



# The Voyageur's Companion

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club  
www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org

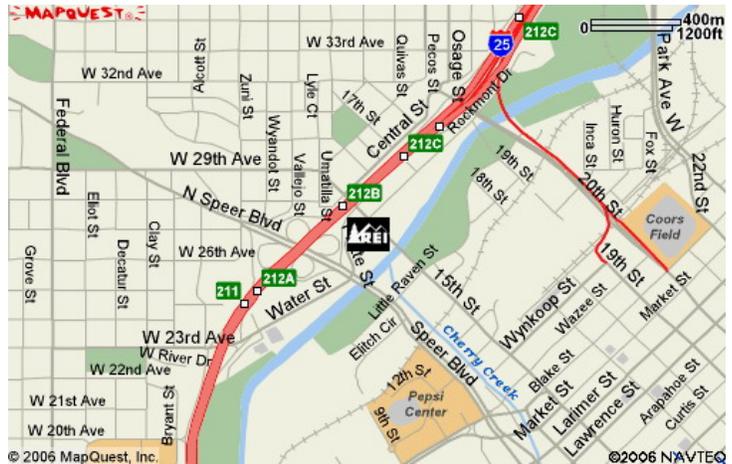
Nov 2006

## RMCC Annual Meeting by Dave Allured, RMCC President

When: Wednesday, November 15, 2006, 18:00 to 20:30 pm  
Where: REI Denver Flagship Store, 1416 Platte Street, Denver

Everyone is welcome to the RMCC Annual Meeting this November 15. We will start with a pot luck supper at 18:00. That will be followed by a short business meeting at around 19:00, then our annual election of club officers.

Photo Contest: We hope to finish up with a potpourri of slides or video presentations. As of this writing we have Photos from the Green River trip in September. If you have any boating photos to show, we would be delighted to see them. If you would like to enter the photo contest all you have to do is bring your Slides or Digital Photos on a CD disc or on a USB memory stick or your digital camera with USB cord early (before 18:00 so that we can load them and prepare). Share them and/or enter them into the various categories including best Family shot, best Comedy shot, best Action shot, best Nature shot, best Winter shot. Please maximum 10 photos per person and only one photo entered in each category for the competition portion. Winners will have their photo on the front page of the Newsletter. Please contact Jeanne Willson in advance.



Pot Luck: bring plates cutlery and a potluck dish, such as a wonderful main course, an incredible nutritious and delicious salad or a delectable dessert to share with everyone and a beverage of your choice for you and yours. Non-alcoholic drinks will be available. REI does not allow alcohol.

### Agenda for business portion of meeting

- Officer reports
- Review affiliation with American Canoe Association
- Acknowledgements
- Annual elections

Directions: From I-25, the W. 23rd Ave. exit is the easiest way to REI. Go east and north to Water Street. REI is on the east side of the street, before you get to the light at 15th Street. REI requests that everyone park in the underground lot in front of the store.



And you thought there was no such place!

If you have anything you would like to discuss at this meeting, or any concerns, please write or call me any time. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

## Annual Election of RMCC Officers - Volunteers Needed by Dave Allured, RMCC President

RMCC will elect new officers for 2007 at our annual meeting on November 15. Elections are by majority vote of all members in attendance. Nominations are open!

Please consider being a candidate for one or more of our club officer positions. All terms are for one year. RMCC is an all volunteer organization. As such we depend on our members to donate their time and creativity as club officers. Please do not be shy about volunteering. Several of our current officers are retiring or would like to.

To volunteer, please contact RMCC President Dave Allured,  It is helpful to have candidates in advance of the meeting. Volunteers and nominations will also be gladly accepted at the meeting.

Here are brief descriptions of all the positions. These are approximate, and tend to change over time in response to club and personal needs.

**President:** Schedules and runs RMCC business meetings. Oversees the routine activities of the club. Recruits volunteers when needed, such as for traditional events such as the Rendezvous.

**Treasurer:** Manages RMCC funds, collects dues, pays bills. Manages the membership list. Has final authority on spending.



## Canoe Colorado

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[www.canoecolorado.com](http://www.canoecolorado.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Editing and final layout for the Voyageur's Companion, the RMCC printed newsletter. Recruits articles. Though ultimately responsible for printing and mailing, this part is currently done by other volunteers.

**Membership Chair:** Recruits new members. Distributes membership flyers to outdoor stores.

**Trip Coordinator:** Recruits trip leaders. Organizes the trip schedule. Website updating is shared with the Webmaster.

**Advertising Manager:** Recruits commercial advertising from paddle stores for the newsletter.

**Conservation Chair:** Monitors governmental affairs of interest to RMCC, such as environmental protection and river access policy. Issues notices and recruits member support for lobbying, when needed.

**Head Instructor, Whitewater/Freestyle:** Manages the RMCC canoe instruction program, with an emphasis on whitewater and specialty instruction.

**Head Instructor, Basics:** Manages the RMCC canoe instruction program, with an emphasis on basic canoe training.

**Quartermaster:** Stores and loans out RMCC property such as portable toilets and the video tape library.

**Webmaster:** Manages the RMCC website. Performs regular updates such as the schedule of events, classified ads, and photo pages.

**E-mail List Manager:** Manages and moderates RMCC group e-mail lists.

**Secretary:** Proposed new position. Record the proceedings of RMCC business meetings. Maintaining the RMCC membership list would not be part of this position, as that is best done by the Treasurer in concert with dues collection.

If you have questions about any of these positions, please contact the current officer or the RMCC President. The current officers are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Thank you for volunteering.

### Rocky Mountain Canoe Club – Contact Information

**Website:** <http://www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org>  
**Membership:** \$20 per year, per household. See Membership section of our website, or contact Karen Jankowski for forms and information:  
**E-mail list:** <http://mail.indra.com/mailman/listinfo/rmcc>



<b>President</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	
<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Trip Coordinator</b>	
<b>Advertising</b>	
<b>Conservation</b>	
<b>Instruction: Whitewater/Freestyle</b>	
<b>Instruction: Instructors/Basics</b>	
<b>E-mail List Manager</b>	
<b>Quartermaster</b>	
<b>Webmaster</b>	

### RMCC 2007 Pool Sessions George Meyers Pool, 7900 Carr Drive, Arvada

Keep those paddling muscles in shape all winter and join the club paddling at the George Myers pool. Bring a boat, paddle, life jacket, neoprene clothing, water shoes, goggles and bathing suit. Practice rolling, paddling, and gates. Shower and changing room available. Try out your new boat before you put in the river or come and try new skills with the help of fellow club members. Contact Karen Jankowski for any questions at

10:00 to 14:00. \$8.00 per person.

- January 14, 28
- February 11, 25
- March 11, 25
- April 8, 22



RMCC will be sharing the pool with Coral Reef Scuba. They will be using two lanes in the deep end of the pool.

