



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB



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 Folbots, 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.

OCTOBERFEST-Colorado River at Grizzly Creek Glenwood Springs Area  
Every weekend in October. Come up and camp for a weekend of flatwater, whitewater,  
play trips, or share the shuttle. Jim and Susan Herring

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB  
Morrison, Colorado 80465



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB SEPTEMBER 12, 1984

1984 MEETINGS

Our last meeting of the season for the present administration of Canoe Club officers is set as follows:

Saturday Oct 6 Fall Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The rivers are starting to drop, the days are getting shorter, there is precious little time left to enjoy the rivers this season (only until November). There are still a lot of trips left on the schedule all of which will offer great paddling. Many of you who began to develop river skills at the training session now have less intimidating rivers to practice those skills.

Club membership has been growing all season with the addition of new paddlers and experienced people who have just moved to Colorado. Our current mailing list stands at around 150 households. Some of those 150 ordered club T-shirts and have not received them yet. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, if you ordered a shirt and want to make arrangements to pick it up, call Kerry or Pauline at [redacted]. We have refrained from mailing them out because the cost of mailing would offset any profit the club made on the shirts. I hope we can all meet on the river sometime and the shirts can be handed out, or perhaps at the fall meeting.

The officers have been giving some thought to the election of officers for next year. (Any volunteers please make yourself known.) We think that since this newsletter takes quite a bit of time and effort, we ought to elect a publications officer next year instead of a vice-president. That person would be responsible for publishing the newsletter. This would mean that we would have a President, Secretary/Treasurer, Training officer, and Publications officer. The job of secretary/treasurer is made much easier if the person elected has access to a computer since they are such time savers. If you are not interested in running for office give some thought to people you would like to nominate and perhaps ask them if they are interested. Remember that the fall meeting is the time for members to have input into the way the club is being run. If you have any creative suggestions or ideas plan to bring them up at the fall meeting when the membership can discuss them. Some members have suggested that it might be fun to organize some alonon and downriver races next year. If you are interested in this kind of activity plan to bring your ideas to the meeting.

The Mad River Demo Day at Cherry Creek Reservoir turned out to be most interesting. Not only did we get a chance to paddle many different kinds of boats but we also got to see Andy and Pauline discover the tenderness of competition cruisers and Jim experimenting with how to tip over a Flashback ten different ways. It is the rare occasion when one gets to paddle a wide variety of boats in a short period of time. It was helpful in making comparisons.

The Nail Soup Social turned out to be a fun time. The spirit of the games was not dampened by the six inches of mud on the beach and games were played by young and old alike. The Nail Soup pot overflowed with multiple ingredients and there was more than enough to go around. However, the nail was not passed along to a new unsuspecting member. This ritual will have to be performed at the Fall meeting. Thanks to everyone who put together the Nail Soup, including Ron and Bonnie, and Scott.

Kerry Edwards

FALL MEETING

FALL MEETING

FALL MEETING

This is the last reminder. No further notices will be sent out.

Date: SATURDAY OCTOBER 6, 1984

TIME: 4:00PM

LOCATION: 830 So. Clermont St Littleton (Lyn Berry's Place)

RSVP--to Kerry(693-2109) by September 31 so that we know how many to plan for.

The fall meeting is an opportunity to renew acquaintances, reminisce about the summer's trips, look at everyone else's pictures, get some free food, and elect the club officers for the coming year. There will also be a photo contest this year. In addition of these happenings we will have a videotape of the first British canoe and kayak expedition down the Grand Canyon. This tape will give you some laughs with a serious British Monty Python type approach to the expedition but also will have good footage of kayaks and a C-2 running the big rapids in the canyon.

The club will provide the drinks and basic goodies such as hamburgers, hot dogs, and buns.

THINGS TO BRING:

- Yourself
- Sense of humor
- A DISH TO PASS--salad or dessert
- YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR
- Pictures and slides

DON'T FORGET. WRITE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR. THIS IS THE LAST REMINDER

TAMPA PERMIT CHANGE

Dinosaur National Monument has made some changes in the way that canoe permits are obtained. You can still apply for canoe permits through the regular lottery system although as always they will not permit open canoes on the Yampa unless the river is running below 3900cfs. However, they have made additional permits available to canoes once the level has dropped below the 3900cfs mark. There is one additional canoe permit available per day during the high use season (until second Friday in September) once the river drops below 3900cfs. These permits are available simply by calling the river ranger at Dinosaur and requesting one. The trip leader must have experience in Class III water and the ranger will request a river resume on the permit application that will be sent you.

I recently received one of these permits (after being rejected in the lottery) and ran the river. (It was too late to publicize it to club members) The trip is absolutely spectacular. It was flowing somewhere between 1500 and 2000cfs when we paddled it and we found it easily canoeable by intermediate whitewater paddlers as long as Warm Springs Rapid is scouted carefully and perhaps portaged. It may even be runnable by beginner whitewater paddlers as long as they are in the company of more experienced paddlers and Warm Springs is portaged. We ran from Deerlodge Park to Echo Park (46 miles). Be prepared for a long drive into Echo Park since the 18 mile dirt road in there is a slow road. The shuttle took us 5 hours. There are beautiful sandy beaches at low water, and even though you must camp at designated sites, the sites usually had good beaches associated with them. Believe it or not, the water was warm enough to swim in and we initiated the Rocky Mtn. branch of the Canadists. We ran the forty six miles in three days although you could really spend a week on the river exploring side canyons, pictographs, etc. If there ever was a trip which would serve as an incentive to develop basic whitewater skills, this is the one. Whatever energy you expend to get on this river is well worth it. You will be rewarded with 1500 ft. canyon walls coming right down to the water, bighorn sheep, elk, beaver, fox, moderate whitewater and a tremendous sense of awe at the power of a river that can cut through an uprising mountain range.

by Terry Owen

One of the most spectacular trips of a lifetime is down the Yampa River from Deerlodge Park to Echo Park in the Dinosaur National Monument. Solid rock cliffs rise from 800 to 1400 feet straight up on both sides of the river. Manganese oxide blackens the walls in many places where the water pours over the canyon rim during a rainstorm.

