

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB
Morrison, Colorado 80465



The Rocky Mountain Canoe Club was formed in 1975 in Boulder by a small group of open canoeists. Since then, the membership has grown to over 100 families. The purpose is to provide a vehicle for meeting other boating enthusiasts. Officers are elected each fall at our annual pot-luck dinner and slide show of the past summer's trips. They are responsible for organizing the trip schedule for the following summer, collecting dues and signed waivers, updating the membership lists, and sending newsletters to members informing them of trip changes, new members, equipment for sale, or anything else pertinent to the members.

Trips are organized for most every weekend from May through September. Most of the club's members have open canoes, but Folboats, kayaks, and C-2's are also represented. Trip emphasis is on river canoeing and we try to have a mix of easy, intermediate, and advanced trips. The mix is influenced by the number of volunteer leaders we have and the trips they want to lead. The trip "rating" may also change depending on water levels and temperature. The trip leader is responsible for the planning, coordination, and safety of each trip and each participant must register with him or her before the trip's departure. Make sure that the leader is aware of your abilities, so that he/she can assess if the trip is appropriate for you. Safety and environmental awareness are stressed on every trip.

Beginning canoeists are always welcome. Each year we hold a basic river canoe instruction weekend. This is an excellent opportunity to learn the basics, check out new equipment or transfer your lake paddling techniques to whitewater.

Dues are \$7.50 per family per year to cover the cost of preparing and mailing newsletters, etc. Please make your check out to: "Rocky Mountain Canoe Club". We also ask you to sign a waiver prior to your first trip. We have been advised that such a waiver would be good in order to assure that each member understands the risks involved in canoeing and the fact that none of our members are in the business of teaching canoeing, nor conducting Outward Bound-type experiences.

The club has much to offer the canoe enthusiast, with trips ranging from family outings to those which will challenge the expert; not to mention providing the opportunity to meet others with similar interests and abilities.

STRATEGY ON THE HYPOTHETICAL RIVER

Reprinted with permission from:
"Basic River Canoeing"
Robert E. McNair
American Camping Association
Martinsville, Indiana

It is an artificiality to have divided river canoeing into strokes, water reading, and tactics. In real life there is no separation of these skills for they are inextricably interwoven. In this chapter we shall try to show you the integrated pattern. We call it the strategy of river canoeing.

With your fine equipment, your mastered strokes, and your practiced tactics you are still only a chip on the water unless you can blend them all into a plan of action. You had best get running practice with an experienced group. We happen to be taking a trip down the Hypothetical River. Ordinary rivers start steep and fast and end large and placid. The Hypothetical River is at first a gentle meandering stream, of only class I. It becomes steeper and as side streams add water it becomes more and more powerful. The canyon at the end is generally rated class IV.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB APRIL 25, 1984

1984 MEETINGS

The schedule for the upcoming meetings of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club is as follows:

- June 17 Boozin & Braggin
- August 26 Nail Soup
- October 6 Fall Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The boating season is once again underway. The trips that have been run so far have been quite successful. I led a trip on the South Platte from Chatfield to Bowles the day after the spring meeting. We only had 150cfs of water but the trip was fun. We saw some muskrats and many birds. I also led a trip on the Platte April 14. That time the water was quite a bit higher, 750cfs. Between the two trips the rangers who manage the riverfront park in Littleton had decided to link goals with nature and remove some of the trees from the river. The massive logjam just 100yds from the put in was removed by bulldozer making navigation of that section much easier. We met the park ranger and manager on the river on that trip, and she expressed interest in having some of the club members participate in a canoe instruction program in conjunction with the park. Something to think about.

The Red Cross instructor training on Washington Park lake was fun. The participants are beginning to hone their teaching skills, and should be well prepared to help the new members eager to get out on the rivers. Lyn has put together an excellent training schedule for this year which is available in this newsletter. Since it is designed for all levels of paddlers this year, I would encourage everyone to take the opportunity to improve their paddling skills, beginner and advanced paddler alike.

You have probably noticed that there was advertising in the last newsletter as well as in this one. The officers think that putting advertising in the newsletter is advantageous both for club members and the businesses. For the club it helps offset the cost of the newsletter and permits use of our club funds for such activities as the canoe roundup, cost of room rental for the Red Cross instruction, and the film night. It also helps in making club members aware of the suppliers of equipment in our area.

Dealers and outfitters interested in running advertisement in this newsletter should call Kerry Edwards at for more information.

The trip leaders met on March 15 to plan the summer schedule. I think we have an exciting schedule this year. (If there is not a trip schedule included in this newsletter it is because you have not yet paid your dues. If you wish to continue as a club member and remain on the mailing list, please send your dues and a signed waiver to Terry Owen at the address on the outside of this newsletter. When your dues are received, a trip schedule will be sent out to you. If you have paid your dues, and there is not a trip schedule in this newsletter, call Terry Owen immediately and he will rectify the problem) If you decide that you want to add a trip to the schedule, call Kerry (693-2109) and the additions will be noted in the next newsletter. Some of the trips on the schedule this year are exploratory trips. When a leader organizes an exploratory trip there is sometimes quite an expense in map purchases. People who participate in these trips should consider helping the leader out by pitching in something to help offset the cost of these maps.

The Spring Meeting was an evening of challenge and excitement. Mike Danahey's presentation of the Pfeifer's movies of the Fibark race was enough either to challenge us to improve our paddling skills so that we can participate, or swear off big water paddling altogether. I hope the new members were not intimidated by those home movies. The club does not regularly paddle such wild water. Bill Mason's movie, Path of the Paddle, Tandem Whitewater, was a good combination of whitewater instruction, and footage of beautiful paddling on the rivers of eastern Canada. Jim Herring's presentation on outfitting a boat was very helpful for new paddlers of which we had quite a few at the meeting. Thanks to everyone who helped put the Spring Meeting together.

