



The Paddler Tattler

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

(Click items to jump)

[Calendar](#)

[April Events](#)

[Bylaws
Amendment](#)

[Save the Ocoee!](#)

[Paddle School](#)

[Hiwassee Cleanup](#)

[Trip Reports](#)

[For Sale](#)

[Flatwater Paddlers
& Overnighters](#)



Alex Vargas, Billy Crush, Brian Hunter, and Bruce Foster enjoy a relaxing moment together at the March Happy Hour at Southside Social. (Photo: Meryl Stark)

APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Mar 29 Toccoa River	30 (Toccoa River)	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
5	6	7 OC Roll Practice @ SAU	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 OC Roll Practice @ SAU	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Board Meeting	23 Happy Hour	24	25 Women of Whitewater Weekend Talking Rock
26 Women of Whitewater Weekend Talking Rock	27	28	29	30 Roll Practice @ Harrison Bay	May 1	2 Spring Member Meeting SWR Course

APRIL EVENTS

March 28th—Hiwassee River Cleanup

9am-1pm. (C). Annual litter picking along the banks of the Hiwassee. Meeting at State Park office, first left past the river off Hwy. 411. Boots, long pants, etc., recommended. Trout unlimited will provide a free lunch afterwards. Several river-user groups participating. More details on page 9.

March 28th-30th—Toccoa River Overnighter

The Toccoa is a non threatening Class II/III river with gorgeous camp sites. It crosses under the swinging bridge for the John Muir Trail and is an easy going scenic paddle. Length of trip (2-day or 3-day) will be decided based on weather and water conditions. Trip Leader Don Bodley. Contact [Carolyn Rand](#).

April 7th & 14th—Outdoor Chattanooga Roll Practice

7-8 or 8-9pm, (WW). Southern Adventist University Hulsey Wellness Center. \$2 fee to use the pool, \$10 for non-members for roll practice. For full listing of dates and details, see page 14.

April 22nd—Board Meeting

6:30pm. (C). Mike Shillinger's House. All members are welcome! Come see what the board does during our monthly meetings. Beverage likely part of the experience.

April 23rd—Happy Hour

6:30pm. (C). Honest Pint. Socialize during our monthly night out! Contact [John Hubbard](#).

April 25th-26th—Talking Rock Overnighter

Talking Rock is a beautiful clear-water Class I, II - and, in one place, class III creek. For experienced boaters it's an easy paddle when the boat is empty, but much trickier when it's loaded with overnight camping gear. Being self-sufficient is a must. The trip is timed to when the water is generally at a good paddling level. But be aware there are no guarantees since there have been a number of years when the level dropped below the 1.6 foot cut-off point. Leader/Contact: [Uwe Zitzow](#).

April 25th-26th—Women of Whitewater Weekend (with CHOTA)

TVCC and CHOTA join forces in Sisterhood for a women's paddling weekend. Stay at OAR and paddle the Hiwassee and/or Ocoee. Contact [Jen Maxwell](#). See page 5.

April 30th—Summer Roll Practice

5:30pm. (C, WW). Harrison Bay State Park. Dust off your skills before Paddle School or just come for a good time. Rolling until dark (ish), then food and drinks afterwards. Contact Steve Crowell.

SAVE THE DATES!

May 2nd—Spring Member Meeting

Save the date. Time and place (Ocoee area) TBD.

May 2nd-3rd—Spring Swiftwater Rescue Course

Learn river rescue skills at the ACA SWR Course. Help you and your friends stay safe on the water. Contact [Mike Shillinger](#).

All paddling trips are weather and water dependent. It is mandatory that trip leaders be notified by phone by the Wednesday prior to the trip if you plan to attend. This will allow the trip leader to notify you of any changes made.

Most events are detailed on the calendar section of the tvcc website.

Contact the trip leader for specific training trip meeting times.

WW = Whitewater

S = Sea Kayaking

C = Club Event

ON = Overnight Canoe Camping

Membership Announcement

Have you renewed your membership yet?

Per the bylaws, all memberships submitted since January 1st count for the June 1st, 2015 through May 31st, 2016 membership year.

If you haven't renewed yet, your membership is set to expire on May 31st, 2015. That's about 2 months away.

Go to the club website because Larry the Cable Guy says "Git-R-Done!"

Sign up for Paddle School too! Kill two birds with one stone!

President's Corner

Spring is here and it's time to get out into the mountains, streams, and state parks. A few things that might interest you:

1. Hiwassee River clean up is scheduled for March 28th at 9AM.
2. Frozen Head State Park is now taking public comment on their management plan. TVCC used to have a spring fling there. Get Mack to tell you stories.
3. Tennessee is also doing a survey on what people want from their state parks – it's a good time to add your voice.
4. The Cartecay Chamber of Commerce is applying for a grant to add parking at the takeout.
5. Negotiations with TVA over future recreations releases on the Ocoee have started. Good time to find out who your senator and congressman are.
6. We need a club meeting to vote on proposed a proposed bylaw change. I am looking at the first Saturday in May somewhere around the Ocoee. Second option is to vote on the changes in Paddle School. Updates to Yahoo Group as details firm up.

