

Outdoors with Hunter:

Longboarding: a growing trend

by Hunter Holmes
Staff Writer

Around campus, you've probably seen a few people riding around on skateboards. Chances are those boards you saw were actually longboards.

These boards are a very popular form of transportation and a great source for many hours of fun, a few of which could possibly be spent in the emergency room. The number of boards on campus is steadily growing and for a good reason. Longboarding is a fun alternative to riding a bike for a few reasons.

The factors that make a skateboard a longboard are many. The actual length of a longboard is obviously enough doesn't have anything to do with it. A board can be well under 30 inches long and still be a longboard. The two main things that make a board a longboard are the shape and the riding style.

The shape of many longboards resembles a surfboard, unlike all new school or street skate boards that look like poppicle sticks. Longboards come in many shapes that one could imagine, and new designs are always coming out.

The same goes for the construction of the boards. Some are solid oak or maple, 7-ply maple or birch, many are maple and fiberglass, solid fiberglass, or carbon fiber. The list could really go on forever, all of these materials give the boards different feels, some are very flex and some are solid as a rock.

Choosing a board is all about personal preference, it should all come down to what the rider is comfortable on.

The boards are a great alternative to biking or walking. They can go anywhere and, if cared for properly, last a very long time. They also are a cheaper alternative to bikes; the average fully set up longboard will usually cost between \$130 and \$170.

If you want to find out more about longboards, check out www.albertslongboarding.com. It is a great site with a lot of good information.

Nantahala Delayed Harvest

Zach Browning
Staff Writer

The sudden pull on my line took me by surprise. I had only been on the river for a few minutes and was still zoned out from the two hour drive. The sound of my drag pulling brought me out of my daze and slapped me across the face like a wet fish tail. This was no small fish, it made a long dash, then jumped clear out of the water like all those dolphins at sea world. From that point on I knew I was in for a great day.

The Nantahala River is a highly sought after fishing destination in the Appalachian Mountains. Nantahala is the Cherokee word for "Land of the Noon day sun." This name couldn't be more fitting, the river cuts through deep gorges and is covered by mountain sides nearly all day long. The sun doesn't hit the water until sometime in the afternoon.

Boulder strewn pools make up most of this five mile stretch of river. Frequent bends and large rocks make it hard for two anglers to see one another. Even on a crowded Saturday, there is plenty of space for anglers to move about without cutting through someone's spot.

Fishing the deep pockets and pools behind rocks is your best bet on this river. And since there are so many big rocks and pools, it isn't hard to tell where a good spot would be. I look for deep runs behind larger boulders and drift a woolly buggler from upstream. If that doesn't work, a red or pink San Juan Worm pattern should do the trick. The odd thing about the Nantahala is that insect hatches are hard to predict, so your best bet is to use a nymph.

The fishing on the Nantahala Delayed Harvest section is top notch; I asked several anglers how they would rate their day on the river, the overall consensus: Good to excellent. Flies are an excellent choice on this river, the patterns that seemed to work best were the green woolly buggler and the San Juan worm. As for spinners, a white rooster tail with a silver spinner consistently produced fish.

The Nantahala is located near Bryson City, about a two hour drive from campus. The Delayed Harvest portion is located just above the put-in for the river rafters. Follow the road on your left past the power house, and from then on, the river is yours. Good luck and good fishing!

Sports Calendar

November 4:

Volleyball v Tennessee Wesleyan 6:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball v Edward Waters College (SP Classic) at Mt. Vernon, GA 2:00 p.m.

November 5:

Volleyball v Bryan College/Covenant College 10:00 a.m.

Women's Basketball v Webber University (SP Classic) at Mt. Vernon, GA 12:00 p.m.

Cross Country NAIA Regionals and AAC Championships at Louisville, KY
Men's Basketball v Embury-Riddle University 5:30 p.m.

November 11:

Volleyball AAC Tournament
Women's Basketball at Berry College (Berry Classic) 8:00 p.m.

November 12:

Volleyball AAC Tournament
Women's Basketball v Reinhardt College (Berry Classic) at Berry College 4:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball v Atlantic College 7:30 p.m.

November 15:

Women's Basketball v Bluefield College 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball v Bluefield College 7:30 p.m.

November 17:

Women's Basketball at North Greenville College 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball at North Greenville College 7:30 p.m.

November 19:

Women's Basketball v UVA-Wise 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball v UVA-Wise 7:30 p.m.

Cross Country NAIA National Championships at Louisville, KY

November 22:

Women's Basketball at Montreat College 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball at Montreat College 7:30 p.m.