

State of the Paddling Union for 2023: High Water Challenged

2020 was Covid-weird, 2021 was water-weird, 2022 was almost normal, and 2023 was blessed with high-water challenges. We settled into hosting our dryland meetings/parties as both in-person and virtual events, found a new home for winter pool sessions, and were back to standard boating events, although several were canceled due to high water and wind.

To begin, I offer sincere **Thanks** to the 2023 club officers who kept the trips, classes, membership, finances, website, conservation/service activities, and club equipment organized and ticking:

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



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 230 trippers and 176 other members/guests who participated in activities – live or virtual.

And **SPECIAL thanks** to the 15 event coordinators whose efforts are the backbone of our club. Each coordinator worked to create fun and safe boating/instruction experiences for us all.



BILL ASHWORTH

JUDY MOISEY-ASAY

DEBBIE HINDE

DAN CUSTER

MAT BOZEK

ANNE FIORE

ELAINE O'REILLY

RANDY FURRETT

TRIP/EVENT COORDINATORS 1 OF 2



KARLA TANNER

KIT WILLIAMS

GAY LYNN OLSEN

BROOKIE GALLAGHER

JEFF OXFORD

KAREN AMUNDSON

KATHRYN MUTZ

TRIP/EVENT COORDINATORS 2 OF 2

This year we offered a small thanks to our event coordinators and officers with an AWESOME Volunteer RMCC T-shirt.

2023 Events:

The year started with an in-person/virtual Planning and Permit Party. Forty-four 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.

In March, paddling practice and instruction started in three pool sessions at Centennial Pool in Longmont – a new pool venue for us. And Mat Bozek and two other intrepid boaters started our boating season on March 18th with a South Platte, Brighton to Ft. Lupton run. This was followed on April 1 with 32 boaters from various clubs on an Evans to Kersey/Kuner, South Platte run – the 18th Almost Annual Joint Club Paddle.

In anticipation of a busy boating season, Kit Williams spearheaded a Demo Day and Potluck in late April that brought 36 boaters to Lagerman Reservoir to show off their craft and demo others. And then the flows and winds began to surge causing prudent trip coordinators to cancel 10 of our 35 scheduled events. Sigh!

The following charts list our 2023 activities and compare 2023 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	2023
MEMBERSHIP													
# households	100	90	112	113	108	112	117	123	124	108	127	142	170
# members								189	187	167	197	209	274
# ACA members								84	71	79	100	101	108
EVENTS: Trips, Meetings, Instruction and Miscellaneous													
Scheduled Events	11	22	24	19	27	36	26	24	36	29	42	40	35
Cancellations	?	?	2	1	9	13	4	1	7	10	9	6	10
Net # of Events	?	?	22	18	18	22	22	23	29	19	33	34	25
Boating Trips								19	18	10	22	22	15
ATTENDANCE													
Permit Party #	20	20	30	22	15	28	33	41	45	63	50	48	44
Annual Mtg #	20	25	25	31	30	30	40	31	38	38	35	43	40
Boaters # / Unique boaters *							161	210	206	100	207	252 / 115	230
Rendezvous #	30	30	54	40	41	21	33	24	35	12	27	47	57
Instruction/Paddling #								24	43	50	27	42	72
Instruction/Other #								10	48	68	9	85	20
Other Events #								0	0	0	122	24	44+
Total Events Attendance	170	269	303	253	243	258	266	316	380	319	450	494	406
TOTAL # Event Coordinators	6	10	14	11	17	18	16	17	22	11	20	14	15
# Trip Coordinators							12	11	11	9	16	12	14

