



# The Voyageur's Companion

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club  
[www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org](http://www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org)

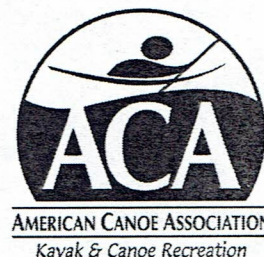
June/July 2007

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 their own qualifications, skill level, and safety on the rivers 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 to RMCC members and their guests. All trip participants must sign the RMCC Waiver and Assignment of Risk agreement prior to each trip. Please sign up well in advance.

Check the RMCC on-line schedule for the latest updates. New trips are added frequently during the boating season: <http://www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org/schedule.html>

To add a trip or event to the schedule, please send complete information to Trip Coordinator Ned Banta,



## Summer River Rendezvous 2007

July 20-22 (Article by Karen Maley)  
(Friday Afternoon through Sunday)  
Colorado River at Radium, Colorado

### Welcome

Everyone is invited to Rocky Mountain Canoe Club's Summer Rendezvous on the Colorado River. This is our big group event of the summer -- a fun weekend of river canoeing, camping, and picnicking. The location is the Radium group campsite southwest of Kremmling, Colorado.

Newcomers and novices are welcome! There will be river trips for most skill levels. You must be a member, or the guest of a member, to participate. Memberships may be purchased in advance by mail, \$20 per year. You may also join at the Rendezvous.

### 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.

Drive through the parking lot to the rest rooms near the boat ramp. Turn left here onto the campground loop road. Camp at either the RMCC group camp site at the north end of the loop, or one of the five individual camp sites. Look for cars with canoes on top, also our large canopy set up.

*(continued on next page)*



# Summer River Rendezvous 2007

July 20-22 ( Continued )

## 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 very strong winds and rain.

## Fees

The only general fees for this event are Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreation fees. For those staying at the group camp site, the fee is \$3 per vehicle per night." Vehicle fees for the group site have been pre-paid. If you camp at any of the five individual camp sites, the fee is simply \$6.00 per night for all persons and one or two vehicles. If you come for the day only, without camping, it's \$3.00 per vehicle.

☼ After you choose your camp site, go to the self service pay station at the main entrance. Fill out a separate payment envelope for each vehicle. If you use the group camp site, write "group site" on the envelope. If you share one of the \$6.00 camp sites, write "share" and the campsite number on the envelope. Enclose fees as described above, keep the payment stub, and deposit the envelope.

☼ Camping fees also cover your daytime use of the Radium and Pumphouse boat ramp areas. Be sure to keep the payment envelope stub displayed on your dashboard.

☼ For trips putting in or taking out at State Bridge, there may be a \$3.50 per person fee to park on private property.

## Waivers

All river trips are joint ventures. Everyone must sign the RMCC waiver, which is your agreement that you know you are taking risks on the river trips, and that you are taking full responsibility for your own safety and participation.

## Advance Schedule (Subject to Change)

Trip organizers are needed! Possible runs include Pumphouse (Class II-III), Yarmony Bridge to Catamount Bridge (Class I-II+), State Bridge to Landing Strip or Catamount Bridge (Class I-II), and many others. We traditionally have trip options for novices as well as higher skill levels. Please volunteer if you could run a trip. At the Radium campsite we will have a white board where trips can be listed and participants can find out details (leader, departure time) for trips they may be interested in. Unless otherwise noted, all trips meet on the campground exit drive, vehicles ready to go, at the time indicated.

### Friday

Afternoon

After 4 pm

Possible class II-III trip

Set up -- a few hands needed

### Saturday

9:00 am

6:00 pm

Day trips to be determined

Social and hurricane defense hour.

BYOB.

7:00 pm

Dutch Oven Cook-off and Pot Luck  
Supper

### Sunday

7:00 am

9:00 am

Pancake Breakfast

Day trip(s) to be determined

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Photo on the Gunnison River, May 2007 By Jeanne Willson

Thanks from a Disabled Veteran to the RMCC:

White capped waves are blowing over the dam's spillway, sending a fine mist over the trees, bushes and phone lines on the other side of the dam. The falling snow has almost scrubbed the scent of pine from the cold air. The far side of the lake is almost undefined, a log or tree jutting out of the mist occasionally. It has snowed 3 times, rained 4, hailed twice and the sun has come out at least a half dozen times, since noon. An unprotected person would not make it through the night alive.

