



The Voyageur's Companion

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

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October 2009 issue
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Jeanne Willson, editor

Prez Letter ... the Last

It's been over 2 years since Jeff O. somehow talked me into taking over as the Prez, and it has been fun and fulfilling if occasionally frustrating. As most of our officers have been in their positions for multiple years, I want to recognize their support of the club....

Thanks go to Bill A. for helping build and administer the ACA insurance process, handling 2 Rendezvous events, leading numerous trips, and even taking on the Web maintenance. Jeanne W. has continuously improved the quality of the newsletter, managed its web, online, and printed versions, and led us to anticipate it with glee. Kathy A. picked up the Treasurer and club database responsibilities when that office was hastily vacated, and coordinated her tasks quite well with the needs of the Email List Manager, Editor, and Membership Chair.

Karen J. stepped up to create the new members email list that has strengthened our communication and allowed us to do an online newsletter. Gail C. sent out many welcome packets, greeted potential new members at a few paddling events, and has been a joy to work with. Jerry N. has taken the dissemination of conservation information to new heights, and led us to be more informed and better able to understand and lend support to them. And finally, Doug H. and Greg J. have had good ideas and given many years of support to the RMCC.

I also want to give my appreciation to all of the people who have been leading trips, providing instruction, and in advance thank those who are volunteering to step into an officer role. It is these kinds of people as well as all of the fun folks who go on trips that make the RMCC such a good club.

TAKE NOTE!

Fall meeting November 14, 2009

Free pizza, and BYOB! New location! Best of the best slides, elections, and other business. New members welcome!

Directions to Gail's Holiday Hills Clubhouse

2000 West 92nd Ave. (Pecos & 92nd)

From Boulder: Exit off East bound Hwy 36 (Boulder Turnpike) at Sheridan - using the left hand turn lane to head NORTH. Get immediately over to the RIGHT and turn RIGHT onto 92nd Ave. - short distance of .4 mile. Head EAST on 92nd for 2.3 miles and turn LEFT into the Main Entrance just before the light at Pecos (don't go in the bus stop west entrance) Go straight about 150 yards; you'll see the clubhouse in front of you, turn left and park on the west side of it.

From I-25: Take the Thornton Parkway exit and follow it 1.3 miles WEST with it changing its name to 92nd; then turn RIGHT into the Main Entrance of Holiday Hills just past the light on Pecos - go straight about 150 yards; you'll see the clubhouse in front of you, turn left and park on the west side of it.

I've been lucky enough to go on 5 multi-day trips this season, on 2 day paddles, and to 2 river events. The Yampa Canyon and Chama were extremely memorable, and proof that these tough permits are obtainable if you are persistent. Bill A's late September Loma to Westwater had 2 dozen boaters, so it is good to see that level of enthusiasm and participation.

