also the take out. Here we consolidated and set shuttle. There is plenty of parking before lunch, but it is crowded in the afternoons with an assortment of hikers and family gatherings. It is an easy take out since you can drive down to the river to load after the run. A few of us walked down to the river before we started in order to identify the correct take out: a second concrete slab after the play wave. From there we walked up to the first concrete slab where you can see the play wave. After eyeballing the flow we were confi-

dent there was enough water at 1.13 feet. Two cars drove to the Lindsey Ford access. (AKA 6-mile put in). The drive on Amicalola Church road is pastoral and not a vehicle beater. This road turns into a gravel road. You will pass a garden and greenhouse on the right, before bearing right to the camping area. It is only a few steps to get in the water! At the campground we ran into a couple from Tennessee who said they would rather paddle the Amicalola than the Ocoee for their Labor Day Holiday. It seems the 6-mile name refers to the section from Lindsey Ford to the Devil's Elbow access near the Steel Bridge. However, our Highway 53 take out a couple of miles downstream made it more of an 8-mile run. You'll need a GA park pass or DNR fishing license for any of these areas.

We began our descent around noon in cold and clear water. At the 6-mile (Lindsey Ford) access the river is narrow and "creek like". The trees create a canopy overhead for nearly 3 miles. There were enough eddies, current and play spots to keep our group entertained for longer than expected. Secretly, I was wondering how much energy we might need should we encounter large or difficult portages. There were no houses or signs of civilization at all: quite remote.

Approximately 2.8 miles down, Cochran Creek enters on the left, increasing the water flow and the riverbed widens, exposing the sky. It is only another .2 miles before the ledge series begins and

(continued, page 3)

(Upper Amicalola, continued from page 2)

an opportunity to scout Five Foot Ledge. A sandy clearing is on the left riverbank. We accidentally beached too early, but found a path to the clearing. There, we snacked and then took a short walk down to scout the "Five Foot" river-wide ledge. Discussing our options, it seemed the best line was just a few feet left of a rock island (with one scraggly bush on it) to the right of river center. A large rock provided a step down from the ledge and had enough water pouring over for a small boof. However, before we launched a rec boat couple paddled over the rockier river left side. One did it successfully and the other swam without consequence. They then watched us one by one go through our chosen chute. Everyone in our group made it despite the quick turn due to a "guard rock" above the chosen line.

Two more solid ledge drops followed, which Kelly boat scouted. Afterwards, the river calmed down with less gradient and the trees began to enclose us again. There was a lovely creek river right which could serve for another break area or a hike upstream. Moving down river became narrower and deeper allowing for flat water stroke practice or that soul who wants to roll. It was a while before we reached the oxymoronic Devil's elbow which is really only a 90-degree bend in the river. No big scary rapid! At 1.13 feet it was still flattish with some squirrely current. It could be a different story with twice the water. There is another beach after the turn affording a

stretch break. We encountered a couple of locals here who said they liked to float their air mattress down on occasion! lol

After Devil's Elbow the gradient picks up and there are a handful of technical class II rapids. I kept asking Kelly if each one was the "play wave" with the hole: the rapid most likely to flip a tired, unsuspecting paddler. Apparently, some time ago, GCA ran this stretch on a regular basis since most other rivers were flooded out at the time and Kelly ran it regularly. She is a great probe boater!

It was a fabulous day without swims! We "limboed" under four trees with no portages. You could see the lowest tree was stripped of all its bark where boaters went over at higher levels. Our time on the water was 4 hours and 45 minutes. Be prepared!

A bit of history about this area, per Roger Nott:

James Harrington owned about 12 miles of the river upstream of the Lockheed land, which he sold to the City of Atlanta although he received a generous offer from an Arab investment group. Mr. Harrington's land was assembled by the business that is now Georgia Marble Company of Tate, GA (Pickens County). It was to be inundated by a hydroelectric dam, but due to rural electrification, was never built. It extended from 3-4 miles upstream of the Etowah to 1-2 miles upstream of Lindsey Ford. Harrington originally bought it as an investment but loved the river so much that he wanted it preserved in perpetuity for the public benefit. Roger spoke to him many times during this transition! - EL

53rd Annual Southeastern U. S. Downriver Championship

Calling all racers of all skills and boat types and a few good volunteers! Come join the fun on Sunday, October 17, 2021, for Georgia Canoeing Association's 53rd year of the oldest whitewater race in the Southeast. Racers of all ages and whitewater boat types will race on the Nantahala River from the Forest Service put-in on Wayah Road in Topton NC to the Founders Bridge at the Nantahala Outdoor Center 8 miles downstream in Wesser, NC, near Bryson City.