Kerry Edwards

From "Down The Colorado"

"At times we could barely maintain control of the boats so powerful and uninterrupted was the turbulent sweep of the great narrow flood. At one place as we were being hurled along at a tremendous speed we suddenly perceived immediately ahead of us and in such a position that we could not avoid dashing into it, a fearful commotion of the waters, indicating many large rocks near the surface. The Major stood on the middle deck, his life-preserver in place, and holding by his left hand to the arm of the well-secured chair to prevent being thrown off by the lurching of the boat, peered into the approaching maelstrom. It looked to him like the end for us and exclaimed calmly, "By God, boys, we're gone!" With terrific impetus we sped into the seething, boiling turmoil, expecting to feel a crash and to have the 'Dean' crumble beneath us, but instead of that unfortunate result she shot through smoothly without a scratch, the rock's being deeper than appeared by the disturbance on the surface. We had no time to think over this agreeable delivery, for on came the rapids or rather other rough portions of the unending declivity requiring instant and continuous attention, the Major rapidly giving the orders, Left, right, hard on the right, steady, hard on the left, **HARD ON THE LEFT, H-A-R-D ON THE LEFT, pull away strong.**"

—Frederich S. Dellenbaugh,
member of the second (1871-72)
Powell expedition down the Colorado

Aas, Eric
 Aikin, Bob & Carol
 Akey, David
 Allured, Dave & Viloya
 Anderson, Elizabeth
 Anderson, Coral & Dick
 Anema, Mark & Leslie
 Anhonen, Erick & Lillian
 Archibald, Sam
 Babos, John
 Baron, Gordon
 Barrett, Tom & Diane
 Barrickman, Norman & Liliane
 Bauer, George
 Beck, Bob & Ann
 Benavidez, Richard & Jane
 Berry, Lyn
 Bidwell, Christopher
 Bondurant, G
 Booth, Walter
 Boulder Outdoor Center, INC
 Brown, Joanne P
 Brown, Barbara
 Browning, Mary
 Burbank, Rosemary
 Byrnes, Tom
 Carlsten, Robert
 Carr, Margaret
 Carter, Ralph & Leslie
 Carty-Mullen, Kathy
 Caswell, Nancy Jo
 Cialone, David
 Cole, James & Joann
 Cole, Jeannette
 Colvin, Leonard & Janet
 Conrad, Chris and Rodney
 Cooney, Tamy
 Corbin, Rick
 Cox, Gary & Carolyn
 Cox, Sheila & Katrina
 Cox, Bruce D.
 Cragle, Scott

When all you want is everything, look to Mad River Canoe.



When it comes to choosing a canoe, we're all in the same boat... because we all want everything we can get from one canoe. We want maneuverability. Stability. Durability. Roominess. Light weight. And speed.

But the boat that's just great for dinking around the lake with the family isn't usually agile enough—or fast enough—for whitewater competition. And the whitewater boat may not be stable enough for family use, or tough enough for wilderness travel.

Good news: There is one canoe that has everything. Even though we designed the Explorer

for general use, it's earned the admiration of experts, too. So well, in fact, that the Mad River Explorer was the first open canoe to paddle down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. It's been the first choice of many wilderness river expeditions. And it won the 1982 National Whitewater Combined Championships in both the Men's and Mixed Divisions, and took the 1982 National Canoe Polo Championships, too.

There's a Mad River canoe for you. We have 17 models for all types of canoeing.

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Mad River Canoe

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Ft. Collins
 3500 So. College Ave.
 226-3683

U-Hills Plaza
 2490 So. Colorado Blvd.
 758-6366

Lakewood
 11335 N. 6th Ave.
 238-7511



The Club

Crockett, Ray
 Curlander, Teresa
 Danahy, Michael
 Davidson, Art
 Davis, Denis & Elaine
 Davis, Victor & Diane
 Donahue, Gayle
 Dougan, Philip
 du Bois, Donald
 Durland, Eric & Brooke
 Eaton, Bob
 Eckhardt, Al
 Eckhardt, Eugene & Dee
 Edwards, Kerry & Pauline
 Egemeier, Robert
 Eisen, Randy & Linda
 Emerson, Keith & Paula
 Emison, Arthur
 Erickson, Robert
 Falconer, John
 Farley, Bob
 Farrow-Bondurant, R
 Felton, Rusty
 Fitzjarrald, David
 Floyd, Mike
 Fontaine, Anthony
 Forberg, Andrew
 Frazer, Chas & Kathleen
 Gathright, Jack & Carol
 Geislar, Thomas J
 Gerum, Pete
 Gilbert, Robert & Sue
 Glasscock, Scott
 Godin, Edward
 Goldberg, Michael
 Green, Rick & Jane
 Guess, William
 Guthwiler, Robert
 Hall, Bil & Martha
 Hardesty, Mike & Barbara
 Harrop, Mary
 Hart, John & Judith

Hausam, David
 Heffner, Stan & Susan
 Herbert, Mark V.
 Herman, Carl
 Herring, Jim & Susan
 Hillyard, Mary Jane
 Holland, Ann
 Janes, Catherine
 Jankowski, Greg & Karen
 Jennrich, James & Gerlinde
 Johnson, David & Paulette
 Jones, Mike & Pat
 Judy, David & Susan
 Kaftan, Lud
 Keeler, Jeff & Lorna
 Kelly, Kevin & Karen
 Kenefick, Jim & Jean
 Kenny, Mike
 Ketchin, Anne Forrest
 Kimbrough, Ray & Jessica
 Kint, William A.
 Kinter, Bob
 Kirtley, George
 Kiskaddon, Jay & Fay
 Kochel, Laura
 Kollnig, Beverly
 Kron, Rick
 Kvam, Keith
 Lacy, Lee & Sue
 Lance, Wayne & Phyllis
 Lanphier, Phil & Connie
 Lantz, Linda
 Lester, James R.
 Lewandowski, Gayle
 Licht, John & Priscilla
 Lind, Betsy
 Lindtveit, Ted & Bernice
 Luck, Tedford C.
 Lynch, Andrew
 MacDonald, Dave & Janice
 Marshall, Don
 Maston, Gil

