



CHOTA CANOE CLUB
 PO BOX 8270 UNIVERSITY STATION
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37996

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April, 2002

Chota Canoe Club

Knoxville,
 Tennessee

Purpose:
 to
 provide
 community
 paddle
 sport
 activities,



safety awareness and
 techniques while being
 actively environmentally
 responsible.

Your Address Label
 contains your Chota Renewal Date. Please
 check it, renew if it is time, and save our
 volunteer from doing additional work! If you
 go ahead and renew now, Franklin won't
 have to send you a reminder notice. Thanks!

April Meeting Notice

Stefano's Pizza, (upstairs meeting room) 7213 Kingston Pike, Knoxville

Thursday, April 11th

Executive meeting - 6:30

General meeting - 7:30

Our speaker will be Chuck Estes, regional volunteer with American Whitewater! Chuck will present a slide show that regarding American Whitewater's mission statement is "to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely". The American Whitewater is a national organization with over 8,000 members consisting of whitewater boating enthusiasts and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates. Chuck will also give us status updates on both local and national levels.

Kevin Colburn with American Whitewater will also try to be there to discuss the TVA Reservoir Study and how it can impact the Ocoee and Hiawassi, and our joint efforts regarding the Pigeon River: access, improving year round accuracy of projected releases, and paddling fees.

Please don't miss this month's special program and help us support this wonderful organization!

Visit Chota on the Web at www.korrnet.org/chota

Paddling Lore:

12 inches on a gauge in the summer after a heavy thunder storm is nothing like 12 inches on a gauge in the middle of a wet winter. Gauges, like guide books, only tell a part of the story. River knowledge, paying attention to watersheds, and experience go further than either a gauge or a book.

Trip Schedules

APRIL

Whitewater Trips Cruisemaster: Larry Johnson, 865-671-1229

Date	River	Coordinator	Phone
6,7	TVA Meeting and Paddle (see p. 4)	Robin Ballard	423-587-9043
13,14	Clear Creek of the Obed II-III	Larry Johnson	865-671-1229
20,21	West Prong of the Little River (Tremont Section) or Big Creek	Paul Teichert	865-457-7081
27,28	Big South Fork III-IV or Emory II-III	David Tate	865-448-2223

Touring Trips Cruisemaster Roger Arnwine 865-693-8584

13	Calderwood day trip	Doug Johnstone	865-966-3391
21	Norris day trip	Franklin Paine	865-281-7178

MAY

Whitewater (HAIR) Trips Cruisemaster: Gary Kilpatrick 423-246-5262

4,5	Middle Tellico, III-IV	Gary Kilpatrick	423-246-5262
10-12	Confluence Weekend	Roger Underwood	865-354-6440
18,19	Nolichucky	Gary Kilpatrick	423-246-5262
25,26	Chattooga Weekend	David Tate	865-448-2223

Whitewater (HAIRLESS) Trips Cruisemaster:

4,5	Hiawassee	Walt Tunnell/Kenton Temple	865-588-8248
10-12	Confluence Weekend	Roger Underwood	865-354-6440
18,19	Lower Hiawassee	Karie Scarborough	865-483-7525
25,26	Chattooga Weekend	David Tate	865-448-2223

Touring Trips Cruisemaster: Doug Johnstone, 865-966-3391

4	Seven Islands day trip	Doug Johnstone	865-966-3391
10-12	Confluence Weekend	Roger Underwood	865-354-6440
25,26	Chattooga Weekend	David Tate	865-448-2223

May Newsletter Deadline: April 18, 2002

Email reports, artwork, photos to Stacia Couch at staciacouch@hotmail.com.
Call (865) 588-1461 with any questions or suggestions.

(the Hiwassee and Ocoee) yet has countless miles of whitewater buried beneath reservoirs. Neither of these two rivers are equitably managed for the recreational benefits they provide.

- TVA is mandated to provide for navigability under the TVA Act. The Ocoee is a navigable river, yet is dewatered by TVA to the point where navigation is impossible.
- Whitewater releases on the Upper Ocoee have no major impacts on lake levels upstream.
- Whitewater releases will have negligible environmental impacts.

Currently the issue of free releases does not directly concern the popular Middle Ocoee. TVA was paid by Congress to provide releases on that section for a limited time in a manner that can no longer be replicated. An equitable solution on the Upper Ocoee is a must in order to set a precedent for future management of the Middle Ocoee.