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

RMCC 2023 Trips and Events						
	Date	Trip/Event	Trip/Event Coordinator	Location	Event Type	# Attending
1	1/9/2023	Annual Planning and Permit Party	Brookie Gallagher	Greenway Clubhouse, Broomfield, CO	Meeting	44
2	3/4/2023	Pool Session #1	Debbie Hinde	Centennial Pool, Longmont, CO	Water Class	12
3	3/12/2023	Pool Session #2	Debbie Hinde	Centennial Pool, Longmont, CO	Water Class	13
4	3/16/2023	South Platte	Mat Bozek	Brighton to Ft. Lupton, CO	Day River	3
5	3/18/2023	Pool Session #3	Debbie Hinde	Centennial Pool, Longmont, CO	Water Class	13
6	4/1/2023	Joint Club Paddle	Kathryn Mutz	S Platte: Evans to Kersey/Kuner, CO	Day River	32
7	4/8/23	Lagerman Reservoir	Anne Fiore	Boulder, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
8	4/12/2023	TC Training	Bill Ashworth	Virtual	Dry Class	9
9	4/29/23	Demo Day and Potluck	Kit Williams	Lagerman Reservoir, Boulder, CO	Day Flatwater	36
10	5/6-7/2023	Essentials of Flat & Moving Water	Debbie hinde	Macintosh Lake & South Platte River, CO	Water Class	18
11	5/6/2023	Packing and Rigging Class	Bill Ashworth	Ashworth, Boulder, CO	Dry Class	11
12	5/6-13/2023	Upper Missouri River	Mat Bozek	Fl. Benton to James Kipp, MT	Multiday River	cancelled
13	5/10-14/2023	Green River, Labyrinth Canyon	Randy Purrett & Elaine O'Reilly	Ruby Ranch to Mineral Bottom, UT	Multiday River	3
14	5/16-17/2023	Little Yampa Canyon	Dan Custer	South Beach to Duffy Mt, CO	Multiday River	cancelled
15	5/20-22/2023	White River	Mat Bozek	Rangely, CO	Multiday River	5
16	5/22/2023	Union Reservoir Paddle & Cleanup	Anne Fiore	Longmont, CO	Service Day/ Day Flatwater	11
17	5/24/2023	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
18	5/26-28/2023	Niobrara River	Bill Ashworth	Valentine NE	Multiday River	cancelled
19	6/7/2023	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
20	6/10-11/2023	Cisoo to Lower Onion Creek	Karla Tanner	Colorado River, UT	Multiday River	cancelled
21	6/11-13/2023	North Platte River Exploratory	Anne Fiore	Sinclair, WY	Multiday River	cancelled
22	6/19-23/2023	Green River, Labyrinth Canyon	Judy Moisey-Asay	Ruby Ranch to Mineral Bottom, UT	Multiday River	15
23	6/26/2023	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	12
24	7/6/2023	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
25	7/9-10/2023	Swiftwater Rescue Workshop	Debbie Hinde	Salida, CO	Water Class	9
26	7/19/2023	Macintosh Lake	Brookie Gallagher	Longmont, CO	Day Flatwater	cancelled
27	8/4-7/2023	Rendezvous at Radium, CO	Kathryn Mutz	Upper Colorado River, CO	Multiday River	57
28	8/12/2023	Glendo to Guernsey	Bill Ashworth	North Platte River, WY	Day River	16
29	8/24-31/2023	Lake Powell Houseboat/Kayak	Karen Amundson	Wahweap to San Juan Arm, AZ	Multiday Flat	9
30	9/5-11/2023	Deso-Gray Canyons	Debbie Hinde	Green River, UT	Multiday River	12
31	9/13-15/2023	ACA L1 Canoe Instructor Course	Jeff Oxenford	Morrison, CO	Water Class	7
32	9/24-25/2022	Loma to Westwater (Ruby-Horsethief)	Bill Ashworth	Colorado River, CO/UT	Multiday River	10
33	9/28-10/1/2023	Loma to Westwater (Ruby-Horsethief)	Gay Lynn Olsen & Debbie Hinde	Colorado River, CO/UT	Multiday River	6
34	10/1-7/2023	Smith River	Kathryn Mutz	Camp Baker - Eden Bridge, MT	Multiday River	3
35	11/5/2023	Annual Meeting	Kathryn Mutz	Clubhouse Broomfield, CO	Meeting	40
					TOTAL	406

Paddling:

Of our 25 events in 2023, we had 15 paddling trips with 230 paddlers:

- 7 trips were in Colorado and 8 at least partially out-of-state;
- 6 were day trips and 9 multi-day trips; and
- 4 were flatwater and 11 river trips.

Returning favorites included Labyrinth Canyon and Desolation and Greys Canyons on the Green River in Utah, the White River in Colorado, Glendo to Guernsey on the North Platte in Wyoming, two trips through Ruby-Horsethief canyons on the Colorado River from Colorado into Utah, and our Rendezvous on the Upper Colorado River, camping at Radium. New or seldom run trips included a houseboat/kayak excursion on Lake Powell in Arizona and a fall trip on the

Smith River, Montana. Trip reports from these and other trips are available in our searchable website trip reports at <http://rockymountaincanoecub.net/category/trip-reports/>

For the second year, the Rendezvous stretched from Friday through Monday morning (with some over-achievers starting on Thursday) and included 51 boaters and 6 additional guests, informal mentoring runs and an excellent potluck. Cooking competition winners were Nita and Craig Flora for Best Entree and Best dutch oven dish; Henry Williams for Best dessert; Becky Bowers for Best side dish; and Noelle Bernhardt for Best of show.