Don Fletcher
TVCC President

From the Editor

There are many reasons why I'm thankful for the start of Ocoee season:

- I love free flow, but I also love not stressing about whether or not there will be water during the weekend.
- It might be time to take off the drysuit (but not quite yet). Summer is almost here!
- Improved paddle time to drive time ratio.
- ACE Lessons.
- Getting to try out my new playboat.
- Eating at Whitewater Grill. Maybe for breakfast and dinner. Then going to Dumpy's.

As many of you may have seen on Facebook and Yahoo, The Ocoee River Council is working hard to secure the future of the Ocoee after the current TVA contract ends in 2019.

Personally, I'm not much for activism (I prefer denial), but this is important. Stacy made a very compelling presentation at the March Board Meeting, and made it clear that now is the time to get involved.

Read her article, check out the website, write your letters, and make sure others do the same!

Meryl Stark
Newsletter Editor

Bylaws Amendment

For Approval at Member Meeting

Background & Summary

Per events that occurred this winter, an amendment has been proposed to the club bylaws concerning the distribution and use of the membership directory.

The changes remove producing a membership directory from the Secretary's listed duties. If these changes are approved, the Secretary's membership list will only be available on an as-needed basis for club events.

Amendment Policy per the current TVCC Bylaws

Any proposed amendments to this constitution must be signed by three active members and submitted in writing to the Club Officers. The Board will then publish the proposed changes in the club newsletter and club forums, giving a minimum one month's notice before setting a vote on the changes. After said notice, changes may be voted at a publicized club meeting. Approval requires a two-thirds majority of membership present and voting at the meeting.

Proposed Amendment—March 2015

Bylaws change to the **Duties of the Secretary** is recommended at Section III — Duties of Officers, subsection D.

The current wording is (with deleted wording in **bold & italics**):

D. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Club which will be accurate and official record of all

business transacted and make the minutes available to the club members. He/she shall also be the custodian of all Club records and shall receive copies of all correspondence related to Club business, to include retention of trip liability waivers. The Secretary will conduct membership duties, to include contacting new members, maintaining accurate membership lists and directory data, and conduct registration duties as necessary for various club activities.

He/she shall also produce an annual membership directory and distribute it to the membership.

The new wording will be:

D. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Club which will be accurate and official record of all business transacted and make the minutes available to the club members. He/she shall also be the custodian of all Club records and shall receive copies of all correspondence related to Club business, to include retention of trip liability waivers. The Secretary will conduct membership duties, to include contacting new members, maintaining accurate membership lists and directory data, and conduct registration duties as necessary for various club activities.

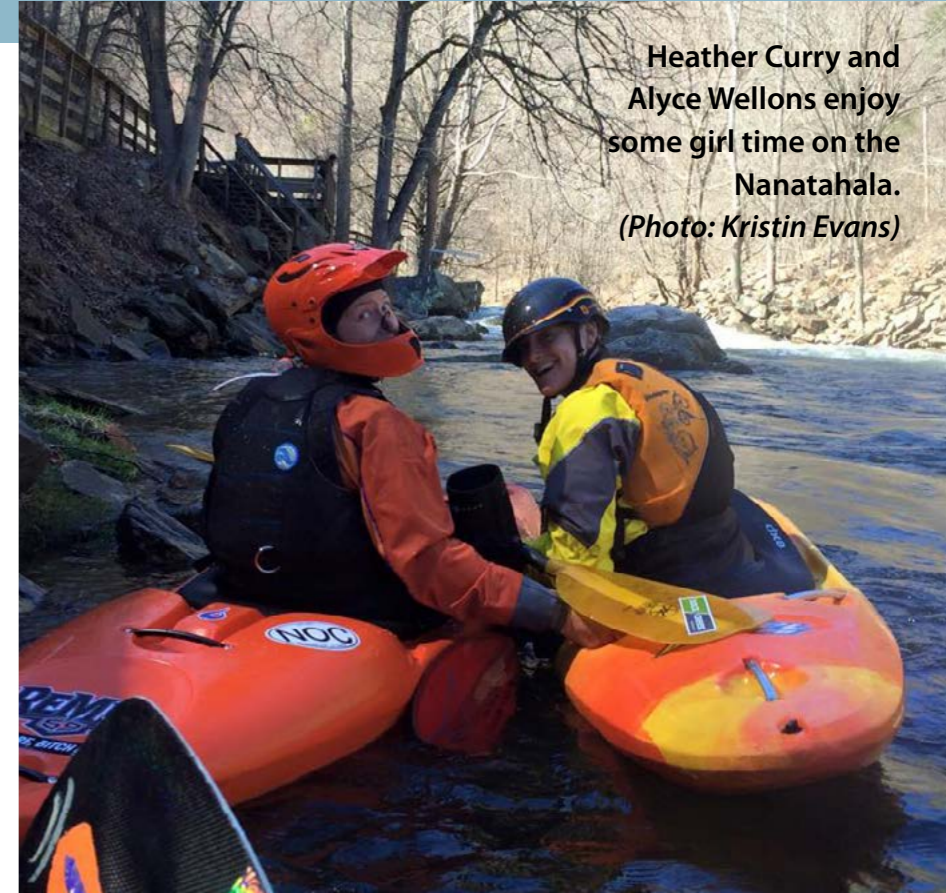
This change is submitted by John Hubbard, Ashley Teel, and Don Fletcher. Signed March 17, 2015.

