



THE EDDY LINE

Inside this Issue:

- **Peachtree City Roll Practice —page 3**
- **Chattooga Section IV trip report —page 4**
- **GCA Officer Elections—page 8**

Proposed Dues Change

Dear GCA Members,

We're very excited to give our members the following opportunity to vote on our dues!

GCA's bylaws require that an ongoing dues reduction be passed by a vote of the membership. The GCA Board lowered dues to \$20 for 2021 to help our current members and stimulate new membership during the hardships of the coronavirus. Our treasurer has told us that the reduction is something we can continue! Our membership increased and some of our costs were phased out with the online distribution of The Eddy Line newsletter.

We will take this vote at the Holiday Paddle on Saturday, December 4th at 10:30am at Wildwood Outfitters. The cost of a lifetime membership, which is 10 times the cost of

VOLUME 56 NO. 7

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an annual membership, would change to \$200 if the vote is successful.

Please come out for the meeting and Holiday Paddle to vote to make this dues change.

Sign up here: [Holiday Paddle and Treats](#)

Best regards, Carol Reiser
President

53rd Annual Southeastern U. S. Downriver Championship By Roger Nott

GCA's 53rd Annual Southeastern U.S. Wild-water Championships were held on Sunday, October 17, 2021. We had bright sunny Fall weather and forty registrants, 38 of whom started and raced from the USFS Nantahala put-in 8+ miles to Founders' Bridge at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. We all had great fun on the turbulent, clear waters of the Nantahala and at the congenial Awards ceremony outside Endless River Adventures.

(continued, page 2)

The Eddy Line

(Southeasterns, continued from page 1)

The Men's Wildwater K-I class and the Fastest Kayak Award was won by Trevor Wagner in a strong time of 47 minutes



Trevor Wagner

and 18 seconds, besting second place kayaker Terry Smith by 39 seconds. Chris Osment took third.

Amanda Cheek won the Women's Wildwater K-I class in 53:57, earning the Julie Wilson Award. 2015 and 2016 winner Ellen Osment Wright finished second. Debbie Weir won the women's recreational Longboat class, and K-IW racer Halie Orr was the victor over Jessica Amacher in Women's K-I Short class.

Two-time Masters World Champion John



John Pinyerd

Pinyerd, at 56:44, was the fastest single-bladed paddler, in the Wildwater

OC-I Men's' class, and won his 23rd Charlie Patton Award, besting the fastest C-I paddler,

Colton Popp. Hannah Rubin's 58:16 was the fastest Women's Wildwater OC-I time. Eddie Allen in 1:06:09 was the fastest in the OC-I Recreational Class, besting Roger Nott by two minutes.

Tom Popp won the Recreational K-I Men's Long Boat class in 56:57, besting Tony Eyl, Matt Henry and 4 others in that class. Sam Wilburn was the top men's REC Short kayaker in 1:02:22, besting Ryan Cable, Kyle Christensen and seven other entrants.

The 2021 Ramone Eaton Award for the fastest Open Tandem Canadian Canoe was won by Phil Pickett for the second year in a row. Last year he partnered with Cathy



Phil Pickett and Payson Kennedy

Kennedy. This year he partnered with her father, 88 year-old Payson Kennedy, one of the principal organizers of the first Southeasterns race in 1969. They finished with a strong time of 58:39. They bested Payson's son and grandson, John and Anton Kennedy, who were visiting from Denmark. The father-daughter team of Kevin and Rebecca Miller were third.

(continued, page 3)

(Southeasterns, continued from page 2)

Special thanks go to Endless River Adventures and our volunteer race team, left to right, Co-Race Masters Roger Nott and Todd McGinnis, new GCA Vice President Allyson Davis, GCA President Carol Reiser, past Board member Debbie Reed, Cruise Mistress Terri Abbott, and GCA past president Marvin Cole—*EL*



Peachtree City Roll Practice

Peachtree City roll practice sessions started Sunday, 11/7/21. The full list of dates is below. Please look at them carefully - they are roughly every other week but there are some variations in the schedule.

11/7/21, 11/21/21
 12/5/21, 12/19/21
 1/9/22 (Cold Weather Paddling Clinic)
 1/23/22 (If we can find a coordinator)
 2/6/22, 2/20/22
 3/6/22, 3/20/22

We will meet at the Kedron Aquatic Center in Peachtree City from 5 pm to 7pm. Please arrive at the facility by 4:30 pm to fill out pa-

perwork and be ready to go at 5 pm when the pool becomes available for our use. Also, please be sure that your boat is clean - there is no hose available at the pool so you will need to rinse off your boat before you arrive.

The cost per session will be \$6 for GCA members and \$10 for non-members. You will also need ACA insurance which is an additional \$10 per session unless you are an ACA member. You will need your ACA membership card or number in order to get credit for ACA membership. Please come prepared with cash (correct change is appreciated) or check for payment. We are not able to accept credit cards and do not have a lot of cash for change.