That is why I am inside, with thermostat set at 55 degrees F. The entire lake is sporadically illuminated by flashes of lighting and then rocked with the explosive thunderclap. Thanks to a past RMCC President, I have a working solar charger for my battery powered light, in my "little retreat from the rest of the world." Light is an amazing gift. I appreciate the friends I have made through the RMCC, for with their help, and that of my loving wife, I can enjoy even my "down time." I see the world through your stories and photos, many of which remind me of the trips I have shared with many of you.

In the morning, the entire eastern lakeshore glittered, encased in an inch or more of cold ice. To me, the sparkling is both heartwarming and refreshing; I have been blessed to make it to another day in the mountains I love and cherish.

Thank you. 🙏



# Summer River Rendezvous 2007

## July 20-22 ( Continued )

### Special Events

☼ **Dutch oven cook-off contest and pot luck, Saturday evening, 7 pm.** We will present awards for main dish, salad, dessert, and best all around dish. Judging begins promptly at 7 pm. Plan enough advance time to have your Dutch oven masterpiece ready by 7!

Everyone is welcome to join in the food! Please bring something to share if you are not Dutch oven cooking. Suggestions are appetizers, salads, side dishes, and desserts.

☼ **Pancake breakfast, Sunday morning, 7 am.** Please bring a side dish to share.

### Help Needed

To volunteer for any of the following, please contact any of the organizers below:

- Organize a trip
- Partner with a beginner or novice
- Set up and take down the group canopy
- Bring supplies for group supper
- Bring fire wood
- Help organize the pancake breakfast
- Bring large stove for pancake breakfast
- Site clean-up and trash removal on Sunday morning

### Reminders -- What to Bring

#### Boating:

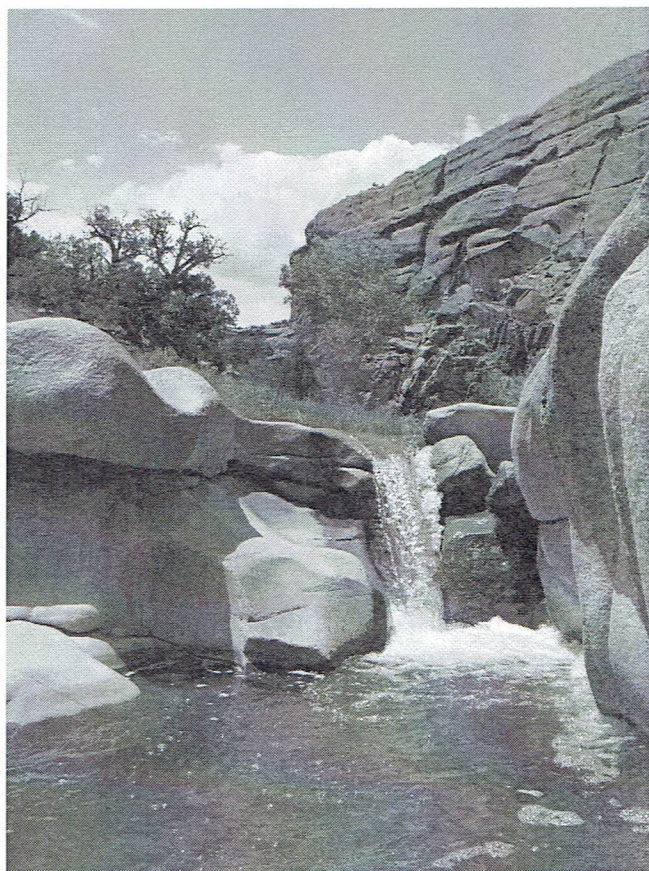
- Boats, paddles, floatation bags, painters
- Life jackets, throw bag, first aid kit, bailer
- Sun protection (sunscreen, sunglasses, hats)
- Water, lunch
- Dry bag, spare clothes
- Rain suits