This proposal can be found in its original form on the [Club Google Drive](#).

A duly called club member meeting must be conducted with minutes taken, approved, and published.

This will occur at TVCC's Member Meeting on May 2nd,

Heather Curry and Alyce Wellons enjoy some girl time on the Nanatahala. (Photo: Kristin Evans)



Women's Weekend

Women of Whitewater (WoW) is a weekend for the women of TVCC and CHOTA to join forces on and off the river! Let's get on the river and have fun together! April 25 and 26. OAR campground.

Meet at 9am Saturday morning, we will load up and head to the Hiwassee River. It will be a day of pushing ourselves and smiling on the river! Day 2, will be an Ocoee day for those ready to put on there. This will be a BYOE (Bring Your Own Everything) weekend. Cover your own camping and food cost. It's just a weekend of fun, no instruction, no plans, no cost! See you there!

[Contact Jen Maxwell.](#)



Save the Ocoee!

Get Involved Now: Write Your Reps!

Did you know the Ocoee might not release after 2018?

We can't let this happen, can we?

By Stacy Stone

Like many of you, I was astonished to find out that the Ocoee River might not release after 2018. The Ocoee River is the nation's most popular whitewater river with nearly 250,000 visits annually for rafting, kayaking, and open boating. Currently, outfitters have a contract with the TVA that provides water releases for recreation and it will expire in March 2019. For the next contract, TVA is asking for \$1.8 million annually to pay for water releases and this estimate is only for the first 5 years. **It is important to realize that**

TVA is the only utility allowed to collect fees for water releases. For example, Progress Energy provides releases on the Pigeon River without reimbursement for lost power.

SO, WHY DOES ANY OF THIS MATTER TO PRIVATE BOATERS?

Well, these increased fees on our outfitters are simply unsustainable. These fees represent a 780% increase from the current cost. If the outfitters are unable to pay for the water, releases will be jeopardized for private boaters and rafters alike. As an avid kayaker, I cannot imagine our area without the Ocoee River. It is a great source of pride for our community and a valuable economic resource to our region.

With the current contract set to expire, we now have a unique opportunity to protect the Ocoee River in perpetuity. Right now, the only defined purpose of Ocoee No. 2 (Middle) is for generating hydroelectric power. The Ocoee River Council is proposing legislation that would reclassify Ocoee No. 2 and Ocoee No. 3 projects to include whitewater recreation as one of the project's purposes. This would effectively mean that whitewater recreation on the Ocoee River would be protected for your children, your grandchildren, and future generations to come. For many of us, the Ocoee River is where our love of whitewater recreation started. It is such a unique, beautiful river where one can safely practice difficult moves and prepare for winter creaking season. With over 5 million visitors to the Ocoee River since 1980, it is clear that we cannot replace this river as an asset to our state and region. How much does the Ocoee River mean to you?

AND, ISN'T IT PAST TIME TO SECURE THE NATION'S MOST POPULAR WHITEWATER DESTINATION?

WHAT IS REALLY AT STAKE?

- 622 full time jobs
- \$43.83 million in total economic activity
- \$14.12 million in worker paychecks
- \$3.57 million in total federal, state and local taxes generated

Source: "The Economic Impacts of Visitor Spending and Whitewater Rafting on the Ocoee River," 2012, Dr. Steve Morse, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

HOW MUCH POWER IS LOST?

The amount of power lost is minuscule. It represents less than 6/10,000ths of the TVA system's generating capacity and the power generated by Ocoee No. 2 project is not noticeable in payer rates.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We need you to write letters to your US Senators and Congressional Representatives. We even have sample letters on our website (www.savetheocoe.org), on our FB page ([Ocoee River Council-Save the Ocoee](https://www.facebook.com/OcoeeRiverCouncil-Save-the-Ocoee)), **AND EVEN ATTACHED TO THE NEWSLETTER EMAIL.**

WHAT SHOULD YOUR LETTER SAY?

- Ask Congress to direct TVA to include whitewater recreation as a purpose of Ocoee No.2 and Ocoee No.3 projects.
- Ask that TVA be obligated to provide water releases consistent with the current schedule without reimbursement for lost power.
- **Personalize your letter by conveying how much whitewater recreation means to you and especially the local and state economies.**

STILL NEED MORE INFORMATION AND HELP?

Please visit our website to read our mission statement, documents, and blog. This is a tremendous issue with many moving parts. It is difficult to outline the entire issue in a newsletter article. If you have more questions regarding why the Ocoee is at risk, please contact us!

Thank you for your support!

Let's keep the Ocoee flowing!

Stacy Stone
Grassroots Campaign Coordinator, Ocoee River Council

slgee426@yahoo.com
www.savetheocoe.org

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE!



