

# eddy out

march 2004

paddling events, safety awareness, and environmentalism



## Chota How-to: Streamflow

by Kirk Eddlemon

Last month I mentioned some good resources for figuring out what white-water runs in the region you are interested in. Now you only have so much time to paddle, and battles must be chosen wisely. Let me lay a definition out for you.

**Skunked** (*verb*) to attempt to paddle a stream but arrive with extremely undesirable conditions, i.e. not running, or too high with no alternative. “we were *skunked*.”

Getting skunked is not fun. The day can be salvaged most of the time but let's face it—it's not fun. There are many schools of thought, methodologies and resources to implement that will greatly reduce your chances of getting skunked. It still happens though. I get skunked on some level probably every 15th trip, which is pretty good. I know some people who get skunked every other trip, which isn't so good. Here are some ways not fall into this category:

1. Don't let your emotions decide where you go, i.e. don't try to will

something into running when you know it probably isn't just because you are dying to run it. This may be the number one contributing factor to skunkings.

2. If you don't know how a stream gauge or rain gauge or other resource weighs into the situation, don't base your decision on it.

3. Make sure your group is small enough to have similar goals and skill levels for the day. Break up into smaller groups if need be.

The most important thing is to know of and use the resources available. I will briefly describe these. Note: you need a computer for most of these. It is an essential tool for paddling the good stuff.

**Stream Flow Gauges** These give readings in either stage in feet or cubic feet per second. With the guides described in the previous newsletter giving recommended ranges of runnability in these terms, one can look at a stream gauge and know whether a run is good to go or not, most of the time, not always.

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The river opened and it was there. It was grey-green, very clear, with a certain milkiness too; it looked as though it would turn white and foam at rocks more easily than other water.

— James Dickey,  
*Deliverance*



## 2004 Officers

### President

Trey Coleman, 865-691-0222  
roscoepwavetrain@yahoo.com

### Vice President

Kirk Eddleman, 865-766-0705  
bankfulli@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Renee Harwell, 865-691-2911  
reeneharwell@bellsouth.net

### Treasurer

Andrew Schneider  
865-671-9967  
tenschneider@aol.com

### Newsletter Editor

Todd Duren, 865-525-8296  
tduren@fireflygraphics.com

### Conservation Officer

Jomo MacDermott  
865-558-9628  
MacDermott@mindspring.com

### Safety Officer

Laura Raymer, 865-522-9534  
riverrunner@bellsouth.net

# Editor's Eddy

## Springtime Anyone?

Todd Duren

Seems like this has been the longest *deadest* winter in a while, and I'm so ready for springtime. Usually around this time of year I find myself out in the garage patting the scratched hull of my old RPM and imagining the foam in my face and paddle in my hands. My wife caught me out there a couple of weeks ago fondling the neoprene. It won't be much longer now.

Back in 1996 I'd spent the winter perfecting my pool roll and couldn't wait to get out on the water for my first season of paddling. I took an Easter weekend canoe camping trip on upper Clear Creek, and it was so damned cold we built a fire every day during our lunch stop to thaw

our numbed feet and make hot soup. On Sunday morning we broke camp, paddled downstream, and arrived at Double Drop—a class III rapid just upstream from Barnet Bridge. After a long sunless winter we celebrated Easter by unloading our camping gear, bracing our knees against the canoe bottoms, and swamping our boats one after the other trying to make the drop. We plunged into cold blue-green water and emerged spluttering into the sunlight, our faces twisted into a cathartic grin that said “*Yes—springtime!*”

This year Karen and I are going over to Tellico Plains with Kirk and some other diehard Chotans to celebrate spring by kayaking, drinking beer, and making chili. It promises to be a good time. Today I caught myself out in the garage again, staring at my dusty boating gear with a smile.

On the Cover: Gary Kilpatrick paddling the 3.5 miles from the mainland to Isle Royale Lighthouse.

Right: Howard Cox, Linda LeTourneau, Russell Barker, and Gary Kilpatrick at Isle Royale National Park. Photos by Doug Johnstone.



