

State of the Paddling Union for 2022: A New Normal?

2020 was Covid-weird, 2021 was water-weird, and 2022 was almost normal! We started the year with virtual gatherings and missed out on some of our traditional activities – like pool sessions in the spring – but we were back to standard boating events and hosted our annual meeting both virtually and in-person.

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:

- Bill Ashworth, Membership
- Miry Broughall, Quartermaster and Boatmaster
- Dan Custer, Webmaster
- Anne Fiore, Conservation
- Brookie Gallagher, Tripmaster
- Debbie Hinde, Instruction
- John Licht, Treasurer

KATHRYN MUTZ
PRESIDENT

BILL ASHWORTH
MEMBERSHIP

DEBBIE HINDE
INSTRUCTION

MIRY BROUGHALL
QUARTERMASTER/
BOAT MASTER

JOHN LICHT
TREASURER

BROOKIE GALLAGHER
TRIPMASTER

DAN CUSTER
WEBMASTER

ANNE FIORE
CONSERVATION

2022 OFFICERS

And thanks to the 14 event coordinators whose efforts form the backbone of our club. Each coordinator worked to create fun and safe boating experiences for all of us.



BILL ASHWORTH



JUDY MOISEY-ASAY



DAN CUSTER



MAT BOZEK



ANNE FIORE



TRACY & JANET HAYS

TRIP COORDINATORS 1 OF 2



LOUISE RICHARDS



KIT AND HENRY WILLIAMS



LINDSAY MEEKS



BROOKIE GALLAGHER



KAREN AMUNDSON



KATHRYN MUTZ

TRIP COORDINATORS 2 OF 2

Special thanks to other volunteers as well. While there were many, a few stand out:

- Assistants to the Trip Coordinators and class instructors, and Rendezvous cooks, event judges, on-the-water leads, sweeps and mentors;
- To Bill Ashworth for hosting our various meetings on Zoom and hosting the Rendezvous Sunday breakfast; and
- To the ACA Open Canoe Slalom Nationals crew in Canon City – those who organized (Alan Whittern, Jeff Oxenford, Debbie Hinde, Ken Hilt, Becky Bowers, Alyse Oxenford and Jan Dooley) and volunteered (Bill Ashworth, Kathy Ashworth, Ross Beveridge, Doug Hurcomb, Doug Kretzmann, Helen Kretzmann, Mike Koliha, Janet Marks, and Julie Oxenford) and competed.

And finally, thanks to all the members, including 115 unique boaters, who joined in activities – live or virtual – sometimes with masks and social distancing, and regardless of rain, shine, heat, cold, w---, Covid-19, or water levels.

2022 Activities:

The year started with a virtual Planning and Permit Party. Forty-eight Zoom meeting participants and opinions of dozens who submitted survey forms helped Tripmaster Brookie to create a robust schedule of trips. During the winter we did not host our own, but we benefited from the Zoom presentations hosted by both Poudre Paddlers and High Country River Rafters. We thank those clubs for inviting us to their presentations and we reciprocate in-kind when possible.

Mat Bozek and two other intrepid boaters started off the boating season on March 19th with a South Platte, Brighton to Ft. Lupton run. This was followed the next week by 24 boaters from various clubs on an Evans to Kersey/Kuner, South Platte run – the 17th Almost Annual Joint Club Paddle. Despite the continuing pandemic, we had a delightfully active year. In total, 494 members and guests participated in 34 activities, including canoe instruction classes, meetings, and ACA-sanctioned paddling trips.



Rendezvous rope throw competition



Pitching in at Rendezvous to corral the circus tent

The following charts list our 2022 activities and compare 2022 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 some previous year event totals.

CATEGORY	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MEMBERSHIP												
# households	100	90	112	113	108	112	117	123	124	108	127	142
# members								189	187	167	197	209
# ACA members								84	71	79	100	101
EVENTS: Trips, Meetings, Instruction and Miscellaneous												
Scheduled Events	11	22	24	19	27	36	26	24	36	29	42	40
Cancellations	?	?	2	1	9	13	4	1	7	10	9	6
Net # of Events	?	?	22	18	18	22	22	23	29	19	33	34
Boating Trips								19	18	10	22	22
ATTENDANCE												
Permit Party #	20	20	30	22	15	28	33	41	45	63	50	48
Annual Mtg #	20	25	25	31	30	30	40	31	38	38	35	43
Boaters # / Unique boaters *							161	210	206	100	207	252 / 115
Rendezvous #	30	30	54	40	41	21	33	24	35	12	27	47
Instruction/Paddling #								24	43	50	27	42
Instruction/Other #								10	48	68	9	85
Other Events #								0	0	0	122	24
Total Events Attendance	170	269	303	253	243	258	266	316	380	319	450	494
TOTAL # Event Coordinators	6	10	14	11	17	18	16	17	22	11	20	14
# Trip Coordinators							12	11	11	9	16	12

* Unique boaters tally does not include non-members attending the joint club paddle.