TENNESSEE

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER

455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
<http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email>

SENATOR BOB CORKER

Dirksen Senate Office Building SD-425
Washington, DC 20510
<http://www.corker.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/emailme>

CONGRESSMAN CHUCK FLEISCHMANN

900 Georgia Avenue, Suite 126
Chattanooga, TN 37402
<http://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

GEORGIA

SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON

131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
<http://www.isakson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-me>

SENATOR DAVID PERDUE

B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
<http://www.perdue.senate.gov/content/contact-david>

REPRESENTATIVE TOM GRAVES (14TH)

2442 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
<http://tomgraves.house.gov/contact/>

TVCC Paddle School 2015



May 29th-May 31st 2015

Location: OAR (Outdoor Adventure Rafting)

Beginner to Intermediate Classes for WW Kayaking, Canoeing and Recreational Boating

Classes on the water on Saturday and Sunday

Friday Night: Dinner and Live Music from Dagger Blue

Saturday Night: River Joust, Dinner and Gear Auction

Instructors:

Love paddling? Love sharing your passion for the sport with others? Sign up to teach or be a support boater at this year's TVCC Paddle School! Have a positive impact on the future of paddle sports as you enjoy a fun, action packed weekend with some of the coolest people in the Southeast. Go to **TVCCpaddler.com** and link on the link for Instructor registration in the window for Paddle School.

Sign up online here:
[Paddle School Webpage](#)

Most Valued Auction Items

Hello fellow TVCC members!

It's that time (if you have not already) to start those items, quilts, changing robes, paintings, etc. that you will wish to donate for the Paddle School auction. Those are the items that, if no one has told you before now, get the most inquiries from your fellow members, Paddle School repeaters and Auction junkies. Because being such valued items that also demonstrate the unique commitment and appreciation our members have for our club. We, TVCC, could not exist let alone be the incredible club that it is! So Thanks! And I look forward to seeing, displaying and sharing your wonderful, thoughtful donations!

Sincerely,

LaDawn Wolfe

Assistant VP of TVCC

Siren of Safety

"Vanna White" of the TVCC Auction block

Hiwassee River Cleanup



**Saturday, March 28, 2015
9:00 am**

Meet at the State Park office located on Spring Creek Road off Hwy 411, just north of the Hiwassee River Bridge.

**Bring Gloves, Work Boots, and Safety Glasses.
Garbage bags will be provided.**

Trout Unlimited will provide a meal to participants afterward.

**Come help us make the Hiwassee Scenic River one of the most beautiful rivers of the southeast.
You can make a difference!**

Sponsored by:



Bo Reynolds (423)338-3319



**Springtown Community
Support Group**
Joe Cooper 338-1526



Don Denney (423) 478-5451

From the Forest Service Press Release:

The event is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, Tennessee State Parks, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and Trout Unlimited, in conjunction with the Springtown Community Support Group cleanup. Event participants will meet at the Ocoee/Hiwassee State Park Office at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 28th. The office is located on Spring Creek Road just north of the Hiwassee River and east off Highway 411. The turn off from Hwy 411 is signed and is approximately 6 miles north of Benton and 5 miles south of Etowah.

Participants should bring long sleeve shirts, thick leather gloves and wear boots or sturdy shoes and safety glasses. Trash bags will be provided. A cookout hosted by Trout Unlimited will be held afterwards for participants.

The upper Hiwassee River is designated as a State Scenic River and is managed by the Forest Service, TVA, TWRA, and Tennessee State Parks. Come help in making the Hiwassee one of the most beautiful rivers in the southeast.

For additional information please contact Bo Reynolds at (423) 338-3319. You can make a difference!

Outdoor Chattanooga Demo Day

**Save the Date: Saturday, June 20th
Canoes, Kayaks, SUPs, Fishing, Dragons,
and More!**

HARRISON BAY STATE PARK

10am–12pm: Specialty Clinics

12pm–2pm: Open Demos

The public is invited to join Outdoor Chattanooga and Rock/Creek to learn about area resources, businesses and clubs related to paddle sports, and to try out a variety of boats ranging from recreational kayaks, to whitewater boats, surf skis and dragon boats, fishing kayaks, and more. Several product manufactures and local businesses will be offering clinics in the morning for those pre-registered to be followed by an open public demo. Experienced paddlers will be there to help you with quick lessons on how to get into your boat without tipping and the basic paddling strokes. Personal floatation devices will be made available for the demo. Attendees have the opportunity to paddle each demo boat up to 20 minutes – enough time choose your favorite paddle craft that best fits your needs, so you can start your adventures on the water.

TVCC will be participating in this event. Contact Ben Johnson to volunteer. Keep an eye out for more information.



(above) Alison Lucy gets some action on Big Laurel Creek, along with Bruce Foster and LaDawn Wolfe (below)
(Photos: Brandon Koch)

Trip Reports

Big Laurel Creek — March 15th

by Alison Lucy

The weekend didn't start out exactly as we all planned, but on Sunday morning, the sun was shining with temperatures in the 70s, and we were all gathered in Hot Springs ready to take on Big Laurel Creek.

When I asked Brandon Koch about this river he told me "this is the first creek I ever ran, and cleaned everything except for Frank Bell's." Hearing this I thought I had a fighting chance of possibly having a dry hair day as well on my PFD of the river. (But what fun is a dry hair day anyway?)