# Calendar

## MARCH

**March 1 & 4** Jim Grotton teaches Red Cross CPR / 1st Aid course for certification. Monday is CPR at 5:30. Thursday: 1st Aid at 5:30. \$17/person. Limit 10. Contact Jim Grotton: 805-9908.

**March 5-7** Chota's annual Polar Bear Weekend. Join Chota to run some rivers and stay in a cabin near the Tellico. Contact Kirk Edelman: bankfull1@yahoo.com (865) 522-9534.

**March 11** Meeting at Stefano's Pizza on Kingston Pike near the West Towne Mall, 6:30 pm Board, 7:30 pm General.

**March 18** LVM #11 premeire. Barley's in the Old City. \$5 cover, raffle, prizes, and great whitewater video!

**March 19-21** Winter Paddling Clinic Pat & Heather Stacey (615) 662-6260, www.paddletsra.org.

**March 20** Opening day of Ocoee.

## APRIL

**April 3** First Spring release of Tallulah.

**April 23-24** TSRA Swiftwater Rescue Clinic.

**April 8** Meeting to elect new Touring Chairs at Pelancho's Mexican Restaurant at 7:30pm.

**April 14-18** TSRA Whitewater Rendezvous Jim Shelton (615) 269-4741, www.paddletsra.org.

**April 24** "RiverBash" at the Obed. Contact Cindy Kendrick: CindyKendrick@comcast.net.

**April 23-25** ACA Swift Water Rescue Instructor Development Workshop Sam Folkes (828) 586-6563, www.paddletsra.org.

### Trip Chairperson

Carl Keaney, 865-556-6624  
carl@hwimail.com

### Canoe & Kayak School

Doug Klaras, 865-983-3753  
footer40mph@msn.com

### Canoe & Kayak School Elect

Jason Purcell, 776-2595

### Member at Large

Michael Kline, 865-300-4347  
mkline@teamhealth.com

### Webmaster

Russell deCastongrene  
865-966-5918  
RusselldeC@CharterTN.net

### Past President

Doug Johnstone, 865-966-3391  
canoecone@chartertn.net



Gary Kilpatrick rests at the only operating fishery on Isle Royale. Photo by Doug Johnstone.

# Trip Report

## Conasauga Creek

Carl Keaney

Date: Saturday, Feb 7

Level: 10" on bridge gauge before putting on, 9" on taking off.

Temperature: 31°.

Paddlers: Kirk, Keith, Nick B., Nick R. Russell DeC. and quite a few others.

Approximately 18 in all.

Huge rain on Thursday and Friday (7+ in FentressCounty, etc.). Up at 5:00 on Saturday morning. Met Kirk at 6:00 and we loaded some more gear and hit the road. We headed south to run Conasauga Creek. Waffle House was empty and thus the usual nicotine fog was absent. Keith spotted our cars and pulled up just as we are walking out. Along the way a large caravan of boat-laden cars formed behind us and we stopped for discussion at the BP in Tellico Plains. We all headed to the takeout. Kirk had recently painted a gauge on the bridge and it was reading 10" as we prepared to drive to the putin.

At the putin the group was somewhere between 15 and 20. The run started out with no warm-up. The streambed is about 25' wide and at 10" on the gauge it was not pushy. The first quarter to half mile was constant III-III+, moving over small ledges and between boulders. This was so much fun! There was no break in the action. It was an aerobic workout to paddle this with the constant stroking necessary to stay on a good runnable line. Kirk plotted the gradient at around 280' per mile.

This was my first run of something over 200' per mile and the first creek

I'd run in my new creek boat. I immediately noticed that the extra buoyancy and blunt, rounded geometry on the front was awesome on the smaller ledge drops and very beneficial in tight boulder gardens. I really liked the shortness of the boat for the smaller features on this run. Russell was with us in his RPM and did not have any difficulty, so shortness isn't necessary but it certainly seemed like it would be much harder with the longer boat.