Thanks to all who attended and helped to pitch and take down the party tent, collect waivers and ACA fees, set up handwash/dishwash stations, wrangle trash and recycle, bring extra equipment for loan, help with the Sunday morning breakfast, coordinate and sweep runs, and mentor boaters. Special thanks to Bill Ashworth, who again hosted the Sunday breakfast — with lots of volunteer help, to Kit Williams for orchestrating the cookoff competition, and to Instruction Coordinator Debbie Hinde, who scouted and then hosted — with mentor help — two skills practice sessions. Thank you! Thank You!



In the last several weeks of the year when boats (at least most boats) were stored for the winter, Tripmaster Brookie worked with Webmaster Dan and potential Trip Coordinators to develop a preliminary list of trips for 2024 and an on-line interest survey available January 1.

Instruction:

We had a full schedule of boat technique and safety classes this year:

- Instruction started in early March with three pool sessions at Centennial Pool in Longmont focusing on canoe rolling (Alan Wittern and Jeff Oxenford), self- and boat-rescue (Jeff Oxenford and Debbie Hinde), and kayak rolling (Kit Williams and Curt Cleavinger).
- In April, Bill Ashworth taught a Trip Coordinator training on Zoom and we participated with Poudre Paddlers, High Country River Rafters and the Lower Columbia Canoe Club in a Zoom on Safety and Rescue with presenters Lynne Carpenter, Mike O'Brien, Roger Faaborg, and Nick Kot.
- In May, Bill Ashworth readied us for river tripping with a Rigging and Packing class at his home. And outdoor-water instruction began with an Essentials of Moving Water Canoe Class in early May on McIntosh Lake, Sloan's Lake and the South Platte River with instructors Debbie Hinde, Lynne Carpenter, Louise Richards, and Ken Hilt.
- In July several members attended a Swiftwater Rescue class from Canyon River Instruction in Salida. That class was discounted for the club and subsidized by the club (\$20 per eligible attendee) to encourage development of rescue skills.
- We held two Intermediate River Paddling Clinics at the Rendezvous in August for canoes, kayaks and IKs. Debbie Hinde, Ken Hilt, Lynne Carpenter, Alan Wittern, Becky Bowers, and Chris Kelly coached boaters down sections of the upper Colorado reading the river and practicing intermediate skills.
- In September Jeff Oxenford conducted an ACA Canoe Instructor Certification Workshop.

In all, 72 members participated in boating skills and safety instruction (not including the informal Rendezvous mentoring nor the Zoom Safety and Rescue) and 20 in the Trip Coordinator and Packing/Rigging classes. Thanks to all of the instructors and members who took part in skills development. We all benefit from our skilled fellow boaters. Thanks especially to Debbie Hinde who coordinated this major instruction effort!

Membership:

Membership increased from 142 households with 209 members in 2022 to 170 households and 274 members in 2023. We again welcomed several new and returning members to the club (about 24% of our total) and lost about 18% of our households. This year 80% of our members are from the Front Range while the remainder hail from other parts of Colorado as well as Arizona, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

Membership chairman, Bill Ashworth, has compiled an electronic roster including all members who did not opt-out. Members who joined late in 2023 were added to the roster, but their dues will be applied to 2024. Bill will distribute the new roster in early 2024.

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. We encourage you to join ACA (108 members joined ACA in 2023) 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 Trip Coordinators!

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). This year, 59% of members renewed on-line.

Website:

Webmaster Dan Custer continued to refine and add materials to our website and helped to set up new members to receive posts and GoogleGroup access. He added eight new photo galleries and 18 trip reports this year – all can be found on the website’s “Posts” tab and are a great resource for planning your next trip.

Dan fixed things when they broke and/or debugged fixes provided by software support staff. And, perhaps most important, he instituted some changes to improve the security and stability of the website. Thanks Dan!

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 but with a lower ending balance than that of the last several years – about \$4,646 for a net loss of about \$2,210. As usual, the majority of our income was from membership dues. The majority of our expenses were for event expenses, our website (internet), post office box, and ACA dues. Additional expenditures this year included \$500 for our Otter Award to Western Rivers Conservancy, a \$560 payment for 2024 pool sessions in Longmont, and about \$800 for club T-shirts. About \$1300 of that should be recouped in 2024 from pool session attendees and through T-shirt sales. Cost of our instruction program is essentially a wash with student fees

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club	
2023 Financial Summary	
Beginning Cash	\$6,856.14
Receipts:	
Dues 2023	\$1,817.32
Dues 2024	\$60.69
Miscellaneous	\$396.02
Total Receipts	\$2,274.03
Disbursements	
Administrative	-\$380.25
Internet	-\$504.92
Instruction/Safety	-\$1,080.00
Miscellaneous	-\$1,227.52
Events	-\$791.83
Otter Award	-\$500.00
Total Disbursements	-\$4,484.52
Ending Cash	\$4,645.65
Total Receipts	\$2,274.03
Total Disbursements	-\$4,484.52
Net Change	-\$2,210.49

covering any venue permit fees and nominal compensation to program instructors.