Paddling:

Of our 34 events in 2022, we had 22 paddling trips with 252 paddlers:

- 11 trips in Colorado and 11 at least partially out-of-state;
- 9 were day trips and 13 multi-day trips; and
- 6 were flatwater and 16 river trips.

Returning favorites included the Niobrara in Nebraska, Glendo to Guernsey on the North Platte in Wyoming, Loma, Colorado to Westwater, Utah on the Colorado River (the Ruby and Horsethief canyons), sections of the Green River in Wyoming (Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge) and Utah (below Flaming Gorge Dam and Stillwater Canyon), and our Rendezvous on the Upper Colorado River, camping at Radium. New or seldom run trips included the Arkansas River with Bluegrass and Grand and Shadow Mountain Lakes. Aside from the weekend of Rendezvous, the Memorial Weekend Niobrara trip holds the 2022 record for participants (20).

Trip reports from these and other trips are available in our website trip reports at

<http://rockymountaincanoecub.net/category/trip-reports/>

RMCC 2022 Trips and Events						
	Date	Trip/Event	Trip/Event Coordinator	Location	Event Type	# Attending
1	1/9/2022	Annual Permit Party	Kit Williams	Greenway Clubhouse, Broomfield, CO	Meeting	48
2	3/19/2022	South Platte	Mat Bozek	Brighton to Ft. Lupton, CO	Day River	3
3	3/22/2022	Beg. River Safety & Rescue	Debbie Hinde	Virtual	Dry Class w. PP	45
4	3/26/2022	Joint Clubs Paddle	Kathryn Mutz	S Platte: Evans to Kersey/Kuner, CO	Day River	24
5	4/22-24/2022	ACA Canoe Instructor Cart Workshop	Jeff Oxenford	Bear Creek Lake State Park, CO	Water Class	15
6	4/23-25/2022	White River	Mat Bozek	Rangely, CO	Multiday River	cancelled
7	4/26/2022	Lagerman Reservoir	Anne Fiore	Boulder, CO	Day Flatwater	7
8	4/27/2022	TC Training	Bill Ashworth	Virtual	Dry Class	16
9	4/30/2022	Platte River Cleanup	Anne Fiore	Confluence Park, Denver, CO	Service Day	5
10	4/30-5/1/2022	Essentials of Flat & Moving Water	Debbie hinde	Macintosh Lake and South Platte River	Water Class	20
11	5/4/2022	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
12	5/7/2022	Packing and Rigging Class	Bill Ashworth	Ashworth, Boulder, CO	Dry Class	11
13	5/7-8/2022	ACA Canoe Instructor Cart Workshop	Jeff Oxenford	South Platte River, Deckers, CO	Water Class	7
14	5/10/2022	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	4
15	5/12-19/2022	Upper Missouri River	Mat Bozek	Ft. Benton to James Kipp, MT	Multiday River	9
16	5/14-15/2022	Little Yampa Canyon	Dan Custer	South Beach to Duffy Mt. CO	Multiday River	13
17	5/16/2022	TC Training	Bill Ashworth	Virtual	Dry Class	5
18	5/22/2022	Inflatable Kayak Workshop	Debbie Hinde	Ft. Collins, CO	Dry Class w. PP	8
19	5/28-30/2022	Niobrara River	Bill Ashworth	Valentine NE	Multiday River	20
20	5/28-30/2022	Arkansas River and Bluegrass	Karen Amundson	Salida, CO	Multiday River	10
21	5/22-24/2022	Gunnison River	Mat Bozek	Escalante to Whitewater, CO	Multiday River	cancelled
22	6/4/2022	Gross Reservoir	Bill Ashworth	Osprey Pt, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
23	6/5/2022	Grand & Shadow Mountain Lakes	Tracy & Janet Hays	Grand Lake, CO	Day Flatwater	11
24	6/10-19/2022	Big Horn Canyon Lake	Tracy & Janet Hays	Wyoming/Montana	Multiday River	cancelled
25	6/19/2022	Standley Lake	Kit Williams	Arvada, CO	Day Flatwater	11
26	6/24-26/2022	Saratoga to I-80	Judy Malsey-Asay	North Platte River, WY	Multiday River	11
27	7/8-10/2022	Open Canoe Slalom Championships	Jeff Oxenford	Canon City, CO	Competition	19
28	7/16/2022	Glendo to Guemsey	Bill Ashworth	North Platte River, WY	Day River	15
29	8/5-8/2022	Rendezvous at Radium, CO	Kathryn Mutz	Upper Colorado River, CO	Multiday River	47
30	8/9/2022	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	5
31	8/15-26/2022	Boundary Waters	Louise Richards	Michigan	Multiday River	4
32	8/17/2022	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	5
33	9/2-5/2022	Seedskadee & Flaming Gorge	Karen Amundson	Green River, WY and UT	Multiday River	11
34	9/9-14/2022	Stillwater Canyon	Lindsay Meeks	Green River, UT	Multiday River	12
35	9/16-24/2022	Deso-Gray Canyons	Louise Richards	Green River, UT	Multiday River	6
36	9/25-26/2022	Loma to Westwater, CO to UT	Bill Ashworth	Colorado River, CO/UT	Multiday River	10
37	10/1/2022	Barr Lake	Kathryn Mutz	Aurora, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
38	10/11-14/2022	Loma to Westwater, CO to UT	Kathryn Mutz	Colorado River, CO/UT	Multiday River	6
39	10/13-16/2022	San Juan River	Karen Amundson	Sand Island to Mexican Hat, UT	Multiday River	8
40	11/12/2022	Annual Meeting	Kathryn Mutz	Clubhouse Broomfield, CO	Meeting	43
					TOTAL	494