Most of the river is flat. Occasionally its quiet is interrupted by the sounds of crashing water in rapids like Teepees, Little Joe and Big Joe. Four miles upstream of the confluence of the Green River and the Yampa River is the biggest rapid on the Yampa: Wama Springs. Robert Collins and Roderick Nash, in their book The Big Drop, consider it to be one of the best and most difficult.

Prior to the night of June 10, 1965, there were only riffles down the river section that fronted the outlet of Wama Springs Draw. It is believed that the soil had been loosened by rain that poured for seventeen of the previous twenty-one days. Perhaps that evening there was a flash flood that collected soil, rocks of all sizes, and uprooted trees and sent them crashing down the draw in a torrential wall of oozing debris. Piling into the Yampa and up against the solid rock wall on the opposite bank, it dammed the river for a few hours. Caspers at Echo Park, four miles downstream, were surprised to see the flow of the Yampa turn into a trickle of water.

On June 11 a party of Boy Scouts on a commercial trip piloted by Al Holland and Les Oldham noticed an unusual calm and rise in the river level just upstream of the riffle they knew as Wama Springs. The calm and quiet soon turned to a roar that sounded like a locomotive echoing up the canyon. No attempt was made to stop upstream or to pull to the right, beach the rafts and scout. This had only been a riffle on the last trip.

Les Oldham entered the menacing tongue first, heading directly for a gargantuan hole. Pulling as fast as he could to river right, the force on the oar broke the pin holding the oar to the raft frame. Oldham was caught off guard and catapulted backwards into a violent and seething torrent. The boat and its occupants floated through safely. Holland was right on the heels of the first boat. The second boat made it. It was seventeen days later when Oldham's body washed ashore 13 miles downstream of Echo Park at a place called Island Park.

The river runs high in May and June from the spring runoff. Only recently it was running at over 30,000 cfs and we could see the water mark over six feet higher than the present river level. At 30,000 cfs Wama Springs Rapid is probably a cause for heart failure. The river was running now at about 1700 cfs and my heart was skipping an occasional beat as we stood and looked at the boiling water. At this level the rapid was not unrunnable in open canoes although our boats could have made a nice upstream deflector for one of the midstream rocks below the rapid. There were six boats in our party. One boat was carried around the rapid because of its shallowness of depth. It served as safety. Three throwlines were spaced along the rapid at strategic intervals. The first boat to run the drop did so on the right and was knocked end around. It made the drop backwards. The second boat was solo and ran the rapid on the left. He bobbed into both holes just below the drop and paddled about seventy gallons of river and boat to shore. The third boat executed the slide over the drop to all of our astonishment and envy. The fourth boat skirted the drop on river right and added out in expert fashion. My partner and I were in the last boat and did well through the tongue and up to the drop but learned that it takes more than backpaddling technique to avoid sneating holes. We paddled to shore with barely two inches between gunwale and the inside water level.

The Yampa is definitely one of the most scenic rivers in my lifetime and to have negotiated one of the Ten Legendary Rapids, even at low water, is quite satisfying. Someday, you too should see the Big Drop of Wama Springs Rapid.

... ..

# TAKE TO THE WATER



Purchase a MAD RIVER EXPLORER or OLD TOWN TRIPPER canoe during the month of September and receive \$100.00 to watercraft accessories FREE. EXPLORERS are available in Royalex and Kevlar. TRIPPERS are available in Ditonar. Special offer is limited to canoes in stock and is available only to Rocky Mountain Canoe Club members.

Buy now and get \$100.00 of paddles, float bags, dry bags, wet suits or other accessories free.



CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Mad River ME, 15'2". Great solo playboat. Yellow. Outfitted with a pedestal. \$475. Call Barbara Osgood-Cox at [ ] (This boat has good southeasterly karma that comes with it-Ed.)

For Sale: Liquidating all slightly used Hydra Centaur C-1's. \$295 + \$50 shipping. Boulder Outdoor Center. [ ]

For Sale: Wenonah Whitewater II. Fiberglass, like new. \$650 Call Bob Eaton at [ ]

FOR SALE: MSR-GX Stove. Used 8 times. \$50.00  
 REI Half-dome tent. \$90.00  
 REI Full-dome tent. Used 5 times. \$110.00  
 Jansport Mtn. dome tent. \$100.00  
 Optimus 8R stove. \$25.00  
 Keltly Frame Pack. \$50.00  
 Ultra Light bent shaft paddle. \$17.50  
 Call Scott Cragle at 922-6561

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Two Phoenix Isere kayaks. Good for touring and non-technical whitewater. Good condition. Will trade both for cruising or fast wilderness tripping canoe, or \$250.00 each. Call Kerry or Pauline at [ ]

FOR SALE: Mad River TW Special. 18 1/2-foot-long cruising boat; great for wilderness trips on flat water or easy rivers, but difficult to maneuver. Fiberglass with ash gunwales. Very good condition. Comes with two bent-shaft paddles. \$450. Call Jim Herring at [ ]

