

Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

June 2005
Late Spring Newsletter

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Keep in touch with RMCC on the
WEB at

rockymountaincanoeclub.org

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

Rendezvous

Not the same-ol' same-ol'

July 22 - 24 (Fri eve. thru Sun)

Radium campsite on the Colorado River; located SW of Kremmling, CO. Everyone is invited.

The Rendezvous will be the fourth weekend of July and will include a variety of trips as well as the Dutch Oven Cook Off and Sunday pancake breakfast.

This is our big group event of the summer - a fun weekend of river canoeing, camping, and picnicking. Newcomers and novices are welcome! There will be river trips for most levels of boaters. You must be a member, or the guest of a member, to participate and must sign a waiver agreeing that you are taking full responsibility for your participation. Memberships will be available, \$20 per year.

DIRECTIONS: From I-70 in Silverthorne take Hwy 9 North almost all the way to Kremmling. About 1-2 miles before Kremmling, turn left on County Road 1 (dirt) AKA Trough Road. Go west and south approximately 15 miles to intersection with 11 Road where there should be a sign to Radium. Turn right onto 11 Road and go about 2.5 miles to the Radium BLM recreation site, which is on the left just before the road crosses the Colorado River.

For those of you coming from west of Frisco, take I-70 to the Wolcott exit. Take Hwy 131 north 15 miles to State Bridge, then right (northeast) on County Road 1 (dirt) about 10 miles, then left on 11 Road, about 2.5 miles to the Radium campsite as above.

Upon arrival look for further directions at the RMCC group camp site with the large canopy tent. Camping fees are required, so be prepared and retain your stub.

Letter from the President

Paddlers Rejoice!!!!!!

Bonnie Gallagher, president

As I write this letter, it has been five long years of low water levels and we finally have a season with water levels worth writing home about. The Dolores River is flowing at levels we haven't seen in seasons. Lake Powell is going to rise this summer instead of dropping for another year.

In this high water year, our club has many wonderful trips from which to choose for all levels of paddlers due in part to the wonderful work of our Trip Coordinator, Karen Amundson. Karen has done a wonderful job of finding trip leaders for all types and locations of river outings. Karen and Dave Allured have been communicating frequently to make all of the trip offerings known to all on the club web site. Thank you, Karen and Dave.

I am sorry to have read in our March newsletter of the retirement/resignation of our newsletter Editor, Lyn Berry. Lyn's expertise in publishing an informational and visually pleasing newsletter for us will be greatly missed. We are looking to fill this vacancy, so if you are willing to learn how to publish our newsletter, please let your nearest board member know.

The upcoming trips through our club are posted on our website. The Meet and Greet was postponed due to weather and high water. Justin is looking to hold a Meet and Greet on the Colorado near Glenwood later in September.

Justin and I are looking forward to chatting with everyone out on the rivers and in the eddies!

Remember to Lean Downstream.....

Continued, page 6

Kitchi – Gami

Paddling an Inland Sea

Photos and text by Justin Gilbert

My sixty-five mile coastal journey of Lake Superior Provincial Park was absolutely stunning. The coast varies from sandy peaceful harbors, cobble stone strewn beaches, and sheer cliffs plunging into the water. Parts of this coast appeared in Bill Mason's film, *Waterwalker*. I must say it was a great feeling to be back in the Canadian Shield and Boreal Forest of the North Shore. Bob, my friend from Michigan, accompanied me on this journey. Our trip was the last week of July '04. We paddled a tandem 17' Nova Craft Prospector. Bill Mason's craft of choice.

We put in at Sinclair Cove traveling North to Old Woman Bay where we would end our journey. Upon leaving the shelter of the cove and rounding the point to open water, you get a sense of how minute you are in your canoe. We headed south initially for the Agawa rock pictographs. These are one of the largest collections in all of Ontario. They depict several aspects of Indian culture on Lake Superior. After viewing the site, our main intention was to make an offering to Mishewpishew, the spirit of Superior. A mythical horned lynx when upset is said to unleash Superiors fury with a single swipe of its tail. The offering of tobacco was to appease Mishewpishew and for safe passage. From here we headed for camp at the Barrett River since it was already late in the day.