Thanks to Treasurer John Licht for shepherding our accounts this year. Contact John or Kathryn if you would like to see more detail on income or expenditures.

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://rockymountaincanoeclub.net/conservation/>

After surveying members regarding interest in conservation and service projects, Anne participated in and advertised river cleanup volunteer activities and organized a boating cleanup at Union Reservoir in May. With other members she initiated involvement with groups promoting diversity in paddling. Anne also chaired our committee to select Western Rivers Conservancy as our 2023 Otter Conservation Award recipient. Other committee members were Virginia Winter, Bill Rivers, and Brookie Gallagher. Thanks for your work!



Club Equipment:

This year Boatmaster / Quartermaster Miry Broughall expanded our boat and equipment inventory accepting a variety of donations including a tandem canoe from Tracy and Janet Hays, housed by Janet Mallory in Moab, and gear donated by Ted Engelmann and Chris Kelly. And Elaine O'Reilly breathed new life into our party tent bag with her stitching skills. Thanks to all!

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://rockymountaincanoeclub.net/members/club-equipment/>. See the specifics of canoe borrowing at <https://rockymountaincanoeclub.net/canoe-loans/>. Members can borrow equipment and two of our three canoes for both RMCC sponsored events and private trips. Whitewater canoe loans are limited to club trips.

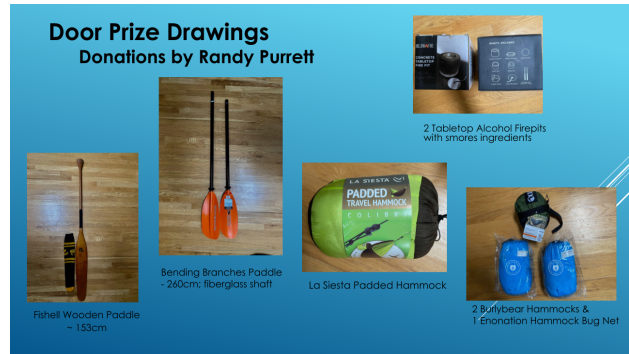
Consider donating your seldom used equipment – we could especially use airbags and safety gear. Contact Miry!

Annual Meeting, Otter Award, and Elections

Our annual meeting – held in-person and virtually on November 5th – closed out this year's events. About 40 individuals attended with a little more than half in-person (we forgot to count!). 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, thanks to Jeff Keeler for developing the slideshow, and had a short discussion of ideas for 2024 activities. As a prelude to 2024, Lindsay Meeks launched RMCC T-shirt sales with a mockup shirt and signup sheet. T-shirts will be on sale at the Planning and Permit Party in January.

This year we also spiced up the annual meeting with several door prizes provided by Randy Purrett and a vote for Best of Show from the photo contributions. Thanks to Randy for the door prizes and to all who contributed photos for the show. Winner: Isaac Huang.



Isaac Huang – Paddling Brainard Lake in the Evening

The highlight of the meeting was presentation of our Otter Award, including a check for \$500, to Western Rivers Conservancy for their work protecting western rivers. Jake Campbell accepted the award and gave a wonderful presentation on the group’s Colorado projects. See the [Western Rivers Conservancy website](#) for information on their work in Colorado and the wider West.

And finally, as is tradition, we elected officers with verbal and thumbs up voting. With that vote, we elected most of our 2023 officers to serve another one-year term:

- Kathryn Mutz, President
- Bill Ashworth, Membership
- Debbie Hinde, Instruction
- Dan Custer, Webmaster
- Brookie Gallagher, Tripmaster

We also added:

- Michael Johnson to serve as Co-Officer for Conservation with continuing officer Anne Fiore, and
- Bill Rivers to serve as Treasurer, replacing retiring Treasurer John Licht.

We are, however, still looking for someone to provide help with social media and we encourage everyone to consider running for office in 2024. Please!!

In closing . . .

That is all from me for 2023, 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 or Michael Johnson
- 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/>

Kathryn Mutz
 RMCC President
gvmutz@gmail.com