## Boundary Waters Trip Report August 2006 by Jeanne Willson

### February, 2006: Dreaming

After years of saying "Let's go to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness sometime," my daughter, son, and his girlfriend decided to git 'er done. We chose an entry point for our permit in late March. Note: Do this in January next time. We decided to drive to Minnesota both to carry enough gear easily and to see the sights between here and there. Note: There ARE no sights to see in North Dakota.

### August 2, 2006, Days 1 and 2: Entering the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

We put in at Snowbank Lake in our two 43-pound 17-foot Kevlar Souris River Quetico rental canoes. In spite of our preparation and experience, I was a little terrified; suddenly I needed to find a small, unmarked portage trail about 2 miles across a lake whose entire shoreline seemed featureless to me, with no landmarks to sight on. If I stopped paddling to take a compass or GPS reading the wind would soon blow us off course anyway. Yes, we found the first portage. Note: Always invite young people with good eyes on your trips. Little Boot Lake was charming enough to generate some excitement before the grind of the long 220 rod (3,320 feet/ 1,000 m) and 180 rod portages to Ensign and then Vera Lake. These long portages were made worse due to the lack of shade since we were in the area that was walloped by the widespread blowdown in 1999. We camped at Vera Lake at a site where all shade trees had been blown into the lake. So going swimming to avoid the heat meant swimming among dead tree trunks.



Leaving Lake Insula

The next morning we reached Knife Lake, a huge long lake on the US-Canadian border, filled with passages and islands, bays and peninsulas. A strong tail wind was blowing and roughing the water. Again we felt urgency to find a campsite, as we started to see large burn areas near the Bonnie Lake portage and beyond where the blown-down trees had dried and been ignited by lightning. The designated sites are well separated, so if one is occupied or unsuitable, you usually have another ½ to 2 miles to paddle to get to the next. Finally we found a site that was well shaded and set on a small bay, protected from the wind. We could see burned hills across the lake. You couldn't go far on land due to the tangle of downed trees everywhere. Miles: 18 cumulative. Wildlife: Frogs, loons, otters. A garter snake IN the canoe. The bears and moose can't get through the broken forests any better than I can. I think that is why we never saw either.



Gabbrol boulders line the passage.

### Day 3: Kekakabec Lake

We paddled three miles on glass-smooth sweet water toward the rising sun. Haze to the east from the Cavity Lake Wildfire a few miles away reddened the sun. We made six microportages connecting a string of tiny lakes to get to the famous and remote Kekakabec Lake. Even with severe blowdown damage, it is dramatically beautiful with its legendary high cliffs plunging straight down into the deep lake. We found possibly the most beautiful campsite in the Boundary Waters, perched on a 20 foot cliff overlooking islands and other cliffs. Soon it started raining and we retreated to our tents. Sitting out a rainstorm in your tent is the sort of thing that city people think is torture. But you and I know differently, don't we? Miles: 26.5 cumulative. Wildlife: more otters.

Loons ... they are LOONEY! Middle of the night, they are screaming. Morning, they are screaming. It's not romantic like in the movies.

**Day 4 and 5: Lake Insula via Thomas/Fraser Lakes**

Today we had horrendous headwinds from the minute we put in until ... well, it never stopped. We passed full campsites and our discouragement was beyond civil words. The site we finally found on Thomas/Fraser Lake was on a wind-whipped point of land. All night long, the wind roared, waking us over and over. The next morning the wind was still roaring in the trees, making waves wash over the gunwales; you had to yell 9 feet to your paddling partner. We were struggling from wind shadow to wind shadow behind islands, resting when we could, like on a river. We passed gorgeous rock formations and just didn't care because you couldn't stop paddling or you'd be blown backwards or tipped over. Sixteen miles of headwinds over two days.

Twenty more miles to go in two days. Can we do it, if the wind continues? Again the campsites were full. Word was that a campsite was available on tiny Williamson Island, but the crossing to the center of the lake was clearly perilous. We double-tied all gear, reviewed our emergency plans, tacked upwind of the island, then waited for a lull in the cresting waves to turn and angle downwind to intersect the island. The campsite is on the lee side of the island but the wind sounded like we were beside a superhighway. I felt as though we'd never get of the island without capsizing. But I was relieved to be back in real woods with tall cedars and out of the blowdown area. I will never go back to the blowdown area. Miles: about 42 cumulative. Wildlife: Taylor got a leech on her foot under her sandals.



**Unbelievably peaceful late afternoon on Lake Three.**



**The best traveling companions ever.**

**Day 6 and 7: Lake Three, the take-out at Lake One and home to camp. Sigh.**

Morning: the wind was gone. We wound around past the many islands of magical Lake Insula. The lakes in this area narrow to intimate channels and cliff-lined bays. The woods are filled with grand cedars, spruces, firs, and lush undergrowth, in contrast with the hot, open, baked dry, often burned forest in the blowdown. But we were shocked by the crowds. We finally found the prettiest campsite ever, on a point with many places to wander and many woodland treasures to find. We reveled in the peace and stillness. There was no fish for dinner. Mark claimed the dead one near my tent was the last fish in the lake. The snacks were nearly all eaten and the food barrel was very light. We were down to lentils and textured vegetable protein and were quite ready for a treat in town the next day.

Our last evening in the Boundary Waters; it was still, hot, quiet. I don't feel transformed so much as strong, agile, flexible, rested, physically released. To travel over 60 miles in wilderness and near-total solitude by water and by your own power, with nothing but that which we carry, my closest family as my only traveling companions: it is a deep peace and a vast freedom.

The last day was a short, very beautiful, very crowded paddle to the take-out at Lake One, completing a trip of over 60 miles, plus a 4.5 mile hot walk through more blowdown along a road back to the truck. We were back too soon

to the noisy campground, showers, and motorboats on Fall Lake. How have I lived with such commotion? How have I lived without the experience of the Boundary Waters?

### Green River Trip Report September 2006 by Karen Amundson

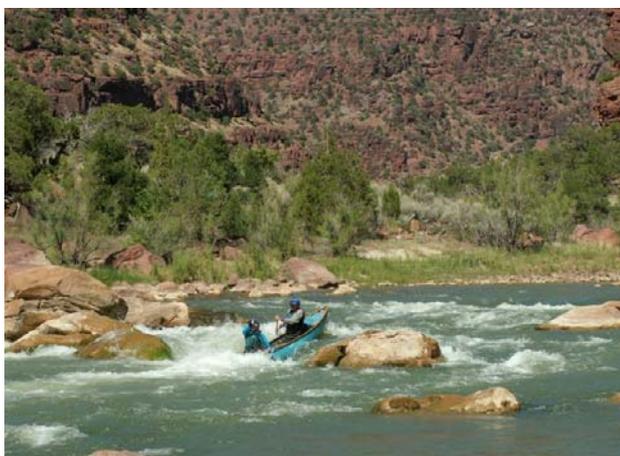
Ten of us did the extended 5 days from the Gates of Lodore through several canyons ending with Split Rock. Weather was beautiful, and we had the Green River's minimum 840 cfs, and picked up some flow at the Yampa and Jones Creek. Mike Langello brought his 10 year old son Adler along in a raft. The Jankowskis, Tom/Jeanne, and Scott/Connie were in tandems while Will and I paddled solo.