The \$10.00 registration fee will partially cover the club's costs for the required race permit and insurance costs. If there are surplus funds, they will go to the GCA's River Access Fund. Commemorative tee shirts will be available for a suggested contribution of \$10 but will be gratis to those showing proof of current membership in the American Canoe Association (ACA), our insurance provider. Online registration is open now at: <https://www.gapaddle.com/events/2021/10/southeastern-downriver-championship-sunday-october-17-2021/>

Racer check-in and late registration will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the put-in at the Forest Service private boater parking lot on Wayah Road at U.S. Hwy. 19. Meetings thereafter will be held for volunteers at 10 a.m. and for competitors at 10:30 a.m. Individuals starting at one minute intervals will

be done by race category and will begin about 11 a.m. (depending on Duke Power's water release time, which is scheduled for 9 a.m.).

The Awards Ceremony will be held outside at Endless River Adventures, 14157 W Hwy 19, Bryson City, NC 28713, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, we ask that you maintain social distancing and wear a mask when checking in and attending meetings and at the award ceremony.

Numerous race categories will be offered for men, women and mixed teams varying by the competitors' ages and boat types, and in accordance with rules generally concurring with the International Canoe Federation Wildwater Canoeing Competition Rules and ACA's Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver Racing Rules. We will add categories for recreational boats, generally made of plastic, in short and long categories, with the delineation being at 9 feet for kayaks and C-1's and at 11 feet for open Canadian Canoes. And any categories with fewer than 3 registrants will, when possible, be combined up with others with similar types of boats.

Four special awards will be recognized, with the winners' names being engraved on the Southeasterns' historic trophies: the Charlie Patton Award for the fastest decked or open Canadian Canoe (C-1 or OC-1), the Julie Wilson Award for the fast solo female competitor in any legal boat (under 18' 6"), the Fastest Kayak Award, and the Ramone Eaton Award for the fastest tandem open Canadian

(continued, page 5)

(Southeasterns, continued from page 4)

canoe team

We are seeking volunteers to help with checking in, starting, timing, scoring and providing safety at Nantahala Falls. If you can help, please call or text Roger Nott (678-316-4935) or Todd McGinnis (770-856-4489). We also encourage folks to come and enjoy the festive day to cheer the competitors on the course and at the finish. We hope to see you on Sunday, October 17th on the Nantahala.—EL

28th Annual Chattooga Clean-up
By Roger Nott

Thank you to our very hard-working volunteers who made a success our 28th Annual Chattooga River Cleanup from Thrift's Ferry to Hwy. 76. Shown in this photo with most of our booty are eight of our ten volunteers: (L to R) Kevin McInturff, Jeff Lankford, David



Asbell, Roger Nott, Debbie Weir, Brad McManus, Roxanne Lankford, and Mark Albitz. Jim Gawlas also cleaned and paddled

with us to Hwy. 76, but didn't make the photo. Also missing is John Kemp, who cleaned with us on foot for the better part of two hours near Hwy. 76 but did not have time to join us on the river. All our paddlers used kayaks except Kevin and I, whose open boats were heavily laden by the



time we neared Bull Sluice.

We enjoyed mostly sunny, mild weather and 1.58 on the USGS Hwy. 76 gauge,

a good level for easily accessing trash but still enough to enjoy the river's fine whitewater. We took care to portage our bags before running Bull Sluice, where we enjoyed some exciting runs. Jeff got to run twice and had a dramatic save in Roxanne's inflatable kayak.

After hauling our boatloads of trash to the Hwy. 76 parking lot about 5 pm, most enjoyed a recreational paddle to Woodall Shoals.



Many thanks also to American Rivers, who co-sponsored our trip and provided trash bags as part of their National River Cleanup Program.—EL

**GCA Florida Winter Paddle
2022
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 of operations near the Chassahowitzka River Campground and will be doing day trips from there. We will be driving down on Thursday, January 13, 2022 and paddling the next four days (Friday, January 14, 2022 – Monday, January 17, 2022). 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 Ho-

tel 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, with the COVID-19 situation, we only had couples share a bed. If we have 18 people and all bed spaces are filled the projected cost for five nights is about \$250 per person. If we end up with fewer people then the price might be

(continued, page 7)

(Florida trip, continued from page 6)

slightly higher but not by much (probably no more than \$25 difference). 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/> - EL



Alzar School Gap Program

As you may already know, Alzar School was founded in 2004 with the belief that we could offer a unique educational experience that would help build leaders. Since then, we have seen lives changed by powerful programs here in the US and in Chile.