#### Camping:

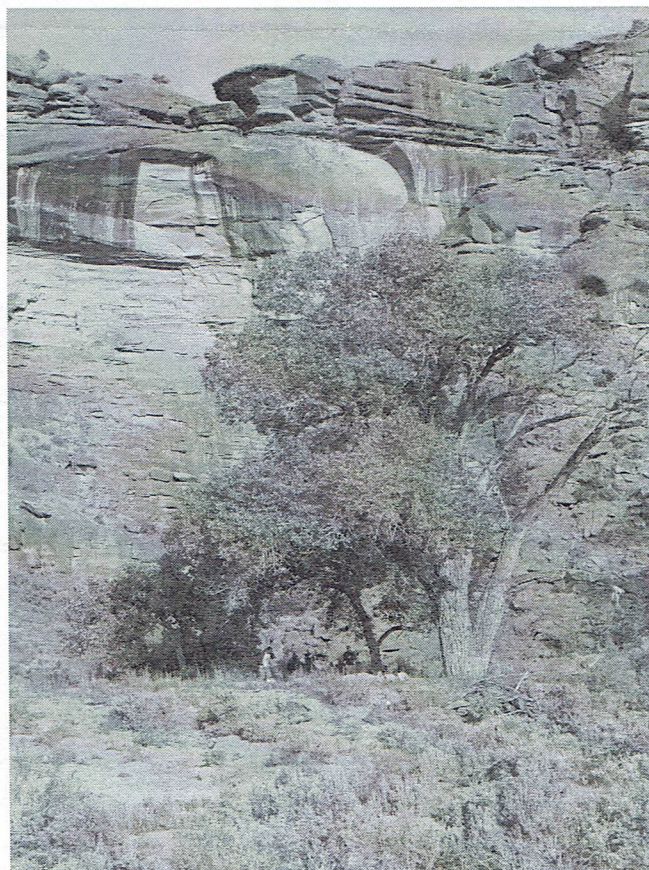
- Water for drinking & washing
- Cups, dishes, silverware, cooking stuff
- Fire pans, charcoal, marshmallows
- Chairs, tables, tents, etc.
- Guitars, harmonicas, musical instruments
- Libations, ice, party supplies

### Organizers

To volunteer and for general questions:  
Karen Maley 303-516-0952,  
karenmaley@fast-email.com



*Photos on the Gunnison River, May 2007  
By Jeanne Willson*





# Trip Schedule

by Ned Banta

☼ Saturday June 30 and Sunday July 1 for the State Bridge beginner/novice day trips. The flow is a bit high for the coming June 23 weekend, but it will probably be a lot lower by June 30. Due to the current flow level, my rating for this trip is "strong beginners and up". At least one person in each boat should have some previous class I river paddling experience. The Sunday trip will have a few more difficult class II rapids than on Saturday. The proposed trip agenda is State Bridge to Catamount bridge on Saturday, and Catamount Bridge to Pinball Point on Sunday. The agenda may change depending on the desires of the group. We will portage Catamount and Rodeo rapids, class II+ and III+, as needed. River sections are summarized near the bottom of this page:

<http://www.rockvmountaincanoeclub.org/2006/rendezvous.html>

I will set up some kind of group camping for Friday and Saturday evenings. I'm leaning towards Rancho del Rio, but open to other suggestions. If others wish to camp with us and make separate trips to some of the harder stuff in the area, that would be fine. For questions and further updates about this trip, please contact me. --Dave

☼ July 6 to approx. July 13, 2007 Green River, Desolation and Gray Canyons Trip coordinators: Richard Ferguson and Will Golson Richard: Will: Class III Launching July 6th. 84 river miles with over 50 named rapids, predominately II's with a few III's. Large wave trains with few obstacles. Canyons rise over 5000 feet in places. Numerous side hikes. Planning a relaxed schedule of 7 to 8 days, with 1 or 2 layover days. Looking for a medium group size, 6-10 people, 5-7 boats. River info from BLM.

☼ Date negotiable. Churchill River system. Trip coordinator: James Baker-Jarvis Class II+ Trip will be about 14-16 days in the wilderness and leave Denver around July 15 +/- . The route will be on the Churchill River system that will include large and small lakes, rivers, and running rapids. Relatively strenuous trip approximately 150-200 miles. Must be in good physical condition and able to portage own canoe over poor portages or bushwhacking, tolerate bugs, and survive in remote wilderness. We get on the trail early in the mornings (6 - 8 AM). Number of canoes limited. Jim and Karen and Aquene Baker-Jarvis , YOU NOW NEED A PASSPORT TO ENTER CANADA (It takes about 8 weeks to get one unless you pay more to expedite it)

☼ Sept. 1-3, 2007 Colorado River, Cisco to Big Bend. Dave Allured Class I-II. Beginner and novice sections.

