



The Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

June 2003

Early Summer Newsletter

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Summer 2003 Presidential ranting and ravings

Greg & Karen Jankowski, Co-Presidents

Well it looks like the prayers and wishes have been answered

After one of the driest years on record, it looks like the flood gates have been opened. In typical Colorado weather fashion we now have flood warnings, sand-bagging, I-70 closed due to a sinkhole, and streams being closed to all but experienced boaters. Hopefully this will fill the reservoirs, until then don't expect some of the streams to be runnable, an example would be the Dolores with 18 cfs instead of 2,000 to 3,000.

About Membership and Dues

Dues are due each year!!

If your name is not on the printed ROSTER (inside); then it appears that you have not paid dues.

Contact Laurel Adams [redacted] for detailed instructions to renew! Find application and waiver on web site.

RIVER

RENDEZVOUS

**Saturday and Sunday,
July 26 and 27**

See page 9.....

Keep in touch with RMCC on the
WEB at

rockymountaincanoecub.org

Trip Schedules
News & Information
Pictures
Training
Schedule **Your Trip**

Meet & Greet at Dotsero to Hanging Lake

In an effort to welcome new members into the world of river running, we have decided to try a new approach, if you have had the interest or wanted to meet other canoeists, then this is your chance. What we are planning is an easy class I stretch of the Colorado, starting at Dotsero, going into Glenwood Canyon, and taking out at Hanging Lake. We will meet at 9:00am at the parking lot between the old highway and I - 70, run the shuttle at 9:30 with a potluck lunch at Hanging Lake. Due to the high flows and the cold water, it is highly recommended having flotation in the boat, wetsuits especially for the

kids, and an extra paddle.

Activities afterward can range from a great hike up to Hanging Lake or for those that want a little more challenging paddle a run down from Grizzly Creek to Glenwood may be in order. For those that may have a little soreness, a soak in the Glenwood pool may be just what the doctor ordered.

Wednesday's at Golden

As in years past, we are going to try to dominate the Golden white water park with canoes on Wednesday afternoon / evenings.

Golden's water fight

Last month, the city of Golden won its case in the Colorado Supreme Court, the city had set a prece-

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Low Water Adventure

San Miguel River

By Tuppen Burke

This spring, Mike and I were invited to join Lee Bartlett and Rod and Judy Martin for a day trip on the San Miguel River. At 175 miles from Silt, it stretches the limit of a day trip for us, and water levels were looking low. Nevertheless, we were energized by the prospect of a sunny, warm day, a gorgeous scenic drive, and a chance to paddle with the folks from Montrose.

The road trip met our expectations. From Whitewater, we headed west, descending into the narrow green pastureland of Unaweep Canyon. At Gateway, we emerged into vertical red rock country with a view of the snowy La Sal mountains in the background. We continued upstream along the Dolores River and then the San Miguel, meeting our group at the power station just east of Naturita. After discussing our options, we decided to play on the "Ledges" run. From the power station, we drove upstream to the "green truss bridge", our take-out. Then we turned right on a small, muddy dirt road that winds through the wooded riparian zone, and headed upstream about 5 miles. Our put-in was a primitive campsite along the



Rod and Judy Martin

Tuppen Burke

river, not marked in any way. Apparently it is not critical to launch from a specific site. The guys ran a quick shuttle, and we were ready to paddle.

The riverbed there is composed of blocky chunks and slabs of sedimentary rock, making for a busy Class II run that is full of play spots. The flow was low, probably not more than 400 cfs. That level is certainly navigable, if you don't mind whacking your paddle on the rocky bottom at times.

On the Ledges run, you can take your pick from a multitude of surf holes ranging from smooth, river-wide waves to steeper side-surf ledges. Rod

and Judy, paddling tandem in their Mad River Synergy, demonstrated masterful surfing ability. Lee challenged himself in some of the bigger, gnarlier holes. I momentarily forgot my side-surfing skills and became the only swimmer for the day.

This run can be part of a longer day trip or a multi-day trip. The section we ran did not have any rapids that required scouting from shore, but that may not be true for the longer run.

The San Miguel has a short boating season, especially during a year of low snowpack, such as now. If you find yourself in the vicinity of Telluride or the Dolores river basin during the runoff, it's well worth exploring.