Mathews, Robert & Carol
 May, Ray & Rosie
 McCaw, Michael R.
 McLaughlin, Bob & Linda
 McLean, Norman
 Mellors, Bob
 Meredith, Tom
 Minard, Carl & Laurie
 Montgomery, Alan & Barb
 Montgomery, Barbara
 Moore, Gary & Janis
 Mueller, Cindy
 Mukavetz, John H.
 Mullen, John
 Murphy, Cindy
 Murray, Lowell
 Neas, Hugh & Betsy
 Nelson, Bill & Becky
 Nelson, Beverly
 Nelson, David Lee
 Nelson, Bruce & Karen
 Neumann, Larry
 Newman, John & Patricia
 Nyre, Jerry
 O'leary, Stephen C.
 Obee, Nick & Kaye
 Oldham, Michael E
 Owen, Terry
 Payne, Diana
 Pederson, Robert C.
 Pepler, George
 Peters, Michael A.
 Peterson, Marilyn
 Pfeiffer, Jim & Sally
 Pierce, Jonmark
 Poche, Pat
 Pope Jr, James & Renee
 Post, Madison
 Pratt, Nita
 Pratte, Frank & Maryann
 Price, Myron & Laona
 Quade, Omar & Patricia
 Randall, Gaither & Katy

Ribaud, Howard J
 Roberts, Peggy
 San Filippo, Joe
 Sander, Lynn
 Sanderson, Susan
 Savage, Janet
 Schimmel, Dave
 Schoeberlein, Liz
 Schott, James G.
 Schrader, Ann
 Schuchardt, Don
 Sears, William B.
 Shelander, Diana
 Shugrue, John & Pat
 Singleton, Robert & Bonnie
 Small, Jim
 Smith, Frank & Diana
 Staube, Suzanne
 Stitt, William
 Stivanelli, Alice P.
 Stoecker, Bob & Jill
 Studer, Patricia
 Subber, Stephen W.
 Swanson, Dr. Peggy
 Tarr, Cedric & Carol
 Taylor, Carol
 Taylor, Don E.
 Theis, Michael
 Thompson, Karen
 Townsend, Don
 Tracy, Delores
 Vining, Wyman
 Wahle, Bruce
 Walsh, Glen & Estelle
 Waters, Bruce & Jeanne
 Waywire, Tom & Ginger
 Wells, Marian
 Welsh, Fred
 Wencel, Grant & Linda
 Westgard, Richard A.
 Wetekamp, Susan
 White, David & Nancy
 Woeste, Mike
 Worosello, Donna
 Yuhasz, Albert & Mary Hauck

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB
TRAINING PROGRAM for 1984

Sat. June 2 Intermediate and Advanced paddlers
Those who wish to enhance their advanced skills
Sets - Ferries - Eddies - Water Reading - Trip Management
part of the Blue River Trip

Sat. and Sun. July 28 & 29 Arkansas River
Training Weekend for all levels of paddlers
(except those who have NOT paddled before)
For Beginners who wish to enhance intermediate skills
For Intermediates who wish to enhance advanced skills
Sets - Ferries - Eddies - Water Reading - Trip Management
Paddle Skills - Rescue Techniques

Sat. and Sun. August 25 & 26
Training Weekend for all levels of paddlers
Especially for those who have NOT paddled before
For people who wish to learn canoeing in warm water and
warm weather
For any level of paddler to enhance all skills
(In conjunction with Nail Soup Special!!!)

Early July or late June -location indoors, unknown
Basic Canoe Training (class room)
safety - gear/food - behavior - clothing - etc.
For new paddlers and Beginners

Registration for all Training Sessions; call Lyn Berry []
These trips will be managed sort-of like a regular river trip

In Tribute

On Tuesday March 20th under "Regional Briefs" The Denver Post
noted: "Delores Water Project a Reality." Bruce McAfee, president
of the Delores Water Conservation District, was quoted as saying,
"We don't have any ceremony planned. They're just closing the gates."

Ceremony? My God! The second to the last wild river in Colorado
has been stilled. The spring flood waters didn't save her this time,
nore did the best efforts of those who loved her. May we all take
a moment to mourn her passing...Delores, River of Sorrows March 19, 1984

-Loral Anderson-

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

1984 TRIP SCHEDULE

To participate in a trip, call the trip leader in advance,
usually in the week immediately prior to the trip and the
leader will provide all the information necessary. The
leader may question the paddling skills of the participants
since it is the leader's responsibility to make sure that
skills and river difficulty are equal. If anyone wants to
add additional trips to schedule, or has trouble contacting a
trip leader, call Kerry [], Andy [] or Terry
(697-5242).

April 7 - WETSUIT MADNESS - Colorado R., Grizzly Creek to Newcastle - Int. -
Mike Danahy, [] (Pending)

April 14 - South Platte R., Chatfield to Bowles - Easy-f - Kerry Edwards, []
April 15 - RED CROSS POOL TRAINING - 3:00 p.m.