We bounced and smacked our way down the first half mile or so of this three mile run and somewhere in the middle of this I took a few mental breaks of a second or so and these were quickly rejected by the stream. The first time I just spun around backwards for a few feet and then continued on. The second time I was a bit lazy about making an eddy already occupied by Kirk and Russell. I remember making eye contact with them for just a second and hearing a faint "don't . . ." and then I had to turn quickly and run the small 5' ledge with a log diagonally bridging from the left to the center of the drop. I think Nick ran first and said that he pitoned the log with no consequences. I tried to go left to limbo but wasn't quick enough and got pinned (head-up). I stabilized myself by grabbing the tree and was able to keep my paddle in one hand. While holding the tree I pushed down against the buoyancy of my boat (which was still completely floating and not in contact with the streambed) and simultaneously ducked my head and shoulders under the tree. Once my head was on the other side I was able to free myself completely, re-grip the

**There was no break in the action. It was an aerobic workout ....**

### Got Old Gear?

Consider donating your old gear to Chota's new attempt to build and provide a small fleet of whitewater boats and gear. We have some gear already, but could use more. We need a boat, paddles, pfd's, skirts, and helmets, as well as old spray tops or dry tops, pants, etc. If you think you might have something that Chota could use, please contact Kirk Eddlemon via e-mail at [bankfull1@yahoo.com](mailto:bankfull1@yahoo.com), or call at (865) 522-9534.

paddle and finish the drop into a pool. Kirk had climbed out onto the nearest rock and was ready to go to work if I failed. All was OK. However, I did hear that someone paddling behind us was pinned upside down at this same tree and fortunately was not injured. We paddled on a bit further and arrived at the pool above Conasauga Falls, a V+ with an easy portage trail on the right. Russell mentioned how beautiful the falls were and indeed this was quite a sight. We got back on the run below the falls and immediately the action starts again.

I slipped up once more. I was looking downstream and failed to notice a slight high spot on a rather uniformly horizontal lip at the top of a 20' slide. I broached sideways on the lip and for a few seconds was stuck. There wasn't enough water pressure on my hull to flip me over so it wasn't too sketchy. Without taking hands off the paddle or pressing on anything with it I worked my bow over the lip and levered myself back into position as I went over the edge. Kirk was disap-

pointed that I didn't get to run the whole thing with good speed. I was still impressed. This is an excellent fun rapid. Slide to slide to slide. Kirk calls this Chutes and Ladders and once you see it you will understand the connection. Very clean.

Russell, Keith and Nick B. had good lines and we continued on. I actually don't remember a whole lot about the next few drops but they were more spread out and the intense gradient had abated to pool-drop. We then started the flattish section to the takeout. The water was fairly low for this last section and there is one log crossing to portage. There are bamboo forests on both banks right before the final log. At takeout the gauge had dropped one inch to 9' and all agreed that a reasonable minimum for the run to really go would be 12." Fun, relatively safe intro to creeking!

Next month read about Coker Creek, a little 300' per mile dish served with bigger drops, more wood and a side of undercut boulders.

**I remember making eye contact with them for just a second and hearing a faint "don't . . ."**



## **Paddle Trips**

Looking for a boating trip? Call Carl Keaney, our Trip Chairperson, at (865) 556-6624. Frequently he knows of trips that aren't announced, and will be glad to help you hook up with fellow paddlers, especially if you buy beer!

Pulling trash from the Little River in April 2002. Chota works to keep rivers clean, protected, and accessible to paddlers.



# Safety First

## Shocking News About Cold Water Paddling (Part 2)

George Ruta

*This article began last month, and picks up here explaining some precautions for boating in cold water. —Ed.*

**In maintaining extremity function, good head protection has been shown to be more useful than better gloves or socks.**

First, buy some protection. No, not *that* protection—this is about safe paddling, not safe sex, but wearing the right stuff can still make a big difference. That means a wetsuit or drysuit. Protecting the front of the torso and back of the chest will have the most profound effect on moderating the respiratory responses, while protecting the extremities has the greatest benefit in moderating the cardiac responses. Most of these responses are worsened by head immersion, which also markedly hastens the progression of hypothermia (if you manage to survive the cold shock), so head protection is important. Since both cold shock and later hypothermia inhibit effective swimming, wearing a PFD is essential to keeping the head out of water and prolonging survival.