Grassman ABS Royalex Canoe (16') - can be peddled either solo or tandem, T-6 aluminum gunwales, aluminum bulkheads, thwarts and seats, fine for tripping and as a whitewater playboat, 72 lbs. 190 inches length, 34 inch beam, 14 inch depth, 20 inch bow depth, 32.5 inch beam at 4 inch water line, 700 lb capacity, carrying yoke included. \$350 Terry Owen [ ]

Housemate Wanted: Female non-smoker, 30-40 years old, to share a house in Monument, Colorado, \$300 per month including utilities call Judy Hagan evenings at [ ]

FOR SALE: C-1's--Max II by Apple--\$250.00  
 Kook-Schmidt--\$250.00

C-2--Gemin III--\$350.00

Call Mike Jones at [ ]

Note the New Address

Jim and Susan Herring have moved to

[ ]  
 Denver, Colorado 80210

Phone [ ]

FIDBITS OF TRIPS

TRIP REPORT: Colorado River--Sweetwater to Dotsero

Sweetwater Creek to Dotsero on August 4 was very nearly the perfect canoe trip. There was a good combination of strong, friendly paddlers on a challenging but not overwhelming river. Everyone in the group of three tandem boats, five solo canoes, two C-1s and two kayaks surfed and played with dedicated abandon. At the S-turn, the enthusiasm for playing resulted in a total of three boats going over--Terry Owen, who swamped side-surfing in the hole, Ray Crockett, who ran into another boat in the hole, and two beginners in an aluminum boat, who leaned upstream while learning to surf. The rescues were carried out, primarily, by the kayaks and C-1s. This is an excellent trip for both playing and learning, with interesting rapids with big waves followed by easy rescue pools. A fantastic day.

Jim and Susan Herring

Booze and Bragging - South Platte - Chatfield to Bowles: By now it is an annual affair in June, putting in at the highway 470 bridge. The distance is 3.5 miles with one portage around a dam at the halfway mark. At 200 cfs it is channel hunting and occasional walking. At 2000 cfs it is fast and fun. You will always see 2 or 3 Blue Heron. Civilization is always just over the bank, but you wouldn't know it. About a third of a mile from Bowles Ave bridge is a small weir all the way across the river. It's an easy little bump but don't spill because the hydraulics are nasty. You can go on another 2.25 miles beyond the Bowles Ave bridge to Union Street Bridge if you want to. Just don't go over the dam, which is directly beneath the bridge. When the trip is over everyone treks over to Gaither and Katie's house to brag, drink beer and eat Cajun red beans and rice.

Gaither Randall

SAN JUAN: June 30-July 5. The San Juan flows pleasantly thru a very deep limestone and shale wilderness canyon in SE Utah. The river is a canoeists paradise--superbly enjoyed by 4 RMCC'ers this July 4th week. Looking forward to seeing this in the schedule next season and:  
 no rain  
 sleeping under millions of stars  
 hot sun (need suntan lotion and a bright YELLOW hat)  
 swimming both in the river, but also in crystal pools in side canyons  
 easy paddling--no hard rapids  
 cliff dwellings and pictographs  
 eagles--or are they vultures?  
 LOTS OF GOOD 'OL FASH'ND FUN

Lyn Berry

ARKANSAS RIVER: Browns Canyon--August 15. While waiting at Fishermen's Bridge for everyone to show, the two open canoes drew their share of attention from unbelieving commercial rafters and kayakers. We ended up with Jim Lester and myself in canoes, Tom Merideth and Don Clark in kayaks, Pat rowing our baby Avon raft, plus several kayakers I knew and asked along for added safety. The water level was 2.5 on Scotts Bridge and 1500cfs at Wellsville. The first major rapid is Pinball, a long narrow chute with several drops and a maze of large rocks to sort through into a holly pool where Jim decided it was time for a quick dip. Next came Zoom Flume. The long waves at the top were a great ride but a wave halfway down threw me into a moving eddy so I backed the rest of the way. Another lovely recovery pool at the bottom. Staircase is the third rapid, a set of 7 ledges about 75 yards apart. The drops and holes were the most difficult for the canoes but the kayakers loved it. The final two or three miles were pool and drop Class II and III rock gardens. As usual at the Hecla Junction take out it started raining. For people used to Eastern rivers, Browns canyon could be compared to the Ocoee in East Tennessee only more straightforward and not quite as technical.

Mike Jones

**COLORADO RIVER:** State Bridge to Catsmont Bridge. This trip was only partly successful. The trip was aborted half way through and one member decided to walk back to the cars after the first rapid because the river was too rough even though the trip is designated as easy. This raises a recurrent problem. Newer members seem to have either a lack of judgement or an inflated impression of their ability. On this trip most of the major rapids occur in the first half hour and it took several hours of rescuing to complete this short usually half-hour section. Luckily the river was warm and at a relatively low flow. Perhaps the club should designate rivers "easy" and "beginner" with the understanding that trips rated easy will include a few class II rapids. People who have a recurrent problem with dumping should also give some thought to the matter and analyze the problem. If the problem is boat design invest in a new boat, if the problem is lack of skill, hone your skills on easier trips since continual rescues can make trips tiresome for the experienced boaters. If you cannot discover the root of the problem yourself corner an experienced boater on land and ask for help, it is much easier than having to be pulled out of the river.

Tom Waysire

**UPPER ARKANSAS:** Leadville to Granite. We put in under the bridge about 7 miles south of Leadville and took out at the entrance of Lake Creek and Route 82. You could also take out at Granite. This was a fast cold little mountain stream best suited for high beginners or low intermediates as long as there are more experienced boaters along to help. There was one low bridge which was portaged on the left. It had long bolts hanging down from the bottom which ripped the shoulder out of the lifejacket of a kayaker who tried to run it. This trip begins at just under 10,000 feet elevation and consequently could be a cool trip even in midsummer.