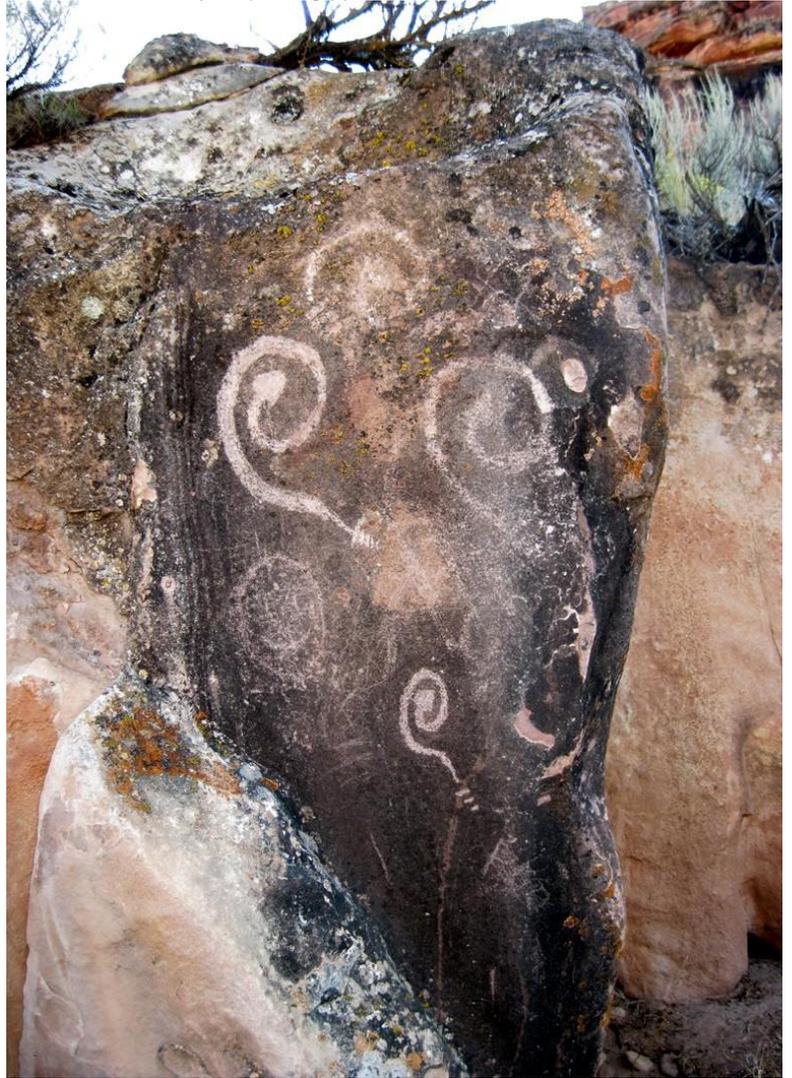
Don't forget to attend the Nov. 14 annual meeting at Gail's clubhouse. See driving directions given in this newsletter. We will start by watching the best slides from the Yampa Canyon trip while eating free pizza/salad/dessert. But BYOB this time; since we are not at REI you can get more creative. Then we'll have elections and cover several business topics. I'll send out an email as a meeting reminder with an agenda as we get closer to the meeting.

I'm happy to have served as President, and look forward to a break from officer responsibilities. But I'll be out on the rivers and leading some trips and hope to land a couple of good permits for next season.

Sadly tucking the canoes away for the winter,

Karen A.

Rattlesnake Canyon petroglyphs, Colorado River



Fruita to Westwater, September 26-7, 2009

Bill Ashworth (Logistics notes added by Jeanne Willson)

For the last scheduled RMCC trip on the website, we couldn't have picked a better weekend, a better venue, or a more congenial group. Our 16 paddlers represented quite a variety of experience and hull types:

Greta A and Taj - a long-time RMCC member from earlier years and her friend in a Mad River canoe
Bill and Kathy A - 3 year members in an Old Town Appalachian canoe
Doug H - a real "mossback" member in a Mohawk solo
Kathryn M. and Chet P with Chet's daughter Margaret - multiyear members in a Mad River tandem and a Bell solo
Stephanie W. and her son, brother and sister-in-law - new members and guests in kayaks
Denise and Richard B - new members in an Old Town canoe
Janet M - a new member in a kayak
Todd W - a new member in an Old Town Disco 158 canoe

Old friends, new friends on the Colorado River. Photo: Bill Ashworth



After an 8 am rendezvous at the Fruita boat launch and an uneventful shuttle to Westwater Station, we paddled the 16 miles to Mee canyon in about 5 hours, with a lunch stop at the entrance to Rattlesnake Canyon where we viewed the eponymous petroglyphs. Actual wildlife viewed along the way included bald eagles, great blue herons, dippers, mergansers, kingfishers, swallows, and a pair of playful otters.

After the camps were set-up and the sun was well down, the lone cottonwood became party central for a prodigious happy hour with wonderful appetizers. In the morning, a leisurely 9 am departure brought us into the Westwater Station take-out around noon. And though lovely, the Black Rocks section saw none of our boater unhorsed by whirlpools or crosscurrents. Special thanks to:

Jeff O (running a private trip) for securing us a primo campsite

Doug H for bringing AND CLEANING the groover

Denise B for whipping up an AMAZING yogurt and bean dip in the back of her Old Town

Janet M for pulling an astounding quantity of group goodies (firewood, marshmallows and roasting sticks, etc) out of the bulkheads of her tiny kayak. Think circus clown car.

Mouth of Mee Canyon from camp on the Colorado. Photo: Bill Ashworth



Logistics notes: The Fruita Boat Ramp is located in the Colorado River State Park. Camping available (fee; RV or tent; showers available). Putting in here adds about 4.5 miles of flatwater to the trip but avoids the madness of the Loma ramp. Stop at Loma first thing on the shuttle to reserve a campsite but remember that possession is 9/10ths of the law, so have someone get to the campsite early. The stop at Rattlesnake Canyon has a terrific hike of about 4 miles (?) to the stunning and impressive Rattlesnake Arches but the hike is quite steep with slippery footing in places and is generally hot and dry; casual hikers may not make it all the way, but even a quick trip up the canyon is fun. The hike will take several hours depending on how much you explore. Drinking water (2 liters +) required, other ten essentials & hiking boots highly recommended.

