

Feb/March 2011

- **MEET MARCH 1 AT CALHOUNS BEARDEN HILL**
- **ON THE WATER - A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**
- **ROLL SESSIONS - CALL TO THE POOL**
- **CALENDAR - PLAN TO MEET ON THE WATER**

Inside this issue:

Trip Chairpersons Introduction & Need to Know Info	4
Conservation Gifts In Recognition Of Chota Members	4
Trip Spotlights and Upcoming Events	5
Urban Challenge Support Volunteers Needed	5
Nantahala River Fight for Control	8
Water Quality - A	11
Membership Form	12
Membership Benefits	13

Chili Cookoff Kicks Off The Chota Year Officially

Chota Canoe Club's tradition is to warm things up and break the ice on the new year with a Chili Cook-off.

On February 26, at 6:30 p.m., Tisha and David Benton will host the competition and meal at their West Knoxville home.

Last year there were at least a dozen simmering pots of goodness to be taste tested. Delicious tasty chili entries ranged from vegetarian black bean to chicken with white beans to chunky beef with no beans. Talking smack about your favorite bowl is almost as fun as spooning up a portion of all them and trying them out.

Bring your own delicious chili

Eric Jackson And The Jackson Kayak Crew At Chota Roll Sessions

On Friday, February 4, from 7pm – 9pm, join Eric Jackson of Jackson Kayak and River Sports Outfitters with a night of fun at the University of Tennessee Aquatic Center. This will be a Special Roll/Play/Stroke Session with Eric Jackson and his crew.

It will be a great chance to see the latest creations from Jackson Kayak along with mingling with one of the world's greatest whitewater paddlers.

NOTE: Cost is \$5 per person. However, if Chota members come

concocted contender to share and compare with the rest.

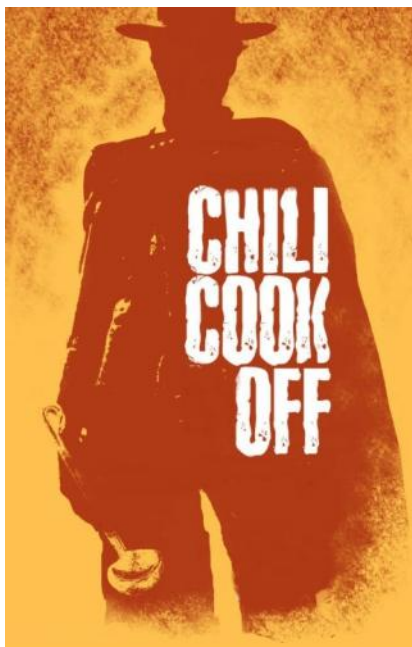
If you're not up for the competition, just bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Drinks will be provided by the Club.

The Chili Cookoff is great time to join the conversation about paddle planning for 2011. We're getting organized to take whitewater and touring trips, participate in the Chota paddle school, the Polar Bear week-end, and other fun Chota gatherings.

As a member of the club, we need your ideas and participation to make them happen.

The address for the party at Tisha and David Benton home is 12755

early at 6pm to help unload and stay after to load boats, the \$5 fee is waived.



It won't be this chilly in the pool with EJ

2011 Officers

President
Doug Johnstone
865-804-5240
canoeone@tds.net

Vice President
Ed McAlister
865-250-2188
ed@riversportsoutfitters.com

School Director
Gary Kilpatrick
423-914-4070
GWKilpatrick@misincinfo.com

Newsletter Editor
Scott Carpenter
865-556-5252
rsc@w3st.com

Treasurer
Renee Harwell
865-765-2169
rharwell@cj-va.com

Conservation
Tom McDonough
865-406-6416
TTMCDONO@aol.com

Safety
Randy Bigbee
865-588-4249
rbigbee@bellsouth.net

Whitewater Trip Chair
Angela Garrison
865-577-2993
ajwah109@gmail.com

Touring Trip Chair
Jim Martin
865-548-4200
Photogmar-
tin8790@aol.com

Secretary
Katie Branham
517-896-8385
katiebranham@gmail.com

Member at Large
Iris Leung
314-517-5703
irisleung@earthlink.net

Webmaster
Russell deCastongrene
865-966-5918
russeldec@tds.net

On The Water: A Note From Chota's President

I am thrilled to be your President for 2011. Many of you know me, but in case you don't, you'll learn that I absolutely LOVE our paddlesport and our Chota Canoe Club! Getting outdoors in the wilderness is just a wonderful pastime for me and being "On the Water" is the best.

As a paddler, my journey began in 1976 in the early days of whitewater canoeing with key instruction from a little club from Nashville known as the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. I was blessed to be assigned a fabulous instructor, Juanita Guinn. Juanita is one of our legends in paddlesport in Tennessee.

The teachings and early love of this sport were ingrained in me at this time from those early canoe school days. Conservation of the outdoors, safety, and development of skill is a never ending journey.