President	Penelope Purdy		
Treasurer	Paul Holscher		
Newsletter Editor	Jeanne Willson		
Membership	Karen Maley		
Trip Coordinator	Ned Banta		
Advertising	Karen Amundsen		
Conservation	Greg Jankowski		
Instruction	Bob & Jill Stecker		
Instruction	Jeff Oxenford		
E-mail List Manager	Don Perko		
Quartermaster	Doug Hurcomb		
Webmaster	Jeanne Willson		



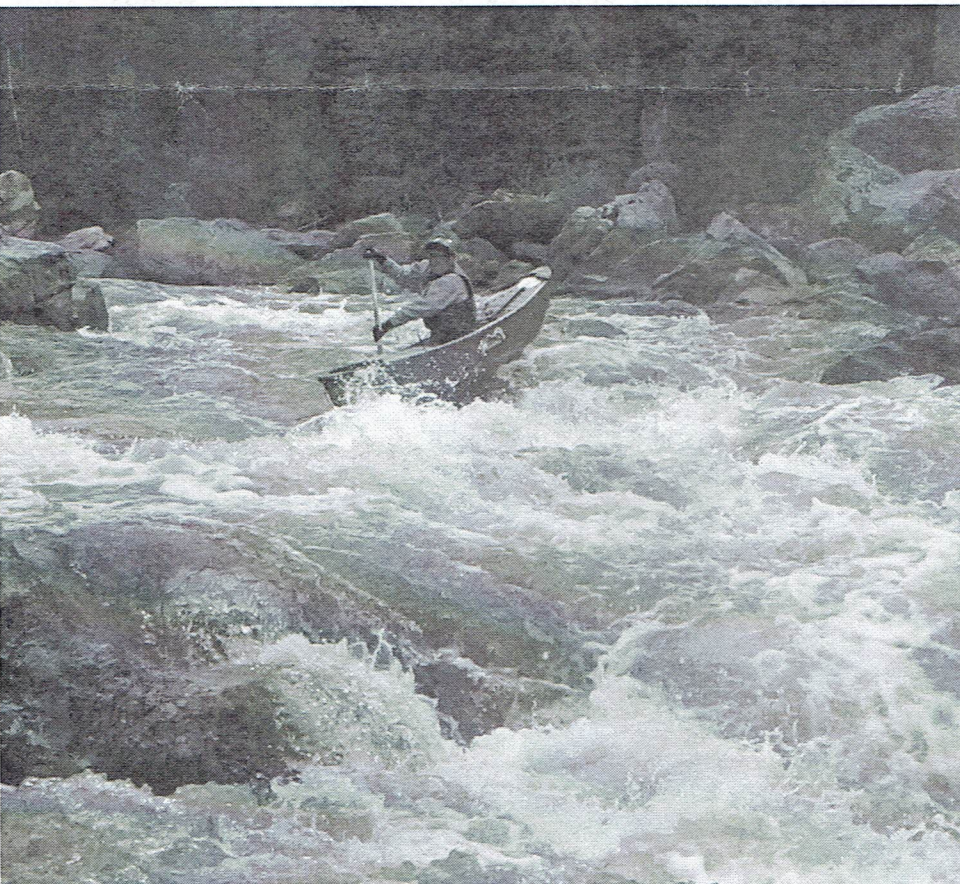
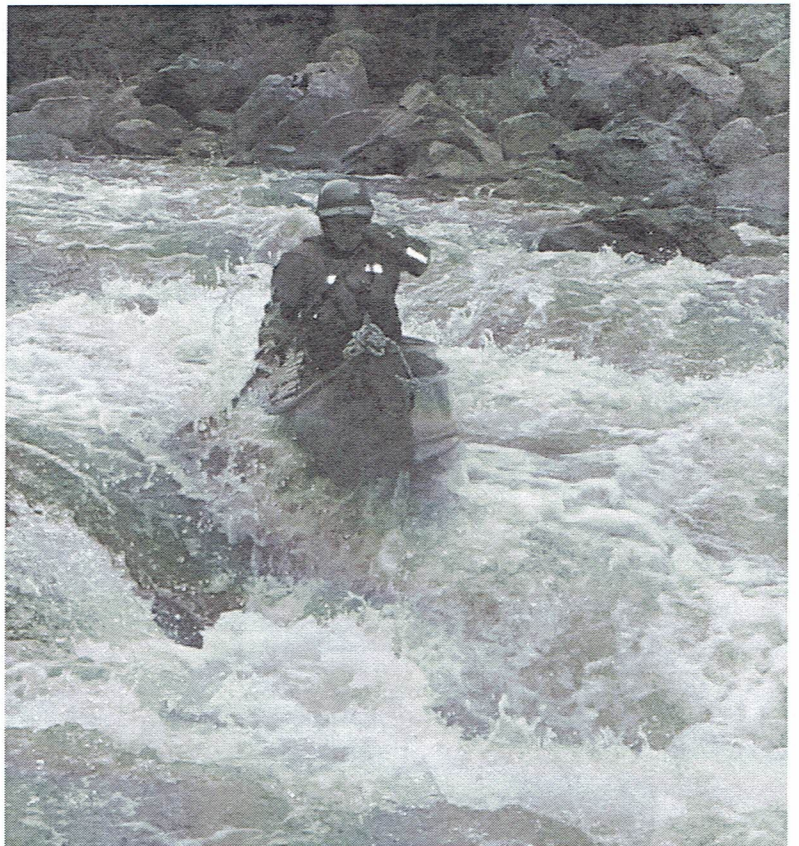
# Northgate Canyon