Upon waking, the bug situation was awful, the fabled Canadian mosquitoes. After donning the bug suit, I broke camp quickly. Bob, wasn't quite as fast, he didn't bring his suit. We opted to eat breakfast at the mouth of the Sand River on a sand dune. Rivers flowing from the park interior are depositing sand into Superior forming sand dunes along the coast. Leaving the Sand River we made two point to point open water passes. It is an amazing feeling being one to two miles off the coast on these passes. The first being, Katherine Cove then the Bald Head. Rounding the Bald Head we headed into Beatty Cove for camp.

The following morning, yet again the mos-

Page 2



quitoes were horrid. Leaving the shelter of the cove the weather was questionable although not risky. There were moderate 2' rollers and growing. We kept a watchful eye open for camp. Reaching Ryolite Cove we sought shelter. The red rock ryolite in composed of fused volcanic ash. The landing was interesting, riding the 3' surf onto shore. The weather from that point deteriorated. Putting up a tarp and relaxing, four hours passed before we could continue.

Making it to Gargantua Harbor the weather cleared. Within this harbor is a series of islands. Stopping at the Devils Warehouse Island we explored one of several alcoves. This island is a possible site of an ochre mine used by Indians. Within the alcoves are pieces of fallen rock called hematite, which is thought to be used in the red ochre. The ochre was used for its red color in body paintings and rock art, such as the Agawa pictographs.

Camp for the evening was in Warp Bay. Campsites here provided a stunning view of the island chain. Setting out on an evening paddle we encountered two beavers in Pangruel Bay. At the end of the bay there was a game trail leading to the water. Within the sand on the beach and beneath the water were large moose tracks.

Rising to a beautiful calm morning, we departed Warp Bay and spent some time exploring Tugboat channel. The channel is comprised of several sheltering islands before the exposure of Cape Gargantua. On one of the islands was a yearling Bald Eagle. An island of interest was the Devils Chair (actually resembles a chair). It is said in Ojibwa legend that the manitou

Nanabozo, a giant who protected them, rested here after jumping over Superior.

Pressing our luck Superior started to liven up with a NNW wind. Referencing the charts, a decision was made to shave several miles by running the Cape to Ryan Point. This was a blast. Half way out the rollers started to arrive. They grew to 3'. Quartering our way to the point was a bit tiring. Landing on a cobble stone beach we hiked up the cliffs to view beyond the point. Large rollers and whitecaps were on display. This turned into a seven-hour delay. Lounging in the sun, reading, and hydrating was on order.

One attempt was made to carry on. Paddling between Squaw Island and the point was short lived due to strong head winds and even larger swells. With the subsiding winds we paddled into camp on the Red Rock River. Here we enjoyed the first unobstructed setting sun upon Superior.

This camp would become home for three nights. The following morning Superior was whipped up into a fury. Deciding to refer to the VHF radio, the reports were coming in of severe thunderstorms along the U.P. of Michigan. With winds south-west at 20 to 30 knots, gusting to 50 knots, all the way north to the Pukaskwa Coast. A side note, plan on 1 out of 4 days being wind bound while padding the North Shore.

Later that morning a neighbor from up the beach wondered down to see if we were interested in exploring the river. He and his wife were out for 7 days on the coast.

We took him up on this offer. Rock hopping, pool wading, and climbing along the banks we made our way up to a set of falls where we took a soak. Here, we turned back. I must continue this exploration the next time I make it back to this area.

The next day, the surf was at its most impressive display. The VHF report was forecasting waves 2 meters plus. Late evening the weather calmed, with another impressive sun set. As the old sailor tale goes, "red sky at night, sailors delight – red sky in the morning, sailors take warning." This was indeed true. Paddling out past Cape Chaillon we keep our distance to avoid the reflection waves. We then headed for Old Woman Bay, the end of our journey. It is said that you can see the face of an old woman in the cliffs towering over 1000' above the lake.



Early Canoe Trip on the Gunnison

new member Judith Sellers

We lucked out once again with our spring river outing April 15-17 from Escalante bridge to Whitewater: excellent weather and no tipped canoes in the 50 degree water. Dave Allured skillfully led a gallant group of eight paddlers with diverse river experience through the very swift, muddy water running at 5000-7000 cfs! Not business as usual, we found ourselves only needing to paddle intermittently as we watched large branches float by in the chocolate current.

