



# THE EDDY LINE

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### Different Strokes

#### My Friend Eddy

by Allen Hedden

In my more than 50 years of white water paddling, I've had many paddling friends come and go. Some sadly have passed on, some have dropped out of paddling in favor of other activities or family or job issues, and some I have just lost touch with. And many are still with me and I treasure each and every one.

While all my paddling friends have helped me out in one way or another from time to time, there is one friend that has been my staunch protector and helper on the river from the very beginning of my paddling career; my friend Eddy. Eddy has been with me on virtually every white water paddling trip I've taken since we became acquainted. Eddy provides me with a good place to stop

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and rest, gather my wits and rethink my plans. If I hadn't found Eddy, my paddling career would have been very different than it has turned out.

Eddy helps me to scout rapids on the fly. Eddy allows me to get a better look at what's coming up on my run. Eddy gives me a good place to set safety for my other paddling friends. Eddy gives me a safe spot to stop and bail the water out of my boat. Eddy helps me find a good spot to enter or exit my boat safely to start a trip, have lunch, scout a rapid from the bank, do a portage, or end a trip.

Eddy is also a fun loving friend who helps me out at various play spots on the river. Eddy is always there to provide a place to begin a surf, start a ferry or peel-out, play eddy-hop, etc. Eddy even helps my kayaking friends do squirts, mystery moves, splats and enders. Eddy may be my most versatile friend on any river trip.

Eddy goes by many names, e. g., Whirlpool Eddy, Eddy of No Return, Turtle Rock Eddy, etc., but most often goes by the name Eddy alone. By whatever name, you really need to let Eddy help you out on the river.

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## The Eddy Line

(My Friend Eddy, continued from page 1)

One cautionary warning: Eddy can be a fickle friend if you don't know how to use and properly approach him. You might trip over an eddy line, get recirculated in an eddy, or get fed out of an eddy into a feature you really don't want to be in.

If you haven't allowed Eddy to become your best river friend, you need to become acquainted with Eddy and seek out all the places Eddy can show you. If you don't know how to meet Eddy, just sign up for a training session with any worthwhile paddling organization and they will introduce you to my friend Eddy first hand, including how to seek out Eddy on the river. You'll be glad you did!  
- EL

GCA Members Inducted Into  
Southern Appalachian Paddlesports  
Museum Hall of Fame  
By Roger Nott

Congratulations to the members and leaders, past and present, of the Georgia Canoeing Association and our sister clubs; the Carolina Canoe Club, the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club; on these four paddling clubs' selections, along with a distinguished list of 57 paddlers, paddling supporters and innovators; as inaugural members of the Southern Appalachian Paddlesports Museum Hall of Fame. And congratulations and thanks to these 57 individual honorees, who include current and

past GCA members Aurelia and Payson Kennedy, Claude Terry, Fritz Orr Jr., Horace Holden, Hugh Caldwell, Jimmy Carter, Ramone Eaton, Doug Woodward, and Steve Scarborough. See the entire list at <https://youtu.be/FZHOqsIPTOM>.

The Southern Appalachian Paddlesports Museum was formed in 2019 to ensure that the rich history of river-running in the Southern Appalachians be preserved. The founders have established a small physical display at Black Dome Mountain Sports, 140 Tunnel Road, Asheville, North Carolina (828-443-3795) and are building a website at [paddlingmuseum.org](http://paddlingmuseum.org) and on Facebook.

To merit induction, nominees must have exhibited one or more of the following qualities in ways that have profoundly and positively impacted the sport of whitewater paddling in the Southern Appalachians: as an INNOVATOR by creating new methods, technologies, or products; as a LEADER among people in organizations or movements; and/or as a PIONEER who defined new pathways for others to follow, particularly in paddling sport.

The GCA and the other inaugural inductees were honored at a "Night at the Museum" event, Saturday, November 13, 2021 at Wedge at Foundation Brewing in Asheville. The program included social time to interact, the honoring of inductees, and a keynote address by Kent Ford, including his celebrated video, "The Call of the River." Here are a few brief tributes to those honorees who have been longtime GCA members:

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**Steve Scarborough** grew up in Dublin GA, and after working five years in Atlanta moved to the Chattooga area, where he worked as a river guide, taught canoeing and hand crafted exquisite wooden Dagger Paddles at his shop next to Wildwater Ltd. in Long Creek. For many years he

competed successfully in the Southeasterns and other open canoe races and won many championships, and served as ACA Open Canoe Slalom National Chairman.



With dozens of designs to his credit, his RPM may be the best-selling whitewater kayak in history. He serves as chairman of the Tennessee Conservation Commission and lives in and works to preserve Whites Creek Gorge at the edge of the Cumberland Plateau.

**Ramone Eaton** pioneered canoeing and river exploration in the eastern United States, taught canoeing and wrote excellent canoeing instruction books for the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts. He was an avid canoeist and explorer and a founding member of the Canoe Cruisers Association in 1956. He was very helpful in guiding the GCA when it began its first slalom and wildwater race in 1969 on the Nantahala, to which area he moved to work at the NOC after he retired. The Ramone Eaton Award in the Southeasterns is given each year to the fastest OC-2.