American Whitewater was successful in having the Ocoee recommended to be included in the ROS by TVA's Regional Resource Stewardship Council (what's that?). American Whitewater is currently representing downstream recreationalists on the ROS Review Board, which is a citizen advisory group that will be helping hone the efficiency and effectiveness of the ROS. AW will also be educating the public on how to participate in the ROS in such a way that gives the Ocoee River back to the people.

For more information, go to www.tva.gov <<http://www.tva.gov>>, and www.americanwhitewater.org <<http://www.americanwhitewater.org>>

Reservoir Operations Study (by TVA)

TVA operates the Tennessee River system and reservoirs for the benefit of the people of the Tennessee Valley region

TVA's citizen advisory group, the Regional Resource Stewardship Council, has recommended that TVA conduct a formal reevaluation of its policies for operating the reservoir system, including an analysis of both the costs and benefits of any potential changes in these policies.

Reservoir system operating policies guide the integrated operation of TVA dams for flood risk reduction, year-round navigation, affordable electricity, improved water quality, economic growth, water supply, recreation and land use.

These policies affect how much reservoir levels rise and fall, when changes in reservoir levels occur, and the amount of water flowing through the reservoir system at different times of the year - depending on rainfall, of course

The TVA Board has accepted the Council's recommendation and initiated a two-year Reservoir Operations Study, scheduled for completion in October 2003.

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value.

Valley citizens, technical consultants, and representatives from other federal and state agencies will assist TVA in this effort

TVA will conduct the study in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The process and the results will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement.

Technical analyses, including assessments of natural resource conditions, flood risk, water quality, and economic impacts, will also be conducted as part of the study.

To submit comments or get additional information, members of the public are invited to visit TVA's Web site at www.tva.com, call toll-free 888-882-7675, fax 865-632-3146, or write to ROS Project Manager David Nye, TVA, c/o WT 11A, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902.

Lost and Found

Found: On Sunday, Jan 20th. **A canoe paddle floating down the middle section of the Tellico. Call Jeff at 423-344-6209 or email [Showdown58@aol.com](mailto>Showdown58@aol.com) and identify to claim.**

Canoe paddle lost last year on the Dries section of the Pigeon. It is a 66' long Norse Paddle with a 8X24 blade and a light purple T-grip. If found, please e-mail Steve Frazier at fraz@net2atlantla.com or call collect at 770-926-9240.

President's Corner

So many important events are happening this month that will have a major impact on you, that the President's corner has been given over to provide additional space so that you can learn more about the issues at hand. Now is the time that you can make a major impact on whether the Hiawassi and Ocoee will continue to flow for you, the way you want it to flow. Only you can decide to make an impact that will positively affect your life. How about it?

TVA Reservoir Study Meetings: Please see Story on Page 4 regarding these important meeting.

FREE THE OCOEE! Background and Action Opportunities. February 2002, by AWA

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is holding the Upper Ocoee River hostage, and requiring that river users pay a ransom for recreational releases. Under this policy, the Ocoee Olympic Whitewater Center will soon sit on a dry riverbed. American Whitewater is committed to ensuring equitable management of the Ocoee River.

The public finally has a chance to formally object to TVA not sharing the waters of the Ocoee River. This opportunity is created through TVA's 2-year Reservoir Operations Study (ROS), which will look at many issues across the Tennessee Valley. The public can achieve free recreational releases on the Upper Ocoee through this process.

There will only be 2 opportunities for public comment on the ROS. The first (Scoping) will begin in March of 2002, and the second (Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments) will begin in spring of 2003. It is critical that everyone that is concerned about rafting and kayaking on the Upper Ocoee River comment during both of these opportunities by submitting written comments or speaking at one of the scheduled public meetings.

Scoping: The purpose of scoping is to determine what topics TVA should study and with what emphasis. Tell TVA that whitewater recreation on the Upper Ocoee is important to you, and that they should consider ways of providing as many free releases as possible, including an alternative similar to the United States Forest Service's preferred alternative from their 1997 Environmental Impact Study. This alternative recommended 74 annual releases on the Upper Ocoee. AW's comments will be published on our website prior to the beginning of the comment period.

Draft Environmental Impact Study Comments: You will be able to review DEIS and then file comments on it. Urge TVA to select and implement the alternative that provides the most recreational releases on the Upper Ocoee. Check with AW at that time for a copy of our comments.