Does practice make perfect? A definite maybe. It does appear that repetitive immersions in cold water will allow the body to adapt and moderate the cold shock response. After 6–8 immersions (daily, each time long enough for core temperature to drop 20°), the cardiac responses are substantially reduced. The breathing problems unfortunately are much less responsive to such efforts at training. A more important type of practice

is to actually try out your cold water clothing in a variety of conditions. The studies referenced in this article seem to show a fairly consistent set of responses across a range of water temperatures from zero to as high as 60°. There is individual variation though, and gear that works for your paddling partner may not be adequate for you. Most people find it very revealing to try floating in 30, 40, or even 50 degree water.

Make mine dry, very dry. In the wetsuit/drysuit debate I readily admit that I am a dry suit chauvanist, finding a drysuit much more comfortable. For the prevention of cold shock a well fitting wetsuit will be more than adequate, provided it is truly well fitting and substantially slows the contact of cold water with your torso. If loosely fitting, with overgenerous neck and arm openings there may still be a sufficient gush of frigid water to trigger these cold shock responses. Even with a well fitted wetsuit many find that first cold water flush unpleasant, and for long term survival in cold water a drysuit with appropriate insulation can be 2–3 times more effective in staving off hypothermia. The newer lycra/fleece wetsuits can however be a very comfortable, moderate cost, no-excuse-for-not-wearing-it form of protection if you are confident that your paddling does not put you at risk of prolonged immersion.

What about hypothermia? There are many excellent resources on prevention, recognition, and management of hypothermia. Some internet resources are listed below so just a few points.

*Continued on page 7*

### Chota Meetings

Chota meets on the second Thursday of each month in locations announced on the website and in Eddy Out. Officers at 6:30, General members at 7:30. Visitors are always welcome.

# Trip Report

## North White Oak Creek

by David Luinstra

Date: Monday January 26

Level: 4,000 on Leatherwood gauge.

The day was horrid, 45ish at the putin, cool breeze, canyon shadows. The water was plateau cool, clear and going downhill past fabulous plateau scenery. The Ocoee must have been running; we had the creek to our solitary selves.

It was a long-sought high water run. North White Oak Creek, which flows into the Big South Fork a mile above Leatherwood Ford (the virgin run). It's not hard—absolutely gorgeous, delightful (not nancyB delightful, he-hehe) class II run with a couple of fun class III rapids today.

Think remote Nantahala, with undercuts, undercuts, some fun creeking

moves, undercuts, undercuts, rocks, undercuts, undercuts, undercuts, few strainers and undercuts, undercuts. And plateau bluffs. Gorgeous gorge.

Since we did not know any rapid names, they are now: “Brown Bear,” “Next Double Undercut,” “The Slot” and “Long Rapid.” Upon reaching the BSF, the sun was shining, the temp rose. The water was splashing up thru the low water bridge. The high bridge was still dry.

No hair boating today. If there are large rocks in or along this creek they are undercut.

Look for more than 700 cfs difference between the total of Clear Fork and New River gage total and the Leatherwood Ford gage and Leatherwood gage 4000 or more. At least this is what I am going to be looking for to do a repeat run.

**The water was plateau cool, clear and going downhill past fabulous plateau scenery.**

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Recognize and manage hypothermia early—thought processes become quickly impaired and can rapidly lead to poor decision making which turns an unpleasant situation into a dangerous one. In a non-immersion situation, the greatest heat loss is through the head and neck, so insulation for these areas is most important. In maintaining extremity function, good head protection has been shown to be more useful than better gloves or socks. Get out of the water! Water will cool 20–30 times faster than air. Movement in the

water, such as swimming, will make this even worse. Severe hypothermia is a medical crisis. The victim must be handled gently and knowledgably. “No previously healthy person should die of hypothermia after he has been rescued and treatment has been started.” (Cameron C. Bangs, M.D.)

George Ruta  
Northcountry Kayak  
290 Brownell Hollow  
Eagle Bridge NY 12057  
(518) 677-3040  
e-mail: nckayak@capital.net

### Chota's Purpose

To provide community paddle sport activities, safety awareness and techniques while being environmentally responsible. (and to drink beer...)

Dues are \$20 per year and membership forms are available at our website listed at the bottom of the page.