April 19 - RED CROSS CLASSROOM TRAINING

April 21 - COBWEB REMOVAL SPECIAL - St. Vrain R. - Easy - Scott Cragle, []
April 22 - South Platte R., Florida to 38th St., one portage at Mississippi -
Int. Kerry Edwards and Scott Cragle []

April 24 - RED CROSS CLASSROOM TRAINING
April 26 - RED CROSS CLASSROOM TRAINING

April 28 - Colorado River - Pumphouse - State Bridge - Beat the rafts to this stretch.
Run Yarmony and Red Eye Rapids. Rocket Run - not a play trip. Int. Ray Crocket,
[]

April 29 - Colorado River - Catsmont Bridge - Twin Bridges - Camp overnight from the
previous trips and paddle some more difficult rapids. Int. Ray Crocket, []
[]

May 5 - Rio Grande R., Lobatos Bridge to Lee Trail - Int. - Kerry Edwards, []
[] - 2 day trip. Permit trip--limited number.

May 12 - Roaring Fork - Int./Adv. "A staircase of floodplains, each step a green
pasture, marches up the valley sides from the river." (Doug Wheat) class I and
II, possibly III at Cemetary Rapids which is a quarter mile roller coaster. Mike
Jones, []

May 13 - Colorado River - Rancho Del Rio to R.R. Bridge - Intermediate - Flotation required. Last year the waves were gigundous. A roller coaster ride from start to finish. Though great scenery abounds, plan on watching the water. Bob and Carol Aiken, []

May 13 - South Platte R., Power Plant to Greeley - Easy "The run delights a bird watcher with species not found elsewhere on the rivers of this guide. Herons, snowy egrets, mallards, Canada geese, coots, warblers, goldfinches, jays and kingfishers are seen; a pair of bald eagles is claimed to nest in the stretch. At low stages, large carp can be seen in the shallows..." (Perry) - Bruce and Jeannie Waters, []

May 19 - Yampa R. - Exploratory - Steamboat to Craig - Easy - Venture in the unknown. - Scott Cragle, []

May 20 - South Platte R., Brighton to Ft. Lupton - Easy - Andy Forberg, []

May 26 - White River, Rangley to Ouray - 3 or 5 day trip. Take your choice. "Below Rangely the river steals into the White River canyon, one of the least known and most scenic canoeing canyons in the Colorado River basin." (Wheat) Bring bug juice - John Shugrue, []

May 26 - Dolores - SlickRock to Bedrock - Advanced - Ron Singleton, [], Bill Nelson, [], or Kerry Edwards, []. This trip will run if there is enough water in the Dolores to paddle it. If there is not enough water, Kerry and Pauline Edwards will run the trip below on the Rio Chama.

May 26- Kindle a love for a young girl-paddle the Rio Chama in New Mexico from El Vado dam to Abiquiu Reservoir -The trip will be a wake for the Dolores and we will make sacrifices to the river gods to entreat them to put a little hole in the bottom of McPhee Dam. The trip is thirty five miles in a beautiful canyon with numerous class II rapids and possibly one or two class III which reportedly can be portaged. But in light of the exploratory nature of this trip for the club it is recommended for advanced boaters. It is probably about a six hour drive to the put-in. Kerry and Pauline Edwards []

June 2 - Blue River, Silverthorne to Campground - Int. "The Blue River occupies a pastoral valley between soaring monarchs of the Gore Range to the west and Williams Fork Mountains to the east. It is swift and cold but not overbearing, rated class I and II for most of the distance between the two reservoirs." (Wheat) - Scott Cragle, [] - in conjunction with this trip there will be intermediate and advanced training. Call Lyn Berry for more information, []

June 3 - South Platte R., Platteville to Greeley - Easy For description see May 13 - Tom Waymire, []

June 3 - Arkansas R., Canon City to Cement Plant - Int. "Rivers of the Great Plains are distinctly different from those of the mountains. The Class IV Arkansas suddenly becomes a gentle meandering strip of cottonwood lined moisture in the dry rolling hills of the short prairie grass." (Anderson) - Scott Cragle, []

June 9 - North Platte R., 6 Mile Gap to Platoga Ranch - Adv. The first day has only one rapid at high water. It begins at the put-in and ends at the take-out.- Ron Singleton, []

June 15 - FIBARK RACE WEEKEND - Int./Adv. - for information contact Mike Danahy, []

June 16 - Arkansas R., Buena Vista to Browns Canyon - Class II - Go for the weekend and watch the race.- Lyn Berry, []

June 17 - FIBARK RACE

June 17 - BOZZIN & BRAGGIN - South Platte R., Chatfield to Bellview to the Randall's house This is an annual ritual. The water is easy but the stories difficult to believe.- Gaither Randall, []

June 23 - Colorado R. - SUPRISE TRIP - Words cannot describe this trip. - Mike Hardesty, []

June 30 - San Juan R. - Permit trip - Int. A classic southwestern run through the goosenecks.- Lyn Berry, [] or Bruce and Jeannie Waters, [] - 5 day trip

July 7 - Arkansas R. - Leadville to Granite-exploratory - "Though only class II, it is class II with a vengeance" (Anderson) - Scott Cragle, []

July 8 - Arkansas R. - Buena Vista to Ruby Mountain Campground - Int. Learn some rock dodging in the eastern style. - Scott Cragle, []

July 14 - Eagle R., Wolcott to Eagle - Paddle a river which the club has not done in a while - Lyn Berry, []

July 15 - Eagle R., Eagle to Dotsero - Follow up the previous day with more of the same. John Shugrue, []

July 14 - Colorado R., Pump House to State Bridge - Int. - See April 28 for description. Jack Gathright, []

July 15 - Colorado R., State Bridge to Burns - Easy - See May 13 for description. Jack Gathright, []

