

Southeastern U. S. Wildwater Championships Live On!

Saturday, August 13, 2011

by John Pinyerd and Roger Nott

The Southeastern U. S. Wildwater Championships, the oldest whitewater race in the Southeast lives on!!!! This year will be our 43rd year!!! The classic top to bottom downriver/wildwater race will be held Saturday a.m., August 13, 2011, under the joint sponsorship of the GCA and the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC). Last year's race had 88 participants and we are expecting to break 100 this year!

We are delighted to be a part of the NOCs "Canoe Club Challenge" which is really helping to generate excitement about racing that is geared for all paddlers. The first two races in the Canoe Club Challenge series are being held on June 18 and July 16, 2011. The Southeasterns downriver/wildwater race is part of the third and final race on August 13th with the downriver race being held in the morning and the slalom races in the afternoon.

The Canoe Club Challenge slalom races will run between the foot and road bridges at the NOC from 3 pm to 6pm during the series. You can earn participation points for your club by racing in both the downriver race and any of the three slalom races. There will be a special trophy and perhaps a boat awarded to the canoe club with the most points at the end of the event series. For more information on the Canoe Cup Challenge see:

<http://www.noc.com/nocom/festivals-a-events/canoe-club-challenge/>

The Wildwater Championships will begin in mass start waves and run 8 miles from the Forest Service's private boater put-in just above Patton's Run to Finish Rock just upstream of the NOC. While the race is geared towards all racers, we traditionally also have several USA Team members participating in a "championship" class. The Georgia Canoeing Association will continue the tradition of paying you \$100 if you break any of these course records:

- K-1 – Terry White, 42:04.85, 1981
- K-1W – Kathy Bolyn, 45:20, 1989
- C-1 – John Pinyerd, 46:43, 1997
- OC-2 - Bill Baxter and Les Bechdel, 50:06 1983
- C-2 – David Jones and Mike Hipsher, 45:11, 1989
- OC-1 – Angus Morrison, 50:12, 1983.

In the tradition of the Southeasterns, special awards will also be given for the fastest downriver winners in these classes:

- Charlie Patton Award – C-1 (or OC-1 if faster)
- Julie Wilson Award – fastest female
- Ramone Eaton – OC-2.

These winners' names and that of the fastest boater overall, usually in a K-1, also are engraved on the old Southeasterns trophies.

Awards for the downriver/wildwater and slalom races will be at Slow Joe's Cafe at 7 pm. on Saturday evening, 8/13/2011. The NOC will give prizes, such as free gear or gift cards, for the participants with the best times, most runs, etc. There will be free live music at The Pourover beginning at 8:30 pm.

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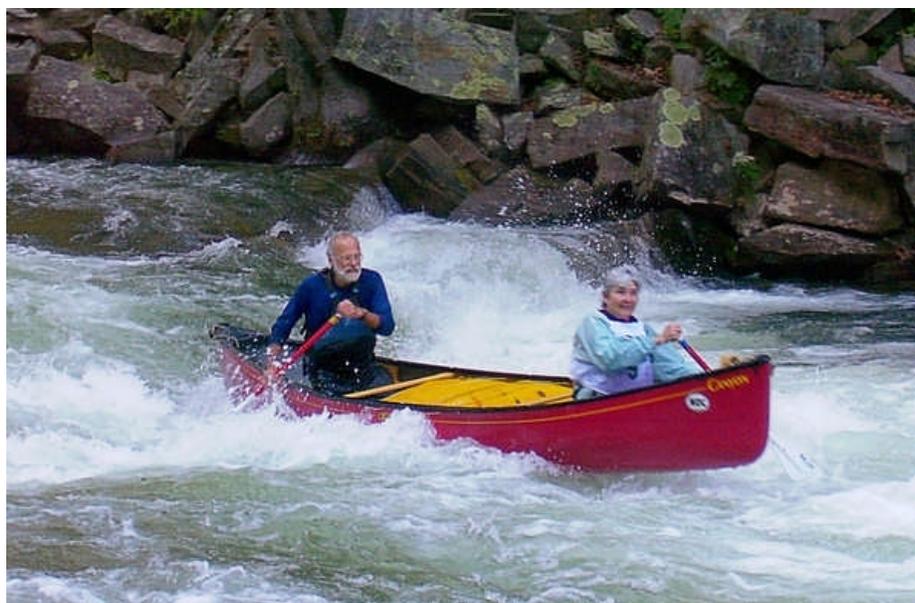
Come and race, volunteer to help with the race, or just watch and share the good times. For further information and updates about the Southeasterns see <http://www.gapaddle.com/> or the USA Wildwater website: www.usawildwater.com. You can also contact:

- Roger Nott: ocapaddler@charter.net (678-316-4935)
- John Pinyerd: jpinyerd@cs.com GCA's Race Master
- Chris Hipgrave: chris.hipgrave@noc.com

See you there!!!



2008 – Bern Collins



2008 – Payson & Aurelia Kennedy

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2010 – Francheska Thompson



2010 – Getting ready to race!!