# It Pays to Paddle

## Little River Canyon

Jason Purcell

**Some easy class II water and the gorgeous landscape started to get us all pumped up.**

Saturday morning at 6:45 am I fell in behind Carl Keaney at his house just as he was ready to head out to meet Doug Klaras and Jomo in Maryville. We got loaded up and set out for an easy trip down to Town Creek in Ft. Payne, AL where we met Dodie Bush, Eric Fisher, Drew Armstrong and a last minute surprise addition to the group Brad Elliott, who is the newest member of Chota. Jomo and I moved all the boats and gear to the edge of steep hill where we used a rope to lower the boats to a ledge, where we used another rope to lower the boats down a 25' vertical drop to the put-in just below the falls. The rest of the group set the shuttle.

It was 52° and overcast, a perfect day for paddling. Carl took the lead and scouted lines from his new Prijon creek boat as Doug ran sweep. It was a great run on class II-III water and zero carnage. Thanks to Carls great job of choosing lines and negotiating rapids. There was a monster portage around the blockage a dangerous and beautiful class V rapid. Among all the beauty and fun we spotted as many as six eagles and several hawks.

After a brisk flat water paddle to the take out we had a class III hike to the vehicles. The group split up: Dodie, Brad and Eric went on to enjoy the rest of their weekend as the remaining five went and got a room and dinner at Ruby Tuesdays. The five of us made our way to a single room with two beds and a bunch of wet gear. We started to settle in as Carl brings in

some of the clothes we ran through the dryer only. The smell instantly transformed the room into a high school locker room. We all soon learned that a good days paddle and a good meal make for a very good nights sleep.

Sunday morning we woke to find Jomo not feeling so well, so after some breakfast we headed for the Little River Canyon. The park was beautiful and well worth a visit for anyone even if they don't paddle. It was raining and cold and I was still tired from the day before so I wasn't feeling like paddling at all much less a river I had never run before. I kept these thoughts to myself though; we were all a little quiet on the way to the put-in. There was a small hike down the gorge to a magnificent river. The water was an emerald green, the rain had stopped and it seemed to be warming up. Some easy class II water and the gorgeous landscape started to get us all pumped up. Drew and I were the only ones paddling play boats and I felt the disadvantage as we would get stern squirted from time to time.

The water was not pushy at all and there were some descent holes to punch thru and a couple of waves to surf. Blue Hole proved to be a challenge for Drew as he got play boated by the pour over and had to come out of his boat. He and all his gear easily made it into a large eddy. The water was cold but Drew had on a nice dry suit and was not noticeably affected by the swim. Not enough can be said for having the proper equipment. Soon we were at Bottleneck—a technical class IV rapid. We scouted the rapid and discussed possible lines for about 20 minutes. Doug first mentioned ap-

## Chota by e-mail

Can't wait till the next newsletter to find out what's going on with Chota? Want more email? Join the Chota listserv and get updates about happenings with the club (trips, classes and meeting info) as well as information about conservation issues impacting the paddling community. Joining is easy and free, check out the following to get on the list: <http://www.korrnet.org/mailman/listinfo/chotalist>



proaching from the right making a hard right and then hard left and on down through two good sized holes. The other options were to come in from an eddy on river left or come downstream left to right to make the chute and ride the crest. Doug went first as I took pictures and Carl stood as safety. Doug came downstream from left to right and then got pushed left trying to make the chute he got turned around and finished out the rapid. This did not help my anxiety the way I had hoped. Carl and I hiked back to the boats still discussing how we would approach the rapid. It had been almost an hour by then and I still had not been able to calm down. I was still considering a portage if I could not get my nerves under control.