It is also critical that you, as concerned citizens, contact state and/or federal representatives and urge them to support free releases on the Ocoee River. Without congressional pressure, TVA may not be compelled to do the right thing.

TVA will provide no free releases on the Upper Ocoee after 2002. If TVA gets its way, The American Whitewater sanctioned TEVA Whitewater National Championships, being held this October, will be the last Whitewater Event held at the 26 million dollar Ocoee Olympic Whitewater Center.

TVA has stated that they have been subsidizing the whitewater industry long enough and that it is time for them to start fully recovering their costs.

- The water in the Ocoee River is owned by the public under the Public Trust Doctrine. TVA is claiming ownership and charging money for use of a public resource.
- The cost of the up to 20 annual rafting releases is increasing each year and will likely become financially unfeasible in the near future, leaving the river completely dry year-round.
- Each release on the Upper Ocoee provides at least \$210,000 to the local economy while TVA only has to forgo \$6,650 (at the most) in potential revenue. TVA should not rob the region of this income by using *all* of the water for power generation.

TVA is not subject to the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and therefore does not have to give recreational and environmental issues equal consideration to power generation, and does not have to cooperate with other federal agencies like the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, like private dam owners do. TVA's private competitors must comply with many social and ecological standards that TVA chooses to ignore. If TVA cannot act responsibly without guidance than that guidance should be imposed on them through privatization.

TVA only manages two whitewater river is its entire system

Upcoming Events

April 6 Tallulah River Festival, Tallulah Falls, Georgia

April 6 TVA Meeting, Morristown, Walters State Community College, 10 - 1, Paddling afterwards with Robin Ballard.

April 9 TVA Meeting, Loudon County High school, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

April 9. TVA Meeting, Chattanooga State Technical College, Health & Fitness Center, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

April 13.. TVA Meeting, Anderson County High School, Clinton, TN, 10 am - 1:30 pm.

April 13 LITTLE RIVER CLEAN-UP WITH CHOTA!! CONTACT JENNIFER SAUER 688-7782 AND VOLUNTEER!

April 14 Styrofoam Cup, Bryson City, NC.

April 27-28... Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championship Races - Nantahala River, NC. Knox Worde (770-475-3022) or playboatn@aol.com.

April 27-28 Tim Gavin River Festival, Harpers Ferry, WV.

May 4-5 Cheat River Festival, Albright, WV.

May 10-12 This year's Spring Confluence will be held at Hot Springs, NC. We are having our gathering in unison with the French Broad Festival. The festival is being held May 10 and 11. This is an American Whitewater event and there will be music and all sorts of activities in which to participate. There is a website -- <http://www.frenchbroadfestival.com> -- it will be updated to 2002 soon. Some people will show up a day early in order to secure campsites. Hope to see you there. Roger Underwood, 865-354-6440 or creekrisen@earthlink.net.

May 11-18 National River Clean-Up Week.

May 18. OBED CLEAN-UP WITH CHOTA!! Contact Jennifer Sauer to volunteer, 865-688-7782!

June 21-23 Canoe & Kayak School. Henry Bell (865) 379-9247.

September 21 Gauley Whitewater Festival, Summersville, WV.

Upcoming Events, continued

September 2002 .Middle Fork of the Salmon in Idaho. Gary Kilpatrick 423-246-5262.

October 5-6 Russell Fork Rendezvous, Haysi, VA.

October 10-13 Teva Whitewater National Championships on the Ocoee River.

November 8-10 Fort Pickens National Seashore annual trip. For details and information, call Ed McAlister, 865-675-2247.

November 16-23 Cumberland Islands, Georgia. Self-contained camping/ocean paddling. This trip is sure to be as spectacular as last year's trip to Isle Royale National Park. 6 to 8 person limit on trip. If interested and for more details, contact Howard Cox 865-639-5738 or Doug Johnstone 865-966-3391.

June 2003Costa Rica Paddling and Adventure Tour. Plan to budget approximately \$1500. If interested, contact Renee VandeBerg at (865) 691-2911 or rvandeberg@coulterjustus.com.

April 6 -- TVA - Ocoee Meeting and Paddle Trip

Meeting in Morristown at Walters State Community College 10 am to 1 pm, follwed by paddle trip on Pigeon or French Broad with Robin Ballard. Call Robin at 423-587-9043.