Lee Bartlett surfing on the San Miguel

Tuppen Burke



North Fork of the Cache La Poudre

(Lower Section)

Al Johnson

I had the opportunity to run this creek twice this year. My first run down was with Susan Graham and Eric Bernhardt at 350-cfs and the second run included Susan Graham, Doug Green, Jeff Evans and Ken Bauer at 265-cfs. At 350-cfs, the water is swift moving, but not pushy. The 265-cfs run still had plenty of water, but not quite as exciting.

This stretch is about 11-miles long or so with typically a very short season. The run consists of 8 miles of creek class II+ with a few III- drops; 1 ½ mile paddle across Seamans reservoir; a 70 yard portage; and 1 mile or so of class II water to the take out.

The scenery on this trip is outstanding! You think your paddling in a western movie. This run has both a ranchland and wilderness feel. On one trip we saw a rattle snake on the bank and a few cows. The second trip we saw a Golden Eagle and a few cows.

The creek is very windy and tight in spots. Your first time down your not sure what lurks around every corner, as it is hard to see due to the bushes along the banks and tight turns. There were also enough rapids to keep it interesting and there were quit a few surf waves. The paddle across Seamans took 75 minutes the first time and 45 minutes or so the second time.

There are four fences that cross the river. All of the fences were easy spotted. We floated over three of the fences and one required a portage. However, Susan was able to slip her boat through the portage fence on the right side.

We never saw another boater on either trip. We did see a few people around the Larimer County open space and around the reservoir on the first run.

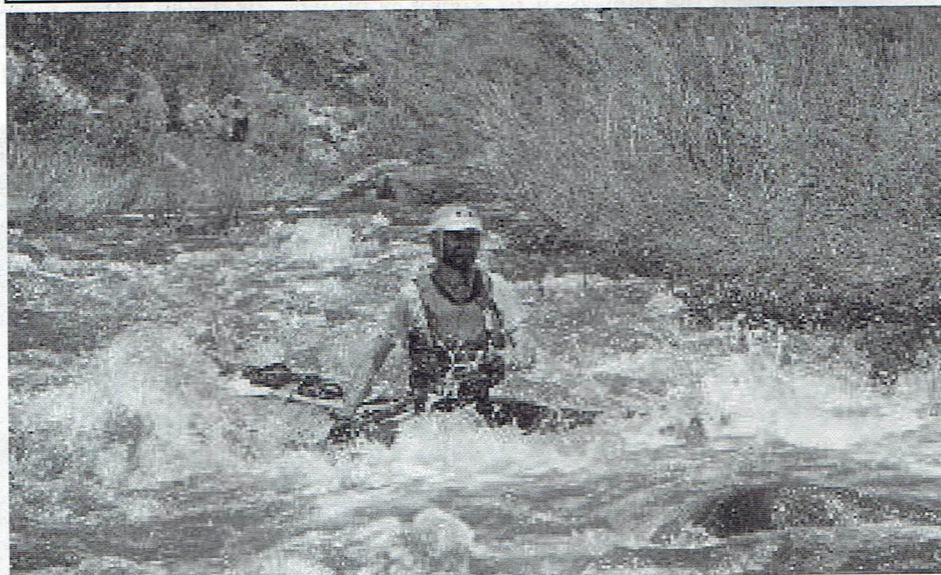
The put in is West of Livermore on 74E Rd at the Bridge. We took out both times at the old Filter Plant put in. If you wanted you could run Filter Plant also, but we found our selves pretty tired by the time we reached the take out.

This run makes for a long day, especially if you get wind on the reservoir, but I felt it was well worth it as I did it twice this season.

If it runs next year and you like a scenic paddle with mild rapids, check it out.

Gumby in rioie

Al Johnson



Presidential Rantings and Ravings

continued

dent in getting the right to have 1,000 cfs flow through Clear Creek for recreational purposes. This is the first time that recreational uses have been given any right to the water. The downstream users fought the case arguing that Golden couldn't change the water rights that have been in existence for over a century just because there may be a race or other competition. This signifies a major shift in power from the agricultural to the money that boaters spend and the economic impact that the cities receive from hosting competitions.

New white water parks

As described in the last issue, Lyons has opened their new WWP, Gunnison has finished and hosted their first event at their new WWP, Golden extended theirs, over doubling the length.