July 21&22 - Colorado R., Rodeo to Sweetwater - Easy/Int. - Paddle a new overnight trip - Scott Cragle, []

July 21&22 - Conejos R. - Int./Adv. - 2 day trip - Paddle a proposed Wild and Scenic River. Jeff Keeler, [] ~~CANCELLED~~

July 28 - Arkansas R., below Salida - TRAINING - Beg./Int./Adv. - 2 days Improve your skills in the safety of good company.- Lyn Berry, []

August 4 - Colorado R., Sweetwater to Dotsero - A good beginner trip with lots of eddies and small waves to play in. Andy Forberg, []

August 4 - Northgate Canyon - Adv. - Expert run. Meet the challenge. Chris Bidwell, []

August 4 - North Platte R., East of Casper - EXPLORATORY - Int. - John Shugrue, [] - 3 day trip

Enjoy a Colorado Weekend

August 11 - Colorado R., Sweetwater to Dotsero - Andy Forberg, []

August 12 - Colorado R., State Bridge to Burns - Easy - Tom Waymire, []

August 11 - Arkansas R., Browns Canyon - Adv. - Mike Jones, []

August 18 - LYN'S SUPRISE - Easy - Lyn Berry - []
 August 19 - BOB'S SURPRISE - Bob Aiken - []
 August 18 - Gunnison River, Delta to Whitewater - Easy - Dave Cislone, []
 [] - 3 day trip. A great family trip with outstanding scenery, great side hikes and the infamous hoodoo rocks.

August 25 - BEGINNER TRAINING
 August 26 - BEGINNER TRAINING a.m.
 - NAIL SOUP SOCIAL, - Green Mountain Reservoir This will be a super party with a pot luck dinner. There will be plenty of fun games and good times. Plan on camping overnight Saturday night at Green Mtn. Reservoir. More on this in upcoming newsletter. Kerry, [], Andy, [], Terry, []

August 25 thru September 9 - Saskatchewan Trip - Easy - Paddle the route of the voyageurs. For all those of you who want to be initiated to the outstanding water of northern Canada, this is the trip to join. There will be a lot of luke paddling so it is a good place to take your cruising boat. Portaging skills will be necessary. Familiarity with a compass would also be helpful. John Shugrue, 423-3879

September 1 - Colorado River, Dewey Bridge to Moab - "Red Wingate walls rise up again through four-mile-long Nine-Mile Canyon below the Dewey Bridge. The mouth of Nine-Mile Canyon frames one of the most scenic vistas in Utah. the Fisher towers-spires of eroded Chinle Shale- stand in the Richardson Amphitheater ahead. Beyond the towers, the granite peaks of the La Sal mountains crown the awesome panorama. Andy Forberg, []

September 15 - Colorado R., Westwater Canyon - Adv. - Paddle Funnel Falls, Skull and the Room of Doom. Lyn Berry, [] or Bill Nelson, []

September 22 - Taylor and Gunnison Rivers - Int./ Adv. - Mike Jones, []

September 23 - Rio Grande, Wagon Wheel Gap -Int. - This trip is intended to take advantage of the beauties of Fall in Colorado (pending water level) - Andy Forberg, []

October 20 - Rio Grande R., Big Bend - This trip is on the Texas/Mexico border in Big Bend National Park. Another canyon paddle with the possibility of some interesting side excursions on the way down to the river. Lyn Berry, [] - 7 day trip

November 22 - Colorado R., Loma to Westwater - Easy - Kerry Edwards, [] - 4 day trip. Weather will be a variable to take into consideration. Year before last the weather was chilly but clear and beautiful. Last year we were snowed on. Participants will need to be prepared to experience the extremes of beauty and challenge that nature gives us.

This bridge is the put-in point. The leader studies the river from the bridge. There is a riffle in sight and he can see that the stream is neither in flood nor too shallow to carry the canoes through. He has permission to park cars in the clearing and directs that the canoes be launched beside the bridge. Your car has already been dropped off at the take-out, and since there we have had three canoes on each car. Be sure to bring your car keys with you. All hands are busy carrying canoes, strapping on kneepads, and tying the spare paddles in with breakable twine. The leader calls a meeting, reviews the river ahead and details the paddling agenda. The crews climb in and push off as they are ready, but wait right there in the eddy making minor adjustments to their kneepads. The leader has already checked the pairing off and has separated a young couple who lack experience. He checks over the equipment and notes all have lifejackets and flotation. Everyone will wear lifejackets, experts too, for they must set an example and also be ready for rescues. Everyone knows the trip leader's word is law; it must be so. He appoints Buck to lead and Til to sweep. While Buck wets the throw rope and stows it at the ready, the lead reminds everyone that they must keep the canoe BEHIND in sight at all times. Then you are off.

You are paddling bow with me and we pull out in third place. I try my commands on you: "Right, left, back, forward." We quickly warm our muscles up. If I am sure you can follow orders quickly and well, I feel I can get you through. At first the course is narrow and winding, so you are constantly drawing and prying to get the bow around without the stern having get in the bushes trying to steer the canoe. The canoeing requires no words and we are discussing the greenness of the forest. It is so lush that when we come to a fallen tree there is no chance of carrying around. We all stay clear and one at a time the canoes come in perpendicular to the trunk. They climb onto the log and lift the canoe across between them quickly before the current can swing it broadside. The stream is so tortuous that we see only one canoe in front and one behind. The canoe in front shouts "two," I shout "three," and the count goes back "four," "five," "sweep," "five," "four." You catch on and shout "three." The lead canoe is reassured that no one has committed the cardinal sin of letting the canoe behind get out of sight.