In 1978, I became a Chota Canoe Club member as a whitewater canoeist. In 1999, I added local kayak flat-water touring and coastal sea kayaking to my paddlesport activities.

My, has our paddlesport evolved. Early days of paddling were primarily large 16 or even 17 foot long canoes, with inflatable tire tubes for floatation. Oh, yeah, there were some whitewater kayaks too at that time. As technology has changed, our sport has changed.

Boats and equipment have evolved with state of the art technology in boat building, with boats getting smaller, and gear being high performance products, providing paddlers an easier transition from beginner to increased skill paddler at a more rapid pace. Many paddlers in our area have moved from canoes to kayaks.

Some folks still enjoy the overall river run, while others enjoy creek boating,

or hanging out on the Ocoee in their playboats working on rodeo moves at their favorite rapid. While other paddlers over the past 15 years or so, have adventured into kayak touring, sea kayaking and wilderness camping paddling expeditions.

Yes, our sport has changed with many variations of whitewater and touring kayaks and canoes that are now available. No matter your preference, whitewater or touring, kayak or canoe, or even inflatable kayaks, the paddler loves the outdoors and being "On the Water". A common thread we all share.

While I am president, my primary goals are to represent our Club to outside organizations, build and promote our paddlesport, and to attempt to carry out the wishes of the membership. The love of this sport is my internal never tiring engine to do the best for our club

... and being on the water.

Doug Johnstone



A boxing duck? No, it's a teeth tying rope trick by Chota Canoe Club President, Doug Johnstone

Winter Roll Sessions for Chota Canoe Club Members



With the long awaited agreement in hand Chota began roll sessions at UT's Student Aquatic Center on Friday, Jan. 21. Upcoming sessions will be on the following additional dates from 7 to 9pm:

- Feb 18
- Feb 25
- Mar 4
- Mar 11
- Mar 18
- Mar 25

All roll sessions will be limited to 20 people per session. Six lanes of the pool are reserved for Chota. Cost is \$5 per person. White water kayaks,

touring kayaks, and canoes are all welcome for this winter practice.

Drop off your boat/gear at the parking lot between the pool and the bubble.

1. Please refer to the UT campus map at: [www.utk.edu/maps/campus/Load Map #6](http://www.utk.edu/maps/campus/LoadMap#6) and locate the Student Aquatic Center.

2. Show up early! We will have access to the Aquatic Center starting at 6:30.

3. Boat unloading. The SAC lot is typically very busy. More than likely, we will need to double park to unload boats. Students from the UTCH will assist between 6:30 and 6:55 with moving boats from the parking lot.

4. Parking. There is parking on Pat Head Summit Street and on Volunteer Boulevard. Parking at the Aquatic Center may result in a ticket.

5. The SAC usually clears out by 9pm, so loading boats after the event should not be a problem.



Jim Martin brings his touring boat right side up as Randy Bigbee instructs a decked whitewater boater

Knoxville's Own Dooley Tombras helped out at Chota Canoe Club's January 28 Roll Session



Tombras was on hand at the University of Tennessee Student Aquatic Center on Friday, January 28 to assist open boaters with their roll and other C1 moves.

By all accounts it was a great privilege and we thank Dooley for spending time with us.

Tombras' recent accolades are many. He earned six medals - three gold, two silver, and one bronze - at the 2010 Open Canoe Slalom North American Championships.

Later in the fall, Tombras was one of the folks nominated for Canoe and Kayak's "Paddler of the Year" in the 2010 Readers' Choice Awards.

The Canoe Movie was released in 2010. The film from Lunch Video Magazine explores the wilder side of open boating, while also tracing more than 30 years of whitewater canoeing and exploring such topics as boat design, canoeing vs. kayaking, the unmistakable passion and pride contained within all canoeists, pushing the limits, and much more. Tombras was featured in the film.

We appreciate the help at our rolls sessions. Thanks Ed McAlister, Chota VP, for inviting Dooley Tombras.

Chota Donates to Conservation Causes in Recognition of Past Members Contributions

This past November, 2010, the Chota membership overwhelming approved conservation donations to three worthy organizations that promote conservation and/or improve paddling opportunities.

\$1,000 Contributions were given to:

- 1) American Whitewater,
- 2) Legacy Parks Foundation, and
- 3) Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

Our membership made these donations in recognition of three individuals who have contributed many hours to Chota Canoe Club in the past.

Many thanks goes to:

* **Anne Phillips** - One of Chota's early founders during the 70's, Anne has provided endless support of Chota for over 35 years

* **Hugh Worthy** - One of Chota's early school leaders during the early 80's, Hugh provided our Club great support for over 30 years

* **Ralph Brooks** - One of Chota's sustained supporters during the 90's and a major influence towards keeping the Little River Gauge at Townsend functional

Chota Trip Chairs for 2011 are Jim Martin and Angela Garrison



Jim Martin on Melton Hill Lake, January 2011

Jim Martin is our **Touring Trip Chairperson** this year.