As I got back into my boat I started to speak to God and ask Him for peace. I looked around at all He had created and a peace came over me., knowing that He was in control and whatever happened, everything would be just as He planned it. (I am not making this up) As I finished my prayer Carl and I were starting downriver, the sun came out, and as Doug said to Drew, “Even God himself wants

Carl and Jason to run this rapid!” Carl did a good job of catching a couple of eddies that gave him a good approach toward the chute; but the water pushing left got him too. He dropped over the ledge to the left of the crested water sort of down in a trough. He pushed through the holes with out any trouble. Well like Forrest Gump said, “I may not be a smart man” but I knew after having seen it twice to come in from the right. I wasn’t sure how it would turn out and that point was made clear to Doug as I made the turn. He told me later, after I was up on top of the water just where I needed to be, that I looked around in disbelief with an expression of “How did I get here?” All very excited, we paddled down river and played a little on our way. We finished up the day with another great meal at the Western Sizzler buffet. The food, conversation and company were a fitting end to a great weekend on the water. If there is a moral to this story it would have to be that not really feeling inspired to paddle, yet getting out anyway we were rewarded with a spectacular day of beauty, challenge, triumph and satisfaction.

Truly, it pays to paddle.

**...the sun came out, and as Doug said to Drew, “Even God himself wants Carl and Jason to run this rapid!”**

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**Precipitation Gauges** In the end, this is the raw data. This is the most important data. It will be discussed further in upcoming newsletters.

**Radar Information** This lets you know what is coming, when it will hit, how much rain it is carrying, how much it will dump, how long it will stay, and how much has fallen.

**More Experienced Paddlers** Some stuff you just gotta learn the hard way, and if someone else already has, why

not just ask them about it?

**Public Internet Forums:** I am referring to [www.boatertalk.com](http://www.boatertalk.com)'s general forum. During heavy rains there will be a steady hum of threads related to what's running and the opinions surrounding such information. It is sometimes very inaccurate, but can be factored in to one's grasp of the river conditions.

All of these will be discussed in upcoming newsletters.

# Shuttle Humor

## You've been paddling too long if...

21. You actually like the smell of neoprene.
22. You want to try on clothes at the mall and you strip down beside the clothes rack.

### Winter Roll Practice

Maryville College roll sessions: Wednesdays at 8:30 pm, Cooper Center Pool. \$3 per person. Spring break is March 17—no roll session then. Last roll session is May 5.

East Tennessee Whitewater Club roll practice Fridays 8:30–10 p.m., Oak Ridge Civic Center pool. The cost is \$3 per boat.

1. You forget the name of the river you're on.
  2. You think you recognize someone on the street and you ask what (paddling) club he belongs to.
  3. You describe your house as being on road right.
  4. You kneel while watching TV.
  5. You can't associate the word "strainer" with cooking utensils.
  6. "Roll" is not a type of bread.
  7. A "brace" is not a piece of medical equipment.
  8. Your paddle has a name.
  9. You're late for your wedding and find yourself in dress clothes sliding down a river bank checking the gauge.
  10. You go (paddling) on New Years Day for the ice cream.
  11. A gourmet meal consists of gorp and Gatorade.
  12. You get a great deal on a new car, but you don't but it because the color clashes with your boat.
  13. You think of garbage bags as something warm and dry to wear.
  14. Someone compliments you on your new suit and you wonder whether they're referring to the wet one or the dry one.
  15. You have more money invested in topo maps than stereo gear.
  16. You pick out a new car solely because the model still has rain gutters.
  17. You never worry about getting your feet wet in a rainstorm.
  18. You start a phone chain when it rains heavily on Friday.
  19. You realize that you have just traded a vehicle that runs for a boat.
  20. You finish a trek and have no idea what day it is.
  21. You actually like the smell of neoprene.
  22. You want to try on clothes at the mall and you strip down beside the clothes rack.
  23. You have no doubt that anything can be fixed with duct tape.
  24. Your doormat says "Putin Here."
  25. You carefully arrange your garage to fit more (boats).
  26. A "painter" is a type of line.
  27. Your answering machine gives the water levels.
  28. You think "heavy rain" is a good weather report.
  29. You can't understand why anyone would want an airbag in a car—or how it would fit.
  30. You see nothing strange about carrying a boat over a mile on a trail that you wouldn't even consider hiking on.
- Now here's a few I thought of: Dan Valleskey <valleskey@comcast.net>**
31. You cause traffic to slow on the Interstate because you just drove over a river, and to had slow to look.
  32. Your spell checker has learned all the river names.
  33. You talk the machine shop guys at work into making you roof racks for your new shuttle car.
  34. You know the difference between polyester and epoxy resins.
  35. You start using different length paddles in different boats.
  36. The main criteria for buying rope is: will it float.
  37. More pictures on your desk of you in a boat than of your spouse and kids.
  38. You find yourself comparing your salary to a raft guides, and wonder how you could get by in the off season.