TVA is currently doing a two-year study to reevaluate their water distribution practices. River recreation has traditionally been the least important option for them (ranking behind everything including lake recreation). Now is your chance to make a difference! If you have ever used a TVA-controlled river, let them know!! TVA is taking input from everyone who has an interest in the water they control — industries, wildlife groups, lakefront property owners, hydropower users, marinas, rescue squads — you name it. The paddling community really needs to make itself known if we want TVA to recognize the importance of river recreation. PLEASE HELP!!!

Please try to attend the meeting and paddle with us immediately afterwards. TVA reps will see our boats on top of our cars and know that we use the rivers!

PUBLIC MEETING DATES -

Saturday, April 6, Morristown, TN, Walters State Community College 10:00 am to 1 pm

Tuesday, April 9, Knox/Loudon Area - Loudon County HS, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

Saturday, April 13, Clinton & Norris, TN - Anderson County High School, 10:00 am - 1 pm

See TVA website for meeting dates and times for other cities.

Tallulah 2002! April Releases!

by Kevin Colburn, AWA

Last fall's Tallulah River (Georgia) releases were the most popular ever, with as many as 400 boaters climbing down the 653 steps into one of the south's premiere whitewater runs. With this increase in use, the need for volunteers, and the need for us to tread lightly increases. It also increases our chances of getting more releases in a few years. We would like to thank all of the stellar volunteers from last fall, all the respectful boaters, and the weather for being so spectacular.

The two spring releases are coming up fast, April 6th/7th, and 13th/14th. The Tallulah River Festival is being held April 6th. Due to the increased use last fall, and the fact that the Southeast is currently in a major drought, we expect another big year in Tallulah Gorge. With this increased use comes increased responsibility, here is what you can do to help:

1. Don't Trample the Trillium! Keep boats and bodies on the steps, bedrock, or water at all times. We are working on a solution to help the bottleneck at the base of the stairs. This is critical and could make or break releases in the gorge.
2. Don't Litter! Last year some folks were a bit irresponsible with using the med kit down at Oceana. We have a waste container in there now, use it.
3. Don't Burn Things That Are Not Yours! Cold nights, piles of pallets and scrap wood near the campground... tempting but don't go there this year.
4. Use The Free Shuttles (respectfully)! We don't require folks to use the shuttles that Georgia Power, NOC, and AW supply, but it really helps with parking problems if folks use them. At the take-out, be nice, and wait your turn.
5. Volunteer! We can't do it without you. We need help managing parking, working at the registration tables, working with the AW staff, carrying the med-kit in (who are you Tallulah hero-past med-kit sherpa?), and doing some carpentry work on the base of the stairs the Saturday before the first release. Email our Tallulah volunteer coordinator Zac Altheimer at zacnc32@aol.com if you are able to help. ALL VOLUNTEERS GET TO BOAT TOO!
6. Keep the beer low profile! If you are planning on drinking at any of the state regulated areas, please drink responsibly and discretely.

Thanks, and We'll see you at Tallulah.

Plug: Don't forget, there would be no releases in Tallulah gorge if it were not for the hard work of the American Whitewater staff and volunteers!

Contact: Kevin Colburn, EASTERN ASSOCIATE

20 Battery Park Ave, Suite 302

Asheville, NC 28801

E-mail: Kevin@amwhitewater.org

Phone: 828-252-6482

Fax: 828-254-4429



Remember When?

Remember when you finally talked your best friend into going paddling with you? Remember how you coaxed, guided, laughed at their awkwardness and hollered when they made a solid run? Remember how at the end of the day how much larger than life they described their adventure.

If you are grinning to yourself (and you know that you are) then trot on over to your phone or computer and sign up as a canoe school instructor.

Chota needs not only instructors, we need safety support and back-up staff for the classes. You don't go it alone! Call today before the grin on your face fades away!

Henry Bell 865.379-9247 bell@simulationdynamics.com
Jill Miller 865.573-3451 jillbhome@ntown.com

Polar Bear Weekend, by Renee Vandenberg

We tried to escape the cold by pushing back the weekend to the 1st of March, but beware of the Ides of March! The weather gods were there and made certain that we held true to the tradition of the Annual Polar Bear Weekend, by plummeting the temperatures into the 20's on Sunday morning. No problemo for the Northern girls - Jenn & Renee hiked Black Mountain on Sunday, while the rest made their way back to Memphis, Ohio, North Carolina, and various parts of East TN in the blowing snow.