As LaDawn Wolfe, Bruce Foster, Brandon Koch, Billy Crush, and I got ready, we were all psyched about the warm weather and ready for an awesome day on the river. It was my second day in a new boat so I was still a little shaky, but we all started out strong, then we came to the first big rapid, Pinball. We got out to scout the rapid, and at first glance, it looked intense, just like the rapid name implies. It looked like it was going to push you around like you were the ball in a pinball machine. I already had it in my head I wasn't going to run it. After a little better glance and a deep breath, I realized you just need to gun it down the middle and the water will just push you through and out at the bottom.

Next up was Stairstep Rapid. This rapid was a series of small steps with a hole at the bottom that you just needed to make sure to punch. Once we got through Stairstep it was time to scout Suddy Hole, the third named rapid on the river. Brandon Koch made sure to tell everyone err on the side of caution and if something goes wrong, go further left, but no matter what you do, don't go too far right (this pushes you into a recirculating hole that doesn't look fun). Everyone ran this one clear, until it came to me. I ran the rapid a litter too far left, over-compensated at the bottom and flipped, don't ask me why, but I didn't even try to roll, I reached right for that skirt and got out of there (even though I landed in a pool).

Now that my first swim was out of the way we got to the Narrows. This was probably my favorite rapid of the river. This is a section of the river that gets narrow and has two sets of long wave trains probably about 100 yards each with a break in the middle with big boogie water, big water trains, and some holes you have to dodge.

Then we come up to a little rapid (compared to the others we had already done) called Cliffside. This is a small drop that you run on river right but you want to make sure you are far enough away from the rock wall on the right because the water likes to push you against that wall, and it happens to be a little bit of an undercut. Billy and Brandon set safety while the rest of the group ran the rapid. LaDawn and Bruce cleared it, of course they would it was just a small drop and turn left. I on other hand, didn't. I didn't have enough speed coming into the drop, dried up on a rock, came loose, flipped, and once again, you guessed it, I didn't even try. This was where the fun started and my boat got pinned (thankfully without me in it) and the guys plus LaDawn did an awesome job working together at getting it loose for me. Thanks guys!

I got back in my boat and we kept going. Next up was Flume. This was another drop about 3-4 feet with long tongue that leads into a hole at the bottom. We all cleared this one and we went on our way. After Flume is Humble Pie (I was definitely thinking about pie by this point!). I have heard this rapid explained a few different ways, but the way I remember it was that there were some big wave trains, and few curling waves on the sides, and some turns in the river that you need to follow. This really is a read as you go rapid, so just find the line you want to take and go for it.

Humble Pie was the last rapid on Big Laurel Creek before the river merges with the French Broad. Once the rivers merge, you look back at where you came from it looked like just a little creek because the French Broad is so wide. There are two main rapids on this section of the trip, but first you go through a good amount of flat water. Since we ran this at a

little higher level the water was still moving at a nice pace, but there was a lot of head wind. Let's just say our arms got a good workout!

The first rapid you come to on this section is called Kayakers' Ledge, and it's just that, a 5-6 foot ledge that drops into a pool. You want to run this on river left, because on river right you can drop into a hole that may try to retain you. We ran this as far left as you could get, there is a nice chute right there that puts right into an eddy on the side of the pool. Once down the ledge you will want to ferry across to river right to run the next section of this rapid, which is a few waves and small drop. Somehow, LaDawn and I both flipped at the bottom of this one, but this time, we both went for that roll and both nailed it! I guess you just have to try, right!

You will go through some more flat water, possibly with a head wind, and you will get to a section where the river splits around an island. The right side of the island is a rapid called Frank Bell's Rapid. This is a solid class IV rapid, so if you don't want to run this, there is a really fun class II sneak around the left side of the island, this is what I ran. On the sneak there is some boogie water and then a 2-3 foot drop. Once down that there is read and run boogie water with some wave trains. Once around the island everyone meets back up at the bottom to paddle the rest of the way until the take out, which is in Hot Springs, NC.

Looking back at it, this was probably one of my favorite river trips this winter. Granted the weather was warmer so that may have had something to do with it, but it was just fun. The whole group went out there to have fun, and it was fun we had. It doesn't matter if you swim, as long as you learn something from, and you're still having fun afterwards. I think I also came to the realization that I just need to try to roll!



(above) Meryl Stark rolls in Ender Hole.
(below) Dave Atchison nails Powell Falls. (Photos: Kenny Warwick)

Locust Fork and Snow Melt (3/1)

by Brian Swafford

Another fun day on the Locust Fork yesterday with a nice beefy level thanks to some snow melt from the day before. It's not very often you get that this far south. We had a total of 7 boaters with 2 first timers in our group. The 2 first timers were Meryl Stark and Steve Crowell. They had done the Ledges the day before but actually got a little nervous when



they saw Powell Falls. It is pretty intimidating at first sight, but they both aced it anyway. A few of us went to Pizza Hut in the nearby town with a weird name (Oneonta) afterwards. It is not far from where JD lives. We learned that they do not have a buffet on Sundays, and Doug Peace almost got kicked out a second time.

Dogpaddling Surf City

by Spence Lycan

Recent intensive research once again finds paddlers in whitewater kayaks have two choices when running down the face of breaking ocean waves.

