

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

SEPTEMBER 23, 1986

"Oh, it's a sport for kings. life on the twist of a paddle..."
Robert Service

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENT

RICK ANDREWS

CO-PRESIDENT

JAN BROWN

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

TERRY OWEN

TREASURER-MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

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1986 Dates to Remember

Saturday Oct 4 Fall Meeting

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTS

Rick Andrews

It won't be long now before most of us will be putting our boats up, and getting out the skis. The Fall Meeting will be on October 4th at Ron and Bonnie Singleton's house this year. Their address is:

[redacted] in Golden

This is up in Genesee Park, so come prepared for a fall climate.

With this in mind it is time to think about next years officers. If you are interested in being an officer for 1987, let it be known!!

I'd like to take this space to thank the rest of this years officers and others for their fine efforts.

Finally, our congratulations to Ray Crockett and Tim Pfeiffer for taking 1st place in this years FIBARK race. Hopefully the club will be able to generate some interest in this race next year.

See you at the fall meeting!

Jan Brown

Random River Trivia: "The Panther Junction Visitor Center, Big Bend National Park, Texas, recorded a peak visitation of 2,486 people in one day during Spring break 1986 (mid-March): as compared to 889 people in one day peak visitation the same time last year (1985)." Taken from: "Big Bend Bull", Vol. 29, No. 8, April 17, 1986; newsletter for the National Park Service, Big Bend National Park.

People I have talked with mention a lot their disappointment at the marked PAUCITY of easy river trips for normal people this year. I wonder if that might be changed.

FALL MEETING AND POTLUCK

This year's fall meeting will be held at Ron Singleton's home on October 4th at 2:00 pm in the afternoon. His address and phone number are:

[redacted] [redacted]
To get to Ron's place take:

I-70 west to Exit 254

[redacted]
Included in the festivities are elections of next years' officers, eats, drinks, a slide and picture show with photo

contest, and lots of river stories. Be sure to bring your favorite pictures and slides to share with everyone. Bring your own chairs, to sit on and bring some warm clothing as there will be a fall chill in the air. The club will provide hamburgers, polish sausages, buns, and soft drinks (bring your own beer). For the potluck you should bring your favorite dish to share with others (a salad, dessert, etc.).

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WINTER ROLLING SESSIONS

Kerry Edwards

Now is the time to begin planning your wintertime skill development in anticipation of next Spring. Last winter quite a few club members were able to perfect their rolling techniques in both decked and open canoes and kayaks. Once again the Aurora Public Schools have offered us the opportunity to utilize one of their pools for these rolling sessions. A price has not yet been determined. Last year, as I recall, the cost was about \$3.00 per person per session which varied from 2 to 4 hours in length. Instruction once again will be informal. Last year, there were usually enough accomplished rollers at each session to assist those who wished to learn. If you wish to be a part of these rolling sessions, please contact Kerry Edwards at [redacted] Also if there are any Red Cross Certified Life Guards in the club who would be willing to help out with this program, please let me know. What a chance to perform a service to the club while developing exciting skills!!!!

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RIVER RENDEZVOUS 4

River Rendezvous 4 is a fun gathering of private and commercial river runners to exchange ideas and raise money for river conservation. It is a non-profit corporation. All profits go to river conservation. The upcoming gathering is October 3,4,5 1986 in Telluride, Colorado. The agenda is:

Thursday, October 2

8-10 P.M. - Welcome party and river videos

Friday, October 3

All day - River rescue seminar \$25

A.M. - Taking and selling river photos \$10

P.M. - Intro to sea kayaking for river runners \$10

5-7 - Keg party, videos, registration

8-10 - River movies old and new, USA and foreign

10:30 - Golden oldies mixer at Black Diamond Disco

Saturday, October 4

9-5 - River related seminars on but not limited to:

River Conservation, Wrap up of 1986, High Tech equipment, River Safety, Low Impact Camping, River Permit Allocation and River First Aid

