

2026 -- 21st Almost Annual Joint Club Paddle South Platte River – Evans to Kersey/Kuner

(updated 3 1 26)

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club ☐ Poudre Paddlers Club ☐ Flatwater Frogs ☐
Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club ☐ High Country River Rafters

Saturday, April 4, 2026

(Snow/Rain Date: Saturday, April TBD)

*Often a casual flatwater (class I) day trip, suitable for novices, families. BUT it depends on what flows we get! Even at lower water levels, the dams (see below) can be challenging portages and there may be strainers if you end up in the wrong channel. **Look for an update on conditions from your club contact closer to the date!***

****Extra caution is always recommended** for flows above 800 cfs for novices & families.

Check the South Platte River Kersey Bridge Flow Gauge:

<https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/Stations/PLAKERCO?params=DISCHRG>

- **Pre-registration appreciated.** Sign up via this Google Form: [2026 All Clubs Paddle Registration Form](#) to get updates/rescheduling information AND for waiver verification (see below).
- **This trip could be postponed due to bad weather or extreme flows.** Updates will be sent to registered boaters. The snow/rain date is TBD – either Saturday, April 11th or 18th.
- **Club Membership is not required**, though we encourage you to take this opportunity to join one or more of our organizations.
- **Two trip choices: To Kersey Bridge = 9 miles; To Kuner Bridge = 15 miles**
- **Meet at the put-in at Riverside Park in Evans, CO at 9:00 a.m.** Directions: From the stop light in the middle of Evans on highway 85, go ½ mile east on 37th Street. Turn right onto Riverside Parkway – at a prominent Riverside Park sign. Go 1/4 mile south through the neighborhood into the park. Drive past the parking area to a turn-around near the restroom building (restrooms may still be closed for the season) between the ball fields and the river, drop your boats, and move your car back to the parking area to make room for others. To launch, follow the main path past a bench then turn down a paved spur to a sandy beach.

Please unload boats and equipment promptly, hand in waivers to your club coordinator or to Kathryn Mutz and be ready to shuttle by 9:30

- **Assistance Requested:** On the day of the paddle, assistance will be requested for: lead boaters (should have prior experience on this run); mid-pack boaters; caravan leaders (one each for Kuner takeout and Kersey takeout)
- **We will have a short meeting at 9:30 at the turn-around.**
- **We will run separate car shuttles to the two destinations -- Kersey and Kuner.** If it is a normal shuttle, one driver per car is needed while everyone else stays behind to finish moving/packing boats and for security. Please decide by the meeting time which shuttle to join so that your car will end up at the right place. There is limited road-side parking at both take-outs. There should be sufficient parking for a standard shuttle, but if we have a large number of participants, we may have to do a reverse shuttle for the

Kersey take-out -- leaving most cars at the put-in and taking only a few vehicles to the take-out to shuttle drivers back to retrieve their cars from Evans after the run. We will discuss parking at the 9:30 meeting.

- **Bring:** Suitable canoe, kayak, very small rafts or other inflatables. ESPECIALLY recommended is warm clothing, spare change of clothing, lunch, water, leak proof rubber boots and/or change of shoes (wet portage alert!), sunglasses, sun screen, sun hat, dry bag. Make sure children are well dressed for COLD water and air. Bring extra clothes and shoes for children!
- **Paddling Schedule (*estimates only!*):**
 - Lunch stop to be determined. It may be 1:00-2:00, so bring snacks (Lots of private land to avoid)
 - Kersey Bridge, 3:30 pm.
 - Kuner Bridge, 5:30 pm.

Safety Notices

- **Road Traffic:** There is high-speed traffic on the roads at the Kersey and Kuner bridges and drivers are not expecting pedestrians. Be vigilant and watch your children.
- **KERSEY destination:** Take out will be river left either up- or down-stream of the bridge. There are one-lane paths up to the road both up- and down-stream of the bridge, but the down-stream bank (at least at 600 cfs) and path are less steep. Parking at the takeout is mostly limited to the highway's shoulder with a high volume of large truck traffic.
- **KUNER destination:** Boaters going to Kuner should take out at the second (southern) bridge and stay within the highway right of way. The first bridge that comes into view is not easily accessible from the water and its surroundings are heavily posted private property. There should be sufficient road-side parking on river-left, north side of the second bridge. There is a large parking lot for extra vehicles on the river-right end of the long bridge. Takeout downstream of the bridge is not advisable as it would require crossing barbed wire fencing on private land adjacent to the very narrow highway ROW.
- **Dams:** There are two dams to portage. At low water it may be possible to portage the dam on river right – one loaded boat at a time through water and then over riprap and sharp garbage. At higher flows, a longer portage (100 yards or so) along the left bank is probably preferable. (We portaged left at 680 cfs in 2022, see photo). The second dam has a land portage on the left bank – one-at-a-time, up and down steep, riprapped banks and through trees and brush. Don't plan to unload your boat at this dam either. There is not room above either dam for several boats to stage for the portage and it can be surprisingly easy to get sucked over the edge if you don't keep a respectable distance away.

Let those familiar with the dams choose the side, set up the route, and portage first. *And please stick around to help others move their boats.*



Landowners at both dams will be contacted about portaging through their land. Please practice ‘leave no trace’ portaging! If you are doing this run on your own, please contact the following and leave a message regarding when you plan to boat:

- First Dam – Carlin at 303-356-5427 or nafman1@yahoo.com
- Second dam – Steve Hazlet 970-445-8226 – FYI - upland bird or waterfowl hunting may be in progress on the property adjacent to the dam.

- **Hypothermia:** The water can be quite cold on a spring trip like this. One of the best defenses against hypothermia in case of a tip-over is to travel with one or more companion boats, so that you can quickly get assistance to dry land and a change of clothes. Bring a change of clothes in your boat!
- **WAIVERS & PFDs REQUIRED:** There are normal boating risks involved – Cold springtime water; two dams to portage; submerged and overhanging trees; sometimes wires across river; unpredictable changes to river configuration; voracious gators; etc. Thus, signed waivers and properly wearing a PFD at all times on the water are required.
- **Waivers and ACA guidelines:** Please note that this is a “hybrid” event such that each **member of a sponsoring club** must sign their own club’s waiver. **Unaffiliated boaters** and RMCC members, who are not annual ACA members, must sign the ACA event waiver (on-line or copies available at the put-in) and pay the \$10 event fee for liability insurance.
 - *If you are an annual ACA member please include your ACA number on the on-line [2026 All Clubs Paddle Registration Form](#)*
 - *If you register before the event, we will verify your 2026 signed-club waiver status. If you do not register by April 1, bring a signed copy of your club’s waiver with you. If you do not bring a signed club waiver, you will be considered “Unaffiliated” (i.e., have to sign an ACA event waiver at the put-in and pay \$10).*

Organizations, Coordinators and Links

For waiver print-outs and more club info contact your club representative or Kathryn Mutz (RMCC):

Flatwater Frogs: Susan Dominica, sootie@hotmail.com
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/727839657360758/>)

High Country River Rafters: Nick Jimroglou (njimroglou@gmail.com <http://www.hcrr.org>)

Poudre Paddlers: Richard Maddox (freezie@comcast.net <https://www.poudrepaddlers.org/>)

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club: Kathryn Mutz (gvmutz@gmail.com)
<http://www.rockymountaincanoecclub.net>)

Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club: Sue Hughes (suehughes@yahoo.com) www.rmskc.org