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Karen Amundson joined us Saturday with her fleet of three boats; they had discovered plenty of water in the left channel of Hail Mary rapid and scooted through, no sweat. What a relaxing trip! After barely noticing the second non-existent rapid (washed-out), we made camp at the mouth of Big Dominguez canyon, which we had to ourselves for both nights. This very much suited our mellow group, as we were focused on our cooking (some more than others) and the occasional wet cow with calf tromping by our kitchen, followed in short order by a vaquero on horseback, attempting a round-up. All this sans mosquitoes; we could sit without swatting around our impromptu campfire - made in a literal fire pan: Karen's old skillet donated to the cause. It all made for a truly fine camping experience.

Saturday morning started with news of beavers discovered during the night working just feet from this writer's tent! Then it was time to hike up canyon looking for our favorite creek pools, but those too were deluged, making things look unfamiliar. As we investigated the rock petroglyphs, Joseph Cugliat, a younger member of our group, found his own figures just inches above ground level - surely not seen by many people.

Sunday's paddle was speedy and extra challenging to not float by our take-out point. The car shuttle and pickup were made easier, having made arrangements with the Lazy S Arrow motel to do the bulk of the driving. Those of us waiting for our cars to arrive smiled when clouds opened up and the rain came down. After three glorious days, nothing could dampen our spirits.

Trip Leader; Membership Spotlight

Scott MacDonald

*Interview conducted and
scribed by:*

Bonnie Gallagher, March, 2005

EARLY PADDLING: *How long have you been paddling? How did you begin to learn to paddle? What type of boat did you originally paddle? Where did you do this paddling? Who did you paddle with back then?*

SCOTT: I've been paddling since I was 17. My brother and I made a flat bottom plywood boat for paddling streams in Ohio. Later that season we found a second plywood boat which we refurbished. After several easy local streams we took it down Paint Creek over spring break in high school just before they were to dam the stream, similar to the plot of Deliverance.

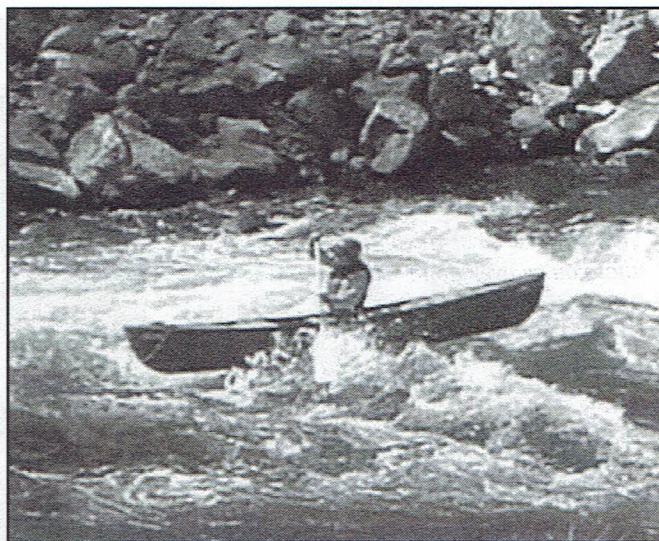
It is a class II+ stream which included portages over the dam project and one falls, along with an encounter with the nasty effluent from a papermill. Of course no life jackets back then!

PRESENT PADDLING: *What type(s) of boat (s) do you paddle now?*

SCOTT: Most of the time I paddle my Whitesell Whirlwind, which is a solo white-water boat. Sometimes I borrow a tandem boat or I paddle my Mohawk XL13, which is a solo tripping boat.

What type of rivers/ sections did you paddle last year? What are your favorite runs? What trips did you lead last year?For RMCC?....for other Groups?

SCOTT: My favorite run is the Gunnison Gorge because of the combination of



Scott, on the Main Salmon

Bonnie Gallagher

rapids and great fishing, but it hasn't been easy to run the last few years so last year I enjoyed paddling the Piedra, Arkansas, San Juan, and Main Salmon. Last season I lead trips to the Taylor, Piedra and upper San Juan. I also lead telemark ski trips for the Colorado Mountain Club.

{continued}

Raft Trips!



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PERSONAL QUESTIONS: *Where were you born and where have you lived?*

SCOTT: I was born in Columbus, Ohio and I have lived in Tempe, Arizona but I have lived in Arvada, Colorado since 1981.

What is the most adventurous/crazy thing that you've ever done?

