

The Voyageur's Companion

May 1989



RIVER ORIENTATION SESSIONS

**BULLETIN: TRAINING CANCELLED!
RIVER ORIENTATION SCHEDULED...
HELP ... EXPERIENCED PADDLERS
NEEDED FOR RIVER ORIENTATION
SESSIONS.**

The formal training program which was scheduled for this year was cancelled because our training officer, Pete Peterson, an American Canoe Association certified instructor, broke his leg while telemark skiing. Informal training will be provided through river orientation sessions scheduled on Friday, May 12, 1989 and Saturday, May 13, 1989 as well as on easy river trips throughout the summer. The Friday session is scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Experienced paddlers will provide an overview of canoe equipment, safety and basic canoe paddling techniques. Videos will be shown, during which, dinner

will be catered by a local pizza joint.

Saturday activities include 4 hours of flat water skills development on a lake and 4 hours of river skills development on the river. Afterwards, we may seek to find a hot tub to mend aching muscles and brag about the big "Gahuna". All participants must be current RMCC members and have the following equipment: canoe, paddles, life vest, rain suit, dry clothing, and lunch for Saturday. Although "extra" flotation is not required, extra flotation is a cheap insurance policy for an expensive canoe. If you plan on paddling Colorado rivers, you will need it. Therefore, get it for the orientation session.

Contact Bob Aikin at [REDACTED]
for details.

RENTALS AND INSTRUCTION:

Here is a partial list of commercial canoe rentals.

CANOE RENTALS:

ALPENGLOW Golden. 277-0133. Blue Hole canoes = \$25 per day, \$50 per weekend. Includes paddles, PFDs and flotation. Also rental rafts, inflatable kayaks and kayaks.

BACKEDDY Colorado Springs. (719) 520-0066. Dagger, Mad River canoes = \$35 per day, \$45 per weekend. Coleman = \$25 per day, \$45 per weekend. Includes paddles, PFDs and float bags.

BOULDER OUTDOOR CENTER
444-8420. Mohawk canoes avail. Call for current rates.

CANOE INSTRUCTION:

BOULDER OUTDOOR CENTER
Boulder. 444-8420. Call for current information.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER
Howard. (719) 942-3214. Personal instruction canoeing and kayaking. Never Ever Canoe Dates. One Sunday each month. \$65 per person. Canoes provided. Also guide service. Call for details.

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS:

Reminder. RMCC has several copies of an instructional video on basic river canoeing available for members and the price is right! (Return postage). Contact Vi Polk 674-6753.

ALPENGLOW MARINE & SPORT, INC.

885 Lupine Street #B
(1 block west of I-70 and West Colfax)
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Rentals & Sales



ASK WALLY by Wally Booth

In this article we will provide our new members with advice on equipment, and review a few lessons on common paddling techniques.

Equipment.

Canoeing equipment can separate the experienced from the inexperienced, the rich from the poor, and in a tough rapid, the stern paddler from the bow paddler. Obviously, the first piece of equipment one needs for a canoe adventure is a canoe. There are, of course, many types of canoes. For whitewater, many people prefer the ABS boats that turn on a dime. For lake paddling, others prefer long aluminum canoes with their prerequisite keels, or even a wood and canvas canoe. If portaging is in the picture, you might want a lightweight Kevlar canoe. But if you are really going to put a canoe through its paces. If you're going to push it to its limits. I mean if you are actually going to do a hair run down a rocky river with serious risk to the boat, the best kind of canoe to have is a rented canoe.

Equipping your canoe is not as expensive as some would have you believe. For example, you will want to tie painters to the ends of your canoe. But you don't have to tie a Van Gogh or Rembrandt to the end of your canoe. Go with a local painter, and be certain to avoid the union.

Clothes are, of course, essential. Take a look at the two paddlers pictured below.



The individual on the left has been hermetically sealed for protection against wetness in all the petroleum-based, perma-seal outfit. The perma-plastic dip at the end of the process ensures an outfit that even chemicals such as H₂O have a difficult time penetrating.

Modern materials now "breathe". I have found this particularly valuable since in hair runs, I know that at least something on me is breathing.

Paddles are also a necessary part of the canoeing

ASK WALLY cont'd

experience. Like canoes, there are many different types. Lately, many people have developed a taste for bent shaft paddles. I personally can't see spending extra money for a bent shaft paddle. Instead, give me your normal equipment for a week, and I'll give you back a bent shaft paddle; as well as a bent canoe, car, and spouse.

Finally, perhaps the most important equipment you will purchase is the PFD. Any good PFD will keep an unconscious person face up in the water. The really great PFDs, however, will keep an unconscious person face up in your canoe.

Strokes.