Cold you say, ney matie - not when we were snuggled up in the Deluxe Cabins at Cumberland Mountain State Park. These weren't just any old cabins, they were decked out with fireplaces, carpeting, huge bathrooms and bedrooms, giant living rooms - it was luxury.

Most of us paddled Lilly to Nemo on Saturday, while a group of five (David Luinstra, Dodie Bush, Julianne Delzer and Kirk Eddlemon) went to the Big South Fork to run the short, but fun run near the canyon. The South Fork group reported a great time and were back in time to prepare our homemade spaghetti, fabulous fettucini, Luinstra's killer brownies, and Dodie's secret pie with fruit topping (that I never got a bite of and regret to this day). With salads, garlic bread, couscous and more - it was a party with superb company.

Laura Raymer (Kodak, TN), brother Mike Raymer and his wife Delia from Ohio joined us and were such a pleasure to watch as they ran Lilly to Nemo, relishing the beauty of Tennessee's only Wild & Scenic River. It's people like the Raymer family that reminds you of the true essence of paddling. It was like reliving paddling Clear Creek for the first time, by seeing it through their eyes, watching their smiles, and their appreciation of the spectacular beauty of the Obed. 500 cfs made for a great first time run and Laura's rented wet suit paid off big as did her attitude. I can't wait to get her on bigger water - a true paddler in the making!

Gary Johnstone, Jennifer Sauer, David Benton, Matt Farmer, Doug Johnstone, Laura, Mike & Delia, and Renee all agreed that as paddling groups go, you couldn't beat this one for a great day on the river and a terrific weekend.

Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Class

-- sponsored by Carolina Canoe Club

Hurry for a space in this great class! Contact Robin Pope at or call him at home (919-380-9960, before 9:00 pm please).

The course will be held in the Nantahala area on two weekends (April 12-14 and May 3-5) during the spring of 2002. Over these two weekends, participants will learn how to perform and teach a wide range of river safety skills. Participants will have an opportunity to teach to their classmates and to practice their skills during scenarios. The instructor trainer for the class will be Sam Fowlkes. Sam has many years experience, and is highly regarded by both paddlers and rescuers. Robin Pope and Bo Wise will be assisting in the course.

Participants should be comfortable in class III water, have strong knowledge of rescue skills (e.g., completion of a swiftwater rescue course offered by the ACA or Rescue 3), have warm paddling clothes (e.g., a wetsuit or drysuit), and have basic boating and rescue equipment. A review session will be offered in March, before the class begins. This is a physically demanding course that requires students to spend lots of time in the water. Participating in the class does NOT guarantee certification. Course cost is \$325, plus ACA membership. Course fees do include primitive camping, but do not include meals.



Catoosa Wildlife Area

-- Daddy's Creek & Island Creek

Catoosa Wildlife Area - Daddy's Creek & Island Creek

The wildlife rest period is over and the Turkey Hunting season is starting. We have been ASSURED by the rangers that we DO HAVE ACCESS to Island Creek Put-in.

The Catoosa Wildlife Area is CLOSED to everyone but those with a turkey hunting permit for the following dates (which eliminates the short shuttle for Daddy's Creek):

Turkey Hunts: April 5-7; 12-14; 16-18; 20-21; 23-25; 26-28 and April 30 - May 2. The fine is steep if you're caught - something like \$145 plus.

Note - we DO HAVE ACCESS on any of the dates NOT mentioned above.

ps - if you're going to run Daddy's, call Renee & invite her to join you!

Pigeon River (NC/TN) Better Than Ever

by: Kevin Colburn, AWA - *With Comments Added by Renee VandeBerg, Chota*

Chota has decided to adopt a river a year to do "GOOD ON". For 2002 - Chota has adopted the Pigeon River and we are working with AWA and Cocke County to make improvements for paddlers. Chota members who are interested in MAKING A DIFFERENCE on the Pigeon should contact Renee VandeBerg or Robin Ballard. Stay tuned!

American Whitewater and the boating community had a couple of significant wins recently on the Pigeon River, which is on the TN/NC border.