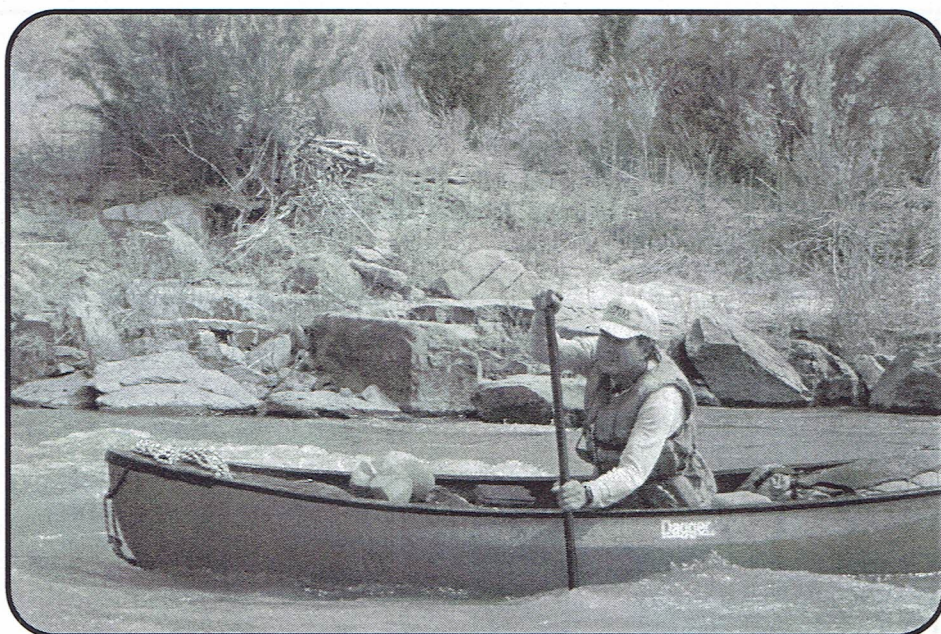
SCOTT: In 1995 I went on a trek to Nepal where we were stuck in 5 feet of snow and were holed up in a Tea House for several days. To move on to the next village our group had to break a trail to the next town with avalanche danger all around us.

What are your paddling goals for the next year or two?

SCOTT: I would like to gain more confidence in tougher water.

What sports do you enjoy besides paddling? What other interests and organizations are you involved in?

SCOTT: Telemark skiing, Mountaineering, Back packing, and hiking. I belong to the Back Country Skiers Alliance and the



Colorado Mountain Club.

What is the last best book or movie that you read/saw?

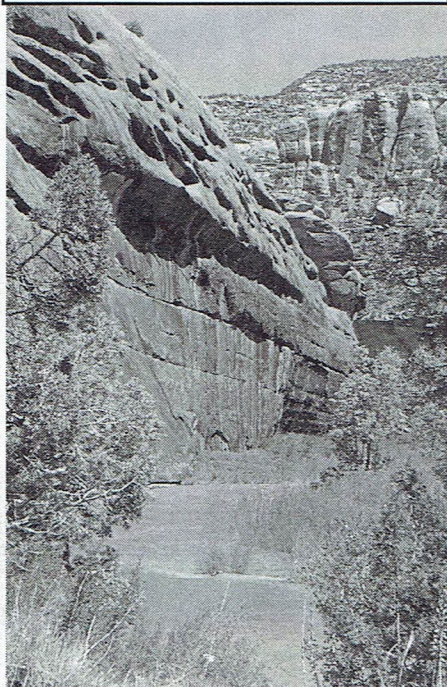
SCOTT: "The Human Stain" is a movie with Anthony Hopkins about a professor who kept a secret about his true race.

If you were given \$10,000,000, what would you do with it?

SCOTT: First I would build myself an adobe house in Castle Valley, Utah. I would also donate to environmental causes. (I would not donate all the rest)

Dolores River

Lyn Berry



WELCOME to the following new Members!!!

Bill and Jane Ensor: Bill is a retired shop teacher and Jane will be retiring soon from her Arvada West High School teaching position. They are looking forward to beginning Class I tandem paddling in their 17 foot Penobscot canoe.

Louise M. Richards and daughter Jamie: Louise and her son, Patrick, have both paddled the Boundary waters. Jamie has become a paddling instructor in girl scouts with her mother. They are looking forward to paddling this summer in their 17foot aluminum canoe. Eric Nyre introduced them to our canoe club.