We camped at Kolb, Limestone, Jones Hole 2 and the (awfully hot) Big Island sites. For a 5 day trip I would again pick the first 3 and take Island Park for the last choice as it has more cottonwood trees. The other last-site choice is Cove; it has hiking options, but a large fly reputation and the big junipers wouldn't give much shade either. Try not to arrive at your last camp site before about 6pm as these are all hot. Winnie's Grotto and Rippling Brook were great short hikes, and we could have gone further up Rippling but were anxious to get to Limestone where most of us did a 1 hour scenic hike up to a dripping spring-fed waterfall that was very refreshing.

The Lodore class III rapids were more difficult than I had remembered. Upper and Lower Disaster were looked upon as 4 rapids by the commercial raft guides we talked to. And the top of Hell's Half Mile is definitely the hardest piece of water. This section should only be run by seasoned Class III paddlers.



**Gates of Ladore**



**Upper Disaster**

We had barely gotten to rest on our laurels before we saw Will go left of the pointy rock and the water forced him straight up the middle of Lucifer. It was spectacular, but put him in the water. I reined in his boat and shoved it to the Jankowskis who pinned it against a wall where Will re-mounted and eventually emerged to finish the rock garden below. Jeanne, Connie, and Jeanne's canoe took the land route, so Scott/Tom strong-armed the correct right-of-pointy-rock-then-left-of-Lucifer that worked best for the

After a lunch and lengthy scout of Hell's Half Mile, the raft did an extended high-side up against Lucifer Rock that threatened to put the group groover and Langellos in the water. The Jankowskis made the correct moves to the right of the pointy rock and across to the left of Lucifer. I followed suit, but looked too far ahead and was clipped by a rock so did a 360 before going right of the pointy rock and then banked off the left of Lucifer pretty hard so was thrown into a 180. Had to catch my breath by the huge log that provides a good photographer perch before finishing the top and ferrying to the right bank.



**Brown Trout from the Jones Creek**

canoes by wading around rocks on the right side to get set up to the right of the pointy rock. With higher water volume, this can be paddled and is probably the best approach.

As we came to Steamboat Rock and Echo Park, some of us were treated to a group of about 10 male mule deer slowly walking across the river. There were several adolescents as well as a few that had extra large racks. We also saw desert bighorn sheep multiple times within about 100' of us.



**Echo Park**

(from Calgary) took over a thousand photos, and Scott had a new video camera that captured crazy canoers cavorting in the rapids.

We encountered Ring-tailed Cats at our Jones Hole Camp #2, which was the best of the 4 sites near that beautiful creek. Scott scared them off with large rocks. (It is best to avoid the overused Pot Creek site where the cats and ants abound and take Kolb instead.) We all hiked up Jones Creek to see some very nice pictographs and experience the "butt-dam" waterfall, and many went the 7 miles RT to the fish hatchery. Adler caught a number of gorgeous trout in Jones Creek and Mike cooked up a couple of them for breakfast.

The geology was very impressive, and while the rapids below Lodore were much easier, they were still fun. Tom



**Limestone Campsite**



**Pictographs Echo Park**

A Lodore potluck and photo show on the big screen TV potluck is planned for Sunday Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at Jeanne's house. All RMCCers are invited to join us - call her at home:  for directions.



**Hells Half Mile**



**Scott and Connie running a rapid**

## Safety Corner

### Thoughtful's Spring Paddling After the 2005 Floods: by Tom Jacklin (photos of the Elbow River at Weaselhead Bridge in Calgary)

#### Calgarians battle raging Elbow

Glenmore Reservoir spills over dam

Calgarians battle raging Elbow

#### City residents ready to flee

Water overflows Glenmore Reservoir

City residents ready to flee

#### Calgary battles surge in river as dam overflows

Concerns over safe drinking water center focus in Alberta town

Thoughtful lives in Calgary and noticed the big flood last year and was wondering how this would affect her paddling this year. Thoughtful was wondering what the conditions of the rivers were after last years flood and what could be expected. So she asked Wisepaddle to help her understand the situation. Wisepaddle says that rivers are a living entity. This has been stated from the view point of the wildlife inhabiting the environment around the river to the organisms and fish living in the river. Often, however, people do not think of the river as being dynamic in character. Flooding is a normal event that happens regularly to a river however the amount of flooding varies.

Wisepaddle also says that the dynamic character of the river often rearranges the river and this may not necessarily make paddling any more dangerous. A river may change from one day to another and just because Thoughtful paddled the river the day before does not mean that Thoughtful should assume that everything is ok. As Thoughtful ventures onto the river there are certain precautions and safety practices that she must keep in mind. These include the skills of the group as well as consideration of the river features and also how Thoughtful feels that day.

Thoughtful joined Bow Waters Canoe Club because she likes to paddle in groups rather than alone and because people are interesting. They help with shuttles and also in the case of a rescue sometimes they can help. Sometimes Thoughtful has discovered that self rescue is faster especially if everyone is cheering her along. It must be fun! Thoughtful has also seen others throw the rescue throw bags into the air and sometimes they even land behind them rather than in the intended direction. Thoughtful doesn't want that to happen so she secretly practices throwing her throw bag. Thoughtful knows that it is her responsibility to decide if the river is for her as no one else is able to paddle her canoe down the river. Sometimes she feels like they don't want to anyway. Scouting may also often be necessary even when the rest of the group does not see it that way.

Wisepaddle says that river features include flow rate. In spring time there is runoff which in some cases actually allows the river to become navigable. Thoughtful finds that it is hard to paddle a canoe down a stream bed with little water. Sometimes the flow rate is so big that it causes problems. This may require extra skill in executing maneuvers on the river, even Thoughtful has experienced this problem. Sometimes she doesn't quite make the moves she wants to in order to impress the other members.

There are times when Thoughtful has turned away from the river because she felt that the high water was of concern. In spring time as well Thoughtful has found the water to be cold and has noticed people wearing drysuits. They are not very form fitting unless the occupiers ate too many donuts! Thoughtful has found it is very difficult to swim in cold water and the shock of the entry into the water is something to experience. Wisepaddle says that high water also creates a difficulty in the rescue of boats and



paddlers. High water may also cause erosion and even the creation of a new channel. Thoughtful has noticed this too. Alas Thoughtful has also decided that on some days it is just best to just choose a safer river or stay away until the conditions are more favorable. She has a responsibility to her loved ones.

