

State of the Paddling Union for 2021: Another Weird Year!



Whereas 2020 was Covid-weird, 2021 was water-weird! But we got back to safely enjoying paddling and our fellow members on the water and in our campsites and car shuttles. Haven't ventured back to indoor parties, but hopefully by this time next year!

In reporting on this year, I want to start with THANKS!

Thanks to the club officers who kept the trips, classes, membership, finances, website, and club equipment organized and ticking:

- Zach Allen, Quartermaster
- Bill Ashworth, Membership
- Kathy Ashworth, Treasurer
- Dan Custer, Webmaster with the help of Pieter Bruintjes
- Debbie Hinde, Instruction Poobah
- Kit Williams, Tripmaster

I've added Pieter Bruintjes and Miry Broughall to the officers panel because they have been volunteering this year to assist with the website and to get us started with canoe loans – more on that later.

And thanks to the 20 event coordinators whose efforts form the backbone of our club. Several (9) of our trips were cancelled – low water, wildfire, howling winds, a TC's wrenched back, etc. -- but each coordinator worked to create fun and safe boating experiences for all of us.

KATHRYN MUTZ
PRESIDENT

BILL ASHWORTH
MEMBERSHIP

DEBBIE HINDE
INSTRUCTION POOBAH

KATHY ASHWORTH
TREASURER

ZACH ALLEN
QUARTERMASTER

KIT WILLIAMS
TRIPMASTER

DAN CUSTER
WEBMASTER

PIETER BRUINTJES
ASST. WEBMASTER

MIRY BROUGHALL
BOATMASTER

2021 OFFICERS



Special thanks to other volunteers this year:

- To assistants to the Trip Coordinators, including Rendezvous cooks, and on-the-water leads and sweeps;
- To Bill Ashworth for hosting our various meetings on Zoom and to Jeff Keeler for orchestrating the photo show at the annual meeting;

- To Ken Hilt, Becky Bowers, and Chet Pauls for wrestling the circus tent into submission for repairs;
- To former RMCCer Geoff Stimack¹ and current members Doug and Helen Kretzmann for canoe donations;
- To Tom Ging and Randy Purrett for helping with canoe repairs and donating parts;
- To David Steinhoff and Miry Broughall for offering to store/loan our club tandem canoe; and
- To John McLean for adding to our club equipment supply.

And finally, thanks to all the members who joined in activities – live or virtual – with masks and social distancing, regardless of rain, shine, heat, cold, w---, Covid-19, or weird water levels.



Becky Bowers, Ken Hilt, and Chet Pauls pondering the next stitch

¹ The canoe donations started out a bit rocky. The Stimack canoe needed seat, yoke and thwart replacement. While making those repairs, it was stolen from my front yard. I reimbursed the club for the value of that Old Town Discovery 16 canoe and subsequently the Kretzmans donated theirs. Our second – and now only – loaner canoe is now safely stored in the Boatmaster’s garage and will be loaned out accompanied with a cable lock.



Doug and Helen Kretzmann saying farewell to their first canoe

2021 Activities:

The year started with a virtual Planning and Permit Party. Fifty Zoom meeting participants and results from 49 members (not necessarily those that Zoomed) submitting survey forms helped Tripmaster Kit to create a robust schedule of trips. In mid-January, while the snows were still flying, we launched the Waiting for Warmer Weather Webinar series with virtual presentations on Old Stuff (rock art and fossils), river stories, and Grand Canyon dories. See our website's Trip Reports for the Old Stuff presentations. While the Joint Club Paddle was cancelled this year, Mat Bozek kicked off the real boating season with a chilly paddle on the South Platte in early April.

Despite the continuing pandemic, we had a delightfully active year. In total, 450 members and guests participated in 33 activities, including canoe instruction classes, meetings, and paddling trips (including ACA-sanctioned and pickup trips.). Most of our guests were from Poudre Paddlers and High Country River Rafters with whom we have shared many virtual events and a couple of paddling trips. The following charts list our 2021 activities and compare 2021 activity statistics to those of previous years. Note that the historical chart is a ballpark-comparison from year to year as we have had more virtual events in the last couple of years AND have included pick-up trips in the paddling event totals.

