



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB



Rocky Mountain Canoe Club
c/o Becky Nelson
[Redacted]
Denver, CO 80222

1985 RMC OFFICERS AND STAFF

PRESIDENT:
Mike Danahy

SECRETARY-TREASURER:
Becky Nelson

TRAINING OFFICER:
Gary Cox

NEWSLETTER STAFF
Kerry Edwards

NEWSLETTER STAFF
Terry Owen

REVISED TRIP SCHEDULE

SOLO PADDLING HINTS

CLASSIFIEDS

SAFETY

PRESIDENTS REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring is a very special time of the year for the boaters of our rivers and lakes. I know it is a time to get out and prepare for the canoe season. With the nice weather we have been having it is hard to resist the temptation of the call of the river and it is particularly difficult not to want to jump into some rather extensive river canoeing.

This may not be the best approach to a river trip if you have spent the long hard winter watching the tube. A better approach to the canoe season may be to try out your skills on one of the lakes in the area. Jumping right into a river with a cfs flow in the thousands can be a bad place to renew or awaken your boating skills. This is not to say that some of the smaller rivers are not as dangerous. Smaller rivers have a habit of exuding a false sense of safety due to their very serene nature. I can testify from one very unpleasant experience that it is not a good idea to underestimate the power of any river be it small or large.

A few simple bits of information I will provide may play a major role in helping keep your river trip intact. First, it is not a bad idea to warm up for the season on a lake. If you simulate a river trip and bring all the gear you will need along on this trip you will be surprised at the safety gear and the little nick nacks you may have forgotten; it is better to forget on the lake rather than on any river.

Next, you might want to go ahead and fill your boat with air bags and all the appropriate flotation that you would use on the highest of rivers. If the opportunity presents itself it might not be a bad idea to go ahead and warm your swimming muscles up by purposely swamping your boat. If a mouse has been chewing on your air bags all winter you will certainly find out if he/she has caused them to leak. Invariably, your technique for tying your flotation in has become a lost art and learning to tie in gear at the put in can be a time consuming lesson and an irritating wait for your former friends; it is far better to find these things out here rather than upside down in the middle of Killer rapid. Also, last years warm wet suit may now have air conditioning vents in them, and it is much more pleasant to run to your car for warmth than wait for a freak spring snow storm to finish its nasty job.

By making this dry run, so to speak, you have not only saved yourself a considerable amount of embarrassment and discomfort, but you have saved your friends the awful frustration of waiting for you to get the kinks out. We all have the ability of forgetting all the necessary amenities for one reason or the other, but the likelihood of forgetting more than a fare share is very likely at the beginning of the year.

Of all the items, materials, and skills we bring with us to the river there is only one item that is of paramount importance to us as boaters on the river. This item takes a considerable amount of effort to acquire, but it is totally free. This item tends to become dormant over the winter months and at the beginning of the season should be renewed. This valuable intangible is the common sense we bring to the river in terms of our attitude. No matter what kind of boater we may be, the wrong attitude on the river can cause endangerment to ourselves and our paddling party. As a safe boater we should respect any river and be a-tuned to the abilities and welfare of those in our party. Upset boats are the name of the

game on some of our rivers, but the success of the rescue attempts that follow can depend a lot on the attitude that has been permeating throughout the trip.

In summary it is very difficult to make a mental dry run. I would suggest making your first river trip this year a lake run; you can find out an awful lot about your shortcomings. Also, do not take anything for granted; be good to yourself and the people on your trip. Keep your trip safe and fun by using your good common sense and maintaining the proper attitude. Above all else respect the body of water you are on and you are bound to have the time of your life. If you think you need help or training with your canoeing skills call Gary Cox and inquire about his training program this summer; Gary is graciously providing the opportunity for some rather extensive training. With all our abilities intact lets go out and have a GOOD TIME.

As a final note: If you have any questions about any trip or you decide to lead a trip please give Mike a call so that he may act a liaison.

Mike Danahy

"If there is magic on this planet
it is contained in water."

Loren Eiseley

Those of us who have paddled hundreds of miles in the Ojibwa country of the Quetico in Ontario know that this is not just a beautiful thought, it is true. Fred Welsh, Lyn Berry, and I have all camped beside rapids in the Quetico and heard the mischievous laughter of the Maysaygulshis hiding in the rocks. These little guys hide there waiting for the unwary paddler to pass close. They reach up and grab your gunwale and dump you unceremoniously into the drink. Then, after midnight, while staring into your campfire, if you listen carefully, you may hear them giggle. I have heard their giggling recently in Colorado. Be careful.....

Gary Cox

Anyone interested in submitting articles or art work for the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club Newsletter should contact Kerry Edwards at [] or Terry Owen at []. Any help will be appreciated. This is the publication forum for members. Anything you write concerning the club or canoeing as long as it is within the broadly defined standards of taste of the RMCC will be published. We especially would like creative articles on canoeing written from a new perspective. Boating tips, philosophical tidbits, cartoons, poetry, safety hints, book reviews, product reviews or comments, are all things that would add to the quality of your newsletter. Input from new members is especially encouraged since sometimes new people to the club or the geographical area can have a different perspective on boating that is interesting to read. Comments on river ratings and difficulty from new members would also be helpful in establishing uniformity in the club's rating of rivers. Tell the rest of the club the good times (or bad times) that you have had on trips.