Scott Cragle

**MIDDLE ARKANSAS:** Johnsons Corners to Fisherman's Bridge. We put in at the Riverside Motel in Johnsons Corners after having to wait until 11:00 AM for the rafters to launch. The rafting companies pay the motel to put in there and private parties must wait until they are done. We took out at Fisherman's Bridge 2 miles above Nathrop. This section was more exciting than the upper section and is a good trip for upper intermediates if more advanced paddlers are along to provide support. The river was much bigger than the upper section, being very pushy for first mile or two. A strong current combined with lots of rocks made for many moderate sized holes which we maneuvered around. A strong back ferry and good river reading skills were necessary. The rapids were continuous with very few eddies for rest or rescue. Helmeets are highly recommended for this stretch.

Scott Cragle

**Nov & Ranch to Dotsero:** Well, this trip started off with a medical emergency requiring evacuation via ambulance to the Vail Hospital. The put in was two hours late, so we did not have time to plog and play in the rapids, although there were four rescues that afforded the opportunity to work on forward ferries in rapids, towing water laden canoes, and gathering up floating people. No doubt in my mind that the fast flatwater canoes such as we-no-na, outrage type cruiser boats are dangerous to all but the advanced paddler. One of these types accounted for three of the dumps on my trip, and I know if you ask other leaders what type causes problems it would be this cruiser paddled by beginners. And another thing, after swimming everybody is tired, cold and begins to loose judgement. More swims increase this problem and court hypothermia. Many times the swimmers turn down offers of food and dry clothing, despite the need, and the fact that more dumps will occur as paddlers tire means that it is not just yourself you effect, but all those who will have to stop and rescue over and over. So when the leader or others ask you to have some food or dry clothing after you swim please accept.

Andy Forberg

Page 7

**COLORADO RIVER:** Initially the popular run from Pumphouse campground to Burns was planned for the 14th and 15th of July. The high water, 4300 at Pumphouse influenced me to paddle the easier half the first day and then seek the consensus of the crowd for the Sunday trip. So on Saturday morning we put in at State Bridge and started out on a fast but technically not difficult run down to the railroad bridge a couple of miles above Alkali Creek. Ron Singleton was right when he warned us about the north bridge abutment just after the put-in. The one rubber raft had a mild "encounter". The 9 paddlers Saturday included many familiar club faces and two guests who were normal people. The weather was pleasant, the water was fast with medium standing waves and the mosquitoes were pesky during lunch. We reached the railroad bridge with plenty of daylight remaining so some of the party chose to continue on while others set up camp and volunteered to run a shuttle. At Catsmont bridge there was still plenty of daylight so the run was extended even more as the boaters made an enjoyable, bouncy run thru the standing waves of Alkali Rapids. The shuttlers picked up the die-hards at Burns. Around the fire at the railroad bridge campsite it was decided to join John Shugrue's Eagle river trip on Sunday.

Jack Gathright

(Jack sure is a gracious fellow. He neglected to mention that on this trip it was decided that Singelton Falls had to be renamed Singwards Falls after Pauline and I decided to cool off halfway through the waves. It all goes to prove that spray covers will never replace a strong low brace.--Kerry)

**EAGLE RIVER:** After breakfast at a cafe on the west end of Eagle--fabulous cinnamon rolls--we obtained permission to enter the river by crossing a pasture which is located between I-70 and the river at the dead-end of the frontage road west of the Eagle exit. The early portion of the trip was fast and the river had several large trees in it from the high spring run-off. Except for Lava Rapids the river below Gypsum is slow gentle class I. Since the water was high we found ourselves up in the bushes rather than on a beach when we tried to scout Lava Rapids. The scouting expedition was interrupted when one boat lost its mooring and unexpectedly but successfully ran the first 30% of the rapid before finding a recovery beach. At this point Lyn Berry and a couple of other "heavy-duty's" ran thru the rapids and set up rescue stations down river. To make an exciting story short, two boats went for a swim but with well executed rescues. At high water it was a class 3 extended rapid with four turns, debris, rock walls and little opportunity for rest eddies. The take-out was at a gravel quarry reached from the old highway west of the Dotsero bridge.

Jack Gathright for John Shugrue who is on vacation

Newy Bridge to Moab-- Eight canoes and fifteen paddlers made the 400 mile drive from the east slope and were ready to go under clear blue skies and higher than normal water running 13,222 cfs. The canoe choice consisted of 1-1.W. Soecial, 2-Blue Holes, 1-Gruman, and 4- Old Town trippers. After the 2 hour shuttle, Saturday's paddling continued to lunch whereupon we barged up for a short float to the sand island campsite. Swimming, mud baths, dinner and then campfire finished this day in Nine Mile Canyon. Sunday was a ten mile paddle interspersed with a rescue or three. The rapids, which always seemed just two bends away were such that a good setup would carry you through. A strong pry or draw keep you away from the biggest waves which seemed to attract canoes. We scouted a rapid at mile 84, but didn't look over Ida Gulch which we should have done. In high water this rapid was tough, like Wisconsin with 13,000 cfs- lots of rocks, gravel bars, and big waves. At the end, Ida became a sweeper to the left into an undercut cleft with a strong back eddy that caught a few boats. This was the most exciting rapid on the trip and brought out the maps to check what might be downstream. White Ranch was the last rapid, and should be run in the big stuff up the middle, or sneaked on the left. Takes all kinds. Off the river late, we set up camp and prepared some tasty meals. Monday was a single rapid affair about two bends down river. Then a float into Moab where our canoe made a perfect eight point landing. Andy Forberg

Page 8

**COLORADO RIVER:** Grizzly Creek to points west, No Name (3m), West Glenwood (7m), South Canyon bridge (10m), and New Castle rest stop (16.5m). This trip is about 150 miles from Denver and is about a 3 hr drive. It is a class II trip with an average gradient of 20 feet per mile and was running at 3400 cfs when we ran it. Paddle time varies. Players indeterminate. Charger 5-6 hrs. Racers 3hrs.

