



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB JANUARY 10, 1984

NEW OFFICERS FOR THE 1984 PADDLING SEASON

At the recent fall meeting the new officers for the 1984 paddling season were elected. They are as follows:

President	Kerry Edwards
Vice President	Andy Forberg
Sec-Treasurer	Terry Owen
Training Coordinator	Lyn Berry



A note from the President

I would like to thank all the members of the club who were inebriated enough at the fall meeting to be convinced that I might be able to handle the responsibilities of being your President. The wisdom of that decision can only be compared to Ron and Gary's ability to keep a boat upright in Rodeo Rapids.

For those of you who think the canoeing season ends in September, I want to report that the Thanksgiving trip from Loma to Westwater was a great success. The only bad parts were trying to get boats out of storage (ask Jim Herring), and the Class V shuttle out from Westwater. The river was beautiful, peopled only with one other group of crazy kayakers whom we had met last year on the same trip. Thanksgiving dinner was a gourmet's delight and the stirring words of Robert Service substituted for the postdinner football game. But now its time to hang up the boats for the winter and get the catalogs out to see what new equipment to order for next year.

Just so that you dont lose interest in boating over the winter, the club is scheduling a couple of winter activities this year. January 26 will be a

night to view some interesting canoeing films that I'm sure will fuel your dreams for remote wilderness trips. February 26 will be a Canoe Roundup at the Sheridan Recreation Center. It is designed to display canoeing skills, equipment and safety along with being just plain fun.

As we talked about at the fall meeting, the Red Cross will be offering courses to certify whitewater canoeing instructors. If you are interested in this course, give me a call at [] and I will send you more information when I receive it.

Also, trip leaders--let's spend the winter thinking about new trips that we can run next year. There must be a few rivers in Colorado that the club has not run before, or at least not recently.

As you look through your catalogs for new equipment, keep in mind that saying of Thoreau's: "That man(sic) is richest whose pleasures are the cheapest."

Kerry Edwards

1984 MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings for the 1984 season of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club is presently set as follows:

- Thursday Jan 26 Files Evening
- Sunday Feb 26 Canoe Roundup
- Thursday Mar 15 Trip Leaders Meeting
- Friday Apr 6 Spring Meeting
- ? ? ? Nail Soup
- Saturday Oct 6 Fall Meeting

WINTER TRIPS

Scott Cragle and Kerry Edwards are planning a ski touring trip the weekend of January 14. Call them if you are interested. Scott [] Kerry []

Are you interested in seeing the winter home of the River Gods? Join Terry Owen for a snow shoe trip in Rocky Mountain National Park on February 12. []

CANOEING FILM FESTIVAL

DATE: January 26, 1984

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: Holubar's Denver Store
2490 S. Colorado Blvd.
Denver, Colorado

WELCOME: Open to Canoe Club Members
And The Public At No Charge

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
"ONE RIVER DOWN"	File of wilderness canoe travels by John Ruge and James West Davidson, authors of "COMPLETE WILDERNESS PADDLER".
"NAHANNI"	A premier canoe trip through the 1840 square mile national park in the Northwest Territories is beautifully recorded in this film. "Another day-- more troubled waters. Where we stopped to look it over, we could see a wall on one shore turn a whole river a fast 90 degrees and send in as a mane of five foot tall waves into the cliff wall of the opposite shore. Whirlpools set spinning on both sides of the central surge have given this confusion the name of Figure Eight Rapids. An alternate name of Rapid That Runs Both Ways is equally telling, as is a third title: Hell's Gate.... An impressive percentage of the craft not portaged around Figure Eight come out of it upside down....Virginia Falls at more than 1 1/2 the height of Niagra is pure detonation."....NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 9/81.
"OF RIVERS AND MEN"	Canoeing the Adirondak mountains of New York State. Back-East canoers try out big water in the pristine countryside. Exciting footage of

open canoes running the Hudson River Gorge and Big Nasty Rapids.

"CANOEING THE CHURCHILL RIVER"

Chronicles a canoe trip on the Churchill River in Northern Saskatchewan. Shades of "Northwest Passage."

"NAHANNI"

40 year veteran of Nahanni travel Albert Faillie captures his experiences in this old film. Early footage of canoes, northwoods paddling style, and 1930's explorers make this film a classic. "Those of us who had the good fortune to be on the South Nahanni in those last days of the Old North, in times of hunger and hardship, have cursed the day we ever heard the name of that fabled river. Yet, a treasure was ours in the end: memories of a carefree time and an utter and absolute freedom which the years cannot die, nor the present age provide."...DANGEROUS RIVER

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB
Sunday, Feb. 26
3:30 - 6:00

WINTER POOL ROUNDUP
Sheridan Recreation Centre Pool
3325 W. Oxford; Denver
7 blocks S. of Hampden; W. of Federal