10-1 - River Equipment Flea Market

1-5 - Equipment manufacturer exhibits and sales

7:30-10 - Major film presentations, door prizes

10-11 - Katie Lee entertains with river songs and the movie - "Cracking of Glen Canyon Dam"

11 - River videos by Paul Sharpe

Sunday - All day at Skyline Guest Ranch

River games and events - similar to previous years

11:30 - River equipment auction

12:30 - BBQ and beer party

Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday: \$19 until October 1, 1986
\$22 thereafter

Write to River Rendezvous 4
Box 1838
Telluride, Colorado 81435

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1987 PERMIT TRIPS

Terry Owen

Below is a list of the permit trips we can apply for in 1987. I have included as much information as I could find about obtaining a permit on each river (most of it from NORS newsletters) as well as a short description of the trip. Let's see some good permit trips for next year in our club schedule.

SELWAY RIVER

Idaho - 47 miles, 3 days, class III to IV, drops 28 feet per mile. Water peaks in June, best in July at medium flows. Contact: River Permits, U.S. Forest Service, West Fork Ranger Station, Darby MT 59829, (406) 821-3269. Permits rationed out by mid-winter lottery. For the 1987 season, write in 1986 to obtain information on a possible new application system.

SNAKE RIVER IN HELL'S CANYON

Idaho - Oregon - 3 to 7 days, 31 to 66 miles, class IV in first 17 miles, class II thereafter. Dam controlled, best in August when most other rivers have dropped. Contact: River Manager, Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area, 3620-B Snake River Ave., Lewiston, Idaho 83501, (208) 743-2297. Permits limited from Friday before Memorial Day until September 15. For the 1987 season, write in 1986 to obtain information on a possible new application system.

MAIN SALMON RIVER

Idaho - 4 to 8 days, 79-150 miles, depending on put-in and take-out. Large river, class III. Water peaks in June from snowmelt, good July through September. Contact: River Permits, North Fork Ranger District, P.O. Box 780, North Fork ID 83466, (208) 865-2383. Permits rationed out by mid-winter lottery. For the 1987 season write in 1986 to obtain information on a possible new application system.

MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON

Idaho - 6 day trip, 96 miles, class III and IV. Assigned camp sites. Water peaks in June from snowmelt, best in July to mid-August. Contact: River Manager, Middle Fork Ranger District, Challis ID 83226, (208) 879-5204. For the 1987 season, write in 1986 to obtain information on a possible new application system.

CHANGES

AKINS, DICK

BOOR, DIANE

GREIDER, ELAINE

MEREDITH, THOMA

MOORE, GAIL

NEILSON, BILL

WHITE, DAVID

WUNDER, LAURIE

ROBUE RIVER

Oregon - 2 to 5 day trip, 35 miles, several class III and IV rapids. Drops 13 feet per mile. Water peaks in February, best at 1000 to 4000 cfs, usually in June and July, but good flows common May through September. Contact: River Permits, U.S. Forest Service, 14335 Galice Rd., Merlin OR 97532, (503) 479-3735. Permits issued by lottery, write for application packet. No limit on permits before June 1 and after September 15. For 1987 season, write for information packet in 1986 and then apply between January 2 and February 15.

GREEN AND YAMPA RIVERS

Colorado - Utah - 3 or 4 days, class III. Assigned campsites. Water peaks on the Yampa in June due to snowmelt, good May through July. Flaming Gorge Dam controls Green River so flows are erratic. Contact: River Manager, National Park Service, P.O. Box 210, Dinosaur, CO 81610, (303) 374-2216. Permits rationed out by mid-winter lottery. For the 1987 season, write for application in 1986 and send it in before January 15.

DESOLATION AND GRAY CANYONS ON THE GREEN RIVER

Utah - 4 days, 84 miles, class III, gradient 5 ft per mile. Water peaks in June, best in May or early August to avoid mosquitos. Contact: River Ranger, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Drawer AB, Price UT 84501, (801) 637-4584. Permits issued by lottery. For the 1987 season write in 1986 for an application and send it in between January 1 and March 1.