Niobrara River

Douglas Hurcomb

The Memorial Day weekend Niobrara River trip was a success. Most of the group of 14 witnessed an intense sand hills lightning and thunder-storm enroute to Valentine that included hail, intense winds, and drenching rain in the blackness as well as the threat of tornados. I heard a few terrified cries calling "turn around" from the back seat. The experience was intensified slightly by turning up the booming AM radio.



Saturday dawned bright and blue-skied, perfect for canoeing. The river flowed swift and quiet, tinted brown from the storm runoff past steep, pinkish gray and mahogany colored bluffs and walls topped with ponderosa pine, various broad leafs, fir, and pasture dotted with wildflowers. I lost count the many waterfalls. The plains grasses were intense green and the shuttle drivers saw many wild turkey.

We camped in style at Smith Falls State Park. The primitive campground was mostly empty, which seemed odd for Memorial Day weekend. Nebraskan's must wait until it's hot.

The highlight of day 2 was the perfect lunch spot with a picnic table. The afternoon wind slowed the trip down to Rocky Ford. The agreeable group, great scenery and the intense storm made the trip memorable. Two National Park Service Rangers accompanied us periodically and talked of about 100 miles of quality canoeing upstream of Cornell Dam. They advised those interested to study the Nebraska State Road Atlas and topographic maps as well as do some scouting. The bridges at major roads provide access but land ownership issues need respect.

Niobrara River paddlers

*Photos by Doug
Hurcomb*



Paddling the "Filter Plant" Run on the Poudre

*Sumarized by Jim Hollaway,
thanks to Dave Karan and
Poudre Paddler News*

Lower Picnic Rock — Friends of the Poudre (FOP), Poudre Paddlers, and other organizations have teamed up with the City of Fort Collins to reopen Lower Picnic Rock. Lower Picnic Rock is a picnic ground and parking lot that has served as the take-out for the Filter Plant run on the Cache la Poudre River. While arrangements to maintain the site are not totally set yet, here's what's happening.

A sign will be installed notifying the public that the area is being maintained by volunteer labor by Poudre Paddlers, FOP, and other organizations and requesting everyone to haul out their own trash. No visible trash canisters or pickup will be evident. This is a user-maintained area. Paddlers who are paddling Filter Plant are urged to take 5 or 10 minutes when taking-out to pick up litter at Lower Picnic Rock.

FOP, Poudre Paddlers, etc., will also be making arrangements for sewage

disposal. We do not yet know whether the existing outhouse will be reopened or if a porta-john system will replace it. The exact distribution of labor and expense between these groups and the City has yet to be determined.

Gateway Park — The City of Fort Collins has opened its first mountain park. It is located a bit upstream of the longstanding Filter Plant put-in. For those of you who have wondered where the name "Filter Plant" came from, this is it. To this day, there is a functioning primary water treatment facility at this location. You can see the domed structure from Hwy.14 as you climb a hill. There is an historic secondary water treatment facility on the premises too, and the North Fork of the Poudre spills out into the main stem in Gateway Park. It is now an alternate put-in and place to picnic. Here's the scoop.

Initially, the Park was opened with a day pass (\$4 ? per car) required. Through the work of Poudre Paddlers (for one), you can now buy an annual pass for \$30. Paul Berkholder, the on-site, resident manager for Gateway will sell you an annual pass.

The City wants to improve safety for both boaters and people driving on Hwy.14. So, if we are speedy about unloading our boats and gear and park

outside the park, we can use this put-in for free. The idea is to take only 5 minutes unloading boats and gear on weekends or holidays. Then move your car to the pullout just west of the entrance to Gateway Park from Hwy.14. It's on the north side of the highway. Then walk back down into the park. If launching on a weekday, you can take 10-15 minutes to unload. If you are taking advantage of this no-fee way of using the Gateway put-in, you will need to consolidate boats, etc. onto as few vehicles as possible before entering the park. Parking space is extremely limited in Gateway Park. Bring the family sometime and combine a paddle with a picnic. Come to fish.

Or hike across the bridge that crosses the river and hike up to Seaman Reservoir. Gateway Park also now serves as one way to get back into DOW land by foot. (The public cannot use this bridge to drive up there. The bridge simply isn't engineered for high levels of auto use.)

So, (thanks to our friends up north, ed.) there are lots of new goings on up the Poudre Canyon this year. If you want to check out the extra section of Filter Plant, try Gateway out as a put-in.