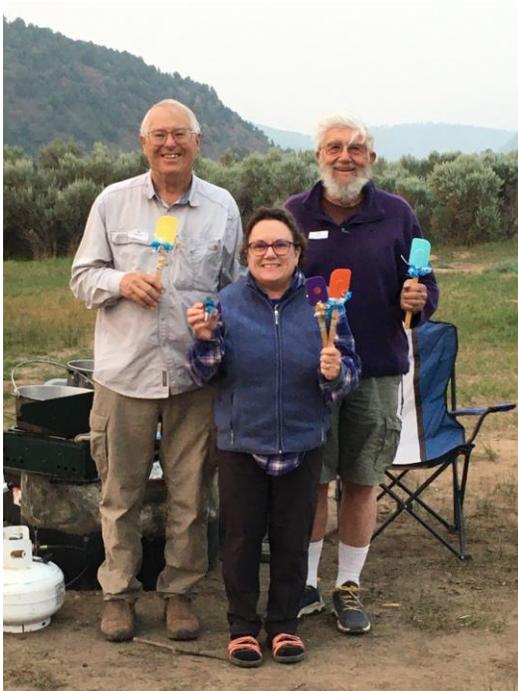
Paddling:

Of our 33 events, we had 22 paddling trips with 225 paddlers

- 10 trips in Colorado and 12 at least partially out-of-state²
- 10 were day trips and 12 multi-day trips
- 6 were flatwater and 16 river trips

We did not host any completely new trips this year, but returning favorites included the Niobrara in Nebraska, Glendo to Guernsey on the North Platte in Wyoming, Loma, CO to Westwater, UT on the Colorado River (the Ruby and Horsethief canyons), the Buffalo River in Arkansas, and our Rendezvous on the Upper Colorado River, camping at Radium. Aside from the weekend of Rendezvous, Glendo to Guernsey holds the 2021 record for participants (24). This trip challenged the Rendezvous (27) in participant numbers as well as hosting an excellent potluck dinner. Did I mention that Bill Ashworth coordinated both the Rendezvous and Glendo to Guernsey run? Trip reports from these and other trips are available in our website trip reports at <http://rockymountaincanoecub.net/category/trip-reports/>

In the last several weeks, our new Tripmaster Brookie (see election info below) has been working with Dan and Kit to develop a preliminary list of trips for 2022 and an on-line interest survey that will be available in January.



Rendezvous Cookoff winners Bill Ashworth (dessert), Char Taylor (main dish & best-of-show) and John McLean (salad)

² Loma to Westwater on the Colorado River is tallied in the out-of-state category.