This year's Rendezvous stretched from Friday through Monday morning and included 47 boaters, an informal mentoring run, a throw rope competition, and an excellent potluck. Winners of the cooking competition were Merlin Wheeler for his chicken green chile Dutch oven casserole main dish, Tracy Bellehumeur for her wild mushroom sauté side, and Noelle Bernhardt for both best Dutch oven dish and best dessert for her chocolate-raspberry torte. Winners of the rope throw competition, orchestrated by Lindsay Meeks, were Chris Kelly, Tracy Hays, Steve Guerra, Brookie Gallagher, and Joshua Guerra.

In the last several weeks, Tripmaster Brookie has been working with Webmaster Dan and potential Trip Coordinators to develop a preliminary list of trips for 2023 and an on-line interest survey that will be available January 1.

Instruction:

Meyer's pool was not open for practice or classes this year, but once the weather warmed, Instruction Coordinator Debbie Hinde and Instructor Trainer Jeff Oxenford led beginner flatwater, moving water, and instructor certification classes with the help of several assistants: Lynne Carpenter, Louise Richards, Richard Ferguson, Jan Dooley and Alyse Oxenford. Debbie also hosted the Rendezvous' informal mentoring run with several mentor volunteers across two paddling groups and, in conjunction with Poudre Paddlers, a virtual river safety class with Randy Knauff and an inflatable kayak class, presented by Sonia Van Zyl and Roger Faaborg. Bill Ashworth held a Packing and Rigging class at his home in Boulder and presented two Trip Coordinator training webinars.

Membership:

Membership increased from 127 households with 197 members in 2021 to 142 households with 209 members in 2022. We again welcomed several new and returning members to the club – about 20% of our total. About 67% of our members are from the Front Range while the remainder hail from other parts of Colorado as well as Texas, Arizona, South Dakota, New Mexico, Florida, and Tennessee.

Membership chairman, Bill Ashworth, has compiled an electronic roster including all members who did not opt-out. Members who joined late in 2022 were added to the roster, but their dues will be applied to 2023. Bill will distribute that roster in early 2023.

And 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 Covid waiver addendum. (It ain't over yet!). We encourage you to join ACA (101 members joined ACA in 2022) to support their work on all manner of boating and water conservation issues. And be sure you sign the ACA on-line waiver to avoid having to sign ACA waivers for each boating event. It helps out our TCs!

To renew your RMCC membership, you can visit the Membership page at <https://rockymountaincanoecub.net/members/join-our-club/> to either renew on-line or to print and mail the membership form. Payment can be made via PayPal or credit card (\$11, including processing fees) or by sending a check (\$10). In our inaugural year, about 60% of members renewed on-line.

Website:

Webmaster Dan Custer continued to refine and add materials to our website and to set up new members to receive posts and GoogleGroup access. Dan converted our on-line boating interest survey to a Google Forms application to provide better reporting for the Tripmaster, Trip Coordinators and survey participants. He also changed the appearance of the website this year, in the interest of site security, and trouble-shot issues throughout the year.