Former president **Jimmy Carter** was introduced to whitewater paddling by fellow inductees Claude Terry, Doug Woodward and Hugh Caldwell and by many other GCA members who persuaded him to support Wild and Scenic designation for the Chattooga River, in



Hugh Caldwell and Jimmy Carter

which effort he had a critical role in 1974 as Governor of Georgia. He also as President supported the preservation of many natural rivers, including Georgia's Chattahoochee near Atlanta and Flint River, on which he successfully

opposed a proposed dam at Sprewell Bluff which would have inundated a stunningly beautiful 18-mile gorge.

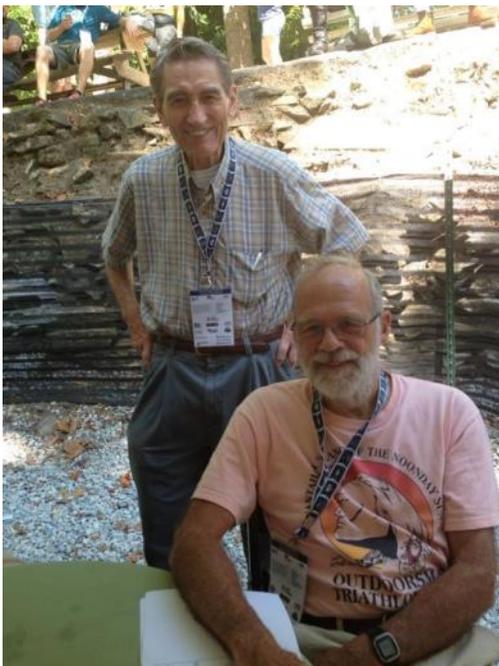
**Hugh Caldwell** was an Atlanta native who had a distinguished career as a Professor of Philosophy at the University of the South, where he guided the Sewanee Outing Club and coached the university canoeing team, which perennially won the Southeastern Intercollegiate Canoe Championships that fellow inductee and Georgia native Bob Benner ran for 20 years. He ran the Chattooga between Hwys. 28 and 76 in an 18-foot Grumman canoe in one day in the early 1950's. He was a champion C-1 and OC-1 racer for many years.

**Horace Holden, Sr.** was an Atlanta native who had a distinguished athletic record at Emory University. He founded and ran the  
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*(Paddlesports Museum Induction, continued from page 3)*

Chattahoochee Camp and School in Roswell. He and his good friend, Bill Crawford, co-founded the Georgia Canoeing Association and hosted

its founding meeting at Chattahoochee Camp in 1967. In 1969 he chaired GCA's first slalom and wildwater race on the Nantahala and teamed



Horace Holden, Sr and Payson Kennedy

with Bill Crawford to win the men's wildwater OC-2 class. He also established the Nantahala Outdoor Center with GCA charter members and fellow inductees, Aurelia and Payson Kennedy.

**Payson Kennedy's** online entry at the International Whitewater Hall Fame notes: "Recognized for its instruction in white-water boating, competition, and safety as well as providing outfitting services around the world, and initially purchased as a combination motel, restaurant, store and outfitting business, (the) NOC is now ... (an) operation with 600 summertime employees who serve 200,000 outdoor enthusiasts. Under Payson's leadership, NOC is not only the

largest outdoor education/recreation center in the world but the 'NOC experience' has supported overall whitewater advocacy through conservation and safety support and education. NOC supported racers by hiring them as guides and instructors and was the first school to hire women racers as guides and instructors. Payson, with NOC, created the non-profit Nantahala Racing Club which has produced U.S. Olympic whitewater racers in 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004 (and every year since 2004). He starred in the movie *Deliverance* as a stunt double, and is a six-time National Champion in OC-I in US Open Boat National Championships (1974-1978)." Though retired as NOC CEO, at 88 he still guides raft trips regularly in the summer, bicycles regularly and competes in canoe races on the Nantahala. GCA's founding member, first elected President, and co-organizer of the first Southeasterns is an inspiration and trusted friend to very many of us.

**Aurelia Kennedy** loved the outdoors and canoeing in particular. At age 19 she may have been the second woman to canoe Nantahala Falls, in the bow of a wood and canvas canoe with her close friend Ramone Eaton in 1954. She married Payson a few months later and taught him to love paddling. They became founding members of the GCA in 1967 and among its most influential and effective early leaders. In 1972 they were recruited by Horace to create and manage his new enterprise, the Nantahala Outdoor Center. After its first successful year, they moved with their four children to Wesser NC as equal NOC partners. In the NOC's first few years she did

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## The Eddy Line

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it all: guided trips on the Nantahala and Chattooga, cleaned motel rooms, cooked meals, and worked in the office. She was an inspiring, energetic role model and loving supporter for many young NOC



Payson and Aurelia Kennedy

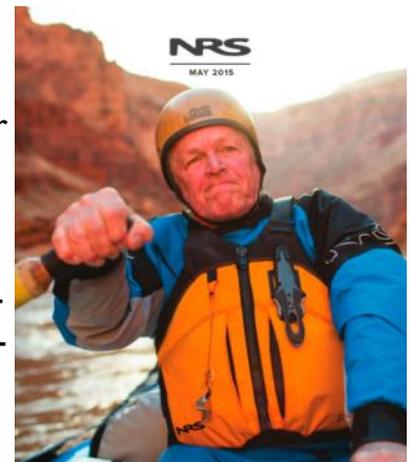
guides. She loved exploration and the outdoors, from gardening and working the land to traveling and gaining a deeper understanding of different cultures. Longtime GCA members will remember the marvelous and healthful feasts she oversaw and graciously hosted each year at the Southeasterns and her loving commitment to the race and its participants.