Date	Trip/Event	Trip/Event Coordinator	Location	Event Type	# Attending
1 9 21	Annual Permit Party	Kit Williams	Virtual	Meeting	50
1 13 21	Old Stuff #1	Karen Amundson, Kathryn Mutz	Virtual	Meeting	38
1 25 21	Old Stuff #2	Karen Amundson, Kathryn Mutz	Virtual	Meeting	35
2 23 21	There's this river . . .	Bill Ashworth	Virtual	Meeting	9
3 20 21	South Platte River	Mat Bozek	Brighton to Ft. Lupton, CO	Day River	10
4 1 21	Grand Canyon Dories	Kathryn Mutz, Chet Pauls	Virtual	Meeting	22
4 3 21	South Platte River	Lynne Carpenter	Brighton to Ft. Lupton, CO	Day River (pickup)	12
4 16-24 21	Buffalo River	Tracy and Janet Hays	Arkansas	Multiday River	15
4 18 21	Intro to Canoeing	Debbie Hinde	St. Vrain State Park, Longmont, CO	Class	5
4 24 21	Intro to Canoeing	Debbie Hinde	St. Vrain State Park, Longmont, CO	Class	5
4 29 - 5 1 21	Gunnison River	Mat Bozek	Escalante to Whitwater, CO	Multiday River	6
5 8-9 21	Yampa	Dan Custer	South Beach to Duffy Mtn, CO	Multiday River	17
5 10-16 21	Upper Missouri NW&SR	Mat Bozek	Ft. Benton to James Kipp, MT	Multiday River	7
	Upper Missouri NW&SR	Doug Hurcomb	Coal Banks Landing to Kipp, MT	Multiday River	cancelled
5 22-24 21	White River	Mat Bozek	Rangely, CO	Multiday River	cancelled
5 29-31 21	Niobrara River	Bill Ashworth	Valentine, NE	Multiday River	19
6 2 21	Lagerman Reservoir	Anne Fiore	Boulder, CO	Flatwater	7
6 5 21	Gross Reservoir	Bill Ashworth	Osprey Pt., Boulder CO	Flatwater	10
6 12 21	Rigging and Packing	Bill Ashworth	Boulder, CO	Class	9
6 13 21	Standley Lake	Kathryn Mutz	Arvada, CO	Flatwater	7
6 19 21	Essentials of Canoeing - Flatwater	Debbie Hinde	Mcintosh Lake, Longmont, CO	Class	10
6 20 21	Essentials of Canoeing - Moving Water	Debbie Hinde	South Platte, Denver, CO	Class	7
6 26 21	Lake Dillon	Jan Dudley	Summit County, CO	Flatwater	cancelled
7 10 21	North Platte River	Bill Ashworth	Glendo to Guernsey, WY	Day River	24
7 12-18 21	San Juan River	Dick Wilkens	Sand Island to Clay Hills, UT	Multiday River	9
7 16-18 21	North Platte River	Judy Moisey-Asay	Saratoga to I-80, WY	Multiday River	cancelled
7 27-29 21	Colorado River	Janet Mallory	Potash - Spanish Bottom, UT	Multiday River	cancelled
8 6-8 21	RMCC Rendezvous	Bill Ashworth	Various runs from Radium Camp	Multiday River	27
8 9-13 21	Boundary Waters	Louise Richards	Michigan	Multi-Flatwater	8
8 28-29 21	Colorado River	Janet Mallory	Cisco Landing to Onion Creek, UT	Multiday River	cancelled
9 2 21	Boundary Waters	Dick Wilkens	Michigan	Multi-Flatwater	cancelled
9 4-6 21	Green River	Karen Amundson	Flaming Gorge, UT	Multiday River	12
9 18-19 21	Colorado River	Janet Mallory	Cisco Landing to Onion Creek, UT	Multiday River	cancelled
9 18 21	Colorado River	Janet Mallory	Dewey Bridge thru Postcard Alley, UT	Day River (pickup)	3
9 19 21	Colorado River	Janet Mallory	Takeout Beach to Moab, UT	Day River (pickup)	3
9 25-26 21	Colorado River	Pieter Brintjes	Loma to Westwater, CO & UT	Multiday River	9
9 26-27 21	Colorado River	Bill Ashworth	Loma to Westwater, CO & UT	Multiday River	7
9 26-28 21	Colorado River	Kathryn Mutz	Loma to Westwater, CO & UT	Multiday River	6
10 2-3 21	Colorado River	Janet Mallory	Cisco Landing to Onion Creek, UT	Multiday River	cancelled
10 9 21	Barr Lake Bird Banding	Kathryn Mutz	Aurora, CO	Flatwater (pickup)	5/6/0*
10 16 21	Chatfield Reservoir	Kit & Henry Williams	Kingfisher put-in, Lakewood, CO	Flatwater	7
11 20 21	Annual Meeting	Kathryn Mutz	Virtual	Meeting	35
				TOTAL:	450