He's already calendared a lot of interesting trips that you'll find on the newsletter calendar or on the website (www.paddlechota.org).

Here are a few things you might want to know about touring trips.

To learn more about upcoming trips, contact the trip coordinator listed on the calendar or the touring chairperson for more details. To organize other trips not scheduled, or to find out about other paddling trips being organized, contact the Touring Trip Chairperson, email Jim Martin at Photogmartin8790@aol.com or call 865-548-4200.

Also, if you want to be on the email touring distribution list, just send Jim an email request to be added.

Paddler's Choice Events - If you've always been interested to paddle a particular river or lake, just give the Touring Chairperson a call for spur of the moment "Pick Up" trips, contact Jim and he will assist in coordinating the event!

As with all trips, please contact the trip coordinator prior to the trip, as meeting plans may change.

Last year's Chota president was Angela Garrison. This year we are pleased she's **Chota's Whitewater Trip Chairperson**.

Angela's got trips lined up for the late winter and early spring. They are listed on the calendar and website. For whitewater trips, the following guidelines should be considered.

These trips are scheduled for Chota members, but ETWC members are welcome too! To join the club, please send in the membership form in this newsletter or print one from the website. Send it to Chota along with your annual fee. You may also give your membership form to the trip leader on the day of the trip.

You must contact the trip coordinator by the Wednesday before the trip if you want to attend. The trip coordinator has sole discretion when evaluating skill levels for the intended trip.

The skill level of the group will be considered when choosing sections and appropriate water levels. Trips may be cancelled or changed due to lack of water or too much water.

These are not beginner trips unless marked with a (B).

The early 2011 trips are winter paddling trips. Appropriate clothing and gear is required. If you are not sure if your gear is adequate, ask the trip coordinator. Contact Angela at 865-577-2993 or ajwahl09@gmail.com



Angela on the Ocoee

Trip and Event Spotlights for this Winter and Spring

Touring Potluck Social, Feb 12

There will be a touring paddler potluck dinner social on Feb 12 at Doug Johnstone's home at 6pm. Bring stories and pictures to share of past trips, and ideas of interesting trips that could be done in 2011. Of course, bring your favorite main, side, or dessert dish to share with your fellow paddlers. Also, this will be a BYOB and/or beverage of choice. Please send an email to Doug at canoeone@tds.net to gather listing of food that you will bring (variety is good). Google address 12933 Butterfield Lane, Knoxville for directions or give Doug a call at 865-804-5240. See you there!

Polar Bear Weekend, March 18-20

Contact Tisha Benton or Leslie Stewart if you are interested in attending. Arrangements will be made for cabins based on how many people are planning to attend. There will be group whitewater trips on the Tellico Ledges, the Middle Tellico and if there is no water, the Ocoee will be running. Email Tisha Benton at tbenton@charter.net, or Leslie Stewart at lhstewart@gmail.com

Knoxville Urban Wilderness Adventure Race, April 16

Chota volunteers are needed to assist as safety boaters and help racers in paddling portion of the event. Two groups of 10 Volunteers each are needed. One group in the AM and the other group in PM. Contact Doug Johnstone at canoeone@tds.net or 865-804-5240 for information and to volunteer!

Social Paddles start in April on Thursday Nights

Beginning in April there will be weekly 2 to 3 mile social paddles on the downtown river front. The social paddles will be geared towards all types

of boats (recreational kayaks, touring kayaks, canoes). This event will be in cooperation with River Sports activities that are open to the public. Each paddler is responsible for bringing a boat and gear to the launch site. The paddles are Thursday nights starting in April from 6-7:30pm at Neyland Drive put in. Place of put-in is subject to change. By April, our Chota touring trip site should have a link to the launch site information.

Paddles to the Grill – Beginning in June, Evenings on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of Month

Chota will continue the Paddle to the Grill week night paddle, moving to Tuesday nights, on alternating weeks (2nd and 4th Tuesdays). These paddles launch at 6pm, are typically 4 miles in length, include dinner at a marina, with a return trip in the dark (lights are required). Usually we are back loading boats at 10pm. Occasionally, our paddle to the grill will be less than 4 miles in length, of which recreational kayaks (15 or less) and canoes would be able to accommodate a shorter length evening paddle. Jack Graham will be organizing these events, with pre-announcements via email relative to the location and marina. Please contact Jack Graham, 865-675-6545, bikrsall@tds.net

Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior, August 25 to September 5

Trip is Full - Interested in a Waiting List or Second Group? In 2011, we will venture back for our 5th trip to Isle Royale for a 6 night, 7 day totally self contained touring/camping in this majestic water wonderland. This trip is currently full, if you want to be placed on the waiting list (in case someone has to cancel), or possibly a second set of adventurers (dependent on second leader), please contact Doug Johnstone at canoeone@tds.net or call 865-804-5240.