Fees Blocked & Extra Releases Announced

American Whitewater's access staff worked together in mid-February to thwart an attempt by the Cocke County Tennessee Tourism Director to impose a user fee on private boaters. We called the Tourism Director and were unsuccessful at reaching a mutually agreeable resolution. The proposed fees (on private property where we have legal access) were to use access sites which not only don't exist, but for which there is no land, budget, or building plan for. The money would go into the county's general fund. So, we attended the meeting and asked the county legislative board to reject the proposal because it clearly put the cart before the horse. They voted to reject the proposal and send it back to a committee.

American Whitewater (*and Chota*) intends to work with Cocke County to develop suitable access sites in a manner that does not require mandatory fees be imposed on private boaters. This will alleviate any access problems while continuing to attract private boaters to visit Cocke County and the Pigeon River. We would like to thank Cocke County for taking the time to understand our concerns, and the rafting company owners for their help on this issue.

Extra Releases

In other Pigeon news, from now until the end of the hydro license, boaters will be able to enjoy an extra day of releases each week of the rafting season (Memorial day-Labor day)! *Provided the 3-year average shows total users remains at 50,000 or more. Robin Ballard played a key role in Cocke County counting the users properly when she wrote a paper on the Pigeon River a couple of years ago and followed-up with the County on the fact that they were not including private boaters in the numbers and that they were suppose to! Amazing the impact that one person has!*

Four days per week of scheduled releases, and consistently improving water quality will surely make this run an even more recreationally and economically important resource. The reason for the increase is that the license stipulated that an additional day of releases would be granted by Carolina Power and Light when use exceeded 50,000 individual user/trips per year. Use is now estimated to be near 70,000 per year. A good lesson to learn about forward thinking license conditions!

Please contact Robin Ballard 423-587-9043 to sign-up to assist with improving the Pigeon River.

Roll Sessions Information

Let's give a big thank you to Riversports for bringing roll sessions to Knoxville with the Tennessee School for the Deaf being so kind to offer their great facilities!

Riversports is holding Winter Kayaking Classes every Friday night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Tennessee School for the Deaf, 2725 Island Home Blvd, Knoxville, TN 37920, through May 9th. They are offering two 5 week sessions for those who would like to learn the basics of whitewater kayaking in a safe and fun learning environment from their experienced kayaking instructors, for only \$50 for 5 classes. Please contact Riversports directly to sign-up for a class (865) 523-0066.

One five week session begins March 8th and runs through April 5th (every Friday night).

Another five week session begins April 12th and runs through May 9th (every Friday night).

In conjunction with these classes, the pool is open to paddlers who would like to practice their roll for only \$3.00 per night! Two great opportunities at one location - learn more about kayaking or roll, roll away.

Maryville College Fee \$3.00
Wednesday evening 8:30 - 10:00 pm
April 3, 10, 17, 24
May 1, 8

Last Roll Session for Spring is May 8.

Roll Sessions resume in the Fall.

Questions: Call Terri Childs (865) 691-7817 or Mountain Challenge (865) 981-8125

ETWC-Oak Ridge Civic Center Pool Fee \$3.00

Friday evenings 8:30 - 10:00 pm
April 5

See or contact Jimmy Groton (865) 483-5799
home, (865) 481-8732 work, or
grotonj@saic.com

Tennessee School for the Deaf Fee \$3.00
2725 Island Home Blvd (out by Ijams)
Every Friday night through May 9th, 7 - 9 pm

Next 5 week winter kayaking class session is 3/8 through 4/5 for \$50. Sign-up with Riversports (865) 523-0066 (*see Article this page*).



For Sale

Used Hydra Dragonfly II kayak. Includes flotation, backband, and paddle. \$350 for everything. Please contact Peter Salpas at home 865-481-3018 or at work 865-481-4747.

2002 Executive Committee

President:	Renee Vandeberg	865-691-2911	r_vandeberg@msn.com
Vice President:	Robin Ballard	423-587-9043	rballard@lcs.net
Treasurer:	Howard Cox	865-693-5738	hcox@icx.net
Secretary:	Mary Ann Grell	865-386-4819	magrell@yahoo.com
Canoe & Kayak School:	Henry Bell	865-379-9247	bell@simulationdynamics.com
Canoe & Kayak School Elect:	Jill Miller	865-573-3451	jillbhome@ntown.com
Conservation:	Jennifer Sauer	865 688-7782	jensauer@aol.com
Safety:	Gary Kilpatrick	423-246-5262	GWKilpatrick@misfinishing.com
Web Master:	Russell DeCastongrene	865-966-5918	russelldec@Chartertn.net
Newsletter:	Stacia Couch	865-588-1461	staciacouch@hotmail.com
Trip Chairperson:	Mary Misulich	865-448-2223	
Member-at-Large:	Franklin Paine	865-281-7178	frickfrack@mindspring.com
Past President	Doug Johnstone	865-966-3391	canoeone@msn.com

Keep Blount Beautiful!