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. If you are interested in helping with the website – either content or mechanics – please contact Dan.

Finances:

The club continues to be financially sound with an ending balance of \$6856.14 and a net loss of about \$325. The majority of our income was from membership dues. Miscellaneous receipts were from canoe class registration and a couple of equipment sales. The instruction program collected \$690 in class fees and paid \$625 in event fees and nominal compensation for our instruction program, netting \$65 for the club. The majority of our expenses were for event expenses, our website (internet), post office box, and ACA dues. Thanks to Treasurer John Licht for shepherding our accounts. Contact John or Kathryn if you would like to see more detail on expenditures.

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club	
2022 Financial Summary	
12 31 22	
Beginning Cash	\$7,181.73
Receipts:	
Dues 2022	\$1,461.13
Dues 2023	\$40.39
Miscellaneous	\$115.00
Total Receipts	\$1,616.52
Disbursements	
Post Office	-\$168.00
Internet	-\$555.90
Dues (ACA)	-\$175.00
Miscellaneous	-\$272.00
Events	-\$771.21
Other	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	-\$1,942.11
Ending Cash	\$6,856.14
Total Receipts	\$1,616.52
Total Disbursements	-\$1,942.11
Net Change	-\$325.59

Conservation and Service:

Throughout the year, Anne Fiore monitored a variety of websites and otherwise collected information on boating and water-related issues being considered in Congress and on activities and proposals of federal and state agencies. She distributed this information via the GoogleGroup, invited all RMCC members to send out additional conservation-related information of interest to members, and updated the website's Conservation and Service page – <https://rockymountaincanoecub.net/conservation/>

Regarding Service activities, Anne also participated in and advertised river cleanup volunteer activities via the GoogleGroup. She facilitated a \$250 donation from the club to sponsor the 15th Annual River Cleanup on the South Platte in Denver, and plans to chair a committee in 2023 to select a 2023 recipient of our occasional Otter Conservation Award, last awarded in 2019.



Club Equipment:

This year Boatmaster / Quartermaster Miry Broughall expanded our boat and equipment inventory accepting a variety of donations including a whitewater solo/tandem canoe. Thanks to Paul Lang for that donation and Anne Fiore for storing it.

Miry stores and loans out the boats and boating/camping equipment in Broomfield. You can see a list of items and photos of most of the loaner equipment on our website under the Resources tab at <https://rockymountaincanoecub.net/members/club-equipment/>. See the specifics of canoe borrowing at <https://rockymountaincanoecub.net/canoe-loans/>. Members can borrow canoes for RMCC sponsored events and other equipment for private as well as RMCC trips.

Consider donating your seldom used equipment – we could especially use airbags and safety gear. Contact Miry!

Annual Meeting and Elections

Our annual meeting – held in-person and virtually on November 12th – closed out this year's events. About 43 individuals attended – about half virtual/half in-person. The potluck food was excellent, as usual, and our officers reported on the year's activities. We shared photos of some of our paddling adventures (see these in the [Annual Meeting folder](#), had a gadgets table for an informal 'show and tell', and had a short discussion of ideas for 2023 activities.

As is tradition, we elected officers with verbal and thumbs up voting. With that vote, we elected all of our 2022 officers to serve another one-year term in 2023. We are, however, still looking for someone to provide help with social media and we encourage you to start considering running for office in 2024.

KATHRYN MUTZ
PRESIDENT

BILL ASHWORTH
MEMBERSHIP

DEBBIE HINDE
INSTRUCTION

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QUARTERMASTER/
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JOHN LICHT
TREASURER

BROOKIE GALLAGHER
TRIPMASTER

DAN CUSTER
WEBMASTER

ANNÉ FIORE
CONSERVATION

MEDIA
COORDINATOR
YOU ??

2023 OFFICER ELECTIONS

In closing . . .

That is all from me for 2022, but I look forward to planning, paddling, and working with you all in the new 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
- Keep your fellow members posted on water conservation issues and volunteer activities – post to the GoogleGroup or contact Anne Fiore
- Send your new ideas for the club to me or other board members

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

In the meantime –

Have a great New Year’s holiday and see you at the Sunday, January 8th Planning and Permit Party, 1:30 to 4:30 at the Greenway Park Clubhouse or virtually (Zoom connection TBD).

Kathryn Mutz
RMCC President
gvmutz@gmail.com