In 2018, as part of looking at new ways to reach young leaders with our mission, Alzar School identified an opportunity to offer gap programs for high school graduates and we planned a launch of our gap programs for the 2021-2022 school year. We are enthusiastic to be in a position to offer incredible gap programs starting in the winter of 2022, with more than a decade of experience in offering outside-the-box educational programs to inform our program. Alzar Gap is receiving applications for our upcoming program year right now. We do have need-based scholarships available.

Our Wild and Scenic Program, Patagonia Exchange Program, and Wester Whitewater Program would be great opportunities for young paddlers to gain valuable certifications, life skills, and technical experience that would be easily transferable to a job in the outdoor industry. For example, by the end of our Wild and Scenic gap program, our students will have gained 5 outdoor industry certifications, completed a leadership training curriculum, devel-

(continued, page 8)

(Gap program, continued from page 7)

oped valuable interpersonal communication skills, as well as planned and executed multiple multi-day expeditions in the backcountry.

The Wild and Scenic Program focuses on Outdoor Adventure, Leadership Training, and Environmental Stewardship while giving participants valuable outdoor industry training in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, students learn valuable leadership and communication skills by working with inspiring leaders in the outdoor industry and conservation movement. Students then have the opportunity to bring their experience home by creating a Community Action Project. The Community Action Project coordinates the efforts of a group of people, is meaningful and unique, and addresses an issue in a student's home community. Check out some of the projects that our high school students have accomplished!

Certifications earned on the Wild and Scenic Program:

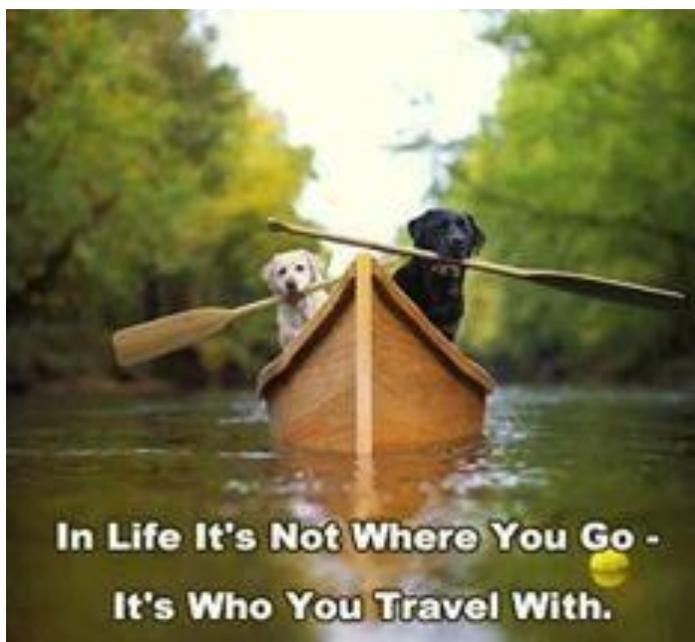
- Wilderness First Responder
- Swift Water Rescue Technician
- PSIA Level I Ski Instructor Certification
- CPR and AED
- Leave No Trace Trainer

In addition, we'll be offering the Patagonia Exchange Program in Spring of 2022, Fall of

2022, and Spring of 2023, as well as the Western Whitewater Program in the Summer of 2022.—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 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 our paddling adventures.

TRIP AND CLINIC SCHEDULE

GCA October Paddle Trips

October 2nd - Wildwood Outfitters "Shin Dig" - Hooch

October 2nd - Tuckasegee (scheduled full release)

October 9th - Upper Hooch

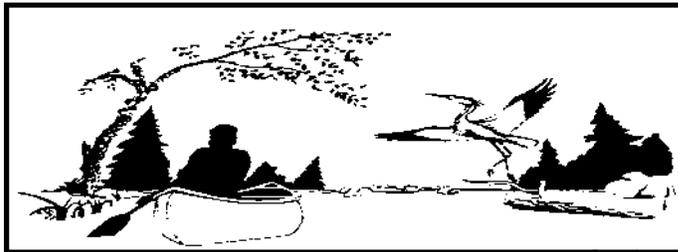
October 10th - Membership Paddle & Officer Elections - Metro Hooch

October 17th - Southeastern Downriver Championships - Nantahala

October 23rd-24th - Overnight Toccoa

October 31st - Wildcard - Class I-II

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



To Volunteer To Coordinate Trips email Cruisemaster Terri Abbott: abbott.terri@gmail.com.

As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flatwater to Class 5 white-water. 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!

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS

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

Beginner - mild current, occasional Class I 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.

Address: 141 Railroad St
 Canton, Ga 30114
 Phone: (470) 292-6706
 Website: www.nomadicflowoutfitters.com
 Email: info@nomadicflowoutfitters.com
 Hours
 Monday-Wednesday: Closed
 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.

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, 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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GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.

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**[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.