And you thought only old people had strokes. Well, there is a similarity. Both a medical stroke and a properly performed canoe stroke can leave you feeling paralyzed and can often lead to slurred speech. In

this article, I will teach you three important strokes.

First is the pry stroke demonstrated below:



And finally, we have three types of strokes called the brace. There is the low brace, used in big waves. Then there is high brace, used in strong currents. Finally, we have the shoulder brace which is used after performing the other two braces.



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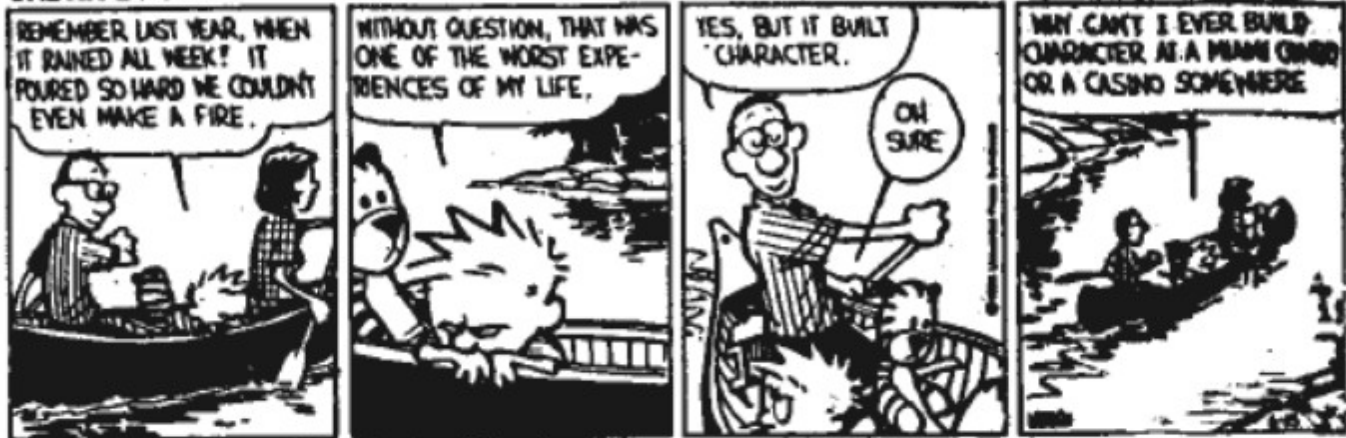
Doc Whitehead
301 3003 - 2 part

JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE

DATE:	E	I	A	E(easy)	I(intermediate)	A(advanced)
3 (Sat)		I		N. Platte: 6 Mile Gap (2 days) Dave Cialone [redacted]		
(Sat)* ?	?	?	?	* Call Lyn [redacted] or Jerry [redacted] * *		
4 (Sun)* ?	?	?	?	* Call Lyn [redacted] or Jerry [redacted] * *		
8 (Thur)	E			S. Platte: Brighton to Ft. Lupton (5:30) Tom Byrnes [redacted]		
10 (Sat)		I		Eagle: Wolcott to Eagle Bob Stoecker [redacted]		
		I		Colorado River weekend (2 days) Sandy Horn [redacted]		
11 (Sun)?			A*	Blue: Campground to Reservoir ?(leader needed) * Call Lyn or Jerry * *		
17 (Sat)	E			Cherry Creek Reservoir and BBQ Sandy Horn [redacted]		
		I		N. Platte: 6 Mile Gap revisited (2 days) Carol & Bob Aikin [redacted]		
	E			Yampa: Craig to Juniper Hot Springs Tom Bevert [redacted] (2 days)		
		I		Rio Chama: (3 days) John Daly [redacted]		
Sat-Sun?		I*		Arkansas River weekend (2 days) ? (leader needed) * Call Lyn or Jerry * *		
18 (Sun)			A	Arkansas: Fibark Race		
24 (Sat)? E*				S. Platte: 120th Av. to Brighton ? (leader needed) * Call Lyn or Jerry * *		
		I		Colorado: Pumphouse section Gregg Bachman [redacted]		
		I		Blue River: Bob Stoecker [redacted]		
		I		Roaring Fork: to Steel Bridge Joede Schoeberlein [redacted]		
25 (Sun)? E*				S. Platte: Brighton to Ft. Lupton ? (leader needed) * Call Lyn or Jerry * *		
		I		Blue River: Don Clymer [redacted]		
			A	Roaring Fork: Woody Creek section Joede Schoeberlein [redacted]		
26 - 30		I		Smith R. (Montana) (5 days) Bob & Carol Aikin [redacted]		

CALVIN & HOBBS

Bill Watterson



TRIP SCHEDULE by Lyn Berry

Here is the 'First Version' of the 1989 Rocky Mountain Canoe Club schedule. It shows what is scheduled as of the Club's Spring Meeting on 4/7/89.