Ring Ring Goes The Bell

CHOTA CANOE AND KAYAK SCHOOL

June 17, 18, 19, 2011

Get ready for another year of excitement. We are beginning the preparation for our paddling school which will be held on the Hiwassee River near Reliance, Tennessee

We will be camping at the Hiwassee Outfitters Campground.

As in past years the classes will consist of:

- White Water Kayaking with Beginner and Intermediate Classes
- White Water Canoeing Both Solo and Tandem Classes with Beginner and Intermediate Classes
- Touring and Recreational Kayak Classes
- And NEW this year, Canoe Tripping Classes

This is our largest fund raising project for the year. The school helps us support the club and provides us with money for donations which help protect the rivers we all love and paddle.

We will be soliciting for instructors and loaner gear so start thinking about how you can pitch in to help. Give Gary a call.

ASK NOT WHAT CHOTA CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR CHOTA

Where did I hear that?

Thanks,
Gary Kilpatrick
2011 School Chairman

Date	Event	Contact	Info
Feb 4	Eric Jackson roll demonstration and clinic in conjunction with Chota Roll Sessions University of Tennessee Aquatic Center Read the spotlight on p. 1	River Sports Outfitters	865-523-0066
Feb 5	Trip Leaders Choice whitewater on the Plateau somewhere	Kemper Begley	kemperbegley@hotmail.com
Feb 12	Touring Potluck & Planning Dinner	Doug Johnstone	865-804-5240 canoeone@tds.net
Feb 13	Middle Tellico - Class II-III	Doug Johnstone	865-804-5240 canoeone@tds.net
Feb 18-20	Reelfoot Lake Touring trip rating: Moderate Eagle watching on a self-contained camping and paddle trip. Limited to the first 12 people to sign up. Leaving from Knoxville to West Tenn., Friday Feb. 18 at 2pm. Contact the trip leader for more information on itinerary and accommodations.	Ed McAlister	ed@riversportsoutfitters.com
Feb 19	French Broad - Class III-IV	Kim Abney	kim@abneyart.com
Feb 26	Chili Cookoff Start practicing those recipes - the cook-off will be here before you know it. Prizes will be awarded. Chota will provide beer and soft drinks, and chips!	David and Tisha Benton	tbenton@charter.net 12755 Heathland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922
Mar 5	Middle Tellico - Class II-III	Damon Wooten	865-207-1724 damonwooten@yahoo.com
Mar 1	Chota Meeting - Conservation Night Special presentation on area conservation after dinner	See You There!	Calhoun's Bearden Hill Tuesday, March 1 - 6pm
Mar 12	Clear Creek (Jett to Lilly) (B) Class II+(III)	Angela Garrison	865-577-2993 ajwahl09@gmail.com
Mar 18-20	Polar Bear Weekend Contact Tisha or Leslie soon. Arrangements for cabins will be based on how many people are plan to attend. Trips on the Tellico Ledges, the Middle Tellico and if there is no water, the Ocoee.	Tisha Benton Leslie Stewart	tbenton@charter.net lhstewart@gmail.com
Mar 26	Little River - Class II-IV+ (To be determined)	Randy Bigbee	865-567-7294 rbigbee@bellsouth.net
Mar 26	Outdoor Gear Swap TN Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club 8AM to noon, Kingsport, TN.	Ian Powell	www.ehcc.org chair@tehcc.org
Mar 27	Tellico Blueway touring day trip	Doug Johnstone	865-804-5240 canoeone@tds.net
April 2	Paint Rock Wildlife Refuge on Watts Bar Lake Trip rating: Easy Meet at the Flying J Truck Stop, Watt Road Exit off of I 40/75 at 9:00. The refuge is a great place for viewing wildlife. This trip will be suitable for recreational kayaks, but you will need to be able to paddle 8 miles at a pace of about 3 miles per hour. All paddlers must have appropriate cold weather gear and assisted rescue training.	Tom & Tere McDonough	865-922-8075 or 865 406-4617 ttmcdono@aol.com