WESTWATER CANYON ON THE COLORADO RIVER

Utah - One or two day trip, 17 miles, class III to IV. Water peaks in early June from snowmelt, best in May or July through September. Contact: River Permits, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box M, Moab UT 84532, (801) 259-8193. Permits issued by lottery on the first of the month before the month in question (April 1 for trips during May). Write for permit application form, then send it in during second month prior to the intended trip (during March for trip in May).

GRAND CANYON ON THE COLORADO RIVER

Arizona - 7 to 18 days, 227 to 300 miles, over 100 class III and IV rapids, drops 7 feet per mile. Dam controlled, peaks in August and September, lower in spring, best in July through September. Contact: River Subdistrict Office, National Park Service, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon AZ 86023, (602) 638-7843. Permits issued by a multi-year waiting list. To get on the list, apply during the month of February of any year. To stay on the list send a postcard or letter between December 15 and January 31 every year. Each October the Park Service notifies the first 300 to choose their launch dates. Starting the first working day in January, all unclaimed dates are available by phone to those already on the waiting list.

CATARACT CANYON ON THE COLORADO RIVER

Utah - For information packet write to River Permits, National Park Service, 446 So. Main St., Moab UT 84532, (801) 259-7164. First come first served; apply anytime after December 15.

ADDITIONS

CLOWER, JERRY & JANET

CUEVAS, GLORIA

FOLBERG, ANDREW

GORA, CAROL

GREAVES, JOHN

HAUVER, CONNIE

KOTOWSKI, LINDA

LOTOCKI, MARINA

PADDACK, LARRY & NANCY

PRIEST, PAUL & VERLA

RANDALL, GAITHER & KATHY

REED, MARGARETT

SCHEIFLEY, JAMES

SCHOBERLEIN, LIZ

SCHUSSLER, RICHARD & BETTY

STOECKER, ROBERT & JILL

SUTPHIN, ELIZABETH

WEISBARD, HERBERT & JANET

SAN JUAN RIVER

Utah - For information packet write to River Permits, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 7, Monticello UT 84535, (801) 587-2201. First come first served! apply any time after January 1.

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TREASURERS REPORT

Vi Polk

Carryover from 1985 treasury	287.47
Expenses	
Newsletter, postage, and supplies	815.07
Movie rentals, etc.	214.95
Nail Soup	34.68
Training	398.00
First Aid Kit	64.64
Bank service charges	15.00
Miscellaneous	116.03
Total	1658.37
Income	
Dues	1478.00
T-shirts	50.75
Advertising	105.00
Other	436.83
Total	2070.58
Amount remaining	699.68

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Rio Grande below Big Bend National Park

Wally Booth

Trip announcement for November 22 - 30

While many of you will be putting your canoes up for the winter, and thinking about a Thanksgiving feast, a group of real turkeys are planning to run the lower canyons of the Rio Grand below Big Bend National Park. The "lower canyons" is a 5 to 6 day trip through beautiful and extremely remote desert canyons on the Texas - Mexico border. The trip will take place during Thanksgiving week when the weather should be ideal for boating, hiking the side canyons, or enjoying the abundant, natural hot springs. Call Wally Booth if you're interested at

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TRIP REPORTS

CATAMONT BRIDGE TO TWIN BRIDGES ON THE COLORADO

Mike Danahy

This trip was taken on Sunday May 25 with 3 tandem canoes and 2 yakers. All went extremely well including an occasional friendly tip and roll by the kayaks. The river was running extremely high which makes it a bunch of fun for large wave connoisseurs. The first major rapid below Catamont bridge required scouting; this was done to insure that we were capable of hitting the biggest waves which were of the 4-6 foot variety. A good low brace is a prerequisite for this rapid.