By Scott McDonald

After years of talking about doing it, me, Bonnie, Bill Rivers and rafters Mike(ael) Angelo and friend Rick ran Northgate Canyon this Sat. It is a long way to drive for a one day trip, so we ran a section of the Poudre on the way back on Sunday.

It is a 10.5 mile run with several class 3 and one 3+/4-. The scenery is the same as the Six Mile Gap run immediately below. It was flowing at 1200 cfs when we left but the rangers said it was down to 800 cfs by the time we launched. That was fine for us canoes but the rafts would want more water.

Six miles into the run is Narrow Falls also called O.F.R.(Oh F\*%# Rapid) on some less p.c. maps. Bonnie ran first and got spun around at the top and stuck in a hole. After breaking free she couldn't get back around so ran the next two drops backward, but remaining upright! Bill ran cleanly and I was knocked a bit to left by the entrance wave which sent me into the nasty center portion but remained



upright. The best line is right but the first wave sends you left. You could portage this drop with a rough carry on the rocks on the right. The books say scout left but we got a closer look on the right.

Two more easier class 3 rapids at the end bring you to the take out at Six Mile Gap and the long carry up to the cars. The two rafters picked up some more passengers and continued down to Treasure Island for the balance of the weekend.

So, overall you want to shoot for about 1000 cfs and if you are a decent Class 3 paddler you won't have any problem. You can carry around Narrow Falls if necessary. It had a bit more flat water than I expected but that was only bad because that famous Wyoming wind came up then.



Photos by Mike Langello: Top- Bill on the Main Line, Above- "Say Hello Scott"



## North Platte - Six Mile Gap to Treasure Island

### Roger Faaborg

Ken Bauer has been floating the upper North Platte River for 23 years. I was very fortunate to join his party and float from Six Mile Gap to Treasure Island on June 8, 9, and 10, 2007.

This was the first time I had hauled camping equipment in my 12-foot whitewater canoe, a Dagger Rival. I was worried that the boat would be too heavy, take on water, and I would end up swimming. To make matters worse, it was snowing as I drove past Chimney Park on Wyoming 230. Just what I needed, cold water and cold air.

This section of the North Platte is rated class II and II+. Of course, that doesn't mean a whole lot. Is it a Town Run class II or a Filter Plant class II? I like to float whitewater because it is exciting and a lot of fun. However, if it becomes too exciting, it switches to terrifying and no fun at all.

Thursday night I camped at Six Mile Gap. The camping fee was \$10.00 and I was happy to see Mike and Brie Koliha already there. It was a cold night, but my zero degree down bag was comfortable. The morning dew was frozen into long icicles.

Shortly after 8:00 am on Saturday, the others started showing up and we all carried our boats down the long trail to the river. The campground sits about 100 yards above the river. This pretty much eliminates any drift boats or large rafts from this section of the river. In fact, we saw no one from Six Mile Gap to Pickaroon.

I had six dry bags and I wasn't sure what to do with them. Luckily, Douglas was floating a Dagger Outrage and I watched him pack. He put the dry bags beneath the floatation and I did likewise. Our group included 4 tandem canoes and 2 solo canoes. It took awhile to carry everything down from the cars and then we ran the shuttle to Treasure Island. From Six Mile Gap to Treasure Island is 32 miles by car and 37.8 miles by river. That is a very good float to shuttle ratio.