# Gear Reviews

## Dry Suits and Dry Tops

reprinted from boatertalk.com

### Kokatat Gortex Dry Suit Review by brick. Rating: 10

This product is absolutely wonderful. I wear one pair of socks to the river, on the river, and home from the river. Be sure to get the piss zipper or you won't want to wear it. The only time I have been anything more than damp was when a tangle with a rock left a 1" puncture in the sleeve. This was easily repaired and the suit works as well as ever. Bottom line: spendy but if you can produce the cash you won't regret it.

### IR Competition Dry Top Review by Neo1534. Rating: 10

I absolutely love this dry top. Not only does it look great, *but no more latex gaskets around your neck trying to strangle you!* This dry top has a soft rubber gasket around the neck that is about 3/4" and seals just as well as a latex gasket. I've paddled the Cheat, Yough, Tohicken, Lehigh, and the Gali with this jacket (and have swam enough times to see that this thing is nearly indistructible.) I've tripped on asphalt with this top on and it didn't even wear a bit when I hit the pavement! The shorty version of the Competition Dry Top utilizes the same soft rubber gasket around your neck for your arms, no more Harry Houdini impressions trying to get out of your dry top. A definite buy if you love paddling all day and hate getting hypothermia. Trust me—it saved my butt more than once in January.

### Navarro Tempest and Mystery Review by Attila. Rating: 1

Sorry for my bad English but I can't hold my opinion and the story of my "drytops".

I don't have money for Kokatat that's why I had to find alternatives. I bought a Navarro Tempest Drytop in Germany (top of the line in 99/00). The material of the jacket started to leak at the third trip. Not the stitching or gaskets but the entire coated layer. I lost the single stitching of the outer neoprene waist—I had to glue the whole waist to use it.

The distributor offered a cheaper replacement, a Navarro Mystery Drytop. Same story—leaking material after the first trip. The only dry parts of the drytop were the gaskets! I complained to Navarro directly—no answer at all. There are only one or two shipping to Europe in a year, so I had to wait half year to get a replacement. I'm waiting for the third replacement, a Prijon Profi Drytop—certified dry.

I'm never buying again anything from Navarro.

### Stohlquist Gripp Drytop Review by pyranha\_massa. Rating: 8

Bought this on sale at my local paddle shop. It's my first drytop and I'm fairly pleased with it. I've paddled with it on 4 times now and I stay dry and I'm an aggressive playboater. My only problem with it is I feel like I'm being slowly strangled by the neck gasket. I am going to try and stretch it out with a liter bottle. I like the double tunnel design; mated with my double tunnel IR skirt there is no water in the boat anymore.

## Boat-Selling Internet Scam

Date: Feb 19 2004  
From: deadkayaker

I have a boat posted on BT and recieved a couple of repley's from a guy in Norway. he sent me a Certified Check for \$3000 and I was only asking \$400. He said the rest was for the shipping that I had to send back to his shipping company Vea western union. After careful inspection of the check I saw it had no watermark or micro printing as stated on the top of the check. I took it to the bank and had a professional opinion. They said it was a fake!

Here is how the scam works. You cash the check take the price of your boat out and any Western Union Fee's and send the rest back to a "shipping company". The guy gets his cash and never picks up the boat. the check is a fake and the bank finds out 2 weeks later and want's there money back from you. Meanwhile the money you sent to the "shipping company" got picked up by a terrorist in London and used to buy weapons.

Be on the look out for scams when selling anything online. I was lucky enough to let my friends know what was going on and they clued me in to other news stories.

For more info check out this site:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/12/05/eveningnews/consumer/main587162.shtml>



Chota Canoe Club  
P.O. Box 8270 University Station  
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**Deadline for April issue** is Saturday, March 20. E-mail photos, articles, announcements, and trip reports to Todd Duren: [tduren@fieglygraphics.com](mailto:tduren@fieglygraphics.com). Include subject line "Chota Newsletter."