

# 2024 -- 19<sup>th</sup> Almost Annual Joint Club Paddle

(updated 12/16/2023)

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

**Saturday, March 30, 2024**

*(Snow/Rain Date: Saturday, April 6th)*

*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 appreciated. Sign up via this Google Form: [2024 All Clubs Paddle Registration Form](#) or with your Club Coordinator (see bottom of the flier)
- Club 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. Park restoration was completed in 2018 after devastation by the September 2013 floods. Directions: 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 (restrooms may be closed) between the ball fields and the river, drop your boats, and move your car back to the parking area to make room for others. Follow the main path past a bench then turn down a paved spur to a sandy beach to launch.

Please unload boats and equipment promptly, hand in waivers to your club coordinator or to Anne Fiore and be ready to shuttle by 9:30

- **Assistance Requested:** On the day of the paddle, assistance will be requested for: lead boaters (should have prior experience on this run); mid-pack boaters; caravan leaders (1 each for Kuner takeout and Kersey takeout)
- **This trip could be postponed due to bad weather or extreme flows.** Please check with RMCC's coordinator ([anne.fiore@yahoo.com](mailto:anne.fiore@yahoo.com)) or your club's coordinator or website (listed below) the day before for the trip status. The snow/rain date is Saturday, April 6th.
- **We will have a short meeting at 9:30 at the turn-around.**
- **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 2023, there was sufficient parking for about 20 participants to takeout at Kersey. A few boaters will 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 9:30 meeting.

- **Bring:** Suitable canoe, kayak, very small rafts or other inflatables. 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 down-stream of the bridge. There is a good paths up to the road. Parking at the takeout is mostly limited to the highway's shoulder with a high volume of large truck traffic though there is a wide pull-out a bit past the bridge. 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 take out at use the second (southern) bridge and stay within the highway right of way. The first bridge that comes into view and its surroundings are heavily posted private property and often is not accessible by water. There should be sufficient road-side parking on river-left, north side of the bridge but there is a large parking lot for extra vehicles on the west side of the road a short distance before the bridge. Takeout downstream of the bridge but note it is a **haul** and requires crossing barbed wire fencing and up a steep hill to reach the road.
- **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 or so) along the left bank is probably preferable. (We portaged left at 680 cfs in 2022, see 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 & PFDs 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.
- **Waivers and ACA guidelines:** Please note that this is a "hybrid" event in that we are following the ACA guidelines for ACA members and non-members that want to be covered by the event-specific liability waiver (\$10 fee).

*If you are **not** an ACA member and do not want to sign the ACA event waiver and pay the \$10 fee please print a waiver from your club's website, sign it, and bring it to the put-in. Unaffiliated paddlers or those whose club do not have a club specific waiver, please use the Poudre Paddlers' waiver (click on 'membership' for a link to a printable copy).*

*If you are an ACA member please send your ACA number and waiver expiration date to Anne Fiore ([anne\\_fiore@yahoo.com](mailto:anne_fiore@yahoo.com)).*

*If you want to purchase an ACA day-event-membership, please contact Anne Fiore ([anne\\_fiore@yahoo.com](mailto:anne_fiore@yahoo.com))*

- **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, Coordinators and Links**

For waiver print-outs and more club info contact your club representative or Anne Fiore (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:** Richard Maddox ([freezzie@comcast.net](mailto:freezzie@comcast.net) <https://www.poudrepaddlers.org/>)

**Rocky Mountain Canoe Club:** Anne Fiore ([anne\\_fiore@yahoo.com](mailto:anne_fiore@yahoo.com) <http://www.rockymountaincanoecub.net>)

**Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club:** TBD ([www.rmskc.org](http://www.rmskc.org))