About 3 miles downstream is the infamous Rodeo rapid. At high water Rodeo can easily be run on river left, but it is, as always, still a solid class III run. The reward for making it through the labyrinth of rocks at the top is the thrill of running real big waves at the bottom. The punishment is a hefty drink of river water. The collection of river rafters along the right shore decided to run the hole on river right; most did fine, but a few convinced me Rodeo's tricky hole at high water is no place for this chicken, even in the Titanic. One intermediate kayaker, not associated with our group, temporarily got disassociated with the rest of the living world as she bravely and unknowingly wandered upon this hole. She was a bit shaken, but alright.

Without a doubt, the high water hole at Rodeo is ominous. If someone of superior canoeing skills would like to get a river level view of the hole in Rodeo at high water there appears to be a sneak route along the right hand shore. The route was there this particular day, but none in our group were excited at the thought of trying it.

With this biggest rapid behind us we pulled off and ate lunch and told river lies about 1/4 mile below Rodeo. We still had about 10 river miles to go after lunch. Fortunately the wind was not blowing all that hard which made for a beautiful afternoon through Red Dirt Canyon. The combination of the dark brown, red and white sandstone cliffs in conjunction with the canyon sparrows and king dippers busily completing their daily chores made a perfect setting for a rewarding and relaxing float trip. Since the river was high some of the river turns had extremely strong eddies that we literally had to paddle hard through. Also, some of the easier class II rapids were turning into class III at this level, especially on some of the turns.

About three miles from the takeout we came upon the railroad bridge. One of the bridge pilings sticks right out in the middle of the river flow. It appears fairly easy to maneuver through the easy class III rock garden at the top, but if your maneuvering is not taking you river left the whole time you will meet head on with the bridge piling at the bottom. The river moves fast into the bridge piling. Unless you have a great backferry or choose to run the piling on the right side it is not a place to be. Some of us had run this several times before and everyone in the group was well informed of this deceiving rapid; we did fine. This rapid seemed to me to be of the same intensity at lower water as well as high water.

The trip from the railroad bridge to Twin Bridges is fairly easy with typically big waves on the outsides of turns and easy flat water on the inside of the turns. This all changes when you get a mile from the takeout at Twin Bridges. At high water there were some very exciting rapids right underneath Twin Bridges. There are several very easy, by extremely dangerous routes through the bridge pilings. My partner and I decided to paddle through the middle section of the bridges. We made it through our slot with no problem, but not until I heard an uproarious laugh coming from shore did I realize we were about to paddle into a rather deep hole in the middle of the river. Of course the laugh was emanating from the couple who had just run the same hole we were about to drop into. The combination of flotation and two low braces allowed us to surface only waist high on the other side of the hole. To say the least we were extremely surprised, yet still right side up. At this point it was imperative to get to shore fast and empty the boats because of the big water directly downstream. The other boaters in our group took different routes through the bridges. The kayakers had a better selection of routes than the canoes because of their maneuverability. The left center section of the bridge seemed to be the route to take if one did not want to get mixed up with the hole on the downriver side of the bridge. We were all downstream safely on shore laughing and bailing when a raft we had just passed upstream became seriously wrapped on one of the steel bridge pilings. It seems the raft had tried to sneak down the right hand side through the bridge pilings, but the current took them directly into one of the pilings. All the people in the raft were ok, but the gathering of equipment and people was not a pleasant experience. Although it is smooth water through the bridge pilings, it is fast, tricky, and without a doubt, dangerous. If you are on a trip that takes you under Twin Bridges, scouting is very much in order. It is an easy trek through there if you know where to go, but I would advise not approaching it blind nor trying to sneak through it.

The takeout has changed from a landing on river left just above a bridge that crosses the river to a BLM landing about 1/2 mile further downstream. This takeout is on private property that the BLM has leased from a resident on the river. When driving down the road you have to look for a small BLM sign with a picture of a raft on it. Drive slow through this area and you will not miss the sign.

All in all it was a great day on the river. The weather was sunny with temperatures in the 70's. The river was very high which made for some fun and exciting rides, and without a doubt, the scenery was magnificent.