Date	Event	Contact	Info
April 9	Customer Swap Day River Sports	River Sports Outfitters	865-523-0066
April 16	Knoxville Urban Wilderness Adventure Race Chota volunteers will assist as safety boaters and help racers in the paddling event. Two groups of 10 Volunteers each for AM and PM shifts.	Doug Johnstone	865-804-5240 canoeone@tds.net
April 16	East Coast Canoe and Kayak Festival Charleston SC www.ccprc.com/index.aspx?nid=472		
April 30	Chilhowee Lake Touring Trip rating: Easy	Iris Leung	314-517-5703 irisleung@earthlink.net
May 7-8	Camping on Santeetlah Lake in North Carolina Touring Trip rating: Moderate The group will meet at 8am at the Panera in Alcoa. Drive Hwy 129 to Santeetlah Lake, approximately 2 hours. This will be a self supported back country camping trip on National Forest land. Each paddler must bring their own camping gear, food and water for a one night trip. Paddling distance to the campsite could be from 1 to 6 miles depending on campsite availability. Limit to 8 paddlers due to small campsites.	Jim Martin	865-548-4200 photogmartin8790@aol.com
June 17-19	Chota Canoe and Kayak School Hiwassee Outfitters Reliance, TN - read more on p. 5	Gary Kilpatrick	423-914-4070 GWKilpatrick@misincinfo.com
July 16	Melton Hill Lake – Trip rating: Easy We will put in at the Eagle Bend boat ramp (Dismal Gap on some maps) ramp at 10:00. We will paddle about 3.5 miles to Clinton Island, where we will stop for lunch, then return to the put-in. This trip will be suitable for recreational kayaks, but you will need to be able to paddle 7 miles at a pace of about 3 miles per hour.	Tom & Tere McDonough	865-922-8075 or 865 406-4617 ttmcdono@aol.com
July 23	Upper Tellico Lake Touring Trip rating: Easy	Iris Leung	314-517-5703 irisleung@earthlink.net
Aug 12-14	Fontana Overnighter For details contact trip leader	Gary Kilpatrick	423-914-4070 GWKilpatrick@misincinfo.com
Aug 25 - Sep 5	Isle Royale National Park Lake Superior waiting list trip - contact Doug for more info	Doug Johnstone	865-804-5240 canoeone@tds.net
Sept 24	Norris Lake near Big Ridge State Park – Trip rating: easy We will meet at the TWRA boat ramp on HWY 61, just west of Big Ridge at 9:00. This trip will be suitable for recreational kayaks, but you will need to be able to paddle 8 miles at a pace of about 3 miles per hour.	Tom & Tere McDonough	865-922-8075 or 865 406-4617 ttmcdono@aol.com
Oct 23	Fall colors on Calderwood Lake Touring Trip rating: Easy	Iris Leung	314-517-5703 irisleung@earthlink.net

Jockeying for space on the Nantahala: Outfitters and summer camps spar over control of river traffic

Written by Becky Johnson, Wednesday, 26 January 2011

"This article was originally published by The Smoky Mountain News, a weekly news magazine based in Waynesville that covers Western North Carolina. www.smokymountainnews.com. Reprinted with permission."

Rafting outfitters in the Nantahala Gorge have arrived at a compromise with summer camps and colleges vying for the chance to take kids down the Nantahala River without going through an existing commercial outfitter.

The U.S. Forest Service issues only a limited number of permits for commercial traffic on the river. Camps and colleges that don't have a permit but want to take their kids paddling have to sign up for a trip with one of the outfitters.

A coalition of summer camps and colleges want to use their own staff, however, which often includes experienced paddlers, and avoid paying a commercial outfitter for the service of a down-river escort. They asked the forest service to up the number of permits issued on the river, setting off a months-long debate over how to balance demand on the Nantahala.

During the thick of summer tourist season, outfitter traffic on the Nantahala is akin to finely tuned, well-oiled clock gears.

An average of 200,000 people a year ran the Nantahala over the last five years — most of that crammed into a mere three months. Between 85 and 90 percent of river traffic is with a commercial outfitter, according to the forest service.

Moving thousands of rafters on and off the river in a day is no small feat given the narrow road, dearth of parking and cramped put-ins and take-outs.

While Nantahala Outdoor Center has its own take-out on its property, the rest of the raft outfitters share two take-outs.

Guides must get their loads of giddy and adrenaline-pumped rafters to the shore, out of their boat, out of their life jackets, then onto a bus — plus the rafts strapped on top — within 10 minutes to make room for the next bus waiting in the wings.

"We all work together to make sure that we are not clogging these places up. We understand the im-



Chota member Kyle Forbes enjoying Lesser Wesser Falls, Nantahala River Gorge, October 2011

portance to make sure things move smoothly. It is a concerted effort," said Kevin Gibbs, CEO of Wildwater and president of the Nantahala Gorge Association, an affiliation of rafters.

The same goes for put-ins, which are equally short on space.

The forest service initially considered granting up to 36 new commercial permits — compared to the 16 they have now. Doing so would have also opened the door for new commercial outfitters — not just camps and colleges — to start doing business on the Nantahala.

Rafting outfitters feared an influx of camps, colleges and new commercial guides running their own trips down the river would create an untenable free-for-all.

Guides unaccustomed to the hustle of the river would clog up the works. And guides unfamiliar with the river's more treacherous spots could also pose safety risks, the existing outfitters argued, pointing to Big Wesser Falls just downstream of the commercial take-out.

"If you miss the take-out, you are going to want to paddle really, really hard to get to shore because there is a very large rapid just below it that no one paddles commercially," Gibbs said. "It is very difficult, and it can be very dangerous. That is one of our initial concerns."

Yes to kayaks, no to rafts

After studying the issue for much of the last year, the forest service decided against new commercial permits for raft trips, it announced last week.

But the forest service did make a concession that pleases camps and colleges. The forest service will issue a dozen new permits for guided kayak and canoe trips on the river. The permits will only be good Monday through Thursday, however, avoiding the busy weekends. Group size and the number of trips a year are also limited for those seeking the new permits.