Paddlers may gather beach-going tourist interest by

sideslipping wave faces until (falling over sideways) repeatedly barrel-rolling inshore until slapped onto the sands at the speed of dang ouch.

More talented paddlers may elect to please the beach crowd by repeatedly falling over frontwards (pearling) nose & stern until abruptly stopped (stomped) on beach. High tide gives best bruises; sand remains in your boat past the Ocoee's final scheduled release date.

Paddlers seek recompense of salted margarita draughts amidst gatherings of salty bikinis. Cruel and unusual punishment but someone's gotta do it.

Kristin Evans (left) and Alyce Wellons (right) hit their lines on Baby Falls during a March Tellico Trip. It's always a good day for a challenge!

(Photos: Heather Curry)

National Paddling Film Festival

Flicks, Food, and Fermentation

A great trip it was with films and beer Friday evening and then films and beer Saturday later afternoon to evening. Both Crystal and Rebekah brought chili to enter into the Saturday dinner contest. I ate well Saturday.

by John Hubbard

This was the third year in a row making the trip to the National Paddling Film Festival in Frankfort, Kentucky for now newlyweds Andrew Waters and Crystal Main, and John Hubbard. Two time veteran Rebekah Harris missed last year and made up for it this year.



Saturday night Chili Cookoff.

My favorite film was the Friday film *Damnation*. It is a sweeping story of America going from a love affair 50 and more years ago with dams here, dams there, dams everywhere to today's realization of what they do to the health of a river, the life that depends on it and our growing knowledge of their true cost. It showcased our 'metamorphosis in values from conquest of the natural world to knowing ourselves as part of nature' as the reviews says.

Other notable films include *Kayaking the Aleutians*, the remote and stormy islands stretching from Russia to Alaska, an amateur film of first times kayaking the *Upper Ocoee*, *Nobody's River* presented by TVCC last January about four women's journey down one of the last free flowing rivers in the world, paddling *Wildcat Creek* that comes into our own Tellico below the Middle section, and *The Chelan Gorge – 2014* which documents the work of countless people and American Whitewater to secure one weekend of whitewater flow on the Chelan River near Chelan Washington.

All was not just suds and paddle films. No. We four took the hardhat insiders tour of the Buffalo Trace Distillery Saturday morning. See Andrew dipping his finger and get a taste of the brew right from the vat. Sort of tastes like your sweetened breakfast grits. The distillery is on the National Historic Register. I came home with another fifth of the good



Newlyweds Andrew and Crystal Waters enjoy the festival.

stuff to sip until going back next year.

We had two speakers at the Festival. The Friday speaker was Kirk Eddlemon. Last year he spoke at our TVCC Spring membership meeting about the book he was writing and his passion for whitewater, easy to hard. At the Festival he talked about his no published book and his philosophy in writing it, the collaborations in writing and lots of other neat inside stories about the evolution of the book. All with great pictures and video clips. You can see a Youtube short video of Kirk talking about his new books.

Saturday we heard from Ben Marr. Yes, he wore the same or close similar toboggan while presenting. See the program booklet at this web address. You can read a bit of his bio in the program booklet. Oh, I really liked his short video that he showed in the talk and mentioned in the bio, *Kayakers Lose Control in Drainage Ditch*. Funny. He and another kayaker were flying down a flooding drainage ditch at some (reputed) 50 mph. Go to Youtube and see four versions. He was a good speaker. So was Kirk.



Andrew Waters gets up close and personal with the mash at Buffalo Trace Distillery.

Lastly I scored a water purifier in the silent auction. There were a lot of good items to bid on this year. And one lucky person who renewed his American Whitewater membership or already was a member had the lucky ticket and won a Jackson kayak. It wasn't one of us four. I had a ticket in the running though.

Twenty bucks for films, eight beers, and chili in a great venue. We four had a great time. Come next year.

[Program online here.](#)

John Hubbard, avid paddling film fan



Ben Marr presents to a captive audience.

Outdoor Chattanooga Roll Practice



Fall/Winter Roll and Kayak Skills practice will take place on select Tuesdays at Southern Adventist University's Hulsey Wellness Center. There are two sessions—7pm and 8pm. Anticipate only being in the water for one session; if it is busy, the pool gets crowded quickly.

- April 7th, 14th

Admission to the pool is \$2, and roll class is \$10/person for non-members. Non-members must provide their own gear. Outdoor Chattanooga annual membership are \$75/individual or \$125/family. First session is free for new participants.

Boats and gear should be dropped off at the door at the back side of the Hulsey Wellness Center, to the right of the track, next to the heating and air units. Outdoor Chattanooga staff will bring your boat to the pool. Your kayak must be clean in order to bring it into the pool.

Note: Southern Adventist's dress code emphasizes modesty and cleanliness. Please wear modest workout and pool apparel, including one-piece swimsuits.

Hulsey Wellness Center
4870 University Drive
Collegedale, TN 37315

<https://www.southern.edu/wellness/Pages/default.aspx>

For more information, contact Outdoor Chattanooga. 423-643-6888 or info@outdoorchattanooga.com.



Boats For Sale

WaveSport Diesel 60. New in 2013. Only been used 10-12 times on Hiwassee and Nantahala — \$600.

More pictures available upon request.