ARKANSAS RIVER July 19

Rick Andrews

Six solo canoes and one tandem boat paddled the lower Salida section to almost Howard. The flow was about 2000 cfs. This is a fun stretch of river with lots of play spots at this level. While mostly class II, there are several class III drops, Bear Creek rapid and the Flume.

This trip terminated before we were able to reach the take out at the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center in Howard due to a violent

electrical store. We were given permission by the locals to trespass across private property to get back to the road, hitch hike to our cars and complete the shuttle.

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BROWNS CANYON - Aug 2

Kerry Edwards

The August 2 and 3 trip on the Gunnison Gorge was cancelled because I deemed the water level to be too high for an exploratory trip. Conversation with an Eastern paddler who paddled the Gorge at roughly the same time seems to have indicated that the trip could have gone ahead. Perhaps at a later date. Anyway, I changed the trip to a one day expedition down Brown's Canyon. I can't remember how many boats we had but I certainly remember that everyone did damn well. Everybody ran everything and we had no swimmers. Ron Singleton and Ray Crockett were both paddling new boats (Ron his new Whitesell Pirhana, and Ray his Gyramax) and a little concerned whether this trip would be another repeat of their usual stellar performances. Their worries were unfounded. Ron stayed on top of the water in Zoom Flume as if his boat was filled with helium. Ray cut through the waves with his Gyramax and delighted everybody with his endow after lunch just above Big Drop. Gary Cox was concerned that his Sunburst might have too much of a thirst for water in Zoom Flume but instead it proved itself equal to the task. The river was much easier than the last time I ran it (last October - 400 cfs, 40 degrees and snowing, paddling a new boat) and much more enjoyable in warm weather and upright. We ran across a couple paddling an open canoe just above Zoom Flume. They were from New Mexico, on their way home after paddling the Yampa. The guy (Dennis ??) was the same person we met three years ago on the Dolores and last year on the Green. After we fished them out of the drink (no bad reflection on New Mexico boaters - after all they did make it almost all the way down the rapid and only tipped over after swamping at the bottom) below Zoom Flume, they joined up with us and we had a good time making new friends on the river. The only problem with this trip is that there are just too many rafts on the river. There is currently no plan for regulating traffic on this section, but one wonders as one sits in an eddy for ten minutes waiting for an opportunity to get back into the mainstream, whether one would be appropriate. The best times for avoiding traffic seem to be early in the morning or between the morning and afternoon launches.

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SALMON RIVER Idaho August 15 - 22

Rick Andrews

Seven solo boats and two tandem boats launched from Corn Creek and ran to Spring Bar, which is near Kiggins, Idaho. The trip was 89 miles. This is a beautiful trip through the second deepest gorge in the USA. It is an advanced trip, with about 25 class III rapids, with several class IVs to boot. Most of the major rapids would be fairly difficult to portage. However, they were mostly pool drops in nature.

The river was flowing at about 1000 cfs at the put-in, but had probably quadrupled by the time we took out. This is due to the fact that it is fed by many small creeks below the put-in. The water temperature was about 60 degrees. The days were warm

(80's), and pleasantly cool at night.

The spectacular scenery was dampened somewhat by forest fires in the area. The first several days, the fires could be seen from the river, creating a charcoal gray haze in the air.

If you are looking for a wilderness river trip, and are comfortable with a loaded boat in exciting whitewater, I highly recommend this trip!!!

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CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale - Mohawk Scamp solo canoe, like new, with cane seat, knee pads, thigh straps, 500\$. Terry Owen

For Sale - Hydra Centaur C1, includes pedestal and velcro thigh straps, \$250. Cris Bidwell

Wanted - OCA Bluehole canoe, preferably blue in color. Jill Stucker

*OCA - Paddles \$550
Stye Float * * *
H.K. Gun \$50*

Low Howell

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

1986 TRIP SCHEDULE

Nov 22 Rio Grande below Big Bend National Park.
to Wally Booth,
Nov 30

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