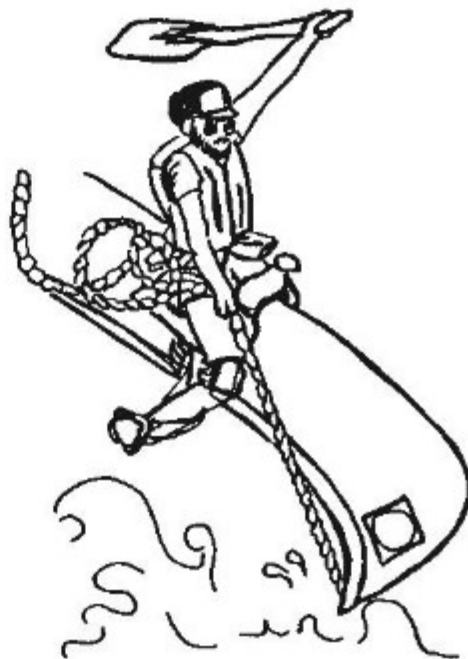
this trip is ideally suited for a large group of paddlers as it offers a variety of water and take out points. The trip begins in the middle of beautiful Glenwood Canyon and flows through the town of Glenwood Springs, ending in the We put on at 11:00am. Three miles later at No Name the twelve boats on the trip were too spread out for safety's sake. Consequently we split the trip into players, chargers, and twix-tweeners. The river between Grizzly Creek and West Glenwood is ideally suited for intermediate canoeists to sharpen their skills in eddy turns, surfing and rescues. There are plenty of rocks, waves, eddies, and sleepers hidden in the muddy water, keeping paddlers braced for excitement. As the trip nears West Glenwood there is a natural hot springs on river right. This springs is a perfect place to soak in. Players can take out at the rafting take out a mile below the hot springs on river right. The chargers continue for an additional 9 miles. They will paddle Steel Bridge and Dinosaur Hole rapids. Steel bridge offers big rolling waves with nice eddies to swim to. This Sunday no one swam. Everyone successfully negotiated Dinosaur hole and took out just below it at the rest stop on river right.

Bob Aikin

**ARKANSAS RIVER:** Browns Canyon. Put in is at Fisherman's bridge and the take out is at Heckla Junction. The river is about a two and a half hour drive from Denver. The shuttle takes about 40 minutes. The trip is 10 miles and is for expert open canoeists only. The average gradient once in the canyon is 38 feet per mile. It takes 5-6 hours to paddle it. In September the commercial raft traffic and the water subsides to allow the expert canoeist a chance to see the beautiful canyon and to paddle ten miles of river without any beer. If you take the time to pop the top, the Arkansas will pop you. This Saturday was a perfect Fall day. The air was crisp, old sol was shining and the water was clear and cold (58 degrees). The river ate three of six boats and sank two more while the paddlers were playing. The first two miles of the narrow river give the paddler a chance to warm up on a series of class II rapids including some nifty rock dodging in 'pinball'. Next came "Zoom Flume" which was scouted from the railroad tracks on river left. Zoom Flume is a series of drops, ledges, and knife like rocks guarding the bottom of the rapid. Next in quick succession come Rock Garden #1 Giant Steps, Widow Maker, Toilet Bowl, and Rock Garden #2. The distinction between these rapids were lost by some on this trip since they were chasing upside down boats. This is a technical section of the Arkansas with the river passing through a series of drops and pools with narrow chutes that wind around boulders and conclude in exciting holes. It is an exhilarating trip for the experienced paddler.

Note: Private land below Heckla Junction blocks the take out which is downstream of Siedel's Suckhole.

Bob Aikin



HAVE YOU SEEN HIS NEW SADDLE?

**GUNNISON RIVER:** Seven boats left Roubidoux bridge at 11:30 Saturday morning 8/18. The river was running about 2000-2500cfs and was muddy. The first few miles went through Division of Wildlife property and was heavily populated with Blue Herons. One large dead cottonwood tree contained the nests of at least half a dozen. There were three kids on the trip ages 7, 7, and 8 who enjoyed playing in the river and mud at every opportunity. Camp was made early, because of a severe electrical storm, at a nice spot at the mouth of Escalante Creek. The campsite was on private property, but permission was obtained from a nice lady at the house above the creek. It rained during the evening, at night and in the morning delaying our departure about an hour. Several rapids the second day approached high class 2. Gary Moore's boat swamped in a hole but they did a nice job of paddling completely submerged and were able to reach shore without capsizing. Camp was made at the mouth of a small dry creek opposite Tunnel Point about 5:00. A large campfire was built in the dry creek bed. It rained again at suppertime and water began to come down the creek at a snails pace. Gradually it surrounded and went under our campfire. Luckily the fire was large enough that the rain and running water failed to extinguish it. It was a weird feeling to wade out and add wood to the fire. At 2:00 A.M. it rained hard for about 10 minutes. Most people woke up wondering if the little creek was going to flood. About one eighth of a mile up the creek was a 40ft. waterfall. After the rain the sound of this dry waterfall becoming suddenly active brought all but the soundest sleepers out of their tents. The water did not amount to much, only about 5cfs, but it was eating a new channel in the soft sand very quickly. The new channel went right under the spot the canoes were left for the night. So at 2:30 A.M. we were required to move the boats. we left this "wonderful" spot at 9:00 Monday morning and made the last 12.5 miles to Whitewater by 11:30, just ahead of more rain. Thus ended an interesting but miserably wet canoe trip. Two lessons were learned on this trip. Don't camp near a dry wash and don't water fight with Rusty Felton (he fights with dead fish instead of water).