The stream becomes wider and shallower. We come into a sweeping bend to the right. Typically, the left bank is steep and wooded and the right shore is flat and gravelly with scraggly alders. Our lead coasts into the bend, knowing that we should come out on the inside, but letting the current decide our path down to the outside of the bend. We coast along the outside only three feet from shore and duck through the branches of leaning trees. You reach for a branch to pull yourself right and I correct you. Don't ever hold onto tree branches. When you pull from above water surface, it will upset you. Put your paddle in the water and pull all you want. The canoe ahead runs up on a rock and swings broadside to block the only passage. I grab a tree branch directly behind me. Canoeing is full of exceptions.

We standardize on the one best way to do each thing. We do things in that one best way by habit, while our mind gropes with other problems. I always kneel, except when I sit or stand. For guiding the canoe put all your faith in your paddle strokes. Don't try to coast into trouble and try to fend off the rocks. If you do get in five powerful strokes and you are still going to hit the rock, I would be understanding if you fended off at the water line.

There is a sharp drop off ahead and they are landing to look it over. The lead canoe sneaks very close by the shore to his landing point and so do we. We join the group who are looking at a five foot drop across a ledge that slopes down about forty-five degrees and we find the lead explaining his diagnosis. If there were standing waves below he would not worry about running it, because if the boats did spill they would be washed downstream and could be fished out without difficulty. Instead there is a hydraulic jump.

Our lead illustrates the back flow on the surface by throwing in a piece of wood. It floats upriver and is trapped in the trough where it tumbles and tumbles. He is afraid the canoes might ground on the ledge and their bows be swept back to dump them in the trough. Or, they might swamp plunging into the hydraulic jump. In either case, they would be trapped and tumbled like the piece of wood. The only escape would be to swim out the end or to get rid of your life jacket and dive down to get in the down river current. He directs us to carry our canoes.

At a diagonal gravel bar, the lead notes where the current runs out most strongly below. In line with that point he swings his canoe perpendicular to the bar and slows it down lest it scrape. On either side the dancing ripples are dark, a sign that they will not float a canoe. The lead side slips to deliberately graze the biggest boulders knowing the water is deeper next to them. His bow is using a cross draw instead of a pry for this shallow water. The fourth canoe cuts the corner and grounds, and canoe five follows him. Both get their feet wet. If you can't smell your way through thin water, you should meticulously follow someone who can.

After the forks we run a rock garden, about class II. You pick our course from the bow and I keep the stern in line with the current. One boat whacks an obvious rock with its stern; the bow draw clear but the stern saw he was pointed free—a lake canoeist no doubt. Ahead we see the white of waves, but the river narrows so there is ample depth. The lead runs along the edge, between Scylla and Charybdis, back padding to help the bow rise over the crests. He back ferries into the eddy below where the others join him one by one. The canoe that whacked the rock, however, overshoots the eddy; they don't think it matters. Our lead reprimands them.

In the next rock garden we play eddy anchor. The lead back ferries into a tiny eddy, just touches the rock, and then pushes on to let the next canoe come in. This practice is appreciated when we see the ledges below. The first drop is runnable on the right, but the only place where scalloped waves mark a break in the lower ledge is on the left. It is a real challenge to do a back ferry, and the lead suggests that the two weakest crews portage. They do.

At Big "S" Bend, the lead anticipates trouble and sneaks along the very inside of the first bend. The water has become more powerful. Where the rocks force him out, he back ferries in again. One canoe gets out too far and is caught in the diagonal surface flow. She sees the tree toppled out into the waves on the outside of the bend. She then sights the tip of the tree against the shore, realizes she is on a collision course, and steepens her back ferry angle until the canoe is almost perpendicular to shore (about parallel to the tree trunk). Luckily only her bow hits a glancing blow and her canoe is spun the rest of the way. She is now going stern first and should be able to make the eddy on the inside of the second bend. However, the bow man becomes rattled running the waves backward and misses his lean and brace when the stern crosses the eddy line. The lead boat has already done a forward ferry to the inside of the second bend and he fishes them out.

I should warn you about flood water on this river. At the start the trip leader studied the river from the bridge before he gave the word to unload and launch. If it had been in flood, he would have shifted to another river - unless of course the trip had been billed as expert and other applicants had been turned down. The dangers of flood water are swifter and more powerful currents - doubling the speed quadruples the forces. These currents can sweep canoes under fallen trees and into big waves. Multiple swampings are likely and only splash covered canoes can chase after them. Flood waters flowing through standing trees is particularly dangerous.

Lunch break is on the right bank below the ledges. There are woods here (girls upstream, boys downstream) and it is also a good place to play the rapids. The leader posts two rope throwers at the bottom of the schuss and the swimmers come through with their lifejackets on, feet forward. The weather is not what other people call swimming weather, but canoeists are used to it and dressed for it - long johns or wet suits. Two canoes work on forward ferries while the rest of us relax and talk.

After lunch we come to three low scrubby islands in the middle of the river. The river curves right against a hillside just below and the current runs between the islands making a rapid between each. At low water there would be no question that we would take the first runnable rapid to the left and get on the outside of the bend, the low side where more and more water will come between the islands to join us. At flood water, we would hug the right shore and run or portage the last opening. Today the water level is moderate. The lead elects the second channel only to find the other two are also runnable. We back ferry through the jet from the third break, then run out the waves where the jet from the fourth channel meets the outside of the bend. Everyone makes it, but all except the lead and sweep have to stop and dump water. It isn't safe to paddle with water sloshing in the bottom of your canoe.

We put ashore at the head of Imaginary Canyon and here our two weakest crews drop out to take the shuttle car back. There is anticipation and excitement as equipment is made just exactly right. We check the feel of our thigh straps, try a few quick braces, and then the four boats peel off in quick succession.

