

RMCC Lower Colorado River Trip Horsethief / Ruby Canyons Thurs-Sunday Sept 28-Oct 1

Put-in: Loma boat launch Take-out: Westwater Ranger Station, UT

Paddling distance: 24 miles

River difficulty: Class I

ACA Event Status: ACA sanctioned trip. CURRENT ACA membership or \$10 event fee required. NO helmets required

Overview:

- **Wednesday:** Since Loma is a 4+ hour drive from the Front Range, most paddlers will arrive in the area Wednesday night. There will be no group campsite – everyone's on their own. There's a state park in Fruita about 7 miles from Loma and numerous others farther away. Colorado National Monument is a short distance away from Fruita.
- **Thursday: Meet at 8am on Thursday morning at the Loma Boat Launch. The Loma boat ramp is located on the south side of I-70 at the Loma exit. Cross over the freeway, turn left, and follow the signs down to the boat launch area.** We'll off load all our boats and river gear and start the shuttle. (Shuttle time approximately 45 minutes each way). Directions for the shuttle drivers after we've unloaded at Loma : Follow I-70 west into Utah for 19.5 miles. Take the Westwater Exit 227 and follow BLM 192 and 191 to Westwater Ranch Road (about 6.4 miles) Non-drivers will start rigging the boats. We will pay to have a shuttle service shuttle 1-2 cars from to the take out after our departure. We'll launch around 11:00-11:30 and paddle 13 miles to our campsite (named Mee 4)
- **Friday:** layover day (no paddling) for the optional hiking of the beautiful Mee Canyon or relaxing at camp. We'll stay tonight at the same campsite
- **Saturday:** Depart camp by about 9 am, to allow time to stop along the way at Black Rocks for an optional brief swim and at McDonald Canyon for lunch and an optional hike. We'll paddle a total of 7 miles today and then will camp at May Flats.
- **Sunday:** We'll aim for an approximately 9:30 am departure from camp in order to prevent paddling in possible headwinds in the last stretch. Total paddling distance 5 miles to the Westwater Ranger Station. After taking out, some of us prefer camping nearby in order to avoid I-70 Sunday traffic and to have a more relaxed day.

Happy hours: we encourage folks to bring some simple food to share for happy hours. BYOB. Musical instruments and singing would be great. And of course river stories, jokes, dance lessons (why not?) are welcome too....

Paddlers should bring:

- Boats suitable for Class I paddling (solo or tandem canoes; recreational, river, or sea kayaks)
- Standard overnight canoe camping gear listed here (remember a spare paddle and a throw bag also) <http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/canoe-multiday-touring-checklist.html>
- Note that RMCC does have some supplies that members can borrow for club trips (look under the resources tab on club website)
- Food and WATER (recommended one gallon water per day per person)
- Total (\$34-54) for these expenses: Costs:
 - \$10 for those who are not ACA members
 - \$1 fee for Groover disposal
 - \$13 (approximate, pending group size) for campsite permit fee

- \$20-30 (approximate, pending group size) for paying to have up to 2 cars shuttled back to the take out. There have been some reports of car break-ins at the Loma put in, so we are being cautious and planning to have all vehicles at the take out.
- Musical instruments or song lyrics would be wonderful

Required:

- **review this BLM rules of the river before the trip:**
<https://www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org/news/2019/7/1/know-before-you-go-rules-of-the-river>
- No alcohol or drug use before or during runs.
- Properly worn PFDs at all times on the water.

If you'd like to take a look at the river map to get the lay of the land for our campsites, hikes, etc, here it is: https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2023-04/Ruby_Horsethief_Campsites_legal_20230216_0.pdf

RMCC will provide:

Group toilet
Group handwashing station
Group dishwashing station
Fire pan (required even if there is a fire ban)

Trip Co-Coordinator Gay Lynn Olsen glolsen27@yahoo.com and Debbie Hinde dhinde1@msn.com Feel free to contact us by email with questions, but to sign up, please use this google form: <https://forms.gle/KQz3bFiMcffsHVPQ9>