TRAINING PROGRAM

The 1985 training program is under way. Many of us took the opportunity to brush up on First Aid and CPR in April. A special thanks to Barbara Osgood and Bruce Cox for taking time out of their busy schedules to teach these classes.

The Basic River Canoeing class beginning May 28 is full. If you did not get signed up for this class but want instruction, contact me. I will schedule another class if there is enough demand for one.

The May 28 class will be large. If you are an experienced paddler and can bring a canoe to the Soda Lake session, please let me know, as many of those who have signed up do not have canoes and could use your help.

We will meet at Soda Lakes near Morrison at 9:30 AM on Sunday, June 2.

Gary Cox

RESCUE CLINIC

South Suburban Recreation and Dive Rescue International, Inc. will be offering a White Water Safety and Rescue program geared toward private boaters (rafter, canoes, and kayakers). This one day clinic will be held Saturday, June 8, from 8:00am-4:00pm. The morning session will be a dry land session at the South Suburban Recreation Center, 6315 S. University Blvd., Littleton. It will cover water reading, equipment, and rescue techniques. The afternoon session will be held on the Platte River. It will consist of hands-on rescue techniques. Bring your boats and lunch. Registration begins May 1st and the fee is \$45.00. For further information, contact Lin Deahan, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, at

HAVE YOU SENT A LETTER YET EXPRESSING YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROPOSED TWO FORKS DAM PROJECT

If not, send your comments to:

Denver Water Department
Attn. William Miller, Manager
Denver, Co. 80254

Mayor Penn
1437 Bannock
Denver, CO. 80202

SOLO PADDLING

Solo paddling is a challenge and for many paddlers the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Even for die-hard tandem paddlers, an occasional solo paddle on a river will allow you to brush up on solo strokes that tandem paddlers seldom use. It also forces good paddling style and helps highlight and correct deficiencies you might have.

Paddling alone in a canoe does not mean that a custom solo canoe is needed (although paddling is much easier in one). Most solo paddlers use tandem boats that are also outfitted with a center seat or pedestal for a single paddler.

If you already a good tandem paddler, then chances are that learning to solo paddle will be a fairly easy transition. Many of the strokes are the same or similar. I am not going to describe all the solo strokes here as it would take too long and Gary Cox's training Red Cross classes are a much better place to learn them.

It's kind of funny but many of the maneuvers that people tend to think are harder when tandem paddling are easier when soloing. Take the offside eddy turn for instance (an eddy turn toward the side you are not paddling on). In tandem paddling it is a simple matter to change sides and always do onside eddy turns, and really the offside turn is not any harder when paddling tandem, it just seems harder probably because it is practiced less. In solo paddling, the strongest and surest way to catch an eddy is with an offside turn! The reason for this is not in the turn itself, but in catching the top of the eddy at the correct angle and with a fairly good head of steam. This is really the secret of all good eddy turns. Any onside eddy turn will have you paddling on the upstream side of the boat. As you paddle towards the top of the eddy, every stroke is tending to push the boat more downstream and away from the eddy so corrective strokes are needed. These can slow the boat down and make it tough to punch across the eddy line. If the corrective strokes are not strong enough, the boat may hit the eddy at the right spot, but may be pointing too much downstream and cause you to miss the eddy before the boat can be spun around in it. The offside eddy turn however, has you paddling on the downstream side. When you are heading towards an eddy, you can drive the strokes in quite a bit harder because less correction is needed. Not only is the current working with you, but you generally need to angle the boat towards the eddy. Thus it is easier to keep the boat on course towards the top of the eddy and at a good speed to cross that eddy line with some authority. This will also make it easier to really lean out on that cross bow draw and pull the boat around into the eddy.

I'm not trying to say that offside eddy turns should always be used. If however, you are having trouble with solo eddy turns, practice some offside turns and it will help you get your confidence up then you can go back and practice onside turns.

Paddling a solo boat requires more energy to maneuver in rapids than a tandem boat. The solo boat however, will ride higher in the water and will ship less water, so halfway down a long rapid who is really paddling harder, a solo paddler with an empty boat or two tandem paddlers with a partial boatload of the heavy stuff (H2O)?

Chris Bidwell

Colorado River Drownings

by Terry Owen

It is interesting to note that canoe drownings are the smallest in number for the years 1982 - 1984 when compared to kayak and raft drownings. The only canoe drownings in Colorado over the past three years was an incident on the Eagle River on May 27, 1982. Two drunk men attempted some rather difficult rapids and lost their lives. Noncommercial raft drownings number far greater than any of the boating categories of kayak, canoe, noncommercial raft, and commercial raft.