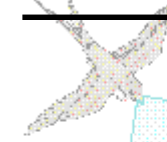
Looking for a good job, no pay, possible low pay (if you find money), great family benefits and fun, time off to paddle, and job security? Come Volunteer to Keep Blount Beautiful at the Little River Awareness Day, Saturday, April, 13 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. Volunteers will meet at Thompson-Brown House for supplies and assignments.

Call Jennifer Sauer ahead of time to team-up for the drive to Maryville or more information (865) 688-7782. We're aiming for a minimum of 15 volunteers for this clean-up, with a paddling or hiking trip scheduled afterwards and then a free barbecue and bluegrass music from 5-7 p.m. for the volunteers! Prizes will be awarded for the most unique items collected during the river cleanup. Keep Blount Beautiful and Little River Watershed Association are offering the use of boats, but have a limited supply, so please call ahead to reserve one. Canoes work the best for paddling & cleaning up a river, but LEGS are always welcome (no boat required).

If you can't make the Chota day for participating in the Little River Clean-up on April 13, there is also a River Rescue being held April 6 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Volunteers will meet at Louisville Point Park for supplies and assignments.

For more information you can contact Melissa Nance-Richwine with Little River Watershed Association 980-2130, Kristi Kell with Keep Blount Beautiful 681-6157, or Jennifer Sauer with Chota 688-7782.

A Piece of History: The Series.



And here's one to whet your appetite for winter overnights...

"Clear Creek Overnighter, Feb. 13-14, 1982

This trip has been scheduled for the past 3 years and has never come off until now. It was worth the wait! Seven brave adventurers pitted their skills against the Cumberland wilds and had a ball. The weather forecast had promised a beautiful weekend and turned out to be half right. Sunday was in the 50's and blue of sky. Saturday was another story. Bill Atkins and I went up Friday night, ran the shuttle and camped at the put-in. Ed McAlister, Dwight Guinn, Joe Barton, Bruce Holt, and B. J. Bogle met at 4:30 a.m. [this is real dedication – note from Anne] in Knoxville and arrived at the put-in at 7:30 while Bill and I were still having breakfast. It had to be about 20 degrees at that point and never got much above freezing the entire day, and the sky remained mostly overcast. At least it wasn't windy. Bill and Ed ran tandem, as did B.J. and I. The rest were solo, with Bruce using his touring kayak. The first 8 miles or so are quite busy, with constant class I and II rapids and the stream is very narrow for most of that distance. The scenery is unparalleled in beauty by any other river I have run, and that's more than a few. Huge icicles hung everywhere and Ed decided not to leave any for the TSRA to appreciate the following weekend. He took most of them down with his forehand while trying to avoid them and almost swamped the boat with ice. He still had a headache that night, but took the proper medication to relieve all his pain. The only problem we ran into was 3 portages around and over trees that had been felled for some inexplicable reason across the stream. After the first several miles we ran into several long pools between rapids. We set up camp at 3:30, when we judged we were past the halfway point. This turned out to be a rather accurate guess, as the next day we didn't start paddling until 10:30 a.m. and got to the take-out about 3:00. Stopping as early as we did on Saturday gave us a lot of daylight with which to set up camp, gather firewood, and cook dinner. I needed the extra time to cut tent stakes, as I had left mine back at the put-in.

"In view of the cold, Joe Barton's campfire was extremely welcome, as was the beer he supplied while we were setting up camp. Joe says we'll be seeing a lot more of him as he will be working in Knoxville during the Fair [1982 World's Fair]. As long as he keeps his cooler full, he's certainly welcome on any trip I lead! As the evening wore on, Bruce decided he was not properly fluidated, so he took several quick gulps out of what he thought was Bill's water bottle. Not all clear liquid is water. In this case it turned out to be vodka! I believe Bruce will sip before swallowing from now on. B.J. discovered a new use for a wetsuit. It makes a perfect sleeping pad, being of closed cell foam.