Waves can now be taken in stride (with spray covers in place), but there are some enormous boulders with water pouring over them into deep souse holes that are followed by immense stopper waves. We guess which filament of water passes clear and get in that filament as far ahead as possible. We find ourselves paddling across stream, running through waves sideward. There is an occasional quick back ferry to keep away from rock outcroppings along the cliffs on the outside of corners. However, we must charge forward every time we see a stopper in our path, and we do much driving forward and oversteering. If we have enough momentum, we may brace for an instant at a critical spot, as where we hit a big wave with only the right side of our boat. Mostly we drive, and throw the braces on an emergency basis. After each tough one, the lead canoe dives into an eddy to see everyone through. He makes sure they are all set, no water to be bailed, before peeling off again.

The cars are at the take out beach as we charge down the last row of scallops and dive into the final quiet eddy with the thunder of the canyon receding behind us. It has been a splendid thundering finale. Who is to say it any more beautiful than the serene movement of morning or the lively scherzo of midday? All are part of canoeing.

RIVER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

CLASS I * Easy - Sand banks, bends without difficulty, occasional small rapids with waves regular and low. Correct course easy to find, care needed with minor obstacles.

CLASS II Medium - Fairly frequent, but unobstructed rapids with regular waves, easy eddies, easy bends, course generally easy to recognize.

CLASS III Difficult - Maneuvering in rapids necessary. Small falls, large regular waves covering boat, numerous rapids, course not always recognizable. (Generally the limit of navigability for an expert in an open canoe.)

CLASS IV Very Difficult - Large, rocky rapids with difficult, completely irregular broken water which must be run head on, very fast eddies, abrupt bends, and vigorous cross currents.

CLASS V Exceedingly difficult - extremely difficult, long and very violent rapids following each other almost without interruption. big drops, violent current, very steep gradient.

CLASS VI - Limit of navigability - All previously mentioned difficulties increased to the limit. Only negotiable at favorable water levels. Cannot be attempted without risk of life.

Safety Code



Adopted 1959
Revised 1963

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. NEVER BOAT ALONE. The preferred minimum is three craft.
2. BE A COMPETENT SWIMMER with ability to handle yourself underwater.
3. WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET wherever upsets may occur. The life jacket must be capable of supporting you face up if unconscious. A crash helmet is recommended in rivers of Grade IV and over.
4. HAVE A FRANK KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR BOATING ABILITY, and don't attempt waters beyond this ability.
5. KNOW AND RESPECT RIVER CLASSIFICATION. See Section IX.
6. BEWARE OF COLD WATER AND OF WEATHER EXTREMES; dress accordingly. Rubber wet suits or long woolen underwear may be essential for safety as well as comfort.
7. BE SUITABLY PREPARED AND EQUIPPED; carry a knife, secure your glasses, and equip yourself with such special footwear, skin protection, raincoat, etc., as the situation requires.
8. BE PRACTICED in escape from spray cover, in rescue and self rescue, and in first aid.
9. SUPPORT YOUR LEADER and respect his authority.

II. BOAT PREPAREDNESS AND EQUIPMENT (Changes or deletions at the discretion of the leader only).

1. TEST NEW AND UNFAMILIAR EQUIPMENT before taking hazardous situations.
2. BE SURE CRAFT IS IN GOOD REPAIR before starting a trip.
3. HAVE A SPARE PADDLE, affixed for immediate use.
4. INSTALL FLOTATION DEVICES, securely fixed and designed to displace from the craft as much water as possible. A minimum of 1 cubic foot at each end is recommended.
5. HAVE BOW AND STERN LINES, optional for kayaks depending on local club regulations. Use $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{3}{8}$ " dia. and 8 to 15 ft. long rope. Fasten securely to the boat at one end and other end must release only if tugged. Floats and knots at the ends are not recommended.
6. USE SPRAY COVER WHENEVER REQUIRED; cover release must be instant and foolproof.

7. CARRY REPAIR KIT, flashlight, map and compass for wilderness trips; survival gear as necessary.

III. GROUP EQUIPMENT (The leader may supplement this list, at his discretion)

1. THROWING LINE, 50' to 100' of $\frac{1}{4}$ " rope.
2. FIRST AID KIT with fresh and adequate supplies; waterproof matches.

IV. LEADER'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. HE MUST HAVE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE RIVER. He determines the river classification on the spot and adapts plans to suit.
2. HE DOES NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO PARTICIPATE BEYOND HIS PROVEN ABILITY. Exceptions: (a) when the trip is an adequately supported training trip, or (b) when difficult stretches can be portaged.
3. HE MUST KNOW WHAT CONDITIONS IN WEATHER, VISIBILITY AND WATER TO EXPECT; he should instruct the group relative to these conditions and must make decisions on the basis of the related dangers.
4. HIS DECISIONS IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY ARE FINAL.
5. HE DESIGNATES THE NECESSARY SUPPORT PERSONNEL, and, if appropriate, the order and spacing of boats.

V. ON THE RIVER

1. ALL MUST KNOW GROUP PLANS, ON-RIVER ORGANIZATION, HAZARDS EXPECTED, LOCATION OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, SIGNALS TO BE USED.
2. LEAD BOAT KNOWS THE RIVER, SETS THE COURSE, IS NEVER PASSED.
3. REAR-GUARD IS EQUIPPED AND TRAINED FOR RESCUE, ALWAYS IN REAR.
4. EACH BOAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOAT BEHIND; passes on signals, indicates obstacles, sees it through bad spots.
5. KEEP PARTY COMPACT. Divide into independent teams if party is too big.