AUGUST CANADA TRIP

There will be a meeting to discuss the August Boundary Waters trip through Canada and the United States (see trip schedule) at John Lichts' home on Monday May 27th at 7:00 or 7:30 pm. John will supply the beer. If you are thinking about going on this trip plan to be at this meeting. Call John to let him know your coming at 321-6269 (home) or 757-7500 (work). This trip will take you to some of the most beautiful and famous canoeing water in the continent. If you have never paddled this historic area plan to go and enjoy the beauty of the present while reliving the past. The paddling is generally very easy. The most difficult part is usually the portaging.

RIVER TRAVEL COURTESY

I arrived at the put-in on time so that no one had to wait on me. The trip leader checked my canoe and made a few suggestions on how to rig it more safely. He explained to the group the river signals to be used on the trip and assigned a lead canoe and a sweep canoe--no one passes the lead boat and the sweep passes no one. He explained that we would be traveling single-file, maintaining three boat lengths between canoes and keeping the boat behind in sight at all times. Sounds easy, but have you ever been the 12th car on a shuttle? The guy in front is driving a leisurely 50 mph and you are driving 70 mph and still can't keep up. The same thing happens on the river. The lead boat can work the tail off the rear boats if this mathematical fact is not kept in mind. The problem is often compounded because the guys with the biggest arms want to be up front to "crank out some miles;" but our trip leader is wise to this and put the slower paddlers in front and the strong paddlers in the rear.

As we traveled down the river, I remembered to pull into an eddy and wait when the boat behind fell too far behind. The boat in front of me pulled in when he saw I had stopped. This was great--it works. But then we came to Good God Almighty Rapids and I learned another lesson. Three canoe lengths is not enough when following an experienced boater through a technical rapids. It is amazing how quickly an inexperienced boater can crash into a good paddler who is backferrying and playing a rapid. I said "hello" and we spun sideways then backward and, thanks to the group waiting in the eddy at the bottom of the rapids to rescue us, we cheated death one more time. The rest of the trip was uneventful, but the boat in front of me installed a rear view mirror and muttered something about my ancestry.

I learned a couple of things today. First, that I should keep the boat behind me in sight at all times. I should be asking myself, "Am I close enough to help if the boat behind

me goes over?" If I slow down, the boat ahead of me should slow down also. However, while the lead boats can work the rear boats very hard by traveling too fast, one boat in the rear can bore everyone else to death by demanding time to play in every two-inch riffle, forcing everyone else to wait for them in mosquito infested eddies. The pleasant trip is one where everyone is considerate of everyone else. If everyone gives a little, everyone gains a lot. Second, I learned to allow the canoe ahead of me room to maneuver in a difficult passage. Saying "excuse me" doesn't seem to help when your bow is two feet over someone's gunwale.

Gary Cox

OFF THE RIVER SAFETY

Some safety problems for boaters are found in the garage and not on the river. Though most of us nowadays paddle Royalex or polyethylene boats we still have occasion to work with fiberglass resins in outfitting or repairing boats and paddles. The catalyst for polyester and vinyl ester is called MEKP. Most people who have used this catalyst have seen the warning that it is dangerous to the human eye. However, if they are like me, they did not realize exactly how dangerous. If you get MEKP in your eyes you only have four seconds to get it out before you go blind. There is a recorded case of a boater who waited only a few minutes to wash out his eyes after getting MEKP in them. One eye lost its sight immediately, the other deteriorated over a period of eight years until it to lost all sight. The lessons to be learned are as follows. Wear chemically safe goggles when working with MEKP. If you don't use goggles, keep a large bucket of clean water and a dipper close at hand. If you get MEKP in your eyes, splash large cupfuls of water into your eyes, while working your way to a bathtub where you should rinse your eyes under running water for at least 15 minutes. Then, get to a doctor immediately.

Thanks to the AWA Journal from which the preceding information was garnered.

North Platte River Trip Glendo to Guernsey

by Terry Owen

Here is a trip for the whole family. It is a flatwater float trip. The 'sixty strokes a minute' folks won't be interested in this one. I've heard tell that there is some pretty country along this stretch and we're going to make this one a homemade ice cream party to boot. The only prerequisites to this trip are six pounds of ice and your special ice cream topping to share with others. We'll take hand operated ice cream makers and I'll need volunteers who have such gadgets, depending on how many paddlers are interested in going. Your ice cream making expertise is also needed to assure that I don't create a group bellyache. The trip will be an overnigher running on July 20 and 21. Don't miss it!