Mike Wilkins, chief forest ranger for the Nantahala District, said the facilities and infrastructure in the Gorge simply can't accommodate more traffic.

"It is really hard to move lots of people in and out quickly," Wilkins said.

Both the outfitters and camps say the decision strikes a balance between giving camps more flexibility to take their own kids down the river yet guarding against the type of mayhem outfitters feared.

"I think that Mike listened to everybody's concerns, not just the folks interested in coming here but the folks who are already here," Gibbs said.

Wilkins said he wasn't exactly aiming for a compromise, although that's what it's being called.

"I don't know about a compromise but I was trying to weigh all the factors," Wilkins said. "I guess in my mind, I wasn't as concerned about the purely recreational use as the ability to give young people instruction."

Wilkins didn't want to deny a summer camp from teaching its kids how to paddle on the river.

After all Sutton Bacon, the CEO of NOC, first learned how to kayak at summer camp.

"We can all personally attest to the value of being introduced to whitewater paddling on the Nantahala at a young age," Bacon said. "To that end, NOC strongly supports the use of the Nantahala River by a wide variety of groups and camps that expose young people to whitewater paddle sports."

Gordon Strayhorn, president of the N.C. Youth Camp Association, said the new permits should sat-

isfy camps for the most part. Camps are primarily interested in taking their kids kayaking and canoeing anyway — not rafting, Strayhorn said.

Strayhorn, who is the head of Camp Illahee, said paddling has been part of their summer camp program for decades. "Organized youth summer camps have been using the Nantahala River for more than 60 years and represented the first recreational use of the river, long before permits and outfitters existed," Strayhorn said.

They have forest service permits on every other river in the region — French Broad, Ocoee, Chattooga, Nolichucky and the Pigeon. The Nantahala was the only they couldn't run with their own guides but instead had to go through a commercial outfitter, he said.

Strayhorn said the forest service was right to open up new permits on the Nantahala.

River squatters

One logistical concern still troubles the outfitters, however. Unlike the outfitters, camps and colleges don't have a home base in the Gorge. Where will their van drivers park for three hours while their students run the river? Where will they change into dry clothes afterward? Where will they use the bathroom?

"Several business owners are concerned these people would come and stop at their outposts," Gibbs said.

As the largest outfitter in the Gorge and with prime real estate on both sides of the river near the take-out, Nantahala Outdoor Center would likely be a prime target. NOC CEO Sutton Bacon doesn't want their campus to become a staging area for other groups. Not when parking in the Gorge is at such a premium.

"Of course, we want to be as welcoming as possible, but it is also unfair to expect NOC to bear the entire burden of providing public access for all of these groups, especially if it means there is not enough parking for our own guests," Bacon said.

That remains one of the biggest outstanding issues: what facilities will these groups use if they don't go through an outfitters? Bacon said NOC is already getting queries from camps wondering whether they could use NOC as a staging area. But striking deals with up to a dozen individual camps

or colleges would be challenging. Bacon thinks a better solution would be giving an umbrella permit to the Youth Camp Association. NOC could then negotiate usage of its facilities with just one entity. And with one umbrella permit for all the camps, they could better divvy up use on the river to avoid all coming on the same day.

River economics

Outfitters downplayed their financial motive in opposing new commercial permits on the river. But they admitted that there is not an unlimited amount of rafting business on the river.

Wilkins said economic concerns among existing outfitters partly weighed into his decision not to allow new commercial raft companies but instead limit new permits to guided canoe and kayak trips. He realizes the existing outfitters have a lot at stake.

Outfitters made approximately \$2.8 million on guided trips on the Nanty in fiscal year 2010, based on forest service data. The number only includes revenue on river trips — not T-shirts, food sales and other purchases rafters likely make.

Outfitters pay 3 percent of revenue made on guided trips to the forest service for a commercial permit.

Outfitters will obviously lose some revenue once camps can take their own kids down river. But Strayhorn said the economic benefits outweigh it.

"I don't think camps being permitted on the river will negatively impact the economy of the region at all. I think it will improve it," Strayhorn said.

Summer camps in Jackson, Buncombe, Transylvania and Henderson counties alone have a combined economic impact of \$365 million, according to an economic impact study by N.C. State University, he said.

Out in the cold

The decision will essentially put an end to teaching trips the Carolina Canoe Club historically led on the Nantahala, according to Spencer Muse, president of the Carolina Canoe Club. The Carolina Canoe Club holds paddling workshops and rescue training on the Nantahala River for its 1,000 members. Since participants pay to go on the trips, it counts as a commercial operation and thus needs a permit.

Supportive of the club's mission, Nantahala Outdoor Center used to let the club do its trips under the auspice of NOC's permit. But the forest service put an end to that three years ago.