Aditya Mohan: Aditya is a student at Denver University and is looking to be a

partner with someone who has a tandem canoe. He has friends at the University who are also interested in paddling.

Brad McDougale: Brad and his wife Julia have recently moved to Longmont from the East coast. Brad paddles a kayak or his Caption, sometimes with Julia. Brad is an ACA instructor and will be teaching the SWR course for our club in July.

Elaine Cheesman and Matt Gaunt: Elaine and Matt have recently moved to Woodland Park from the East Coast. They both paddle Class III water in color coordinated Outrages! They also have a tandem boat. Both are ACA trained instructors.

RENDEZVOUS con't

FACILITIES: The campground includes toilets and tent and vehicle camp sites, some with fire pits. There is no drinking water, electricity, or trash pickup. Be prepared for hot and cold weather, possible wind and rain.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS will be posted at the campsite and also check our website. Trip organizers are needed! Please volunteer if you wish to run any of the listed trips, or another one of your liking. The Saturday evening Dutch oven cook-off contest and pot luck supper is always a spectacular and exciting event. We will present awards for main dish, salad, dessert, and best all around dish.

EVENT ORGANIZERS Justin Gilbert

Karen Jankowski (cook-off/pot luck),

Dave Allured

HELP NEEDED: Much help is required

to make the Rendezvous happen and to assure a fun time for all. To volunteer for any of the following, please contact the main organizers above:

Organize a canoe trip.

Transport canopy from and back to Boulder County.

Set up and take down canopy.

Bring supplies for group supper.

Bring fire wood.

Organize the pancake breakfast.

Bring large stove for pancake breakfast.

Site clean-up and trash removal on Sunday morning.

REMINDERS -- WHAT TO BRING

Boating stuff, weather stuff, ex clothes food, lunches, water supply, beverages, ice

Dishes, silverware, cooking stuff

Fire pans, charcoal, marshmallows

Chairs, tables, tents, etc.

Guitars, harmonicas, musical instruments.

MORE INFORMATION: Check the website for details or contact an organizer, above.

Voyageur's Companion

Getting the newsletter to the members.

Lyn Berry

RMCC is seeking a new Editor for the *Voyageur's Companion*. **Do you want to volunteer?**

I use Quark Express to do the layout; but there are certainly other methods of doing this. The last year or so, a team of volunteers assembled by Dave Allured, has diligently worked to get the letter from the printer to the post office. Editor is not a difficult job especially since so many members are available to help. The hardest part is getting articles and pictures from the members in a timely manner.

Thanks to the following volunteers who helped assemble the March 2005 Voyageurs Companion: Bill Ensor Elaine Leass, Zach Ashton, Ken Bauer, Doug Hurcomb, Jeff Keeler. Thanks to those of you who helped with this issue.

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RMCC TRIP SCHEDULE 2005

RMCC trips are cooperative adventures shared by members and their guests. The entire group is collectively responsible for the trip, and each participant is individually responsible for judging his/her own qualifications, skill level, and safety on the river being run. The trip coordinator may refuse to allow a participant on a trip, but the responsibility for judging one's own qualifications lies solely with each trip member. Trips are open only to RMCC members and their guests. All trip participants must sign the RMCC Waiver and Assignment of Risk agreement prior to each trip.

Date	Trip Location	Coordinator	Phone	Level Description
June 10-12	N. Platte 6 Mile Gap to Treasure Island.	Ken Bauer		II+ Wilderness camping, fishing, 3 days
June 10-12	Dolores	Gary Faust		II+ Catch the last of the release (1000 cfs?).
June ???	Rio Grande S.Fork, Wagon Wheel	Rich Elton		II-III 2 day runs, road scoutable
June 25	Poudre River Filter plant	Debbie Hinde		II+ Poudre Paddlers & RMCC. meet at Gateway Park 1:30
July 3-7	Smith River, MT	Karen Amundson		II 59 miles; blue ribbon trout and scenery
July 11-16	Main Salmon	Don Griffiths		III(IV) 73 miles incl'd 20 on Snake
July 16-17	Swift water rescue course	Brad MacMonagle		ACA course, hosted by CWWA
July 22-24	Colorado RENDEZVOUS	Justin Gilbert		all Radium campsite, dutch oven cooking variety of trips
Aug 14	Horsetooth reservoir	Mark Riffle		Canoers accompany swimmers. Benefit for at-risk youth
Aug 20-21	Colorado River Loma to Westwater	Dave Allured		I+ Good 'beginner' trip.
Sept 2-4	Green River Flaming Gorge - Browns Park	Karen Amundson		II-III Scenic, historic, adventuresome
Nov 6	RMCC Meeting	REI Flagship.....		Potluck, pictures, <u>elections</u>

Be sure to call the Trip Coordinator early to sign up!