Jackson Star, New. Sweet Cheeks & Sweet Feet — \$600.

For both, contact Alison Bolnick: 706-302-2691.

Paddle School Starter Kit for sale!

Great for a beginner. Wavesport EZ with airbags, Werner Desperado paddle & a new (used 3x) Snapdragon spray skirt. M tunnel/L deck. \$600 OBO. Will subdivide. Contact Heather Holloway or check out the TVCC Kayaking Facebook Group.



Overnighters 2015 Calendar

March 28th-30th—Toccoa River Trip

Number of days TBD based on weather and water. Contact Carolyn Rand.

CarolynMRand@gmail.com; 423-400-2590

April 11th-12th—Upper Coosawattee River (WW)

Whitewater overnight trip; Class II-III for this weekend. Trip Leader: Don Bodley. Contact Carolyn Rand. CarolynMRand@gmail.com; 423-400-2590

April 11th-12th—Lower Coosawattee (Flat)

Will be with a GA Paddling Club. Contact Eric Fleming.

April 25th-26th—Talking Rock

Trip Leader & Contact: Uwe Zitzow.

uwezitzow@comcast.net.

May 9th-15th—Cahaba River in Alabama

Contact Buddy Wise. Bwise.legal@yahoo.com; 205-672-9025

May 16th-17th—TN River Blueway

Contact Carolyn Rand. CarolynMRand@gmail.com; 423-400-2590

May 23rd-25th—Big South Fork 3 Day Trip

Memorial Day Weekend. Trip Leader: Don Bodley. Contact Carolyn Rand.

CarolynMRand@gmail.com; 423-400-2590

May 29th-31st—Paddle School

Register online at tvccpaddler.com.

June 14th-21st—Buffalo River in Arkansas (Week Long)

Clear warm water, camping on clean rock bars. Beautiful cliffs. Contact Ben Johnson.

johnsonbbd3@aol.com.

June 28th—Waterfront Triathlon Volunteering

Meet at the GPS Boat Dock at 6:30am. Contact Taylor Watson. TaylorWatson@comcast.net.

July 11th-12th—Little TN River

Contact Carolyn Rand. CarolynMRand@gmail.com; 423-400-2590. (Back up plan is TN River Blueway with camping at Pot Point House.)

July 25th-26th—Rescue Rodeo & Big Brother/Big Sister Rafting

Camping at Hiwassee Outfitters between these two events. Contact Jim Ledbetter. 1jimled@icloud.com.

Aug 9th—Sports Barn Triathlon

Contact Taylor Watson. TaylorWatson@comcast.net.

Aug 8th-18th—Boundary Waters

These dates include 2 (9 hr) driving days. 4 spots left. Use outfitters' canoes and share 3 people per canoe to make portages easier. Contact Ed Park. eparkseven@yahoo.com; 423-400-9530

Aug 15th-16th—Lake Jocassee

Crystal Clear lake with waterfalls. The outfitter takes your gear to the campsite on an island, so you don't have to carry it in your boat. Trip Leader: Jim Warner. rockhunter1953@gmail.com.

Sept 5th—Girl Scout Raft Race

Club meeting with elections to follow.

Sept 12th-13th—Elk River

Contact Uwe Zitzow. UweZitzow@comcast.net.

Sept 26th-28th—Toccoa River 3 Day Trip

Contact Carolyn Rand. CarolynMRand@gmail.com.

Sept 27th—Ironman Triathlon Volunteering

Oct 3rd—TN River Rescue

Contact Jim Ledbetter. 1jimled@icloud.com.

Oct 11th-17th—Current River (MO)

Weeklong overnighiter trip. When not on river, we will be at base camp at Big Spring and travel to other locations from there. Contact Gary Petty. pettygw@gmail.com.

Oct 10th—Ocoee Race

Oct 25th—Boo Run (Ocoee)

Nov 14th-15th—Etowah River

Contact Jamie Wendt. jwendt@epbf.com.

Dec 27th-Jan 1st—Weeklong Florida Trip

Canoes, Sea Kayaks, and anything that floats. Travel time not included in dates. Contact Pat Carver.

PatCarver1055@yahoo.com.

Flatwater Paddlers 2015 Calendar

Note our new name! We are now the Flatwater Paddlers, in order to be more inclusive of Canoes, Rec Boats, Sit-on-tops, SUPs, and any other calm-water crafts.

March 28th. Harrison Islands. Eric.
We'll meet at 10 am at the Tyner ramp and paddle over to the islands where Harrison used to be before it had to be removed when they built the Chickamauga Dam and flooded the area. We'll do a walk on the island where there are still artifacts to be found before TVA raises the water level in the spring. 3 hour trip. If interested email me by 4 pm Thursday (26th) and check your email that night for directions etc.

April 18th. Coosawattee River, GA. 2pm, BBQ with NERA to follow (\$5). (C). Eric.

April 25th. West Chickamauga to Reeds Rd, GA. 10am. 4 hour paddle with Class I current and obstacles. (C),(S). Eric.

May 2nd. Sale Creek. Eric.

May 16th. Soddy Creek. Eric.

May 23rd. Oostanaula River, GA. (C), (S). Eric.

May 29th-31st. Paddle School.