1985 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB TRIPS CALENDAR

May 11 Saturday

South Platte near Deckers. Class I-II. Good play trip, be prepared for a lot of rock dodging, close to town. Kerry Edwards

May 12 Sunday

South Platte near Deckers. Class I-II, maybe III. Repeat or modification of previous days trip. Need a leader. Coordinate with Gary Cox

May 18 Saturday

Blue River below the canyon to Green Mountain Reservoir. Continuous Class II. Rescue difficult. For intermediate or advanced paddlers. Fun river. Need a leader. Coordinate with Scott Cragle

May 19 Sunday

South Platte River Chatfield to Bowles. Class I picnic trip. Bring your barbecue parasol and a friend. Good trip for the family. John Licht

May 20 - 24 Monday thru Friday

San Juan River. Sand Island to Clay's Crossing. Class II-III. Intermediate. Gradient is consistent. Canyons are outstanding. Well worth the drive. If you want to experience a desert river at its best, paddle this one. Bob Alkin

May 25 - 27 Saturday thru Monday

Rio Chama. El Vado Dam to Aquibi Reservoir. Class II-III. Three day canyon trip for advanced paddlers. New trip for the club. Outstanding scenery. John Shugrue

May 25 Saturday

South Platte River. St. Vrain to Greeley. Class I. Good family outing. Lots of birds and surprisingly pretty river country inspite of the relatively flat surrounding farmlands. Tom Waymire

May 28 Tuesday

Canoe Training. Basic River Canoeing - classroom session. 170 Steel St. Gary Cox

May 30 Thursday

Canoe Training. Basic River Canoeing - pool session. Sheridan Recreation Center pool. 3325 W. Oxford Ave. 7:00 P.M. Gary Cox

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB TRIPS CALENDAR

June 1 Saturday

Poudre River. Advanced Trip. Class III-IV. Section to be decided dependant upon water level. Mike Danahy

June 2 Sunday

Canoe Training. Basic River Canoeing. Lake session. Location to be announced. 10 A.M to 4 P.M. Gary Cox

June 3 Monday

Canoe Training. Basic River Canoeing. Classroom session. 170 Steele St. 7:00 P.M. Gary Cox

June 5 Wednesday

Canoe Training. Basic River Canoeing. Classroom session. 170 Steele St. 7:00 P.M. Gary Cox

June 8 Saturday

Pre-Fibark Training. Arkansas River. Salida to Cotapaxi. Class II-III-IV depending on water level. Mike Danahy

June 8 Saturday

St. Vrain. I-25 to Milliken. Class I. Easy family trip. Good for beginners. Good bird watching. John Licht or Gaither Randall

June 9 Sunday

Canoe Training. Basic River Canoeing. Flatwater river session. River to be announced. Gary Cox

June 15 Saturday

South Platte. Chatfield to Bowles. BOOZIN AND BRAGGIN. Class I-II. Good family trip. Return to Gaither's house at the end of the trip for some infamous boozin and braggin. Everyone is welcome even if they dont like to booze and bragg. Gaither Randall

June 16 Sunday

River Training. Basic River Canoeing. Final river session. Trip will be on a moderate class II river to be announced. Gary Cox

June 16 Sunday

FIBARK RACE. Arkansas River. Salida to Cotapaxi. Advanced to very advanced. Mike Danahy

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB TRIPS CALENDAR

June 22 Saturday

Colorado River. Rancho Del Rio to the Railroad Bridge. Class III at this water level. High intermediate to advanced paddlers. Rapids will be wide open with BIG waves if there is a lot of water. A real kick in the Kerry Edwards []

June 23 Sunday

Colorado River. Sweetwater to Dotsero. Class II. Intended for intermediate paddlers who want to improve their skills. Terry Owen []

June 23 Sunday

River Training. Basic River Canoeing. Makeup river trip for those who missed the previous river trip. Moderate Class II water. River to be announced. Gary Cox []

June 23 Sunday

Conejos River. Class II-III. For intermediate to advanced paddlers. Participants must wear Indian garb or be prepared to become canudists. Scott Cragle []

June 29 Saturday

Poudre River. Easy trip. Class I and one Class III drop. Jeff Keeler [] Also, Lyn Berry will lead an advanced trip on the Poudre through some Class III and Class IV rapids. Lyn Berry []

June 30 Sunday

Poudre River. Lyn will stay the night and continue paddling the same class of whitewater he did from the previous day. Lyn Berry []

July 4, 5, 6, 7 Thursday - Sunday

Southern Colorado exploratory trip. Explore a river not previously paddled by the club. There is strong talk of paddling the San Miguel or another river in Southwestern Colorado. There may be two trips that will be considered Class II-III because of their exploratory nature.

July 4, 5, 6, 7 Thursday - Sunday

Little Snake River. Baggs, Wyoming to the Yampa. Class I. John Shugrue []

July 13 - 14 Saturday and Sunday

River Training. Colorado River. Sweetwater to Dotsero. Gary Cox will continue to run his river training on a rather large river. This is a Class I-II run. On Sunday Gary will continue his training on the Colorado River from Grizzly Creek to a point to be determined. Class II-III depending on water level. Gary Cox []

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

The task force on safety which was appointed by the members at the Spring Meeting after heated debate on the question of trip leader guidelines and safety in general has met and has created the following questionnaire. We hope that all club members will fill it out and provide additional comments for the safety task force. This club is organized for the benefit of the club members and is run by the club members. This is your chance to have your say as to what programs, committees, or policies the club ought to establish concerning safety. The results of this survey will determine the structures that the club will initiate to continue the good record of safety that we have maintained in the past.

