

15th Almost Annual Spring Kickoff WE ARE BACK TO the South Platte Paddling Trip

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club ☒ Poudre Paddlers Club ☒ Flatwater Frogs ☒
Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club ☒ High Country River Rafters

Saturday, March 30th

(Snow/Rain Date: Saturday, April 6th)

- **Casual flatwater (class I) day trip, suitable for novices, families. Bring your friends!**
**Caution is recommended for flows above 800 cfs for novices & families.

Check the Kersey Bridge Flow Gauge:

http://www.dwr.state.co.us/SurfaceWater/data/detail_graph.aspx?ID=PLAKERCO&MTYPE=DISCHRG

- **Pre-registration is not necessary. Membership is not required, though we encourage you to take this opportunity to join our organizations.**

- **Two trip choices: To Kersey Bridge = 9 miles; To Kuner Bridge = 14 miles**

- **Meet at the put-in at Riverside Park in Evans, CO at 9:00 a.m.**
The park is newly restored (as of October 2018) after devastation by the September 2013 floods. From the stop light in the middle of Evans on highway 85, go ½ mile east on 37th Street. Turn right onto Riverside Parkway; there should be a blue state patrol sign there. Go 1/4 mile south through the neighborhood into the park.



- Access to the river and parking were rearranged during the restoration work. This google map image does not convey all the changes, but plan on driving past the parking area to a turn-around (obvious when you see it), drop your boats, and move your car to the parking area to make room for others. We will meet for launch about 40-50 yards south on the cement path on a bench by the river.
- **This trip could possibly be postponed due to bad weather or extreme flows.** Please check with your club coordinator (list below) the day before for the trip status. The snow/rain date is Saturday, April 6th.
- **We will have a short meeting for everyone at 9:30 at the put-in (i.e., beyond the turn-around).** Please unload boats and equipment promptly, and hand in waivers to your club coordinator (see below).
- **We will run two separate car shuttles to the two destinations (Kersey or Kuner).** One driver per car is needed for the shuttle; everyone else stays behind to finish moving boats and for security. Please decide by the meeting time, which shuttle to join so that your car will end up at the right place.
- **Bring:** Suitable canoe, kayak or inflatable. Also ESPECIALLY recommended is warm clothing, spare change of clothing, lunch, water, leak proof rubber boots and/or change of shoes (wet portage alert!), sunglasses, sun screen, sun hat, dry bag. Make sure children are well dressed for COLD water and air. Bring extra clothes and shoes for children!

- **Paddling Schedule (estimates only!):**
Lunch stop at second dam, 12:30 pm.
Kersey Bridge, 3:30 pm.
Kuner Bridge, 5:30 pm.



Safety Notices

- **Road Traffic:** There is high-speed traffic on the roads at Kersey and Kuner bridges, not expecting pedestrians there. Be vigilant and watch your children.
- **KERSEY destination:** Take out river left after you pass under both the new and old bridges. The parking at Kersey is more limited than previous years due to on-going bridge construction. We will discuss parking at the 9:30 meeting at the put-in.
- **KUNER destination:** For those doing the longer trip, please use the second (southern) bridge at Kuner, and stay within the highway right of way. The first bridge and surroundings are heavily posted. You will have to cross a sturdy barbed wire fence to get your canoe up to the road.
- **Dams:** There are two dams that we must portage. At lower water levels, the safe portage at the first dam used to be a lift-over at the bank on river right (you would get your feet wet). A spring 2019 reconnaissance (Mat and Kerry and Bill) suggest that a longer portage (100 yards?) along the left bank would be easier and safer. The second dam has a short land portage on the left bank. (These portages get more difficult above 1000 cfs). Please use extreme caution around the diversion dams. It can be surprisingly easy to get sucked over the edge if you don't keep a respectable distance away. Let those familiar with the dams set up the route and portage first. And please stick around to help others move their boats. We plan to stop at the second dam for lunch.
- **WAIVERS & PFD's REQUIRED.** There are normal boating risks involved; thus signed waivers and PFD's (life vests) are required. Cold springtime water; two dams to portage; submerged and overhanging trees; sometimes wires across river; unpredictable changes to river configuration; voracious gators; etc. Please Note: This is NOT an ACA sanctioned event.
*Help us out by printing your waiver off your club website and bringing it to the meeting place.
Unaffiliated paddlers please use the Poudre Paddlers waiver.*
- **Hypothermia.** The water can be quite cold on a spring trip like this. One of the best defenses against hypothermia in case of a tip-over is to travel with one or more companion boats, so that you can quickly get assistance to dry land and a change of clothes. Bring a change of clothes in your boat!

FIVE Organizations, Contacts, Links and Maps

Come on out and meet your fellow paddlers and club representatives. For waiver print-outs and more club info:

Flatwater Frogs – **Holly Burger**, artafire@msn.com,
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/727839657360758/>

High Country River Rafters – **Nick Jimroglou**, njimroglou@gmail.com, <http://www.hcrr.org>

Poudre Paddlers – **Debbie Hinde** - dhinde1@msn.com; <http://www.poudrepaddlers.org>

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club – **Kathryn Mutz**, kathryn.mutz@colorado.edu
<http://www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org>

Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club – **Jud Hurd**, hurdofgoats@gmail.com, www.rmskc.org