June 6th. Graysville to Camp Jordan. (C), (S). Eric.

June 14th-21st. Buffalo River, Arkansas. Ben.

June 20th. Wolftever to Demo Day at Harrison Bay. Eric.

June 27th. North Chick and Dam Lock Through. Eric.

June 28th. Waterfront Triathlon Support. Taylor.

July 11th. Ocoee #1 Dam to Two Rivers Campground. (C), (S). Eric.

July 25th. TN Riverpark Cookout and sunset paddle. (S). Eric.

July 26th. Big Brother/Big Sister Raft Trip Support. Hiwassee River. (C), (S). Jim.

Aug 8th. Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. Eric.

Aug 9th. Dam Triathlon Support Boaters. Taylor.

Aug 15th. West Chick, Reeds Road to Dietz Road, GA. (C), (S). Eric.

Aug 15th-16th. Lake Jocassee, SC. Overnighter. Richard.

Aug 22nd. Cookout and sunset paddle to Bat Cave. Eric.

Sept 5th. Girl Scout Raft Race Support Boaters. Lower Hiwassee. (C), (S). Taylor.

Sept 5th. TVCC Meeting, Elections, and Camping. OAR. Don.

Sept 6th. Wolftever Creek. Eric.

Sept 12th-13th. Elk River Overnighter. (C), (S). Uwe.

Sept 19th. Harrison Bay North. Eric.

Oct 3rd. TN River Rescue. Jim.

Oct 10th. 10 mile TN River Swim support boaters. (S). Karah.

Oct 10th. TVCC Ocoee Whitewater Race.

Oct 17th-18th. TN River Gorge Overnighter. (S). Ben.

Oct 24th. Hales Bar. Eric.

Nov 7th. South Chick, Sterchi Farm. Eric.

Nov 14th-15th. Etowah River Overnighter. (C), (S). Jamie.

Dec 12th. Club Christmas Party.

Dec 27th-Jan 1st. Annual Florida Trip.

All dates and places are subject to change. All paddles are in Tennessee unless otherwise noted. Check your email the night before a trip for any changes. All paddles are rain or shine.

C = Indicates Current, but no more than Class I Rapids.
S = Indicates a one-way trip requiring a Shuttle.

Our Mission

The Tennessee Valley Canoe Club brings together those interested in canoeing, kayaking, and related activities; increases the knowledge, safety, and appreciation of paddle sports for those who are interested; and supports conservation and preservation of recreational waterways.

Membership is open to persons of all ages. Both families and singles are welcome.

The club's activities include:

- Whitewater & flat water kayak and canoe training
- Whitewater & flat water river trips for all skill levels
- Water safety & rescue training
- Extended canoe & camping trips
- Annual & monthly meetings
- Community service

2014-2015 Officers

President

Don Fletcher
president@tvccpaddler.com

Vice President

Ashley Teel
vp@tvccpaddler.com

Assistant Vice President

LaDawn Wolfe
assistantvp@tvccpaddler.com

Treasurer

Debby McRae
treasurer@tvccpaddler.com

Secretary

John Hubbard
secretary@tvccpaddler.com

Newsletter Editor

Meryl Stark
editor@tvccpaddler.com

Webmaster

Teri Zur
webmaster@tvccpaddler.com

River Conservation Chair

Jim Ledbetter
conservation@tvccpaddler.com

TVCC Yahoo Group

All club members are invited to join the club's online paddling forum. The Yahoo Group is a great place to find out about paddling trips in addition to those posted in the newsletter, post pictures and trip reports of your latest adventures, or just find someone to go paddle with.

The only requirement for the forum is active membership in the club. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tvcc/> and click on "Join This Group". Please be patient and allow a few days for the page administrator to respond and accept your membership. Send an email to the group moderator at tvcc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with your name. See you on the river!

Flatwater Email List

The TVCC Flatwater Paddlers use an email contact list to send out information about upcoming events. To be added to this list, please send an email the TVCC Sea Kayak Cruise Master at 598eric@gmail.com.

Safety Chair

Mike Shillinger
safety@tvccpaddler.com

Public Relations Chair

Katie LaRue
publicity@tvccpaddler.com

Cruisemaster I, Class II/III

Spence "Dogpaddle" Lycan
cm1@tvccpaddler.com

Cruisemaster II, Class III/IV

Brandon Koch
cm2@tvccpaddler.com

The Paddler Tattler is the monthly publication of the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club.

The Paddler Tattler invites submissions of articles, trip reports, videos, and any other news or information of interest to the paddling community.

Submit an electronic copy no later than the 20th of each month to the newsletter editor by emailing editor@tvccpaddler.com. Submissions may be edited.

Past issues of the Paddler Tattler can be accessed online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/tvccpastnewsletters>.



Tennessee Valley Canoe Club

P.O. Box 11582

Chattanooga, TN 37401

www.tvccpaddler.com

Cruisemaster III, Overnight Paddling Group

Carolyn Rand
Ben Johnson
cm3@tvccpaddler.com

Cruisemaster IV, Non-Paddling

Jen Maxwell & Rebecca Hendrix
cm4@tvccpaddler.com

Cruisemaster V, Flatwater

Eric Fleming
cm5@tvccpaddler.com