

## 2023 -- 18<sup>th</sup> Almost Annual Joint Club Paddle

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Rocky Mountain Canoe Club ☐ Poudre Paddlers Club ☐ Flatwater Frogs ☐  
Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club ☐ High Country River Rafters

Saturday, March 25, 2023

*(Snow/Rain Date: Saturday, April 1st)*

**TBD:** Often a casual flatwater (class I) day trip, suitable for novices, families. BUT it depends on what flows we get! Even at lower water levels, the dams (see below) are more challenging portages than before the 2013 flood and there may be strainers if you end up in the wrong channel. **Look for an update on conditions from your club contact closer to the date!**

**\*\*Extra caution is always recommended** for flows above 800 cfs for novices & families.

Check the Kersey Bridge Flow Gauge:

<https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/Stations/PLAKERCO?params=DISCHRG>

- Pre-registration is not necessary, but appreciated. Sign up via this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/Uabik3r6pYF4qKWc6> or contact your Club contact (bottom of the flier)
- Membership is not required, though we encourage you to take this opportunity to join one or more of our organizations.
- Two trip choices: To Kersey Bridge = 9 miles; To Kuner Bridge = 15 miles
- Meet at the put-in at Riverside Park in Evans, CO at 9:00 a.m. The park was restored (as of October 2018) after devastation by the September 2013 floods. From the stop light in the middle of Evans on highway 85, go ½ mile east on 37<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right onto Riverside Parkway – at a prominent Riverside Park sign. Go 1/4 mile south through the neighborhood into the park. Drive past the parking area to a turn-around near the restroom building between the ball fields and the river, drop your boats, and move your car back to the parking area to make room for others. We will meet for launch on a bench by the river under the power line. During the Joint Club paddle in 2022, the RESTROOMS at the park were still CLOSED.
- This trip could be postponed due to bad weather or extreme flows. Please check with RMCC's or your club's coordinator or website (listed below) the day before for the trip status. The snow/rain date is Saturday, April 1st.
- We will have a short meeting for everyone at 9:30 at the put-in (i.e., near the turn-around). Please unload boats and equipment promptly, hand in waivers to your club coordinator (see below), and be ready to shuttle by 9:30.
- We will run separate car shuttles to the two destinations -- Kersey and Kuner. If it is a normal shuttle, one driver per car is needed while everyone else stays behind to finish moving/packing boats and for security. Please decide by the meeting time, which shuttle to join so that your car will end up at the right place. There is limited road-side parking at both take-outs. Depending on the number of participants, we may have to do a reverse shuttle for the Kersey take-out -- leaving most cars at the put-in and taking only a few vehicles to the take-out to shuttle drivers back to retrieve their cars from Evans after the run. In 2022, there was sufficient parking for about 20 participants to takeout at Kersey. Few boaters usually choose to go further to the Kuner take-out, so there should be sufficient parking there for a standard shuttle. We will discuss parking at the put-in.

- **Bring:** Suitable canoe, kayak, very small rafts or other inflatables. Also ESPECIALLY recommended is warm clothing, spare change of clothing, lunch, water, leak proof rubber boots and/or change of shoes (wet portage alert!), sunglasses, sun screen, sun hat, dry bag. Make sure children are well dressed for COLD water and air. Bring extra clothes and shoes for children!
- **Paddling Schedule (*estimates only!*):**  
 Lunch stop to be determined. In 2022 it was 1:30! (Lots of private land to avoid)  
 Kersey Bridge, 3:30 pm.  
 Kuner Bridge, 5:30 pm.

## Safety Notices

- **Road Traffic:** There is high-speed traffic on the roads at the Kersey and Kuner bridges and drivers are not expecting pedestrians. Be vigilant and watch your children.
- **KERSEY destination:** Take out will be river left either up- or down-stream of the new bridge. There are one-lane paths up to the road both up- and down-stream of the bridge, but the down-stream bank (at least at 600 cfs) and path are less steep. Parking at the takeout is mostly limited to the highway's shoulder with a high volume of large truck traffic. Vehicles may have to take turns parking near the bridge to load boats or carry boats along the shoulder.
- **KUNER destination:** Boaters going to Kuner should use the second (southern) bridge and stay within the highway right of way. The first bridge and surroundings are heavily posted private property. River left, upstream of the bridge should be the easiest for takeout and transport up the highway embankment to the road. There should be sufficient road-side parking on river left. There is a large parking lot for extra vehicles on the river-right end of the long bridge. Takeout downstream of the bridge is not advisable as it would require crossing barbed wire fencing on private land adjacent to the very narrow highway ROW.
- **Dams:** There are two dams that we must portage. At low water it may be possible to portage the dam on river right – one loaded boat at a time through water and then over riprap and sharp garbage. At higher flows, a longer portage (100 yards?) along the left bank is probably preferable. (We portaged left at 680 cfs in 2022; photo) The second dam has a land portage on the left bank – one-at-a-time, up and down steep, riprapped banks and through trees and brush. Don't plan to unload your boat at this dam either. There is NOT room above either dam for several boats to stage for the portage and it can be surprisingly easy to get sucked over the edge if you don't keep a respectable distance away. Let those familiar with the dams choose the side, set up the route, and portage first. And please stick around to help others move their boats.



Landowners at both dams will be contacted about portaging through their land. Please practice 'leave no trace' portaging! If you are doing this run on your own, please contact the following and leave a message regarding when you plan to boat:

- First Dam – Carlin at 303-356-5427 or [nafman1@yahoo.com](mailto:nafman1@yahoo.com)
- Second dam – Steve Hazlet 970-445-8226 – FYI - upland bird or waterfowl hunting may be in progress on the property adjacent to the dam

- **WAIVERS & PFD's REQUIRED.** There are normal boating risks involved; thus signed waivers and PFD's (life vests) are required. Cold springtime water; two dams to portage; submerged and overhanging trees; sometimes wires across river; unpredictable changes to river configuration; voracious gators; etc. Please Note: This is "hybrid" event and does not require an ACA annual nor a day-event (\$10) membership. If you are an ACA member or a non-member, but want to be covered by the event-specific liability waiver (\$10), please contact Kathryn Mutz (contact info below).

*Help us out by signing your club's on-line waiver or printing a waiver off your club website and bringing it to the put-in. Unaffiliated paddlers please use the Poudre Paddlers' waiver.*

- **Hypothermia.** The water can be quite cold on a spring trip like this. One of the best defenses against hypothermia in case of a tip-over is to travel with one or more companion boats, so that you can quickly get assistance to dry land and a change of clothes. Bring a change of clothes in your boat!

### **Organizations, Contacts and Links**

For waiver print-outs and more club info contact your club representative or Kathryn Mutz (RMCC):

**Flatwater Frogs** – Susan Dominica, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/727839657360758/>

**High Country River Rafters** – Nick Jimroglou, [njimroglou@gmail.com](mailto:njimroglou@gmail.com) <http://www.hcrr.org>

**Poudre Paddlers** – Jan Dooley, [jandooley@hotmail.com](mailto:jandooley@hotmail.com) <http://www.poudrepaddlers.org>

**Rocky Mountain Canoe Club** – Kathryn Mutz – [gvmutz@gmail.com](mailto:gvmutz@gmail.com)  
<http://www.rockymountaincanoecclub.net>

**Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club** – Sandy Carlsen, [sandyc1000@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyc1000@yahoo.com) [www.rmskc.org](http://www.rmskc.org)