Editor's Note: RMCC says way to go Poudre Paddlers, et al.

RIVER RENDEZVOUS

Potluck, Dutch oven Cook-off Radium, BLM Group Campsite

From I-70 in Silverthorne take Hwy 9 North almost all the way to Kremmling. About 1-2 miles from Kremmling turn left on 1 Road (dirt) AKA Trough Road. Go approximately 15 miles to intersection with 11 Road where there should be a sign to Radium. Turn right onto 11 Road and go a few miles to the Radium BLM Campsite, which is on the left just before the road crosses the Colorado River.

There will be a large canvas canopy set up which is reserved for our group site located on the hillside farthest from the river. We will have our banner posted. For those that show

up early on Friday there will be boating. Saturday we will have various trips led for all levels of boating. Saturday evening we will have our annual Dutch oven cook-off contest. We will present prizes for main dish, bread, dessert and best all around dish. Judging begins promptly at 7 p.m.

Please bring a side dish if you choose not to participate in the Dutch oven cooking. Please bring your own beverages, dishes, silverware, chairs, guitars and harmonicas.

There is a \$1.00/person camp fee per night and a \$3.00/vehicle fee per night. We will be collecting the fees on Saturday night. We also have our new Rocky Mountain Canoe Club sew on patches for sale for \$3.00.

Sunday Greg and I will be serving pancakes. Please bring a side dish to share. We will have more canoeing Sunday after breakfast.



CANOE COLORADO

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MOTION PLEASURE - THE JOY OF PADDLING A WELL DESIGNED CANOE OR SEA KAYAK

Dues Increase

ACA WILL SOON BE INCREASING MEMBERSHIP DUES

The ACA will be increasing its' yearly membership dues by an additional \$5.00 for every membership category this coming July. Members will be allowed to renew at the old rates for the coming year if they send in their membership dues before July. So save 5 bucks and send in your 2003 membership early.

ACA Paddle America membership will go from \$15/individual to \$20 and family will go from \$20 to \$25.

Bob & Jill Stecker
ACA Open Canoe Slalom
Committee, Co-chairs

ACA BASIC RIVER AND WHITEWATER CANOE INSTRUCTORS DEVELOPMENTAL AND CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

This is the American Canoe Association open canoe instructors class. Certifications are possible in Basic River Canoe and Whitewater Canoe, for both solo and tandem. Certification is not guaranteed. Paddling and teaching skills are covered in on water and evening sessions.

DATE: August 8-12, 2003, 8 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

COST: \$325/person - You must be or become an ACA member.

PREREQUISITES: Participation in the course (or an equivalent) that you want to be certified in. Participation in a river safety class is highly recommended. You must be in good physical shape.

EQUIPMENT: Must provide your own equipment. An equipment list will be provided.

INSTRUCTORS: Jeff Oxenford (lead instructor/ IT candidate), Bob Foote (assistant/evaluator)

LOCATION: Colorado - First three days will be at Bear Creek Park, Morrison, CO. Moving water and whitewater will be on Clear Creek in Golden. Evening classes will be held in Golden, CO. Locations are subject to change based on water levels.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: Class size is limited to 10 and space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Full-payment (non-refundable) is required to register for the class.

Classifieds...

ForSale:

Mitchell Premier Canoe Paddle.

Wood oval shaft and curved carbon-covered blade with wooden dowel grip. Paddle is 57.5 inches, could be cut down for shorter length, if needed. Shaft a slight bit thinner than standard for lightness and good feel. Very good condition, some scratches, but no life taken off paddle. See mitchell web site at mitchellpaddles.com for more information. >\$225 new, will sell for \$125.

Mad River Explorer 16' 4" Canoe.

69 lbs; fiberglass, sand color w/ash trim & cane seats; new condition; \$1000 firm. 970-262-2949.

Rogue River 14 ft. Canoe.

Includes oars, cupholders, waterproof compartment and waterproof cooler. Only used one time and in excellent shape. \$300.00

Kokatat Paddling Top.

Excellent condition, used once, dark blue w/green sides, size small, with zippered mesh chest pocket, \$30 obo. Contact Ken Metzger

Dragonfly Solo Canoe.