Dave Cialone

Page 9

This weekend canoeing/training adventure turned out to be the largest ever RMCC event. All who participated really had a terrific time.

The challenge was thrown out -and everyone met the challenge: have fun and learn as much about canoeing as you can. No matter that a thunder storm dampened everyone late Saturday and forced changes to supper plans and that a fierce rock slide forced us to camp in an alternative campsite. The Arkansas River will never be the same again after 43 "students" and 14 "counselors" descended and flashed paddles at the fish and fishermen. There aren't that many paddlers on this section of river for the FibArk Classic!

The Ones probably had too hard a short section of river -but they rose to the occasion and thus learned the most. Arkansas eddies that never before saw a canoe were well blessed that day.

The Twos probably had the best of length and technical demands for their river section; and they were overwhelmed by the late afternoon rain rather than the river. Before the rains, however, peel-outs & peel-ins were masterfully mastered.

The threes probably had too easy a river too soon in the day, except for 1 rapid that everyone forgot to scout ahead, and by the time they got to the good stuff all were too tired. Besides it started to rain. Now they all know a SET is the same as a FERRY only done upstream, so it is a BACK-FERRY.

I was too chicken to be subjected to this many canoeists on what is better a wilderness experience; so I relegated myself to watching some very good paddling from everyone else while driving up/down the road trying to keep track of everyone else!!

Sunday was spent proving to the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club patron saint, Robert Service, that "in a land where the mountains are namefull, and the rivers all run God knows where," that we are all more than equal to the "hardships that nobody reckons" and, that to a river valley that "beckons and beckons, we all want to go back, and will!"

My thanks to each and everyone -counselors and students- canoeists all. You made this adventure possible and memorable. See you all again soon

.....Lyndon Berry RMCC Training Chairman.....

Recent incidents on the river have caused me to reflect on safety and the lack of it on our trips.

Safety is not just something you think about occasionally, when there are beginners on a trip or when you have to rescue someone. Safety consciousness means watching out for the group and paddling as if with friends. It should be a positive operational approach to the entire river experience. Operating in an aggressively safe manner allows those on a trip to push their limits farther, since they are paddling in a supportive group instead of wandering downstream, alone in single file.

One of the best, easiest and least time-consuming methods of watching out for each other is to use the safety boat system in which one, two or more boats wait below each rapid, hazard or bend in the river where a boat could get into trouble. As each boat comes in, one boat leaves. This is an active way of looking out for the boat behind instead of passively glancing over a shoulder from time to time. The safety boat system is also better than depending on a sweep boat, since boats in trouble on our rivers tend to be swept downstream instead of hanging up on something.

Other ramblings:

\*Don't pull out for lunch or a break until everyone is through the last rapid.

\*Don't add to rescue difficulties by running a rapid while a rescue is in progress downstream unless your help is absolutely necessary and there is no possibility you will dump.

\*At especially difficult spots, line or carry safety boats below the hazard. Depend on throw ropes only if the river is narrow enough for the rope to be used effectively.

\*Don't abandon safety procedures in order to finish a trip quickly.

\*Don't assign the slowest paddlers (i.e., beginners or players) to be sweep. They will be left behind.

\*Warm up with ferries, surfing, etc., at the beginning of the trip.

\*Carry first aid kits, flotation, adequate gear, warm clothing and extra food.

Remember--a group is no more than a number of separate individuals if you are not safety-conscious. Paddle as if you are among friends.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Do you know how hard it is to pull in a swamped boat with no flotation and with floating gear loosely tied to the thwarts and with two people hanging on to it? If not try to do it some time and you will find that it could take a mile or more of very hard paddling just to ferry 80 feet to shore. As soon as a rescue boat is available swimmers should leave the swamped boat and grab hold of another boat (not the one towing your canoe). This makes it much easier for the rescuing boat to ferry the swamped boat to shore.

To outfit your boat properly you should have three pieces of flotation (two end bags and a center bag(s)) and all gear and flotation should be securely tied to the floor of your boat or strongly laced to the thwarts so that it cannot work its way out of the boat when swamped. It seems that on many of our trips, fifty per cent of the boats have either no flotation or inadequately tied in flotation.

#### Remember This

If you don't care enough about your boat to outfit it properly, then I will pull your tired body to shore but I will let your canoe continue downriver to a sure and certain demise.

Scott Cragle

River Canoe Camping  
Equipment Essentials ??

by Terry Dwan

Do you ever forget things when you go out on a day or overnight trip? Have you ever felt that a check off list would help? For those that can't remember where they put the list it may not do much good, but some of us will find it helpful.