Thoughtful in the past has not always recognized a problem that a hazard might pose. Experience has been teaching her that even though a tree may only look like a tree in the water it may cause problems. Thoughtful has found that sweepers are most often found on the outside bends of the river but may also be found anywhere. They can be in the strongest current and thus drawing her and her beautiful boat to them and difficult to avoid. Trees are beautiful but they should stay on the shore line. Wisepaddle says that log jams can trap people and equipment with terrible consequences. Sweepers are defined from the ACA Safety Code as strainers, brush, fallen trees, bridge pilings, undercut rocks or anything else which allows river current to seep through and can pin boats and boaters against the obstacle. Rescue is often difficult as water pressure on these features can be extreme.



So what is Thoughtful to do? Wisepaddle says that rivers can be exciting and the potential for fun can be immense. Thoughtful has discovered this! Thoughtful has to be aware, paddle defensively and stay alert. Thoughtful has to keep her skills up and use common sense. Thoughtful also wants to take more lessons! All this can only mean more fun for her and her friends!!!!!!

For those non-metric paddlers:

16 m <sup>3</sup> /s	>>>	650 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
372 m <sup>3</sup> /s	>>>	15,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
14 m <sup>3</sup> /s	>>>	570 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

### **A Brief History of Stream Gauges: by Tom Jacklin**

The development of civilizations has always relied on the availability of fresh water. The United States is no exception. We have depended on our lakes, streams, and rivers to supply water and serve as lifelines allowing for growth, development, and expansion into new territory.



As a result of rapid growth in the 1880's, population began to branch westward into the drier regions of the country, leaving the usually dependable waterways of the East far behind. Around the same time, John Wesley Powell, the second director of the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), requested that streamflow be monitored in eight river basins in the West. His goal was to measure the flow of streams and determine the potential for the irrigation systems that would be so vital to the economic development of this parched region. In 1889, the first U.S. stream-gauging station was established on the Rio Grande near Embudo, New Mexico. At this station, standard streamflow measurement procedures were devised.

John Wesley Powell, 1834-1902

Upon establishment of streamflow measurement methods at Embudo, personnel were dispersed to collect streamflow data at other western locations. Within two years the first streamflow measurements in the East were made on the Potomac River at Chain Bridge, near Washington, D.C., and a gauging station was established there on May 1, 1891. By 1895, discharge measurements were being made by the USGS in at least 27 states throughout the country.



# Store Closing Sale!

## Water Sports Snow Sports

**Everything is 35-90% off right now. Daily additional discounts until everything is gone!** Get yours before someone else does. Do your holiday shopping now.

Visit our website for gear/equipment, information, including a map to our store, online ski/board trips, avalanche classes, all at: [www.BOC123.com](http://www.BOC123.com)

**www.BOC123.com**  
2707 Spruce St. Boulder  
**303-444-8420**



Be sure your friends know about these great deals at our store closing sale. Free shipping on almost everything! Skis to staplers, boats to office desks, everything is for sale! (Sale items are on our website, and our website is not closing.)

Thank you for your support.

# BOC

## BOULDER OUTDOOR CENTER



**Clear Creek Golden July 2006**

Check out the new Spark (seen at left) from Esquif canoes. <http://www.esquif.com/en/index.php>. Roll a tandem canoe? Check out the Esquif site under media.

**More Photos**

Birds and bees and trees  
~ and the Badlands

Weaving through  
~ a river

Creaks from crickets  
Caws from crows  
Hush from brush  
~and grasses and sage  
As the sun fades

Haunted by the ancient sea  
Written in layers in the rock  
Old bones and fossils  
Speak of time that life forgot

Dragonflies and flutter-bys  
A spider awaiting dinner  
Big blue sky turning overhead  
Thin clouds sliding into thinner

Coyotes at night  
Picking a fight  
Out comes the big dipper  
~ and the dew

Badlands are good lands  
In a canoe.

By Tina Szabo while on the Red Deer  
River August 2006  
(Cnd Parks Service Banff, AB)



**Boundary Waters - a pleasant portage.**



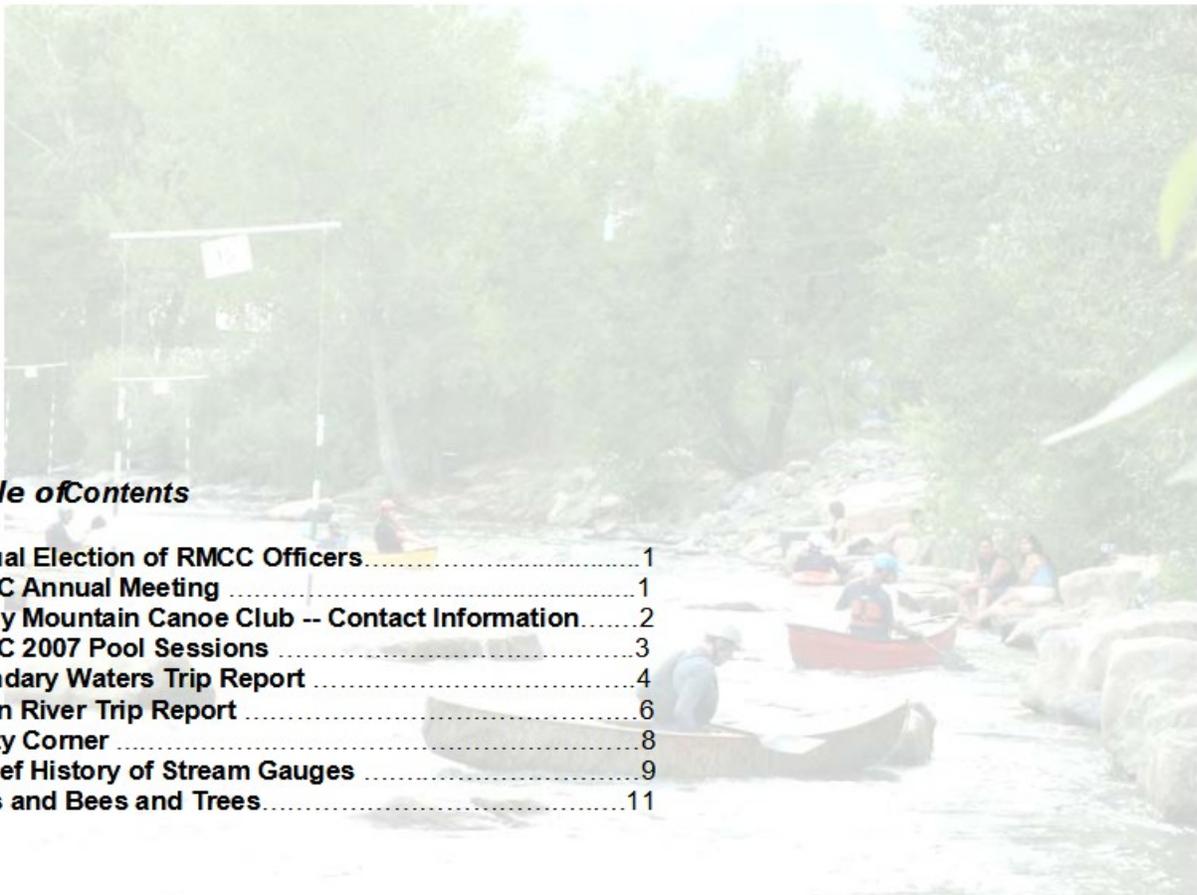
**Boundary Waters – cliffs on Knife Lake**