* Barr Lake had 5 attendees for bird banding and 6 for boating, but howling winds prevented boaters from safely leaving the ramp.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Membership											
# households	100	90	112	113	108	112	117	123	124	108	127
# members								189	187	167	197
# ACA members								84	71	79	100
Trips, Events, and Instruction											
Scheduled	11	22	24	19	27	36	26	24	36	29	42
Cancellations	?	?	2	1	9	13	4	1	7	10	9
Attendance											
Permit Party #	20	20	30	22	15	28	33	41	45	63	50
Rendezvous #	30	30	54	40	41	21	33	24	35	12	27
Annual Meeting #	20	25	25	31	30	30	40	31	38	38	35
Instruction/Paddling #								24	43	50	27
Instruction/Other #								10	48	68	9
Net # Trips, Events & Instruction	?	?	22	18	18	22	22	23	29	19	33
# Coordinators	6	10	14	11	17	18	16	17	22	11	20
Total Attendance	170	269	303	253	243	258	266	316	380	319	450

Instruction:

Meyer's pool was not open for practice or classes this year, but Instruction Poobah Debbie Hinde orchestrated four outdoor classes in April and June, including two sessions of Introduction to Canoeing (with Christine Cortney) and Essentials of Canoeing Flatwater and Moving Water (with Lynne Carpenter and Kit Williams). Bill Ashworth held a Packing and Rigging class at his home in Boulder.

This fall Debbie has been making arrangements for 2022 classes that may include pool sessions, on-the-water canoe skills training, virtual and water-based safety and rescue, and more. Options for instruction will be included in the January on-line interest survey.

Membership:

Membership rebounded from our 108 level of 2020, increasing about 18% to 127 households with 197 members. We again welcomed several new and returning members to the club. Membership chairman, Bill Ashworth, has compiled an electronic roster including all members who did not opt-out. Members who joined late in 2021 were added to the roster, but their dues will be applied to 2022. Bill will distribute that roster soon.

Watch your email in January for a reminder to renew your membership. At renewal time, we will be asking everyone to sign the annual RMCC waiver which includes our new Covid waiver addendum. (It ain't over yet!). We encourage you to join ACA (100 members joined ACA in 2021) to support their work on all manner of boating and water conservation issues. Whether or not a member of ACA, we nevertheless encourage you to sign the ACA on-line waiver to avoid having to sign ACA waivers for each boating event. It helps out our TCs!

NEW FOR 2022: On-line Membership forms and payment. Webmaster Dan Custer worked with Bill, Treasurer Kathy Ashworth, and myself to operationalize an on-line membership join/renewal form that includes signing the RMCC waiver and an option to pay dues through PayPal – via either your bank account or credit card – or to continue to pay with a check by mail. On-line payments will include a \$1 transaction fee (i.e., memberships will be \$11 with PayPal transactions.)

In January, you can visit the Membership page at <https://rockymountaincanoecub.net/members/join-our-club/> to either renew on-line or to print and mail in the membership form.

Finances:

The club continues to be financially sound with an ending balance of \$7181.73 and a net gain of about \$460. The majority of our income was from membership dues. Miscellaneous receipts were from canoe class registration and reimbursement of the club for the stolen canoe. The majority of our expenses were for our website (internet), event expenses, ACA dues, and nominal compensation for our instruction program.

As a side note, we recently cleared up some paperwork with the IRS to verify that we are an “informal” 501(c)(7) non-profit social club. That means that we do not have to file IRS tax returns, but we do not have official IRS paperwork to provide donors to document that their donations to us are tax deductible.