The safety task force assumes that all club members want safe trips. The purpose of this questionnaire is to get your opinion on what the club ought to do to promote safe trips.

PLEASE FILL THIS QUESTIONNAIRE OUT AND RETURN IT BY June 5 TO:

Kerry Edwards
[]
Aurora, CO. 80014

1. Do you want a formal training program? Y N
2. Should the club have some kind of control over who leads trips? Y N
3. Should the club train trip leaders? (e.g. Have a formal program in which basic necessities of being a trip leader are passed along to new trip leaders). Y N
4. Should the club have trip leader guidelines? Y N
5. What should trip leaders be taught?--please answer this question by commenting upon the trip leader guidelines found on enclosed sheet. Put a Y by the ones you think appropriate, a N by those you think inappropriate. Make any modifications to proposed guidelines that you wish or add any additional guidelines you think should be added.
6. Should the club have participant guidelines? Y N If yes please comment on the participant guidelines found on the enclosed sheet. Put a Y beside the ones you think appropriate, a N beside the ones you think inappropriate. Make any modifications to proposed guidelines that you wish or add any additional guidelines you think should be added.
7. How should the club's program for safety be administered?
 - A. A safety committee
 - B. By the officers

C. Gastapo

D. Other means.--Please explain in detail. Use additional paper if necessary.

6. If you voted for a safety committee, should that committee report directly to the officers? Y N

7. Would you be willing to work on a safety committee? Y N If yes, please write your name in here.

8. Do you know anyone that would work on this committee, or should work on this committee. Y N If yes, please write their name in here.

PROPOSED TRIP LEADER GUIDELINES

Y or N

Qualifications of trip leaders

_____ Knowledge of CPR
_____ Approval of peers
_____ To become a trip leader you must co-lead a trip with an approved trip leader
_____ Knowledge of river signals
_____ Knowledge of rescue protocols
_____ Knowledge of the symptoms of hypothermia
_____ Good judgement
_____ Leaders should assess for themselves their ability to run and lead a trip on the rivers they plan to run
_____ Leaders should also have their ability to lead a certain trip on a certain river subject to peer approval

Responsibilities of the leaders in general

_____ To provide the most up to date information regarding the particular trip
_____ To know the river except for exploratory trip
_____ Legal arrangements regarding the trip
_____ To make sure boaters have minimum safety equipment for a trip. . i.e. flotation when required, pfd's, extra paddles, painters, throw bags, sponges, bailers.
_____ To carry his or her own minimum equipment. e.g. maps, first aid kit, throw bag, extra paddles
_____ To advise participants regarding wet suits, camping

_____ equipment, clothing.

_____ To know his or her own limits regarding skill level.

_____ To have knowledge of nearest hospitals, sherriffs, and other pertinent emergency numbers.

Before the Trip

_____ Decide when people should call the trip leader
_____ Be responsible for the trip description in the trip schedule

_____ Screen prospective boater (experience level, training, name, phone number, throw ropes, paddling partners, first aid kit)

_____ Have the right to turn down people they think are underprepared for the trip

_____ Screen the equipment of prospective boaters

_____ Provide information regarding difficulty of the river, water level, weather forecast etc.

_____ Determine location and time of put in

_____ Obtain permits and permission to trespass

_____ Determine size limits of the party

_____ Keep track of people needing partners

_____ To ask participants if they have relevant medical problems

_____ The minimum number of boats for a club sanctioned trip is three

Day of the trip

_____ Determine how long to wait for tardy people

_____ To make last minute decisions regarding such things as surprise boaters, surprise equipment, different water or weather conditions.

_____ Assign a sweep and a leader

_____ Review river signals

_____ Review river etiquette

_____ Advise boater to be responsible for boater immediately behind them

_____ Make final decisions on cancellation depending on circumstances

_____ Determine how to split up a trip if necessary

_____ Make final decisions as to worthiness of river craft and the abilities of boaters

During the trip

_____ To make decisions regarding stops and campsites

_____ To determine scouting guidelines

_____ To make decisions regarding portages

After the trip

_____ Turn in a trip report to the club if conditions warrant it (exploratory trip, unusual occurrences, etc.).

August 17 - 18 Saturday and Sunday

Colorado River. Burns to Dotsero. Class II-III. This is a beautiful trip through some rather challenging water if you so desire. The infamous "Rodeo Rapid" will challenge the best of boaters. Mike Hardesty []

August 17 - 31

Boundary Waters. John Licht will be leading a family trip through the Boundary Waters of Canada and the United States. This should be an outstanding trip through some of the most beautiful waters in the world. John Licht []

August 24 - 25 Saturday and Sunday

Colorado River. Westwater Canyon. Class III-IV. This trip will be running through some rather intense whitewater. Very Advanced. Trip is subject to a BLM permit. Ray Crockett []