Curtis Dragonfly solo tripping canoe in superb condition. It is a 14 1/2 foot, 38 lb. kevlar with beautiful wood trim. Color is sand. It is deep and narrow with 150-300 lb. efficient capacity. The hull design is very stable heeled to the gunnel making for easy freestyle enjoyment. I have all the specs and several fotos. Retail list was \$2199 about the time Curtis quite making canoes. Sell for \$975.00.

Dagger Caption.

Paddled tandem or solo WW canoe. Yellow, only used 6 times before injuring shoulder. Completely outfitted by Douglas

Whipper in Steamboat Springs 'i.e.' Three position saddle, float bags, foot blocks, thigh straps and everything else you need to hit the water. Paid \$1900.00 asking \$1200.00/obo.

Kayak, PFD.

PFD: Salus Life Jacket, brand new, large, red, hydrofill liner, side zip, web shoulder strips, contoured design, \$75 (that's \$50 off the new price of \$125).

Klepper touring kayak for sale with all the goodies for \$2900. It's an Expedition hull with declines rudder and compass, orange deck/gray hull, and is as new.

Red Cedar Trader Canoe.

Custom made by American Traders. Incredibly beautiful wood/glass canoe with red cedar hull, white cedar ribs and half ribs, mahogany seats and thwarts and yoke, ash gunwales and hand canned seats. Beauty of the wood is visible on the outside. It is ideal for solo or tandem touring or tripping on quiet or slow-moving waters. It is fast and nimble, responds beautifully. I have only used it two times, perfect condition. Was \$2000, reduced to \$1000. sammer elia

Yakima Rack.

Yakima raingutter tower set, 66" bars, set of lock cores. Excellent condition. \$95.00.

Aire Leopard Cataraft.

1993 18' Aire Leopard Cataraft very little use tubes are in excellent condition except for some minor aluminum oxide from frame (Still under warranty till 2003) Comes with 76"long X 72" wide 4 bay 1.66" 6061 T6 aluminum breakdown frame in worn but good condition. Frame comes with NRS high back tractor seat, NRS oar stands with pins, welded aluminum kick bar. Other inclusions. If brand new would sell for around 3000.00 plus

shipping and taxes. Color:Blue, Price: \$2,200.00 Located in Fort Collins CO Contact: Dave Zader

Thigh straps.

3 sets of double thigh straps for whitewater canoes used: 1/2 price of new ones. Jim,

Drysuit.

German made DryFashion wetsuit. White with blue and red stripes. Rarely used. Will fit up to 6 ft plus. \$150 Firm. Doug -

Portable Potty.

Flush type potty from REI \$50 new last year, will sell \$35. Chris Edwards

18-1/2 Foot Expedition Canoe.

Kevlar "Voyageur" Canoe by Mad River Canoe. Only 77 lbs, portage yoke, 1,300 pound cargo capacity, wood gunwales, slotted inwales, and cane seats. Repair kit included. An excellent boat for extended camping trips. \$1,200. Contact John

Wanted:

Whitewater Canoe.

Solo or tandem, under \$600. Please contact Jim

Dagger Legend with wood gunnels.

Call Jerry Starr

Dagger Ocoee or Mohawk Viper 11'

Solo whitewater canoe in good condition. Call Lee

Personal:

Retired canoe/mountain guide seeks partner(s) for extended trips. 3 days or more anytime anywhere. Richard Guzz.

The *Voyageur's Companion* is a periodic publication of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club. It is primarily the venue for the RMCC to post trip schedules, classified ads, and related material, enabling members to share and enhance their canoeing interests. Members are invited to contribute articles on canoe trips as well as informative articles on subjects such as: Paddling techniques, Equipment, Rigging the canoe, Environmental issues, River safety, Camping techniques, Canoe history. Please restrict articles to less than about a page and a half. BUT, nice photos enhance the interest in your news.

Submitting Articles: Editorial material for The Voyageur's Companion should be sent to: Lyndon Berry, Editor, The Voyageur's Companion, mountains.net. Prefer Word format via e-mail, but most other formats and paper is OK too. I have a scanner, so pictures are welcomed. JPG format is preferred for electronic photos, but most other formats OK also.

Deadline for a next issue is August 12. Get it to me, See it in print.

RMCC Membership:

\$15.00 per Household per Year. Contact Laurel Adams

Mail applications to:



PAID DUES?
see page 1



Newsletter of the *Rocky Mountain Canoe Club*, an *American Canoe Association Paddle America* partner.

The Voyageur's Companion

Buena Vista Colorado