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club 2005 Officers

Co-Presidents

Bonnie Gallagher

Doug Hurcomb

Justin Gilbert

Instruction -ACA instructors

Bob & Jill Stecker

Treasurer and Membership

Paul Holscher

Jeff Oxenford

Newsletter

Position is Open

Trip Planning Coordinator

Karen Amundson

Web Master

Dave Allured

Conservation

Doug Green

Advertising

Liability Insurance for our Club

by Jill Stecker

After talking with our good friend and ACA instructor, Steve Engquist, of the Lower Columbia Canoe Club, we have come to the conclusion that RMCC needs to either hire a lawyer who specializes in club liability legal matters for expert advice on how to protect ourselves and/or join the ACA's PAC insurance program. We should also consider requiring anyone on our trips to be RMCC members. This will be the only way we as individuals can be protected from the enormous legal fees, crafty lawyers for the defense, and poor judgments of judges/juries if we were ever to be sued. Apparently it is common knowledge that any and all club officers

can also be included in a suit if say a particular club member has shown negligence on a club trip and has caused the injury of another and that injured person decides to sue. And I have been told, it also may be possible that all club members could be brought into such a suit.

Unfortunately, lawyers can get around waivers so we can't consider that we are satisfactorily safe that way. If all people on our trips are RMCC members it is a whole lot less likely that they would consider suing the club since they are also members of the club, whereas acquaintances or guests of club members wouldn't be as constrained.

Our club cannot afford private liability insurance (at about \$6000/yr). However we can afford the ACA's liability insurance if we choose to take it. As an ACA Paddle America Club we have the option to choose to insure all our club trips. It will involve additional time reporting trips and

sending in a list of those who attended as well as a one-time yearly fee of \$5/person for all ACA members. The biggest catch is those RMCC members or guests who are not also ACA members either need join the ACA (at \$20/individual or \$25/family) or pay dearly (at \$10/trip) for each trip they go on.

Unfortunately, we cannot ignore this problem too much longer. The bottom line is we aren't protected the way we are running our club now and we need to make some decisions about what to do about it. Other paddling clubs face this same problem and they are solving it in different ways. Some are disbanding because they no longer want to deal with the threat of liability. Others are getting ACA insurance, but not all members are pleased with the new requirements. Then, other clubs continue to ignore the problem.



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Dolores River

*Lyn Berry Jeanne Younghaus
(in a Dimension)*

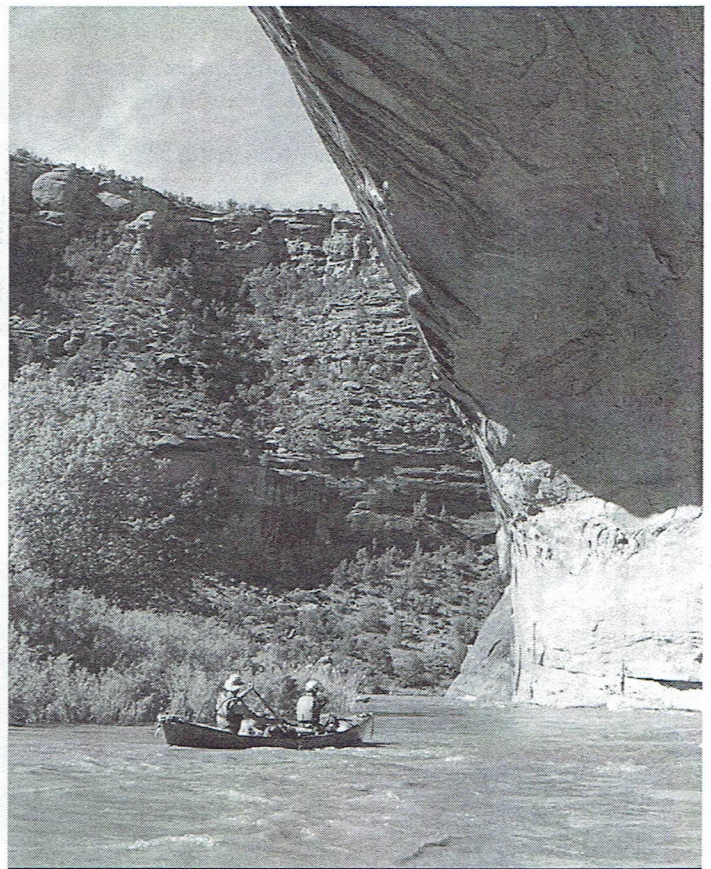
The Dolores River has been on the front of almost every paddler's agenda this spring, along with many of the other rivers in Colorado.