"The night was clear and cold and Sunday dawned blue and beautiful. By the time we got on the river, we were all shedding clothes as the temperature quickly rose. More rapids, more scenery and one mandatory portage at the class IV rapid just above Barnett Bridge, which looked like a fraternal twin of Bull Sluice. [called Double Drop— Anne] The trip was a delight and the companions boon, and four of us ended the trip with the customary pig-out at Godfather's Pizza.

Tom Janzen

History contributed by Anne Phillips.

The Safety Line

The International Scale of River Difficulty

The Six Difficulty Classes -- The Six Difficulty Classes -

- The Six Difficulty Classes -- The Six Difficulty Classes

Class i: easy. fast moving water with riffles and small waves. few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed with little training. risk to swimmers is slight; self-rescue is easy.

Class ii: novice. straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers. swimmers are seldom injured and group assistance, while helpful, is seldom needed. rapids that are at the upper end of this difficulty range are designated "class ii+".

Class iii: intermediate. rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required; large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large-volume rivers. scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties. injuries while swimming are rare; self-rescue is usually easy but group assistance may be required to avoid long swims. rapids that are at the lower or upper end of this difficulty range are designated "class iii-" or "class iii+" respectively.

Class iv: advanced. intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water. depending on the character of the river, it may feature large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages

demanding fast maneuvers under pressure. a fast, reliable eddy turn may be needed to initiate maneuvers, scout rapids, or rest. rapids may require "must" moves above dangerous hazards. scouting may be necessary the first time down. risk of injury to swimmers is moderate to high, and water conditions may make self-rescue difficult. group assistance for rescue is often essential but requires practiced skills. a strong eskimo roll is highly recommended. rapids that are at the upper end of this difficulty range are designated "class iv-" or "class iv+" respectively.

Class v: expert. extremely long, obstructed, or very violent rapids which expose a paddler to added risk. drops may contain large, unavoidable

waves and holes or steep, congested chutes with complex, demanding routes. rapids may continue for long distances between pools, demanding a high level of fitness. what eddies exist may be small, turbulent, or difficult to reach. at the high end of the scale, several of these factors may be combined. scouting is recommended but may be difficult. swims are dangerous, and rescue is often difficult even for experts. a very reliable eskimo roll, proper equipment, extensive experience, and practiced rescue skills are essential. because of the large range of difficulty that exists beyond class iv, class 5 is an open ended, multiple level scale designated by class 5.0, 5.1, 5.2, etc... each of these levels is an order of magnitude more

difficult than the last. example: increasing difficulty from class 5.0 to class 5.1 is a similar order of magnitude as increasing from class iv to class 5.0.

Class vi: extreme and exploratory. these runs have almost never been attempted and often exemplify the extremes of difficulty, unpredictability and danger. the consequences of errors are very severe and rescue may be impossible. for teams of experts only, at favorable water levels, after close personal inspection and taking all precautions. after a class vi rapids has been run many times, it's rating may be changed to an appropriate class 5.x rating.

OBED, EMORY, & CLEAR CREEK CLEAN-UP

May 18, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at the Wartburg Ranger Station - in celebration of National River Clean-up Week. Everyone is invited to attend - paddlers, non-paddlers, family and friends. The Obed Wild & Scenic River Ranger Station is sponsoring a picnic for us after the clean-up, complete with hamburgers and all!

The event is an "access points" clean-up, so no paddling skills are required; however, if there

CLEAN-UP

is water and anyone is so inclined, we will organize an open boater river trip/ clean-up too. We'll spend approximately 2 - 2.5 hours cleaning-up, then picnic, followed by a paddling trip (if water) or a hiking trip in the afternoon.

The Obed is Tennessee's only Wild & Scenic River, it is the standard of clean water! We would like 30 Chota member's and their family and friends to participate. This is a great way to get publicity, further demonstrate the incredible resource that Morgan County has, and show our State that CLEAN water does make a difference for all! If you have never

CLEAN-UP

seen this spectacular, well kept secret, this is the time to come. For those who would like to explore the Catoosa Wilderness Area, see where the put-in is to Daddy's Creek and Island Creek, check out the great new hiking trail on the bluff above the Emory, etc., come join us. For those who are interested, we'll arrange a tour of these precious sites after the clean-up.

RSVP to Jennifer Sauer - 688-7782 or jensauer@aol.com

Last minute attendees are welcome. Bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, long pants, and repellent.