Revisions will be issued with each of the Club's newsletters throughout the season: which should be about the end of June and the end of August.

Please call the indicated Trip Leader as soon as possible, but no later than 2 days before a day trip, and 5 days before a weekend or multi-day trip, in order to sign up.

Each person going on a Canoe Club trip is responsible for his/her own equipment as well as his/her own capability; and each person must decide whether they are qualified to participate in any of the trips. The designated trip leader will assist anyone in making this decision.

Call Lyn Berry [redacted] or Jerry Clower [redacted] if you want to ask about trips not shown on this schedule; if you would like to find other persons to put another trip together; and particularly if you would like to lead another trip.

Throughout the season, Lyn and Jerry will be coordinating other trips for members. Call them with your desires and ideas.

WE NEED MORE TRIPS! THERE ARE SOME TRIPS SUGGESTED ON THE SCHEDULE THAT HAVE NO LEADERS. THERE ARE WEEKENDS THAT ARE SCANT OR VOID OF TRIPS. CALL LYN BERRY [redacted] OR JERRY CLOWER [redacted] AND FILL UP THE SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER. ED

SNOWPACK AND WATER LEVEL INFORMATION by Rick Andrews

Listed below are snowpack levels for most of the major drainages in Colorado. They are given in terms of percentage of annual average for that specific date. It should be noted that these levels were taken at the beginning of each month and do not reflect the heavy snows that the north and central mountains received early April. These levels are updated at the first of every month by the Soil Conservation Service. They can be called at 964-0462.

I have found these folks to be friendly and helpful.

RIVER DRAINAGES	SNOWPACK	
	(March)	(April)
North Platte	87%	80%
South Platte	83%	70%
Colorado	83%	85%
Gunnison	83%	85%
Yampa and White	82%	70%
Rio Grande	105%	113%
San Juan	87%	95%
Delores	87%	95%
Animas	87%	95%
San Miguel	87%	95%
Arkansas	87%	95%

Hopefully this information will help in planning trips at the proper water levels to suit your own paddling skills.

WESTWATER CANYON: ON DOING IT WITH THE EXPERTS by David W. MacDonald

Cisco, Utah is a forbidding ghost town west of the Colorado border. A mangy dog and two jack rabbits maintain vigil over streets forsaken by the age of the interstate. A "no services" sign boasts the arrogant nature of the arid country side. The town's single digit population cares little about fun seekers.

After sunset, the dust-choked road south from Cisco seemed rockier, the solitude more oppressive. Darkness, quadrasonic coyote choruses in spine tingling disharmony, the glint of a rising moon back lighting rigormortis-laced junipers, all blend to create a graveyard ambiance at my solo camp. My mind is at work.

Tomorrow I will do it with ... the experts. Tomorrow I will

the neighborhood Jerry Van Amerongen



City stickers returning from a canoe ride.

WESTWATER cont'd

discover why expert trips have non-leaders. Sleep is fitful. A Rio Grande freight growls in the distance.

At sunrise, Cialone and Andrews arrive on time. The weather is stellar. The trip is on. Today I do it with ... the experts.

Canoeing with experts creates "neurosis of the river"; an intoxicating if not senseless urge to confront danger with resultant authentic anxiety responses.

Never use creative equipment packages or paddling styles on an expert trip. You may end up feeling like you left your fly open at a debutante's ball.

Experts are smug. They love it when you grovel for precise information. They answer with maddening non-specifics, with no trace of commitment. You feel like you're on a snipe hunt.

Andrews: "It's like nothing you've ever seen before."

Cialone: "I about drowned the first time I went through this one."

Andrews: "Where do you keep the keys to your truck?"

River Ranger: "You guys really going to do this in canoes?"

Andrews: "It's your turn to go first."

How do you know you're in real trouble? When scouting, you hear Cialone whisper to Andrews, "You go after him,

I'll go after the boat." You know you're in trouble when you cling like a barnacle to the side of Rick Andrew's Mohawk, an embarrassment in itself of seismic proportions.

Westwater Canyon can be had. Below five thousand cubic feet per second, it is one of the most exciting canoeing experiences in the area. Ideal in the fall.

"Marble Canyon Rapid" is a straight shot through a hundred yards of exploding and irregular waves. This rapid asks only for cooperation. It punishes defiance. "Funnel Falls" is a thrill as the Colorado compresses to a fifty foot shoot, then cascades a fifteen foot drop. Enter center and have fun. "Surprise" lives up to its name. Just pay attention. "Skull" requires two good moves



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WESTWATER cont'd

to the left and some luck. Enter left of center and stay left. Deviations will land you in the dreaded "Room Of Doom".