August 24 - 25 Saturday and Sunday

River Training. Gary will be leading more trips for those interested in running more difficult water. The location of these trips will be announced in a later newsletter. Rapids will be Class I-II-III. Gary Cox []

August 31 - September 2 Saturday - Monday

Colorado River. Loma to Westwater. Class I-II. The Class II rapids can be run if you can find them. This is a very easy trip through some outstanding desert river canyons. Kerry Edwards []

September 8, 9, 10, 11 Sunday - Wednesday

Green River. Gates of Lodore to Split Mountain in Dinosaur National Monument. Some of the most beautiful river canyons in the West. Advanced. Class II-III. Terry Owen []

Both Bob Atkin and myself have permits for a trip down the Green River through Grays and Desolation Canyons this year. Which trip will be run (or perhaps both) will depend upon the interest for the dates designated and the amount of time people want to spend on the river. (See the trip schedule for the dates.) This is a classic southwestern desert run with lots of hikes up side canyons and many pictographs. I plan to spend at least seven days on the water enjoying the river, the hiking, the camping, and the good times around the campfire. Trips like this are why I love canoeing so much.

I dont know Bob's stipulations for the trip but mine will be as follows. The trip is approximately 96 miles long with more than 60 rapids in those 96 miles. Most of those rapids are class I and II but there are some class III's. In light of this degree of difficulty the main class of paddlers I hope to include on this trip are experienced paddlers who are used to paddling difficult rapids with loaded boats. However, that is not a hard and fast rule. I will consider intermediate paddlers who have confident front and back ferries. If you are an intermediate paddler who is interested in an extended trip like this please get in touch with me soon. If I have not paddled with you in the past, I would like to see you paddle before agreeing to participation. If you are an intermediate and would like to go but wonder about your own skills, get in touch with me immediately. We could go over the trip schedule together and look at those trips which you could go on between now the the Grays and Desolation trip which would give you a better idea of your ability to handle bigger water. I am not interested in excluding anyone just for the sake of exclusion, but once you begin this trip, there is no way out besides down the river and I want to make sure everyone will be reasonably happy with that severe limitation of alternatives once we are on the river.

Kerry Edwards

The International Whitewater Rating System

- Class I: Still or moving water with few riffles or obstructions.
- Class II: Rapids with waves up to 3 feet high and obvious clear channels not requiring scouting.
- Class III: Powerful rapids with waves up to 5 feet high, often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require scouting from shore.
- Class IV: Long, difficult rapids requiring intricate maneuvering in turbulent water. Scouting often necessary. Rescue difficult.
- Class V: Extremely difficult, extremely violent rapids, requiring difficult and precise maneuvering to avoid numerous serious obstacles. Rescue difficult at best and impossible at worst.
- Class VI: The most extreme whitewater. This classification is generally synonymous with unrunnable.

RIVER FLOW PHONE NUMBERS

Last year I was paddling the South Platte in town quite a bit and was always interested in the flow information. You can get the flow from the Corp of Engineers but they are not always available, particularly on weekends, so someone (I cannot remember who) gave me a number and claimed flows would always be available at that number. Early one Saturday morning I called the number to find the flow on the South Platte. The result was that the wife of the director of the Denver Water Board ended up getting him out of bed at home to give me the flow. He seemed a little disgruntled, but he did know the flow. I don't recommend that you call him at home to get river flows but if you have been paddling for a while you know that for paddlers, river flows can be as important as the meaning of life. They determine if a certain river is runnable or how difficult it is. In the past, river flow information in Colorado has been sketchy, basically because many of the places that provided this information were far enough away that they discouraged long distance phone calls. In the last two years, this situation has changed and now we have an accessible means for ascertaining the flow levels of the rivers we paddle and determining their difficulty at different flow levels (in cubic feet per second or cfs). Colorado Kayak Supply sponsors a recorded message (supplied by the National Weather Service) of most of the rivers we paddle in Colorado. The message is updated on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can be heard at 371-7739.

If the flow you desire is not on that message either temporarily or permanently, let me list some other numbers of interest. The flow of the South Platte through Denver as determined by the release from Chatfield Dam can be learned by calling the Corp of Engineers at 979-4120. The flow of the South Fork of the South Platte as determined by the release from Cheesman Dam, (possibly the flow of the North Fork of the South Platte--I have never asked for it), and the flow of the Blue River as determined by the release from Dillon Dam, can be learned by calling the Denver Water Board at 623-2500 and asking for the community affairs department. The flow of the upper Colorado as determined by the gauge at Gore Canyon can be determined by calling the BLM office at Kremmling at 1-724-3437. Flows on the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir can be learned by calling the Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City at 801-524-5571. Lee is the man to talk to and he will even call you back with the flow if he's not in when you call. Flows on the North Platte river through Northgate Canyon can be learned by calling the North Park Ranger station at 1-723-4707. If anyone has any additional numbers which give flows on other rivers the club may be interested in, please pass the information along to Terry Owen or Kerry Edwards and we will print it in the newsletter. Remember, the recorded message has most rivers on it and is the fastest way to get flow information in Colorado.