This is a very nice, large facility. It is large enough to bring a canoe or sea kayak to roll and still leave plenty of room for other people. The water and facility are heated but aren't hot, in my opinion. Some people roll in just a rash guard but I am usually too cool that way. If you get cold easily you might want to bring a couple of layers with you the first time until you have an opportunity to see how the temperature works for you.

There are changing rooms with showers for after roll practice.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at lshkayaker@gmail.com. - *EL*

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.

Trip Report: Chattooga Section IV
By Roger Nott
Photos by Matt Henry and Roger Nott

We had a beautiful day on the Chattooga's gorgeous and challenging Section IV Saturday, 7/31/2021. We met at 10:00 a.m. at Hwy. 76 and took out at the lake about 6:30 p.m. We had a great trip, with one notable exception, noted below.

Our congenial crew were kayakers David Asbell, Matt Henry, Tom Krisko, Jeff Lankford, Todd McGinnis, Brad McManus, and Greg Payne, and open boaters Kevin McInturff and I. Brad and Tom were running Section IV for the first time; Matt had paddled it once and Greg twice. They all did very well and were strongly supported by the others, who collectively had an average of about 35 years of experience on Section IV. Most of our crew had clean runs, though we had a few rolls and three or four swims, at Corkscrew, Jawbone, and one other place.

We had a beautiful, sunny day and a comfortable, medium level, 1.52 on the USGS Highway 76 gauge. We took a leisurely pace through this verdant paradise, playing frequently and stopping briefly at Seven-Foot Falls and lunching at the stunningly beautiful Long Creek Falls, where we enjoyed visiting and exploring the falls.

We found the river-left, landing eddy immediately upstream of Corkscrew mostly blocked by a downed tree and a waiting group of four or five rafts. Most of us had to scout Corkscrew from the right, but I was

able to land on and tie to this tree and thereby set a rope on the river left flat rock and about 35 yards downstream of the rap-



id. After they had beautiful runs of Corkscrew, Kevin set a second rope on river right just downstream of the rapid and David set a "last chance" rope on the river right where one lands to portage Crack-in the-Rock.

One or two of our crew portaged Corkscrew on the right. The others had strong runs, except



Todd McGinnis runs Corkscrew

for the Trip Coordinator. I ran far left where I intended but swamped when I boofed the central ledge into the left side of the mean curling standing wave just below it. I remained upright through the rapid, but my canoe was full almost to the gunwales, and I could not ferry right to dump. I tried to land left, but my swamped 16-foot Buffalo flipped when it struck the undercut rock where my safety replacement was now manning our
(continued, page 5)

The Eddy Line

(Section IV trip report, continued from page 4)

rescue ropes. His throw bag landed a little too far upstream of me, and I was already too far downstream for Kevin to reach me with his rope. I quickly washed downstream through a narrow river-right chute just behind my overturned canoe into the pool above Crack-in-the Rock. Within a second or two I was very happily the beneficiary of David's perfect rope throw.

Quickly landing on the right bank, I was horrified to see my Buffalo headed for the dreaded Right Crack, infamous for devouring boats and boaters. It briefly snagged against the rock wall a few feet right of Right Crack's entrance chute. My hopes to set a tethered swim to retrieve it were dashed when in a minute or two it began drifting downstream again and disappeared into that chute.

Our crew hastily assembled next to Right Crack and found my canoe powerfully wedged lengthwise underwater into the Crack. We sadly agreed that it would be too difficult and dangerous to try to extract it then.



With David's assistance again, I was tugged and swam across the river and walked

downstream to set safety at Jawbone, where we had another swim and fine rope rescue by Brad just above Hydroelectric Rock. At Sock-em-Dog, everyone had strong runs, which I photographed from the mid-river scouting rock.



I then bushwhacked down the left bank and mostly swam the quarter mile downstream to 'Possum Creek beach, where I parted company with our hearty crew and enjoyed a 2.2 mile beautiful hike up the sometimes steep but well-maintained 'Possum Creek Trail to Turkey Ridge (dirt) Road, on which after another half mile I was happily met by Todd in my car. We drove to the Bull Sluice parking lot in time to greet and bid an appreciative farewell to our fine crew.

Postscript: I kept in touch with staff members of Wildwater Ltd. and Southeastern Expeditions during the following week. They kept me updated on the status of my Buffalo and all agreed that the river conditions were too dangerous that to try to extract it.

Chris Romberg, a Gainesville friend and skilled wood-strip canoe builder, advised me he had similarly pinned a smaller open canoe in Right Crack. Friends were finally able to extract it
(continued, page 6)

(Section IV trip, continued from page 5)

at very low water using SCUBA gear to reach it from downstream, cut its air bags, pull it deeper where the crack is wider than on the surface, and thus pull it free downstream. I was heartened when the river level continued to drop, from 1.52 during our trip to 1.38 a week later. I hoped the decreasing river levels would lower where my canoe was wedged enough for it to be similarly freed.