When we were almost ready to go, Ken put on a full wet suit. Then he put on a wet suit cap, like divers wear, to which Mike remarked, "Ken, you are starting to scare me." In retrospect, I don't think Ken was concerned at all about spilling. He was getting ready to take care of us, since he had no idea of our paddling skills or lack of them.

We started off and things went fine. There were a lot of rocks and pour-overs, where the rock is a few inches beneath the surface and hard to see, but everyone guided their boat through all the rapids. No one swam on the entire trip. We were lucky that the flow was about 1100 cfs as measured at the North Gate gauge. Ken has floated at all levels and says that below about 600-650 cfs you start scraping your boat. The tandem canoes had lots of equipment and did take on some water. But they were able to camp in more comfort. I didn't bring a lawn chair or ice chest in my 12-foot boat.

Our first camp was at Deadwater South. Up river from the campground were several large rocks in the river that reminded me of the Lake of the Woods area in Northern Minnesota. Ken and Douglas had good luck fishing, catching and releasing many Rainbow and Brown trout. I watched Ken catch a Rainbow while he was drifting in his canoe and it twice jumped way out of the water. The trout in this area of the river reproduce naturally and are not stocked. They are wild trout.



Picture of Deadwater South campground

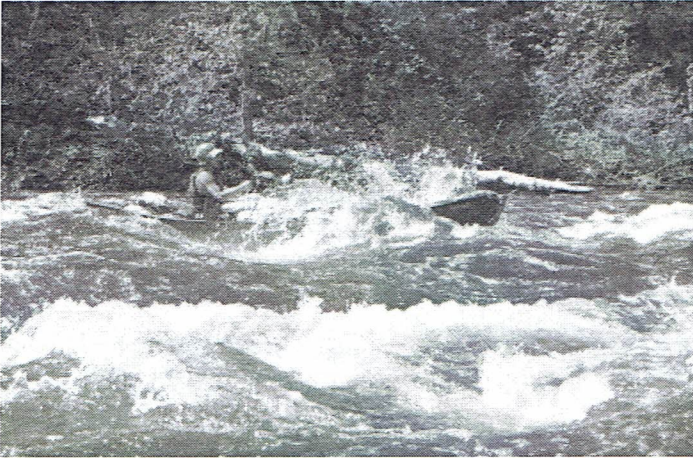
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The upper North Platte, at about 8000 feet, is lined with spruce, Ponderosa, and some Lodgepole Pine. After Bennett Peak you start to see the Cottonwoods that line the North Platte on the lower stretches near Saratoga at 7000 feet.

It was so foggy in the morning that you couldn't see the other side of the river. I went ahead with Ken and set up to take some pictures of the others going through Douglas Rapids.



Picture of Douglas Rapids, people are Doug and Allison Hurcomb

After Pickeroon there were fewer rapids, but you still had to be alert to avoid the rocks. I had noticed that the willows and other trees near the river were white. The bark had been scraped off the trees. Ken explained that this spring an ice dam formed above North Gate Canyon. When it finally broke apart, the large chunks of ice scoured the riverbank, scraping the bark off the trees.

On Saturday night we camped at another beautiful place along the river in a flat area by a rock wall. We hiked up the rocks to get a view of the campground and river.

On Sunday we floated past Bennett Peak and arrived at Treasure Island about noon. It was windy as it often is in Wyoming and I had to rearrange the weight in my boat, placing more weight forward, to make it easier to paddle.

It was a great float with great people in a beautiful area of the country. I look forward to doing it again next year. 🙌



Picture of Willow scraped by ice dam



Picture of camp and river from rocks





Rocky Mountain Canoe Club  
c/o Paul Holscher

Englewood, CO 80113



## Swift Water Rescue Richard Ferguson

I took a Swift Water Rescue class last week. I thought that it was very good, and would recommend it to anyone doing whitewater, in any kind of boat.

The instructor was Kevin Bird, from Canyon City, sponsored by Renaissance Adventures in Denver. The curriculum was "Whitewater Rescue Technician", a program developed by Rescue 3 International.

I understand that ACA has a similar training program. The class included one evening of classroom, and two days on the river. The first day was mostly swimming, shallow water crossing, etc. The second day was mostly ropes and rigging. Definitely a hands on class, prepare to get wet and spend time in the water.

I ended up with a patch and a certification good for three years. More importantly, I learned a lot. I was fortunate enough to be in a small class. At the course evaluation, I gave it the highest mark in most areas.

Richard

<http://www.fergusonsculpture.com>

Sculptures in copper and other metals