2010 Club Volunteer Role Descriptions

Karen Amundson

President: Set up and run club and officer meetings. Coordinate and support other officers and process improvements. Communicate in each newsletter and via the members' email distribution list when needed. Coordinate or delegate the Rendezvous and other special events or projects. Manage any emails and calls received from members and non-members.



Vice President: Coordinate with and assist the President on special events and projects and with other needs.

Treasurer: Handle all banking transactions, including deposits and payments and the bookkeeping to track these items. Process new and renewed member applications, and expire those who don't renew. Maintain the RMCC membership database and coordinate information changes with all other officers who need that data.

Kootenay River, Kootenay National Park, British Columbia

Bow River Canoe Club Trip August 2009; Video link submitted by Tom Jacklin, Calgary, AB.
Click or go here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl9AH2v5H14> Coming soon - the HD 37 minute version!

Newsletter Editor: Solicit and edit articles and information for newsletters, which normally are published each year in February, April, June, August, and October. Provide each edition of the newsletter via mail, online, and the web as needed. Publish the club roster annually.

Membership: Send welcome packets to new members and lead activities designed to gain more members. Help where possible with the brochure dropping. Encourage members to invite guests to special events and trips. Store the club banner to use at all events.

Trip / Event Scheduler: Post trips and events on the web and publicize them via the member email distribution. Recruit trip coordinators and promote a healthy schedule via methods such as lining up a Permit Party. Coordinate collection of waivers and dues for the ACA and communicate with them whenever needed.

Advertising and Brochure-dropping

Manager: Recruit and coordinate advertising in the newsletter and on the web. Distribute club brochures at paddling locations where new members might be found.

Conservation Chair: Coordinate club support of conservation activities and communicate news regarding paddling, water issues, environmental/political concerns and related topics that might be of interest to members.

Kathy A. paddles the Colorado. Photo: Bill Ashworth



It's not 'landscape', it's 'grandscape' on the Green through Dinosaur. Photo: Tom Jacklin



Quartermaster:

Store club equipment such as the tent canopy, portable toilets, fire blanket, video tapes, etc. and distribute them to officers, trip coordinators and members on an as needed basis. Keep an inventory of items and inform the membership occasionally on their availability.

Webmaster:

Maintain and improve the presentation and content of club information on the rockymountaincanoec

ub.org website. Administer ownership of our URL and manage the services of our web provider.

E-mail List Manager: Set up new members on the rmccmembers@indra.com email distribution program and remove expired members from it. Watch for and manage any suspended email on this list and on the self-subscribe rmcc@indra.com list. Update the officers@rockymountaincanoecub.org group to reflect the current list of officers. Answer questions and handle problems or revisions as needed.

After the deluge, night before the Rio Chama put-in ... morning in camp on El Vado State Park reservoir (Steve Luttmann)



Enjoying the ever-changing Yampa Canyon, near the steps etched in stone and the Fremont granaries in a sandstone cave where a headdress of flicker tail feathers was found, among many other treasures. Photo by Eric Hermann.



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Rocky Mountain Canoe Club -- Contact Information Website:
<http://www.rockymountaincanoecub.org>

Membership: \$20 per year, per household. See Membership section of our website, for forms and information:

E-mail list: Check the web site for new information.

Please send any updates of your contact info (mailing address, email, or phone number) directly to Kathy at

Thanks!

Night Two, Harding Hole, on the Yampa



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB
c/o Kathy Ashworth

Boulder, CO 80308-1064



CLUB CONTACTS

President	Karen Amundson
Treasurer	Kathy Ashworth
Newsletter	Jeanne Willson
Schedule, Web	Bill Ashworth
Membership	Gail Campbell
Advertising	Greg Jankowski
Conservation	Jerry Nolan
Quartermaster	Doug Hurcomb



***In This Issue:* Descriptions of volunteer roles in the club; directions for the November meeting; Loma trip report**
***Schedule of events:* November Annual meeting; Winter pool sessions; Winter permit party**