VI. ON LAKE OR OCEAN

1. DO NOT TRAVEL BEYOND A RETURNABLE DISTANCE FROM SHORE.

2. KNOW THE WEATHER. Conditions can change drastically within minutes. Beware of off-shore winds.
3. SECURE COMPLETE TIDE INFORMATION for trips involving tidal currents.
4. LEAD, REAR-GUARD, AND SIDE-GUARD BOATS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED to prevent large groups from becoming dangerously spread out.
5. ESKIMO ROLL mastering should be seriously considered by Kayakers on tidal or large lake waters. Canoeists should learn to right, empty of water and board a swamped canoe.

VII. IF YOU SPILL

1. BE AWARE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST YOUR PARTNER.
2. HOLD ON TO YOUR BOAT; it has much flotation and is easy for rescuers to spot. Get to upstream end so boat cannot crush you on rocks. Follow rescuers' instructions.
3. LEAVE YOUR BOAT IF THIS IMPROVES YOUR SAFETY; your personal safety must come first. If rescue is not imminent and water is numbing cold or worse rapids follow, then strike for the nearest shore.
4. STAY ON THE UPSTREAM END OF YOUR BOAT; otherwise you risk being pinned against obstacles, or, in waves, may swallow water.
5. BE CALM, but don't be complacent.

VIII. IF OTHERS SPILL

1. GO AFTER THE BOATER; rescue his boat only if this can be done safely.



THIS SAFETY CODE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY THE EXPERIENCED WHITE WATER CLUBS OF THIS AFFILIATION. IT IS THE RECOMMENDATION TO BOATERS BY THE FOLDBOAT AND CANOE EXPERTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. PLEASE MAKE IT A PART OF YOUR BOATING HABITS AND PLEASE HELP OTHERS TO DEVELOP THESE SAME HABITS.



Ruth Anderson
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SAFETY TIPS
or
The Life You Save May Be Mine
THROW BAGS

The intent of the first part of this treatise is the same as Jonathan Edwards famous sermon, "Sinners in the hands of an of an Angry God". He wanted to scare the hell out of people in order to offer them eternal salvation. I intend to scare people in order to have them procure the proper equipment to offer temporal salvation on the river.

In September 1978 a paddler on the Gauley River missed the chute at Sweet Falls. His open canoe dropped over the falls and became wedged when it hit the bottom. The paddler's leg became jammed between the boat and a thwart when the boat partially collapsed. The boat was pinned in such a place that no one was able to get close enough to offer assistance. A tragedy was avoided because the paddler had a throw line in his boat. He was able to tie one end to a thwart, and toss the bag downstream where other members of the group were able to grab it and after more than two hours free the boat and save the man's life. Normally you carry a throw bag to aid other people who have dumped and are swimming a rapid. In this case, the throw bag saved the life of the man carrying it. Without the bag there would have been no way of tying a line on to the pinned boat and the man would have eventually succumbed to hypothermia. The point of this true story is not to scare people off the rivers. Instead, I want to make people aware that a little advance safety planning can pay off huge dividends if one ever encounters difficulty on a river.

Throw bags are very simple devices invented by the Coast Guard in WWII for rescue work. Throw bags consist of a nylon stuff sack with a grommet through the bottom in which is placed a piece of ethafoam which provides flotation, and a length of floating polypropylene floating rope. Compared to just a coil of rope, the accuracy of a throw bag is far superior. You simply hold the end of the rope coming out of the top of the bag and throw the bag. There are no loops of rope to tangle and the rope automatically feeds out of the bag. A few practice throws in your yard will quickly bring you to the level of accuracy adequate to most rescue situations. In a rescue situation on the river, if the target is stationary, throw the bag upstream and beyond the intended target and the rope will be carried on the current down to the target. If the target is floating with the current, aim directly at it.

Bags are available from most boating outfitters for between \$25 and \$35 dollars. You can make your own. Begin with a nylon stuff sack. Put a grommet big enough for your rope to pass through in the bottom. Add a piece of ethafoam with a hole in the middle of it big enough to accomodate your rope to the bottom of the bag, gluing a large steel nut in the middle of the ethafoam to provide some weight which makes throwing easier. Sew a second false bottom with another grommet on top of the ethafoam. Add floating polypropylene rope (60' minimum) and your throw bag is complete. Thread a short length through the grommets so that it protrudes out the bottom of the bag. Tie a loop with a bowline at this end. Stuff the rest of the rope in the stuffsack, pull the drawstring, and tie another loop with a bowline at this end of the rope. The loops provide places to hold onto the rope securely.

Paddlers should consider a throw bag to be essential equipment on any river trip. Though it is most likely that the life you save will not be yours, and may be mine, as the story illustrated, it is possible that with a throw bag, the life you save may be your own.

NOTES

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 1984 SEASON

The Fall party recaps the stories, adventures and fun throughout the paddling season. The slide show is a highlight to the afternoon gathering. This year we hope to have even more photographs as a result of the First Photography Contest.

Entries in slides, color prints, and black and white are acceptable. Entries are due no later than the Fall Party, October 6, 1984. Please send to any club officer.


Entries in each category will be judged by the officers according to whatever (if any) taste, standards, or artistic merit deemed appropriate. Decisions are final. Void where prohibited. Open to all Members. Photographs become the property of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, but will be returned.

CATEGORIES:

1. ACTION--Images that best capture the paddling action on the river.
2. PEOPLE--Images that highlight river people, their fun, their friendship, or their personal experience and feelings.
3. SCENERY--Images that portray the visual canoe experience, the land, the river and the sky.
4. HUMOR--Images that get a laugh.
5. CANOE MAGAZINE COVER--Images that are suitable for the magazine cover because of interest, graphic strength or story telling.

PRIZES:

Valuable prizes to be awarded to the top three photographs in each category! Plus hard luck prizes if your camera takes a swim!



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