CHOOSING A CANOE FOR COLORADO

by Jim and Susan Herring

A WINTER EVENT FOR ALL RMCC MEMBERS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS

Proposed Activities:

safety demonstration/formation drill
how to throw a rescue bag/line
C.P.R demonstration and practice
elementary canoe behavior rules (done as a skit)
contests (done against the clock, or as a pair)
-English gates -throw rescue bag/line
-rescue swimmer from water -"push a war"
-canoe volley ball -pivot race
-eskimo roll single & pair

practice and instruction on canoe strokes
canoe formation program/demonstration

Proposed other Features

RMCC spring/summer schedule RMCC training activities
RMCC slide show, posters, displays, etc. of past trips
Exhibit of properly packed and outfitted canoe

Display from ARC, CWMA, CMC Canoe Section

Can you help to put this program on ???

I need plenty of volunteers to :

- 1) Organize/participate in demonstrations
- 2) Organize and coordinate displays
- 3) Organize and run contests
- 4) for Crowd control (?)

also

DO YOU NOW WANT TO REGISTER IN ANY OF THESE FASCINATING CONTESTS?

Call Lyn Berry,

PRIZES FUN PRIZES (no one will be skiing that day) FUN

The canoe buyer investigating canoes for the first time may feel overwhelmed by the choices offered, but basically the models available in the Denver area fall into two categories: cruisers and river canoes.

The buyer must first decide how he or she will use the canoe. Although many beginning canoeers swear they only plan to paddle on lakes, Colorado has a great shortage of still water. Sooner or later, almost all novice canoeers are lured onto moving water and find that their canoes come alive in the current. Rivers offer more fun, excitement and beautiful scenery with less drudgery than lakes.

River running requires being in control through rapids and drops, ferrying clear of obstructions, surfing waves as if on the ocean and popping in and out of eddies at will. River canoeing involves using the river's currents and waves in a high form of play which can be learned by paddlers who have canoes of the appropriate design. Colorado's rivers have some special characteristics which govern which canoes are suitable for use. The rivers are snow fed and tend to drop rapidly, making them cold, fast and powerful. Even flat, placid rivers can carry a huge volume of swift water. They tend to have big, rolling waves, sharp turns and large obstructions. Boats suitable for Colorado's rivers are of medium length and width and fairly high sided. They are large volume craft with bows that will ride over waves and with rounded ends and enough rocker to maneuver around rocks and turn easily. One river running tactic in particular, the eddy turn, where the canoe can be parked in the quiet water behind a rock by doing a U-turn from the main river current into the eddy, requires that the canoe be able to turn around in its own length. Speed is of little concern, for the rivers themselves are swift and trips generally run at nearly the same speed as the current.

Unless a person is interested in racing, there is no need to buy a cruising boat to paddle Colorado's rivers. In fact, such a boat in the hands of a paddler who is not already an expert can lead to dangerous, sometimes lifethreatening, accidents. Cruising boats are fast, granted, but they are extremely difficult to maneuver, tend to plow through waves rather than ride over them, have little reserve bouyancy and are extremely reluctant to turn. Their very speed can carry the novice canoeer into danger faster than he or she can respond.

The most suitable design for a canoe buyer in Colorado to consider is a river canoe in a durable material. Boats of this design share the following characteristics:

- (1) The canoe should be approximately 15 to 17 feet long.
- (2) The overall beam (width at the widest point) should be about 35 to 37 inches, and the waterline beam should be about 34 to 36 inches. Boats can be narrower, but generally narrower canoes are cruiser designs.
- (3) The midship depth should be 13 to 15 inches.
- (4) The boat should have some rocker or lift at the ends for ease of maneuvering. In other words, the keel line, when viewed from the side, should curve upward toward the ends.
- (5) River canoes are normally symmetrical--the front half and back half look the same. This is not a design necessity, but asymmetry is more typical of cruising or racing canoes.
- (6) Most river canoes have fairly full ends to give the ends enough bouyancy to ride over waves. Narrow ends knife into the waves.
- (7) The stems--the very ends--of the canoe should have large radius curves at the transition from the bottom to the end of the boat. This makes the canoe easier to turn and maneuver. Deep, square ends and straight keel lines are common characteristics of cruising canoes and should be avoided for river running.
- (8) The cross section of the bottom may be flat, shallow arch or shallow vee; however, a broad, flat bottom should be avoided and in all cases the transition from bottom to sides should be gradual, as a sudden transition will make the boat unstable when it is leaned over.
- (9) The sides above the waterline may be straight or flared or have some tumblehome (a curve inward at the top). Boats with extreme tumblehome or sides slanted inward from the waterline have almost no final stability.
- (10) The canoe should come with either bench seats or kneeling thwarts, mounted high enough to allow plenty of room for the paddlers' feet underneath. Kneeling is the proper position for river paddling, and there must be room to get the feet out in an emergency. Bucket seats, especially low or sliding ones, can be dangerous when used for kneeling and sitting does not provide good control or stability.