GCA member Jorge Mestre most generously offered to help me try to extract it. On the morning of Sunday, 8/8/2021, he and I paddled my Oscoda Sport 16 the 2.3 miles to the head of Lake Tugaloo and then hiked up a river right trail to the pool at 'Possum Creek. There we met a Wildwater Ltd. guide on the day's first commercial raft trip. He ferried us to the South Carolina side and reported that the previous night's heavy rains, which I knew had raised the river's level to 1.63 at Hwy. 76, had flushed my canoe free and that it was now pinned near a log dangerously close to the top of Jawbone. He warned that this new pin spot was too dangerous for us to approach.



Nevertheless, we began bushwhacking upstream on an overgrown river-left path over

large boulders and giant blowdowns and through mazes of low limbed rhododendrons, each of us burdened with heavy packs filled with ropes, carabiners, pulleys, and a myriad of extraction tools and paddling equipment.

After about 20 minutes we had, with difficulty, ascended to just past Jumpers' Rock and were nearing Shoulderbone Rapid when we were greeted with a miraculous sight: my green Buffalo being paddled downstream by a young man. Judging from his broad smile, he was having a fine time! He seemed just as surprised and pleased to see us as we were him. The canoeist was Hunter



Hopps, a guide with NOC's first raft trip of the day. He related that he had freed my canoe by himself and paddled it successfully through Jawbone and Shoulderbone. (He acknowledged that one of his fellow guides had not been as successful in trying to run Sock-em-Dog.)

Miraculously the Buffalo was essentially intact! The still tied bailer and the stern "bag" (actually a large tube I'd found on Talking Rock Creek) were shredded, but its bow bag was still fully inflated! Its hull had

(continued, page 7)

(Section IV trip, continued from page 6)

earned quite a bit of river rash, a couple of creases and a baseball-sized dent in the bow, but these all came out later with Kevin's loaned heat gun. And I think I can adequately splint the complete split in one gunwale at the center thwart. My "dry bag" was still strapped to that thwart, though the food and first aid kit inside had absorbed about 15 pounds of river water! My spare paddle that had been wedged under the stern bag, a 30 year-old white bladed Werner with a blue shaft, has not yet turned up. But since I found a couple of years ago the Werner Bandit paddle that I had lost in a flood 38 months earlier on the Chattooga 34 miles upstream in North Carolina, I have believed in miracles.

We thanked Hunter profusely. But Jorge and I still were in store for some excitement. Our "tandem" trip with only one paddle and a lot of heavy gear in the Buffalo downstream to 'Possum Creek was an adventure. Jorge walked from 'Possum Creek to where we had chained my Oscoda and hidden my other paddles.

Our solo paddles out on Lake Tugaloo were very festive. On the water and at our access points we met many folks who had seen and heard about my pinned canoe over the preceding eight days. Most had had little hope for its future and now shared our elation on its safe recovery. Among these with whom Jorge and I celebrated that afternoon were 7/31/2021 trip members Todd McGinnis and

David Asbell and friends Jaime Greiner, Geoff Page, Kerrie Barloga, Don Kinser, Karen Heath, and Sam Wilburn.

Many thanks to David Asbell, Kevin McInturff, Todd McGinnis, Hunter Hopps, Jorge Mestre and all our crew and others who helped me so much. My sturdy old Buffalo has taken me on several fine journeys since 8/8/2021 and acquitted me well at this year's Southeasterns.—EL



Jeff Lankford

GCA Officer Elections were held October 10 during the Membership Meeting. The following slate of officers, having been nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, was confirmed for the upcoming 2022 term:

President:
Carol Reiser

Vice-President:
Allyson Davis

Secretary:
Karen Heath

Treasurer:
Vince Payne

The term will run from November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2022. Please give these great volunteers your support. Without

them, the club could not operate.

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.

Oceana Falls on the Tallulah River
Photo by Rick Thompson



TRIP AND CLINIC SCHEDULE

GCA December Paddle Trips

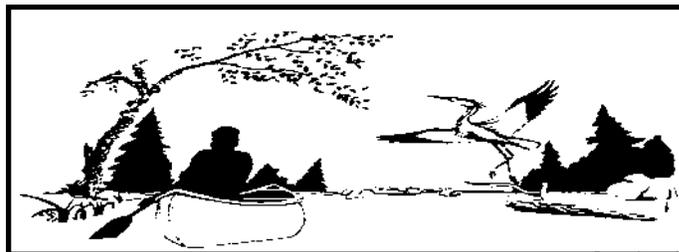
December 4 - Holiday paddle on the Upper Hooch

December 5 - Peachtree City Roll Practice

December 11 - Wildcard - Saturday, December 11th - Up to Class II+

December 19 - Peachtree City Roll Practice

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.

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 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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[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.