Lacking a commercial permit of its own, Carolina Canoe Club stopped charging its members for the courses so it didn't count as a commercial trip. But the club can't indefinitely bear the cost of hosting the trips without being able to charge those who come, Muse said.

Muse said the handful of new permits the forest service has agreed to issue are useless for his group since they aren't valid on weekends. The club has always done its trips on weekends — since the people going on them as well as the instructors have jobs.

Muse said the club only goes on two trips a year, and would be willing to do them outside the peak summer season, such as early May or mid-September, when crowding isn't an issue.

"We are only talking about two weekends a year we use the Nantahala," Muse said.

If they can't find a solution, the club will likely move its paddling instruction weekends to the Gauley River.

"It is a little odd to have West Virginia be the location for Carolina Canoe Club's main teaching activities," Muse said.

How permits on the Nantahala work

Commercial outfitters must have a permit from the forest service to run raft trips on the Nantahala River. The same goes for a guide leading a group of kayakers — or even escorting a single kayaker for a paddling lesson — if money is exchanging hands.

But if your buddy owns a raft and offers to take you and a few friends on a trip down the Nanty and he doesn't charge you for it, no commercial permit is required.

As outfitters have gone out of business, the forest service closed out their permit rather than opening it up to new takers. Ten years ago, there were 21 commercial permits. Today, there are only 16.

Most permits are held by commercial raft companies, but a few do belong to institutions. Western Carolina University has a permit, for example, and is able to teach paddling to its students on the river without going through an outfitter.

Tennessee's Online Water Quality Assessment Data Base

Would you like to know more about the water quality of the rivers, streams, or lakes where you paddle?

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's, Division of Water Pollution Control and Office for Information Resources, GIS Services Group have developed a tool that provides the public with access to permitting, stream assessment, and other water quality data. This information is on the web at: <http://tnmap.state.tn.us/wpc/>

Upon entering this web site, you will see a map of Tennessee that shows county boundaries. In order to see water quality information for the area of interest, you will need to zoom in for a more detailed map. This can be done using your mouse wheel or by using the zoom slider on the left side of the map. You can move the map in any direction by clicking the pan button on the upper right, then moving the map with the left mouse button. There is also a search tool that will enable you to zoom into the area you are interested in by searching for the name of stream or watershed (HUC 12). Once you have zoomed into the area of interest, you can choose between aerial photography or topo map backgrounds by clicking selection boxes on the upper left.

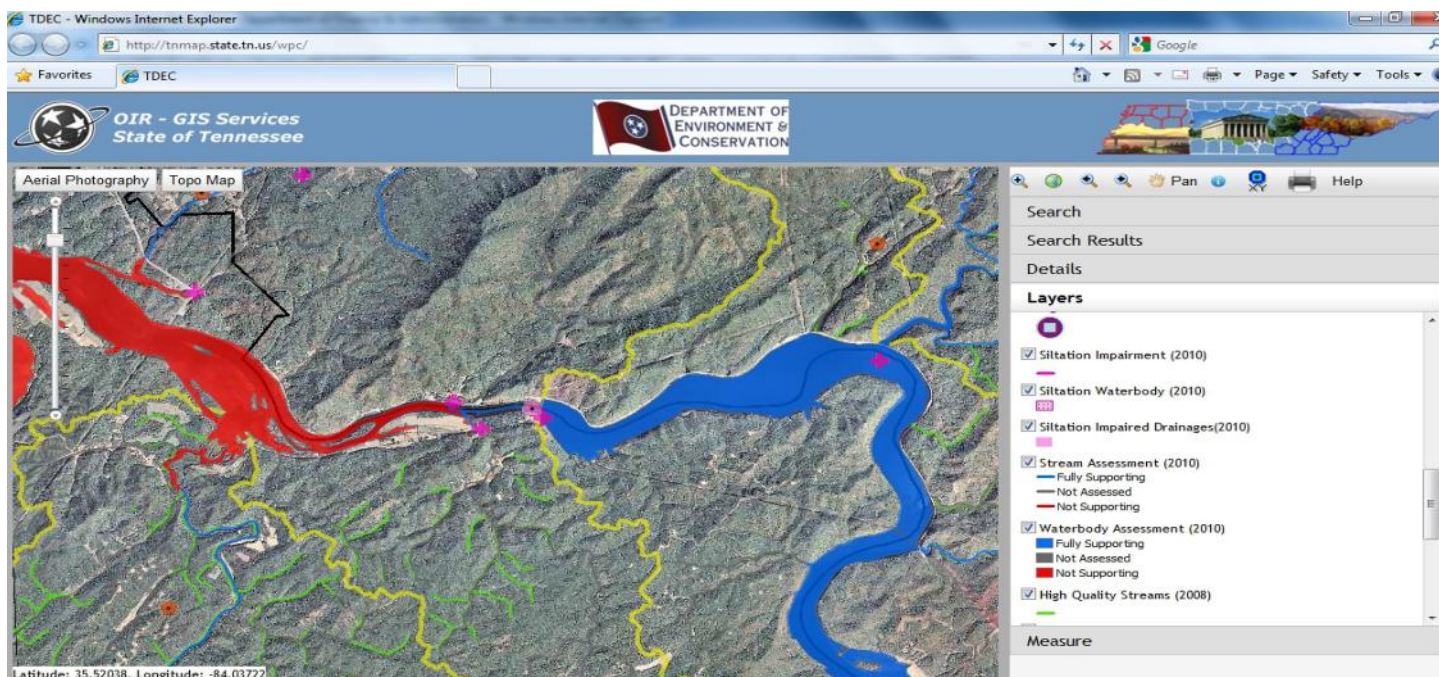
There are 17 layers that can be added to the map by clicking selection boxes on the right side of the map. Check the stream assessment box to see stream condition information or the water body box to see lake condition information. Stream and