Canoes of this design type are eminently suited for solo paddling as well as for tandem paddling and they can be used for day trips, playing in the river and for longer expeditions.

The materials used in river canoe construction are, in order of preference, ABS Royalex, aluminum, fiberglass/Kevlar and polyethylene. ABS Royalex is the premier material for whitewater canoes; it is very tough, resilient, slides easily over obstructions, takes a lot of punishment without permanent damage and can be pounded back into shape when bent. Royalex may be difficult to repair if torn; however, this is an infrequent occurrence. Good examples of Royalex boats suitable for running Colorado's rivers include the Blue Hole OCA, Mad River Explorer, Old Town Tripper and Mohawk ABS.

Aluminum, the old standard of canoe construction, is still completely adequate. Prices of aluminum boats are reasonable and aluminum canoes may be the only ones available on the used boat market. Most designs are fairly similar, but buyers should look for the shallow draft rather than lake keel models. Disadvantages of aluminum are that it is noisier than other materials, can be moderately difficult to repair, retains dents and leaves grey grime on hands and clothes. Aluminum canoes are made by Grumman, Alumacraft, Mitchi-Craft, Osagian and other manufacturers.

Fiberglass canoes come in a great range of shapes and qualities. Cheap boats are normally heavy and brittle; top-of-the-line canoes are tough, durable, reasonably lightweight, easy to repair and expensive. Very lightweight boats tend to be too fragile for most river running. Many fiberglass boats are made by manufacturers of cruisers and marathon racers, and even their general or moderate designs reflect this. One canoe good for Colorado is the Mad River Explorer in either fiberglass or Kevlar.

Polyethylene canoes are popular because of their very low cost. The material is tough, but it is not sufficiently stiff and requires an internal frame, an awkward device subject to damage. Although suitable for river running, these canoes are designed for more casual use. Coleman makes the only polyethylene canoe generally available today.

The brands and models mentioned are examples only and do not constitute a complete list. However, these are canoes suitable for Colorado's rivers which are likely to be found in stores in the Denver area.

Finding the canoe which is right for you is more than reading descriptions or perusing catalogs. You should also test-paddle any boat you consider buying. When you test-paddle a boat, don't worry about paddling straight or fast. Paddle it in circles; try to draw it sideways; spin it around on its axis using draw

strokes; maneuver it around buoys; paddle it backwards. If it doesn't turn readily and easily, it isn't maneuverable enough for river use. If you aren't familiar with river canoeing, get recommendations from several experienced river paddlers before making your final choice.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Free classified ads are available to members. Send ads to Andy Forberg,
 Denver, CO 80207.

Quantity discounts are available from some suppliers and retailers. Such items as throw ropes, flotation, books, floating rope, and other necessities. Check with Andy Forberg

If you are considering purchasing a Mad River or Old Town Canoe this year, a reduction in shipping charges may be available from Holubar if you order early to combine with their shipment for the season. Check with Bill at Holubar in Denver.

We would like to have membership dues at the beginning of the year so as to fund activities and budget for the year. Membership forms and waivers will be available at the Film Festival. The dues will be the same amount as last year. To join us again, you need only pick up the form, complete the membership information, sign the waiver, and return the mailer together with your check at your convenience. No checks or cash will be accepted at the Film Festival.

If members are planning ski trips this winter and wish to open your trips to club members, please send information to Andy Forberg.

The next newsletter will be out March 1, 1984. Articles on outfitting boats, cooler tips, and trip leading will be included.

The 1984 season will find some new rivers as well as old favorites. Because there often is a long lead time researching a river and organizing the trip, the schedule will be firmed up with respect to the three and four day weekends rather early this year. In hopes of well attended trips, the number of rivers scheduled for a given weekend may need to be restricted so let Kerry know early if you have a special river in mind and the club will be able to plan for a good sized group.

Some trips being planned are:

Purgatorie River in Southeastern Colorado. 40 to 60 miles through wilderness AKA-Army tank range seldom paddled because of private land. This scenic canyon land should provide a good trip. Jim Herring is putting it together.

Rio Grande River in New Mexico. Starting just over the border from Colorado this part of the wild and scenic river system trip is 23 miles in length. A stiff portage out at the end. Kerry Edwards is trip leader.

The Yaapa River in Dinosaur National Monument is considered for October. Kerry Edwards is trip leader.

The Rio Grande again, only near Wagon Wheel Gap provides the opportunity to see the fall colors and make two runs of the short whitewater stretch described in Earl Perry's guidebook. Andy Forberg is your tour guide for this one.

Also note that boats will be provided for the Winter Pool Roundup. Bring your PFD and paddle.