<b>The House</b>	<b>The Kitchen</b>	
Tent, rainfly	Pots and pans	
Poles	Silverware, potholder, spatula, knife	
Stakes	Cup, plates, foil	
Ground cloth	Stove, lantern, matches, candle, fuel	
Extra rope	Dishwashing soap, washcloth, towel	
	Scouring pad	
<b>The Bedroom</b>	Can opener	
Sleeping bag, flannel sheet	Plastic bags for trash	
Sleeping pad	Food, water	
	Grill, charcoal, firepan	
<b>In the Dresser Drawer</b>	<b>Toiletries</b>	
Dry shoes, socks	Mirror	
Down jacket or parka	Toothbrush, toothpaste	
Wool cap	Biodegradable soap	
Long sleeve shirt	Toilet paper	
Mittens or gloves	Porta-a-potty	
Long underwear	Shampoo	
Shirts, long pants, shorts, belt	Medicinals	
<b>Around the Campfire</b>	<b>On the River</b>	
Compressed fireplace log	Chapstick	Map
Axe, handsaw	Sunscreen	Compass
Canoe camp chair	Whistle	Sunglasses
Marshmallows	Camera and film	First Aid Kit
Popcorn, butter	Binoculars	Techna knife
Cold light spirits	Pencil and notebook	Rain pants, rain jacket
Headlamp	Pocket thermometer	Hat
Book of Robert Service Poetry	Books for tree, flower and rock identification	River Snacks
Insect Repellent		

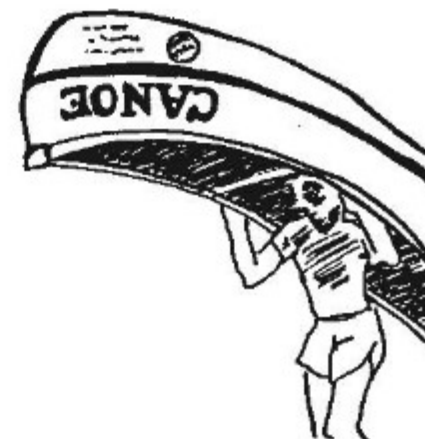
Treasurers Report

Sept 9, 1984

	Expense	Income
Newsletters	542.26	
Canoe Files Festival	77.61	
Canoe Roundup	80.00	
Leaders Meeting	40.00	
Spring Meeting	107.84	
Red Cross Instructor Training	30.00	
Nail Soup (including mailing reminder)	196.71	
Bank Deposits		1559.00
Canoe Club T-Shirts	331.36	
Miscellaneous	99.20	18.85
Undeposited Income		162.38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1504.98</b>	<b>1740.23</b>
Balance as of 1983 Fall Meeting		478.68
<b>New Balance</b>		<b>713.93</b>

CANOE INSURANCE

Anyone who has bought a canoe recently knows that the price of our sport is steadily climbing higher. When you pay a thousand dollars for a canoe, the thought of losing that canoe either in a broach or by being carried downriver by swift river currents can be frightening. Both of these possibilities are not far fetched. The Emerson's almost lost their boat on the Blue early in the season. On the lower stretch of the Blue, Scott Cragle also discovered half a Blue Hole OCA which had been torn in two by the river. Usually one's homeowner's or renter's insurance policy will cover loss of a canoe by theft. River damage is another story. Insurance for river perils is available and is relatively cheap. I have a canoe policy through Allstate Insurance which covers any peril on the river. This includes hull damage resulting from a broach or loss of the boat if it is carried away by the current. For our Tripper this insurance only costs \$12.00 a year. When your talking about 1000-1500 dollar canoes this insurance is cheap. State Farm also offers a similar policy. Buying insurance is little different than buying lottery tickets or gambling in Las Vegas, but if you paddle a lot, the odds are in your favor to purchase some kind of canoe insurance.



ARE YOU SURE IT'S JUST AS GOOD?

# CRICKET PADDLES

## CLASSIC

Inlaid ash tip;  
epoxy insert

Fiberglass-covered  
8½" x 20" blade

Wear-resistant  
shaft sleeve

Lengths to 63"

Ash-Basswood shaft.



## CRUISER

15° Laminated shaft

Lengths: 48" to 54"

Fiberglass-covered  
9" x 21" blade

Wear-resistant  
birch edges

Epoxy-reinforced  
ash tip

Till October 1 — Price \$52

**Mike Jones**  
7196 Aspen Meadow Drive  
Evergreen, CO 80439

(303)670-1149

## THE NATIONALS

Imagine more than 100 open canoes competing together for four days on a class II-III river . . . imagine more than 2,000 spectators watching from the shore . . . imagine slalom and down-river racers camping, eating, racing and joking together as friends . . . imagine a campground filled with racing boats of all sizes, shapes and designs.

We found all this and more at the 1984 U. S. National Whitewater Open Canoe Championships. The four days of racing, July 3-6, included two days of downriver and two days of slalom racing. The course was the Nantahala River in North Carolina, a swift, rocky river of solid class II features with a couple of class III rapids. Nantahala Falls, a two-stage, six-foot drop with two large holes, was part of both the downriver and slalom courses.

Watching the races was exciting, but the Nationals were more than the competition. We saw top paddlers, boat designers and other heroes we have read about for years, and saw boats we never knew existed. We saw people in open boats--hundreds of them--maneuver through a kayak-style slalom course, play in waves and holes and thread through rock gardens so smoothly that the hardest moves looked effortless. We saw eleven-year-olds practicing gates and doing it well. We paddled with racers who had 18 years of experience and others who had been paddling only one year. We learned of a canoe club the size of RMCC that runs two separate race schedules, three levels of training and trips on more than 25 rivers each year. And we talked to canoe designers, builders, racers and spectators.

After a week of excitement, of talking to racers and looking at radical boats, we woke up on Saturday morning and found the campground full of recreation canoes, tourists and rafters. The Nationals were over, but the memories and the inspiration remain.

--Jim and Susan Herring

## MEDICAL AWARENESS

Remember the law of the the seven P's: Proper Prior Planning Prevents P--- Poor Performance.