**Clear Creek Golden July 2006**



Rocky Mountain Canoe Club  
c/o Paul Holscher  
[Redacted]  
Englewood, CO 80113



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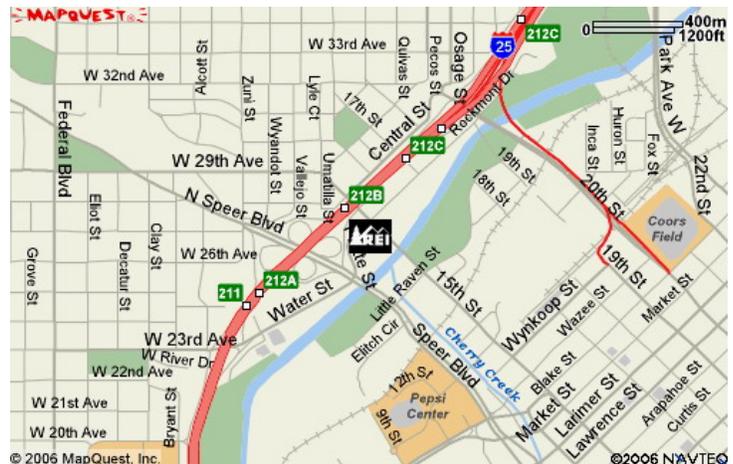
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**Conservation Chair:** Monitors governmental affairs of interest to RMCC, such as environmental protection and river access policy. Issues notices and recruits member support for lobbying, when needed.

**Head Instructor, Whitewater/Freestyle:** Manages the RMCC canoe instruction program, with an emphasis on whitewater and specialty instruction.

**Head Instructor, Basics:** Manages the RMCC canoe instruction program, with an emphasis on basic canoe training.

**Quartermaster:** Stores and loans out RMCC property such as portable toilets and the video tape library.

**Webmaster:** Manages the RMCC website. Performs regular updates such as the schedule of events, classified ads, and photo pages.

**E-mail List Manager:** Manages and moderates RMCC group e-mail lists.

**Secretary:** Proposed new position. Record the proceedings of RMCC business meetings. Maintaining the RMCC membership list would not be part of this position, as that is best done by the Treasurer in concert with dues collection.

If you have questions about any of these positions, please contact the current officer or the RMCC President. The current officers are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Thank you for volunteering.

**Rocky Mountain Canoe Club – Contact Information**

**Website:** <http://www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org>  
**Membership:** \$20 per year, per household. See Membership section of our website, or contact Karen Jankowski for forms and information:  
**E-mail list:** <http://mail.indra.com/mailman/listinfo/rmcc>



<b>President</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	
<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Trip Coordinator</b>	
<b>Advertising</b>	
<b>Conservation</b>	
<b>Instruction: Whitewater/Freestyle</b>	
<b>Instruction: Instructors/Basics</b>	
<b>E-mail List Manager</b>	
<b>Quartermaster</b>	
<b>Webmaster</b>	

**RMCC 2007 Pool Sessions George Meyers Pool, 7900 Carr Drive, Arvada**

Keep those paddling muscles in shape all winter and join the club paddling at the George Myers pool. Bring a boat, paddle, life jacket, neoprene clothing, water shoes, goggles and bathing suit. Practice rolling, paddling, and gates. Shower and changing room available. Try out your new boat before you put in the river or come and try new skills with the help of fellow club members. Contact Karen Jankowski for any questions at

10:00 to 14:00. \$8.00 per person.

- January 14, 28
- February 11, 25
- March 11, 25
- April 8, 22



RMCC will be sharing the pool with Coral Reef Scuba. They will be using two lanes in the deep end of the pool.

## Boundary Waters Trip Report August 2006 by Jeanne Willson

### February, 2006: Dreaming

After years of saying "Let's go to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness sometime," my daughter, son, and his girlfriend decided to git 'er done. We chose an entry point for our permit in late March. Note: Do this in January next time. We decided to drive to Minnesota both to carry enough gear easily and to see the sights between here and there. Note: There ARE no sights to see in North Dakota.

### August 2, 2006, Days 1 and 2: Entering the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

We put in at Snowbank Lake in our two 43-pound 17-foot Kevlar Souris River Quetico rental canoes. In spite of our preparation and experience, I was a little terrified; suddenly I needed to find a small, unmarked portage trail about 2 miles across a lake whose entire shoreline seemed featureless to me, with no landmarks to sight on. If I stopped paddling to take a compass or GPS reading the wind would soon blow us off course anyway. Yes, we found the first portage. Note: Always invite young people with good eyes on your trips. Little Boot Lake was charming enough to generate some excitement before the grind of the long 220 rod (3,320 feet/ 1,000 m) and 180 rod portages to Ensign and then Vera Lake. These long portages were made worse due to the lack of shade since we were in the area that was walloped by the widespread blowdown in 1999. We camped at Vera Lake at a site where all shade trees had been blown into the lake. So going swimming to avoid the heat meant swimming among dead tree trunks.



Leaving Lake Insula

The next morning we reached Knife Lake, a huge long lake on the US-Canadian border, filled with passages and islands, bays and peninsulas. A strong tail wind was blowing and roughing the water. Again we felt urgency to find a campsite, as we started to see large burn areas near the Bonnie Lake portage and beyond where the blown-down trees had dried and been ignited by lightning. The designated sites are well separated, so if one is occupied or unsuitable, you usually have another ½ to 2 miles to paddle to get to the next. Finally we found a site that was well shaded and set on a small bay, protected from the wind. We could see burned hills across the lake. You couldn't go far on land due to the tangle of downed trees everywhere. Miles: 18 cumulative. Wildlife: Frogs, loons, otters. A garter snake IN the canoe. The bears and moose can't get through the broken forests any better than I can. I think that is why we never saw either.