lake condition will be color coded, with red indicating that they are impaired (do not support their designated uses), blue indicating that they are not impaired (support their designated uses), and grey indicating that they are not assessed. The last issue of Eddy Out included an article about the Toccoa/Ocoee River.

If you want to know what type of pollution is impacting a waterbody and its source, click the "Identify a Feature on the Map" (the *i* in a blue circle) icon on the upper right, then click the stream or lake that you want to know about. The stream or lake will turn yellow, and description of the stream or lake will pop up in the Search Results box on the right. If you click the description, a table describing the stream or lake will appear in the Details box. At the bottom right of the table, there will be a box that says "Click for pollution source (s)". When you click this selection, a table that lists types of pollution (causes) and their sources will pop-up.

TDEC has conducted an extensive water quality assessment program for many years. Until recently, this information was only available in technical publications. Many of these publications are hundreds of pages long and not easy for the public to understand. This online data base is a great tool for making this information available to paddlers and other concerned citizens.

Tom McDonough



CHOTA CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership for one year from July 1 thru June 30



\$20 Membership Fee Enclosed
 New Member Renewing Member Change of Address

Name(s): _____
Street: _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____
E-mail address: _____

Please indicate boats currently paddled: K1 OC1 OC2 C1 Touring K1
Other (please specify): _____
Skill level: Beginner Novice Intermediate Advanced Expert

Interest Area:

- Whitewater Class 3 and above trips
- Hairless whitewater Class 1/2/(3) trips
- Touring Adventure Trips
- Overnight canoe camping trips (rivers/lakes)
- Touring kayak overnight trips
- Day trips
- Weekday evening local trips
- Youth Activities
- Weekday evening paddle trips
- Hairless trips
- Whitewater trips
- Conservation Activities
- Safety Activities
- Canoe School
- Whitewater canoe or kayak
- Touring kayak
- Western Trips
- Whitewater
- Touring kayaks
- Gulf kayak touring Trips
- Day trips
- Self contained overnight trips

Waiver: Chota Canoe Club activities may involve risk to persons or property. I agree to hold harmless from any liability the Chota Canoe Club, its officers and its members, collectively or as individuals, for any damage or loss of property or any personal injury or death to myself, anyone in my boat, or any member of my family covered by this membership while at any Chota Canoe Club function or on the way to or from it.

Date / Signature(s) / (Parent or Guardian if under 18)

Send to: Chota Canoe Club
PO Box 51194
Knoxville, TN 37950-1194

Chota Canoe Club ~ Promote community paddle sport activities, safety awareness and techniques, while being actively environmentally responsible.

Being a Chota Canoe Club member has many benefits

EDDY OUT Newsletter published every two months

- updates and information about our current activities
- contact information for local and regional paddlesport activities

Trips scheduled just about every weekend

- canoe and kayak whitewater trips (class III and above)
- hairless trips (class I, II, III)
- canoe/kayaking camping trips
- touring kayak trips (day and self-contained)
- youth activities
- evening day trips and family outings

June's annual Chota Whitewater Canoe/Kayak School and Sea Kayaking School
Club meetings and programs every month

Safety Clinics

Conservation Activities

Social events

Roll sessions

Club members are entitled to discounts (usually 10%) at local area retailers.

Chota has recently gone virtually green - meaning most communication is by email.

Club members receive notices via the Chota listserve data, Chota Facebook page, and our membership listing that includes your email address from your annual membership renewal forms.

We know that lots of folks change out email addresses and one of our challenges is keeping up with your correct email address.

Periodically, we need to review our active members listing (i.e. up-to-date paid memberships). Our annual membership covers 12 months, from July 1 through June 30 of each year.

If you are not current with your annual membership, we encourage you to submit a renewal form and mail to the PO box denoted on the renewal form

The link to Chota membership form is www.discoveret.org/chota/memform.pdf or simply print out the one in this newsletter.

If you are unsure on the current status of your membership with Chota Canoe Club, please send an email to Doug Johnstone at canoeone@tds.net, and I will check the membership listing for you.

Happy Paddling Adventures and Be Safe!

Doug Johnstone
Chota Canoe Club - President