Medical problems do and have occurred on river trips which cannot be anticipated nor avoided. However, if you have a medical problem which can be anticipated it is in your interest to inform another participant on the river trip of the problem. If you do this, and a medical problem arises, there will be another person on the trip who may have some insight into what procedure to follow. One example of this would be allergies to bee stings. If you have this allergy and carry an antidote, you should inform someone else of how to administer the antidote should something happen and you could not do it yourself.

## ON RESPONSIBILITY

Due to some unfortunate wording at the beginning of the trip schedule, and since we have had so many new members join in the past couple of months, the club would like to remind everyone where responsibility lies in participation in club trips and events. There is inherent risk in canoeing. Much of the pleasure of the sport lies in ascertaining the risks and calculating whether one's skills are equal to the risk. The responsibility for taking these risks and determining skill level lies solely with the individual club member. It is each member's responsibility to ascertain their level of preparedness before participating in any club event. Trip leaders serve as organizers only and not as determiners of ability.

## PLANNING RIVER TRIPS IN COLORADO

Some members of the club who have participated in many river trips and have enjoyed the experience may be giving some thought to becoming trip leaders themselves next year. This article is intended to give some guidelines to those who have not planned a river trip before so that they can contemplate the possibility over the winter.

In planning a trip, first thought should go to what kind of trip you want. Is it an overnight trip, a day trip, a whitewater trip, a flatwater trip, a trip that is easy, intermediate, or advanced. Once this decision is made research can begin. First of all the club has available to potential trip leaders a classification of the rivers that have been run before by the club. This is a brief two page description of their difficulty. In addition to this short description the club has also maintained a trip leaders guide which contains the complete trip reports from the rivers that have been run in the past. This was an invaluable source in the past since no good guidebooks existed which described Colorado Rivers. Today the trip leader has more resources at his or her disposal. Anderson and Hopkinson's book, Rivers of the Southwest, Wheat's book, A Floater's Guide to Colorado, and Perry's book, River of Colorado are all excellent books. They describe the difficulty of the river, give optimal flows, delineate the put-ins and take-outs and generally lay out the river's appeal. They also say what maps are necessary for the trip. The trip leader should purchase these maps which are usually available at the USGS in the Federal Center or the Federal Building downtown. On these maps can be marked the hazards, rapids, and or portages so that they can be easily anticipated by the leader as he or she reads the map as the trip goes downriver. If the river flows through National Forest or BLM land, maps available through the BLM show boundaries between private and public lands. These maps are invaluable in planning campsites since the club insists that we camp on public lands.

If the river trip you would like to lead is not described in any of the above guidebooks, the task is more difficult but the result may be more rewarding. (Does anyone want to lead the Purgatoire next year?). You must determine by yourself which topographical maps relate to the section of river you wish to paddle. Once this is determined and the maps obtained, the maps must be examined to see how many contour lines cross the river. If the contour interval is known and the number of lines that cross the river is counted, the gradient of the river in the section to be paddled can be determined. This knowledge can be crucial since gradients above a certain amount are simply not paddlable in open boats. The problem of private land is a little more difficult to solve. If no BLM map is available, sometimes the only alternative is to visit the area and inquire from locals. If the landowners can be found, many times permission can be gained to either put in or camp on private land.

When planning a trip it is essential to find out how difficult the river is at what water levels. Many trips which are easy at low water can become intermediate or even advanced trips at high water. A good example of this is State Bridge to Catamount Bridge on the Colorado. At low to medium water flows this is an easy trip. At flows over 5500, this trip changes altogether. Giant waves are produced which are adrenalin pumpers for the experienced boater.

Determining the river level has become much easier this year with the sponsorship of a recorded message by the Colorado Kayak Supply of Buena Vista. This number (371-7739) gives the flows in cfs, and stage heights, of most of the major rivers in Colorado. This recording is updated on Mondays and Thursdays. Rivers not listed on this recording will have to be checked by reading the guidebooks to see if they give phone numbers of people or agencies that will know the flow.

Did anyone notice that one of our club members graces the cover of the September-October issue of RIVER RUNNER?



Intrepid



Scamp

**Free Paddles:** For a limited time only, purchase any new Mohawk canoe and receive two paddles free. There's no better time to buy a canoe than right now!

Prices do not include \$65 shipping charge.

## DUCT TAPE SPECIAL ONLY \$4.95!

An item every paddler and rafter should have in the repair kit!  
2' x 60 yd. roll only \$4.95  
(regular \$8)

# MOHAWK CANOES

The pick of the whitewater canoeist. Boulder Outdoor Center has a full line of new and used Mohawk canoes for sale or rent

**Whitewater:** Specially designed and built with extra volume and flare in the ends to handle the bigger waves of rugged whitewater. Seats and thwarts are easily removed for installation of extra flotation. Perfect for solo or tandem.

length: 16'2" \$615.00

**Intrepid:** This high-volume whitewater tandem canoe is great for extended trips or family excursions. It features a slightly arched, moderately rockered hull with flared ends and a stiff bottom.

length: 17'3" \$675.00

**Scamp:** Our favorite solo boat. This canoe turns quickly in any water due to its high volume, very full ends and 5" of rocker. Nearly limitless maneuverability.

length: 14'4" \$595.00

**Challenger:** This solo whitewater playboat offers a unique blend of tracking and maneuverability. Its design features flared ends, moderate rocker, and exceptional stability. A great canoe for surfing.

length: 14'2" \$550.00



2510 North 47th Street  
Boulder, CO 80301  
(303)444-8420

**END OF YEAR SALE--October 13-27.** Everything will be on sale. Canoes, kayaks and accessories. Don't miss this once a year opportunity.