"Sock It To Me" requires experience in the rapid or blind faith in your leader, something which experts make impossible. Many canoeists swim this rapid. The first wave has cannibalistic tendencies ... a bottomless chasm of white foam followed by an Everestian wave chaser. If your angle is wrong, it will flip you faster than you can say, "Sorry Hulk Hogan".

There's probably only one way to conquer neurosis of the river. Do it with the experts. After I swam "Sock It To Me", I experienced the calm so poetically expressed by the Eagles when they sang: "I've got a peaceful, easy feeling. Knowing that you can't let me down. Cause I'm already standing on the ground."

Paddle Westwater with the experts, their smug snickering demeanor notwithstanding. You're in real trouble without them. Wear a wet suit and helmet. Paddle the canyon twice in the same weekend. Rest comfortable in the knowledge that the rapids are reasonably short with rescue stretches below.

Next year, Cialone's fall beckoning to Westwater should be answered by a score of experienced RMCC boaters. And what the heck. Do it with the experts at least once. They appreciate the entertainment.

THE 1989 RIVERFEST WEEKEND

Saturday, June 3, 1989. The First Annual Prijon Greater Kayak Challenge.

Sunday, June 4, 1989. The Great Relay Race.

Both events are being held in celebration of the nearing of completion of the Platte River



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RIVERFEST cont'd

Greenway after 11 years of evolution.

The Prijon Greater Denver Kayak Challenge is a 17.5 mile kayak, canoe and raft race which will start on the South Platte near C-470 and finish at Confluence Park in downtown Denver. There will be four separate classes of crafts and the top three men and women to cross the finish line, regardless of craft type, will receive prize money.

Entry fee is \$35 before June 3rd and \$45 on race day. Entry fee includes: t-shirt, free lunch following the event and entry into the post race prize drawing.

The Great Relay Race is a marathon/relay race consisting of three race courses starting at the perimeter of Denver and racing on the South Platte and Cherry Creek to the finish line at Confluence Park. Teams consist of runners, bicyclists, canoeists, walkers, and kayakers. Entry fees are \$30 per segment and include: t-shirt, food and drink, music and prizes.

Entry forms are available at EMS or by contacting: race officials at 1776 S. Jackson St, #1102, Denver, CO 80210 or calling 753-9077. All profits go to benefit of the Platte River Greenway Foundation.

Volunteers are welcome. Free t-shirt and lunch. Contact Jeff Mason at [REDACTED]

RESCUE TRAINING SEMINAR

The Boulder Outdoor Center will offer rescue training if there is enough interest. The session will be 2 days. Cost \$95 per person (includes lunch). Contact Rick Andrews, if interested, and he will coordinate. 429-6070.

Or call Boulder Outdoor Center. 444-8420.

NORS RESOURCE CENTER

The National Organization for River Sports (NORS) is a non-profit membership association dedicated to education and awareness about rivers and river running throughout the United States.

Each edition of CURRENTS, NORS newsletter, lists guide books, river maps and instructional books that are available. As a member of NORS, you get a 10% discount on any books ordered. And you may return it within 10 days if dissatisfied.

To join NORS and get CURRENTS, send \$15 and address to:

National Organization for River Sports
P.O. Box 6847
314 North 20th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

"The person who does not read good books has no advantage over the person who can't read them." Mark Twain, river pilot.



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 10 foot child's kayak. \$300. Ginger Licht. [redacted] or contact John [redacted]

FOR SALE: Noah Jetti Kayak. Fiberglass C-1. Make offer! Rick Andrews. [redacted]

FOR SALE: Klepper Aerius II. 2-man folding kayak. Includes 2 paddles, storage bags. Used \$750. (New cost up to \$2475). Call/Fax: Greg [redacted]

FOR SALE: Set of four quick and easy car top clamps. \$25. Extra large Cascade dry bag. \$40. Bob Aikin. [redacted]

FOR SALE: 16ft Mad River Explorer ABS canoe, center and end float bags, paddles. Come see and make offer. Bart Giles. [redacted]

WANTED: Used Sunburst I. Liz Schoeberlein. [redacted]

WANTED: Used canoe to rent or buy. Bill Hyde. [redacted]

NORTH PLATTE RIVER: GLENDO TO GUERNSEY by Ed Plummer

July 1-4
July 15-16

The North Platte River in this section is a class I river, but I can find a few II waves for you. CWWA once said it is a mini Grand Canyon. Sorta is. It is 18+ miles of river and 6+ miles of lake paddle. This is a great trip for us seniors and fishermen. Trout and Walleyes there.

On July 15 and 16, I am taking a church group down, and can use HELP! Anyone and everyone are welcome, including any tandem paddlers without partners.

Call me via [redacted] Colorado Relay and give [redacted] (hours 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekends) or write me if you are interested. Ed Plummer, [redacted]