I sure am glad that we ran the Dolores on May 19-22. The water level was terrific (somewhere between 2 and 3 thousand cfs; maybe; I think) Great group of canoers: Rich Elten, Karen & Greg (in a Dimension), Scott & Connie (in a Dimension), and Jeff. Yes, this was a three dimension trip! We had a terrific time paddling down the grand old river for the first time in about 7 years. Water level was exciting and not at all difficult; just plain fun. At first glance, Spring Creek rapid looked awesome, even intimidating. But it turned out to have only a couple of biggy waves and was no problem. It has been so long paddling this river, I had forgotten how pretty and spectacular this canyon is. Truly in the same class as The Grand Canyon although certainly not as big. The highlight, from the camping aspect, was the night spent in The Grotto. I had never spent the night in a large river sculptured cave before so this was a truly wonderful experience: quiet and thoughtful.

With all the cars at the Put-In and Take-Out we could have expected numerous other persons; but the river is big enough

that encounters were infrequent and essentially a non-issue. We did encounter several other paddling groups at Coyote Gulch where we wanted to camp the third night and all the camp sites were occupied. On a chance, we paddled a couple hundred yards up the side creek and found a lovely sand bar with ample shade and a grassy bench. So we spent the night in a very good campsite away from the river itself. Four days to paddle the Dolores from Gypsum Valley to Bedrock might be a record for longevity, but for this trip on this occasion it was the best way to get reacquainted with a good old buddy.

Now with the flows on the Dolores being unpredictable but likely too low for fun and safe paddling after June first, I am even more glad that I need not drive again to SW Colorado.



Greg & Karen paddle through one of the magnificent caves of the Dolores

From Rich Elten:

The Dolores River below McPhee Dam will be shut-off on June 3rd - down to 200 cfs - according to the manager of DWCD. The release figures shown on the doloreswater.com site are totally inaccurate and will NOT occur. They released up to 6000 this past week with all the run-off and the res being full, so they have shortened the season without warning. Call Philip, DWCD release person, at 970-565-7562 or cell # at 970-749-7099 to talk with him directly if you like. This is in my opinion very poor management of this resource. The interface with the public and DWCD is shoddy at best and downright dangerous to have not updated the release flows on their website, enticing boaters to go down the river this week when it is going to be turned off WITHOUT WARNING, stranding scores of people in the Wilderness.

Not a real great picture, but just to show you The Dolores in May 2005; here are Scott and Connie at Spring Canyon Rapid.



When will "we-the-people" learn that things can be managed and ought to be managed without input and biases from those who hold the most money?

Sheet Bend

The sheet bend is used to connect two ropes of the same or different thickness. This comes in handy when getting the extra length needed to tie large number of boats to your car.

Make a bight in the thicker of the two ropes to be joined.

Pass the free end of the second rope through the center of the bight, under and around it, then tuck it under the standing part of the second rope. Pull the knot tight, leaving a four to six inch tail.

Does anyone know the 'meaning' of sheet bend?



Sheet Bend



Double Sheet Bend

For extra security, tie the double sheet bend. Pass the free end of the second rope up through the center of the bight, under and around it. Now run the free end of the line under the standing part and around the bight a second time. Finally run the end under the standing part a second time. Pull the knot snug, leaving a four to six inch tail.

RMCC Membership:

\$20.00 per Household per Year.

Contact Paul Holscher

Mail applications to:



The Next issue of the *Voyager's Companion* is scheduled for August (i.e. late summer). Perhaps YOU would like to assume the responsibility of publishing and be the Editor. Contact Bonnie Gallagher (RMCC President) and/or any other Board member.

Deadline for a next issue would be about July 22.

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

The Voyager's Companion

C/O Editor

Buena Vista Colorado