Gabbrol boulders line the passage.

### Day 3: Kekakabec Lake

We paddled three miles on glass-smooth sweet water toward the rising sun. Haze to the east from the Cavity Lake Wildfire a few miles away reddened the sun. We made six microportages connecting a string of tiny lakes to get to the famous and remote Kekakabec Lake. Even with severe blowdown damage, it is dramatically beautiful with its legendary high cliffs plunging straight down into the deep lake. We found possibly the most beautiful campsite in the Boundary Waters, perched on a 20 foot cliff overlooking islands and other cliffs. Soon it started raining and we retreated to our tents. Sitting out a rainstorm in your tent is the sort of thing that city people think is torture. But you and I know differently, don't we? Miles: 26.5 cumulative. Wildlife: more otters.

Loons ... they are LOONEY! Middle of the night, they are screaming. Morning, they are screaming. It's not romantic like in the movies.

**Day 4 and 5: Lake Insula via Thomas/Fraser Lakes**

Today we had horrendous headwinds from the minute we put in until ... well, it never stopped. We passed full campsites and our discouragement was beyond civil words. The site we finally found on Thomas/Fraser Lake was on a wind-whipped point of land. All night long, the wind roared, waking us over and over. The next morning the wind was still roaring in the trees, making waves wash over the gunwales; you had to yell 9 feet to your paddling partner. We were struggling from wind shadow to wind shadow behind islands, resting when we could, like on a river. We passed gorgeous rock formations and just didn't care because you couldn't stop paddling or you'd be blown backwards or tipped over. Sixteen miles of headwinds over two days.

Twenty more miles to go in two days. Can we do it, if the wind continues? Again the campsites were full. Word was that a campsite was available on tiny Williamson Island, but the crossing to the center of the lake was clearly perilous. We double-tied all gear, reviewed our emergency plans, tacked upwind of the island, then waited for a lull in the cresting waves to turn and angle downwind to intersect the island. The campsite is on the lee side of the island but the wind sounded like we were beside a superhighway. I felt as though we'd never get of the island without capsizing. But I was relieved to be back in real woods with tall cedars and out of the blowdown area. I will never go back to the blowdown area. Miles: about 42 cumulative. Wildlife: Taylor got a leech on her foot under her sandals.



**Unbelievably peaceful late afternoon on Lake Three.**



**The best traveling companions ever.**

**Day 6 and 7: Lake Three, the take-out at Lake One and home to camp. Sigh.**

Morning: the wind was gone. We wound around past the many islands of magical Lake Insula. The lakes in this area narrow to intimate channels and cliff-lined bays. The woods are filled with grand cedars, spruces, firs, and lush undergrowth, in contrast with the hot, open, baked dry, often burned forest in the blowdown. But we were shocked by the crowds. We finally found the prettiest campsite ever, on a point with many places to wander and many woodland treasures to find. We reveled in the peace and stillness. There was no fish for dinner. Mark claimed the dead one near my tent was the last fish in the lake. The snacks were nearly all eaten and the food barrel was very light. We were down to lentils and textured vegetable protein and were quite ready for a treat in town the next day.

Our last evening in the Boundary Waters; it was still, hot, quiet. I don't feel transformed so much as strong, agile, flexible, rested, physically released. To travel over 60 miles in wilderness and near-total solitude by water and by your own power, with nothing but that which we carry, my closest family as my only traveling companions: it is a deep peace and a vast freedom.

The last day was a short, very beautiful, very crowded paddle to the take-out at Lake One, completing a trip of over 60 miles, plus a 4.5 mile hot walk through more blowdown along a road back to the truck. We were back too soon

to the noisy campground, showers, and motorboats on Fall Lake. How have I lived with such commotion? How have I lived without the experience of the Boundary Waters?

### Green River Trip Report September 2006 by Karen Amundson

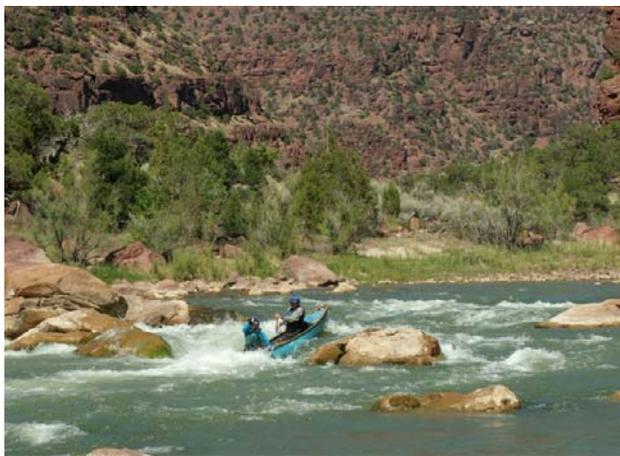
Ten of us did the extended 5 days from the Gates of Lodore through several canyons ending with Split Rock. Weather was beautiful, and we had the Green River's minimum 840 cfs, and picked up some flow at the Yampa and Jones Creek. Mike Langello brought his 10 year old son Adler along in a raft. The Jankowskis, Tom/Jeanne, and Scott/Connie were in tandems while Will and I paddled solo.

We camped at Kolb, Limestone, Jones Hole 2 and the (awfully hot) Big Island sites. For a 5 day trip I would again pick the first 3 and take Island Park for the last choice as it has more cottonwood trees. The other last-site choice is Cove; it has hiking options, but a large fly reputation and the big junipers wouldn't give much shade either. Try not to arrive at your last camp site before about 6pm as these are all hot. Winnie's Grotto and Rippling Brook were great short hikes, and we could have gone further up Rippling but were anxious to get to Limestone where most of us did a 1 hour scenic hike up to a dripping spring-fed waterfall that was very refreshing.

The Lodore class III rapids were more difficult than I had remembered. Upper and Lower Disaster were looked upon as 4 rapids by the commercial raft guides we talked to. And the top of Hell's Half Mile is definitely the hardest piece of water. This section should only be run by seasoned Class III paddlers.



**Gates of Ladore**



**Upper Disaster**

We had barely gotten to rest on our laurels before we saw Will go left of the pointy rock and the water forced him straight up the middle of Lucifer. It was spectacular, but put him in the water. I reined in his boat and shoved it to the Jankowskis who pinned it against a wall where Will re-mounted and eventually emerged to finish the rock garden below. Jeanne, Connie, and Jeanne's canoe took the land route, so Scott/Tom strong-armed the correct right-of-pointy-rock-then-left-of-Lucifer that worked best for the

After a lunch and lengthy scout of Hell's Half Mile, the raft did an extended high-side up against Lucifer Rock that threatened to put the group groover and Langellos in the water. The Jankowskis made the correct moves to the right of the pointy rock and across to the left of Lucifer. I followed suit, but looked too far ahead and was clipped by a rock so did a 360 before going right of the pointy rock and then banked off the left of Lucifer pretty hard so was thrown into a 180. Had to catch my breath by the huge log that provides a good photographer perch before finishing the top and ferrying to the right bank.