River Access and the Law

by Terry Owen

The National Organization for River Sports (NORS) reported some important points in the March/April issue of Currents magazine. Two state laws are in effect today. One law requires all canoeists to carry a coast-guard approved personal flotation device (wearing it at the boater's discretion). The other law requires any canoe to be "marked with the owner's name and current address in a clearly legible, clearly visible, and indelible fashion." Federal laws and regulations are still in force within federal preserves.

Sheriffs in Colorado can no longer close rivers for high water or other general reasons to "white water canoes and kayaks", according to state laws passed last year.

The state legislature made a change in the criminal trespass laws in 1977, and in 1983 the state attorney general issued an official opinion saying that the change means that river runners can float through private land, as long as they don't touch the river banks or bed. Boaters can only get on or off a river where public lands or roads border it. Boaters cannot get out on private land to portage unrunnable sections. We might keep in mind that the land owner has more authority than the state legislature when we are at the wrong end of a double barrel shotgun.

Low-Head Dams by Virgil Chambers

The popularity of river sports is increasing annually. Fishing, canoeing, rafting and power boating are common river activities which have shared a surging growth as leading forms of recreational enjoyment.

Rivers present a great threat to an unwary water recreationist, low-head dams. These structures claim the lives of an increasing number of sportsmen annually. Of all the things on a river that are dangerous, the low-head dam is the most dangerous. In fact, if an engineer designed an efficient, unattended, self-operated drowning machine, it would be hard to come up with anything more effective than a low-head dam.

Hazards exist not only from going over the dam, an obvious source of danger, but also below the dam is the backwash, where the power of the water is frequently overlooked.

Anything caught in the backwash below the dam is trapped and recirculated round and round, making escape or rescue most difficult. A person caught in the backwash of a dam will be carried to the face of the dam, where water pouring over it will wash him down under and back beneath the pool. When the victim struggles to the surface, the backwash again carries him to the face of the dam, thus continuing the cycle.

To complicate matters, these dams are usually loaded with debris, such as trees and logs on the surface and rocks and steel bars on the bottom, posing another serious problem for the recirculating victim. If rescue is not immediate and the victim is to survive and escape this water trap, he must go down with the current coming over the face of the dam, stay as close to the bottom as possible, and try to get past the crest of the pool before resurfacing. This maneuver is very difficult, and few have done it.

Another method of escape, with rescuers available, is for the victim to attempt lateral movement across the dam after each cycle. This involves proper breathing control and great endurance. If the victim is able to work his way to the side of the dam, rescuers may then be able to assist him out of the powerful backwash. In either case, the chances of survival are much greater if the victim is wearing a PFD.

Dams do not have to have a deep drop to create a dangerous backwash. During periods of high water and heavy rains, the backwash current problems get worse, and the reach of the backwash current is extended downstream. Small low-head dams that may have provided a refreshing wading spot at low water can become



From upstream low-head dams may be virtually undetectable.

a monstrous death trap when river levels are up.

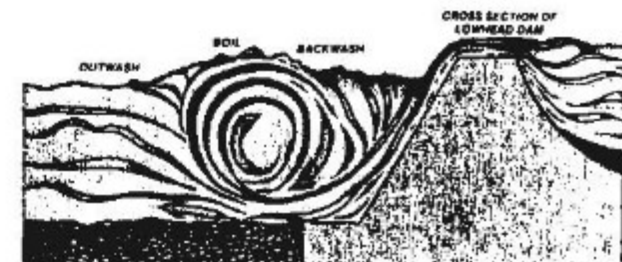
There are an estimated 2,000 low-head dams in the Commonwealth, and if river travel is something you plan for this year's recreation, whether

canoeing, kayaking, or cruising, be familiar with the river's dangers.

Virgil Chambers is chief of the Fish Commission Bureau of Waterways Boating Education Section.



The same low-head from an across-the-river view.



Illustrated is the hydraulic backwash current action characteristic of low-head dams. Boaters and anglers often get too close to the downstream side of the dam, become drawn or sucked into the backwash current that takes them to the base of the dam, and are then forced underwater. Victims are then pushed away from the dam underwater. When the victim surfaces, he gets drawn back in toward the base of the dam, starting the cycle over again.

The River Resource Center

by Terry Owen

Here is a list of catalogs, dealers, etc. that you can use to order virtually anything you need to outfit your boat or yourself for the river.