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club	
2021 Financial Summary	
12 8 21	
Beginning	\$6,722.36
Receipts:	
Dues 2021	\$1,300.00
Dues 2022	\$30.36
Miscellaneous	\$450.15
Total Receipts	\$1,780.51
Disbursements	
Newsletter	\$0.00
Internet	-\$464.91
Dues (ACA)	-\$175.00
Brochures	\$0.00
Events	-\$182.08
Other	-\$499.15
Total Disbursements	-\$1,321.14
Ending Cash	\$7,181.73
Total Receipts	\$1,780.51
Total Disbursements	-\$1,321.14
Net Change	\$459.37

Website:

Webmaster Dan Custer continued to refine and add materials to our website and to setup new members to receive posts and GoogleGroup access. His major projects for the year included uploading back issues of the club's Voyageur's Companion Newsletter to the website, compiling data from our first event survey, revising the survey for 2022, worrying about website security, and setting up the website for on-line membership applications and renewals, including on-line payments through PayPal.

As always, Dan is happy to upload your trip reports and photos and welcomes comments, notices of broken links, and other contributions to the website. Pieter Brountjes assists Dan with the website and we appreciate his help.

Club Equipment:

This year we expanded our equipment inventory with donation of an Old Town Discovery 158 tandem canoe for loan to club members on ACA-sanctioned club trips. See the specifics at <https://rockymountaincanoecub.net/canoe-loans/> Miry Broughall volunteered to take on the storage and loaning of the canoe and its associated equipment. Thanks again to Doug and Helen Kretzmann for the canoe donation.

As always, see the list of available loaner equipment on our website under the Resources tab at <https://rockymountaincanoecub.net/members/club-equipment/> Members can borrow equipment, other than the canoe, for private as well as RMCC trips. And we welcome donations to our club equipment collection. We recently added a throw rope to our loaner equipment – thanks to John McLean.

Annual Meeting and Elections

Our annual meeting – held virtually on November 20th – closed out this year's events. The meeting was attended by about 35 individuals. The pot luck food was, unfortunately, a bit thin (as was a decent internet connection from our motel room in Tennessee!), but our officers reported on the year's activities, we shared photos of some of our paddling adventures (see these in the Annual Meeting folder at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19na5r0OV_2fBRE0dWyo4YkwoVAO_KWsY?usp=sharing) and had a short discussion of ideas for 2022 activities.

As is tradition, we elected officers with thumbs up voting. With that vote, we reelected most of our 2021 officers and welcomed new officers Brookie Gallagher as Tripmaster and Miry Broughall as Quartermaster/Boatmaster. In a last-minute failure of good judgment, John Licht volunteered to fill the Treasurer's position and we welcome him in his return to this position which he held, along with the Membership Coordinator job, in the 1980s. In addition, Anne Fiore offered to fill our vacant Conservation Coordinator position. Welcome Brookie, Miry, John, and Anne!

And much thanks to Kathy Ashworth and Kit Williams -- both of whom were serving second stints in their Treasurer and Tripmaster offices, respectively, and to Zach Allen for three years of storing and loaning our equipment as Quartermaster.



KATHRYN MUTZ
PRESIDENT



BILL ASHWORTH
MEMBERSHIP



DEBBIE HINDE
INSTRUCTION POOBAH



MIRY BROUGHALL
QUARTERMASTER/
BOATMASTER



JOHN LICHT
TREASURER



BROOKIE GALLAGHER
TRIPMASTER



DAN CUSTER
WEBMASTER



ANNE FIORE
CONSERVATION

2022 OFFICER ELECTION



In closing . . .

That is all from me for 2021, but I look forward to planning, paddling, and working with you all in the new year. 2022 is bound to be a less weird year! Please send your ideas to me or other board members and keep paddling!

If you have a bit of extra time in the new year:

- Volunteer to lead or co-lead a trip or help with Tripmaster duties – contact Tripmaster Brookie
- Donate unused boating equipment – contact Quartermaster Miry
- Present a Zoom event in the dark days of winter – contact Kathryn
- Keep your fellow members posted on water conservation issues and volunteer activities – post to the GoogleGroup or contact Anne Fiore

Officer email contact information is always available on our website Contact page at <http://rockymountaincanoeclub.net/contacts/>

In the meantime –

Have a great holiday season and see you at the Sunday, January 9th Planning and Permit Party.

Kathryn Mutz
RMCC President
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