**Fritz Orr, Jr.** assumed the ownership and direction of Camp Merrie-Woode for Girls on a lake in Sapphire, N.C. in 1968. He continued the camp's emphasis on canoeing and, with its distinguished staff, explored and first paddled many whitewater streams in the southern Appalachians and shared these with thousands of campers. He was a longtime supporter of the Georgia Conservancy in its efforts to conserve the Chattooga and other natural waterways.

**Doug Woodward** has family roots in South Georgia and a degree from Georgia Tech and has been running and exploring rivers in the

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mid-Atlantic area since the early 1950's. He was active with the Canoe Cruisers Association and an Explorer post before he moved to the Atlanta area and joined the GCA in 1970. He had had the only clean slalom run in GCA's first Nantahala Race in 1969 and was its Race Chairman for a couple of years beginning in 1972. He was an accomplished and prolific boat builder and led GCA's Explorer Scout Post 49 for a decade. He and fellow inductees Payson Kennedy and Claude Terry served as technical advisors and stuntmen for the 1972 movie *Deliverance*, filmed mostly on the Chattooga, and and Claude soon thereafter purchased the rafts used in its filming and founded Southeastern Expeditions on the Chattooga. He remained an



active river explorer much of his life and is credited with making the first descent of Baby Falls on the Tellico River. He now lives in Franklin, NC and a few years ago wrote a wonderful book, *Wherever Waters Flow*, which documents much Southeastern United States whitewater paddling history since the mid 1960's.

**Claude Terry** was a charter member of the GCA and its third President in 1968-9. He led many trips for the GCA in its early years and wrote several articles for *Brown's Guide* (continued, page 6)

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to Georgia. As noted above, he played a pivotal role in getting the Chattooga approved for Wild & Scenic status and promoting its safe recreational use through his leadership in GCA and with Southeastern Expeditions. He owned and operated Southeastern Expeditions from 1972 to 2006 and personally led many of its international paddling expeditions. He received the National Wildlife Federation's Water Conservation Award in 1972 and a co-founded Friends of the River, serving as its 1977 President when President Carter signed the \$69 million land acquisition law which protected the Chattahoochee from Buford to Atlanta. He was a founder of American Rivers and Professor of Microbiology at Emory University, whose Outing Club he advised. - *EL*

### **A Plea for Eddy Line Material**

Got any river stories, tall tales, training tips, trip reports or other useful information that you could be sharing with your fellow club members? Well, coincidentally, The Eddy Line is looking for new articles. This could be your chance for fame and fortune, but infamy and misfortune works well also. You've probably read GCA newsletter articles and said to yourself, "Gee, I can write something at least that good!" Well, you'll never know unless you jump in there and give it a try.

There are other opportunities to get started writing articles. If you have a good idea, but no faith in your ability to put something together properly, you could just give it your

best shot and submit it along with a note for the editor(s) to give you a hand making it presentable. Or, push comes to shove, if you have a good idea for an article, but you can't bring yourself to even attempt to write and submit it, let us know. Realistically, getting an idea for an article is often the hardest part of the creative process. The editorial staff ;-)) would be more than happy to try to put something together for you, even give you credit for the article and / or the idea. Another alternative would be to submit an article anonymously using a pen name or other subterfuge if you're really that shy about folks knowing it was you who wrote it. Whatever works for you! If you definitely cannot submit an article, there is always the opportunity to submit appropriate pictures, cartoons, paddling jokes and such.

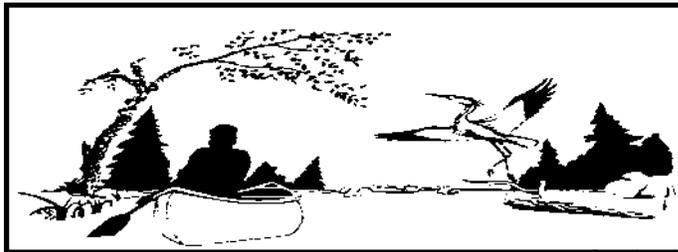
However you may decide to do it, we can definitely use the material. So stop procrastinating and get started! You might find out you're really good at it.

Many thanks from the editorial staff ;-)) for any submissions you may make! - *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 AND CLINIC SCHEDULE

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).



To Volunteer To Coordinate Trips email Cruisemaster Terri Abbott: [abbott.terri@gmail.com](mailto: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 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.

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### 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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**[ 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.*