Boat Dealers

Boulder Outdoor Center
2510 N. 47th St, Boulder
444-8420

Canoe Colorado
11075 W. 58th Ave, Arvada
423-4314 evenings

Halubar
2490 S. Colorado Blvd, Denver
758-6366

REI
2200 W. Alameda, Denver
937-0536

Whitewater Express Company
635 S. Union, Pueblo
542-0466

Mohawk Canoes
Challenger, Scamp,
Whitewater and
Intrepid models

Wenonah Canoes
Blue Hole Canoes
Sunburst and OCA models

Madriver - Explorer
Old Town - Tripper

Old Town - Otter, Tripper,
Penobscot, Pack,
Discovery

Blue Hole Canoes
Sawyer Canoes
Wenonah Canoes

Mildwater Designs
230 Penlllyn Pike
Penlllyn, PA 19422
215-646-5034

Northwest River Supplies
P.O. Box 9186
Moscow, Idaho 83843
800-635-5202

Colorado Kayak Supply
Box 291
Buena Vista, CO 81211
395-2421

Idaho Outdoor Equipment Co
P.O. Box 8005
Boise, Idaho 83707
208-342-3063

Catalogs

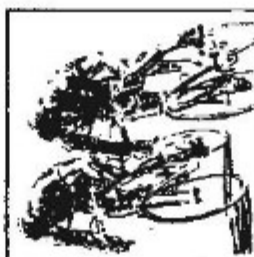
REI
2200 W. Alameda, Denver
Denver, CO
937-0536

L. L. Bean
Freeport, Me. 04033
207-865-3111

Early Winters
110 Prefontaine Place South
Seattle, Washington 98104
206-624-5599

Four Corners Marine
Box 379
Durango, CO 81301
259-3893

Pacific Water Sports
16205 Pacific Highway South
Seattle, Washington 98188
206-246-9385



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- telemarking
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- bicycling
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Many members of the club are new converts to the religion of canoeing and may be wondering about national organizations they can support which work to advance the sport of canoeing or the preservation of rivers. With this in mind, I compiled some addresses and brief descriptions of organizations that members of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club might be interested in joining.

AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 248
Lorton, VA. 22079

The ACA is the oldest organization in the United States that promotes the sport of canoeing. It sanctions both decked and open boat racing. It trains and certifies canoeing and kayaking instructors, maintains many standing committees including one on safety, and offers a book service with a ten per cent discount to members. Membership is \$25.00 and includes a subscription to CANOE magazine and a subscription to their newsletter, AMERICAN CANOEIST. Membership fees are also tax deductible.

AMERICAN WHITEWATER AFFILIATION
146 N. Brockway
Palatine, IL 60067

The AWA is a national organization formed in the late 1940's or early 1950's to promote whitewater boating. It publishes an excellent journal, AMERICAN WHITEWATER, which is included in the membership dues of \$12.00. The journal's articles focus upon whitewater boating and recently included a very interesting article written by Charlie Walbridge which attempted to establish a uniform rating of rivers across the United States by comparing the rivers in the east and west and rating them comparatively.

AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION COUNCIL
322 Fourth St. NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

As the name implies this organization is committed to the conservation of America's rivers. The organization has been active in saving many rivers from the ever greedy grasp of dam builders by utilization of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Individual membership is \$20.00 and family membership \$30.00.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF RIVER SPORTS
314 N. 20th St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

This organization is the largest organization of river runners in the United States and serves to promote the interests of those who paddle rivers. It publishes CURRENTS a magazine filled with interesting articles on river running and provides a book service with a ten per cent discount for members. Dues are \$10.00 a year but a better deal for Colorado paddlers (or paddlers anywhere really) is to join an affiliate club of NORS and get membership in both clubs for very little extra. In Colorado the affiliate club is the Colorado Whitewater Association (7600 E. Arapahoe Road, Englewood, CO 80112). It only costs \$12.00 to join the CWWA and included in that is a membership in NORS. This means that for only \$2.00 more than NORS membership you get all the benefits of both clubs. This includes CURRENTS, the CWWA newsletter, SPRAY, and the valuable information contained in the annual CWWA SCHEDULE/ROSTER

CLASSIFIED ADS

For sale-- 18ft Sawyer Outrage. Keelless, asymmetrical cruising boat with sliding bucket seats. Fast. Has full whitewater and storm cover. ABS Royalex. Cost \$1300 new. Sell \$750.00. Call Bill Sears, [redacted]

For Sale--Blue Hole Sunburst. Royalex solo whitewater canoe. 14ft 6in. long. Great for playing in rapids or overnight trips. Only used 2 seasons. \$575.00. Call Jim. Work [redacted], Home [redacted]



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7196 Aspen Meadow Dr.
Evergreen, CO 80438
303-670-1149 evenings

CLASSIFIED ADS

For sale--Sage C-1. includes spray skirt, float bags. \$200.00. Call Atkins, [redacted]

For sale--Blue Hole OCA-16ft. Completely set up for tandem or solo. Thigh Straps, knee pads, flotation bags, painters, extra D-rings for gear tie-downs. \$450.00

C-1, decked canoe completely set up. Thigh straps, knee pads, flotation, spray skirt, excellent condition. Polyester nylon/fiberglass construction. Very durable. \$350.00

Both these boats are available from Doug Buzzell, a new member of the club. He lives in Crested Butte and his address is Box 1292 Crested Butte, CO. 81224. He is also a Blue Hole dealer who carries a full line of boats and accessories. He often has used boats for sale.