**Brown Trout from the Jones Creek**

canoes by wading around rocks on the right side to get set up to the right of the pointy rock. With higher water volume, this can be paddled and is probably the best approach.

As we came to Steamboat Rock and Echo Park, some of us were treated to a group of about 10 male mule deer slowly walking across the river. There were several adolescents as well as a few that had extra large racks. We also saw desert bighorn sheep multiple times within about 100' of us.



**Echo Park**

(from Calgary) took over a thousand photos, and Scott had a new video camera that captured crazy canoers cavorting in the rapids.

We encountered Ring-tailed Cats at our Jones Hole Camp #2, which was the best of the 4 sites near that beautiful creek. Scott scared them off with large rocks. (It is best to avoid the overused Pot Creek site where the cats and ants abound and take Kolb instead.) We all hiked up Jones Creek to see some very nice pictographs and experience the "butt-dam" waterfall, and many went the 7 miles RT to the fish hatchery. Adler caught a number of gorgeous trout in Jones Creek and Mike cooked up a couple of them for breakfast.

The geology was very impressive, and while the rapids below Lodore were much easier, they were still fun. Tom

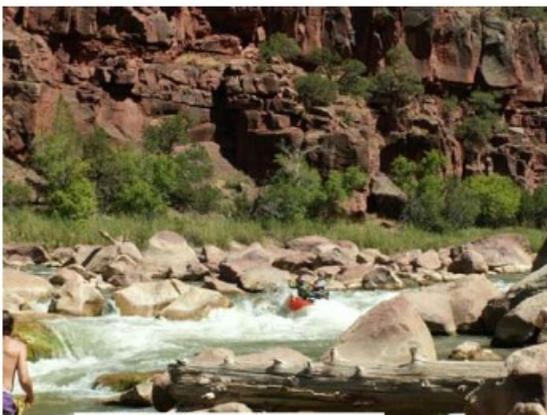


**Limestone Campsite**



**Pictographs Echo Park**

A Lodore potluck and photo show on the big screen TV potluck is planned for Sunday Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at Jeanne's house. All RMCCers are invited to join us - call her at home:  for directions.



**Hells Half Mile**



**Scott and Connie running a rapid**

## Safety Corner

### Thoughtful's Spring Paddling After the 2005 Floods: by Tom Jacklin (photos of the Elbow River at Weaselhead Bridge in Calgary)

#### Calgarians battle raging Elbow

Glenmore Reservoir spills over dam  
C

#### City residents ready to flee

Water overflows  
Glenmore Reservoir  
S

#### Calgary battles surge in river as dam overflows

Concerns over safe drinking water center focus in Alberta town

Thoughtful lives in Calgary and noticed the big flood last year and was wondering how this would affect her paddling this year. Thoughtful was wondering what the conditions of the rivers were after last years flood and what could be expected. So she asked Wisepaddle to help her understand the situation. Wisepaddle says that rivers are a living entity. This has been stated from the view point of the wildlife inhabiting the environment around the river to the organisms and fish living in the river. Often, however, people do not think of the river as being dynamic in character. Flooding is a normal event that happens regularly to a river however the amount of flooding varies.

Wisepaddle also says that the dynamic character of the river often rearranges the river and this may not necessarily make paddling any more dangerous. A river may change from one day to another and just because Thoughtful paddled the river the day before does not mean that Thoughtful should assume that everything is ok. As Thoughtful ventures onto the river there are certain precautions and safety practices that she must keep in mind. These include the skills of the group as well as consideration of the river features and also how Thoughtful feels that day.

Thoughtful joined Bow Waters Canoe Club because she likes to paddle in groups rather than alone and because people are interesting. They help with shuttles and also in the case of a rescue sometimes they can help. Sometimes Thoughtful has discovered that self rescue is faster especially if everyone is cheering her along. It must be fun! Thoughtful has also seen others throw the rescue throw bags into the air and sometimes they even land behind them rather than in the intended direction. Thoughtful doesn't want that to happen so she secretly practices throwing her throw bag. Thoughtful knows that it is her responsibility to decide if the river is for her as no one else is able to paddle her canoe down the river. Sometimes she feels like they don't want to anyway. Scouting may also often be necessary even when the rest of the group does not see it that way.

Wisepaddle says that river features include flow rate. In spring time there is runoff which in some cases actually allows the river to become navigable. Thoughtful finds that it is hard to paddle a canoe down a stream bed with little water. Sometimes the flow rate is so big that it causes problems. This may require extra skill in executing maneuvers on the river, even Thoughtful has experienced this problem. Sometimes she doesn't quite make the moves she wants to in order to impress the other members.

There are times when Thoughtful has turned away from the river because she felt that the high water was of concern. In spring time as well Thoughtful has found the water to be cold and has noticed people wearing drysuits. They are not very form fitting unless the occupiers ate too many donuts! Thoughtful has found it is very difficult to swim in cold water and the shock of the entry into the water is something to experience. Wisepaddle says that high water also creates a difficulty in the rescue of boats and



paddlers. High water may also cause erosion and even the creation of a new channel. Thoughtful has noticed this too. Alas Thoughtful has also decided that on some days it is just best to just choose a safer river or stay away until the conditions are more favorable. She has a responsibility to her loved ones.

Thoughtful in the past has not always recognized a problem that a hazard might pose. Experience has been teaching her that even though a tree may only look like a tree in the water it may cause problems. Thoughtful has found that sweepers are most often found on the outside bends of the river but may also be found anywhere. They can be in the strongest current and thus drawing her and her beautiful boat to them and difficult to avoid. Trees are beautiful but they should stay on the shore line. Wisepaddle says that log jams can trap people and equipment with terrible consequences. Sweepers are defined from the ACA Safety Code as strainers, brush, fallen trees, bridge pilings, undercut rocks or anything else which allows river current to seep through and can pin boats and boaters against the obstacle. Rescue is often difficult as water pressure on these features can be extreme.



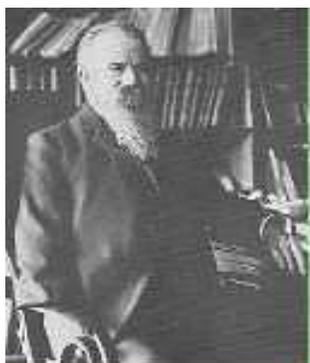
So what is Thoughtful to do? Wisepaddle says that rivers can be exciting and the potential for fun can be immense. Thoughtful has discovered this! Thoughtful has to be aware, paddle defensively and stay alert. Thoughtful has to keep her skills up and use common sense. Thoughtful also wants to take more lessons! All this can only mean more fun for her and her friends!!!!!!

For those non-metric paddlers:

16 m <sup>3</sup> /s	>>>	650 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
372 m <sup>3</sup> /s	>>>	15,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
14 m <sup>3</sup> /s	>>>	570 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

### **A Brief History of Stream Gauges: by Tom Jacklin**

The development of civilizations has always relied on the availability of fresh water. The United States is no exception. We have depended on our lakes, streams, and rivers to supply water and serve as lifelines allowing for growth, development, and expansion into new territory.



As a result of rapid growth in the 1880's, population began to branch westward into the drier regions of the country, leaving the usually dependable waterways of the East far behind. Around the same time, John Wesley Powell, the second director of the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), requested that streamflow be monitored in eight river basins in the West. His goal was to measure the flow of streams and determine the potential for the irrigation systems that would be so vital to the economic development of this parched region. In 1889, the first U.S. stream-gauging station was established on the Rio Grande near Embudo, New Mexico. At this station, standard streamflow measurement procedures were devised.

John Wesley Powell, 1834-1902

Upon establishment of streamflow measurement methods at Embudo, personnel were dispersed to collect streamflow data at other western locations. Within two years the first streamflow measurements in the East were made on the Potomac River at Chain Bridge, near Washington, D.C., and a gauging station was established there on May 1, 1891. By 1895, discharge measurements were being made by the USGS in at least 27 states throughout the country.



# Store Closing Sale!

## Water Sports Snow Sports

**Everything is 35-90% off right now. Daily additional discounts until everything is gone! Get yours before someone else does. Do your holiday shopping now.**

Visit our website for gear/equipment, information, including a map to our store, online ski/board trips, avalanche classes, all at: [www.BOC123.com](http://www.BOC123.com)

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Be sure your friends know about these great deals at our store closing sale. Free shipping on almost everything! Skis to staplers, boats to office desks, everything is for sale! (Sale items are on our website, and our website is not closing.)

Thank you for your support.

# BOC

## BOULDER OUTDOOR CENTER



**Clear Creek Golden July 2006**

Check out the new Spark (seen at left) from Esquif canoes. <http://www.esquif.com/en/index.php>. Roll a tandem canoe? Check out the Esquif site under media.

## More Photos

Birds and bees and trees  
~ and the Badlands

Weaving through  
~ a river

Creaks from crickets  
Caws from crows  
Hush from brush  
~and grasses and sage  
As the sun fades

Haunted by the ancient sea  
Written in layers in the rock  
Old bones and fossils  
Speak of time that life forgot

Dragonflies and flutter-bys  
A spider awaiting dinner  
Big blue sky turning overhead  
Thin clouds sliding into thinner

Coyotes at night  
Picking a fight  
Out comes the big dipper  
~ and the dew

Badlands are good lands  
In a canoe.

By Tina Szabo while on the Red Deer  
River August 2006  
(Cnd Parks Service Banff, AB)



**Boundary Waters - a pleasant portage.**



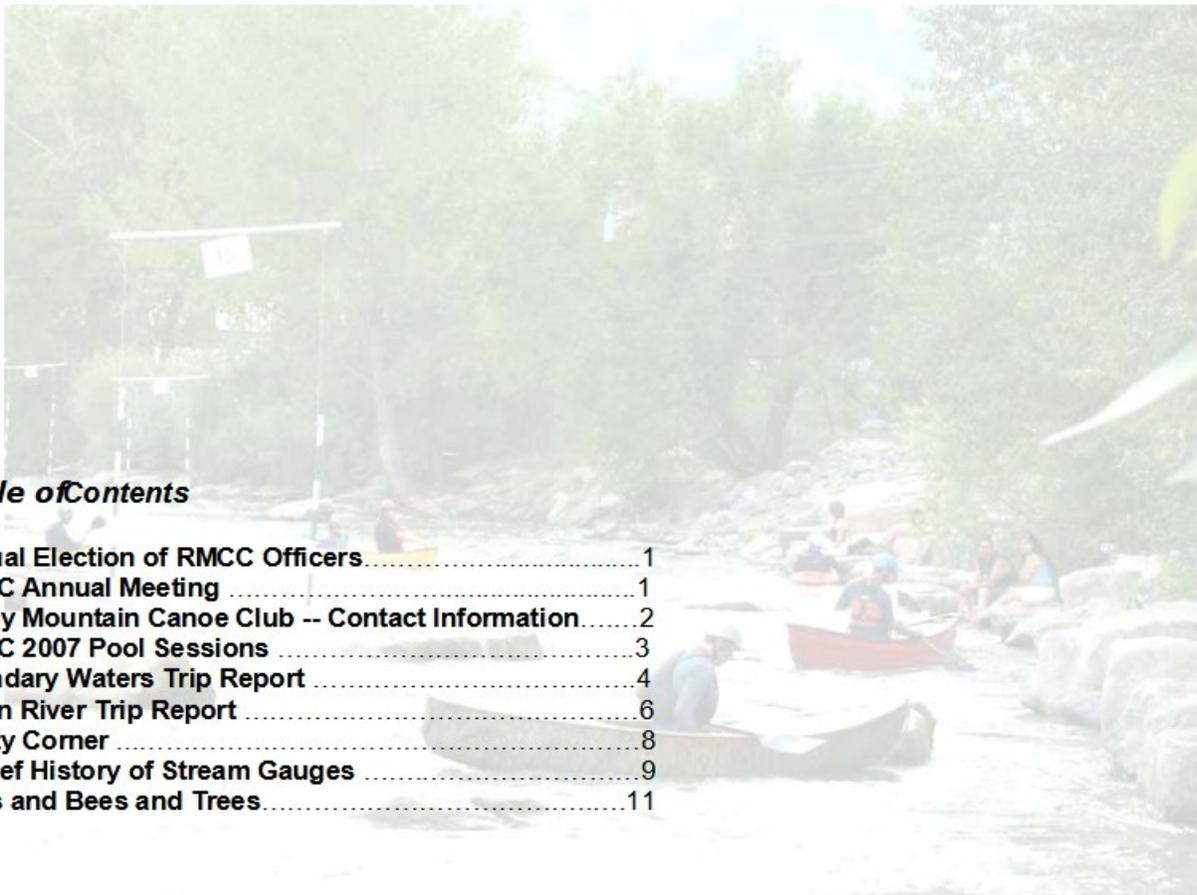
**Boundary Waters – cliffs on Knife Lake**



**Clear Creek Golden July 2006**



Rocky Mountain Canoe Club  
c/o Paul Holscher  
[Redacted]  
Englewood, CO 80113



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